



## India Platform

Report of the visit to Pune in November 2014

Jakob De Roover, Principal Advisor, India Platform

**1. Meeting: IP Focus Group Liveable Cities: Research@Brick: *Development of a new research group or cluster at the Brick School of Architecture, Pune***

**Date:** 21/11/2014

**Place:** Brick School of Architecture, Pune

**Present:** Pooja Misal (Executive Director), Poorva Keskar (Principal in Charge), Anand Iyer (Academic Coordinator), Ketaki, Minu Premji Joshi, Rachna Nair, Vrushali, Vaidehi Khadke, Priyanka Mangaonkar, Mrinalini Hambarde, Sharduli Joshi, Manali, Isha, Ajay Vaidya, Jakob De Roover (Principal Advisor, India Platform), Sarah Melsens (Teaching faculty at BSA and Coordinator Maharashtra, India Platform).

**Report of the meeting:**

- Introduction of the India Platform and its Focus Group Liveable Cities by Jakob De Roover.
- Research@Brick, research interests expressed by faculty as of now:

• Priyanka Mangaonkar	• Indian crafts in architecture and interior design
• Sharduli Joshi	• water management and systems
• Vaidehi Khadke	• sustainability and environmental planning
• Mrinalini Hambarde	• landscape and environmental research
• Sarah Melsens	• changing role of the architect in urbanisation in India, urban architecture, building technology
• Sneha Pandey	• Architecture & public policy, Urban Regeneration, Social/ Mass Housing & Urban Poor, critical regionalism
• Yashoda Joshi	• Indian building technologies and craftsmen
• <u>Isha Panse</u>	• Livability of cities, Efficacy of Residential Open spaces, Social parameters of Slum rehabilitation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vrushali Burle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>craft and technology, craft cluster, Design intervention in craft practice, wood carving cluster in Ahmadabad- Current scenario, Gujarat</li> </ul>
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- From the discussions concerning the Research@Brick plan so far 3 broad research labs emerged that could be developed at BRICK:
  - “Sustainability” lab: sustainable building + living
  - “Indian crafts and building technology” lab
  - “Urban design” lab

The number of labs and their thematic scope can be expanded, accordingly as Brick faculty are interested in other research themes and topics.

- Currently, the idea is that Brick School of Architecture will provide funding to pay participants of a monthly half-day lab-meeting to work on:
  - Proposals for research projects (team based) in or around Pune
  - Exploring possible funding (private/public)
  - Looking out for calls for papers, conferences, calls for consultancy projects
  - Looking out for interactions with local media and PR
  - Exploring sources relating to research domain

The Lab-meetings will preferably be organised within academic hours. If this is not possible this semester, they will be organised on Saturdays, after 3pm.

#### **Possible involvement of India Platform:**

- Networking for research collaborations with European members on topics of Brick’s research lab
- Bringing in European experts for summer/winter schools
- Helping with consultancy assignments e.g. Dharmastala as model for pilgrimage towns, feasibility studies of Tier 3 cities. One of the ideas that came up is to set up a network of pilgrimage towns in India and work together with them in planning the town. There also was discussion on studying the organization of the Kumbh Mela in Nasik.
- Organisations of international conferences in India on liveable cities where interdisciplinary discussion can take place
- Involving academics who can help to build research-based elective courses (10% the course time can go to such courses)

## Next steps

- Fixing calendar time for lab-meetings.
- Defining how to involve the IP Focus Group Liveable Cities in building *Research@Brick*.

### 2. Visit to the campus and meetings at the MIT Group of Institutions: *Discussion on becoming India Platform stakeholder.*

**Date:** 22/11/2014

**Place:** MIT Group of Institutions

**Present:** Dr. Samir Kagalkar, Director, MIT School of Government; Prof. Deepak Apte (Group Captain), Director, MIT School of Business; Swapnil Patil, Advisor to the Management, MIT Group of Institutions; Prof. Jakob De Roover, India Platform.

#### Report of the meetings:

This visit was organized by Dr. Samir Kagalkar, the new Director of the MIT School of Government, who wanted the larger MIT Group of Institutions to join the India Platform because he has long admired the work India Platform is doing. There were several meetings between the management and Prof. Jakob De Roover. They expressed their desire to become a stakeholder of the India Platform and want to have the head of the group sign the stakeholder agreement during a visit by Prof. Balagangadhara.

MIT Group of Institutions will potentially be a very interesting partner for India Platform. They are a very large private educational group with a variety of colleges and research centres, with a total of more than 60,000 students. They take all kinds of initiatives, from an all-India student parliament to initiating research on the Indian traditions. It would be interesting to house an India Platform office at this institution, if they are interested in doing so.

### 3. Meeting: IP Focus Group Liveable Cities: *An invitation to think and work together*

**Date:** 24/11/2014

**Place:** Offices of the National Institute for Advanced Studies in Architecture (NIASA) in Pune.

**Present:**

Name	Organization	e-mail	Mobile
Mr. Prakash Deshmukh	President Indian Institute of Architects	ar.psdia@gmail.com	
Ms. Jayashree Deshpande	Director National Institute for Advanced Studies in Architecture	director.niasa@gmail.com	9049700352
Ms. Aneeta Gokhale Benninger	Centre for Development	<a href="mailto:ed@cdsaindia.org">ed@cdsaindia.org</a>	9850717857

	Studies and Activities (CDSA)		
Mr. Piyush Bajpai	Multitude design & development consultants	<a href="mailto:piyush@themultitude.in">piyush@themultitude.in</a>	9762177777
Ms. Sneha Bajpai	Multitude design & development consultants	<a href="mailto:sneha@themultitude.in">sneha@themultitude.in</a>	9820089581
Mr. Siddhartha Benninger	Centre for Development Studies and Activities (CDSA)	<a href="mailto:Siddhartha@cdsaindia.org">Siddhartha@cdsaindia.org</a>	9881133126
Mr. Tejas Joshi	Janwani: NGO working on urban planning	<a href="mailto:tejas@janwani.org">tejas@janwani.org</a>	9921990087
Mr. Nikhil Mijar	Cypher (urban planning consulting)	<a href="mailto:Nikhil.mijar@gmail.com">Nikhil.mijar@gmail.com</a>	9881064459
Mr. Dhruva Rajan	Geospoc (GIS consulting)	<a href="mailto:dhruvu@geospoc.com">dhruvu@geospoc.com</a>	8237827341
Mr. Ajay Vaidya	ECOUR (sustainable + urban design)	<a href="mailto:ajayvaidya@outlook.com">ajayvaidya@outlook.com</a>	9561000690
Mr. Jakob De Roover	India Platform	<a href="mailto:Jakob@india-platform.org">Jakob@india-platform.org</a>	
Ms. Sarah Melsens	India Platform	<a href="mailto:Sarah.melsens@india-platform.org">Sarah.melsens@india-platform.org</a>	7875880616

### Report of the meeting:

- The meeting started with an introduction round, where each participant explained his or her expertise and interests:
  - Prakash: design of integrated townships (Magarpatta City and Nanded in Pune)
  - Ajay: research on Pune Metro
  - Piyush: engineering, financing, design
  - Sneha: policy, real-estate law, design
  - Tejas: micro-level urban planning
  - Siddharth: economist
  - Aneeta: research on development problems and processes
  - Jayashree: architecture education, network of all architecture colleges
  - Dhruva: GIS

- Nikhil: Street design guidelines, transport design
- Jakob: comparative study of Indian and European culture
- Sarah: research on the role of the architect in urbanisation in India
- This was followed by a presentation of the India Platform (IP), its Focus Group Liveable Cities focus group and its European members.
- There were several links and matches between the expertise of the participants and that of some of the European members of the IP Focus Group Liveable Cities. These concerned the following fields of expertise in particular:
  - Social scientific study of cities and urban life
  - Transport design
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Urban planning
  - Sustainable design
- Each participant was invited to send a one- or two-page proposal to the IP Focus Group in order to explore potential collaborative projects between the Indian participants and the European members of the IP Focus Group. This can concern tentative research proposals or expressions of interest in specific research collaborations between Europe and India. It can also concern expressions of interest in involving the European members as consultants or experts for practical implementation projects. The aim is to provoke the interest of the European members for doing research concerning topics and problems related to India. The following specific topics were proposed by some of the participants:
  - To develop an alternative holistic or integrated model for Transport Oriented Development by studying the case of Pune and the development of its new metro (Ajay).
  - To compose an integrated data map of Pune city using GIS technology (Dhruva, Siddharth).
  - Looking at agriculture in an urban context (Siddharth, Aneeta).
  - Other proposals will be formulated.
- Areas with scope of collaboration for consultancy:
  - Green energy cities: Prakash suggested that European experts in green energy can be involved in practical projects. There is concrete demand here from developers in the Pune region.
- In order to prevent that research efforts are shelved without application, the different participants of the meeting and the IP Focus Group will aim to network with and involve the following partners as soon as a specific research project is defined:

- Governmental organisations
- Renowned research institutions
- Private businesses or developers