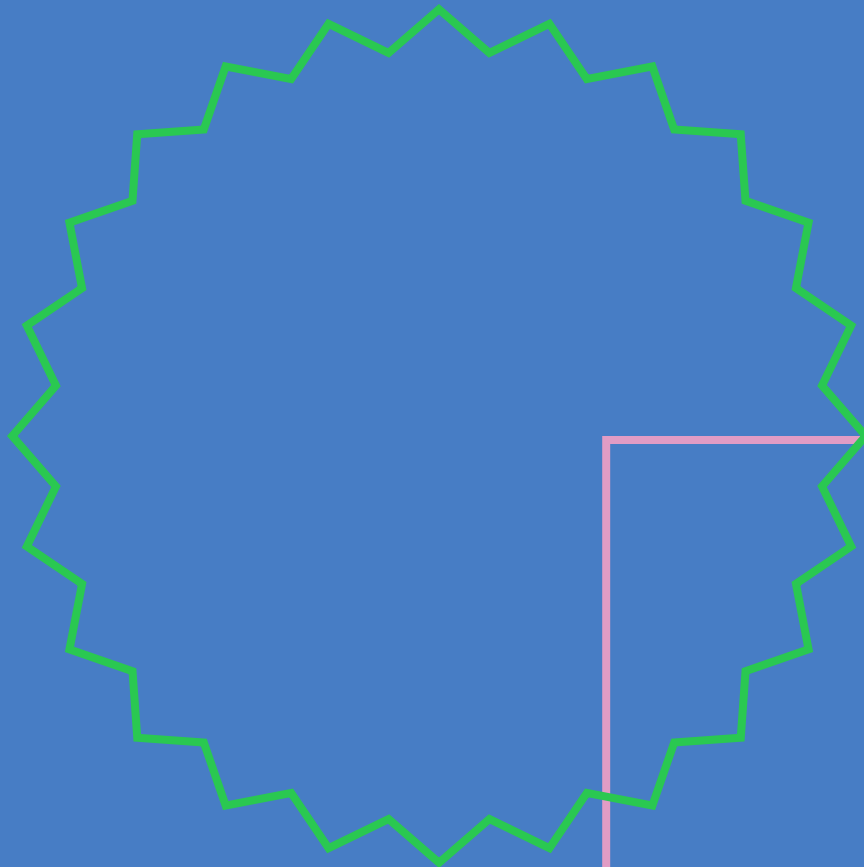


International Council Meeting
Mumbai

Building Blocks of Urban Citizenship

12-16
November 2018

Itinerary



**VAN
ALEN**

INSTITUTE

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Mumbai Context

The city we know today as Mumbai has been 400 years in the making. More than 50% of its territory is produced through various techniques of landfill – both formal and informal. Originally a set of seven islands close enough to facilitate daily boat traffic between them, today the city extends into a vast metropolitan region nearly 460 sq. kilometers, much of it very densely populated. Clinging to the western edge of the subcontinent, Mumbai was India's cosmopolis, where the world met India and where India met the world. Post-independence, the city attracted migrants from all over the country and is known, even amongst its poorest citizens, as a place where no one sleeps hungry.

With such density, diversity and congestion, Mumbai presented a challenge to urban planners from early on in its history. Many of these challenges have only been exacerbated due to India's integration into the global economy and we find basic practices of community, conviviality and mobility transforming rapidly. The basic building blocks of urban citizenship – public space, social connectivity and physical infrastructure – are under tremendous pressure, affecting the ability of citizens to interact effectively with each other and with their environments. Within this changing urban landscape, we explore three case studies that bring to the fore the many issues facing Mumbai's citizens and call for creative propositions to tackle them. Each case study examines one of three parameters - public space, social connectivity and physical infrastructure - in depth at three different sites which anchor the council's itinerary in Mumbai.

November 12, 2018

Bombay-Mumbai Heritage Tour and Ballard Estate Walk
Case Study 1 – Public Space

Day 1

Day 1 is an introduction to some important urban landmarks from Mumbai's pre-colonial, colonial and post-independence periods. Beginning with a panoramic view of the western shoreline from the 12th century **Walkeshwar temple** and **Banganga Tank** complex at the top of **Malabar Hill**, we conclude the tour at **Ballard Estate**, which forms our first case study site and explore the district on foot with Ar. Damyanti Radheshwar and other guides.

Located on the Eastern Waterfront, just north of the Gateway of India and the Naval Dockyards dating from the colonial period, the Ballard Estate office district was created through land filling in the early 20th century. It remains a prestigious office address with strong urban design and planning guidelines in place. Our brief is to propose new uses for spaces in between the buildings in this district where a large number of blue-collar service workers hang out during the day, waiting to be called by the office staff as and when tasks arise. By reimagining these sites as places of productive civic exchange and spaces of learning, our objective is to leverage these in-between places into true public spaces. This case study is based on research by **Ar. Damyanti Radheswar**, who will be in Mumbai to share her work with the council and to guide the research process.

Evening

Our first day concludes with a cocktail reception at **Jhaveri Contemporary Gallery** followed by dinner in Colaba.



November 12, 2018

Bombay-Mumbai Heritage Tour and Ballard Estate Walk
Case Study 1 – Public Space

Day 1

8:00 AM

Assemble in the hotel lobby for welcome and introductions

8:30 AM

Heritage tour by bus with frequent stops

12:00 PM

Lunch at The Clearing House
13-15, Calicut Rd, Ballard Estate

2:00 PM

Explore the Ballard Estate district by foot

4:00 PM

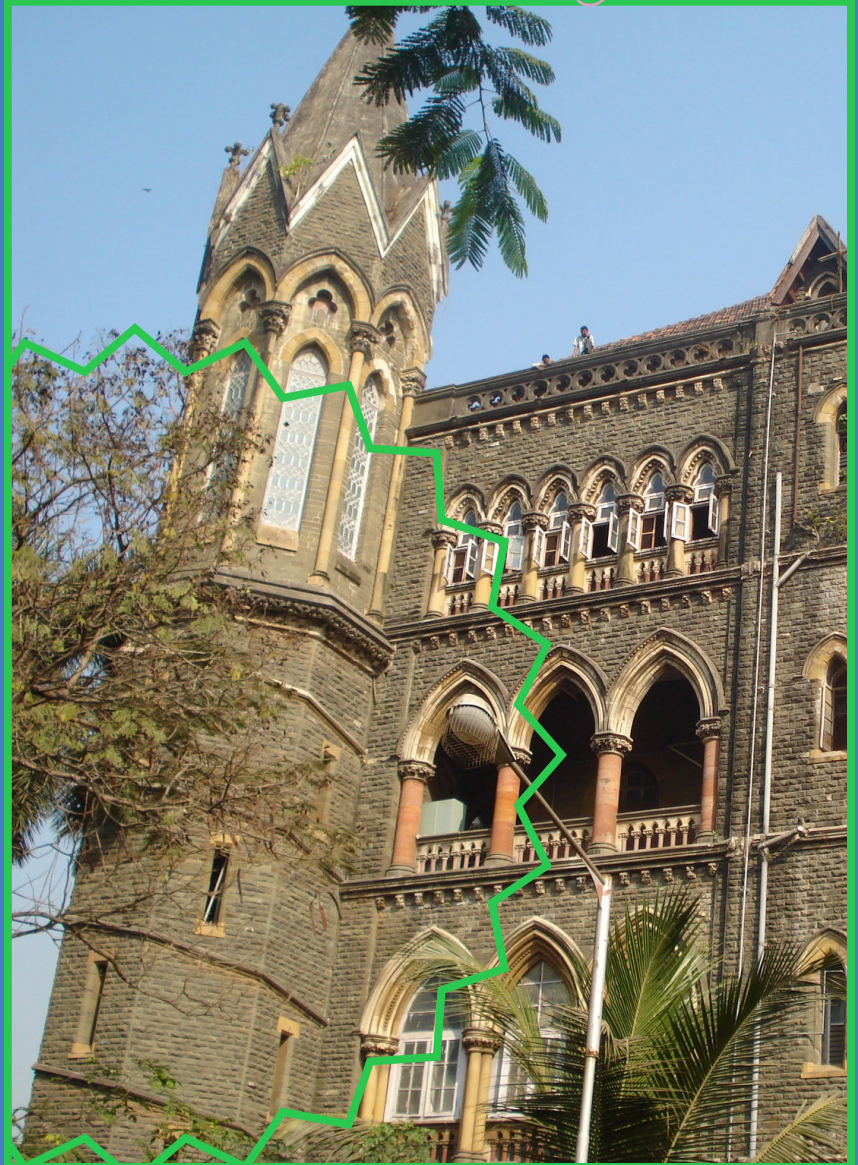
Tea at Somaya and Kalappa Consultants
(SNK)Udyog Bhavan, 29, Walchand
Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate

7:00 PM

Cocktails at Jhaveri Contemporary
Gallery, Colaba
*3rd Floor, Devidas Mansion, B K Boman
Behram Marg, Apollo Bandar, Colaba,
Mumbai*

8:30 PM

Dinner at The Table in Colaba
*Ground Floor, Kalapesi Trust Building,
Opposite Dhanraj Mahal, Below Hotel
Suba Palace, Apollo Bunder Marg, Colaba,
Mumbai*



November 13, 2018

North-east Mumbai – Mankhurd
Case Study 2 – Social Connectivity

Day 2

Our focus for Day 2 is social life and civic activism in Mumbai's informal settlements. As is well known, more than half of Mumbai's residents live in slums or other dilapidated urban environments. We travel to the north-eastern district of **Mankhurd** where a large number of residents live in slums as well as in newly constructed housing projects, reminiscent of inner city public housing projects in many US cities. We focus on two settlements – one is a typical Mumbai slum settlement called **Annabhau Sathenagar** and the other a resettlement housing project called **Lallubhai Compound**, comprising 65 buildings, which was built on a former industrial site. The two communities are adjacent to each other and we meet with residents and activists for a walk through and interactive conversation led by members of the artistic collective **Samoocha**, which includes an anthropologist, activists from Sathenagar and architects from Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Both neighborhoods are home to professional and amateur performing artists, photographers and video artists. Our aim is to focus on the cultural needs of these communities and the ways in which architecture and culture can be leveraged to support critical conversations about social connectivity and infrastructure.

Evening

Van Alen Institute hosts a gathering in Central Mumbai, at the studio of contemporary artist Sunil Padwal, for friends of Van Alen in Mumbai, including artists, architects, academics and activists. The event will be an occasion for council members to meet their peers in Mumbai, to inquire and share thoughts about pressing contemporary issues for urban practitioners in Mumbai and beyond.



November 13, 2018

North-east Mumbai – Mankhurd
Case Study 2 – Social Connectivity

Day 2

8:00 AM

Assemble in the hotel lobby. Drive on Eastern Freeway to Sathenagar/Lallubhai Compound.

9:00 AM

Meet with community and explore the two neighborhoods by foot, led by the artist collective **Samoocha** (Vyjayanthi Rao, an anthropologist based in New York, Santosh Thorat and Jameela Begam Ethakula from Sathenagar and Manisha Agarwal and Shantanu Poredi of MO_OF Design Practice) and **Deepak Dhopat**, Samoocha Research Associate and founder of TRIPS, Social Research Services Provider.

12:00 PM

Return to South Mumbai

1:00 PM

Lunch at The Bombay Canteen
Unit-1, Process House, S.B. Road, Kamala Mills, Near Radio Mirchi Office Lower, Parel, Mumbai

2:30 PM

Visit to Studio Mumbai (Bijoy Jain)
561/563 N.M.Joshi Marg Byculla West, Mumbai

4:30 PM

Proceed to Central Mumbai to the studio of artist **Sunil Padwal** for Ideas Exchange Session led by architect **Rajeev Thakker** and discussion led by **Himanshu Burte**, Assistant Professor, School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Light dinner will be catered at 7 pm.

Govardhan Cooperative Housing Society, Currey Building, N. M. Joshi Marg, BDD Chawl, Lower Parel, Mumbai

9:00 PM

Event concludes and group returns to hotel for the evening



November 14, 2018

Bandra Kurla Complex and Western Suburbs
Case Study 3 - Rethinking Transport Infrastructure
for an Exploding Metropolis

Day 3

On Day 3 we move north-west to Mumbai's new CBD, the **Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC)**. Situated across the Mahim Creek from Dharavi, Mumbai's infamous slum-industrial district, BKC is a place from which to visualize Mumbai's stark inequalities. Check-in to the **Trident BKC** followed by an afternoon exploring Mumbai's infamous train networks and the emerging metro railway network.

We spend the afternoon of Day 3 exploring the dense commercial and residential fabric around the interchange of the old commuter railway stations and the new metro stations under construction in the suburb of **Andheri**. The afternoon program is led by architects from **Studio POD**. After our adventures on Mumbai's public transport networks we will proceed north to the **School of Environment and Architecture (SEA)** in Borivali where we will engage with faculty and students in a discussion about our research and reflection upon our three case studies.

We end the day at a dinner hosted on the rooftop of their office building, across from the Bandra Railway Station.



November 13, 2018

North-east Mumbai – Mankhurd
Case Study 2 – Social Connectivity

Day 3

8:00 AM

Assemble in the hotel lobby, check out, and proceed to Trident BKC

11:00 AM

Meet with Studio POD and MMRDA transport officials in Bandra, proceed onto the Bandra Skywalk, and commence train and metro rides from Bandra to Andheri and DN Nagar (Versova).

Working lunch to be arranged.

2:00 PM

Meet coach at DN Nagar station and proceed to School of Environment and Architecture (SEA) in Borivali
Paranchpe Nagar, 400091, Lokmanya Tilak Rd, Vazira, Borivali West, Mumbai

3:00 PM

Charrette Part I: Meet with faculty and students for discussions led by Neera Adarkar, senior researcher and co-founder of SEA.

7:30 PM

Dinner and drinks on the rooftop of Studio POD's office building, across Bandra Station
701, Oracle Point, 3 Gurunanak Road, Opposite Bandra Station (West), Mumbai



November 15, 2018

Western Coastline Walk & Design Charrette

Day 4

Day 4 begins early with a drive along the north western coast to **Versova beach**. Like most neighborhoods in this part of Mumbai, Versova combines affluent, beach front apartment complexes with large informal settlements of domestic service providers and other workers who cannot find affordable housing close to their places of employment. Along with the adjacent neighborhoods of Andheri and Juhu, Versova is also home to many who work in Mumbai's film industry. Our beachfront walk is led by photographer **Rajesh Vora**, a long-time Versova resident and civic activist working to save the mangroves along the western coast. Rajesh, along with other local residents lead us through a complex ecology of beach, mangroves, urban farming and informal residence before we spend the afternoon working on proposals to present at the evening design charrette.

We return to Bandra and assemble for final presentations from 11 AM to 3 PM, at the **Pioneer Bungalow** in Bandra with eminent local guests with a short break for lunch.

Optional afternoon tour of **Dharavi** organized by **Reality Tours**, a well-known operator of 'dignified' slum tours in Mumbai.

Evening

Following the Dharavi tour, we proceed to **Pali Bhavan** in Bandra for our farewell drinks and dinner.



November 15, 2018

Western Coastline Walk & Design Charrette

Day 4

8:00 AM

Assemble in the hotel lobby and proceed to Versova Beach for a beach walk led by photographer and civic activist Rajesh Vora.

11:00 AM

Begin final presentations.

Presentations: 20 minutes each + 20 minutes Q & A (total 2.5 hours).

1:30 PM

Lunch at Crown.

Afternoon

Tour of Dharavi, organized by Reality Tours.

7:00 PM

Drinks and dinner, final farewells at Pali Bhavan, Bandra.

