

Kungl. Konsthögskolan Royal Institute of Art

Mejan Arc - Advanced Studies in Urbanism

Aspects of Growth
- Monsoon Asia and the Consequences of Desire

31 May 2011



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Aspects of Growth

-Monsoon Asia and the Consequences of Desire

Those countries that constitute the post-colonial part of the world have undergone several phases since constitutions established their liberty and independence. Subsequent to the initial formulation of national identities, the 1990's liberalization of local economies, driven by an interest in rapid economic growth, resulted in the opening up to a global market and its resultant pressures. Now, issues involving identity are yet again in focus because of land speculation, the depletion of natural resources, decreased biological diversity, ethnic conflicts and short-term transformation processes that have increasingly become the norm. Historical structures and entire urban environments are disappearing, and together with them the communities they were a part of. Because of issues of governance and weak planning processes, many of these formerly integrated societies have instead become places of conflict.

All of these changes leave their physical marks and can no longer be ignored. Their threat is apparent and acute. To whom does the city and the countryside belong? The growth we witness in Southeast Asia is directly connected to the everyday world here in Sweden. Desire fuels our own consumption, but that same desire is a part of what also fuels the drive for development in these countries. Everything from the price of a t-shirt to Christmas holiday getaways and outsourced services has its corresponding consequence somewhere in this transforming environment. Our individual choices as consumers as well as national priorities in the form of a high welfare standard contribute to the changes we are now witnessing in Monsoon Asia. As tourists, we nurture the dream of a sustainable economy in attractive tropical zones. Meanwhile, these same zones become doubly vulnerable, victimized by climate change and the resultantly unpredictable monsoon season, as well as rising sea levels.

During the past year, Mejan Arc has taken a closer look at some specific situations in India and Sri Lanka. In our research, we have studied urban strategies and transformation processes in relation to post-liberalization and economic growth. During the coming academic year, Mejan Arc will continue to research aspects of India and Sri Lanka.

The students and teachers at Mejan Arc welcome you to participate in a day of discussions together with guests from some of the places we have recently visited, including Goa, Pune and Colombo/Moratuwa as well as other places in India and Sri Lanka. Our guests will share stories and insights from their own experience. We will learn of contemporary developments and city generation, the role of heritage, grass-root activities, architectural inventions as well as future scenarios and strategies. All these examples demonstrate the potential of creating a more inclusive future for us all.

Welcome!

The students and teachers at Mejan Arc and the Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture/University of Pune.

This seminar is generously supported by research funding from SIDA.

Please note that there are limited spaces available for attending the programme and dinner. Please make a reservation by 26th of May 2011 to Nina Lindgren: nina.lindgren@kkh.se.

Speakers:

Solano Da Silva (Independent Researcher, Goa)

Varuna De Silva (Architect, Senior Lecturer, Moratuwa University)

Harsha Munasinghe (Architect, Professor, Moratuwa University)

Sharvey Dhongde (BNCA/University of Pune)

Moderator:

Pernilla Glaser (Writer)

Timetable:

Location: Galleri Mejan, Exercisplan 3, Skeppsholmen

09.00-09.30 Introduction and Coffee & Tea

09.30-10.00 Presentation by Architecture Resources 10: *Fertile Futures - Goa Beyond the Dilemma of Growth*

10.00-10.30 Presentation by Master students, BNCA/University of Pune: *'Window of Opportunities' - Concepts for Goa*

10.30-11.00 Presentation by Architectural Conservation: *City Transformations London-Helsingborg*

11.00-11.30 Presentation by Art & Architecture: *Textilism*

11.30-12.30 Lunch in Hus 28

Location: Hus 28

12.30-12.45 Introduction to the themes of the afternoon session

12.45-13.30 Solano Da Silva, *Amka Naka SEZ: Special Economic Zones and their Contestation in Goa*

13.30-14.15 Harsha Munasinghe, *Sustaining Colombo: Development of the Inner City and Managing its Identity*

14.15-14.45 Coffee & Tea

14.45-15.30 Sharvey Dhongde, *Conservation Strategies - Case Studies of Pune Historical City Centre*

15.30-16.15 Varuna De Silva, *Transformation of Streetscapes in the World Heritage Dutch Fort in Galle, Sri Lanka*

16.15-17.45 Panel discussion which starts with an introductory conversation between moderator Pernilla Glaser and architect Himanshu Burte. The other panel members are: Poorva Keskar (Architect, Professor, BNCA/University of Pune), Harsha Munasinghe (Architect, Professor, Moratuwa University), Anagha Paranjape-Purohit (Architect, Lecturer, BNCA/University of Pune).

Dinner

19.30 at Roddarklubben, Djurgården

The boat, M/S Stegeholm, will leave the pier near KKH at 18.00 (arrives at Roddarklubben 19.00). The return journey will be made by local bus (no. 69) or taxi.

Biographies:

Himanshu Burte

Himanshu Burte is an architect, writer and Assistant Professor at the School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. A former Fulbright Fellow, he has written extensively on architecture and urban issues. His current research interests include contemporary Indian architecture and public space, sustainable technology, and the design of theatre spaces. His first book is titled, *Space for Engagement, The Indian Artplace and a Habitational Approach to Architecture* (Seagull Books, 2008). He is currently co-writing a book on sustainable architecture in India, with a grant from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Chicago.

Solano Da Silva

Solano Da Silva is an independent researcher based in Goa. He has an M.Phil. in Development Studies at the University of Oxford. He previously worked at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, where he was a research assistant on a cross-country project which sought to assess the state of democracy in South Asia. He has degrees in International Studies and Economics from Goa University. Solano was a member of the Goa Bachao Abhiyan which opposed the Goa Regional Plan 2011 and he continues to be an active member of his village action committee in Pilerne, Goa.

Varuna De Silva

Varuna De Silva has a MS.c. in Architecture from the University of Moratuwa, and is a practicing architect and lecturer. Research interests are the Dutch and British Period of Architecture in Sri Lanka. He is currently carrying out research on the transformation of domestic buildings in the Galle Fort in Sri Lanka. As a practicing architect, he designs small urban residential buildings.

Sharvey Dhongde

Sharvey Dhongde is an architect and completed his Master in Architecture from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. He currently teaches Architecture at BNCA/ University of Pune. He is a member of the Heritage Conservation Committee of Pune Municipal Corporation, and for the past 15 years he has run an independent practice in Pune and worked with numerous architectural and planning organizations in India. Sharvey also works as Co-convenor of INTACH Pune Chapter, a national level NGO working with architectural and cultural conservation issues in India. Sharvey has numerous publications to his credit, such as the commemorative book on Master Architect Achyut Kanvinde.

Pernilla Glaser

Pernilla Glaser is a Swedish writer, teacher and curator. She has published several novels, the latest, *Under the sidewalk*, has the city in a central position. Her exhibition at the Swedish Museum of Architecture in Stockholm, *The Furry City*, talked about the inner geography of the urban landscape. She is currently working as a coordinator at the library at the Stockholm Cultural House (Kulturhuset) and is also creating an interactive Art Walk for Stockholm City Museum and Stockholm Art. Pernilla was a postgraduate student at the Royal Institute of Art during 2009 and 2010.

Poorva Keskar

Poorva Keskar is a professor of Architecture, architect and environmental designer and author of numerous articles. Projects include infrastructure strategies and individual real estate developments, waterfront designs and urban ecosensitive parks. She has an MA in Architecture Design (Environment) from YCMOU, NASIK, Council of Architecture. Poorva heads the Center for Environmental Planning and Architecture at the BNCA. She is also a Director of the VK:e Environmental consultancy firm with a mandate to consult on ecological and green building services.

Harsha Munasinghe

Harsha Munasinghe is the Professor of Architecture and the Head of Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. He is a chartered architect and an urban designer. He earned his first degree, BS.c. (Built Environment) and MS.c. (Architecture) at the University of Moratuwa. He obtained an M.Arch. (Urban Design) at the Helsinki University of Technology, Finland and defended the doctoral thesis entitled, *Urban Conservation and City Life*, at the University of Oulu, Finland. He was attached to the Centre for Urban & Regional Studies, Helsinki, before joining the University of Moratuwa.

Anagha Paranjape-Purohit

Anagha Paranjape-Purohit has more than eleven years of professional experience in the field of Architecture and Environmental Planning. Currently she teaches Postgraduate courses in Environmental Architecture at BNCA/University of Pune. She also heads a consulting company, VK:e Environmental in Pune, which specializes in the field of Green Building Certification, Building Energy Simulation and Environmental Assessment. Anagha has designed and conducted training programs on diverse themes including Urban Air Quality, Solid Waste Management, Green Productivity and Sustainable Architecture. She is involved in setting up a research and education centre focusing on Energy, Environment and Ecology in Pune.

Mejan Arc - The School of Architecture - is a forum for architectural and urban studies that offers one-year postgraduate courses in three disciplines, including: Architecture, Architectural Conservation, and Art & Architecture.

The courses for the academic year of 2011-2012 are:

Architecture Resources.11: *Just Grounds: Cape Town*, application deadline 13 June 2011.

Architectural Conservation *Inclusive India Re: Pune*, application deadline 23 May 2011.

For Art & Architecture, the *Textilism* course will continue with a project term and a final presentation in late November 2011 at the project space/Mine Department, Skeppsholmen.

The theme for the next course will be announced later this year with the application deadline 7 January 2012. For more information: www.kkh.se.



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