



Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms

Project Exposé

Program Name

Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities | City Spaces

(<http://www.germany-and-india.com/en/page/222/cityspaces, r16.04.2012>)



above: official logos

Project Title

Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities of India's Emerging Urbanisms

(www.landscapeofsurprise.net)

Curators

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Program Partners

- Federal Republic of Germany Foreign Office
- Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Goethe Institute / Max Mueller Bhavan



* drawing above: panorama-outline tcs in cyberabad, peter gotsch 2010

German Host in India

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Subject

The project "Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms" consists of an exhibition, workshop and a documentation module.

The exhibition cum workshop will be carried out in Hyderabad (August 2012) and in New Delhi (October 27th 2012).

It offers an opportunity to progress our research and art work "Periphery²-Cyberabad" and "Landscape of Surprise". The activity will disseminate information on the challenges and opportunities of India's emerging urbanisation to a broad range of the Indian public. Moreover, it will activate medium and long term collaboration with Indian partners through joint activities.

Hyderabad Event

- Venue: Vidyaranya High School
- Dates: August 11th to August 18th
- Workshop: August 12th, 10am - 7pm (Sunday)
- Local Partners: Max Mueller Hyderabad, Jawaharlal Nehru Fine Arts Architecture and Planning University, Arch+ (Architecture Journal, Berlin), German Institute for Cultural Relations (ifa)
- Objective of the Workshop: How can we assess Cyberabad in the context of India's emerging urban development (e.g. late 20th Century IT-boom)? Which avenues does the project offer in the context of resilience sustainability (21st century post-oil society)?
- Contributions at the seminar: Author of master plan, representative state government, voice from social/ political science, local urban planning expert, voice representing a German urban regional planning body.
- Detailed programme: see attachment
- Remarks: the Hyderabad event will team up with the international exhibition "[Post-oil-city](#)".
- Extra: Workshop with school children on urban imaginaries and sustainability

Local partners in Hyderabad:

Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad, Arch+, ifa, Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU), Indian Green Building Council, Hyderabad Urban Lab (tbc), The Centre for Good Governance (tbc), Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) (tbc)



New Delhi Event

- Venue: India Habitat Centre, Open Palm Tree Court
- Dates: October 27th to November 1st
- Public seminar/ workshop: October 27, Casuarina, IHC, New Delhi
- The main objective of Landscape or Surprise - Opportunities if India's Emerging Urbanisms is to contribute to a better understanding of the effects of contemporary urban transformation in India and to trigger discussions on the respective spatial, social, cultural, environmental, political challenges and opportunities and to promote public awareness and an informed discourse on these. (cf. Gotsch, Kohte 2007)

- The exhibition showcases the transformations of the area of Cyberabad in Hyderabad by the means of photographic panoramas drawings, maps and short essays. The public seminar in New Delhi aims to relate the theme to Indian, Asian and international dimensions. (e.g. Gurgaon, Noida, Lavasa, Dholera, but also from China and the Middle East)
 - Perspectives envisioned to interact in the workshop: Master Planning, Ecological Transformations and Governance, Transformations in Cultures and Representations, Transformation of Planning Disciplines, Transformations of Design Practices, Transformations in Urban Governance and Regional Policy, Transformations of Heritage and Housing, Peri-urban Dynamics, Cultural Transformations, Urban Regional Governance Best Practices from the European Perspective
- Partners: Goethe Institute – Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi, IHS-Alumni Association of India, India Habitat Centre, GIZ-India, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
- Remarks: There will be several interesting parallel events related to Germany-India 2011-2012 in the same period, e.g. the Asia Pacific Conference of German Business will take place from November 2 to 3. Moreover, the Indo-German 'urban mela' will be in New Delhi from October 26 to November 4 2012. This fact promises many synergies (publicity, visitors, media).

Local partners in New Delhi

Goethe Institut Delhi MBB, IHS Alumni India, India Habitat Centre, GIZ, School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi, Delhi Urban Forum, Department of Architecture and Planning IIT Roorkee, Metropolitan Regional Park Frankfurt Rhein Main (tbc), Centre for Policy Research Delhi, Centre de Sciences Humaines (tbc), Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), HUDCO/ HSMI (tbc)



Output

- A wide-ranging publication will document new trends of India's contemporary urbanisation, contextualise these in history and in the international context, and refine target lines for future scenarios. The document will give special focus to the interrelationships of spatial, social, cultural and environmental effects of contemporary urban transformations.

Physical requirements

- 1) Exhibition 1-2 weeks: total running metres: 24m
 - Panoramas: 4m long and 3m high (4 times)
 - Supplementary materials (photographs, texts and plans): 8m long and 3m high)
- 2) Workshop and conference venue for a half to one day to accommodate a panel of 4-6 speakers and a public of 40-60 guests.
- 3) Catering for the opening event and for the workshop to be provided.

Dr. Peter Gotsch, Susanne Kohte, May 2012

Handwritten signature: Gotsch Susanne Kohte

Attachment: Project outline



Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities of India's Emerging Urbanisms

LOS is curated by : Peter Gotsch – Susanne Kohte – Frankfurt and Haan/ Zürich (Germany/ Switzerland) – landscapeof-surprise.net – pg@glora.org

Outline of the Exhibition cum Seminar

Abstract - Landscape of Surprise

Landscape of Surprise is a project investigating intersections between cities and landscapes as key sites of 21st Century urbanism. Its mission is to develop a better understanding of the effects contemporary urban transformation has on emerging cities and to promote a discourse on the respective spatial, social, cultural, environmental, and political challenges and opportunities. (cf. Gotsch, Kohte 2007). The endeavour started in 2006 while focusing on describing the transformations in the district of Cyberabad in Hyderabad, India. The medium of Landscape of Surprise is a mix of photographic panoramas, drawings, maps, essays and discourses, and the combination of synchronic and chronologic approaches. Having presented in Hamburg and Stuttgart, Landscape of Surprise is currently part of 'Germany and India 2011-2012: Infinite Opportunities, City Spaces', with programmes in Hyderabad and New Delhi, India.

The curators Susanne Kohte and Peter Gotsch are two German architects, urban researchers, and scholars who explore the resonance of research, art, and politics.

more at: www.landscapeofsurprise.net

Context and Relevance of the Project

“Our suburban architecture ... helps us to reveal the spirit and character of modern civilisation, just as the temples of Egypt and Greece, the baths and amphitheatres of Rome, and the cathedrals and castles of the middle ages help us to comprehend and penetrate the spirit of previous civilisations.” (César Denis Daly 1864)¹

The boundaries of cities in transitional and developing countries are among the key sites of 21st Century urbanism. These places stimulate new city forms ("emerging urbanisms") and harbour a great potential for innovation.

In the next 20 years, the global population will increase by 2 billion people. The urban population in developing countries will double. Every day 20,000 new houses and 260km of new roads are constructed in Asia. China and India are the focal points of this expansion and, whilst both countries are urbanised to a certain extent – China to 45 percent and India to 35 percent – the consumption of resources has grown in the last 10 years of rates of up to 70 percent. From this, the issue of sustainable urban development emerges as a central topic of sustainable development. Urban peripheries, in particular, become pivotal elements of change – the pace of change and the capacity of cities to transform and adapt is greatest at the city's edges.

Implementation

The project details various types of newly emerging city forms in urban peripheries ('emerging urbanisms') and aims to monitor and discuss their forms, meanings, global interrelations, draw-

¹ “L’Architecture privée au XIXe siècle sur Napoleon III”; Paris; quoted and translated by Robert Fishman’s 1987: *Bourgeois Utopias*: 3

backs and potential. The exhibition, in combination with a public discourse/symposium and a publication, will elucidate the area from diverse angles and facilitate the reception by various target groups.

The presentation features sixteen large format panorama photographs (400cmx60cm). These juxtapose snapshots are of four exemplary locations of Cyberabad (Hyderabad) from the years 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011.² According to Walter Benjamin panoramas are "aquaria of the past and the distant". Their *omnivoyant* gaze invites the recipient to immerse themselves in the juxtaposition of individual situations, actively discovering changes and trends of development. Additional maps, texts and photographs allow for an analytical reflection of the situation. The activity is supplemented by lectures, guided thematic tours and discussions/symposia in collaboration with Indian partners. We also suggest creating synergies with the overarching 'emerging urbanisms' German-Indian programme by inviting representatives from other projects and organising joint events.

Effects and Target Groups

The project addresses stakeholders from research, business, policy and culture, who are engaged in questions of urban development in India and Germany. This is done with the assistance of local partner networks by the dialogue and publication modules. We aim to induce a sustained and critical discourse with regard to the problems and potential of new urban modes in contemporary India. In doing this, we aim to activate follow-up projects and events in the cultural and scientific spheres. Through the project, the applicant and her Indian partners will be enabled to plan for further undertakings.

A young and aspiring middle class is not only among the chief stakeholders of 'emerging urbanisms' in suburban settings such as Cyberabad and elsewhere, it is also among the key target groups of our exhibition and documentation modules. The experience of the exhibition at the *Architektur Gallerie am Weissenhof* in late 2010 in Stuttgart demonstrates that students and the general public also respond very positively to the topic.

Time Plan

Autumn 2011: Preparation and refinement in Germany

Spring 2012: Groundwork in India

Summer 2012: Implementation/ First Exhibition and Workshop

Autumn 2012: Second Exhibition and Workshop

The activity is intended to run during the entire German-Indian Year. After this, we are planning to present the materials at additional locations in Germany and India, thereby extending the discourse. In this context, we can build on our excellent contacts, e.g. with the German-Indian Society and the Indian Green Building Council in Hyderabad. For 2013, we are striving to launch a comparative project with 'emerging urbanisms' China. In order to acquire additional funds, other potential donors will be contacted.

Curators

Dr. Peter Gotsch is an Architect, City planner und Urbanist. Peter.Gotsch@glora.org

Peter Gotsch was educated at the RWTH Aachen, the Columbia University New York City and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. At present he is a visiting professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt (Main). His 15 year professional experience combines practice, teaching and research. He is devoted to increasing synergies amongst these fields.

² The generation of the photos in the year 2011 is an important element of this application.

Peter's interest focuses on comparative urban studies in a global perspective, where the question of 'production of space' is central. His doctoral research portrays NeoTowns as a new urban typology recently emerging in many mega city regions world-wide.

Dr. Gotsch has presented his work in many lectures and publications. He was part of the Scientific Council of the Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South (N-AERUS) from 2005 to 2009, a board member of the Association for the scientific research of planning and building in developing countries, and co-editor of the journal TRIALOG.

Susanne Kohte, Architect, Zürich, kohte@suko-architektur.net

Susanne Kohte is an architect and city planner. Her international experience comprises work at the offices of Shigeru Ban, Tokyo, Balkrishna Doshi, Ahmedabad and jobs in the Czech Republic, Germany and Switzerland. She founded the studio SUKO in Zürich in 2001.

Her academic career comprises appointments at the Institute for Design Basics, University of Karlsruhe and the Chair for Urban Design, Technical University Hamburg-Harburg. Since 2008, she has lectured at the architectural faculty of the Hochschule Luzern (Switzerland). Through research, exhibitions and publications, she works on modern architecture and urban development with a focus on contemporary India and Japan.

References of the applicants directly related to the proposed project

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above: Exhibition at the architektur-galerie am weissenhof in Stuttgart, fall 2010, supported by Deutsche Bank's Herrhausen Foundation and GIZ-InWent