

Let Me Give You A Hand



Fawzia Dorson
Quentin Lefèvre

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Medium: Fabric installation, photos, map and testimonials.

The project responds to the spatial neglect experienced by women traders who occupy Madina Footbridge (Accra) and the roadside areas. The footbridge is located near Madina Market, at Zongo junction bus stop (GPS coordinates : 5°40'39.6"N 0°10'23.8"W).

It is a vibrant and layered space that many people encounter frequently on commutes to Aburi and Oyibi.

In September 2025, Fawzia and Quentin conducted a field survey to understand how women traders experience and navigate this footbridge. They play an active role in the area's economy, provide goods and services to the commuters, but still their presence is unacknowledged and solely tolerated by the urban planning and urban design services.

We interviewed some women, asking for their working conditions and their related well-being in this specific public space. They work daily under intense sunlight with little or no protection, as well as heavy traffic noise and pollution. They hold the rhythm of the market, yet they labour under harsh sun, limited infrastructure, and little institutional recognition.

The installation proposes to hold a large piece of cloth echoing creating a temporary canopy casting shade for the women traders. This simple act of holding becomes a symbolic gesture of care and recognition, transforming the space for a brief moment and revealing what comfort and dignity could feel like if they were intentionally designed into the marketplace.

The work is a political statement. It is an invitation for local authorities and urban designers to see how small and intentional design actions could uplift the working conditions of those whose everyday labour sustains the city. It asks how design can listen, respond, and create space for care in environments shaped by neglect.

The intervention explores how design can act as both a gesture of care and a form of poetical awareness.

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Artists:

Fawzia Dorson, landscape architect.
Quentin Lefèvre, designer and urbanist.

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Site
pictures

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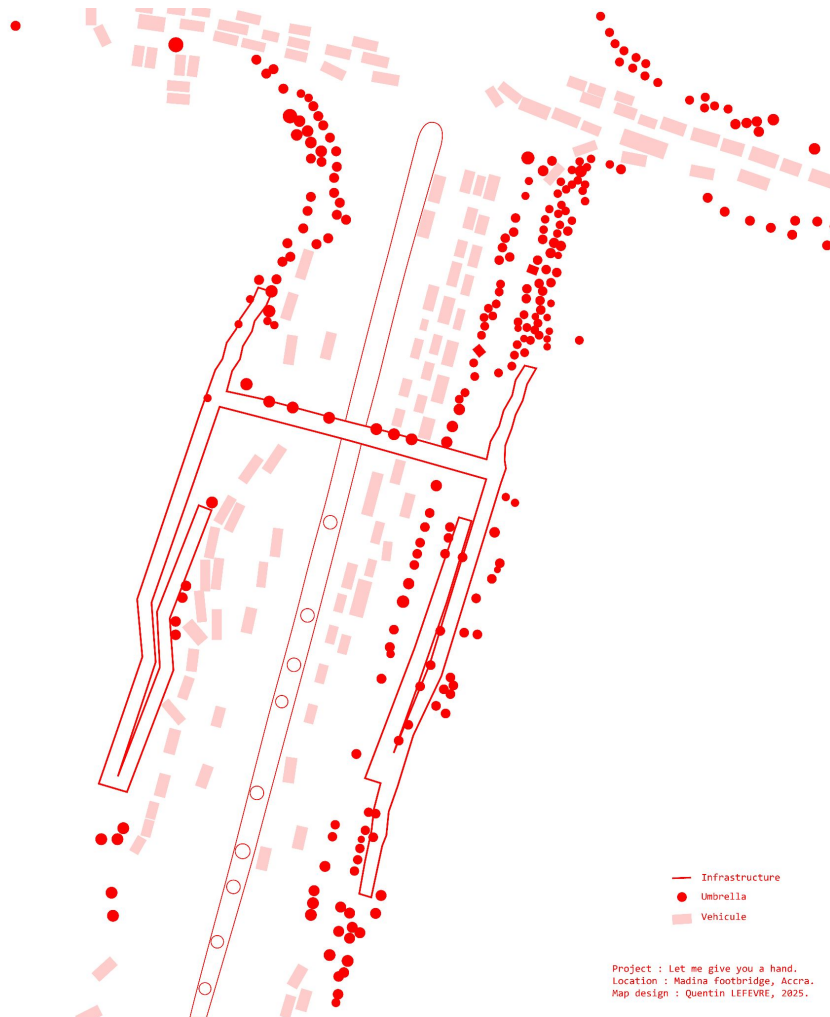


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Map of Madina Footbridge



Testimonials

'Voices from the Bridge'

This work emerges from conversations with women vendors who sell on Madina footbridge. The bridge is both a place of movement and a place of pause, where people pass through and where these women remain.

We asked the women how they feel being there, why they do the businesses they do, and why they are selling here on the bridge.

Their responses speak less of choice and more of necessity. The footbridge is not an ideal place to work.

It is hot. It is exposed. They sit under the sun for hours, waiting, watching, selling.

Yet they return daily, because they must make a living.

Testimonials

'Voices from the Bridge'

“If I had a proper shop, I would sell more. People would have space to stand, look well, and feel comfortable before buying.”

Spices and herbs vendor

“Wherever they put us, as long as we can sell something, we are okay.”

Perfumes and body splashes vendor

“I know this is a footbridge, and I would like to be somewhere else. But I have to sell, and there is no space anywhere else.”

Vendor

“I don't mind moving to another place, but there is no other space available.”

Vendor

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The installation was exhibited in Accra in December 2025,
by Edan Ghana, and Black Female Architecture.

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Drone footage of a performance on Madina footbridge,
January 2026.

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Drone footage of a performance on Madina footbridge,
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