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NEWSPLAN

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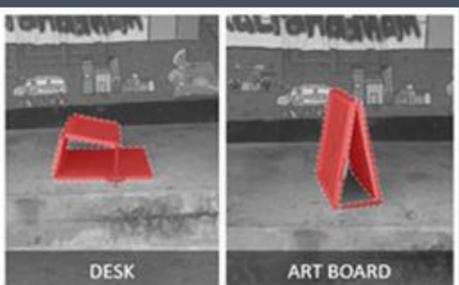
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Planning: A Thought



The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines planning as *'the act or process of making or carrying out plans; specifically :the establishment of goals, policies, and procedures for a social or economic unit'*.

Sir Peter Hall writes, "the noun 'plan' and the verb 'to plan' have several distinct meanings. In particular, the noun can either mean 'a physical representation of something' – as for instance a drawing or a map; or it can mean 'a method for doing something'; or 'an orderly arrangement of parts of an objective'... The most common meaning of 'planning' involves both of these elements: planning is concerned with deliberately achieving some objective, and it proceeds by assembling actions into some orderly sequence.

The discipline of 'Planning' is multi-dimensional and dynamic in nature. This is not unanticipated, since the essence of planning lies in 'people and space', whose characteristics over the world possess a certain degree of heterogeneity. It is therefore not possible to have certain specific and defining textbooks on the subject. However, a vast trove of knowledge gained from years of experience, intellectual thought and evolutionary ideas is accessible to us in the form of literature comprising of books, journals, articles and research papers.

It has been seen as a series of interventions generating a stream of new "facts" as the consequences of previous such actions begin to materialize. The larger the number of variables within a single explanatory model, greater is the effect of random occurrences on the results obtained, hence planning carries a high degree of uncertainty. Consequently all possibilities for improving our understanding of a complex phenomenon such as this, are inexhaustible.

To "What is Planning?" John Friedmann says, "So formulated, the question is of course unanswerable. There are no metaphysical definitions of either being or becoming a planner and unadorned by any adjective we can make of planning, whatever we will, depending on one's circumstances and dispositions. But to be a planner is to be oriented towards the future."

Rimjhim Agrawal
Editor-in-Chief

Editor's Note

Greetings to all readers, old and new!

NOSPlan welcomes all the fresh entrees in the world of Planning, both in Bachelor's and Master's programmes! We hope you enjoy and embrace the wide and varied world of planning. We also extend a warm welcome to the new members of this organisation, and look forward to your participation with us!

In this edition, we bring to you the stories and experiences of students' summer internships in different parts of India, some of them stepping out for the first time in a professional environment. We also feature a contribution from an alumnus on how planning has affected her life, and what one should expect from the future.

Featuring articles about new and interesting initiatives and projects in cities, students' opinions on various planning affairs, news about on-campus happenings, and a fun cross-word puzzle, and a comic strip depicting the life of a planner; we hope this newsletter is an intriguing read for all.

I would like to thank my graphic designers, Nitin and Aravind, and all my Associate Editors for their contribution to the success of this NewsPlan.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions. Contact us at chiefeditor@nosplan.org.

We appreciate that you took the time to read this newsletter.

Happy reading, and have a great semester!

Public Participation and Planning An Example of Vishwamitri Riverfront Development in Vadodara

It is a well-known fact that planning is done for the people and that it is meant to reflect the needs and wishes of the people; and thus a good plan will always be made with the people participation reflecting in it. Plans made with the involvement of the people ensure a balance between built, natural and cultural environments as well as help develop a sense of community. And the plan that emerges after all this, is an inclusive plan. But for the public participation to be of any value and have real meaning, the background and other sociological / demographic parameters of the people makes a difference.

Vadodara is a city that is dotted with numerous educational institutes, of the likes of the MSU which is a 150-year-old university. Vadodara is today, recognized as an educational hub and this has ensured that Vadodara's population is rich with technocrats and well-educated professionals who actively take part in the matters of the city. One such recent example is that of Vishwamitri Riverfront Development.

The approved plan for the riverfront followed the example of Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Riverfront Development. One of the proposals in the plan suggested a crocodile park in a small stretch of the river when the Vishwamitri River has the second largest river crocodile population in the world. Examples like this and many others, forced the residents of the city to raise their voice in protest to the proposed plan for the riverfront development.

The outcome of this protest is that today, there is a stay on the riverfront development project and alternative proposal plans are being considered. The technocrats and professionals are in regular meetings and discussions with the authorities, discussing various issues and alternatives related to the project.

This case goes to show that, that even though public participation is important and it can drive the direction and way in which the city grows, its success will depend on how aware and connected the citizens are. This further depends on demographic parameters, social factors and cultural values of the citizen. The involvement of citizen along with the willing and able authorities will ensure a successful public participation or else it would end up in wasted resources and negative experience with growing loss of faith in agency.

Khyati Gulati Tewari
The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara

To New Perspectives...



A Kochite to the core, being one who spent her almost-entire life in the city welcomed the newly launched metro with the same enthusiasm as every other fellow Kochi mate; taking the first ride with all gusto. Suddenly faced with a dynamic perspective change, where one saw the whole city in a metro rail height in the place of a street level, all her life it had been from the eye level of a 5 foot 3 inches.

The idea was for Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) through the National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC) engaged the UMTC to prepare the Transit Oriented Development Plan ("TOD") along the proposed metro corridors in Kochi City. The TOD plan conceived would inter alia, identify all the options available for high density development along the transit corridors and at transit stations. The project also opts to assess revenue that may be derived from the transit oriented development planning initiatives along the corridor through various value capture techniques. ("Urban Mass Transit Company Limited", 2017)



What this whole plan envisages misses one important dimension, of urban landscape and aesthetics. The view of the city rooftops while travelling in the metro recalls a lackluster and dull city, blackened, neglected and unused rooftops one after the other, one contrasting the beautiful city with a good sense of urban spaces developed via the TOD at the ground level.

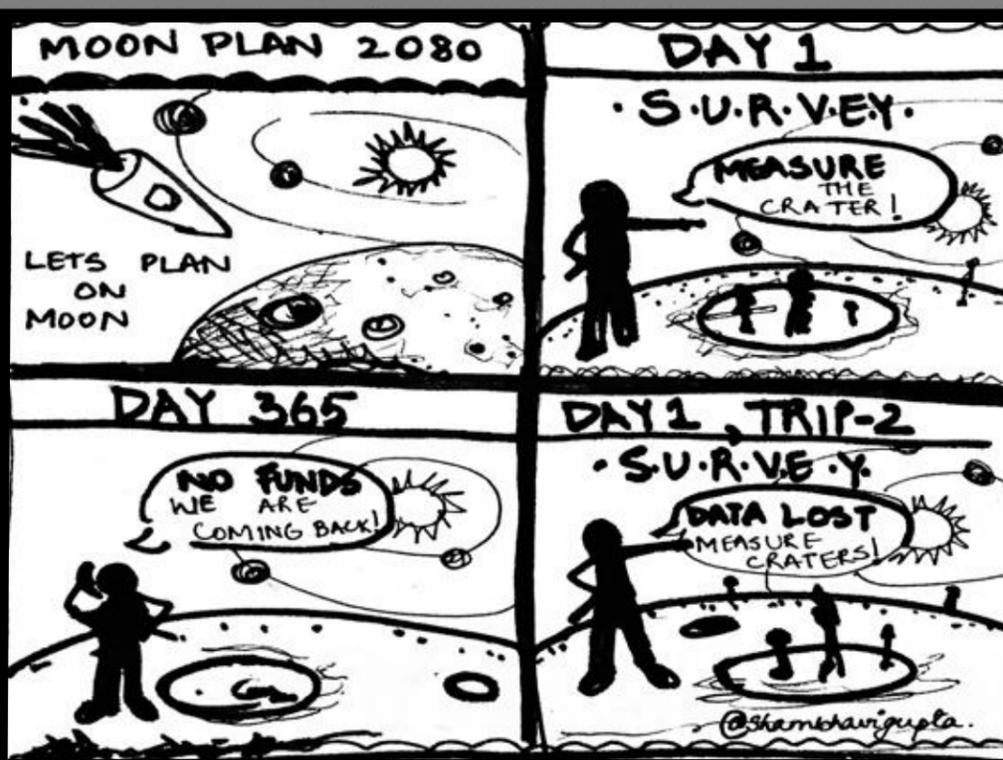
'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder' very aptly said Margaret Wolfe Hungerford. The sight of the beholder has changed. So has the perspective. There is an urgent need to create a rooftop landscape plan, linking the rooftops of the city creating a clean green array; the lungs of the city, put to use for urban social integration and interaction.

Fixing the currently dilapidated rooftops can have environmental and ecological benefits as well, besides social factors. It could work towards counteracting the harm caused to the townscape by its bulging mass and newer constructions besides being the first step towards dealing with the 'urban heat island effect'.

It is time to usher in newer stricter zoning regulations as part of the TOD. It is time for the rise of the rooftop!

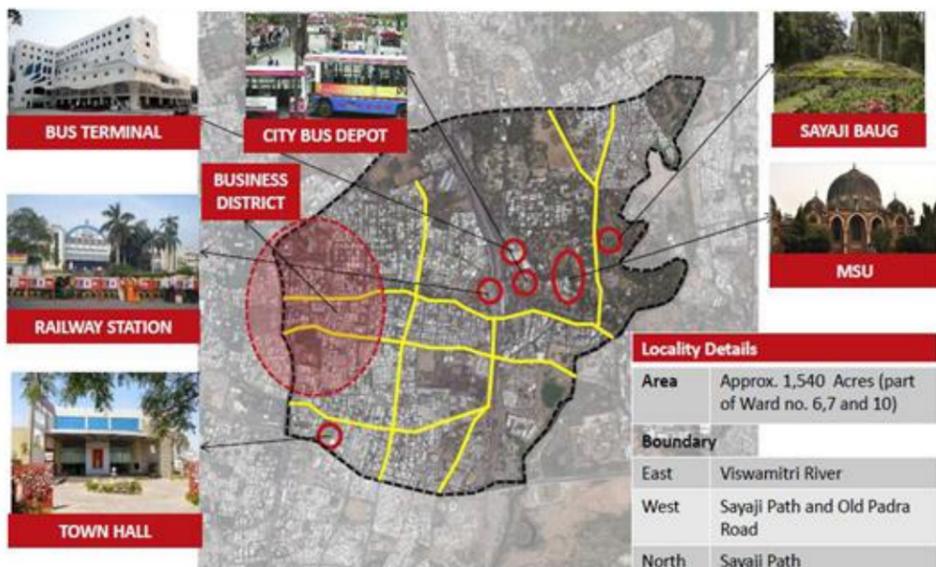
Shreya Menon
CET Trivandrum

Comic Strip
SPA Delhi - Shambavi Gupta



Stout Steps for Smarter Tomorrow

Vadodara is the third largest city of Gujarat having 1.8 million plus people living in. The city is on the major rail and road arteries joining Mumbai with Delhi and Mumbai with Ahmedabad. Due to this Vadodara is known as a Gateway to the Golden Quadrilateral. In a tier one city, area consisting and surrounding the railway station is always found congested and chaotic. Vadodara is no exception to this scenario either. Vadodara Railway station area acts as a trip generating cluster since it is a gateway of city and having central bus depot adjacent to it makes the area more vibrant. Alkapuri area (CBD area) is also nearby.



(Source: Vadodara Smart City Proposal)

The civic authority has taken up smart transportation project under the area based development proposal of smart city plan. The project is aimed at the redevelopment of station area and development of integrated transport hub is also proposed. As a part of redevelopment project, some shops and complexes were razed near the station area. Few shop keepers and certain group of city stated agitation against the demolition drives. It is always challenging for any civic authority to shift urban dwellers on public transport mode and make it as a part of routine commuting. Integration of public transport system to various other local modes for assuring end node connectivity is essential for success of the transportation system.



The current stout steps are for the development of integrated transport hub which will promote the use of public transport system. Civic body has taken up bold steps for successful implementation of envisaged projects under the smart city mission and started demolition drive of illegal and interrupting structures within the redevelopment area. The authority is also leading amongst the implementation of the smart city plans.

I would like to quote very meaningful thought of Mahatma Gandhi here "The future depends on what you do today" so let's cherish the stout actions taken up by the civic authorities today regarding the smart city initiatives ,it will surely lay a strong foundation stone for stronger, brighter and vibrant tomorrow.

Arpan Shah

The Maharaja Sayajirao University Of Baroda

Development Plan Proposal for Smart Villages Kavas and Olpad, Surat District, Gujarat

This study is about outer fringe area development of Kavas and Olpad, Surat District with the guidance of smart village Scheme which is an initiative of Govt. of Gujarat. The area taken account for the study is referring to the gamtal area of villages in outer fringe of Surat.

The study is needed because as per the census data about one third population of India is living in Urban Area, and is expected to increase in upcoming decades. The area where this large urban population is living is very small in comparison, such that 1/3rd of India's population is living in 0.2% of total area. It is required to find out the possibilities of development in the outer fringe area of fast growing cities so that the population can be accommodated and provided with best infrastructure facility in the locality.

Under the scheme, 300 villages are selected to be developed as Smart village in Gujarat – out of that 30 villages are in Surat District. The two villages - Kavas and Olpad also fall under the scheme. The gamtal areas of the villages are required to develop with improvement in existing infrastructure and proposals for new facilities. These two villages are industrial villages and are very near to Surat city. As far as Kavas is concerned, about 70 % land belongs to the industries, hence there is a possibility that population will increase in the near future and it will become an agglomeration of Surat city. Olpad is a taluka center, hence many of villages are dependent on these villages for different purposes.

Different proposals for area are given after studying the current scenario. According to the guidelines, smart issues were found out. Approach for proposals considered steps including meetings with village representatives, field visits, study existing scenario, household surveys, population forecasting, gap analysis with NBC norms, cost estimation and planning strategies.

To implement the proposals each village will be getting grant of Rs. 50 lakh each year. The scheme is for three consecutive years.

Reeta Meena
SVNIT, Surat



Comic Trip
SPA Delhi - Shambhavi Gupta

Ahmedabad: India's First World Heritage City

Ahmedabad has a 606 – year old walled city. It was founded by emperor Ahmed Shah. It was announced as a world heritage city by World heritage committee (WHC) of UNESCO after a meeting in Krakow, Poland.

The walled city stands for unity with portrayal of elegant carvings in the various Hindu and Jain temples. It also bets for the finest examples of Indo – Islamic architecture and Hindu Muslim art. Beyond all this, it also epitomizes UN's objective of sustainable development.

It is spread over 5.43 sq. km. It was preferred over Mumbai and Delhi during the nominations last year. It has a population of 3.75 to 4 lakh and has 600 "pols" or neighbourhoods with clusters of centuries old residences. The city's nomination was supported by various countries like Poland, Cuba, Turkey and Lebanon.

Ahmedabad has a heritage cell established from the year 1996. Since then they have people dedicated to heritage management. This cell is now trying to ensure that they perfectly maintain the 2,600 odd heritage sites in the city. In June this year, WHC members visited Ahmedabad and informed Central government that it has deferred Ahmedabad's world heritage city nomination. It stated that it was not satisfied with the documentation related to the "Outstanding universal values" for walled city, which was referring to city's urban fabric, spaces and buildings. Welcoming this decision, architects and conservation specialists made sure that they do not take this tag for granted as this status would lead to sharp rise in prices of the properties in the old city.

The credit for all of this also goes to assistant professor at CEPT University, whose team took almost six years to put together the dossier for the walled city. There are few other conservation experts who restored the various old monuments and believed that this status will help them in boosting up the tourism in Ahmedabad.

Hence, by proper planning of the walled city, Ahmedabad has set an example for the rest of the cities of our country to restore their walled cities too.

Pratik Menkar
SVNIT, Surat

Gender and Transit

Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) organised an event- "Women on the Move" - a discussion on 'Gender and Transit' on 13th June, 2017 at India International Centre, Delhi. The event- a collaboration between ITDP, Safetipin and UN Women, involved a panel discussion on mainstreaming Gender as the core element in Urban Planning process in the country.

Safe and sustainable transport is a vital part of empowering women and plays an important role in achieving wider social and economic development of any country. The research which was funded and supported by FIA Foundation and was conducted by researcher Heather Allen highlighted how the experiences of harassment and personal security affects women's use of public transport and in turn their access to economic opportunities.

In cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai it was found that 37% women walk against 27% men and 30% women use public transport against 25% men, as stated by Sonal Shah, ITDP. One of the major concerns is that our urban transport policies are largely gender blind and due to lack of gender-wise travel data patterns it is not possible for the authorities to take steps for a holistic improvement of public transport.

Under-representation of women in the transport sector leads to a low visibility of women's perspectives and hence, the differences in transport needs and patterns do not become apparent. Higher participation of women in the planning and design process is therefore necessary. More focus should be on gender awareness and capacity-building programs for policies in order to completely understand and appreciate gender-related issues. More such discussions in order to address gender issues should take place. Open avenues for women to participate in the workforce, improve their standing in society and benefit the economy re equally important.

Vasudha Sharma
SPA Delhi

SVNIT, Surat - Atit Jaiswal



Internship in Bhubaneswar Development Authority

Internship plays an important role in the academic period for every student. It helps in enhancing the skills and knowledge which we have learned in the class by moulding it in a proper or better manner; in the practical field work by building our confidence, professional work habit and motivating us to excel in the field and planning practice through practical experience under professional guidance.

Being an intern in Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), was an excellent experience as it helped me in understanding how a Govt. Sector office actually work as a whole team. During this one and half month period of internship, the work which was assigned to me gave an overall idea regarding the various planning projects, mainly about the Zonal development plan (ZDP), conservation of heritage buildings, surveying, etc. including methodology, process and implementation, and thus helped in understanding the gaps between the theoretical knowledge and practical work. This also helped me in refining by presentation skills, confidence and knowledge in this field, and also gave a leadership experience with the real world application. Though the role was unpaid, it was still strategic, result oriented and extensive. I am really thankful to all the members of BDA for giving an opportunity for this gratifying experience and making me more confident and hardworking towards my goal.

Parna Sarkhel
BIT Mesra, Ranchi

Internship at CURE

CURE (Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence) is a developer firm and one of the advisors for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It is a non-governmental organization which works on solid waste management, drainage and sanitation plans in slum and unauthorized colonies. Working at this firm, we got a great experience in visiting slums, knowing the ground situation, talking to the people and understanding their problems. We undertook street mapping of the slums, identified the existing problems regarding drain pipelines, and proposed a new one. We were also supposed to analyze the current solid waste management, read the reports, sanitation plans and prepare methodologies to solve the existing problems. We also got a chance to visit Agra during internship for the solid waste management of the katras near Taj Mahal. We prepared questionnaires which lead to further analysis regarding public participation and their opinion. We came to know that people are willing to participate in environmental friendly ways to manage solid waste. This internship was an incredible learning experience for us, as we interacted with a wide range of people, from the planners to those at the grassroot level, i.e. those we plan for, and learning their opinions and concerns helped us identify with our course in a deeper way, and taught us to remember the real purpose of planning.

Mahima Soni, Prabhat Yadav
SPA Delhi

My Internship Experience in 'NAINA'

NAINA stands for Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area. It's a branch of CIDCO that is planning for a city around the Navi Mumbai International airport. It is described as a financial centre and potentially "the biggest smart city in India".

From the first day itself we hit the ground running and working on managing and entering data. But soon we were made a part of the NAINA planning team with a chief planner, associate planners, deputy planners and three training planners, including me. From there, an actual experience of a planner began. During this period we were working on the Development Plan that was published in 2014. but was kept on hold to know local concerns. NAINA was holding consultations with the residents to figure out their concerns. I could attend many such meetings with the locals and the planning committees which moulded my knowledge about land acquisition and development. I learnt how every single localite and land owner was important and was given consideration for their issues so as to incorporate it in the revised Development Plan. I worked on the Development Plan from identifying the sensitive areas to mapping the best road connectivity and network. Later we were also given work on NAINA schemes. Last minute work pressure and dead line management were also a great experience. Besides all these, we had small gatherings; parties which made me connect to my co-workers. We were like an entire big family "NAINA Family".

Six weeks passed by too quickly, but the experiences and memories gained will always stay along. This internship will add not only to my resume, but fill me with happiness and pride when I think of the days when NAINA will be known as a smart city and knowing I was a small part of its making.

Jismi Varghese
BIT Mesra, Ranchi

Explore to Appreciate

Everyone's dream city became the destination of my internship. The evergreen view of this city, the firm standing Gateway of India, the historical Taj Mahal Hotel, the enchanting Arabian sea and the yellow sand beaches are not the only gems this linear city has got. I was mesmerized by the century old buildings standing with pride, on the streets of this city. The beautifully constructed British style buildings and their conservation for commercial use is a feast to one's eye. Though highly urbanized, you cannot spot a street without lush green trees in South Bombay. This part of the city has an eminent skyline, physically contrasting to the waters of the Arabian Sea. While walking on the streets of this city, one can feel the aura akin to the British era.

The statuesque bell towers, the clock tower rotaries, the Victoria style stone buildings, flanking the streets, gives a quick drift into the olden times of the Indian British Colonies. Also, the adequately wide foot paths, signalized junctions, pedestrian crossings, properly distanced bus stops, all add to the safety and convenience of the people in the city. Not to forget the chronicle Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, the busiest node, located in the fort area of the city. With a plethora of buses and trains commencing from this point, this area has the maximum footfall of all the zones in the city. The city has a lot to offer for the people of all ages.

This city never sleeps. There are streets yet to be discovered and culture yet to be appreciated. It can only be done by getting lost in the city's crowd. Explore each part of each city, because life is too short to travel the whole world. Beauty should be appreciated in all its forms and drown in the happiness that comes along!

Dharna Dang
SPA Bhopal

Internship in CIDCO

CIDCO has been doing exemplary work in the field of city planning over the last few decades, we three undergraduate students in SPA Delhi underwent summer training program with the organization. The training was "a great learning curve" for us as we were exposed to minute details of working in large scale projects. We actively worked with reputed planners in various projects like the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), NAINA city and Rehabilitation of South Zone in Navi Mumbai. We appreciate the work culture at CIDCO because of high composition of women (female planners outnumbered their male counterparts), an atmosphere where everyone is dedicated towards their job and maintains a healthy relationship with all the colleagues, and new ideas (related to the use of various software like ArcGIS, SketchUP etc.) suggested by the students were positively gathered and implemented in the design schemes based on their feasibility.

Shubham Bansal, Vasudha Sharma, Siddharth Yadav
SPA, Delhi

Geotagging Project -Walled City Jaipur

In May-June 2017, I joined as an intern in Directorate of Local Bodies, Jaipur under Rajasthan Urban Sector Internship Programme-2017 and worked under the Senior Town Planner of Rajasthan. We were given a Geotagging Project for Walled city (known as Pink city) to prepare a documentation for Heritage conservation, in order to observe, retain and restore the changes came in last 3 centuries and might come in future as a result of rapid pace of urbanization, And Conserve the city as a Heritage City.

We started our project with study of historic profile of the city and observed the social, cultural and physical characteristics of the city and amazed to know the following facts:

First week onward we started our survey where we had to capture the photographs of all the shops, buildings, temples and other heritage buildings situated on main road of walled city with position coordinates of that object and collect the following data just by observing the surroundings without having physical interaction with public.

After 4 weeks of surveys on site we prepared a geodatabase where all the buildings are marked as a point and observed information had been attached to it. This information was further processed to prepare a Heritage documentation, collected data had been forwarded to various authorities like Smart City Jaipur and Nagar Nigam Jaipur where this data can be used to treat bottleneck circulation corridors, distorted facades, etc.

This processed data will be kept as base and the whole city would go under surveillance to check how development is being carried out and how heritage is being distorted by public and owners itself to raise their economy, this surveillance would help to retain the existing heritage and restore the distorted built-up.

Anurag Gupta
MANIT BHOPAL

Context Matters

Accompanied by a Police, a DUSIB official, an Army Subedar and a Photographer, I headed towards Delhi cantonment, Kirbi place slum. Along the side of the street, women sat, lazily blowing away flies, selling jamun. Children slipped in mud and puddles of water, screaming in excitement.

A beam of hope glistened from people as they started pouring in their issues. We were there to survey and re-locate them, as per JNNURM scheme. With majority of men engaged as wage workers and street vendors, they were in favour of survey. One of the men from Pradhan's party mistook us to be campaigner of BJP, as coincidentally there was a symbol representing that party near our sitting area. Mr. Anil, a DUSIB field officer was taken for interrogation and was released only after the assistant director from the office came to the site and justified our purpose. Finally, the survey was successful. Similarly, we conducted the survey at Taimoor nagar, Okhla.

A contrary case was witnessed in C-10 slums, Rohini west. It was a gloomy rainy day and Diwali was near. Hardly had we surveyed 6 jhuggis, when a dispute broke up in the area, with men, women and children ready to defend. Crowds started engulfing the place and we could hear distant whispers of rage. Sneakily, we tried to record the scene, for which we were threatened and had to delete the recordings. It was dominated by Kumhars (potters), who were migrants, mainly from Rajasthan. Relocation would mean- an end to their livelihood.

Sullenly, we returned from the site. I, as an intern at "Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement board", was quite inquisitive about what had happened and finally realised that a particular scheme could not be applied to every site of the same situation. Context matters.

Bushra Saba
SPA Bhopal

The Delhi Metro

We did our summer training under Joint General Manager, Property Development Department, DMRC. The Property Development Department generates revenue for the organisation through meticulous use of space. We learnt efficient planning techniques for a space to give maximum returns. We worked on two live projects namely Okhla Phase 3 NSIC metro station and New Delhi metro station that helped us learn lots of new things, with a constant support from our senior colleagues. These projects definitely developed our knowledge on the subject, and offered real-life work experience in our prospective career field. During our internship we met seasoned professionals and government officials that helped us understand of how government projects actually work. Together these experiences allowed us to learn and to develop critical and analytical skills needed to work in the field of Planning. We gained knowledge, contacts, experience, and most importantly, confidence in our abilities as students and as valuable members of the workforce.

Kajal Gupta & Harshit Varshney
SPA Delhi

My Diverse Yet Co-Dependent Journey in Planning

As funny as it may sound, it all began from the moment I started to ride a moped in my city. The girl so excited to finally travel on her own moped without her parents driving her to school was the sense of ultimate freedom. But little did I know that as soon as I went out on the road I would have to face the horror that probably all city people have to face: Traffic Jams. I decided that I wanted to contribute towards improving this situation. But how? Frankly speaking, I was then aspiring to become an architect. But as I explored my options, I learnt that Town Planning is a field in which I could study many more diverse subjects. Throughout the course of my Bachelor studies in Town Planning in COEP, I got a confirmation of the multidisciplinary nature of this field. One could gain knowledge of arts and design along with the knowledge of economics and governance.

During the four years of my Bachelor studies, I was fortunate to visit many other towns and cities as case studies. From the internships that I did during my Bachelor's, I learnt the different levels at which a Town Planner could work: as a private consultant, or as a government official. These experiences widened my horizon and I decided to further my knowledge in the field of Transport Planning by enrolling in the Technical University of Munich, Germany, for a Master's degree in Transport Systems. I am still in the process of learning, and will complete my master's degree in another year. But I can surely say that my journey up till now has been really enriching.

With all the valuable experiences in hand, I would like to conclude by saying: there are so many options, so many subjects to specialize in, but one has to remember that, as all the subjects are co-dependant, a Town Planner has to at least be a "Jack of all" even if he is a "master of none".

Ketaki Tappu
Alumna, COEP

Opinion

ASICS – Annual Survey of India's City System

ASICS is carried out every year by Janagraha, which is a Bengaluru based not-for-profit institution whose mission is to transform quality of life in India's cities and towns. It is basically a ranking system that ranks cities based on certain criteria and recognises the various problems pertaining in the city.

Our cities are not facing hundred different problems but are exposed to same problem which repeats hundred times. On the surface, we always see symptoms of failure in urban governance and we often focus on addressing their apparent causes using band aids. This system tries to fix the root causes that lie within the City systems.

It is a framework consisting of four components that make up urban governance.

1. Urban Planning and Design – Specially focuses on spatial development plan. It is to check whether the plan is successfully implemented or not or are there any legal violations in it.
2. Urban Capacities and resources – Having adequate urban capacities and resources can act as a launch pad from where cities take off for better. It counts for how much finance a city generates out of the total money they spend.
3. Empowered and legitimate political representation – This section accounts for the devolution of power to city heads. It checks whether the 74th CAA has been properly enacted or not. It lists out various functions and checks every year which functions out of them have been devolved to the city's government body.
4. Transparency, Accountability and Participation – It checks whether the city put out adequate information and facilitate citizen participation and also looks for the involvement of local communities in matter of governance.



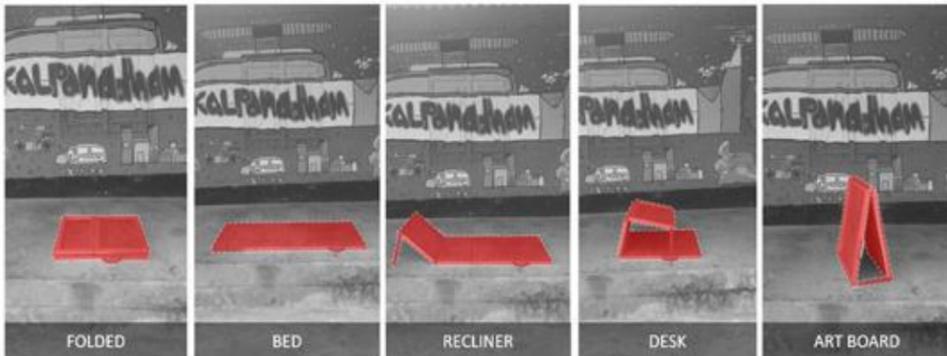
In each of the component stated above, various questions are asked which cover over 112 parameters in total. The answers to these questions are found from relevant laws, policies and administrative reports and few other are collected by RTI.

Uniform weightage is assigned to individual questions and all of them are scored on a range of 0 to 10. Also additional points are given for innovations and best practices implemented across the city.

Pratik Menkar
SVNIT, Surat

Surface-Innovating Rural India

With the new-found attention towards education in rural India and other parts of the world, there is a magnanimous amount of infrastructural development to happen in the rural households and schools to improve the learning environment of school going kids. Since this is the first generation of students attending school, they are unaware of many commonly found problems caused due to lack of proper infrastructure in form of bench, desk, chair or table. Severe health problems that are associated with wrong posture and ergonomics have affected their academic performance considerably, when compared with the students from well-off backgrounds.



SURFACE is an attempt to improve the learning conditions of these under-privileged students living in rural parts of the world, by providing them quality infrastructure. SURFACE is multi-utility furniture which can deliver the functions of a desk, bed, recliner and an art board by simply folding it. It provides better surfaces to students while learning, relaxing and sleeping. SURFACE also optimizes the use of minimal space available in rural houses or schools through its multi-utility. It is an innovative, affordable and effective solution which can revolutionize the face of rural education by improving the learning conditions of millions of students with better ergonomics and posture. SURFACE bridges the infrastructural gap that exists between the rural and urban education domain, and thus contribute to the noble vision of equality in education.

Nishan Nazer
College of Engineering Trivandrum

Game Theory in Urban Planning

Braess's paradox is a lesser known theory postulated in 1968 by German mathematician Dietrich Braess for a situation where an alteration to a road network to improve traffic flow actually has the reverse effect and hinders traffic through it. This theory has been proved effective not only in traffic management but also electricity, biology and team sport strategies.

This goes to show that providing an obvious solution might not always be the answer. As planners in India, we already know that increasing the width of roads have never solved the problem. Providing waste treatment plants and STP's hold the dam for a few years after which we need to keep increasing the capacity. Mass housing is yet another issue that has to be solved and our country aims to build more as fast as possible. More and more and even more.

Now for some numbers. Road transport ministry had set a target of constructing 25,000km of roads in 2016-17 as compared to 10,000 km last fiscal. (Mallapur, 2014) The total waste generation in India is projected to be 165 million tonnes by 2031 and 436 million tonnes by 2050. (Gupta, 2017). Housing shortage at the end of tenth plan was assessed as 24.71 million dwelling units for 67.4 million Households, while at the end of 11th Plan, this shortage was expected to escalate to 26.53 million houses for 75.01 million households.

Why do our needs never seem to be met? Is it possible that building more might not be the answer? Is it fathomable that the solution might be a more sinister one? Could building less be the solution we were looking for? Vouching for smarter more efficient systems over greater volume? Infinite economic development in a finite world is impossible.

There has to be a fundamental change in the way that we plan cities, which we know from the astute observations of urban planners the likes of Lewis Mumford, Jane Jacobs and Jeff Speck. But I reckon we could use some help from Dietrich Braess too.

Ar. Dheeraj Babu
College of Engineering Trivandrum

Requiem of Values

This is in the light of the recent events that have followed in the parts of Punjab and Harayana after the CBI Courts adjudicated the self-styled god man and the chief of Saccha Sauda Dera, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Insaan on 25th August in a rape case that was exposed by a Sadvi via an anonymous letter in 2002 (charge sheet was filed in 2007). Ten years down the line when the justice was deemed to have knocked the right door, there was a massive outcry against the decision taken. Companies of men were deployed in the city of Panchkula. Much to the complacency of the institutions, after the decision was called out of favour of the Dera Chief, cities fell prey to the sanguinary sentiments. The green avenues of cityscape turned into a warmongering group of jingoist followers who openly threatened to opt non-civic means of protesting. Places were rampaged by the group of angry protestors, police chowkis were set ablazed so were the public vehicles. In some places protestors even clashed with security personnels. National Capital also felt the tremors, empty train coaches were set on fire by the angry mob in Anand Vihar.

This sequence of event is emblematic of something bigger and is beyond the realm of any worldly comprehension of heuristics of human lunacy. That is the only reason why this needs to find space in every magazine, book, newspaper or any other medium at our disposal. At this juncture of civilization when we call ourselves the most level headed among all of the past, when as a nation we opine to resonate most of moralistic values and take pride in our culture and traditional upbringing, we suddenly happen to fail miserably on those account. A spiritual leader convicted on rape charges happens to find a followership that is too blind to bestow its faith in any logical faculty and is ready to disrupt law and order and that the judiciary has to intervene and invoke the established government that had sworn to uphold the dignity of the constitution and question why it had not taken requisite measure to mitigate the problem at the earliest. One would definitely guess the political leverage that is at stake but does it not skew the way democracy was conceived to be? Does it not question the very tenets of society for which the idea of democracy evolved Does it not questions why spirituality be subjected to thralldom to those who preach it? Does it not question why what is good for society is important than the society itself? Well this might not be a complete inquisition into the subject but just a prologue to an inquiry into the nature of events that took place.

Anunay Chowdhary
SPA Delhi

Don't Waste your Waste

Bobbili, A town in Andhra Pradesh is famous for the Venugopala Swami temple, also have something we Indians should proud of. This town boasts of being a zero-waste zone, which simply means that all its garbage is recycled or reused. None of it reaches the landfill.

At the core of this movement is an 8.5-acre solid waste management park, which, from the outside, looks like a regular garden, complete with farm animals and lakes. In this park is a processing unit that creates compost and biogas out of organic waste. Paper is also segregated from other kinds of waste and sold off to paper mills.

The 50,000+ residents of the town begin the process of waste management in their homes, where they segregate garbage into wet and dry waste. The municipality then collects this waste in separate bins and transports it to the park. In the park, there's further segregation. Here, animals like ducks, dogs, pigs and chickens are also involved. Pigs eat up most of the food waste from hotels; ducks take care of leftovers from the fish market; and dogs eat leftover meat from homes. The other organic waste is converted into compost which can be used for gardening and agriculture. Animal dung is used in the seven biogas production units, which provide cooking gas within the premises, which is used by the workers to prepare their meals.

the highlight of the exercise has been getting people to understand the importance of separating waste. Self-help groups have held rallies and motivated people and children. Concepts of waste management have been explained to children in schools, who in turn have shared these with their parents. The municipality has also distributed separate bins to help people understand and segregate, and it has held special training workshops for its staff too. Additionally, plastic bags were banned, door-to-door collection was initiated, and effective transportation and processing of waste was begun

And, A zero waste Town came.

Sakshi Khare
MANIT Bhopal

Urban Planning and Spirituality

Nobody in this world has taught us 'how to think'. Our parents, teachers and close beings might have nurtured us, for what is right and what is not, what actions might lead to something constructive and prosperity and what might result into destruction. But hardly anyone has triggered the ability of human brains to question about the 5W's which are what, why, who, when and where it has happened. This is nothing but an evidence of our spiritual being. Not only have we used the qualities of this 'spiritual being within' such as the power to remember, think critically as well as logically, reason out, the skill of decision making, accepting and rejecting ideas and accordingly do planning, but also we implement them in our daily lives.

Modern urban planning has given us the satisfactory solutions to labyrinthine muddles which include certain disciplines like social, cultural, physical, economical, political, legal, environmental, and historical and many more, but it does not consider internal human extents vis-à-vis identity, emotions, relatedness, intellect, psyche and spirituality. Then how can such panaceas cause permanently sustainability? When life can happen to us both peripherally (externally) and centrally (internally), then how can we disregard the internal human dimensions?

The growth rate of urban centres drastically stands in need of attention not merely to design and plan but also heed the catechization of connotation and motive. Spirituality, as a matter of fact, is not something pristine. We have been using it since the pre-modern era where all settlements were immersed in the spiritual cosmology in respective societies and traditions. After all, knowledge is not to be used just for reading, listening and feeling nice but to be experimented, enforced and effectuated in our daily living. For example; the ancient 'Yoga' has taken firm roots in the modern urban lifestyles. Similarly, planning education can be consolidated with practical spirituality for first individual and then community transformation.

Therefore, urban planners and policy makers in their corresponding fields of community and neighbourhood development and participatory planning approaches should include the needed aspects of self-reflexivity, self-awareness and a review of one's own role in this world. In this way, we can bring to light such concerns which lie in the heart of planning exercises and must be incorporated in planning practices.

Shreya Chaurasia
MANIT Bhopal

Real Estate Regulation Authority Act 2016 and Planning

Real Estate Regulatory Authority Bill which was drafted in 2013, passed in 2016 and implemented in May 2017 is aimed at regulating the unregulated and dishevelled real estate sector. The Act looks at safeguarding buyer's interests through increased transparency in real estate dealings. The Act mandates the formation of State Real Estate Regulation Authority and Appellate Tribunals and covers all projects which are over 5000sq.mt. area or have a minimum of eight flats, either residential or commercial and also it applies to on-going projects. The Act lays down rules and regulations for builders and defines builder's liabilities along with the penalties in case of noncompliance as well lists the rights of the home buyers.

Even though the Act benefits builders in number of ways through developer grading, equality among buyers and developers for delays in delivery and puts the small-time builder on the same platform as any established builder, it is heavily pitted against the builders and favours buyers a lot more. The Act disregards all the delays caused by unforeseen forces, and builder has to face losses in such case. Also because of no integration between different authorities, despite the approvals received from the authority, the designs might not comply with MoEFCC and NGT thus leading to further delays and losses for the builder. But a question that needs to be looked into is how does this Act affect planners and planning process if at all it does.

It is often noticed that the development plans prepared are not followed and the existing land-use is mostly different from the last development plan prepared. Of the many reasons responsible for this, one of the reasons is that the development of a city is often developer driven because of the strong influence of the builder lobby. RERA Act, if adopted and implemented without much change by the state, looks to reduce this influence or the hold that the builder lobby has on the developments in the real estate sector. Another important aspect would be the time factor associated. As a part of any plan, a planner also submits a time-wise phasing which ensures that the benefits of the intervention can be reaped optimally for the longest duration possible. With RERA intending to keep a check on the delays and ensuring timely completion, this might benefit the planning too. The positive results might not be seen overnight, but it is a likely outcome.

Khyati Gulati Tewari
The Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara

Why is Natural System not addressed in Planning Process?

The Impacts and effects of Urbanization and Climate Change along with depleting and deteriorating natural resources are the burning challenges and concerns for the world of planning today. And it, further gets degraded in regions where traditional issues like - Governance, funding, population explosion, expanding cities and supporting infrastructure supersedes the priorities over planning issues for climate change and natural system issues.

To integrate in planning process all these traditional urban issues with Climate Change and Environment & Ecology become multidisciplinary and multilevel along with being very contextual to geographical and geoclimatic zoning of the concerned Urban area. Moreover, the challenge of availability of base data and urgency to attend the Urban issues collaboratively leads to the resultant planning process where socio-ecological system and climate change are not integrated in planning process and are addressed in piece-meal approach of action plan.

This approach to address these crucial issues results into branch level solution of various disaster level action or management plan. As a result, there is an increasing risk of failure of planning procedure in achieving their goals for future.

The rapid pace of urbanization is putting lots of pressure on planning processes and their focus on retrofitting of existing urban centre or expanding foot prints of urban fringe areas where governance hasn't been able to expand its planning capacity and jurisdiction boundaries.

Hereafter non-existence of base data of existing natural system, lack of Urban Governance & jurisdiction complicates the planning processes, to requisite time line for issue addressable or proposed developable proposals for these urban centres. Hence Natural components which act as a base plan of these developable area are not addressed and lead to change in form and function of these components leading to natural and human induced disasters.

And thus, it becomes necessary to address natural systems in the planning process.

Jyoti Gill

The Maharaja Sayajirao University Of Vadodara

Smart Toilet: A Smart Solution

The Indian government's 'Clean India mission' plans to build toilet for every household by 2019. It is very good initiative ever taken by any government. But in advancement of the mission it is necessary to think about public toilets. Day by day issues related to water is rising in any city. Urban Planning is a practice which effects everything related to the aspect. Planning practices should be done by Looking after the resources available.

Missions like smart city, smart Village, clean India will be successful if smart ideas, smart solutions are provided for the issues. One of these kind of ideas is smart toilet which is recently installed in so many places in India. We can see the future where less resource can be utilised in optimum way. Conventional energy is not only the option as limited resources are available. Renewable energy is best option to find out new smart solutions.

Chennai gets India's first self-cleaning smart toilets. In a first of its kind project in India, over 180 self-cleaning public e-Toilets have been installed. Spread over 35 square feet, each automatic unmanned toilet cleans itself before entry and after use. They come equipped with sensors for exhaust fan and light to ensure that they consume less water and power than conventional toilets. What makes these toilets even more user-friendly is that they can be located through an Android app called eToilet. Through it, Chennai residents can find toilets on the map, rate them, offer feedback and even suggest new places where they should be installed.

The toilets are programmed to flush with only 1.5 litres of water after 3 minutes of use, and with 4.5 litres if the usage period is longer. It also washes the floor automatically after five or ten rounds.

Quite good at hearing that India is heading towards being cleaned, open defecation free soon. It will be more interesting to see the changes through smart solutions as the generation in moving forward leaving all the odds behind being too conventional.

Reeta Meena
SVNIT, Surat

The Predicaments of Rurban Mission

Talcott Parson, An American sociologist, 1949 exposed the idea of —rurbanisation in his book – Essays in Sociological Theory in 194. According to him, Rurban communities are “the rural socio-geographic spaces where styles of life and the standard of living have changed so much that they resemble those in urban localities.” In India, the term 'RURBAN' entered the official government literature through the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM). It came after adoption of 'Rurban Development Model of Urbanization of the Rural Areas' in Gujrat. For the first time in India a spatial planning strategy has been introduced in Rural Development Model. It has managed capture the peri- urban phenomenon.

However there are issues related to participation at community level. Also, since 70% of the funds are provided by the Centre and the rest by State Authorities, releasing of funds takes a lot of time. As a result, State Technical Support Agencies involved in the preparation of Integrated Cluster Action Plans (ICAPs) do not get their payments on time. Further, a cluster is a sub-block of a block. And since there is absence of a block plans, it often leads to problem w.r.t. planning in the most optimum way. Also, the mission does not address the issue of Disasters or provides its mitigation strategies. Then, there is a lack of social ownership of the project. Furthermore, the central committee which has been formed for this project has held no meetings so far. There are many conflicts between TCPO and other organizations involved in the mission as they follow different guidelines.

It is bound to be a dominant cause of political, economic and social change only if the prevailing challenges are addressed.

Akshara Shibu
SPA, Delhi

How wealth inequality in India is affecting Urban Development

Last year Oxfam & Credit Suisse International Wealth reports released about growing inequality between richness and poverty in India. According to the report in 2016, 1% of wealthiest people of India were owning 58% of total national wealth. Also 80% of population is having just 10% share in total national wealth. The economists are worried about growing gap between richness and poverty.

Another report came last year which is about rising unsold house inventories in India. There are more than 7 lacs flats that are unsold in just 6 cities.

Also there is drop of 28% in launching of new projects and consequently there is a drop in investment in Housing. Some researchers are calling it as Indian Property Bubble. The question can be asked that despite government new schemes why the investment is falling in Real estate sector. The most obvious answer will be because of drop in demand for new houses and piles of unsold inventories. So why people are not interested in buying their own house? If they all have house? The important reasons behind it is

1. Very high prices
2. Low purchasing capacity

People generally buy houses for two reasons. One is for need of shelter and another is for investment. Former one depends on purchasing capacity of majority population. But we have seen in beginning that 80% of Indian population is having just 10% of national wealth. It means that who is in need of house doesn't have money to afford it.

Second one are the people who buy house for investment. They are having more than enough money to invest in a house. But here comes another player- The profit outcome. Due to very high prices cost of owning is very high as compared to cost of renting. The ratio of cost of owning and cost of renting should be around 15-20 for safe investment but this ratio is now more than 30. So the people who have money are not finding housing worth investment. And the result is the piles of unsold inventories and fall in investment in urban development. Government has launched Smart city and Housing for all schemes and they are also going to be affected.

in India to clear the land title bill in the year 2016.

Nitesh Shukla
SVNIT, Surat

SDGs: Where are we now?

India has played a critical part in forming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The articulation "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas," which deciphers as "Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth" and has been advanced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, frames the foundation of India's national improvement plan. An imperative case of a crosscutting activity is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). By utilizing PMJDY, Aadhaar and mobile telephony, the Government has dispensed a total measure of INR 1.62 trillion to 329 million recipients through Direct Benefit Transfers.

But what is the contemporaneous situation? How far we are from where we have started?

The SDG Index and Dashboards Report delivered in 2017, demonstrate that world pioneers need to fortify their joint efforts to understand the 17 global goals. India with a score of 58.1 was positioned 116th on the list, behind nations like, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. Pakistan was positioned 122. Though in 2016, India was positioned 110th. It is hard to remark for a nation like India whether the progress demonstrated is worthy or not. Nevertheless, the nations at the best in the SDG Index or the wealthiest nations in the world are no place close in accomplishing the global policies objective.

There are various reasons to address the situation which could answer why we are lacking. The main reason could be 'finance'. The primary level of assessments in the study led by Technology and Action for Rural Advancement and bolstered by United Nations Development Program Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India demonstrate a money related deficit of INR 533 lakh crores (USD 8.5 trillion) over the mandated 15 years for accomplishing SDGs. Every year this works out to about INR 36 lakh crores.

We can comprehend that India has a colossal yet an opportune challenge in front of it with regard to the SDGs. The SDGs will require solid proprietorship by nations, powerful implementation plans for every nation, and enough financing. They will be compelling just in the event that they are fused into national plans.

Nidhi Kalani
SPA, Delhi

Indian Planning ambiguity through the eyes of a Fresher

Being newly introduced to the term 'Planning', I may not even have the slightest idea about the intricacies of Planning. Yet, this is a sincere effort of mine through the extensive love I have had towards atlas since my childhood combined with whatever amount of attendance I have had in college.

During the initial classes we learned "We follow the pattern of UK for the land use, but some cities use the US pattern. We have relaxed some restrictions, taking in consideration the Indian way of doing things, but mostly we use similar determining systems." It evoked my thoughts and forced me to pen down my feelings.

"Why do we need to follow the pattern set by other imperialists in this era of make in India?" Why do we need western ideas for? We are known for our culture, the spiritual depth of India, the historical richness of India. Why don't we plan our cities in order to conserve what we are known for? America? Britain? Developed? Who says we aren't? The idea of we following them indicates that we are not a developed country. This aspect of our lifestyle has been affecting the planning of our cities. All I understand is that, we as a nation have to have our own identity. We do not have to walk on someone else's footprints to develop. We are the ones to save our heritage. We are the ones who need to be ourselves. We are the ones who have the Power of Planning lives by our own ideas, our own tools, and our own hands.

Sidhesh Kudale
SPA, Delhi

Sustainable Mobility

If you plan cities for cars and traffic, you get cars and traffic. If you plan for people and places, you get people and places."
-Fred Kent

Cities are engine of innovation and economic growth. Employment opportunities and social services attract people from rural areas and other regions. To accommodate growing demand for residential and commercial space, urban boundaries are extending in an often uncoordinated manner, especially in rapidly growing cities in developing countries. Cities with an effective system for managing land use can ensure that this development happens in close proximity to high quality walking, cycling and public transport facilities. Mixed use and compact urban development can considerably reduce the demand for travel by private motorized modes. Too often, transport infrastructure fails to keep up with the mobility needs of the growing population. The use of private vehicles and informal paratransit increases the gap in demand that is not met by other modes. Cities around the world are searching for better alternatives to provide greater accessibility and mitigate the negative impacts caused by the dependence on personal motor vehicles. Urban Mobility Plans that are currently being adopted have expanded the scope of traditional planning processes by focusing on overarching policy goals as well as the mobility needs of all population groups. Comprehensive and inclusive mobility planning has proven to be an effective way for identifying the right priorities and measures for achieving a safe, efficient and accessible urban transport system which is serving the needs of the population and the economy. It is a way to identify financing options and support the optimal use of public funds.

The transformation of public transit agencies from organizations that operate vehicles into customer-oriented 'mobility managers' requires a shift in organizational culture. The use of livability and social welfare as organizing principles act as radical challenges to organizations. City logistics involves local government intervention in a realm in which it is relatively inexperienced—and therefore requires collaboration and partnership with the private sector. In fact, innovation itself may prove to be the most promising path to sustainability. New ideas are continually being tested; many fail, but the best ideas thrive and are adapted elsewhere. The lesson of these efforts is that the key to sustainability will be leadership from activists and policy professionals who have the optimism and vision to innovate, and the courage to learn from occasional failures.

Aakriti
SPA, Delhi

An Olfactory approach to Urban Design

'The way a place looks, sounds, feels and smells affect its attractiveness and long term success' (UK Online Planning Guidance Section, 2014)

Cities are designed with considerations given to various factors such as provision of ample public and civic spaces, usage and retention of local and traditional design approaches, etc. The approach adopted by urban designers and planners, however, does not normally give consideration to olfactory factors, especially in view of looking at its positive role.

Victoria Henshaw, a British urban designer, devoted her life in bringing out the influence of smells in a city and highlighting that such less visible factors present both opportunities and challenge. A smellscape is the 'totality of the olfactory landscape', normally identified through smell-walking or smell-mapping which are survey based methods to understand people's perceptions and their everyday olfactory experiences with respect to a particular area.

Most policies and legislations, mentioning smell, talk about managing and reducing emission of odour, rather than looking at a potentially positive role that it might play in the city. There have however been cases, where the role of olfactory factors has been looked at in fresh manner and used in way to positively impact a city's experience. For example, The Japanese Ministry of Environment introduced a new policy, where the role of 'good fragrance' is recognized for maintenance of high-quality environment.

From the pleasant smell of plants in gardens, aroma emanating from a café, to the odour of industrial effluents, are associated with legibility of cities and contribute to a more 'sensory urbanism'. A more sensory approach would also consider the impact of vegetation, water and wind movement to the 'smell experience'. For instance stronger windflow in congested areas would help in dispersion of vehicular fumes. Assessing sensory impacts of policies such as smoking ban, is linked to this.

Thus this approach can be accommodated in existing urban design approach to recognize the potential of smells in a city and identify the ability of different smells in imparting a distinct character to the city.

Charuvi Begwani
SPA, Delhi

The Soul in the City

A body of cement the soul adorns,
And green and blue as embellishments.
For years and years forlorn
The city questions its existence.

A long time ago when the wind blew pure,
And green blades of grass sang,
The soul was with treasures allured,
The young treasures of life, and land.

Then came the great people
And started coaxing the city,
Pushing it over the bounds
Without regret or pity.

The city now suffocates,
Its body continuously changing,
The soul is weary and tired now,
Torn and barely breathing.

The city has died and awakened many times,
But the soul lives on, all broken and grimed.

Arushi Verma
SPA Delhi

Bhukhi nala: Rejuvenation and Transformation into Public place



Vishwamitri River is the Heart of the Vadodara city. Bhukhi nala is a tributary of Vishwamitri River and passes through various parts of the Vadodara city and one of them is The M.S. University. Bhukhi nala in our University has been an issue for quite some time because of the carelessness of the people who are part of the university and it became a dumping ground. The dumping disturbed the natural habitat and the surrounding environment. Also, no action was being taken to clean it despite numerous complaints that were made to different authorities. It was then that the students took the matters in their hands and took up the initiative to revitalize it and conserve its eco-system. This initiative was covered and projected on social media and it got attention. After seeing the efforts that were put in by the students of the department, the Chancellor Mrs. Maharani Shubhanginidevi herself visited the place and decided to be a part of this student activity, thus supporting the student community with help at various levels to execute the job swiftly. After she ordered, the site clearing and debris clearance, the space was converted into a usable area. After cleaning, we made this patch as a public place by putting some street furniture like chairs, tables etc. and also planted some mosquito repellent trees, making into an interactive place. The whole project was executed using waste material. In the end, the project, not only revitalized the place and restored the eco-system but also gave the place a value addition.

Janki Shah
The Maharaja Sayajirao University Of Vadodara

Smart Urbanism: Imagining the futures of Bhopal

July 19 – 25, 2017

This year's Integral studio intended to look at the North TT Nagar of Bhopal through the smart city lens. The City of Bhopal will embrace new technologies, focusing on smart-enablement, resilience and collaborative innovation, to create a city that is competitive, open, interconnected and intelligent. We invited submissions to a new ideas competition to provide a series of innovative solutions to some key problems across the theme of 'Smart Cities'. The design ideas intended to integrate the area based proposals with the character, structure and the ethos of the city of Bhopal.

Objectives:

- To develop different imaginations of smart city concept of Bhopal
- To develop an understanding of how Area Based Development in smart city proposal can be integrated with the city- functionally, socially and aesthetically.
- To sensitize students to human aspects of smart city development and smart urbanism.

Scope:

- Mobility and Infrastructure
- Built form and Density
- Inclusive Public Realm

Student from SPA as well as MANIT worked on above mentioned themes to prepare visions of smart city Bhopal. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Chandramauli Shukla, CEO Smart City Cell, Bhopal.



Mr. Chandramauli Shukla, lighting the lamp on Day 1 of Integral Studio and addressing the students at Seminar Hall, SPA Bhopal

Druti Gangwar
SPA Bhopal

Mindspark

MindSpark, Pune's biggest annual technical festival held in College Of Engineering, Pune. Since its inception in 2007 by a group of students, it has become a legacy after a decade of successful events. Now it is the time to begin on a new journey with its upcoming 11th edition on 22nd, 23rd, 24th September 2017. The plethora of events covering all technical and non-technical events will be bigger and grander this time.

Metropolis – This event is what all of us wished to do one day while choosing our career paths – planning cities to solve problems and improve the quality of life of people. There are no limits and you have to plan a city which you want to have – the utopian dream which can be implemented practically. So put on your thinking caps and start planning!

Byldan- The flagship event for this year, Byldan tests your limits – designing your dream city but the catch here is that you will be given constraints on the resources available. The first round is an online bidding session where you have to choose and buy your resources such as schools and hospitals using virtual money. Then in the next round you have to use these in a part of given land area as well as add some innovative ideas in the remaining area to make it live up to the theme of moving 'Towards Techno - Utopia'. So get ready to build your 'perfect city' in a limited resource scenario.

Two of the major events of MindSpark'17 have been crafted specially for us PLANNERS. So guys, see you at MindSpark 17 on 22nd, 23rd and 24th September, 2017!

Stay tuned to our Facebook Page - MindSpark, COEP - for updates!

Aishwarya Ashokan
College of Engineering, Pune

National Workshop on Urban Environmental Management – Solution for sustainability.

CSIR-NEERI is one of the premier Institutes in the country dedicated to providing environmental solutions and Urban Environmental Management. India is one of the fastest growing nations and while the pace of urbanization in India is accelerating every year, we are forgetting about the environmental and sustainable aspects of planning and trying to implement the usual planning strategies to cope up with the problems. Hence, this workshop was organised by CSIR-NEERI Hyderabad Zonal Centre to get various experts involved in making students and other professionals aware of sustainable planning and get them exposed to new concepts involved in it. It was held on August 17-18 in the ITC Kakatiya Hotel in Begumpet, Hyderabad.



The chief guests for the workshop were Dr. B. Janardhan Reddy (Greater Hyderabad's Commissioner) and Dr. Rakesh Kumar (Director, NEERI). The workshop was split into 2 days. First day had 3 technical sessions of 2 hours each. The first technical session covered topics under "Urban Environment Management – Status and implications", second session had discussion on "Local Community Participation in Urban Environment Management" and the third one dealt with "Air Quality Management in Urban Environment".

Second day again had 3 technical sessions of 2 hours each. First one was handled by Dr. Rakesh Kumar himself and was based on "Role of Biodiversity in Urban Environment". Second session was based on "Wastewater Management in urban environment" which was handled by Dr. Y.S Murthy who is a founder member of CSIR-NEERI. Last and the most important technical session was related to "Solid/Hazardous waste management in Urban Environment"

Last one hour was allotted for Panel discussion in which many questions were raised by the students and experts gave satisfactory answers to them. On the first day, a cultural programme was also arranged where the cultural dances and songs of Telangana were shown.

This workshop was really very useful as it involved various dignitaries from eminent institutes like IITs, CSIR, NEERI, CBIT and IGIDR and students from all over India came to attend it.

Pratik Menkar
SVNIT, Surat

So for revitalization of subways and FOBs in Pune city, PMC had arranged a competition for all planning and architecture professionals and students. Seven students of T.Y. B-plan COEP had given various cost effective, eco-friendly and low maintenance solutions for lighting, ventilation, safety and security etc. For this these students received a prize of 20,000 rupees and all their proposals are being implemented in these subways and FOBs.

Sakshi Darak
College of Engineering, Pune

Lecture Series: Cities designed by Koenigsberger

The lecture series was a presentation by Dr. Somnath Sen, an academician and professional from Department of Architecture, I.I.T Kharagpur. Nine Indian climate responsive cities which were designed by Koenigsberger; a German Architect and Planner were showcased. The nine cities were broadly categorised under Industrial, Administrative and Refugee towns and cities of Bhubaneswar and Jamshedpur were discussed in detail. On assessing issues that existed in already planned cities of India; planning of the cities was initiated and an attempt was made to mobilise people themselves for their solutions. Possibility of Model villages was negated due to non-availability of sufficient funds for it to get multiplied further.

The houses of Refugee towns were built by natives through sustainable techniques. The people of India were observed as outward and their habits attached to the ground hence the proposed cities were that of low density. Neighbourhood concept was adopted as a foundation where plot size $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ mile was considered. The towns emerged mainly around a road in a Band pattern, chains of villages may be beneficial than concentrated towns of the west. Linear form with an expandable area and open ended reducing the need for open spaces were other characteristic features of the cities.

The towns followed the natural topography and the thought of a town to be static was waived off, well reflected in the city of Bhubaneswar. The zone had earth fault lines reducing possibilities to build everywhere. The concept of special development zones was adopted with a central business district connecting to capitol, old and new town area. Jamshedpur urban agglomeration, 1952 a locked city was designed in five phases. Concept of proposed development zones and flexible plan for visitors with integration of public transportation system was the highlight of the plan; though lack of umbrella organisation of governance blurred the vision of the planner.

The session ended with a beginning to search for gaps between profession and academics. In depth study of existing local issues, local climate, people's aspirations and attitudes towards their surroundings with strong governance can lead to building better and simpler cities.

Hetal Jani
The Maharaja Sayajirao University Of Vadodara

Revitalization of Subways and FOBs in Pune by COEPians

Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) had spent cores of rupees to create pedestrian infrastructure i.e. subways and FOBs in Pune city. This was basically done to promote Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) and drop down the use of motorized vehicles. But because of various problems such as insufficient lighting, safety, unhygienic conditions etc. these subways and FOBs were not used.

Achievements

1. Nishan Nazer, M.Planning Semester 1-College Of Engineering Trivandrum

Nishan Nazer is an architect from Kerala currently doing his M.Planning (Housing) In CET (College of Engineering Trivandrum).

He completed his bachelor's in architecture from National Institute of technology, Calicut in 2016. Immediately after completion of the course he joined an NGO Gram Vikas, which is renowned for its outstanding works in sanitation, water supply and education. He wanted to explore the possibilities of how an architect can contribute for the poorest of the poor living in our society. He then started worked in tribal schools of Odisha, where he observed the difficulties students are undergoing due to lack of quality infrastructure. This inspired him to designed and developed SURFACE which has helped to improve the lives of many students in the area. Along with SURFACE, he is also working to create awareness on environmental conservation and need for water conservation among students.

Achievements:

- He won the Youth Adda video contest organized by United Nations Volunteers India 2017.
- 'Surface' was finalist in CII young innovators challenge award 2017.

2. MANIT Bhopal

At the International conference on Heritage Management, Education and Practice- Exploring connections across Disciplines and stakeholders,

a. Salka Khan and Sambhavi Joshi presented a paper titled 'Master plan regulations needed to revive the heritage: a case of Bhopal'

b. Aditya Kushwaha presented a paper titled 'Heritage management plan of Bhopal'

MANIT secured second in the Smart urbanism Integrated studio 2017 organised by ITPI Bhopal and Bhopal smart city cell.

3. MSU, Vadodara

Neha Sarwate, Jyoti Gill presented a paper titled 'Role of Riverine Systems in Increasing Resilience of Cities - A case of floods in Vadodara' in ITPI, International Conference on "Future of Cities: Opportunities and Challenges" 27 – 28 July 2017, New Delhi, India 20/03/2017

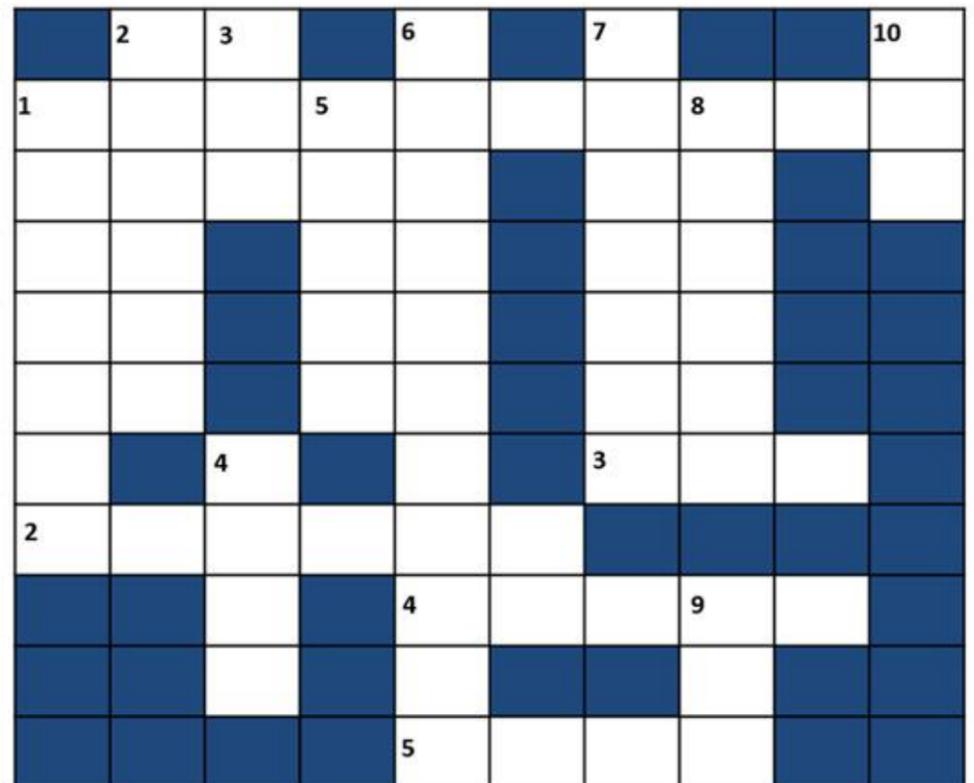
4. SPA Bhopal

1. Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI) organized its annual best thesis competition on 8th July 2017, for M.P. Regional Chapter and this year the best thesis award was bagged by the Masters and Bachelors students of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal. The prizes awarded were in the order given below:

	Bachelors	Masters
1 st Prize	Jyoti Yadav	Parikshit Mehta
2 nd Prize	Jagganath Das	Gaurab Das Mahapatra
3 rd Prize	Aman Singh Rajput	Akkashh Chauhan

3. In the Integral Studio presented by ITPI and Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited, participated by SPA Bhopal and MANIT Bhopal, 1st and 3rd Prizes were won by students from SPA Bhopal. They were felicitated by Bhopal Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Madam Chavvi Bhardwaj on 25th July 2017 at the Grand Jury held at ITPI M.P. Regional chapter. A cash amount of Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 5,000 was given along with memento to the respective winners.

Crossword



Across

1. Father of City Planning .
2. A slum area occupied by a minority group.
3. A technology as a solution to climate change.
4. Movement within the administrative limits of a city.
5. Planning commission is replaced by _____.

Down

1. HUDCO provides finance for development in this sector.
2. Type of housing development along the main road is known as _____.
3. PM 10 and PM 2.5 are types of _____.
4. An organization formed for economic development in 1960 by 18 European countries with United States and Canada.
5. _____ climate agreement recently quit by US.
6. The term coined by the author in his book 'Cities in Evolution'.
7. A planned Temple town of India.
8. An Indian Government Ministry chaired by Dr.Harsh Vardhan.
9. An Act of the Parliament for citizens which replaced the erstwhile Freedom of Information Act,2002.
10. An organization under Ministry of Culture.



Answers

Hetal Jani
MSUB

BUZZ



SVNIT, Surat - Devang Kapadia



SPA Bhopal -Ishita Singh



SPA Delhi - Deeptanshu



MSU Baroda - Khyati G Tewari



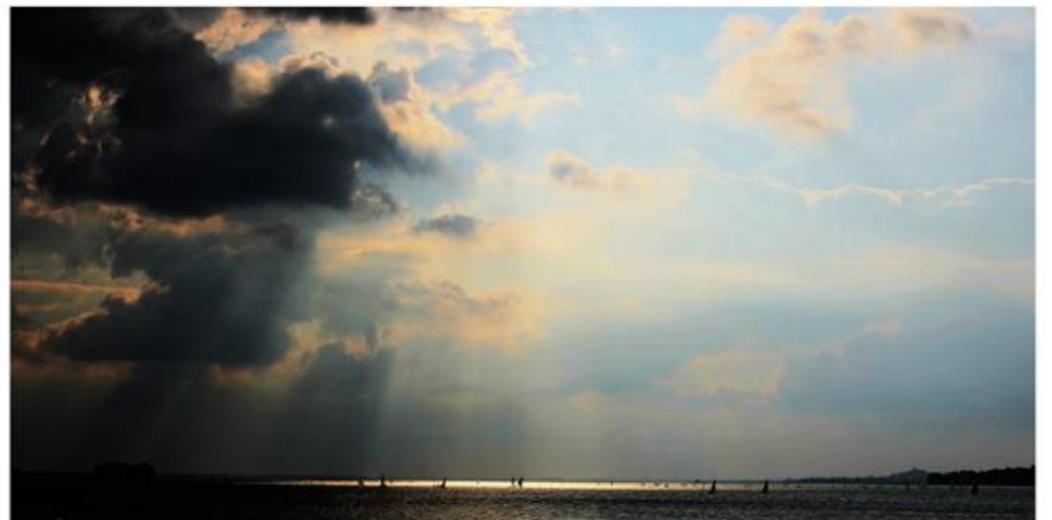
SPA Delhi - Siddharth Nagrale



SPA Delhi - Aakriti



SPA Bhopal - Muskan



SPA Bhopal - Amit Patjoshi