

LIZ ANN NILE BEN | Prof. Sharath S R

Restructuring The Urban Fabric Through The Visual Frames Created By The Colonial Vestiges: Case Of Chennai

A city constitutes of many fragments that are essential in the shaping of the whole. How these fragments are put together and their interwoven relationship is what is particular about the design of the city. India has come a long way in the process of becoming urban India since the colonial era. Traditional Indian colonial settlements that are clearly structured based on their own internal logic are now rambling urban cities surging by the chaotic growth. It has been long accepted that the fundamental spatial structure plays an important role when navigating in urban environments. This research investigates the indigenous and colonial influences on the concept of 'Imageability' an essential quality of urban environments. Chennai city and its tryst with colonial antiquity not only remains to the obvious Indo – Sarcenic structures but also to the spatial layout and land use planning that stimulated growth and thereby creating urban foci in the amorphous city. Over time, the city has changed from concentrated and identifiable towns to sprawling urban areas. What is proposed here is that the idea of city is emergent, which expresses itself through the multiple unstructured articulations of everyday life fabricated from a juncture of power and resistance. This research evaluates the effectiveness of these integrated articulations in creating an urban image.

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