

PLACEMAKING INDIA WEEKEND 2019



PLACEMAKING INDIA WEEKEND
2019

EVENT REPORT
December 7 to 9, 2019

PIRANGUT. AUNDH . PUNE . CHINCHWAD

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Report design: *UNICITI*



BACKGROUND TO PLACEMAKING INDIA

PlacemakingX is a global network of leaders who together accelerate placemaking as a way to create healthy, inclusive and beloved communities. **Placemaking India Weekend 2019**, held from December 7 to 9, was a modest start to shape the placemaking movement nationally and was the last in a series of events organised during 2019 in Mexico City, Wuhan, Valencia, Lima, Halifax, Chattanooga, Auckland, Townsville and Kuala Lumpur. With the endorsement of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (**ISOCARP**), urban blogosphere The Smart Citizen initiated the first consolidated event in India to bring together urbanists interested in a movement and region-wide campaign for a better public realm in the south Asian urban landscape.

The venue for the conference, a traditional **‘Wada’** in Chinchwad, was selected as an example of community-led refurbishment in a peri-urban area that lies in the shadow of the industrial precincts of Volkswagen, Tata, Bajaj and Mahindra in India’s automotive hub.

In the run-up to the conference day dedicated to India’s particular placemaking challenge, prominent architect-activists in Pune and Chinchwad led **site visits** to:

- a pioneering **urban design and planning school**
- a **street redesign project** under the Smart City Mission
- a public talk and **debate on placemaking** and civic planning
- a **participatory workshop** around an orphanage, temple and public spaces in Chinchwad

The following **themes** were proposed in a **call for speakers** for presentation and panel discussion:

- Strategies for buy-in of **policy makers and developers of placemaking**.
- A review of **vernacular practices that respect communal spaces** and the public realm
- **Case studies in contemporary placemaking**: public-private-civic partnerships that work
- **Place identity and branding** for benchmarking of cities
- **Impact of Placemaking** on economy and innovation culture
- **Inclusiveness and accessibility in placemaking**: the forgotten spaces between the gated communities
- How can placemaking become a tool to combat air pollution and crowding: **health and environmental impacts**

DAY ONE – SATURDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2019

The day started with a visit to the PVP college of Architecture in Pirangut, on the outskirts of Pune, where the Principal, **Architect Prasanna Desai**, welcomed the participants to the stand-alone modernist structure built into a hillside.

A **walk-through exhibition** revealed the college journey and showcased its ideologies through a display of works with explanations by college faculties and director. Studio culture and curriculum of the education system was explained throughout. The prodigious output of students was on display in the halls of the cavernous building and place-makers stopped to interact with a group of students who had just returned from a study tour of Varanasi. Conference organiser, **Vineeta Shetty**, founder of The Smart Citizen, gave a brief overview of the history of placemaking and the background to the **first Placemaking India Weekend**. Presentations began with an opening session by **Ms. Mahak Agarwal**, India focal point for ISOCARP. Urban planning advisory teams under the ISOCARP Institute provide advisory, capacity-building and research support through short and long-term partnerships, workshops and on-location design charrettes.



Mahak pinpointed the unique challenges and **opportunities of placemaking in the Indian context:**

- development over **public spaces**
- **multiplicity of organisations**
- **limited coordination** and collective action
- **limited funding dedicated for public space** improvement in city missions and plans (placemaking being a sub-component of culture and identity)
- **limited follow-up** from conceptualisation to completion and limited collective
- **lack of holistic placemaking initiatives** backed by implementable solutions/actions.

This was followed by a presentation of design studio projects and approaches towards architecture and urban design by a design professor of **PVP College of Architecture**. He focused on various design topics such as transformation of housing, urban infrastructure projects, re-conceptualizing urban areas and streets for the people and enhancing about the approaches towards social affordance and community engagement.

The concept of '**Navarasa**', or the nine basic human emotions, were shown in a student film as a tool to analyse and understand the needs of the individual on the street. Using these nine emotions as a guideline for urban redesign created an impactful studio environment for the students.

The highlight was a presentation by Architect & Urban designer **Prasanna Desai** on the topic "**Context-sensitive street design: The case of DP Road, Pune.**" He enlightened the participants and faculties of the college with his works and interesting concepts like **old cities vs new cities**, **the need to create healthy, human & hygienic cities** which in turn created a huge impact on design thinking and **role of design in public domain**. He also explained the design approach for public domain through examples from his projects namely DP Road, ITI Road and FC Road Street redesigns. Desai detailed the need for modern street redesign today, which is not mere metre-wide footpaths and concrete, but complex relationships between the pedestrian, cyclist, tree, property entryways and numerous other factors.

The session ended with active discussion followed by lunch. Placemakers were then bussed to **DP Road for a walk-shop** with Ar. Prasanna Desai, where he explained the process, constraints and on-ground implementation techniques involved with the street designing project. Desai stressed the **needs of the individual pedestrian movements** and freely parked cycles for public access. A notable aspect of the design was the integration of landscape, parking, cycle-path, street surface texture, tree boundary and shop perimeter into a musical harmony. The street carries electrical lines, plumbing lines and various other services.



A kilometre of such a **well-designed street** along with services costs **Rs. 7 crores** according to Desai. Everyone was briefed on the details of the streets and the public private partnership between different local and government bodies involved in the design.

The finale of the first day was an evening public talk with an audience of 100 at the elegant Firodia Auditorium at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute preceded by high tea. **Vikash Chandra**, policy adviser from India's **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, started his presentation with challenges and opportunities of place-making at global and Indian level and also discussed various aspects, missions, key points, strategies and overall scenario of smart cities projects in India. **Place-making strategies and a framework** to re-conceptualize smart cities, needs and hierarchies of the smart city were also focused in detail. The lecture emphasised the scale of India's urban challenge and continued with **government's initiative towards comprehensive planning** on urban infrastructure, significant key sectors of smart city and concluded with place-making examples through smart cities projects in India. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOPh20MZMMQ>

P.K. Das, Activist and Architect from Mumbai Waterfront Centre, shared his vision and insight towards place-making and sustainable waterfront development. His presentation included diverse

aspects like achievement of **sustainable ecology**, significance of **addressing climate change**, symbiotic relationship between **land, water & people**, the effectiveness of city making to achieve **efficient urbanization, reclamation of public spaces**, etc. He briefed the audience on how urban planning and urban design has to be acknowledged as a right, through knowledge and progress and also elaborated various aspect of neighbourhood-based city planning with a case study from his works. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpeushqR7Dk>

The grand takeaway from the public discussion was as follows:

- There is urgent **need for collective intervention** in the current trend of exclusionary urban development with an objective of achieving social and environmental equity and justice for all. Also, as a necessary condition, each individual intervention would have to be linked to other democratic rights struggles, thereby **building networks of interventions** towards **bringing about a city-wide transformative change** and through that process evolving an alternate vision of the city.
- A sustainable ecology of cities is possible when we can successfully combine environmental and socio-economic dimensions equally in the plans and actions that we pursue. As a matter of fact, it is the extent of their integration and inclusion that form a criterion by which we evaluate the value of our work and engagements.

Khusuru Irani of the Loft Forum engaged the gathering with discussion among the participants and *Architect Kiran Kalamdani* proposed a vote of thanks. The discussion at the end of the public talks can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Q446fDa7mE>

DAY TWO – SUNDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 2019

The day was **dedicated to urban villages** which provide some of the best glimpses into organic development, and the human imprint on our built environment, at a scale we all understand. Urban villages are shaped mostly by **instinctive human activity** and marginally by regulations. Hence, they have much to teach us about the public realm.

Shravan Hardikar, dynamic young municipal commissioner of *Pimpri-Chinchwad*, led placemakers on a heritage walk through *Chinchwad village* while local architects and urban designers *Anjali and Kiran Kalamdani* shared their place attachment with a personalised experience of the village. Place-makers witnessed the power and magic of slow organic growth, the charms of familiar spaces built with love and devotion besides brick, stone, wood and lime. The impact of **new material and technologies on the old village** engulfed by a 2.7 million city and yet able to hold its own identity and grace!

The village of Chinchwad that is now a part of the fast growing second largest component of the Pune Metropolitan Region was before the 1960s a group of loosely connected villages to the north west of Pune City. Starting with the establishment of the Hindustan Antibiotics Factory and about 1200 large and small industrial establishments in the MIDC (Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation) in Bhosari, Pimpri and Chinchwad villages, several multinationals burgeoned along with heavyweight locals like the Tatas, Bajajs, and Mahindras. Thanks to its yields from octroi taxes, the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation came to be known as one of the richest local bodies of India.

Gradually the villages were engulfed by urbanization and three 60 m wide parallel highways gave the town an identity of a place by the highways. The **PCNTDA**, a new town authority which now displays a mixed bag of successes and failures completes the patchwork quilt of authorities trying to administer, control, govern and 'develop' a landscape and people on the rain shadow side of the Sahyadris.

The walk highlighted:

- the **home of the three Chapekar Brothers, Vinayak, Damodar and Balkrishna** who were hanged for their involvement with the assassination of Walter Charles Rand on June 22, 1897
- the **Samadhi Mandir** of the sixteenth century saint Moraya Gosavi whose 478th festival was in progress during the placemaking weekend
- the **riverfront of the Pavana River**
- the **Bhairavnath Mandir** and
- the **Mangalmurtiwada** a traditional shrine and institution for training students of the vedas in a vedpatshala.



Chinchwad Village is a veritable paradise of places formed over a period of time following the traditional Indian concept of a compact pre-motor city. Most of the ideas about placemaking or improvements to the existing places are being comprehensively rethought and a case needs to be made to **involve the local people in the process of change** without sacrificing the qualities that have survived over the ages.

New typologies of buildings, thoughtless renewal, indiscriminate use of modern materials and techniques of building and planning have done enough **damage to the old fabric that needs to be minimized** if not completely eliminated. The positive qualities of the heritage in planning, materials, techniques, intangible aspects need to be recognized and protected if not preserved in museums. The complex structures of a dozen communities that are in a transitional mode from a caste to a class-based system, making difficult choices between the global and the local, choosing the best

between better HDI (Human Development Index) and a physically workable and presentable old quarter are the challenges of the place for the future.



A pre-lunch session at the Noorya Hometel conference hall on the various works done by Kalamdanis. He briefed the audience on the journey of his design firm and how he and his wife started with their first project, which is yet to be completed. The **Shaniwar Wada** was the shortest brief they ever received: 'finish it' and till today they are designing extensions to it.

PCMC Commissioner Shravan Hardikar gave a presentation on the intricacies of how urban placemaking works at the government level and the policy level decisions they make during their meetings.

A unique presentation was offered under the framework of the program **Sustainable Cities through Heritage Revival - SEHER Asia - the Future Institute, the SHiFt Studio for Habitat** and **UNICITI** initiated a placemaking project in Zamrudpur aiming at improving quality of life in the neighbourhood, revitalising existing tangible and intangible heritage assets and generating vibrant public spaces that will bring **Zamrudpur** on a visitor's map in Delhi.

Zamrudpur is an over 200-year old urban village located in the midst of established South Delhi residential areas of Kailash Colony and Greater Kailash I. Owing to its Lal Dora status, which keeps the area outside the city's building regulations, the building stock grew exponentially with the arrival of work migrants over the past few decades. This unplanned and spontaneous growth



generated several challenges: lagging behind basic **infrastructure services**, dense medium-rise **urban fabric** limiting natural light, **congested roads and public spaces** de facto converted into parking lots. As a result, the disrupted urban fabric reflects a disrupted social fabric with residents experiencing mixed feelings towards their neighbourhood. While the older generation of house owners hopes for a recovered unique identity of the place, the younger generation often looks beyond the place and plans to settle elsewhere. A short movie showcased where **Zamrudpur** stands today.

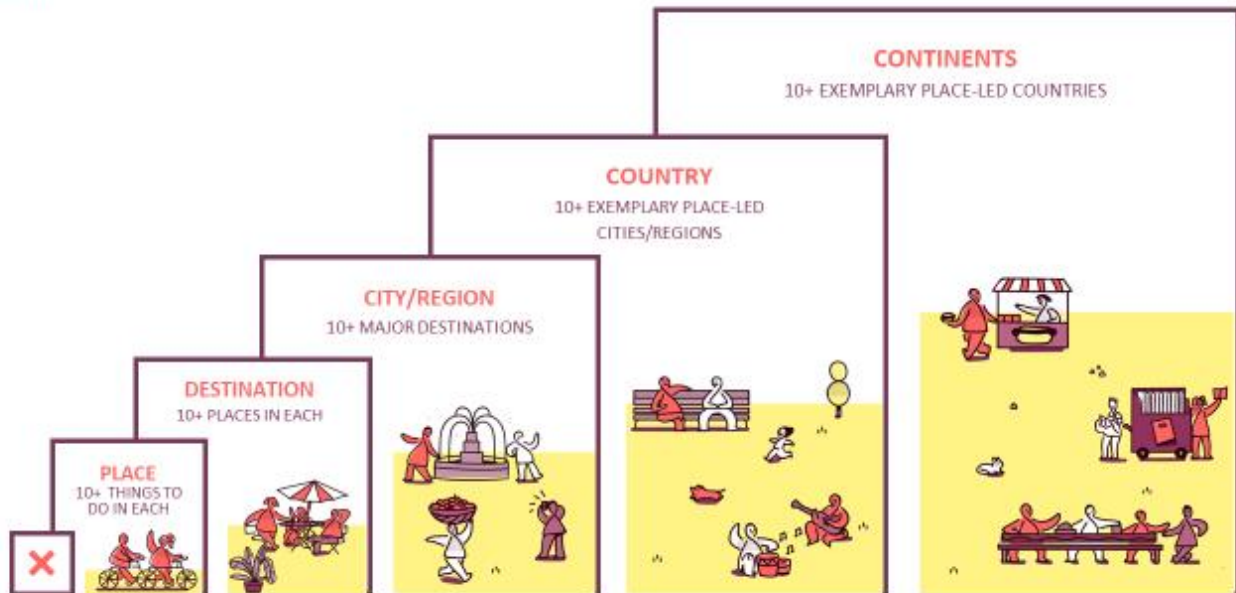
Sanjay Prakash, Principal Architect of SHiFT, and Olga Chepelianskaia, Founder and CEO of UNICITI, shared initial ideas on where to start creating an identity through a collaborative process:

- **Document local stories** around tangible and intangible heritage of the place
- **Identify** today's creative **tangible and intangible assets**
- Reflect upon what **vision and identity** do all resident groups look for in Zamrudpur
- Propose an **alternative parking solution** to unlock public spaces and
- Transform public spaces into an **integrated and inclusive experience** of the urban village.

POWER OF 10

www.placemakingx.org
@placemakingx

Strategic goals to scale up the impact of placemaking from the street corner to the world.



DAY 3 – MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER, 2019

The third day started at the iconic **Chaphekar Wada** nestled in the lanes of **Chinchwad Gaon**. An apt place to discuss placemaking, Chaphekar Wada is the residence of the freedom fighters – the Chaphekar brothers and has a strong historic, social and political context. A traditional welcome with marigold flowers adorning the entire place kick-started the day.

This day was dedicated to looking at placemaking through different lenses applied by various experts working in the field. It helped give an overview to the innumerable possibilities and the various facets of placemaking.

The kick-off presentation by **Phaeba Thomas**, Regional Manager, South Asia of **HealthBridge Foundation of Canada**, introduced the listeners to the organisation **PlacemakingX** and their vision and work. Founded in 1975 as Project for Public Spaces, PlacemakingX was launched as a network to accelerate placemaking for global impact in June 2019 with the mission of forming a global network of leaders who together will accelerate placemaking as a way to create healthy, inclusive, and beloved communities. The core vision of PlacemakingX is to make the spaces we live into places we love - Create a thriving, equitable, and sustainable world through the **convergence of values, passion, and action around our public spaces**. This presentation stressed on how place makers in India can affiliate and work as network partners.

PlacemakingX strives to scale up the impact of placemaking from the street corner to the world through what they call the **Power of 10**. It drives change by making the case for placemaking through an engagement with like-minded movements and inspiring the hearts and minds of everyday citizens with more than 100 leaders and more than 500 advocates in the network groups across the globe.



The next presentation by **Asim Khanal**, Urban Planner and Researcher, **Kathmandu, Nepal** illustrated how **placemaking** could help make **healthier cities** with the help of the UNA tool. It started with orienting the viewers to Kathmandu – the place, its history and placemaking in their context. **UNA is a toolbox** which was developed by the City Form Lab at the Singapore University of Technology and Design, in collaboration with MIT, that enables urban designers and planners to describe the complex spatial patterns of cities using mathematical network analysis methods. UNA is a readily accessible free to download plugin compatible with programs such as ArcGIS and Rhinoceros (Rhino 3D) and helps in measuring accessibility and connectivity using data points of Spatial measures such as Links (which represent paths along which travel can occur), Nodes and Buildings. With the help of parameters such as the **Reach** each place has, **Gravity** (impedance required to travel to each of the destinations) **Straightness** and **Betweenness** (the potential of passers-by at different buildings (nodes) on the network) to measure connectivity, UNA manages to help answer various **crucial questions that inform placemaking decisions** thus strengthening it.

An example of how UNA is used was shown through a study area of the **old core of Kathmandu city**. UNA tool has potential to be applied to the mitigation of air pollution by first mapping the dust-prone streets and identifying the network distance-based region that is affected by the frequent flow of heavy traffic, this acting as a proxy indicator for the air pollution and then using the Betweenness metric and Patronage analysis to identify road links having high traffic flow and to locate industries with chimneys (i.e. point polluters) and buffer region of their impact can be accessed.

Phaeba Thomas further looked at placemaking as a tool to **combat air pollution and overcrowding**. The simple and compelling message of the presentation was, one of the most immediate way to address climate change and overcrowding is - prioritizing a city's **public space**. Public space interventions have the potential to contribute to progress across many SDGs simultaneously, they also create liveable communities and facilitate the enjoyment of the higher density neighbourhoods typically found in cities.

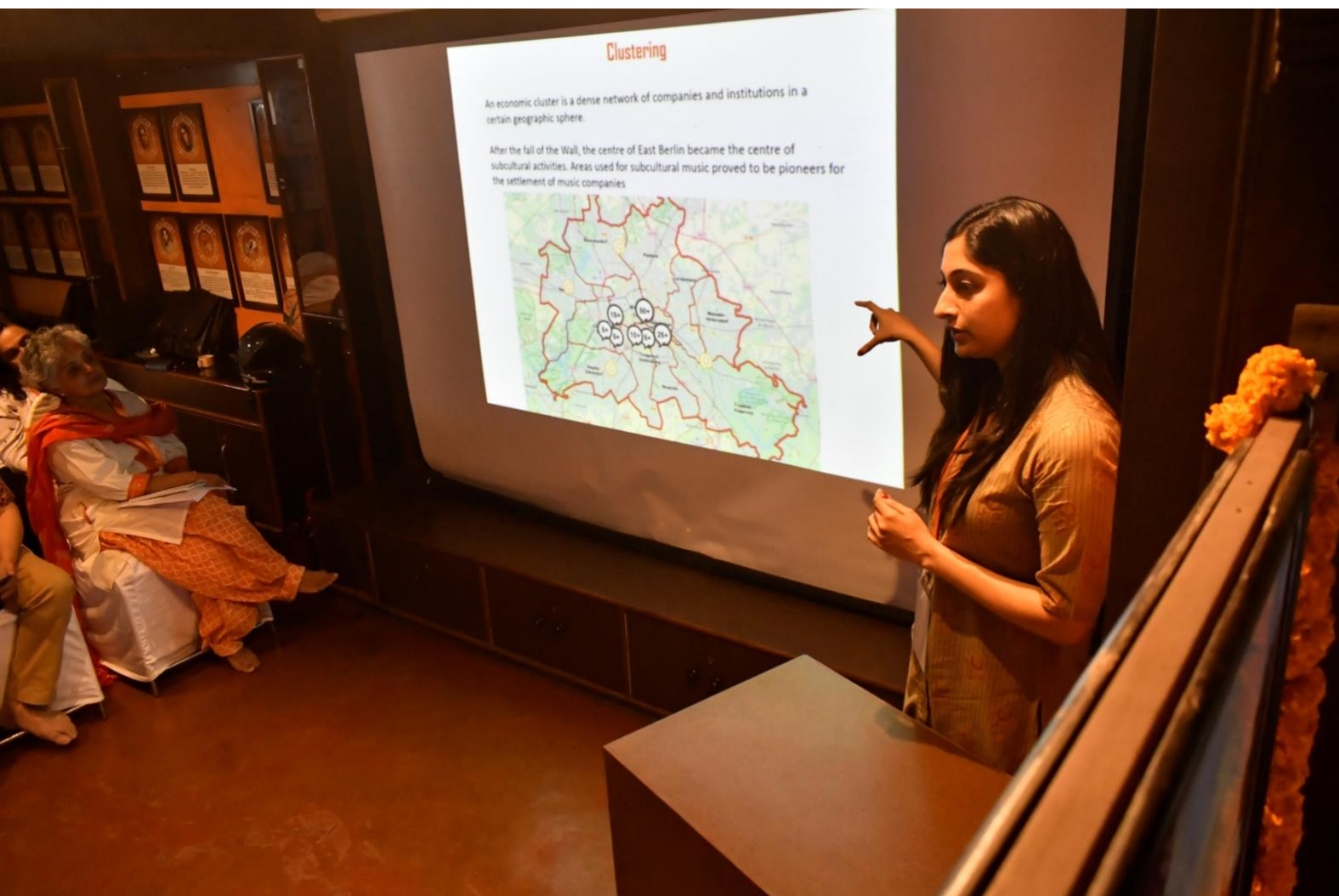


Through research, policy analysis, capacity building and community engagement in eleven cities in India, Health Bridge is supporting city governments and communities to reclaim their spaces-parks, beaches, markets and streets since 2009. The cities of Nagpur, Bangalore and Trichur had major achievements in redesigning their public spaces. Nagpur included inclusive play equipment and accessibility designs to its park.

The **District Tourism Promotion Council of Thrissur** was recognised as an 'Accessible Tourist Destination' by World Tourism Organization, an agency under United Nations. The District Tourism Promotion Council recognised the role of ESAF for the technical support and design inputs in getting this recognition. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has recognised their work on No-Motorised Transport in Bangalore with one of the longest standing open-street events organised in around 56 neighbourhoods in Bangalore with the help of the Health Bridge Foundation.

From here the event moved on to looking at placemaking through the lens of branding. As **Saurav Roy**, from **Roy Studios, Mumbai** put it, placemaking is a process and a system that created an **emotional connect with the places** that we interact with - where we live, where we work, where we play, where we travel and where we socialize. Focusing on an **identity system** allows us to create a **central narrative** for the place that can then manifest itself across various experiences - **signage, wayfinding, festivals, etc.** and also helps preserve the narratives and the stories of our cities which these places occupy thus helping integrate them within the current social and cultural fabric of society. As our cities expand & the urban density increases, these **stories become even more vital** to be stored and celebrated. To explain this ideology, placemaking projects done for the VR retail centres developed along with the VR design team were showcased to show the vivid celebration of the city each centre depicted through brand identity, installations, experiences, signage and wayfinding within a vibrant retail context.

Next, urban designer **Arushi Chitrao** looked at the impact of **placemaking on the Economy and Innovation Culture** through a case study of the **music industry in Berlin, Germany**. Her study analysed the music movement that developed as a result of the growing social unrest, rise in squatters and the economic stagnation following the division of Berlin after the World War 2 in Germany. The transformation of this subculture that came about into a quantifiable industry was analysed through the framework of the 'Innovation Ecosystem' suggested by the **Project for Public Spaces (PPS)**. The eight placemaking principles of innovative districts (PPS) can be retroactively studied from the case of Berlin. The impact of the music industry is widely felt in Berlin in the form of employment and revenue turnover.



She noted that **promoting creative industries through placemaking**, such as in the case of Berlin, can be a tremendous tool for **economic development**, especially in developing countries such as India. There are certain physical, economic and networking assets such as social capital, culture & environment, infrastructure, clustering and place governance that led to the solidification of the industry. The role of placemaking can thus become a catalyst in **transforming a grass roots level social movement** into a thriving industry that contributes to the growth and development of the geographic region it is located in.

As she put it, the concept of placemaking is relatively new in the Indian context. Much of the global and local discourse is centred around placemaking as a goal. It is worthwhile to look at **placemaking as a process** - a means rather than end.

This was followed by a presentation of the various smart cities in Karnataka focusing on Communal spaces and the public realm by **N. Srinivas**, General Manager, Technical, **Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation**. The presentation started with a background of Smart Cities Mission, understanding the smart cities of Karnataka and the process of implementation that helped orient the viewers. The case of Bengeri Market in Hubballi Dharwad, development of Car Street in Mangaluru where the annual festival of Kodiala Teru in Dakshina Kannada region is held for 6 days during the time of Magha Masa, pedestrianisation of the area around Kadri Park, redevelopment of Krishna Rajendra (KR) Market in Bengaluru, and the redevelopment of Tunga riverfront in Shivamogga were detailed to show the current focus on placemaking in the Smart Cities Mission. The sites selected were each important in their own right from the point of **improving movement in the city, re instilling cultural significance, promoting safe tourism**, and so on. Each of the projects highlighted different aspects and methods through which pressure points were addressed and the complexity of designing urban spaces. Overall the vision of each of the projects was to **design spaces with a focus on the people** and not just as streets that are carriers of vehicles.

Aditi Pathak, Head of Placemaking with **The Urban Vision**, pointed to the building of large-scale infrastructural projects without attention to the **human scale**, an outcome of policies driven to make life easier for a small elite over the larger community good. Partners for tactical urban interventions range from politicians to the market, domain experts, local communities, civil society organisations and media. Refreshingly, businesses are donating private land and funding public realm transformation in Mumbai, one of the most expensive real estate markets in the world. She pointed to examples like Hiranandani Gardens, Malad and Thane, where urban art installations and pedestrianisation are celebrating the public realm. Taking leaders, including CEOs and developers on study missions overseas is one way The Urban Vision is building an ecosystem of leaders.

This enriching set of presentations was followed by a sumptuous traditional Maharashtrian meal hosted **by Kimaya Architects** in the vicinity that highlighted the culture of the place. The conference ended with a participatory brainstorming process initiated by **Manju George**, paving the way for a crucial first step to creating **#PlacemakingIndia** as a collective and a mandate for a bigger and better event in 2020.

Depending on the nature of their work, people looked at **Placemaking in the south Asian context** through various lenses. This being the first event of its kind - the three days were vital to create a network of like-minded individuals working towards a common goal of better placemaking, focusing on people and quality space.



MANDATE FOR 2020

A group reflection on the purpose of Placemaking India brought up several **vision and mission statements**: at its most basic, the purpose of the self-organised group was to inspire and to be inspired and to explore new ideas from experts and locals. Many agreed that **sharing resources, expertise, learning and innovating** was the most ostensible purpose, but some went further in envisioning an advocacy and lobbying body to act as a pressure group, building awareness at the grassroots, with a bottom-up, people-first approach. The mission would be an evolving one, creation of a multidisciplinary platform, contributing different perspectives of the local area. Some felt our role was to bring about **better civic sense, more responsible tourism, reviving and building identity** as well as **creating and shaping space for all age groups**. There could be focus on addressing pertinent issues, i.e., local to the area/region/city of the events. One put it eloquently: our mission was about bringing people back to public spaces and public spaces back to people.

The **mode** of delivering the mission would involve at a minimum a bi-annual event, involving India, but also south and southeast Asia. There could be smaller events in the interim to create wider groups. A focus on peri-urban and fringe areas was proposed. There was a broad consensus for action-oriented work driven by commitment. This could involve research and development and documentation and case studies, wherein the developer lobby would need to be included. Conflict management between various players in the contested space was advocated as one of the skills that could be offered and crowdsourcing of ideas was encouraged. Creating a member resource

bank to harness internal skills was an idea that emerged. The need for branding was recognised and related to this, a website with links and ideas. Evolution towards an organisation with set agendas, possibly with regional-level chapters, held together by social media such as Facebook, LinkedIn and WhatsApp were foreseen. Sources of funding were deliberated: summer programmes for doctoral/research students, fee structures, registration, subscriptions and sponsors.

There was unanimous agreement that the **scope** of Placemaking India would be **region-wide, encompassing south Asia**, through a structured, interactive networking media. Action-oriented and multi-disciplinary were some of the characteristics that jumped out: all stakeholders should be included, as well as locals who are actively practising placemaking. One proposal went as far as to propose a research cell and digital archives to keep Placemaking India thriving and newsletters and magazines to collectivise. There was strong interest in progress reports and documentation of success stories discussed in PIW 2019 and in evolving declarations, charters and slogans. Development of networks with individuals and organisations as advised by PK Das in his keynote was to be encouraged. Small-scale interventions in conversations with local residents, corporators, and people affected by issues in certain areas were desirable. Conversations were also to be inclusive: involving various age groups in society and differently abled people. **Organising walks** to keep people aware of the principles of placemaking was another option. **Design charrettes and hackathons and ecosystem-based action plan development** were to be encouraged. Demos of geographic spatial technologies to help participants understand the difference in a space and its usage were proposed. **International and national organisations**, foundations and UN bodies based in India should also become a part of **Placemaking India**.

Who is a placemaker merited attention. And there were some **28 stakeholder categories** that emerged from this deliberation: Architects/urban planners and urban designers were the obvious grouping but other categories also emerged such as urbanists/ economists/ environmentalists, geomorphologists, historians, archaeologists, and conservationists; engineers, sociologists/ anthropologists; statisticians; media/ advertising/ journalists; brand ambassadors, developers; politicians; local government, bureaucrats and citizens. Data analysts and technicians could not be ruled out, nor could corporations like Google. Marketing and real estate consultants also added value as did the tourism sector. Civil society and academia, finance consultants, doctors and other professionals, lawyers, students, artists and artisans, specially-abled people all had their role to play and the role of the police was critical.

A wide variety of **locations** were proposed for future get-togethers. These ranged from **Mangaluru** for its potential for heritage and culture; major metropolises for their high concentration of professionals and connectivity; hill stations such as **McLeodgunj and Shimla** for their environmental sensitivity and geographies such as **Jhansi and Jalandhar** in need of cohesive placemaking. There was also a demand for hosting the annual event in Tier 2 cities, such as Indore, **Bhopal and Nagpur** and another proposal for exploring the **Northeast corridor** for awareness is low. Should we organise events in inspiring places, with proven success in placemaking or those communities where there is a lacuna in capacity?

IMPACT ON CHINCHWAD

The presence of placemakers over the weekend triggered a set of catalytic events. The trustees of **Dhaneshwar, Bhairavnath and Hanuman Temples**, two of which were on our route, met at all three locations two weeks after the event to decide on the project placemaking and unanimously pledged their allegiance to the heritage project. Several lesser-known facts about the historic importance of the places were revealed. Chinchwad Village, according to them, dates to the 11th century and some of the iconography bears this out.

The Municipal Commissioner of Chinchwad also called a meeting of all concerned staff with the board of trustees of the Chaphekar Wada to fast-track the developments of the expansion of the museum and compensation for the road-building which affects the child shelter.

The engagement of the commissioner in **Placemaking India Week** also inspired an announcement of a hackathon for innovative designs for public spaces carrying prizes worth upto 1 lakh rupees. This contest was opened to those with a background in architecture and civil engineering to identify spaces in Pimpri-Chinchwad that they would like to beautify and to prepare innovative designs.

A contribution of 15% of the net income from the conference was presented to Girish Prabhune, of the Punaruttan Samarasata Gurukulam, the tribal child charity, as an acknowledgement of the space made available at Chaphekar Wada for the first Placemaking event in India.



Event video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcfNLLayM2c>

Day by day photographs can be viewed at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JmvvRNwLbotMqmzNu0lsw0QnF5aJGx31?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5df296ee

LinkedIn posts on Placemaking India can be discovered at <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/hashtag/placemakingindia/>

On Twitter at:
https://twitter.com/search?q=%23PlacemakingIndia&src=typed_query

On Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Placemaking%20India&epa=SEARCH_BOX

Venue of Placemaking India Week 2020

Placemaking India Week is proposed to be staged from December 2 to 6, 2020 in Mangaluru, at the invitation of the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance, which is the nodal agency for seven smart cities in the southern state of Karnataka. It will be co-hosted by the Faculty of Architecture at Nitte College and at Alva Education Trust and other regional partners, and a special focus on waterside placemaking, cultural strategy and tourism, coastal heritage and socio-economic resilience, and reconciling heritage development with economic development.

Reactions from Placemakers to Placemaking India Weekend 2019

“Placemaking could work as a movement across the country. That we could get a few people to think collectively, see each other’s strengths, know what is possible and what is not is in itself a considerable achievement.”—**Kiran Kalamdani, Architect, Heritage Conservationist and Urban Designer**

“A beautiful and insightful event! Every presentation was a source of learning and inspiration! I look forward to the next year.”—**Olga Chepelianskaia, UNICITI**

“It was such a wonderful programme, a real learning experience...could widen my perspectives and I feel much more urged to commit myself more to this cause. Thank you for organising this event in a very effective and beautiful manner and for bringing together such a resourceful group.” —**Abraham Matthew, New Life Development Society**

“Such a great initiative and thanks to Architects Prasanna Desai and Kiran Kalamdani for enlightening us with their works and experiences. Looking forward to future events. This platform in India has to be made denser and promising, which is possible only when everyone works together towards it. So let’s all contribute from our own strengths and resources towards people and placemaking.” —**Prashant P., Architect and Professor**

“Thank you for the warm welcome and incredible three days. It was one of the most memorable experiences I have been a part of.”—**Mahak Agrawal, Focal Point, ISOCARP**

“Thank you for the effort in organising the event and getting us all together. Look forward to exciting things coming out of this.” —**Vipra Kothary, Architect**

“Wonderful event. It was great to know other placemakers. Hope we will meet often to make the platform big to expand our sharing and learning.” **–K.H. Kartikeyan, Architect**

“Wonderful organising of a successful event. So happy to be connected to other placemakers!” **–Phaeba Abraham, Health Bridge Foundation of Canada**

“A lovely event. There could be no better way to experience Chinchwad, one of the fastest growing urban regions in the world. May the new year 2020 bring more strength to the placemaking movement in south Asia!” **–Asim Khanal, Urban Researcher**

“Thank you for this amazing weekend. I would definitely like to be part of any of the next events.” **–Nikhil P., student**

“Thank you for organizing an invigorating Placemaking workshop and creating a platform for generating more associations and innovative interventions.” **–Eveleen Sidana**

EVENT PARTNERS

PLACEMAKING X



PlacemakingX is a cooperative network initiated by leaders, public space activists, regional network leaders, and professionals from all over the world who's sole focus is to create a thriving, equitable, and sustainable world through the convergence of values, passion, and action around our public spaces.

<https://www.placemakingx.org/>

International Society of City and Regional Planners ISOCARP



ISOCARP is a global association of professional city and regional planners. The ISOCARP network brings together individual and institutional members from 85+ countries with the vision to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable through integrative participatory urban and territorial planning.

<https://isocarp.org/>

The Smart Citizen



The Smart Citizen is a global platform for stakeholders to share knowledge, collaborate and develop capability on smart nations, regions, cities and communities.

<https://thesmartcitizen.org/>

UNICITI



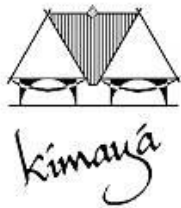
UNICITI is an international consultancy and knowledge development institution working on making Asian cities sustainable, climate resilient, economically competitive and culturally vibrant by building upon their unique cultural and natural assets.

www.uniciti.org

PRASANNA DESAI ARCHITECTS



KIMAYA ARCHITECTS



‘Kimaya’ is a partnership firm offering consultancy for various aspects like architecture, urban design, conservation, valuation and interior design. Being established in 1990, it has over 255 projects to its credit. Kimaya aims at balancing charity and profit, theory and practice, conservation and new-build, tradition and innovation, global and local perspectives.

<https://kimaya-thealchemy.weebly.com/>

PVP COA, PUNE



The PVP College of Architecture, Pune believes in creating sensitive and socially conscious architects who can contribute in shaping our built environment. The institute is led by Ar. Prof. Prasanna Desai, practicing architect, urban designer and academician, with the aim of bringing professionalism in architectural education.

<http://pvpcoapuneblog.blogspot.com/>



PLACEMAKING INDIA WEEKEND 2019