

《Eritrea ' s capital Asmara named a World Heritage site》

By CGTN's Fridah Mlemwa

Eritreans have long said their capital Asmara is like no other city in Africa, and on Saturday the UN agreed, designating it a World Heritage site, says AFP.

Asmara has modernist architectural design built in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century.



Eritrea's capital Asmara /VCG Photo?

“The architects who designed these buildings were Italian, and the material with which these buildings were built was a combination of local materials and imported ones. However, the people who built these buildings were undoubtedly Eritrean, and despite the colonial imprint embedded in such buildings, Asmara has been incorporated into the Eritrean identity and their struggle for self-determination, thus being a symbol of pride and achievement for the Eritrean people,” read a statement released by Eritrea's Ministry of Information.

It further said that the inscription of Asmara on to the World Heritage List will encourage and increase current

Eritrean efforts to restore and maintain these buildings, as well as bring awareness to the world of this African modernist treasure.



Eritrea's capital Asmara /VCG Photo

"The city's recognition as a heritage site of outstanding universal value fills us with tremendous pride and joy, but also with a profound sense of responsibility and duty," said Hanna Simon, Eritrea's permanent delegate to UNESCO.

While the modernist architecture of other Eritrean cities was destroyed during a decades-long war of liberation from Ethiopia, Asmara has survived and was declared a national monument by the government in 2001, which refers to it as Africa's "City of Dream".