

B IN U COM

uilding inclusive urban communities



Partner Institutions

- Universiteit Twente, Enschede, Netherlands
- Lunds Universitet, Lund, Sweden
- Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT), Ahmedabad, India
- School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, India
- Karpagam University, Coimbatore, India
- Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies, Mumbai, India



योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, विजयवाड़ा
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada
An Institute of National Importance, MHRD, Govt. of INDIA.



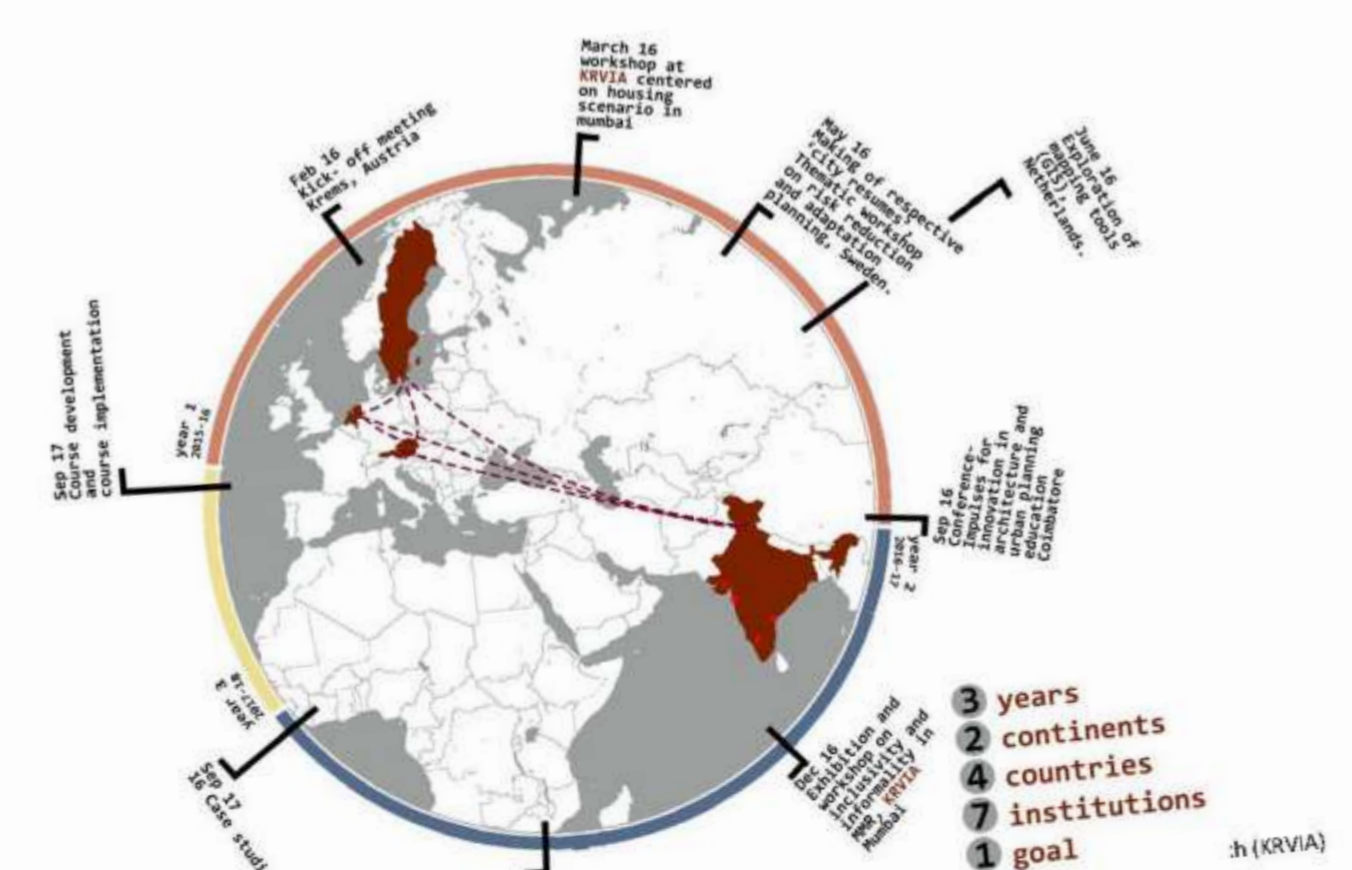
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Building Inclusive Urban Communities (BINUCOM)

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Rapid urbanization is expected to lead to a housing shortage in Indian cities of about 30 million by 2022, which creates appalling conditions for urban poor. The government of India has addressed this problem by defining 'Housing for All' by 2022 as its goal. This situation creates a huge demand for architects and urban planners, who can deal with the complex challenges of sustainable social housing and the development of inclusive urban communities.

To complement the vertical policy making in India with a horizontal exchange of good practices, the BINUCOM project aims at fostering the collaboration between Indian HEIs. Coordinated by Danube University Krems (DUK), the project will:

- Support the production of Open Educational Resources by jointly developing 4 city resumés, 16 indigenous case studies and 16 course descriptions, following MIT's OpenCourseWare model.
- Increase the relevance of architecture and planning studies by introducing multidisciplinary topics like social inclusion, sustainable housing, participatory mapping and environmental risk assessment.
- Strengthen the relations between HEIs in India and their wider socio-economic environment by engaging information, consultation and feedback mechanisms with different social actors during case studies, by providing external trainings to stakeholders in each of the 4 cities, by organizing 4 local dissemination workshops and 2 national conferences, and by sharing Open Educational Resources and complementary materials via the website.

These results will sharpen the profile of HEIs and their responsiveness to societal needs, improve the employability of graduates and the networking between local stakeholders and intensify contacts between India and Europe.

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their expertise. On 24 March, the participants could experience the tradition of the Holi or festival of colors.



The inaugural lamp being lit by the guests, signifying an auspicious start to the proceedings.

Informal Settlements and Social Inclusion

Directions for Innovation in Architecture and Urban Planning Education – Rama Krishna Moorthy (KAHE)

The National Conference and Workshop of BINUCOM (Building Inclusive Urban Communities) was initiated to develop Architectural higher education in India by the European and Indian partner institute with a funding of Educational, Audio visual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) in which partners would develop course related programmes which would help sensitize the curricula with respect to informality. As a part of BINUCOM project, the team partners are asked to conduct national conference/workshop, to which various academicians and stakeholders from across India were invited to share their ideas on how to go about in teaching informality in architecture curricula.

Informal settlements have never been in the main stream of architectural curricula, except for a few institutes who have given it a thought to include students to have a first-hand experience of the situation via various means of seminar, workshops and lecture series. Whereas, the remaining set always keeps their steering towards graduate the course promises. The National Conference was formulated keeping in mind that all the strategies discussed could be shared on a single platform.

First day inaugural session provided a platform for various stakeholders from Coimbatore who were called upon to have an interactive session with speakers and

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Case Studies related to the subject continued into the next segment as well where Binuraj Tom highlighted the issue of Gender sensitive Urban Spaces that were created by architects and town planners with respect to Kerala.

Partha Mukhopadhyaya deliberated the issues of Boundaries of Urban areas and how communities in general are marginalized in our cities. World Bank Consultant, Anandiyi Kumar Sarkar shared his experience whilst working on a rehabilitation project in Orissa. Simple construction details were also indulged by him. Jacob Easow, a senior town planner from Kerala pointed out his view on inclusive urban communities through settlement planning. Thus, encompassing the whole day, the final session 'Neo Liberal Visions', a documentary session was curated by Rohan Shivkumar.

Participatory process framed the first session on day 3, where Prasanna Desai and Sitaram Shelar discussed the importance of the process and necessity to upgrade the quality of life and how important is to teach it in planning curricula. Developing pedagogy towards people centric, process in curricula was stressed by Jigna Desai, CEPT, Ahmedabad. The Session was led by Dr. Anantakrishna

The last speaker for the session for which it was cued by its previous session, Pedagogy. Dr. Anantakrishna professed the need of orienting the architecture curriculum towards definite sets of have and have nots. Dr. Shovan Saha, Dr. Srinivasan and Dr. Balvinder Singh shared their experiences stretching over decades of teaching informality in architectural institutes.

Final session was accommodated to have an open discussion which was led by the project coordinator Tania Berger, Danube University, Krems, alongside were the project representatives from various institutions. She summarized the whole conference for the audience and then, an open discussion let the audience put forth their views. Intriguing ideas, suggestions came out of this session which gave made the whole agenda the entire conference clear.

Final Greetings were preceded by a documentary session themed, 'Neo Liberal lives'. 'A daring movie, 'Shit' was showcased. The maker Amudhan was present as well. The movie showcased the daily struggles of manual scavenger in a temple city of Tamil Nadu. Discussions were put forth in the session with the audience

and an interesting session took place. 'Vikas Chalu Chel', another film showing the issue regarding the development of lake front in Ahmedabad and how it has marginalized certain communities in its locality.

The overall aim of the conference was to bring in more light about the existing curricular pattern and about how the whole idea of informality is addressed to all. The conference gave in multiple inputs on how informality is addressed and further research oriented steps are being taken on developing a module on addressing informality and its impact on architectural curriculum.



Presentation by Nagaraju Kaja (KAHE)

Informal Settlements in Indian Cities

The Film Series – Rohan Shivkumar

The Film Series around the conference on 'Informal Settlements in Indian Cities' looked at drawing a parallel narrative that opens out some of the questions concerning housing and informality embedded in the discussions through the years. Over three days the films shall be looking at the way the home and housing were conceptualized over the years, looking at a contemporary example of a hotly debated redevelopment project, and shall be listening to some voices that have been, and continue to be marginalized in our cities.

Day 1
The Konic Slum
On the first day of the film series took a closer look at the lives, aspirations and imaginations that intersect in the geography of the slum through one iconic example. The film screened was 'Dharavi Slum for Sale' by Lutz Konnerman, made in 2010. The Mumbai neighborhood of Dharavi has become over the years in mainstream media an easy shorthand for the Third World slum. This was because it represents in many ways the

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complexity of informal conditions in the South Asian context, but also because it is in the eye of the storm concerning the debate around the redevelopment of slums. Lutz Konnerman's film tells many parallel stories in the wake of the much touted plan of the redevelopment of Dharavi in 2004. This highly controversial plan was embraced by the Maharashtra State but has been critiqued by many architects, activists and local inhabitants. In Dharavi Slum for Sale we meet many of these actors, from the state and from the voices of resistance.

Day 2
Imagining housing over the years
On the second day two films were shown through which we looked at how housing was conceptualized by the Indian state, from the early years of the Nation State, to the later years of the bureaucracy and the neoliberal state. The first film was 'Modest Homes' by KL Khandpur in 1954. Within 7 years of the Nation's independence, an exhibition was held on the grounds at the base of the Old Fort of Delhi called the 'Modest Homes' exhibition. Here, a village was created of over 80 homes that projected an idealized vision of living for the new India. KL Khandpur made 'Modest Homes' about this exhibition for Films Division India: the propaganda wing of the new Indian Government: that was instrumental in the new nation's attempt to construct a common national identity.

The second film was Vertical City by Avijit Mukul Kishore from 2011. In post-liberalized Mumbai, the state has relinquished it's role in providing housing for the poor. Instead, it reconfigures itself into a facilitator for the private sector, creating frameworks to encourage developers to build low income housing. Avijit Mukul Kishore's film is set in one such realized project, displaced from their earlier home. The film presents us with a labyrinth of spaces and voices in conflict with one another, with no easy answers possible.

Day 3
Marginal Voices
On the third day of the film series, we listened to some of the voices that are excluded from mainstream ideas of development. New developments, instead of augmenting and supporting these groups, often end up marginalizing them further.

One of the films was 'Shit' by Amudhan RP made in 2005. The Indian city is often seen to present the possibility of escape from the oppressive systems of the past. However, this is not often easy, in Amudhan RP's 'Shit' we looked at how within the city of Madurai, the

caste system continues to be practiced, as we spend a day in the life of a conservancy worker who cleans the streets of the city of its excrement. Amudhan RP joined us for a conversation about caste and the city in South India.

'Vikas Chalu Chel' by Prachee Banjania, 2012, set in Ahmedabad was another film shown. The city of Ahmedabad has become iconic for presenting itself as a model for the modern urban development. A new public realm is being imagined through the creation of development projects around it's water systems like the Sabarmati river. of the films shown took a closer look at a project around the Kankaria Lake in Ahmedabad, and examined questions about class and access with respect to the imagination of the 'public' in our cities. Paromita Vohra's 'Q2P' from 2006 explored inclusivity in the creation of public infrastructure in our cities through the lens of gender. Access to the public spaces of our cities is notoriously skewed towards men. Even in it's aspiration to become a 'global city' as the city of Mumbai is rapidly reconfiguring it's public realm it is not able to transcend questions concerning access to the city for women. The film explored some of these questions concerning women in the public realm through looking at the provisions of public toilets on the streets of the city for women.

Input:
This newsletter is a product of the BINUCOM project.
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