

ABHINAND S U,

TVE19MUD012

SOCIAL ACTIVATION OF THE CITY THROUGH URBAN PLAY:

Case of Attakulangara, Thiruvananthapuram

The world is undergoing rapid urbanization and with the built density levels rising up the number of open spaces and green areas are getting diminished. Which leads to reduced activity levels where people are focused towards their workloads and its stress, money and commitment towards family etc. The importance of play in their lifestyle is neglected and play is considered as unproductive. The after effects are that it eventually leads to poor physical and mental health. That is clearly evident from the increase in chronic and lifestyle diseases among the majority of the population. At present the city's character is defined to cater the needs of vehicular traffic and economic growth which eventually neglects the playful and fun elements that are not only crucial for the kids and younger generation but also for all the people irrespective of age, gender, cast or ethnicity.

This research defines 'Play' as an emotion that generates happiness in our life and it could occur in our daily activities such as speaking, eating, playing, studying, working etc. If these activities create a sense of happiness it is considered as play. The study anticipates integrating play into the dense urban environment where a social interaction is lacking and to make such places more creative, efficient, joyful and improve the bonding among the community. Hence 'Play' could be considered as an effective tool to socially activate the urban environment and to improve the quality of life in the city.

Keywords: Urban play, Playfulness, Urbanization, Social activation, Social sustainability & Urban Quality

AMRUTHA JAYAN,

TVE19MUD002

URBAN DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR RENEWAL OF MULTICULTURAL NEIGHBOURHOODS:

A Case of Mattancherry

Cities are home to prosperity. Different cultural, ethnic, and linguistic groups exist together in the city. Multicultural societies bring together people from different communities and ethnicities enabling social equality and harmony. Mattancherry reflects the multicultural character of a city with the different communities living together within a radius of 5 km, creating a diverse and vibrant environment. The area developed mainly due to the convenience they offered as a trading port. Once a trade and commercial hub for centuries, the city now faces the issue of economic blight due to the shift of trade from the coast to the mainland. The thesis aims to understand Mattancherry through the multicultural neighbourhood to address urban renewal. The characteristics of Intercultural Urbanism and theories associated with it are understood to analyze the study area on the different layers of urban fabric.

The thesis seeks to identify the issues and find solutions to address the economic blight in the historic core of the city. The study explores the different cultures of the city. The impact of events like Kochi Biennale on the life of the people in Mattancherry is understood. The project tries to identify strategies and recommendations to uplift the economy and activate the study area by solving the economic, social and spatial issues. It is demonstrated through a design intervention in a selected precinct.

Keywords: *Urban renewal, Intercultural placemaking, Ethnic communities, Economy*

APARNA RAJEEVAN,

TVE19MUD004

REIMAGINING PUBLIC REALM USING FLEXIBLE URBAN SPACES:

A Case of VOC Grounds & Parks, Coimbatore

The cities are losing their unbuilt spaces to urbanization leading to high density, compact settlements with little or no open green spaces. These are the spaces where the public realm thrives, which is required for better quality of life, social cohesion and sustainable living. Indian cities have reached a condition where it is impossible to provide the required open space per capita, because there is hardly any space left to create a public open space where all user groups can get along unanimously. The research explores how the limited open space can be productively used to satisfy the recreational needs of all user groups of an urban area. Reusing the same space multiple times for different activities at different times for different user groups will make the space available for a larger crowd apart from providing the space with just one function. As a primary study, the city of Coimbatore was understood with regards to the trends in usage and formulation of public realm in the city. As the city lacks the standard quantum of open space required, the existing public space - VOC ground and parks which lies in the city centre is used to demonstrate flexible urban design. The project also tries to meet the requirements of creating a good public realm, by solving the existing spatial, social and functional issues of the precinct and by giving back open green spaces to the city.

Keywords: spatial flexibility, versatility, public realm, multiuse

ARJUN SASIDHARAN,

TVE19MUD005

DISASTER RESILIENT URBAN DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR AN ECOLOGICALLY VULNERABLE LOW LYING TOWN: A case of kalpetta, Wayanad

The rapid growth of the population in emerging nations, along with the massive movement of people to urban areas in search of better opportunities, services, and safety, has put a significant strain on existing urban infrastructure. This, along with the growing frequency of natural and man-made catastrophes, necessitates the search for paths to disaster prevention, preparedness, and recovery of infrastructure in modern cities. As a result, urban resilience has gained traction in the scientific community as a way to investigate cities' ability to encounter and survive catastrophic disaster occurrences. Cities are complex adaptive and reconciling systems with the potential to deal with resilience in the direction of sustainability through the proper application of transformational processes.

Keywords: Urban resilience, Low lying towns, Ecological Vulnerability, Resilient built infrastructure

ASISH KANNAN BADUSHA J,

TVE19MUD006

URBAN DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE ZONES:

A case of Punnamada Lake, Alappuzha

India has a network of landscape varieties that includes a wide range of terrains including mountains, Ramsar sites, Tiger reserves, and national parks. Due to immense tourism pressure and infrastructure development projects, the eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) or sensitive areas around those areas are shrinking and, in some cases, close to zero, or non-existent. Many communities are under immense pressure to balance economic development and environmental protection. Now people recognize that the uncontrolled development could lead to irreversible losses of Eco-sensitive zones and hence the natural habitat itself. Kerala, the beautiful southern tip of India is one of the popular tourist destinations in the world because of its rich wildlife, pristine vegetation, rugged mountains, and tranquil life. Kerala, renowned for its backwaters holds greater chances for backwater tourism and related activities and hence Punnamada Lake becomes one of the hotspots. The categorization as a Tourism promotion zone in 2016 proposed master plan of Alappuzha district attracted many real estate eyes into the Punnamada lake region. The lake is the spine for the Agricultural heritage "Pokkali rice cultivation", the only one of its kind in the world, and the great Nehru trophy boat race, a significant cultural event that proclaims the cultural heritage of Kerala. While tourism is the backbone of Alappuzha's economy it has also contributed to pollution and pressure on natural resources through over-consumption. It is this threat that gives rise to the opportunity of exploring urban design strategies for responsible tourism. This paper explores responsible tourism-based strategies that will ensure environmental conservation while empowering communities and the local economy in Punnamada.

Keywords: Ecologically sensitive zone, responsible tourism, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage

BENITH A EQBAL,

TVE19MUD007

RE-IMAGINING VARKALA TOWN AS A GATEWAY THROUGH PLACE BRANDING

Urban gateways are the first encounter of tourists which inform them about the destination and support both tourist and destination with infrastructure. The character of urban gateway has an important role in marketing of destinations as it gives the first image and first experience to the tourist. The concern of this thesis is what could be the character of urban gateway that address diverse destinations? The thesis starts with the understanding of urban gateways as the immediate 'place' of influence of destination and how place branding techniques could be used to re-develop an urban area for a new identity. An intense study of Varkala, which is a prominent beach destination, pilgrimage centre and a potential health tourism destination, is done. The methodology carried out includes study of Varkala at different levels to understand various destination in Varkala regarding its built character, infrastructure requirements, activity and movement patterns and Varkala town centre for its built character, spatial quality and infrastructure. The study concluded that Varkala town centre act as a gateway regarding connectivity but has character that of a regular small town in Kerala and doesn't inform about any of the destinations it addresses.

The thesis focuses on re-developing an urban area that addresses diverse destinations into a gateway through character building and by guiding infrastructure development. The thesis is concluded by developing urban design guidelines and recommendation and site-specific design demonstration.

Keywords: Urban gateway, Place branding. Built character, Spatial quality

CHIMMU MARIA GEORGE,

TVE19MUD008

PLACES FOR CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SMALL TOWNS: A CASE OF ARANMULA

Cultural homogenization is one of the aspects of globalization that has led to loss of cultural identity and sense of place along with loss of traditional knowledge. Creative industries remain as the only tie that holds together cultural heritage with modern cities. Traditional crafts are often reflections of the cultural ecology of a place, which are passed on through generations. Traditional crafts have evolved to form creative industries that create, produce as well as commercialize creative goods and services. They are now seen as an essential part of economic development in contemporary cities.

The Pampa river basin has played a prominent role in nurturing culture and civilizations as a source of livelihood for millions since time immemorial but today many of its traditional crafts are dying. Increasing the economic competitiveness of a city is crucial for sustaining its industries. Recent research has been centered on how creative industries could be brought under the umbrella of entrepreneurialism through creativity based development. This study adds to the research by exploring the cultural, spatial and environmental characteristics that lead to creative individuals establishing businesses in a particular area. The primary focus of the study was given to the AranmulaKannadi making industry and other crafts and folk art of the small town in Kerala. The spatial needs, as well as entrepreneurship opportunities, of the industry in focus were studied. With the understanding from research, the study proposes spatial strategies for developing Aranmula's creative entrepreneurship capabilities by enhancing the production and supply of its creative capital.

Keywords: Creative city, urban entrepreneurialism, Creative Places, Cultural Heritage

DONA SANTHOSH,

TVE19MUD009

YOUTH FRIENDLY CITY: Case of Kottayam

Youth are the most sensitive and important group in a society. Their wellbeing and physical activity is seen declining as a consequence of undermining independent mobility and free will due to the structure and constraints posed by contemporary urban environments. This research aims to study the built environment of the younger generation as a responsive “third place”, a crucial spatial aspect moulding youth’s lives, discussing the space and scale of youth and the challenges laid out in the urban environment. Their interests, concerns and ideas about the outside world are characterized by those urban places. The aim of the thesis follows around the questions, what led to the issues of loss of youthfulness, how the environment affects the key dimensions of youth’s well-being and are youth the key to building a sustainable resilient future. And so, the research reviews the concepts of youth friendly cities and describes different approaches to evaluate youth friendliness.

Engaging in a broad qualitative approach, using the third space theory as the literature, understanding the relationship between youth and place through placemaking and applied case studies at different scales across the globe, the thesis tries to derive the role the physical environment adapts to the narrative of youth’s urban experiences. Analyzing the prevailing designing and planning of youth-friendly environments, the thesis defies the benefits of youth friendly urbanism that resonate qualities of good neighborhoods and cities.

Kottayam is an educational hub, meeting the demands of students from other part of the state also. There is every chance to excelling the existing status and there are already proposal for certain national Institutions around the Planning area (Masterplan, 2019). In the emerging interest of the resilient urban practices in Kottayam, the thesis examines the principle framework of youth friendly design, promoting to reframe the structure with youth being the catalytic driver of change. The thesis concludes with the revelation and acknowledgement of youth friendly design to be incorporated and approached in urban designing a place for a change. This thesis tries to find a framework for making urban places for the younger generation.

Keywords : Younger generation, Third space, Youth friendly city, Public spaces

FABYA THAILA CHANDY MOHAMMED

TVE19MUD010

Beyond Noise: Urban Sonic Placemaking

To date, many cities caught up in the process of urbanization pursue development strategies limited to visual aesthetics, overlooking its impact on the sound environment. Though city designers have created effective noise regulations, sounds have not been used as a resource and are often neglected in urban design.

Considering this gap, the thesis examines the existing theory and best practices for sound considered urban design. An in-depth study of the existing spatial and sonic structure of Palayam in Thiruvananthapuram, conducted through visual, behavioral, and sound mapping technique reveals that apart from physical territories, sonic arenas also exist within the precinct. These are formed by zone-based functions or dynamic human activities, often overlapping with spatial boundaries creating an unappealing audio-visual interaction. Also, the transformation of urban morphology and rising traffic over the past vicennial has put the place into a constant change, thereby challenging the future of visual and sonic experiences in Palayam.

Thus, practical implications have been derived for integrating soundscapes and placemaking to address this issue. Thereby, the thesis sets forth place-specific guidelines and targeted interventions to create a sound-conscious environment in Palayam. In this context, the thesis concludes that soundscape ideologies actually complement urban design principles and that this can be used to enhance the experience in any environment in future.

Keywords: activity, morphology, placemaking, sounds, urban spaces

GAYATHRI RANAGITH,

TVE19MUD011

**MITIGATING 'DAY ZERO' THROUGH MORPHOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS,
A CASE OF PALAKKAD, KERALA**

ABSTRACT

Water is an essential resource for our survival. Similarly, water resources are the drivers of modern settlements from villages to cities to megacities. Most of the cities have evolved around a water body. Rapid urbanization and growing population in the urban centres are resulting in overexploitation of these resources, thus raising concerns regarding our water security. Day zero experience in Johannesburg, South Africa and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, India are just some examples out of many.

According to a recent study by Niti Aayog, 60 million Indians are at risk of severe water scarcity, and 21 Indian cities are at risk of Day Zero. They also published the findings of a report that found that if no action is taken, demand for potable water will outstrip supply by 2030. The growing Urban population and settlement patterns around the world are increasing the pressure on natural ecosystems like groundwater, lakes, rivers and more importantly wetlands. Urban Morphology, the study of urban form is lacking in most of the development projects. Due to lack of Urban Design guidelines, unsustainable settlement pattern and density increases, which in turn increases the water demand. This results in drawing more ground water without recharging them. Unexpected destructions are causing instability in these systems and impacting their resilience.

Out-of-date urban planning/urban design models and implementation systems without consideration towards urban morphology and care for the fragile ecosystem are the main threats. What we need is a sustainable solution in Urban Design to ensure that our cities don't run dry.

The intent of this Thesis is to derive urban design guidelines and strategies based on urban morphology to mitigate Day Zero for Palakkad city. A new growth potential area will be identified and a prototype will be designed in that area as a model for the entire city. The thesis becomes more relevant to the context of a future wherein our government is planning to build 100 smart cities across India and also India's growing population, 50% of which is expected to be urbanized by 2050.

KEYWORDS: Urban Morphology, Water, Urbanization, Day Zero, Urban Design Guidelines.

HARSHA R,

TVE19MUD012

REDEFINING IDENTITY OF A CITY THROUGH INTEGRAL URBANISM: A CASE OF KAKKANAD

ABSTRACT

Cities are considered to have evolved over time with amalgamating culture and modernity. When rapid urbanization takes over, the city gets drastically modified. There requires a balance of the authentic culture and community with the requirements of modern development. Strong urban design strategies that bridge the gap between urbanization and loss of identity. This research attempts to find the solution to the loss of identity by the concept of Integral Urbanism to integrate the boundaries of different sectors/zones and regain the identity of the city activating the spaces that lack social interactions. The case studies are chosen based on the different parameters of Integral urbanism. The methodology for evolving this research is based on the work Nan Ellin's theory of integral approach to creating an unhindered and integrated environment for the communities residing in the city.

Keywords: Integral Urbanism, Urban identity

LABEEBA LATHEEF,

TVE19MUD013

“KNOWLEDGE URBANISM AS A TOOL FOR REJUVENATION OF BROWNFIELD AREAS -case of Kallai timber industry area, Kozhikode

The proximity of the water to the city around the world made it possible for many industrial operations to locate their production sites. However, extensive development exploited this advantage by disregarding the environment, resulting in environmental degradation and mass unemployment as a result of functional changes. One such city precinct is Kallai which was a major trading center for timber worldwide. Its banks were once home to several timber mills. However, due to the drastic decline in the availability of timber, the mills have been disappearing. Thus the area needs rejuvenation. However, most of the brownfield rejuvenation do not address the potential of communities and natural factors which would affect the whole functional network of the city.

This thesis commences with the understanding from the brownfield characteristics study on specific characteristics of the site Kallai. In 1990, Porter argued that a unique location adds value to a knowledge space by creating a competitive advantage over other locations. This thesis aims to explore the factors that should be considered while designing a knowledge precinct. The study reveals that different factors like competitiveness, accessibility, cultural diversity, knowledge base, social equity, social tolerance, character, mixed-use, quality of life, scale, identity & social cohesion should be considered while designing a knowledge precinct.

This thesis focuses on deriving urban design strategies for knowledge-based urban rejuvenation of brownfields from knowledge urbanism application-level strategies and urban rejuvenation potential design strategy. To conclude, certain generic and site-specific guidelines with detailed design demonstration which helps to address a similar concern in a similar context.

Keywords: Brownfield, Urban Rejuvenation, Knowledge Urbanism

RICHU REGINA S FELIX,

TVE19MUD014

**TACTICAL URBANISM: ADAPTIVE TOOL FOR UPGRADING THE LIVEABILITY IN A NEIGHBORHOOD:
Case of Calvathy Kochi**

ABSTRACT

Goal of Tactical Urbanism is to test new designs and ideas that will improve the safety, health, and happiness of our neighborhoods, which relies on implementing new spaces or regenerating existing ones. A low-cost intervention includes tools for public involvement. Aim of this research is to develop the streets to improve the livability in the neighborhood through Tactical techniques focusing on the improvement the livelihood of the people in the locality. By improving the efficiency of street networks, strengthening the community by building the social connections, like gathering spaces, revitalizing the ecology, accessibility to work, education, health and community services. Calvathy is an ancient Muslim settlement having the roots back to history of trading in Kochi, which is high dense low rise in nature. Lack of open spaces, narrow streets and low level of basic infrastructure are the peculiarities of this region. The economic factor is the major contributor of the current scenario which has been drastically declined due to decline in manual force. The major factors of livability have been studied in detail with the existing site conditions and analyzed the issues. Which has been inferred as social interaction, earning a livable wage, safe, healthy and pleasant place, sustainable environment and reliable infrastructure. And finally urban design strategies are recommended to redevelop these factors for the improving the livability of the neighborhood. Concludes with the tactical design demonstration for upgrading the livelihood and economy of the people in the Calvathy area. In this research Tactical urbanism is proved to be the adaptive tool for improving the livable conditions of a settlement, where people are fixed with the external conditions they are living in.

Keywords:- Livelihood, Tactical Urbanism, Economy generation, Livability and neighborhood.

SHAHNA KC,

TVE19MUD015

TRANSFORMATIVE PLACE MAKING AS AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ADDRESS MULTI FACETED COASTAL EDGE: A case of Calicut

ABSTRACT

This paper is an enquiry, on how transformative place making can be an opportunity to integrate the multidirectional development happening on a multi-faceted coastal edge of Calicut beach where tourist spots/public areas, market, residential area has come along in consecutive areas. The contextual urgency of place led development utilises the tourism potential of the beachfront destination connecting with the cultural heritage of the area and direct towards an inclusive development envisions to achieve a strong locally rooted economic ecosystem, and local sustainability.

The urban growth that has no proper direction is leading the area to lose its identity. Community and cultural tourism potential of the site is completely neglected. The insensitivity towards cultural and built heritage, the disintegrated development pattern, lack of community participation in management are the issues that are identified. Firstly, the study identified the issues in the public realm and defined the context. Cases where transformative place making theories and approaches are done are studied. The study concluded that the idea of place is unique for each and every context and transformative place making is the best solution for place led development. So, strategies and guidelines on the basis of transformative place making are formulated and contextual design solutions are achieved.

Key words: transformative place making, urban transformation, Heritage, Community participation

VIGNESH R,

TVE19MUD017

NEGOTIATING STATIC, KINETIC AND EPHEMERAL SPACES IN SMALL TOWNS. CASE OF OACHIRA

The static, kinetic and ephemeral spaces of a small town and about its cultural, social and economic aspects which provides the eventscape and in further developments of the small town to an urban environment which caters to the future potentials and development possibilities. This thesis focuses on Oachira which is small town located near the Alleppey and Kollam border and is a culturally rich and historically prominent precinct which now serves as a small town catering the basic necessary needs to the neighbourhoods.

The study focuses on the town functions and operates during the seasonal and off seasonal times, its built characteristics and infrastructures facilities which supports the pilgrim developments and possible ways to generate local economy which further helps in the development of tourism and urbanization.

The whole process concludes by developing new strategies and guidelines that help Oachira for future developments and control over new developments in its settlement pattern, circulation pattern, activity pattern etc.

Key words: Economy generation, social aspects, Cultural association, ephemerality, Kinetic spaces and static spaces

THESIS 2021

REVITALISING THE TRADITIONAL COASTAL PRECINCTS OF PONNANI INTO A PEOPLE ORIENTED CITY

ABSTRACT

People's life and culture are the most important unique characters of every city. They should be dealt with utmost care during any developmental activities especially if that's a coastal area. So development activities should be done with considerations of future opportunities and threats of that particular area.

The thoughtless development proposals coming up to a densely populated coastal city, (which has an authentic rich tradition and important heritage value) will adversely destroy not only the traditional image of the city, but also there will be an occupational restructuring in the community living in coastal area especially fishermen community.

My thesis aims at revitalizing a fast developing traditional coastal city into a people oriented city. The study also includes the city study understanding the history, ecology, morphology and infrastructure of the area. It also involves the understanding and analysis of existing and future projects proposed by the government and how those projects actually benefits the people living there and the issues that may arise as a result of these projects. My thesis is focusing on coastal communities of Ponnani town. The precincts are selected considering various character areas of the city like traditional fisher men settlement, other coastal areas like harbour, Karuma road; Canoli canal area, traditional core of the city.

The expected design comes with the help of understandings based on the community needs and issues, providing alternate livelihood opportunities there by avoiding loss of occupation of the people. The design will be small urban design interventions which are sustainable and will not affect the ecological and cultural sensitivity of the place. The implementation of it will be in such a way that it can be beneficial for them as amenities and economic generators for a long term.

