

Art in architecture

A multi-media show enquires into the way urbanisation affects ethnic culture

RAMKUMAR RAMASWAMY

Architects see the world through unique eyes, and their understanding of the macro elements of cityscapes is what shapes the future. Experts from Berlin-based *Arch Plus*, an independent magazine dedicated to architecture and urbanism, held their thematic exhibition of world cities titled *Post Oil City and Landscape of Surprise*. Three key themes — urban transit, supply system and sustainability — were in the focus, while the artists' rendition of cityscapes, with photographs and videos, clearly explain the growth and transformation of our urban sprawls.

"We have identified cities and their best practices; how authorities have tried to infuse modernism without affecting the ethnic cultures to make their cities better. While the Middle East benefits from the perennial sunshine that powers their energy supply,



Onlookers try to understand the changes in Hyderabad cityscape

European cities are good examples of thriving street culture and well-established transport systems," says Anh Linh Ngo of *Arch Plus*.

Much before satellites and oil, and even before we knew that the world was round, cities on the banks of the Nile and Euphrates laid their streets at 45 degree angles to the sun's path. "South American cities such as Curitiba in

Brazil, which are surprisingly similar to Indian cities in terms of large-scale urbanisation and slums," points out Ngo.

"Even though Cyberabad was planned and developed with the future in mind; Hyderabad has the perennial problem of slums. Why not learn from the South Americans who have better community participation and modern transport systems?" he adds.