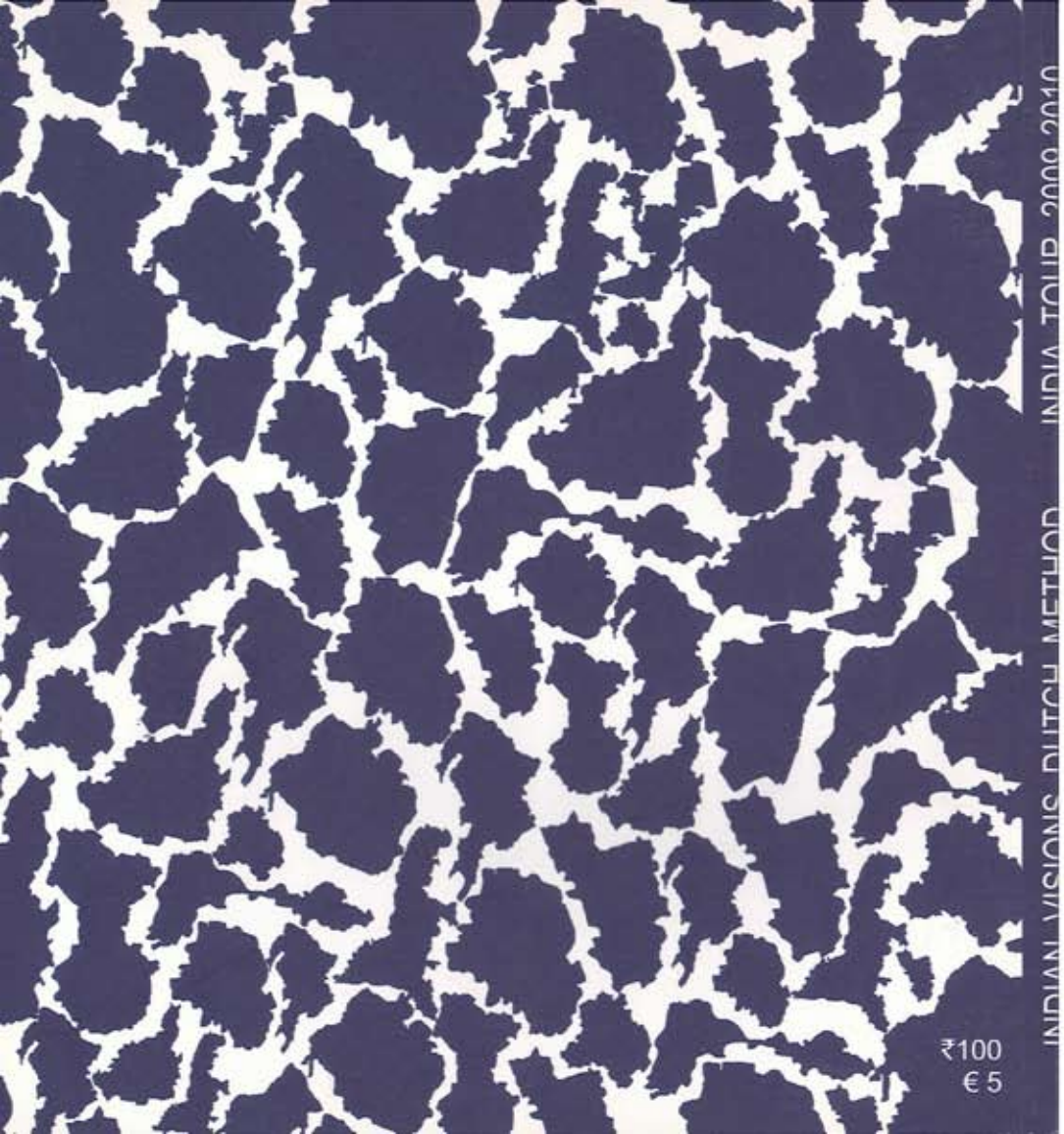


INDIAN VISIONS DUTCH METHODS INDIA TOUR 2008 2010

Chandigarh
Delhi
Amsterdam
Jaipur
Guwahati
Patna
Bhopal
Ahmedabad
Kolkata
Mumbai
Goa
Bangalore
Chennai

Uttam Ganguli:
For the healthy functioning of a city, a variety of built environments and public spaces need to exist. A sense of civic responsibility amongst the people also contributes to forming secure liveable cities. Looking beyond the physical boundaries of walls is needed to design democratic

M.N.Buch:
India is one of the few countries left in the world where there is an equilibrium in the population of the urban and the rural. But for sure this will not last long. The migration of people from rural to urban areas is a vital issue in the future planning of cities. Also new ways for decongesting the urban areas need to be addressed.

Sanjeev Singh:
Historically, industrialization has been a key factor in shaping and developing cities. Again today we are all aspiring towards becoming another 'Singapore' which I believe does function well, but the 'real flavour of life' or essence of community living is missing.

Rajesh Nagpal:
Squashing of the recent master plan of Bhopal is indeed a positive step. The basics of preparing future plans need to be re-thought through the involvement of various stakeholders. The issues of unemployment and poverty should be addressed through the new vision.

Peeyush Hajela:
Organic growth is taking over the planned. Hence, architects play an important role in influencing the fabric of the city. The future of the city is in the hands of the youth, you are the ones who need to innovate and work on sustainable solutions.

VENUE:
School of Planning & Architecture,Bhopal

DATES:
15 November 2010-
18 November 2010

EXHIBITION OPENING:
1030 15 November

INAUGURATED BY:
Mr. M.N. Buch

PLATFORM DISCUSSION:
1130 15 November

PANEL MEMBERS:
Ayan Sen
M.N. Buch
Peeyush Hajela
Rajesh Nagpal
Uttam Ganguli
Manmohan Kapshe

MODERATOR:
Sanjeev Singh

OVERALL COORDINATION:
Sneha Khullar
N.Neethu
Sandeep Sakat
Tapas Mitra

Area	548.21 km²
Population	2558416 p./km
Density	6,221/km²
Population Ranking	17 (Indian)

BHOPAL

Santosh Ghosh:
The close proximity to the river and attitude to water bodies influences the architecture of Kolkata. The louvers, verandah and various tropical colonial elements are notable in Kolkata's buildings.

Namit Shah:
We should be able to draw from the vast pool of The Dutch expertise and best practices to augument our indigenous resources, as our embassy has evinced keen interest to partner Kolkata in key future urban design and planning project.

Debeshis Das:
The city of Kolkata has a definite history and growth path. The architectural styles reflect the colonial past. Some contemporary buildings of steel and glass as well as housing and hospitality projects have closely connected with the social fabric of the city.

Ayan Sen:
Dutch expertise can help provide an integrated approach to the management of our waterways and water bodies, which are critical for shaping urban development in our new growth areas.

Himanshu Lal:
The design approach followed by the Dutch team involves research into the complex layers of history and culture, specifies of environment, bio-diversity, building materials and craftsmanship.

KOLKATA

VENUE:
Jadavpur University

DATES:
20 November 2009-
30 November 2009

EXHIBITION OPENING:
1600 20 November

INAUGURATED BY:
Mr. Namit Shah

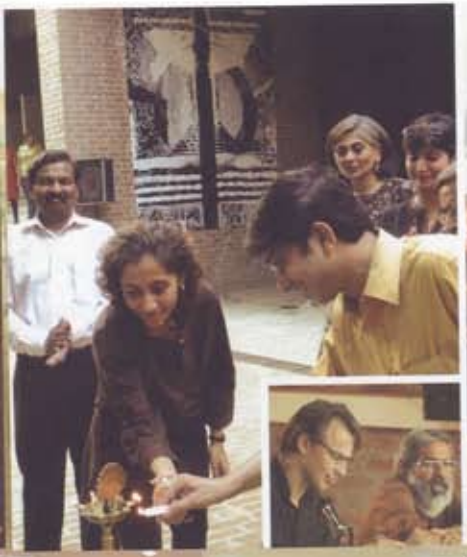
PLATFORM DISCUSSION:
1500 21 November

PANEL MEMBERS:
Namit Shah
Debeshis Das
Santosh Ghosh
Parthan Ranjan Das

MODERATOR:
Ayan Sen

OVERALL COORDINATION:
Himanshu Lal
Shubrojit Das

Area	1,480 km²
Population	5138208 p./km
Density	27,462/km²
Population Ranking	4 (Indian)



Neelkanth Chhaya:
It is not about the cost, it is about crafting cities, and differences are good. But I don't know how one can compare The Netherlands and Bangladesh. Bangladesh is unpredictable with great difference in communities and has no protection from nature, while the Dutch have overcome nature, they use sophisticated technology and have a strong control over laws.

Shiv Vishwanathan:
There are three basic issues that we should address:

- In the present Indian situation, it is not possible to have one imagination.
- If we continue to follow the western model, the diversity of society will not survive.
- Let us try to invent a new inclusive government.

Bimal Patel:
One of the main questions is how we write the rules of society? What is the good way? What is the bad way? What are the laws that are accepted?

Miral Chatterjee:
We should start with those who make our city tick. How can we mobilize communities? We do not need privatization.

Shiv Vishwanathan:
"Any truth to be truth, has to be translated into three languages."

Riyaz Tayyibji:
With our team we have studied many settlements. We can learn a lot from their patterns through time. Thinking about cities is always a two way process.

AHMEDABAD

VENUE:
School of Architecture, CEPT University

DATES:
04 September 2009-
15 September 2009

EXHIBITION OPENING:
1800 4 September

INAUGURATED BY:
Mr. I.P. Gautam

PLATFORM DISCUSSION:
1000 5 September

PANEL MEMBERS:
Bimal Patel
K. Shinivas
Mirai Chatterjee
Neelkanth Chhaya
Himanshu Parekh
Shiv Vishwanathan

MODERATOR:
Anne Feenstra

OVERALL COORDINATION:
Riyaz Tayyibji
Himanshu Lal

Area	475 km²
Population	3959432 p./km
Density	22,473/km²
Population Ranking	7 (Indian)

This booklet would not have been possible without the support and help of many people. We have tried our best to mention every one of them somewhere in this graphic documentation. Still many more helpful hands have installed microphones and beamers, supporting structures have been built, lights have been fixed, many cups of tea have been served. Thank you all !

We would very much like to thank The Embassy of Netherlands in India, especially the Press and Cultural affairs department , for their generous support and faith in arch i.

Originally the 'Building India' exhibition was held at ARCAM, Architecture Centre for Amsterdam from the 14th of November 2008 to the 24th of January 2009 as part of the Amsterdam-India Festival. ARCAM's Maarten Kloos and Marlies Buurman, together with Dutch architect/urban planner Franz Ziegler, identified five Indian cities to be presented. The Indian architects to work on their city for the exhibition were:

Ahmedabad : Roma Pandya & Riyaz Tayyibji

Bangalore : Nisha Mathew & Soumitro Ghosh

Delhi : Sudipto Ghosh & Mrinal Rammohan

Kolkata : Ayan Sen

Mumbai : Shilpa Ranade & Quaid Doongerwala

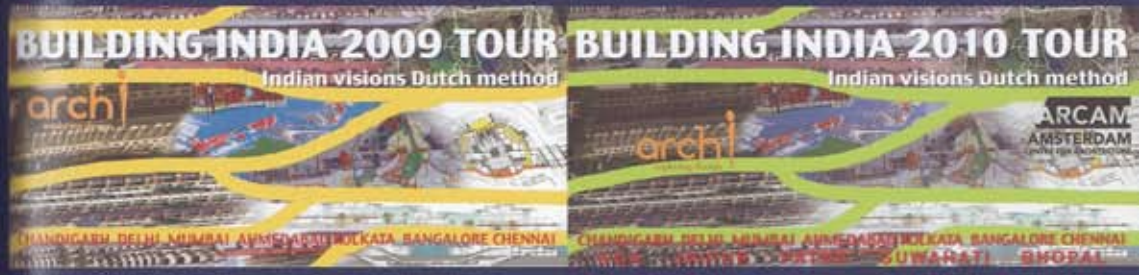
For each of the cities they were asked to present the best examples of contemporary architecture of his/her city. Up to eight projects were chosen, following a Dutch method of future mapping, each architect also presented a 'FUTURE MAP' envisioning his/her own city.

With the help of the Netherlands Embassy in India and Dutch Design Fashion Architecture from Rotterdam, it was possible to bring the exhibition in March 2009 to Chandigarh College of Architecture. During that trip, arch i organized a presentation "Triple Dutch" at SPA in Delhi by ARCAM director Maarten Kloos, Franz Zeigler, moderated by Anne Feenstra. Six cities followed in the first part of the tour by arch i .

The exhibition was always put up at the leading architectural institutions in these cities. The exhibition and discussions held at every city were received very well by faculty, students, NGO's, Government representatives, pressure groups and the media. In several places, the idea of "future mapping" was taken up by faculty and students as an academic exercise.

After several requests by other cities to hold the exhibition in their city, it was decided in early 2010 to extend the tour to 5 more cities; Goa, Jaipur, Patna, Guwahati and Bhopal.

All the platform discussions raised fundamental questions about the current developments in these cities. The idea of the touring exhibition was an endeavor to spread awareness among architects, urban designers and other related professionals about the value of making long term visions for your own city - a method very common in The Netherlands.



The methodology of analyzing the past, present and future urban development of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, helped me to look at how Kolkata might develop in the future. What emerged was a fascinating discovery; all our Indian cities have had a similar underlying construct at their inception and have morphed into unique entities based on a variety of factors that uniquely shaped each of them. So an Amsterdam was similar to a Kolkata as far as its earliest urban strategy (proximity to water) was concerned, but both were shaped very differently owing to differences in climate, historical circumstances, political affiliations, local regulations and so on. In Kolkata the treatment of wetlands is increasingly an issue of local concern.

During the tour, with its exhibition, presentations and platform discussions, I found people, both influential and ordinary, pondering about their own city space, where it had come from and where it is headed. At Bhopal, I felt the panel had an ideal tier two city where this methodology could be implemented while its growth could still be charted by planners and urbanists.

Ayan Sen, Kolkata

For the first time Indian cities were mapped as projections, as possible outcomes of trends, master plans, public aspirations as well as dismal traffic problems, surreptitious land deals involving large corporate organizations, security concerns etc. The results from Delhi to Guwahati were thought-provoking.

In Guwahati, academics, students and invited guests holding high positions in decision making posts of the State, all jumped into the discussion about the future of their own city, grateful to have at last found a forum where opinions mattered.

Although practiced routinely in the West and particularly in the Netherlands, it was surprising to note that there are no processes or protocols in the largest democracy of the world where civic authorities can consult the general public (or even architects for that matter) in planning for the future of these cities.

I hope that from these discussions and debates a revived public opinion will emerge that would compel the forging of new and sometimes obvious alliances: between designers and decision makers, between architects and planners and most importantly amongst citizens to create a voice for India's masses.

Sudipto Ghosh, New Delhi

The cultures of Asia and Europe have many differences and endless similarities. My creative motivations, both as a practicing architect as well as a teacher, are strongly linked to this.

It was very motivating to organize a traveling event that would demonstrate and highlight these aspects and draw on the enormous energy and vibrancy of urban India to stir a debate and exchange thoughts, ideas and ways of life.

The overwhelming response in all of the 12 Indian cities underlined a need and curiosity for these open interactions about the long term future of these cities.

While the exhibition still travels to more cities in India, we were inspired to take the process one step further. Zooming in on the national capital, our team embarked on an urban research initiative that looks at the long term livability of this multi-megapolis:
www.delhi2050.com

Anne Feenstra, Kabul
Principal arch i platform

archi
exploring design
new delhi kabul khorn amsterdam

INDIAN VISIONS DUTCH METHODS