

CURRICULUM VITAE

SUMMARY

Rehema Kabare is a researcher and practitioner working at the intersection of the built environment, climate policy, and cultural practice. Her work explores pathways for low-carbon construction in African cities, with a particular focus on sustainable materials such as mass timber. Through research, policy engagement, and creative inquiry, she investigates how alternative construction systems and material cultures can contribute to climate-responsive urban futures across the continent.

EDUCATION

University of Cape Town - July 2026-Dec 2029

PhD, Construction Economics and Management

Dissertation proposal: Developing a Framework for the Adoption Pathways for Mass Engineered Timber in Kenya's Construction Industry

University of East London - June 2022-Dec 2023

MSc, Construction Engineering Management

Explored the effect of Nairobi's climate and climate change on mass timber structures

The University of Nairobi - Sep 2017-Sep 2021

BSc, Construction Management

Excelled as the top student for outstanding design work in climate-responsive designs.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) – Africa Programs Associate – May 2023 - Present (**Paris, Remote: Part-time**)

- Lead research and programme coordination supporting the decarbonisation of the buildings and construction sector across Africa, with a focus on sustainable materials and low-carbon construction pathways.
- Contribute to the development of national and regional strategies for decarbonization
- Lead editor of the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Toolkit for the built environment, supporting more inclusive and equitable approaches to sustainable construction transitions across the world
- Leading retrofit design solutions for 500+ schools in Pacific, Caribbean and African regions for heat and flood resilience
- Facilitate cross-regional knowledge exchange and partnerships aimed at accelerating climate-aligned construction systems and equitable transitions in the built environment.

Sustainable Housing Technical Group (SHOUT GRP) Workshop Convener for Circular Economy in the Built Environment - Feb 2026 **(On-site: Nairobi)**

- Curated and convened a multi-stakeholder workshop on circular economy approaches in the built environment, bringing together 35+ practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and industry actors.
- Facilitated dialogue on material circularity, sustainable construction systems, and innovation in African building sectors.

British Council 2025 Venice Fellowship - Fellow - Feb 2025 - Sept 2025 - **(Hybrid: Venice, Nairobi)**

- Participated in the 19th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, contributing to public engagement through guided tours, storytelling, and interpretation of the British Pavilion installation.
- Conducted research on how material choices affect environmental performance and heat-health risks in public spaces.
- Convened a public dialogue and exhibition in Nairobi engaging 72+ participants, presenting a Venice - Nairobi comparative study on how construction materials in public spaces influence social and cultural experience of cities

The GoDown Arts Centre -URBAN Programs Assistant - May 2022 - Feb 2025 **(Nairobi, Kenya: Part time)**

- Researched the feasibility of constructing the GoDown Arts and Culture Complex using hybrid mass timber
- Contributed to research and knowledge development on the role of culture in shaping the built environment, supporting exhibitions and urban initiatives.

Project Management Trainee - Jun 2022-Feb 2023 **(Nairobi, Kenya)**

- Systemized and streamlined the data analysis and reporting methods within the department.

Women in Real Estate Ke - Board Member; Grants Committee Lead - Mar 2023 - Mar 2025 **(Nairobi, Kenya: Part-time)**

- Secured £6,000 in funding from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to expand a survey done in 2020 on the state of sexual harassment in the built environment of Kenya.
- Co-applied for and shortlisted for a \$1,000,000 grant with GBPN and BuildHer to implement a project advancing energy efficiency in Kenya's housing sector while empowering women.

HoriCon Afrika Limited - Construction Manager - Oct 2021-May 2022 **(Nairobi, Kenya)**

- Explored and identified various alternative construction materials to propose to clients.

PUBLICATIONS

Kabare, R. (2024). Exploring the Feasibility of Mass Timber Use in East Africa: The Effect of Nairobi's Climate on Mass Engineered Timber Structures. In Proceedings of the Innovative Solutions for Affordable Housing Symposium. University of Cape Town. Available at: <https://openbooks.uct.ac.za/uct/catalog/view/87/97/3267>

Abstract: Kabare. R. (2023). 'Designing Urban Spaces Differently: A Case Study of the HerCity Herstreets Public Space Improvement Initiative in Nairobi, Kenya', *International Journal of Structural and Construction Engineering*, 17(5)

CERTIFICATION

- EDGE Expert Training Certification – International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- CPA Part I – Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB)

VOLUNTEER WORK

The GoDown Arts Centre's HerCity#HerStreets Initiative (Jun 2021-Apr 2022)

- Contributed to the involvement of women and girls in urban development through materials research

Women in Real Estate (Nov 2021-Jan 2022)

- Initiated research to seek sustainable and affordable material for slum housing in Mukuru kwa Njenga.

AWARDS & NOTABLE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 University of East London Alumni Achievement Award in Sustainability Finalist
- 2025 British Council Venice Fellowship Award
- 2025 WIRE Young Achiever Award in Sustainable Environmental Practice
- 2024 Symposium of Innovative Solutions for Affordable Housing; University of Cape Town
- 2023 Basco Paints Awards of Academic Excellence - University of Nairobi
- 2023 UTA-DO! Early Career Academics Workshop Scholarship
- 2023 Woodlife Sweden 2.0 Exhibition at: UNHabitat 2nd Assembly & Africa Climate Week.
- 2021 Crown Paints Awards of Academic Excellence by the University of Nairobi
- 2021 Mathu & Gichuri Associates Awards of Academic Excellence - University of Nairobi

SKILLS

1. Built environment research and policy analysis
2. Sustainable construction materials and embodied carbon
3. Stakeholder engagement and multi-sector convening