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OPPORTUNITIES | 2011-2012

Post-Oil City: The History of the City's Future / Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms

A public symposium on the occasion of the opening of

Post-Oil City – The History of the City's Future

an exhibition by Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. (ifa/Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations)
Organised by Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad,
Curated by Anh-Linh Ngo, ARCH+

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

an exhibition by „Landscape of Surprise“, Peter Gotsch and Susanne Kohte
Supported by Goethe-Institut/ Max Mueller Bhavan and Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad

Date and venue

Public Symposium, Sunday August 12th, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Opening of the Exhibition, Saturday August 11th, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

Exhibition: August 11th to August 26th 2012,

Opening times: Mon. - Fri. 16:30 - 20:30; Sa., So., holidays 11:30 - 20:30

Vidyaranya High School, "Green Gates", Opp. The Secretariat, Saifabad, Hyderabad 500 063

Project Partners

- Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad
- "The Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa/Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations)"
- ARCH+; Germany's leading periodical for discourses in architecture, urbanism and related fields
- Landscape of Surprise. A project between research and art by Peter Gotsch and Susanne Kohte (www.landscapeofsurprise.net)
- Vidyaranya High School, "Green Gates", Saifabad, Hyderabad



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Program - Public Symposium – August 12th 2012

Panels with speakers and invited local experts/respondents

Presentations: 20 minutes

Interventions, Q&A: 20 minutes,

Closing panel: 60-90 minutes

moderated by Anh-Linh Ngo/Curator of Post-Oil City

Lunch break: 1h, Tea breaks: 30 min

10:00 h Welcome

Amita Desai, Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad

10:10 h Introduction

Post-Oil City – The History of the City's Future

Anh-Linh Ngo

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

Peter Gotsch, Susanne Kohte

1st Panel: Culture

Moderator: Ms Chandana Chakraborty

10:30 h Reflection

Sustainable Urbanism International: Heritage, Culture and Environment

Jyoti Hosagrahar

10:50 h Case Study

A New Vernacular Pattern Language

Anh-Linh Ngo

11:10 h Discussion and Q&A

Jyoti Hosagrahar and Professor Jyotirmaya Sharma

11:30 h Coffee Break



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2nd Panel: Climate

Moderator: Arch Shankar Narayan

12:00 h Reflection

Beyond Climate Universalism: Tropical Architecture

Susanne Kohte

12:20 h Case Study

Climate Design: Masdar City

Peter Voit, Transsolar, Stuttgart/Germany (confirmed)

12:40 h Discussion and Q&A

Susanne Kohte, Peter Voit and Local Expert: M. Anand, IGBC

13:00 h - 14:00 h Lunch

3rd Panel: Infrastructure

Moderator: Professor Arvind Susarla

14:00 h Reflection

Learning from Curitiba: Urban Acupuncture and Urban Transit

Stefan Gruber, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna/Austria (confirmed)

14:20 h Case Study

Negotiating the right to the street - The Walkable Hyderabad Project

Tobias Kuttler, Nexus/Sustainable Hyderabad, Berlin/Hyderabad

14:40 h Discussion and Q&A

Stefan Gruber, Tobias Kuttler and Ramakrishna Nallathiga

15:00 h Coffee Break



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4th Panel: Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's Emerging Urbanisms

Moderator: Dr Sujata Patel

15:30 h Case Study

Challenges of the Master Plan

Prof. Utpal Sharma

15:50 h Reflection

City-Regional Governance

Ravi Anand

16.10 h Discussion and Q&A

Utpal Sharma, Ravi Anand and Martin Kohler

5. Concluding Panel:

Cyberabad, India's emerging peripheries and the Post-Oil Challenge

Moderator: Prof Jyotirmaya Sharma

Experts (invite five persons to make a short statement)

Ravi Anand, JNTU

Peter Voit, Transsolar

Anant Maringanti

Stefan Gruber

Ramakrishna Nallathiga

Tobias Kuttler, Nexus

M. Anand, IGBC

Jyoti Hosagrahar

Anh Linh Ngo

Narsaiah Pantham (tbc)

Susanne Kohte

Maheep Singh Thapa

Peter Gotsch

Utpal Sharma

Martin Kohler

18:30 h Conclusion and get together



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Concept

Today more than half the world's population lives in cities. Facing climate change and finite supplies of fossil fuels, therefore, also means facing urban challenges. Hence a viable discourse on sustainability has to deal with architecture, urban systems, and public transit in a very concrete way. Accordingly these three areas provide the framework for the exhibition "Post-Oil City".

Often, the discourse on sustainability is solely focused on technical solutions. By juxtapositioning ideal high-tech solutions of new urban developments with local vernacular traditions and systemic interventions in existing urban contexts "Post-Oil City" aims to establish a common discourse of sustainability by underlining its historical continuity rather than repeating the false notion of urbanization as a "great divide" between history and technology, between tradition and modernity.

In other words, we have to learn to understand technology as a social phenomenon, again, according to French sociologist and philosopher Bruno Latour. Latour rejects the modernist view that sees technology as a technocratic solution exclusive of society and nature. By situating technology in a social context we can embrace vernacular traditions based on experience and climate conditions in the discourse of sustainability and avoid seeing them as something backward or primitive.

As the travelling exhibition is not focused on a single geographical context but tries to foster a global exchange of ideas the symposium is an opportunity to bring together experts, scholars, and critical thinkers of urbanism from various contexts with two simple questions:

What can we learn from each other and how can we contextualize the different urban visions shown in the exhibition for the Indian urban context? How can we overcome the notion that urbanization is a synonym for Western universalism, which in turn is equivalent to the denial of local heritage, identity, and the environmental context?

These questions will be examined in the context of the exhibition „Cyberabad – Landscape of Surprise – Opportunities for India's emerging urbanisms“ and contemporary urban development and planning in Hyderabad. Cyberabad, a young urban district in the periphery of Hyderabad is an example of contemporary tendencies in urban development and planning in India.

How can we assess Cyberabad and contemporary urban development in Hyderabad in the context of India's emerging urban development?

And – what can we learn of this development in connection with the different urban visions from „Post-Oil City“?



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Culture

By putting this critical question in the foreground, we can revise historical urban concepts with regards to the particularity of climate, site, location, and culture (which is shaped by climate itself). These approaches sprang from the insight that vernacular principles, materials, and techniques contain a common knowledge that is shaped by a society's culture and climate. This is particularly important since a large percentage of the population in the metropolises of the South doesn't have access to high-tech solutions. A low-tech approach could have a significantly broader impact if we can translate the traditional knowledge with regards to the living conditions of the urban poor.

(Speakers: Jyoti Hosagrahar on Heritage, Culture and Environment; Studio Mumbai Architects on A Vernacular Pattern Language)

Climate

The search for alternatives to Western universalism has always been part of the modern movement, but they were marginalized, pushed to the edges of the mainstream, endangered by leaps into a utopian future and backslides into a reactionary pre-modern age. One alternative was for example the rediscovery of vernacular construction by the Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy. The British architects Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew, who participated in the construction of Chandigarh along with Pierre Jeanneret, offered another alternative for a climate conscious architecture. Their path-breaking book *Tropical Architecture in the Humid Zone* (1956) marked the first attempt to go beyond a Western climate universalism. In this perspective the revision of urban futures can be understood as a search for the origins of an alternative history of the city's future, as expressed in the exhibition's subtitle.

(Speakers: Susanne Kohte on *Tropical Architecture in the Humid Zone*; Peter Voit, Transsolar, on *Climate Design and Masdar City*)

Infrastructure

One of the main aspects that inform the concept of the exhibition is Bruno Latour's view of technology as a social and cultural phenomenon. By reading the history of technology as a socio-cultural narration, we can resolve the unproductive opposition of technological mistrust, on the one hand, and an uncritical faith in technology, on the other. Instead of perpetuating this dichotomy, "Post-Oil City" seeks to overcome the false notion of modernisation as an unlimited progress that divides the world in categories like culture and nature, modern (i.e. progressive) and traditional (i.e. backward). In doing so we can bridge the "great divide" between history and technology, between tradition and modernity. The ecological transformation of society can only be successful if we learn to see the interdependencies of culture and nature again.



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A clear example for such interdependencies is the relationship of urban transit with regards to energy use, spatial consumption, infrastructure and urban policy. Questions like “What is private, what public?”, “What is individual, what collective?” have to be answered anew. In this context concepts of networks and participation, which have appeared abstractly in planning discourse for a long time, take on concrete significance as means of survival in an era of climate change.

Modern urban transit follows from the principle of separation—dividing up space according to mode of transportation—and culminates in the highway: the paradigm of boundless movement. Over time, cars have become the main driving force of city planning, from the functional city of modernity to the carfriendly city. The expansion of the city and the process of suburbanization are unthinkable without cars. The resulting dependency on oil has to be reduced. Here we can learn from precedence in Curitiba, Brazil, and from local projects like Walkable Hyderabad.

(Speakers: Stefan Gruber on Learning from Curitiba; Angela Jain/Julian Reimann on Walkable Hyderabad)

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

Cyberabad, with its dynamic, heterogeneous and complex mixture is an illustrative example of the urban development in contemporary India. Developed at the peak of the IT Boom of the 1990 presently the area is halfway developed. In this situation we seek to reflect, how the intermediate achievements of the plan can be assessed and how can the needs to be done meet the requirements of post-oil society in this case.

The policies and the planning of Cyberabad will be introduced by the authors of the Master Plan. The role of the social challenges will be reflected by a voice from social and political science. A German Urban Regional expert will contribute with a reflection on alternative models of urban regional governance. Local experts and the panel speakers will debate by the case of Cyberabad to what extent this Landscape of Surprise can generate opportunities for India's future urban society at the dawn of the post-oil city.



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ifa

"The Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa/Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations)" is an organisation operating worldwide to promote artistic exchange and dialogue between civil societies and to provide information about foreign cultural policy. ifa is Germany's oldest and leading institution for international cultural exchange. ifa funds two galleries in Stuttgart and Berlin, artists' exhibition projects, awards scholarships, and has some fifty exhibitions travelling the globe on its exhibition program. ifa is funded by the German Foreign Office, the State of Baden-Württemberg and the City of Stuttgart.

ARCH+

ARCH+ is Germany's leading periodical for discourses in architecture, urbanism and related fields. Founded in 1968 in the wake of the students movement, ARCH+ has kept at its core the understanding of the production of space as a societal issue. ARCH+ examines quarterly the cultural and political setting of architecture and urbanism with an in-depth, mono-thematic issue. ARCH+ is edited by Sabine Kraft, Nikolaus Kuhnert, Anh-Linh Ngo, Nicole Opel, and art directed by Mike Meiré.

more at : www.archplus.net/home/post-oil-city-in-indien/

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



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Selected short biographies

Ravi Anand K

Prof. Ravi Anand K is an Architect and City Planner with more than 30 years experience in teaching and 'practicing' architecture and urban planning. He presently teaches at the JNAFA University (formed out of the erstwhile JNTU) School of Planning and Architecture, Hyderabad. Prof. Ravi Anand has been involved in consultancy projects, both, on behalf of the University School and also as an independent expert / consultant. He has been involved in national and international projects supported by international agencies. In addition to many urban development authorities, and other local professional firms, he has done work on planning norms and standards for spatial planning, urban land utilisation, city / urban development plans, and national urbanization strategy, in Sri Lanka, Bhutan and different places in India. He has been a member of expert committees appointed by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and other Public institutions, the most notable being the 'Three member committee to review the Revised Draft Masterplan for Hyderabad Urban Development Area (HUDA)' and the 'Three member committee to review change of land uses in Visakhapatnam Urban Development Area (VUDA)'.

M Anand

M Anand is a Green Building Professional, at the CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre, Hyderabad, India. He is a Senior Counsellor and a team member of Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) of CII. He has work experience spanning over 20 years. He is with CII since, 1996. He is a Indian Green Building Council & LEED Accredited Green Building Professional. He is also a US Green Building Council trained LEED Faculty and Assessor. He has been involved in helping Architects, Builders and Corporate in designing green buildings. Thus far, he has helped more than 60 clients in incorporating green designs in building construction. He has also trained professionals in green building concepts and has thus far conducted more than 90 Training Programmes on green buildings all over the country and in Singapore & Dubai. He has worked on several International projects with bilateral agencies. He is a member working on the green building rating system for India, IGBC Green Homes, Factory Buildings, Core & Shell programmes. He is also closely associated the World Green Building Council (World GBC) activities.

Chandana Chakrabarti

Chandana Chakrabarti is trained as a scientist, and is also a science communicator, writer, social activist, and an actor. She played a crucial role in the building of CCMB, an internationally renowned basic research laboratory of the CSIR in Hyderabad. She has co-authored two books titled, "The Saga of Indian Science since Independence: In a



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Nutshell” published by Universities Press, and “Angels, Devil and Science” published by National Book Trust, apart from writing regular columns in newspapers and magazines. As a social activist, she has been a part of several non-governmental organizations.

She has also been the Convenor of The MARCH, a voluntary organisation based in Hyderabad, whose efforts have led to the setting up of a national system of accreditation of diagnostic laboratories to ensure quality and reliability, and also the national guidelines for regulation of infertility clinics.

Known for her compering skills, she has anchored a wide variety of television and live programmes relating to industry, science, art and culture. She has been intimately involved with Children’s Film Society of India in organizing the International Children’s Film festivals in Hyderabad. She has acted in several Telugu feature films, some of which have been super-hits, such as “Anand” and “Vikramarkudu”.

She was with the National Knowledge Commission, Government of India and has been the Chairperson of FICCI-FLO Hyderabad, apart from being on various Committees and Boards of organizations.

A connoisseur of art, her keen interest in art began with the setting up of an art gallery in the CCMB almost three decades ago. In 2008 she was elected as a Fellow of the prestigious World Academy of Art and Science. She is also a Member of the Third World Organisation of Women Scientists.

Peter Gotsch

Dr. Peter Gotsch is an Architect, City planner und Urbanist. He 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 for international urbanism at the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt (Main). While his 15 year professional experience combines practice, teaching, and research, he is devoted to increasing synergies amongst these fields. 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 privately developed cities (NeoTowns) as a new urban typology recently emerging in many mega city regions worldwide. Dr Gotsch has presented his work in numerous lectures and publications. He is a member of the Scientific Council of the Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South (N-AERUS), a board member of the Association for Research of Planning and Building in Developing Countries, and co-editor of the journal TRIALOG.

Stefan Gruber

Stefan Gruber is a professor for architectural design and urbanism at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. There he directs the platform for Geography, Landscapes, Cities. His teaching and research revolve around urban strategies base on focused interventions aiming at systemic



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effects ranging from the regional to the architectural scale.

Stefan Gruber is founder of STUDIOGRUBER, a Vienna based architecture office working at the intersection between architectural design and urbanism. Realized projects, such as the Lecture Pods Semper Depot, have been nominated for the Federal Austrian Design Prize and the Young Generation Contract World Award. His writing has appeared in ARCH+ and MonU amongst others. He is the recipient of an Academy Schloss Solitude Fellowship and the Margarethe Schütte-Lihotzky Stipend.

Jyoti Hosagrahar

Dr. Jyoti Hosagrahar is a professor at Columbia University, New York and is Founder-Director of Sustainable Urbanism International, an NGO in Bangalore, India, and a research unit at GSAPP, Columbia University. Architect, planner, and historian, she is engaged with planning, design, and policies on urban development, urban conservation and heritage management, and sustainability issues. She serves as a technical expert for UNESCO on historic cities, culture and development, and urban sustainability. In partnership with The Energy Resource Institute, India, Hosagrahar developed a framework for moving towards urban sustainability, "An Exploration of Sustainability in the Provision of Basic Urban Services in Indian Cities" (TERI, 2009). She is currently a member of the Advisory Committee for World Heritage Matters for the Ministry of Culture in India and on the Panel for Sustainability with the Bureau of Indian Standards. Hosagrahar is the author of *Indigenous Modernities: Negotiating Architecture and Urbanism* (Architext Series, Routledge, 2005) She is currently working on a book manuscript, *Designing Change and Continuity: Cultural Resilience and Environmental Sustainability in Urban South Asia*. www.sustainurban.org.

Martin Kohler

Martin Kohler is a photographer and urbanist. He studied landscape architecture and environmental planning at the University of Hannover and at the Southern Australia University, Adelaide. He teaches urban photography at Hafencity University, Hamburg, since 2003 and has undertaken several research projects on open urban spaces. He has deployed photography as a research method in various projects including a series of "urban transects" as a planning evaluation tool.

Susanne Kohte

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



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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.

Tobias Kuttler

Degree in Geography and European Ethnology (HU Berlin), Studies in Urban and Regional Planning (TU Berlin). Focus on: Social and cultural aspects of sustainable urban and transport development, including public space, non-motorized traffic, and participatory processes.

Publications on: Study on pedestrian accessibility of public transport in the U.S., social perception and acceptance of alternative drive systems in the MPT, including Electric mobility in Berlin; since 2010 staff at the project "Sustainable Hyderabad" the research group "Future Megacities", funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

The Nexus Institute conducts several research and pilot projects to low-carbon lifestyles in Hyderabad. One focus of the institute is working with local actors, its great expertise in this field also comes into play in Hyderabad: One such project was to develop strategies together with civil society and local organizations to enable a greater popular participation in matters of urban and transport planning and development. The sub-project "Walkable Hyderabad" is the result of an intensive process of communication with the population, various NGOs, authorities and other stakeholders. The goal is to bring pedestrian mobility as a sustainable form of movement into the public focus (again).

Anant Maringanti

Dr. Anant Maringanti is a Hyderabad based independent scholar . He received his PhD in geography from the University of Minnesota for his work on changing terrains of urban politics in India. He divides his time between teaching, writing and consultancy work in several different cities. His research and writing generally in the framework of critical geography focus on the relationship between the state, markets, citizenship rights and technologies of governance within the broad rubric of globalization, urbanization and development. Currently, he is involved in a multi-sited study on strategic governance reforms in five metropolitan regions in India. He leads the Hyderabad Urban Lab, a Hyderabad-focused interdisciplinary research and education programme promoted by the Right to the City Foundation. He is also the coordinator for the editorial advisory group for the biannual Review of Urban Affairs published by the Economic and Political Weekly.

Ramakrishna Nallathiga

Mr. Ramakrishna Nallathiga holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, a Master's degree in Planning and a Master of Philosophy in Land Economy. He has professional work experience spanning over thirteen years in the areas of urban planning, development, policy,



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and governance reforms as well as environmental planning, policy and management. During early career, he was associated with some institutes of repute like the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute – Nagpur, the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research – Mumbai and the Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay. Subsequently, for almost four years, he was associated with urban policy research and advocacy in the areas encompassing urban planning, development, strategic visioning, governance and reforms while at Bombay First (Bombay City Policy Research Foundation). In particular, he was actively involved in the preparation and advocacy of Vision Plan for Mumbai and conceived as well as organised international conference on Urban Renewal. Until recently, he was affiliated to the Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad as a Knowledge Manager and has undertaken a variety of research and consultancy projects for a wide range of clients in India and abroad. Currently, he is a faculty member at Construction Industry Staff College of NICMAR, Hyderabad. He has 15 international journal papers and 35 national journal papers to his credit. He also presented papers in 15 national conferences and 25 international conferences, both in India as well as abroad.

Anh-Linh Ngo

Anh-Linh Ngo, architect, editor and curator, has been editor of ARCH+ magazine since 2001. He has made a major contribution to the magazine's development and extended ARCH+'s reach beyond the medium of a traditional magazine. He co-curated the exhibition and events series "The Making of Your Magazine" (with Rem Koolhaas and Hans Ulrich Obrist) as part of ARCH+'s contribution to the magazine project of Documenta 12 (2007), the relaunch of ARCH+ (2008), and the "Post-Oil City" exhibition. Anh-Linh initiated and curates the discourse platform "ARCH+ features", a series for young contemporary practice and theory in architecture, urbanism and related fields. As editor and author he is focused on emerging tendencies in contemporary architectural and urban discourse. He has lead research for issues on urban developments in China, India, Istanbul, Sao Paulo and most recently Tokyo and London. Since 2010 he is member of the advisory board of the German Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations. He is frequent guest critique and lecturer at many universities in Europe, including ETH Zurich, TU Berlin, Bauhaus Dessau.

Sujata Patel

Sujata Patel is a sociologist at the University of Hyderabad. A combination of four perspectives-Marxism, historical sensibility, post structuralism/post colonialism and feminism influences her work on urbanization and city-formation. She is the author of more than sixty papers and is the Series Editor of Cities and the urban imperative (Routledge, India). She is coeditor of four books, Bombay: metaphor of modern India (Oxford, 1995); Bombay: mosaic of modern culture (Oxford, 1995); Bombay and Mumbai: the city in transition (Oxford, 2003) and Urban Studies (Oxford, 2006).



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Utpal Sharma

Professor and Director at School of Planning CEPT Ahmedabad. He is an Architect and Urban Planner and has vast experience in the field of Architecture, Urban Planning, Urban Design and Housing. Director, Centre for Excellence in Environment and Sustainable Development (CEED), CEPT Senior Associate with Vastu-Shilpa Foundation for Studies and Research in Environmental Design, Ahmedabad, India

Jyotirmaya Sharma

Jyotirmaya Sharma is professor of political science at the University of Hyderabad, India. Between January-June 2012, he was a Fellow at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study. He is currently a Fellow of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg at the Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen, Germany. His recent publications include, *Hindutva: Exploring the Idea of Hindu Nationalism* (Penguin/Viking, 2003/2011; this book has been translated in three other Indian languages) and *Terrifying Vision: M.S. Golwalkar, the RSS and India* (Penguin/Viking, 2007; this book has been translated into Malayalam). An edited volume titled *Grounding Morality: Freedom, Knowledge and the Plurality of Cultures* (co-edited with A. Raghuramaraju) was published by Routledge (2010). He has been a fellow of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, and has lectured at the universities of Baroda, Hull, Oxford, and the St. Stephens College, Delhi. He was visiting professor in democratic theory at the South Asia Institute at Ruprecht-Karls University at Heidelberg in 2005. The International House, Japan, awarded him the Asia Leadership Fellow Programme fellowship for 2008. Sharma also held senior editorial positions at the *Times of India* and *The Hindu* between 1998-2006, and continues to write columns for *Mail Today*, *Hindustan Times* and *Outlook*.

Dr. Arvind Susarla

Dr. Arvind Susarla is at the Centre for Regional Studies, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad. Trained as a geographer, he did his doctorate from Clark Univeristy, MA, USA

Maheep Singh Thapar

Maheep Singh Thapar graduated in planning from the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and in Urban and Regional Planning from the School of Planning, CEPT, Ahmedabad where he was awarded a Gold Medal for the 'Distinguished Student' award. He was the director of a consulting firm in Hyderabad and has been continuously involved in large and important Urban Planning & Development projects concerning the city of Hyderabad and beyond. He is a qualified Urban and Regional Planner and also is currently



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one of the main Office Bearer of the Institute of Town Planners, India, ITPI, Andhra Pradesh State Regional Chapter.

Peter Voit

Peter Voit studied mechanical engineering and car design at the Stuttgart University in Germany, receiving his Master of Science (Dipl.-Ing.) in 1988. He joined a research project of the European Union dealing with passive use of solar energy, a forerunner of today's passive house technology. He collaborated with many European solar research institutes (such as CSTB-France, conphoebus-Italy, Fraunhofer-Germany, BRE-UK and BBRI-Belgium). He coordinated the construction of outdoor test facilities for passive solar systems such as high performance glazings and Trombe walls. Since 1992 he works as a free lance engineer. In 1994 he joined Transsolar as an authorized representative and project manager. 1997 he became the Transsolar chief financial officer and continued conducting projects and developing new technologies, in particular thermally activated concrete slabs and foundation piles. In 2006 he founded the American branch office Transsolar Inc. in New York and became its first chief executive officer. After establishing a fully operational office in New York he returned to the Stuttgart office in 2010.



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Initiators

- Federal Republic of Germany Foreign Office
- Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Goethe Institut

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