“diverse attempts at understanding and practicing context responsive post colonial architecture, urban design and planning in Karachi, Pakistan”

“A Personal Approach to Intervening in Post Colonial As Found Spaces in Karachi, 1994-2014”

asiya sadiq polak and christophe polack

June 2014

Lecture at Bonn University, Germany
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conventional Practice</th>
<th>Current Practice</th>
<th>Desired Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policies</td>
<td>Policies</td>
<td>Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plans</td>
<td>Plans</td>
<td>Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ingredients of Professional Practice

• Sustainable architecture, urban design, research and art practice

• Design Studio – Realm of ideas, advocacy and practice

• Social History Preservation – A Must for Sustainable Conservation and Urbanism

• City, Citizens and Space Institutional and Professional Linkages

• Rejuvenation of the Tangible and Intangible Heritage for a Collective Identity

• Research and Extension

Realms of Professional Practice

• Arch. Research & Design
• Advocacy
• Urban Planning Development
• Urban Design
• Adaptive Reuse
• Publication and Dissemination
• Tangible Intangible Heritage Conservation

Vision And Objectives
DESIGN BY RESEARCH
Sadiq Asiya, Ahmad Suneela, "How People Face Evictions – Case of Hasan Aulia Village in Karachi", a research carried out for the Development Planning Unit, University College London (DPU/UCL) and the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF), U.K.. Published by DPU/UCL, May 2010. www.neduet.edu.pk/arch_planning/index.html
Social History Documentation and Preservation –
A Must for Sustainable Conservation and Urbanism
Design Studio- a realm of ideas, advocacy and practice
City, Citizens and Space
Rejuvenation of the **Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Karachi**
Diverse Attempts at Sustainable architecture, urban design, research and art practice
ARCHIVE BUILDING UNDER URBAN RESEARCH & DESIGN CELL (URDC)
at DAP–NED–UET, KARACHI
Sadiq Polak Asiya and Polak Christophe; “Livelihoods and the City Centre. Rehabilitating the Hawkers”, published City No 03, a quarterly on urban society by City Press, Jan-Mar 2003
Numerous related articles and interviews in “The Daily Times”, “The News” and “Herald Express Tribune” daily Newspapers.

The Hawkers of Saddar Bazaar
A Plan for the Revitalisation of Saddar Bazaar Karachi Through Traffic Rerouting and the Rehabilitation of its Hawkers

Arif Hasan
Asiya Sadiq Polak
Christophe Polak

Saddar’s problems can only be solved as part of a larger city planning exercise that deals with the traffic and transport problems of the city in general and Saddar in particular. The hawkers and entertainers in Saddar have to be seen as part of the transport issue and the transport issues as a part of them, without which their effective rehabilitation cannot take place.

The proposals presented are not sacrosanct and many alternatives to the traffic plan that has been proposed can be developed. However, if the concepts behind the proposals form the basis of a future revitalisation plan for Saddar, then Saddar can be converted into a multi-class entertainment and recreational area which the present day socially fragmented Karachi needs.
Member of the editorial board of the Proceedings of the international Seminars on Urban Research and Regional Planning at NED-UET Department of Architecture and Planning
INTRODUCTION

Urban Research and Design Cell (URDC) at the Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP) at the (NED-UET) was initiated in 2007 by a group of resident academics/architects and associated professionals.

URDC aims to consolidate and promote urban research, design and advocacy activities already taking place at DAP-NED-UET as part of its academic activities and related faculty’s work. It also aims to initiate new urban design thinking and create a network with related professional researchers and activities.

URDC aims to engage in new initiatives with architects, planners and researchers, promoting and practicing informed urban planning and design projects by sharing research and advocacy activities.

OBJECTIVES

- Promotion of a new Urban Planning and Design Paradigm.
- Research & Extension.
- Provision of a platform for Advocacy, Research and Practice Interaction.
- Studio as a means of Professional Linkage.
- Outreach to all concerned stakeholders.
- Development of Urban Design as a Profession in
- Consolidation of URDC as a professional body.

SERVICES RENDERED

Urban Research and Design:
- Urban design, planning & research practice which provides contextually appropriate solutions.
- Research and critique on urban design, planning and development issues, projects and trends in the city of Karachi.
- Identification of pertinent research topics and projects for formulating alternatives in the studios, delivery to professional groups creating a link between academia and practice.
- Undertaking self initiated design projects on urban planning and design in the city investigating / debating / discussing the emerging trends and practices working towards increasing and developing scope for producing spatially coherent sustainable forms of urban development.

Networking and Advocacy:
Advocacy and advisory services to the local government, communities and other related stakeholders on pertinent projects.

Publication of Research:
Publication of research produced resulting in reference and teaching materials.

Allied Activities:
Conferences, Seminars, Lectures, Panel discussions and Exhibition of pertinent works.
Our work stretches across a broad range of creative and spatial practice. We are involved in practising, teaching and theorizing in the fields of architecture, urban design and the adaptive reuse and revitalization of tangible and intangible heritage that sustains social and urban change. Tangible in the form of built heritage and its conservation projects; intangible in the form of the economic and cultural potential of projects such as the revitalization plan for Saddar Bazaar in Karachi.

Our commitment to live and work within an environment in need of sustainable development has been inspired by a personal, professional and intellectual involvement in the ongoing processes of change, in developing institutions which are able to support and facilitate stakeholders, citizens and professionals who are engaged in formal and informal projects for social change. To achieve this, our approach has been to form collaborations for projects and proposals with peers and professionals, bridging the gap between theory and practice, research and academia.

Most of our urban research and consequent design proposals advocate the provision of public space and access to it at all levels in society, where space sharing could result in the acceptance of diversity and a collective social identity. Projects actualized and proposed range from public space indexing, recuperating unused areas along storm drains (nala) to the revitalization of old and neglected neighborhoods (mohalla) in the city. For example, the design of Khuda ki Basti incremental housing scheme in Taiser town in Karachi has been designed in collaboration with architect Arif Hasan, to incorporate collective open spaces within in each mohalla. The scheme is tied to a central spine of communal facilities to promote social interaction, pedestrians and urban farming using a windmill and recycled water. Khuda ki Basti is a fully occupied multi-ethnic settlement. We consider architecture as an art form within a larger context and the city as a living museum. All art and architecture becomes formal via public engagement and an understanding of collective problem solving, identifying innovative ways to reclaim and re-imagine shared public space.

During the exhibition, The Rising Tide: New Directions in Art from Pakistan 1990 to 2010 we propose to use the city as a live museum, with walks and interventions deploying the city as an expanded exhibition space bringing lived everyday experiences with their tensions, paradoxes, inventiveness, and pressing demands into the Museum galleries. Guided walking tours will engage informal public spaces in neglected mohallas and precincts of the city linking its art and architecture with the evolving urban landscape. These walks will incorporate elements of public spatial practice and intangible culture: residents, traders, transporters, visitors and the police. The interaction between the residents and the visitors will form the central theme of the walks. Our exhibit will naturally evolve and change throughout the course of the exhibition, reinforcing the idea of a live exhibit and the city as a mutating organism which has to be feasted for its resilience and creativity.
IIED DENSITY STUDY
04 Cases of Housing in Karachi
www.density.org

Research Supervisor
Architect Arif Hasan

Research Partner
An assignment undertaken by the Urban Research and Design Cell (URDC)
Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology (DAP-NED-UET), Karachi

Research Team Members
Assoc. Prof. Architect Asiya Sadiq, Asst. Prof. Masooma Shakir, Architect Suneela Ahmed, Engr. Mansoor Raza, 4th and 5th year architecture students,
DAP-NED-UET

Report Writing & Compilation

Address: Urban Research & Design Cell (URDC), Department of Architecture and Planning,
City Campus NED University of Engineering and Technology, Maulana Din Mohammed Wafai Road, Behind DJ. Science College, Karachi
Contact numbers: 92-21-2620793, 92-21-9213058 (fax)
E mail: asadiq@neduet.edu.pk

Sadiq Asiya, Saeedudeen Ahmad,
With assistance from faculty team and research assistants.