

Columbia University: Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

## **Design, Development and Preservation on the Edge: Mumbai's Eastern Waterfront**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This elective will focus on Mumbai and its eastern waterfront, a vast 1800-acre tract of land situated along the eastern coastal edge of the city that for historical reasons remains outside of the city's control and without city services. Once an active port area, the eastern waterfront today is simultaneously home to dozens of empty historical buildings and over two hundred thousand 'unofficial' slum dwellers, many of whom participate in the dirty and unregulated industries that occur within the bounds of what is now operated as federal 'port trust' land. This seminar will draw students from across GSAPP to bring together design, historic preservation, planning and real estate input to identify approaches and designs for reintegrating this area within Greater Mumbai and will culminate in an optional symposium in Mumbai with government officials and other stakeholders who now have redevelopment of this historic area high on their political agenda.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND SYLLABUS**

#### **September 4: Overview of urbanization in Mumbai and the Eastern Waterfront**

Readings Response:

One section of your choice from the McKinsey Report: Indian Urbanization, 2012

#### **September 11: History, Politics and the Opportunity of Mumbai's Eastern Waterfront**

Compulsory Browsing: [Mumbai's Eastern Waterfront By Urban Design Studio GSAPP 2011](#)

Readings Response:

1. Introduction essay in above publication by Prof. Plunz and Prof. Mehta, (posted on Courseworks)
2. Mumbai Reader. Urban Design Research Institute. 2013: Phatak, Vidyadhar "Urban Planning in India's New Development Strategy," pp. 17/281-295.

## **September 18: Governance: Institutional Structures and Waterfront Financing**

Case Studies: Presented by student team

Reading Response: Mumbai Reader. Urban Design Research Institute, 2013:

1. Excerpt from Pethe, Abhay, Tandel, Vaidehi, Gandhi, Sahil "Understanding Issues Related to Polycentric Governance in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region," pp. 15/247-257.
2. Bhide, Amita "Changing Fortunes of State Institutions: The Era of Projects and the Rise of MMRDA," pp. 18/297-312.
3. D'Monte, Darryl "Is Mumbai Growing Anymore?" and "Bridges that Widen the Gap," pp. 08/173-181.

## **September 25: Preservation: Historic Buildings and Maritime Activity**

Case Studies: Presented by student team

Reading Response: Mumbai Reader. Urban Design Research Institute, 2013:

1. Gokhale, Shanta, "Price of a Past", pp.12/209-12/211.
2. Rao, Vice-Admiral I.C. "A Container Terminal for Mumbai Port in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?" pp. 8-18 and 60-65.
3. Mehrotra, Rahul. "Remaking Mumbai." Urban Age Website. April 2009 <[http://www.urban-age.net/10\\_cities/07\\_mumbai/\\_essays/mumbai\\_Mehrotra.html](http://www.urban-age.net/10_cities/07_mumbai/_essays/mumbai_Mehrotra.html)>.

## **October 2: Infrastructure: Connections, Capacity and Congestion"**

Case Studies: Presented by student team

Compulsory Browsing: Laquian, Aprodicio, with Vinod Tiwari and Lisa M. Hanley (eds) Inclusive City: Infrastructure and Public Services for the Urban Poor in Asia. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

Reading Response from above book: Chapter 1 (Introduction) + Chapter 5 (Access and Mobility for the Urban Poor in India).

## **October 9: Real Estate Development: Tools, PPP and Financial Structuring**

Case Studies: Presented by student team

Readings Response:

1. Bharne, Vinayak Ed. The Emerging Asian City: Concomitant Urbanities and Urbanisms. Routledge, 2012. Read "Making Way for the Global Metropolis" Page 193-203
2. Any two essays of your choice from the Urban Age website. Nov 2007. <[http://www.urban-age.net/10\\_cities/07\\_mumbai/\\_essays/mumbai\\_Mehta.html](http://www.urban-age.net/10_cities/07_mumbai/_essays/mumbai_Mehta.html)>.

## **October 16: Urban Design: Issues of Density, Public Space and Mixed-use/Mixed-income development**

Case Studies: Presented by student team

Readings Response:

1. Mehrotra, Rahul. "Evolution, Involution and the City's Future: A Perspective on Bombay's Urban Form."
2. Bombay to Mumbai: Changing Perspectives. Eds. Pauline Rohatgi, Pheroza Godrej, and Rahul Mehrotra. Mumbai: Marg Publications, 2007. Pages 258-277.
3. Mehta, Geeta: The Smartness of User Generated Cities. A+U Fall 2014. (Posted on Courseworks)

## **October 23: NO CLASS (ULI conference)**

## **October 30: Slum Redevelopment, Equity and Social Resilience**

Case Studies: Presented by student team

Reading Response:

1. Mumbai Reader. Urban Design Research Institute. 2013
  - a. Sheth, Alpa "The Slum and the High-rise," pp. 19/321-327.
  - b. Bharucha, Nauzer, "Slum TDR Rates Fall as Redevelopment Deals Fall Apart," pp.13/223-4.
  - c. Srivastava, Rahul and Echanove, Matias, "The Dweller and the Slum Dweller,"pp.20/329-343.

## **November 6: Ecological Issues, Resilience and Coastal Regulation**

Case Studies: TBD

Readings:

1. Mumbai Reader. Urban Design Research Institute. 2013
  - a. Goenka, Debi "Protecting Mangroves, pp. 16/263-272."
  - b. Bharucha, Nauzer "A Tsunami in Mumbai," pp. 13/217-219.
2. Urban Age website. Nov 2007. 5 April 2009 <[http://www.urban-age.net/10\\_cities/07\\_mumbai/\\_essays/mumbai\\_Mehta.html](http://www.urban-age.net/10_cities/07_mumbai/_essays/mumbai_Mehta.html)>.
3. Mehta, Suketu. Maximum City. Urban Age website. <[http://www.urban-age.net/10\\_cities/07\\_mumbai/\\_essays/mumbai\\_Mehta.html](http://www.urban-age.net/10_cities/07_mumbai/_essays/mumbai_Mehta.html)>.

## **November 13: Student Presentations**

**November 20: Student Presentations**

**November 28 – December 1: Optional Symposium in Mumbai**

**December 4: Final Review Week**

**December 11: Lessons from the Symposium in Mumbai**

**OTHER READINGS AND WEBSITES OF INTEREST:**

Brook, Daniel. A History of Future Cities. Norton, New York. 2013

Jacobson, Mark. Geographic, May 2007. Dharavi, Mumbai's Shadow City.

Davis, Mike. Planet of Slums. Verso, London and New York, 2007.

Urban Age Readings: <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/archive/>

<http://www.citiesalliance.org/index.html>

Statistics and projections on cities around the world updated in 2009:  
<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp2008/index.htm>

A survey of Indian urbanization and economy, 2013: [http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/45537/1/MPRA\\_paper\\_45537.pdf](http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/45537/1/MPRA_paper_45537.pdf)

**Short film:**

An Urban Think Tank Film re Mumbai's Slums: <http://vimeo.com/81485166>  
(Password: Mumbai)

**REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

**READING RESPONSE AND CASE STUDIES**

Each student will be required to write and submit approximately one page of critical comments on readings assigned for specific classes. These are your own ideas or response to the reading, and NOT a summary. You may critique the assigned reading, compare it with other literature on the subject, add your own ideas to the topic, or bring up issues that are not clear or relevant. A good way to

think about this is to have an opinion before you start reading an article or a book, and then see if the reading confirms or refutes what you thought before reading it. Questions and issues raised by students about these readings will form the basis of class discussions. This is your chance to show your understanding and knowledge of the subject, and have some fun testing out your ideas.

Students will also be asked to work in groups of three to prepare case studies on some of the topics we will cover in class. In particular, they will be asked to research and present informally case studies on a particular aspect of waterfront redevelopment in Mumbai, as a way of familiarizing themselves and their colleagues on various approaches to governance, financing strategies, design, phasing and preservation among others. These case studies will range from projects here in New York to projects elsewhere in the world, potentially including other sites in Mumbai and India. For each case study, one person will be asked to define the issue as it relates to Mumbai, another will identify relevant case studies elsewhere, and a third will consider how lessons from other places might be applied at Mumbai's eastern waterfront site.

## **TERM PROJECT**

Students will be asked to work in teams to evaluate Mumbai's eastern waterfront and develop an approach to reintegrating this important property into the life of the city. You will work to understand and analyze its current role in the life of the region in terms of its urban context, design, history and historical fabric, current usage, economy, management, and environmental impact. Comparing this space to other spaces in India, Asia, and elsewhere in the world will be part of the curriculum. Teams will then propose design and planning strategies, approaches to governance and potential financial and land-use interventions to re-imagine the civic role that the eastern waterfront can perform for Mumbai and its constituents. These strategies and interventions will then be presented to the class, and potentially to participants at the symposium in Mumbai, in the form of drawings, photographs and narratives in a Power Point.

## **EVALUATION**

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|------------------------------|------------------|
| Attendance and participation | 20% of the grade |
| Reading response:            | 20% of the grade |
| Case studies:                | 30% of the grade |
| Term project + presentation: | 30% of the grade |