being nicely messy

discussing
MUMBAI'S FUTURE MOBILITY

CRIT
Oct,2012

1. on mumbai

2. on futures

3. on mobility

4. on approaching mumbai's future mobility
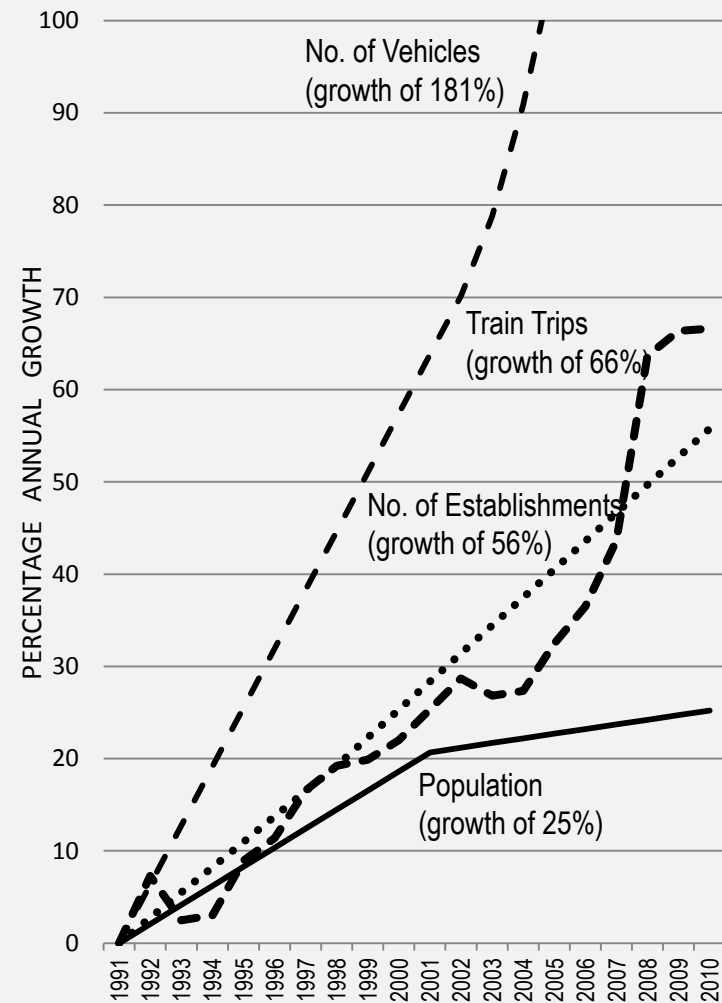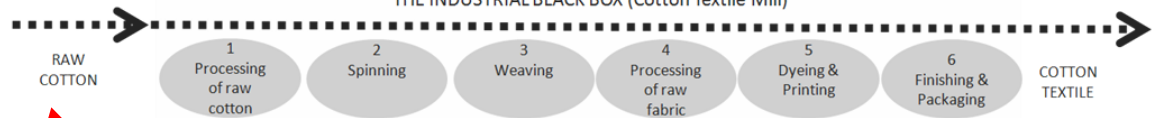
5. tools and possibilities

1.
MUMBAI

Mumbai is considered to be the financial capital of India contributing 33% to the total income tax collection. 40% of the total foreign trade takes place from here.

Since the past two decades, Mumbai's population has been growing much lesser than the national population growth. However, while the population in Mumbai grew by 25% between 1991 and 2010, the number of people traveling by trains during the same years increased by 66% and number of vehicles grew by 181%. At the same time, the number of enterprises in the city increased by 56%.

All of this indicates a restructuring of the economy, where nature of work and movement has changed.

Mumbai
468 sq.km
12.5 m people

PERCENTAGE ANNUAL GROWTH

No. of Vehicles
(growth of 181%)

Train Trips
(growth of 66%)

No. of Establishments
(growth of 56%)

Population
(growth of 25%)

100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010

THE INDUSTRIAL BLACK BOX (Cotton Textile Mill)

RAW COTTON

1 Processing of raw cotton
2 Spinning
3 Weaving
4 Processing of raw fabric
5 Dyeing & Printing
6 Finishing & Packaging
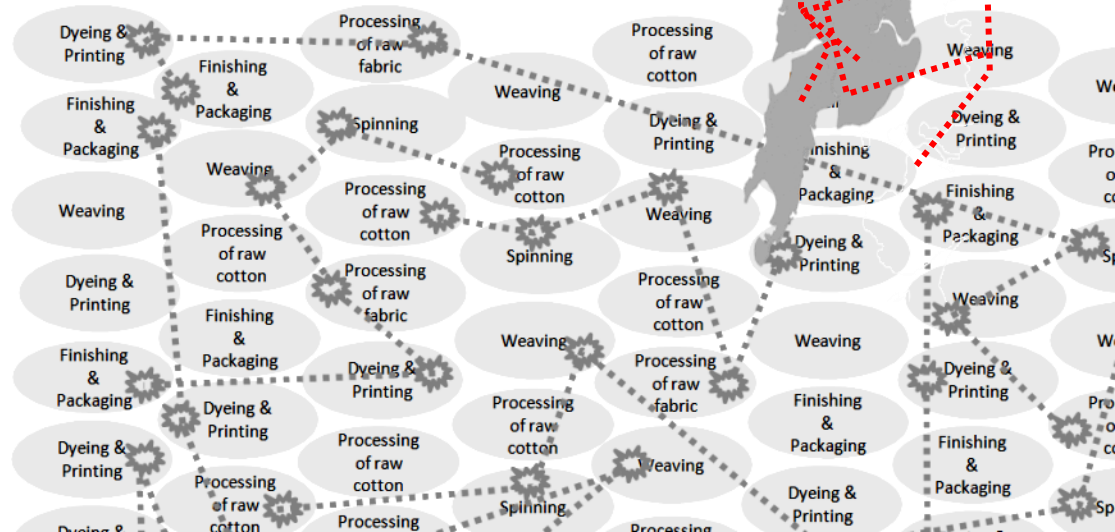
COTTON TEXTILE

2010

1990

economic restructuring & new movement patterns

An Amway Agent's House with a variety of goods for selling

A vendor with exotic vegetables and fruits

A health parlor in a site and services scheme

An interior design work in a middleclass house

A Specialized Stationary Provider for architects

An Ayurvedic Dentist in Kalbadevi

A Computer Peripherals Shop in Lamington Road
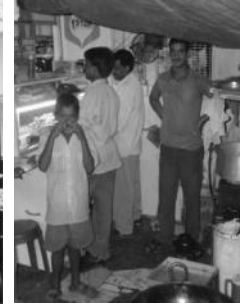
A Chai-vendor in Juhu

new patterns of work emerged as the new entrepreneurs struggled to survive and settle. they occupied varied locations and blurred the distinction between formality and informality; legality and illegality as all of them produced legitimate commodities and services.

new patterns of work & living

the entrepreneurs of Mumbai have innovatively occupied city spaces maximizing their efficiency and being rather discreet in their use of space. the most pronounced of such occupation are seen along the street edges.

the logic of the city - blurred edges
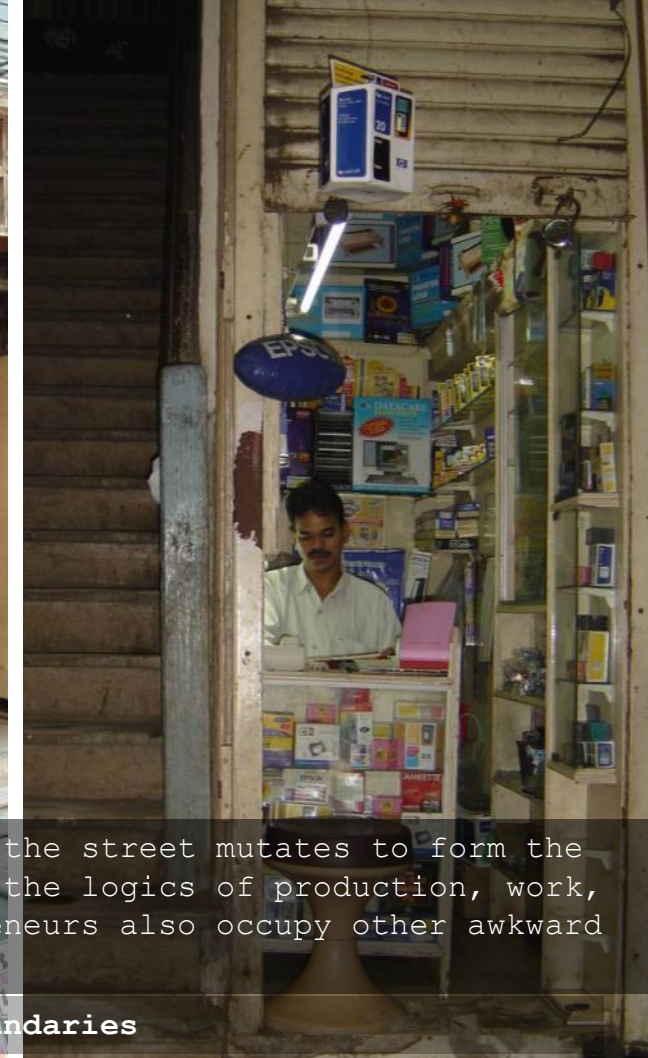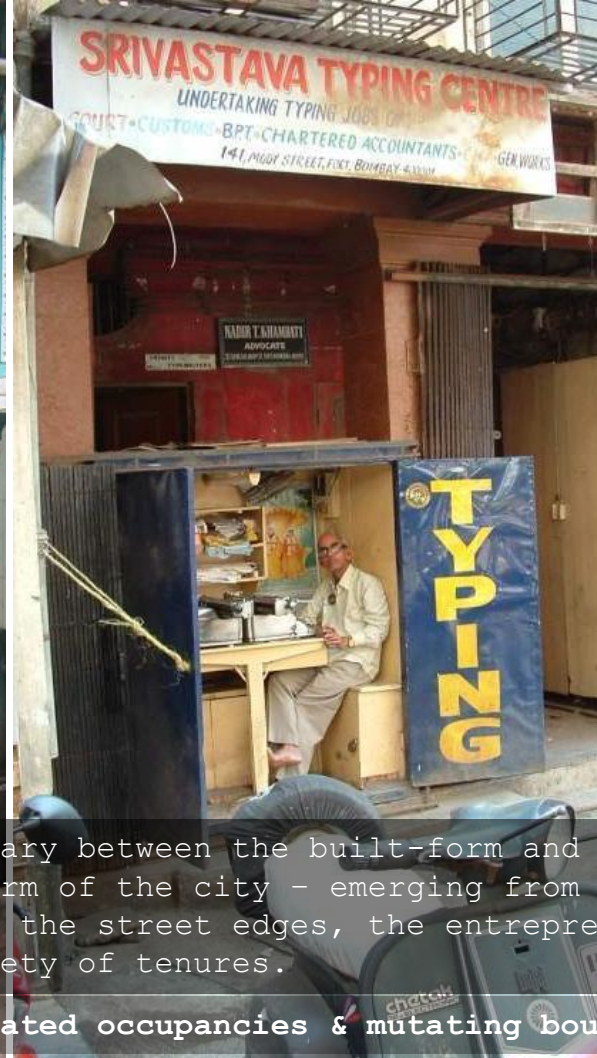
in many cases, the actual boundary between the built-form and the street mutates to form the blur. this blur is the urban form of the city — emerging from the logics of production, work, living and movement. along with the street edges, the entrepreneurs also occupy other awkward spaces — claimed through a variety of tenures.

the logic of the city — complicated occupancies & mutating boundaries

Community Space, Praying Hall

Owners House

Workers Dorm

Embroidery Units

Embroidery Units
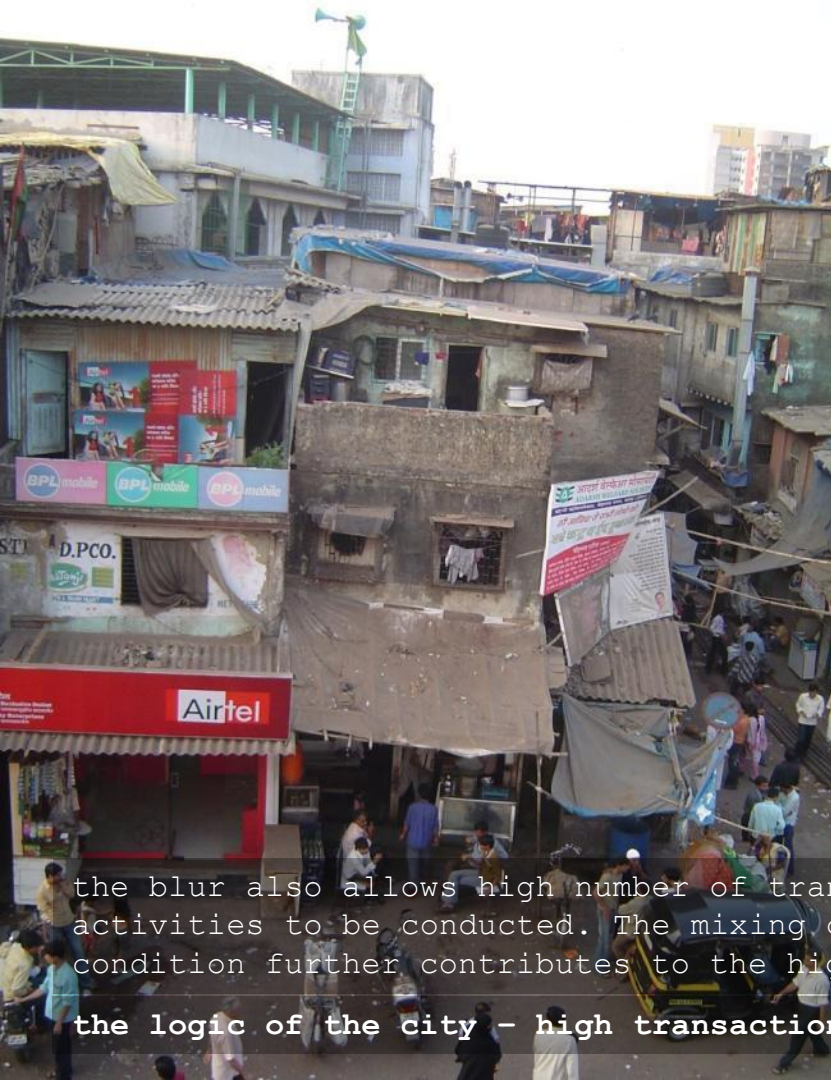
the blur also allows high number of transactions, allowing more people to live and more activities to be conducted. The mixing of activities that is afforded in the blurry, messy condition further contributes to the high transactional capacity of the urban form.

the logic of the city – high transactional capacities
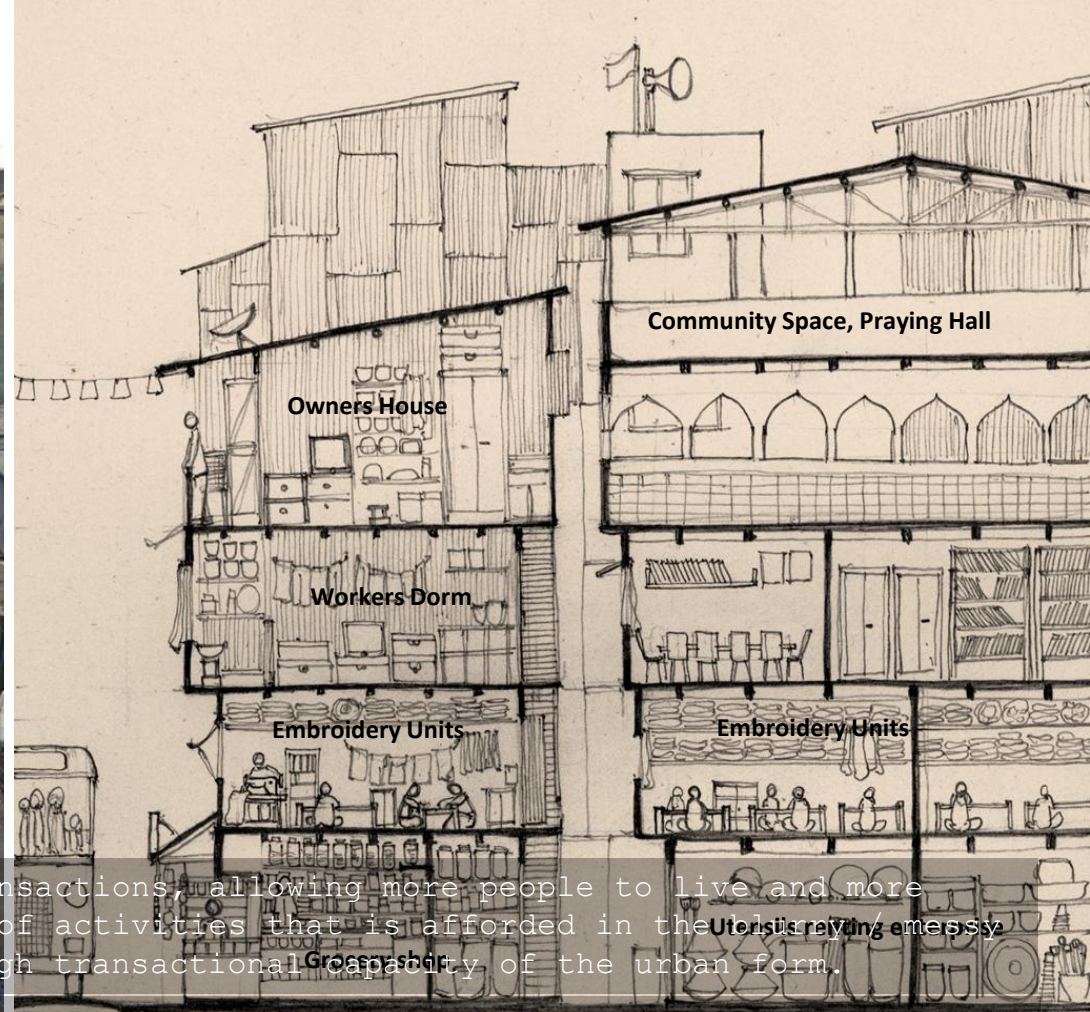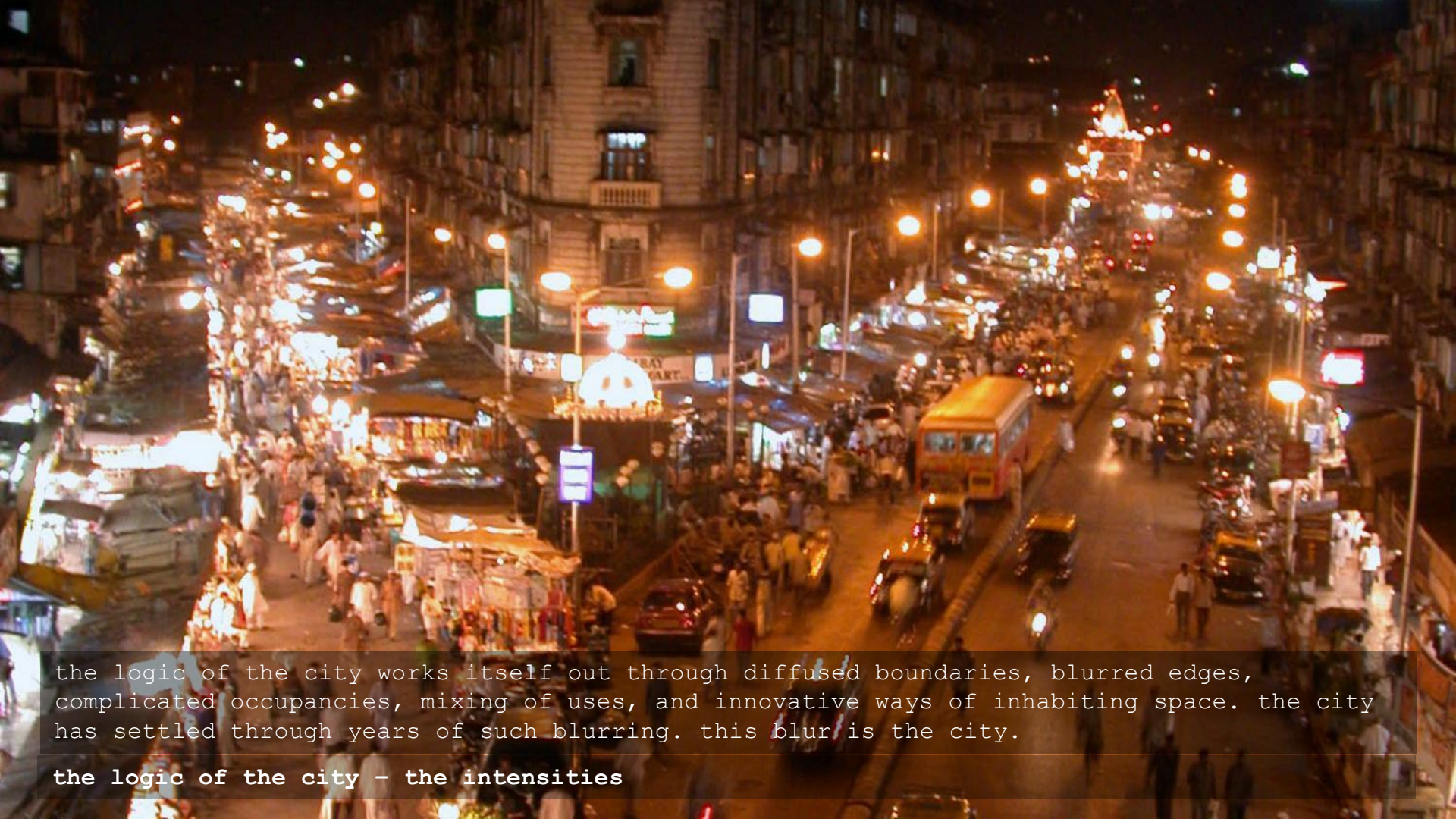
the logic of the city works itself out through diffused boundaries, blurred edges, complicated occupancies, mixing of uses, and innovative ways of inhabiting space. the city has settled through years of such blurring. this blur is the city.

the logic of the city – the intensities

in mumbai, spaces and forms blur allowing for high transactions between them

this blur forms the logic of the city
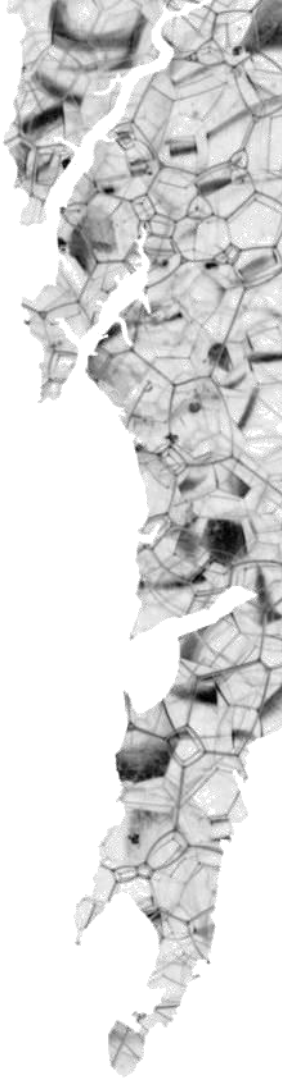
2.
FUTURE

Ideas about future cities have been dominated by two imaginations: first, of a utopian coherence unified by robust information systems and coordinated by super infrastructure; and second, a city engendered by catastrophes of environment, poverty, and deterioration. Inherent in these imaginations of coherence and catastrophes, is the idea of time as a singular linear rhythm, of space as an entity with fixed coordinates and of people as homogenous and inert mass.

The city, on the contrary, multiplies time(s), blurs boundaries, mixes categories, provides platforms, builds connections, and opens up probabilities to transact – creating possibilities for divergent future trajectories. To talk of "a" future for cities, be it utopian or dystopian, forecloses the possibilities that cities open.

Colonial Business District

Inner City Area with old dilapidated built fabric

Eastern waterfront (port & industry)

Dense Incremental Settlement near a railway station

Western waterfront (elite residential areas)

Suburban neighbor-hoods (middle class areas)

Suburban areas with incremental settlements

New Business Process Outsourcing Areas

City edge

every condition in the city
has a possibility of a different future
… of many futures

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Suburban areas with incremental settlements

New Business Process Outsourcing Areas

City edge

Growth in culture industry

Conservation, Eviction and cleaning of arcades

Further dilapidation of old building stock

Small piecemeal re-developments of individual properties

Growth of informal enterprise

every condition in the city
has a possibility of a different future
… of many futures

Dilapidation of buildings

Large scale urban renewal

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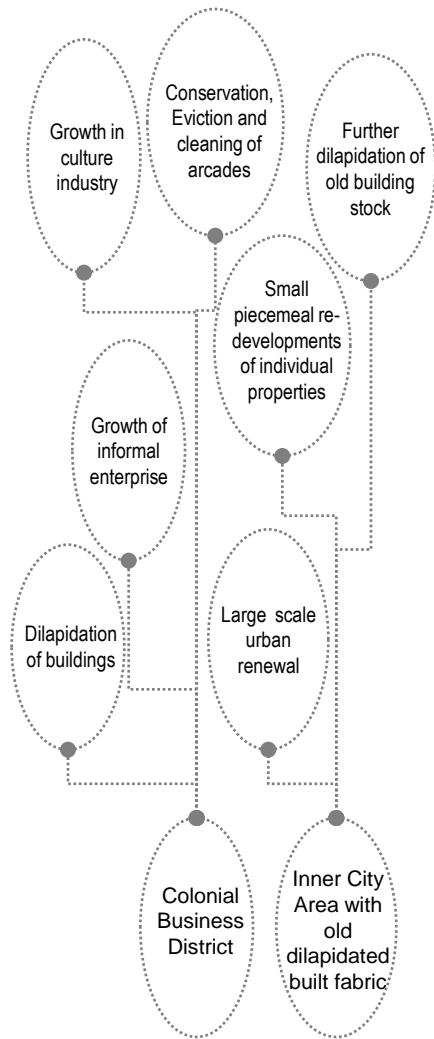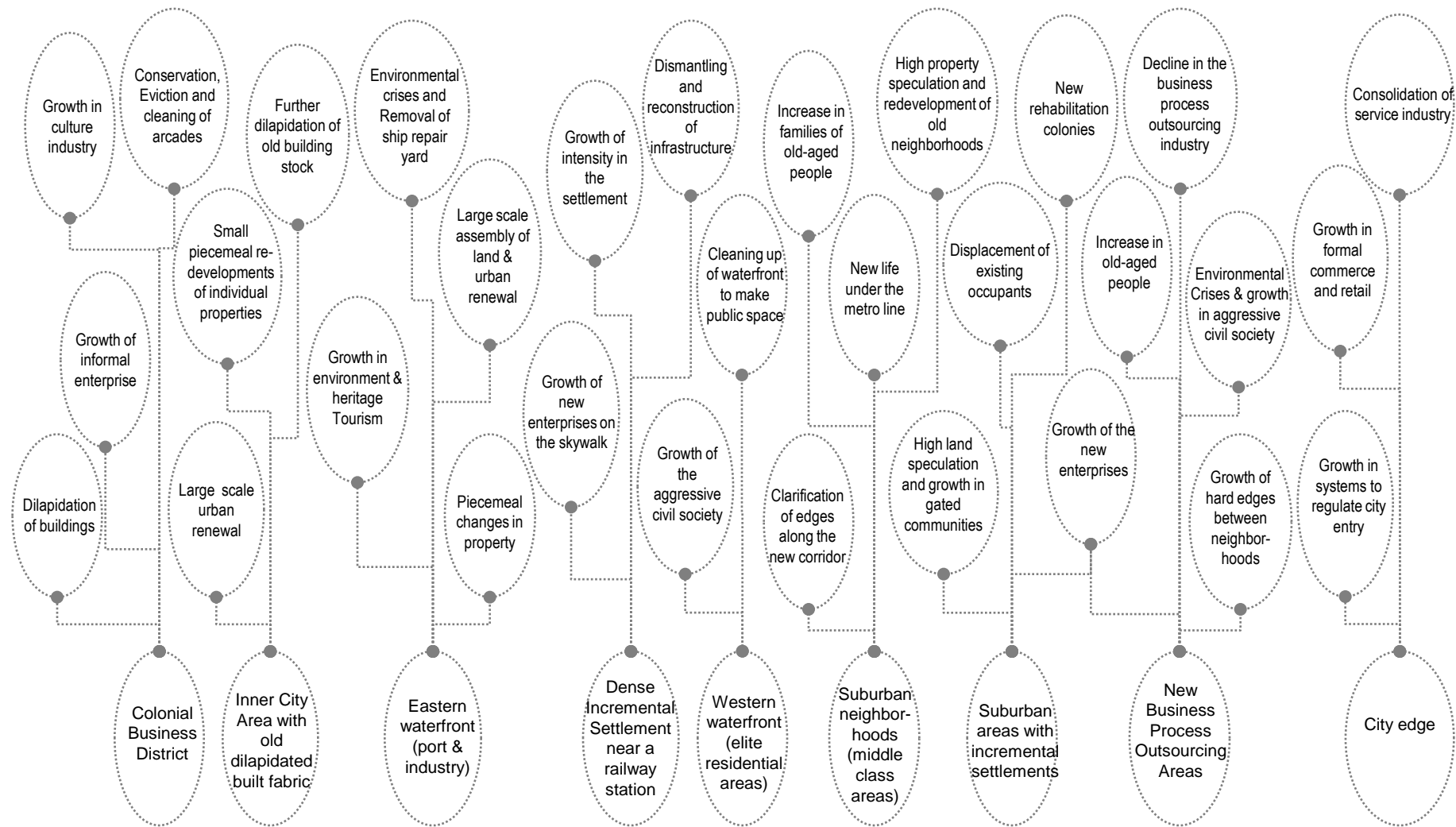
Dense Incremental Settlement near a railway station

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Suburban neighbor-hoods (middle class areas)

Suburban areas with incremental settlements
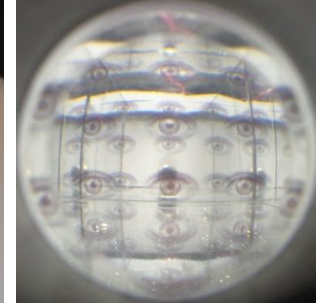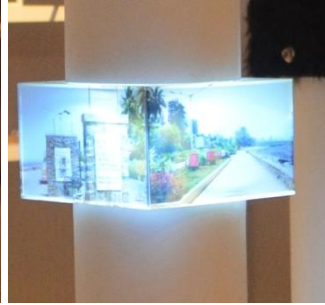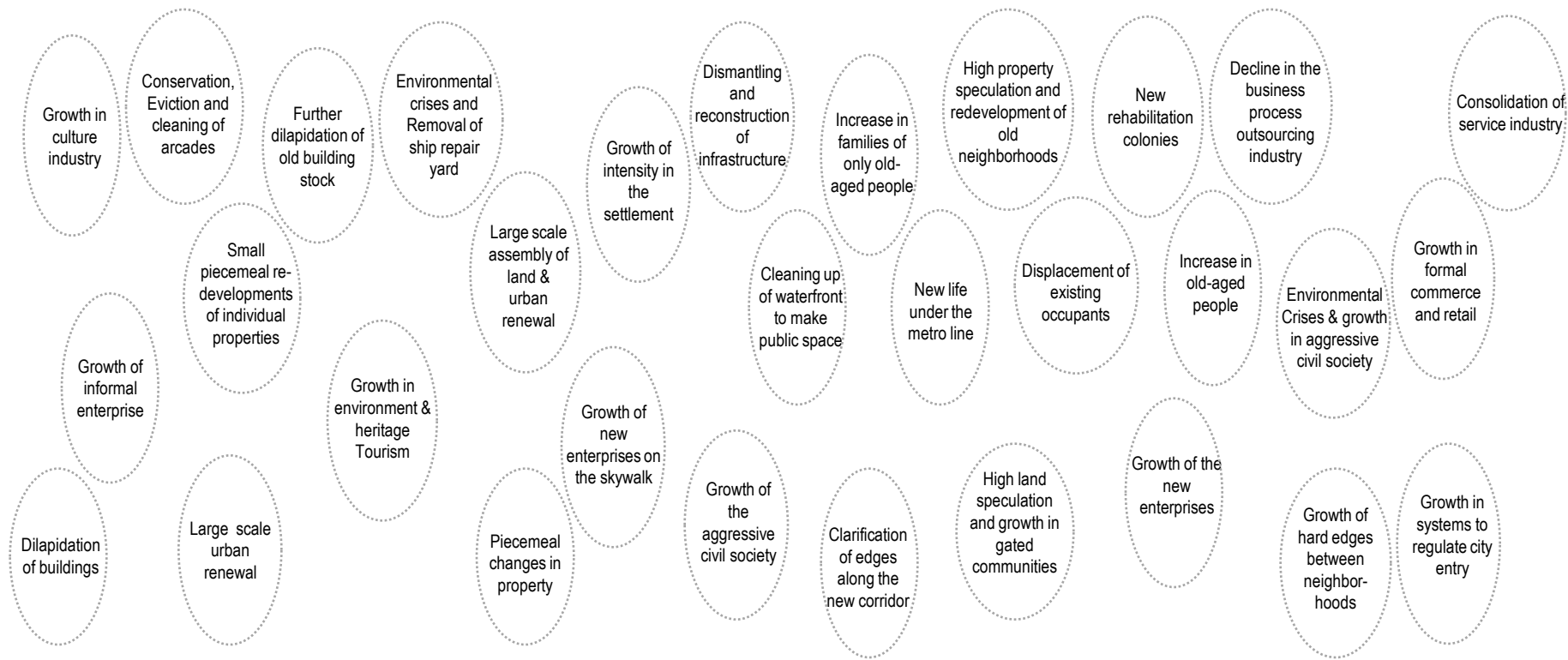
New Business Process Outsourcing Areas

City edge

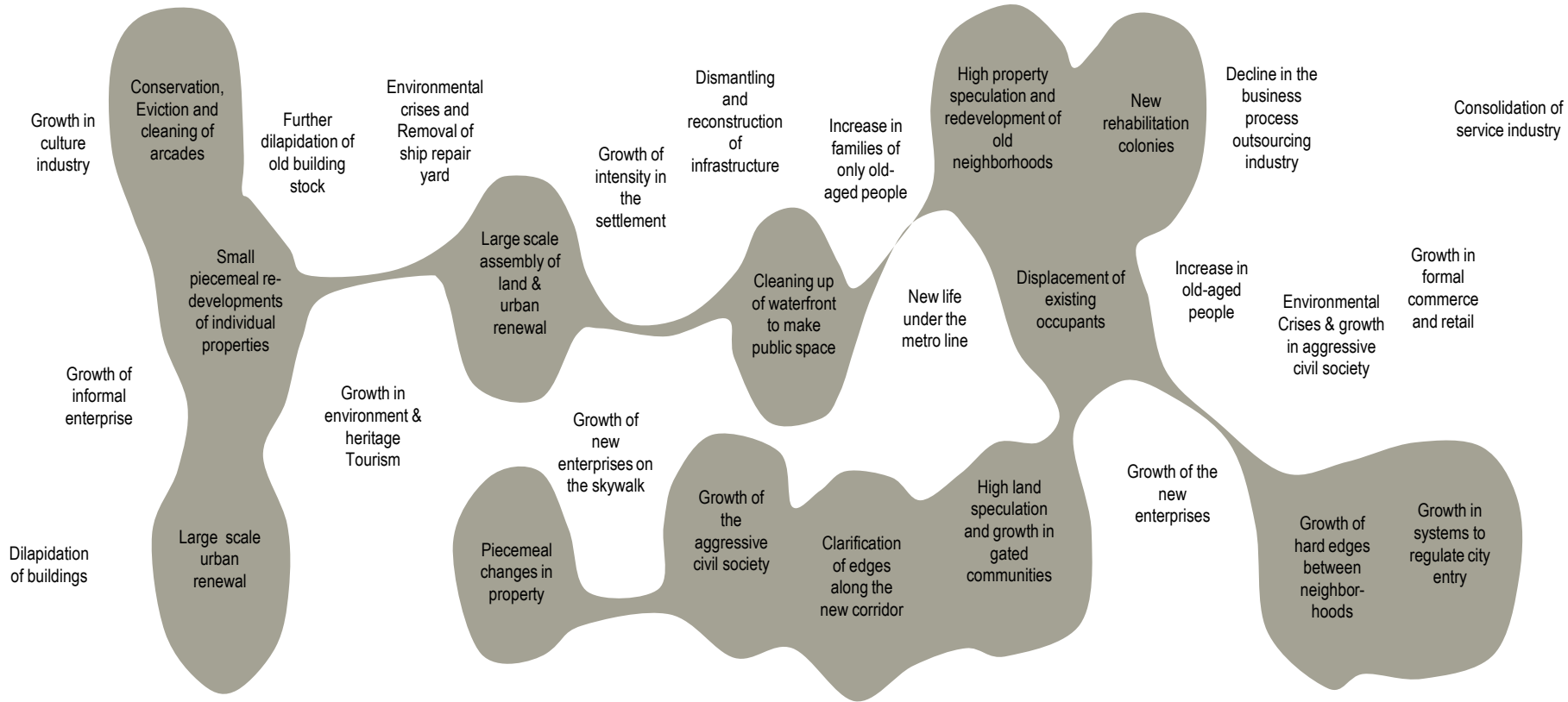city of many possibilities – many futures

city of many possibilities - many futures

the project is not about imagining 'a' future as there could be many futures depending on
who is imagining it

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Growth in systems to regulate city entry

however, patterns emerge from these, from which the trajectories of the future could be drawn

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1. **trajectory of high polarization** – social and physical edges between communities will harden reducing the transactional capacity of the urban form. this is detrimental to the logic of the city

Resources
Social & physical
infrastructure, space, etc.

Transactional Capacities
Densities, number of activities,
networks, transactions, livelihoods,
cultural settling, security,
accommodation of diversity, etc.

Degree of Blur

Skyscraping Apartments · Apartment Blocks · Old Labor Housing · Dilapidated Bazaar Housing · Incremental Settlements

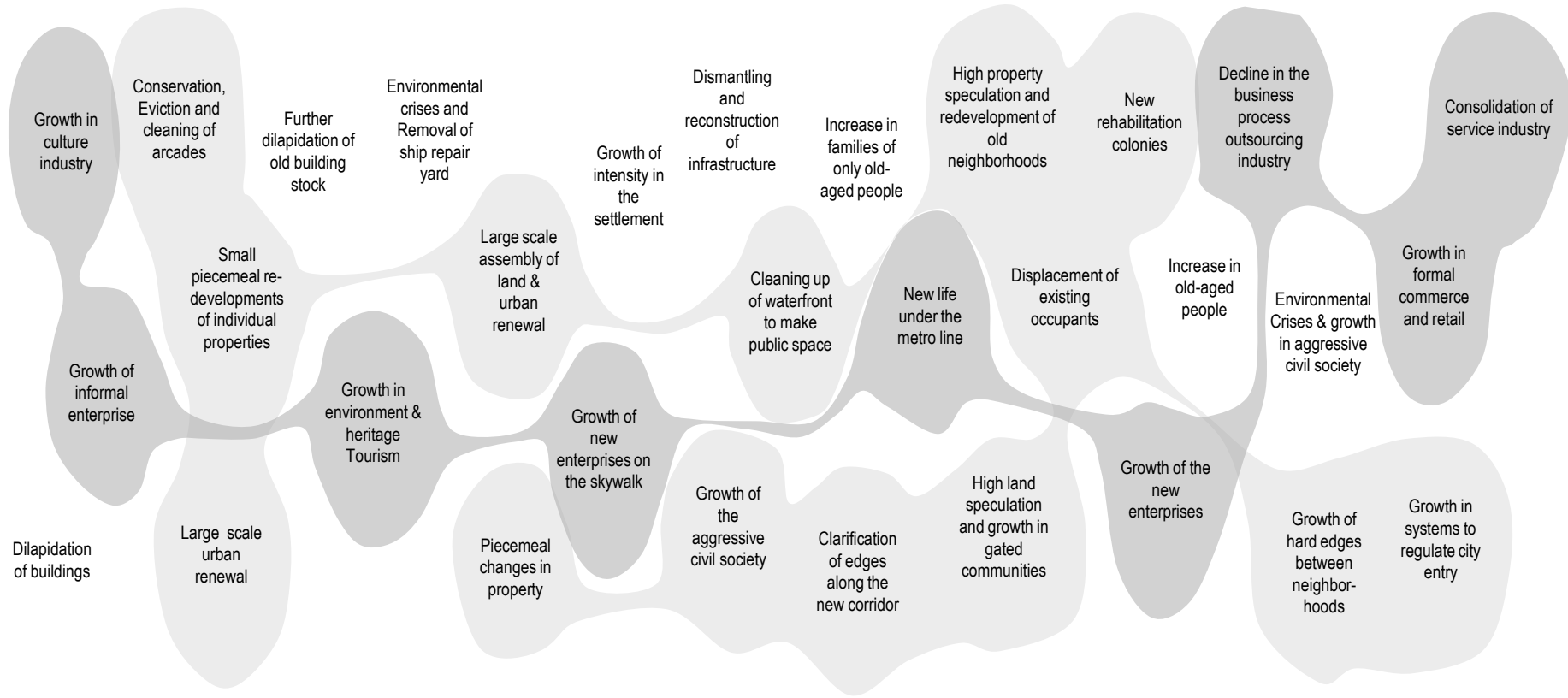transactional capacities   *vis-à-vis*   type / form

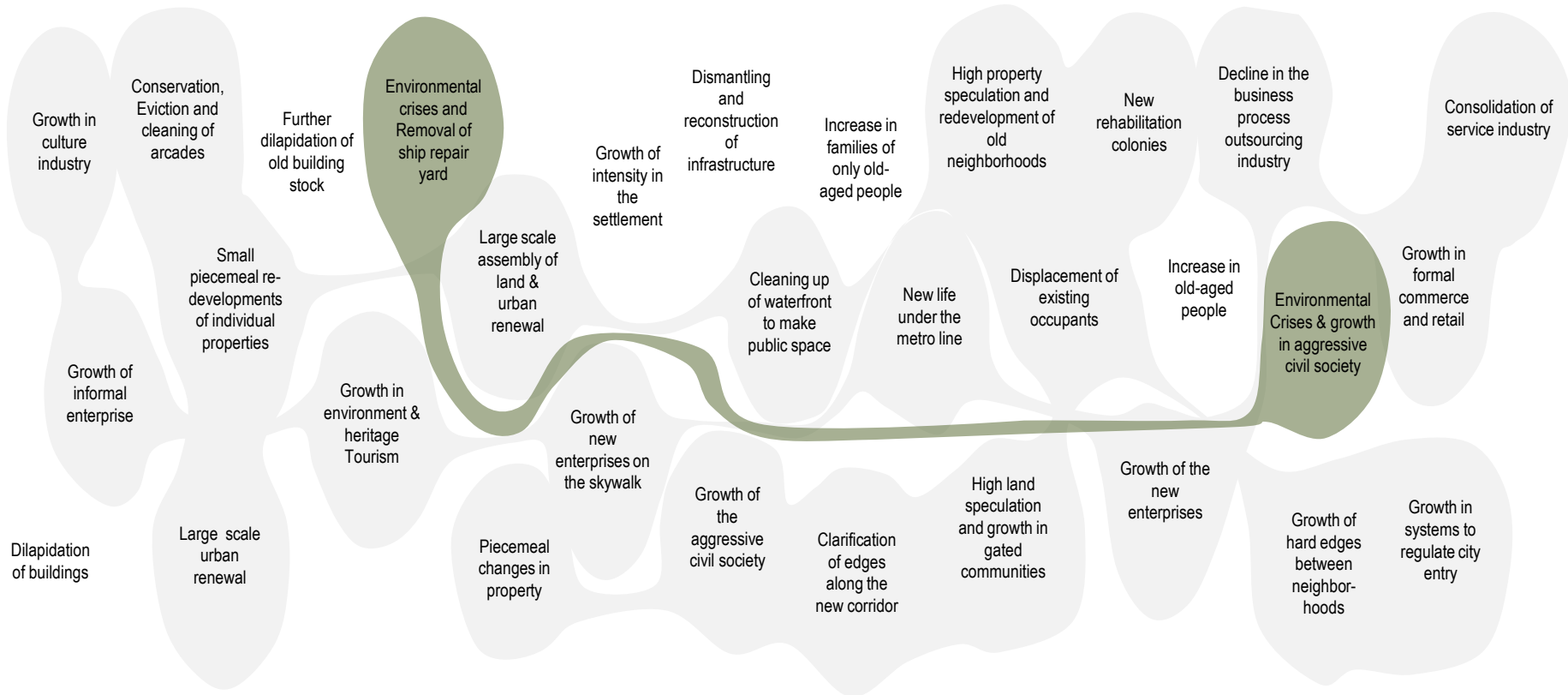the emerging urban form removes the blur, thus reducing transactional capacities

as a result polarized landscapes emerge,
with exclusive and expensive apartments for the rich and dense colonies of the poor.

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2. **trajectory of economic restructuring** – older economic generators of commerce, finance & business process outsourcing will decline and new enterprises related to culture, environment and old age will emerge

ECONOMY	Agrarian	Mercantile/ Administration	Industrial / Administration	Finance, Commerce, Retail / Administration	Culture, Environment, Health, Old Age / Administration
REASONS FOR SHIFT	1.Establishment of Port 2.Establishment of Govt. HQ 3.Encouragement to Trade	1.Technological Developments 2.Demand for textile (National & International) 3.Infrastructure Support	1.Reconfiguration of production and growth of entrepreneurs 2.Liberalization 3.Discouragement of Manufacturing Units	1. New technological developments will reduce the need for proximity in conducting business 2. New national / international locations will displace businesses from Mumbai 3. The competitive advantage of the city are its cultural & environmental assets, film industry, health sector, etc.	
URBAN FORM	Pastoral Landscapes with incremental settlements of farmers & fisher folk	Trade Nodes, Dense Inner Cities with markets, guesthouses, religious spaces	Smoke Stack Landscapes, industries, worker housing, incremental settlements	Skyscraper apartments, Malls, Commercial Blocks, redevelopment of incremental settlements	Urban renewals, resettlement colonies, conservation, gated communities
MAIN ECONOMIC ACTORS	Farmers, feudal lords	Merchants, colonial government	Workers, industrialists, government	Corporates, Entrepreneurs & Agents	Culture Workers, Environmentalists, Senior Citizens, Health Workers
	Pre 1650s	1650s to 1850s	1850s t0 1980s	1990s to 2020s	2020 onwards

changing economy of Mumbai

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3. **trajectory of intensification of environmental concerns**

THE TIMES OF INDIA | Mumbai

Mumbai records hottest March day in 55 years

Pratibha Masand, TNN Mar 17, 2011, 06.16am IST

MUMBAI: The city experienced its second-hottest March day ever on Wednesday, when the mercury soared to 41.6 degrees Celsius in Colaba. Experts called the hot, dry weather a "new phenomenon" in the city.

It was the hottest day of March in 55 years, with the previous high—also the all-time high—coming on March 28, 1956 when the temperature was 41.7 degrees Celsius.

Honey, we just shrunk the National Park!

Meena
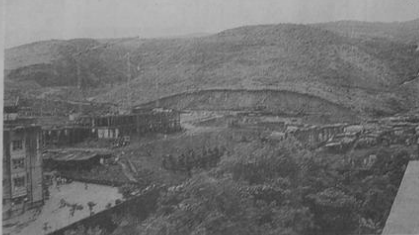
The massive deforestation that is on at the national park

■ Kishore Rathod, Borivali

SPREAD across an area of 103.09 square kilometres, it is among the world's largest green zones inside an urban area. But thanks to the efforts of the encroaching slum-dwellers, the builder fraternity and a flourishing timber mafia, the size

tem of the park is felt across thrice that area due to the abuse of the park forest by the encroachers," says environmental activist Debi Goenka.

Effectively, almost 33 percent of the national park is under threat. And at stake is not only the habitat of the panther, but also the water

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DECCAN Chronicle

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Heat is on: Sea levels rising on Indian Coasts

July 29, 2011 | By Syed Akbar | DC | Hyderabad
Tags: Indian coasts, Ocean, weather

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Cleartrip.com/Mumbai-Istanbul

MakeMyTrip™ Official Site
Special Fares @ MakeMyTrip Starting From

Coastal cities like Visakhapatnam, Mumbai, Kochi and Chennai are facing long-term threats from the sea as the average sea levels in these cities are going up by 1.30 mm every year.

Data collected by Hyderabad-based Indian

CNN.com | INTERNATIONAL

Presidency

SEARCH ⦿ The Web ⚪ CNN.com   [Search]

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WORLD

Leopards prey on people in Mumbai

Wednesday, June 30, 2004 Posted: 0754 GMT (1554 HKT)

MUMBAI, India (AP) -- Leopards from a national park on the edge of Mumbai, India's largest city, have killed 10 people this month -- prompting forest officials to let loose pigs and rabbits to feed the big cats.

The killings are up sharply from previous years, and six of this month's deaths occurred outside the park as leopards extended their range in search of food.

In a bid to stop the killings, traps are

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Expressindia » Story

### Sharp rise in air pollution this year: BMC

Express news service
Posted: Aug 29, 2012 at 0235 hrs IST

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After a year of partial respite from rising air pollution during last year, the city has seen a sharp rise in the level of air pollutants this year.

Extensive public and private construction and other related activities have led to a a rise in the level air pollution, according to the Environment Status Report (2011-12) of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)

Clos

eve

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hindustantimes
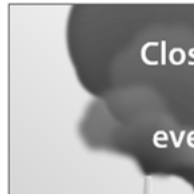
Mon, 24 Sep 2012

west india

Yebhi.com

FLAT 5

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mumbai

Heavy rains lash Mumbai, city struggles to stay afloat

HT Correspondent, Hindustan Times
Mumbai, September 04, 2012

🔍+1 0   ✉ Email to Author   First Published: 01:11 IST(4/9/2012)   Last Updated: 08:30 IST(4/9/2012)

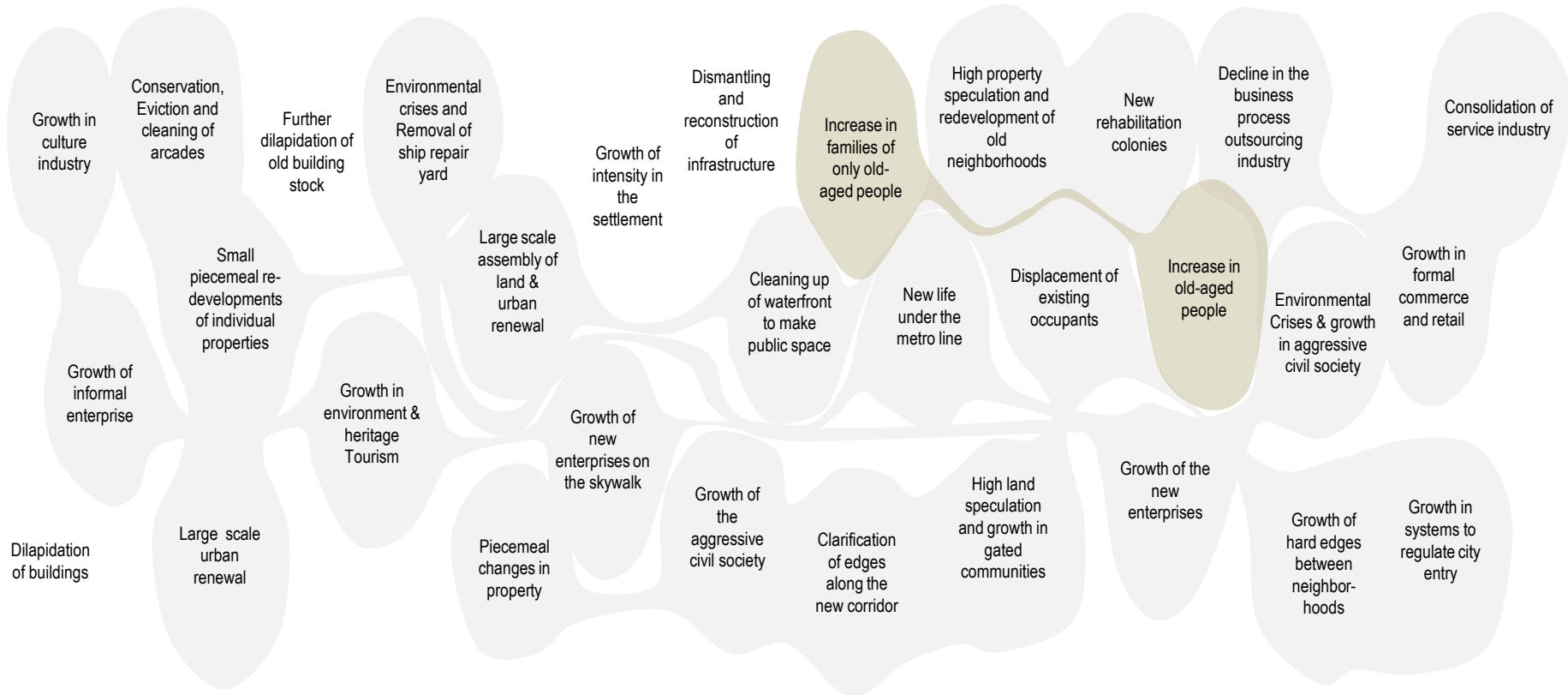✉ email 🖨 print   7 Comments Tweet share more.

After a lull, the city witnessed its first heavy downpour on Monday. But, along with it came misery in the form of traffic jams, waterlogging, trees falling, landslide —the list was long. According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which has 35 automatic weather stations across the city,

Most Affordable properties

environmental concerns emerge not only as a crisis, but also as a fad and as enterprise

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4. **trajectory of higher average age of people** – city of the old

ECONOMY

| Agrarian | Mercantile/ Administration | Industrial / Administration | Finance, Commerce, Retail / Administration | Culture, Environment, Health, Old Age / Administration |

Migration of Traders and Trade workers

Migration of Industrial workers

No migration, growth only by reproduction

No migration, lesser reproduction

Percentage Growth in Population

PROJECTED AGE-SEX POPULATION DIAGRAM

Age
80-Above
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4

MALE   FEMALE

2035   2035

2010   2010

2001   2001

Percentage

6   4   2   0   2   4   6

| Pre 1650s | 1650s to 1850s | 1850s t0 1980s | 1990s to 2020s | 2020 onwards |

changing demography of Mumbai

URBAN SPACE &FORM

Polarization of communities, Hardening of Boundaries ↑

Transactional capacity ↓

ECONOMY

Culture & environment industry ↑

Commerce, Finance & BPO ↓

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Concerns, Sea Level, Temperature, Flash Flood Occurrences ↑

DEMOGRAPHY

Average Age ↑

Population ↓
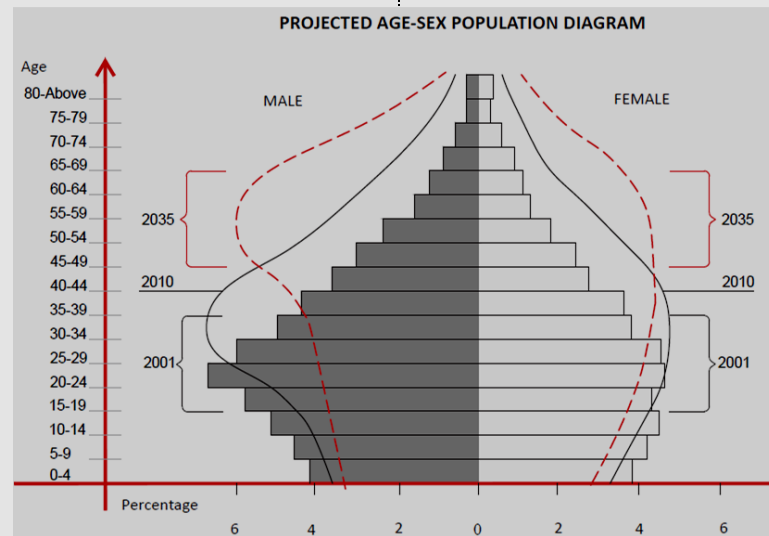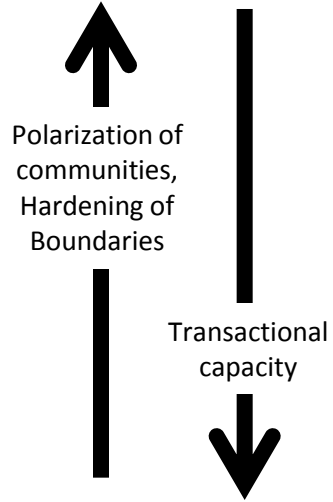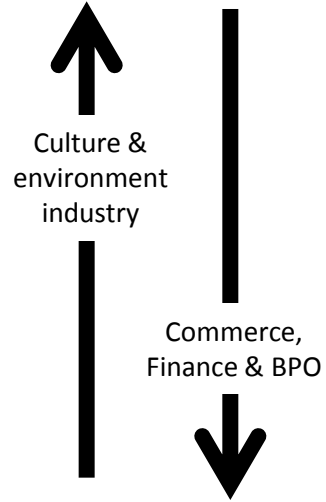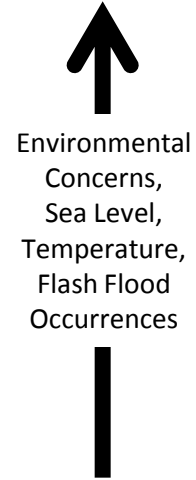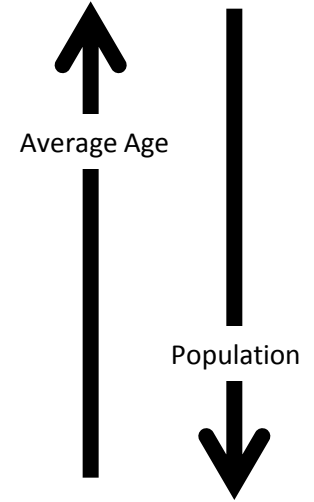
the trajectories for mumbai's future

3.
MOBILITY

When mobility is seen as transport, it ends up in a problem solving exercise that produces either mega projects, intelligent vehicles, or infrastructures that claim to be intelligent. Within the urban realm, the concept of mobility needs to be understood beyond transportation, as transportation itself is embedded in the multiple processes that shape the city.

mumbai's urbanism is like a froth with overlapping ecosystems
of geographies, legislations, claims, powers, kinships, friendships & information
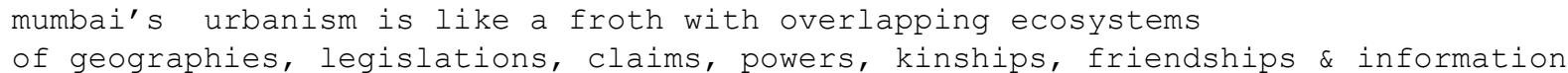
For CRIT, mobility is a twofold concept. First, it involves the different kinds of movements that are brought about by urban transformations today. These include access, migration, gentrification, class movement, etc.

And second, mobility or to mobilize is the ability to navigate the complex urban ecosystem of geographies, legislations, claims, powers, relationships and information to construct one's path for the future amidst these movements.

4.
approaching
MUMBAI'S FUTURE MOBILITY

In the past two decades, Mumbai has seen some of the most innovative policies, institutional arrangements and projects planned to produce efficient and equitable urban systems for an intelligible future. Large-scale infrastructure projects, cross-subsidization of housing, geographical and demographic information systems and new urban (re)development policies, are being put in place.

But Mumbai, like any city, is a composite body, where spaces, identities, and forms constantly blur. Here, no form of policy, governance structure, or infrastructure can provide a platform for different groups to pursue their aspirations equally. Rather, they unsettle the city; create new ruffles, new possibilities, new actors, and new relationships. But the act of blurring creates interstices with high transactional capacities. It forms the logic through which the city opens for many to use and create their many futures.
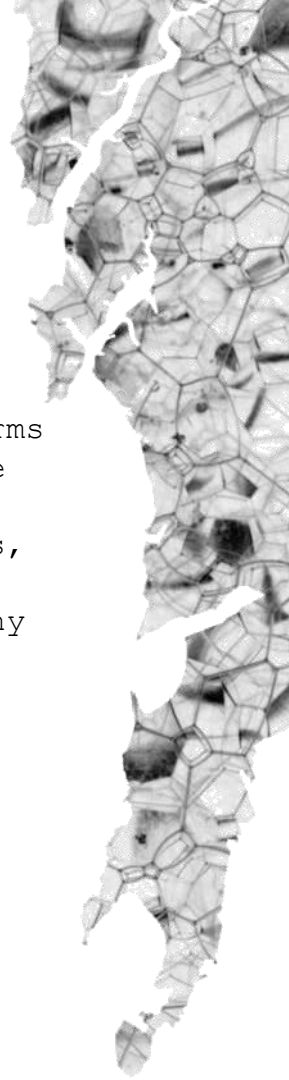
approaching the future with singular mega projects have created ruffles in the city that remain unsettled for a long time. as the city is highly connected, there are unseen implications of such large projects on large numbers of people for a long time.

mega singular ideas for the future are also limited by their one-dimensional nature.
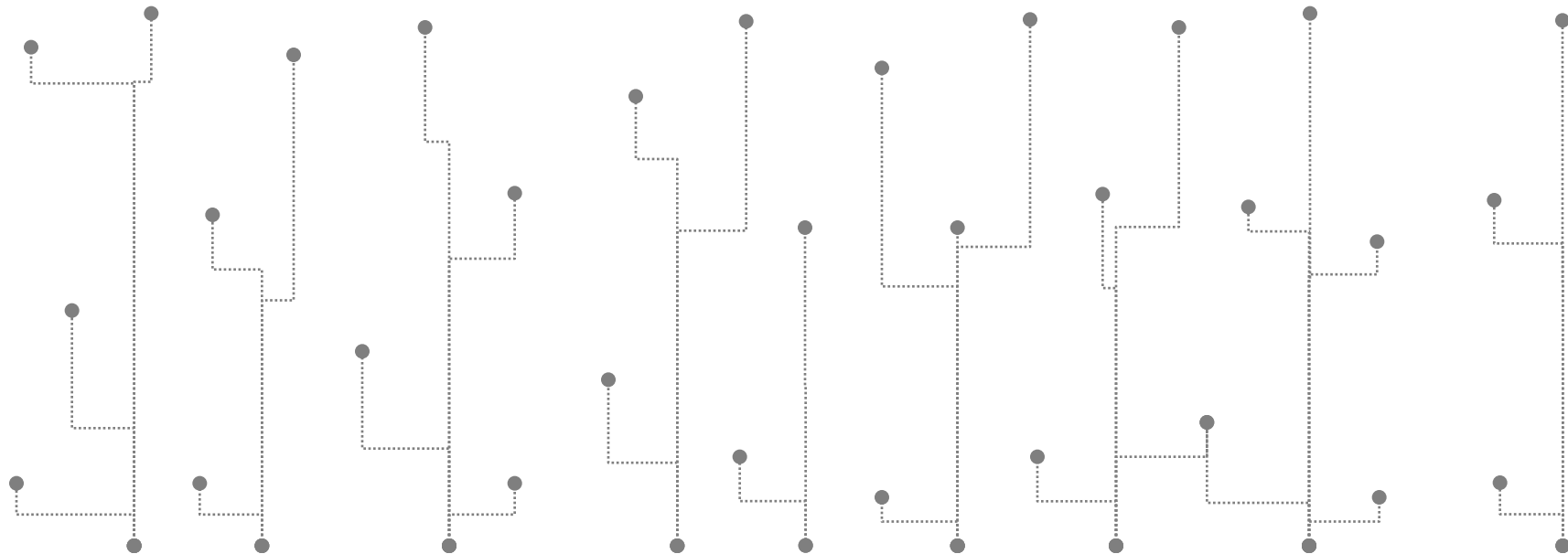
the project is not about imagining 'a' future. It focuses on the processes that are
involved in imagining and making the future
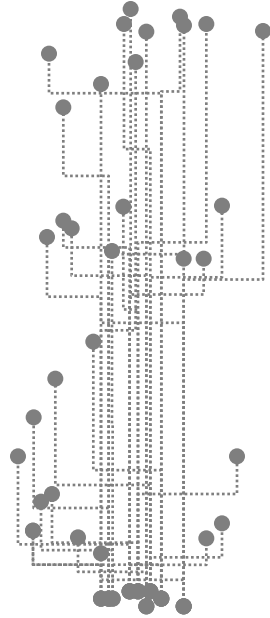
the project is not about aspiring for a utopia – but about devising **TOOLS** to engage with future trajectories – tools which different people can use to imagine and make their own futures

TOOLS

tools to blur the social and physical edges to allow transactions

tools to help create and harness new opportunities

tools to engage with the environmental crises

tools to help the old to live in dignity

Catalogue for rethinking Waterfront Edges

Catalogue for losses and opportunities

Catalogue for designing boundary walls between neighborhoods

Catalogue for new clocks and calendars

Catalogue of new enterprises

Catalogue for enterprise paraphernalia

Catalogue for retrofitting bridges and skywalks

Catalogue of new programs

Catalogue for promoting heritage and environment tourism

Catalogue for retrofitting old settlements

Catalogue for greening vertical neighborhoods

Catalogue of senior infrastructure & systems

Manual for redevelopment of old buildings

5.

TOOLS AND POSSIBILITIES

WILFRED TECHNOLOGIES
Biometric Systems and Universal Access Portals

Providers of portable and detachable Universal Biometric Scanners that can be attached to any computer of any make running of any operating system. We also provide retrofitting options on select brands to upgrade your non-biometric system to a fully functional biometric system. Our specialization is in converting any part of your house into a Universal Access Portal fully equipped with lights, cameras, scanning systems, sound systems, etc. to provide you with a complete work environment at home or anywhere else. This will become your connection to the world and you can participate in group discussions, board meetings, etc. and conduct all office work as if you are in office. All you need is an area of 4 square meters. We also provide portable solutions for people on the move.

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email: wilfred@wilfredtechnologies.com

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Flamingo
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FLANAT-786389-3MLW

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enterprise 2030

catalogue of new enterprises: the changes in the economy, environment, demography and intensified polarities will create a context for new entrepreneurships. this catalogue is a compilation of such enterprises.

POSSIBILITIES

dahisar checknaka: this proposal uses the catalogue of new entrepreneurship to explore possibilities of intervening in highly securitised areas of the city, where agents are developed to facilitate transactions across the boundaries.

TOOLS

FENCE
GARDEN
JETTY
MANGROVE
PROMENADE
SHAMIANA
STEPS
STILTS
TETRAPOD

FENCE
GARDEN
JETTY
MANGROVE
PROMENADE
SHAMIANA
STEPS
STILTS
TETRAPOD
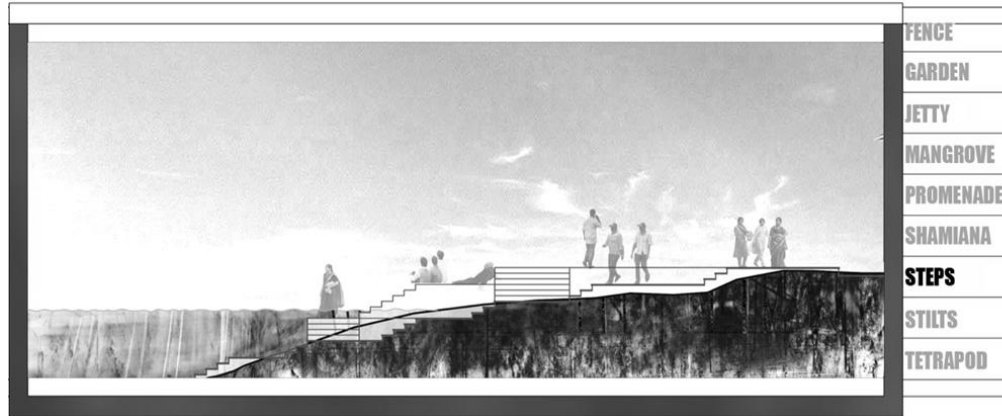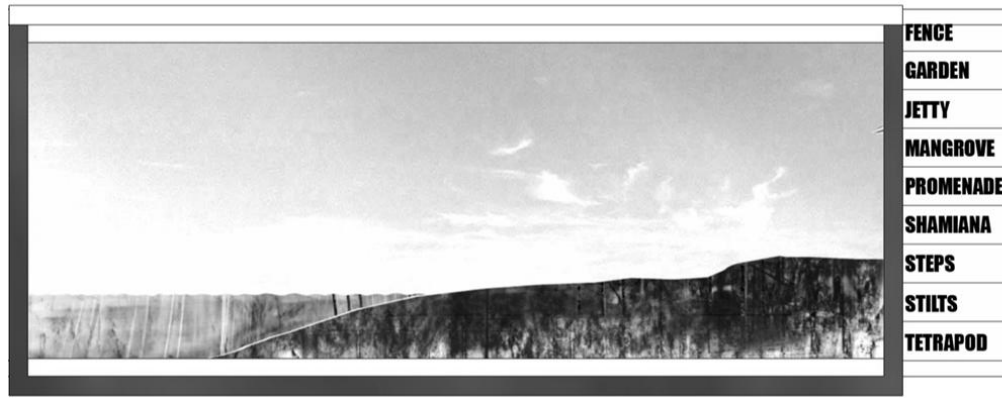
catalogue for retrofitting waterfront edges: in 2030 edges between water and land will be highly contested by interests wanting to use them for leisure, work and real-estate. This catalogue provides alternative architectural possibilities where multiple claims and activities could co-exist

POSSIBILITIES

along the eastern edge of mumbai coexist today a number of urban elements: mangroves, an old derelict port, a ship breaking industry, flamingoes, port workers, a heritage fort, fishing village, slums and the sea.....

The stilt is an important urban form that allows for mixing of different elements along the edge.
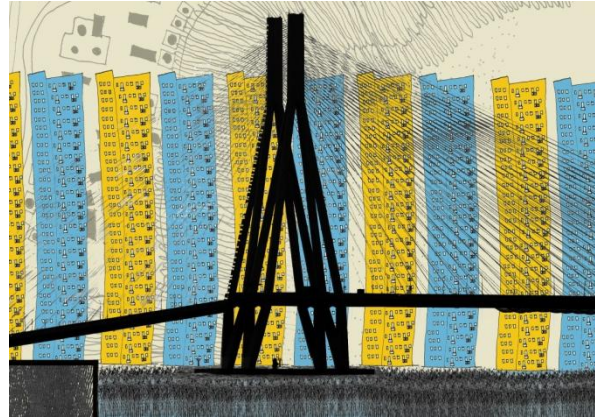
mumbai trans harbor link: this proposal uses the catalogue for waterfront edges, particularly the architectural strategy of the stilt, along the eastern waterfront of Mumbai. This strategy preserves the sensitive coastal ecology, provides space for work environments, and simultaneously allows for the growth of environmental tourism industry (bird watching). In doing so, it resists the speculation spurred by the proposal of the trans harbor link.
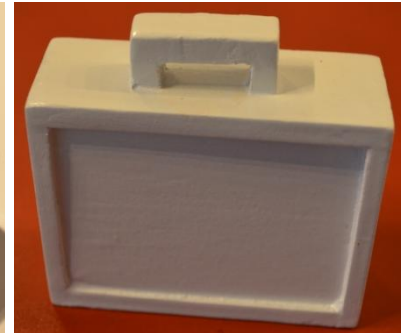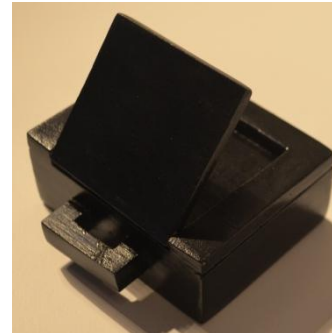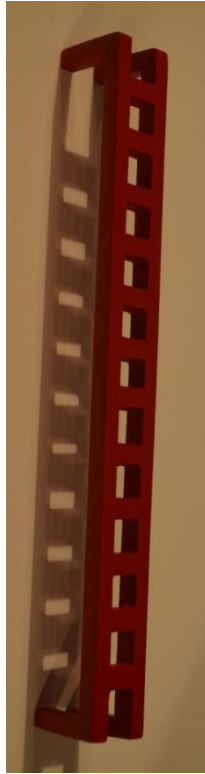
catalogue for enterprise paraphernalia – (from left to right and clock wise) – astrologer's high chair, painter's ladder cum bench, booksellers' reading section, suitcase shop that doubles as a seat, suit case shop that opens as a stand-alone shop

THE GREENING BOOK

GREENING PRACTICES FOR HOUSES

USING ENERGY SAVING AP-
PLIANCES SUCH AS CFLs,
LEDs AND WATER SAVING
SHOWER HEADS AND TAPS

GROWING SHADE LOVING
PLANTS WITHIN THE HOUSE

SETTING UP GREEN WALLS
ALONG RELATIVELY OPEN
SURFACES. HERBS AND
KITCHEN GREENS MAY ALSO
BE GROWN ALONG SUCH
SURFACES

SPECIALLY DEVELOPED
BRICKS OF CLAY AND
FLY ASH ASSIST IN
INSULATION AND THEIR
DESIGN ALSO ALLOWS
WALLS TO BREATHE

COMPOST BINS TO
COLLECT ORGANIC
WASTE FROM THE
KITCHEN TO TURN IT
INTO FERTILIZER

GARBAGE SEGREGATION TO DIS-
POSE OF WASTE AND RECYCLE
MORE EFFICIENTLY

HYDROPONICS IS AN EXCELLENT
METHOD TO DEAL WITH WASTE
WATER FROM THE KITCHEN

FLUSH TANKS WHICH RELEASE
WATER IN SPECIFIC QUANTITIES
SUCH AS EITHER HALF TANK OR
FULL TANK SAVE WATER

GREENING TERRACES

SOLAR PANELS GENERATE
DIRECT DC CURRENT WHICH
TAKES CARE OF A PER-
CENTAGE OF THE ELECTRI-
CAL LOAD LIKE WATER
HEATING

RELICAL
HORIZONTAL/VERTICAL
WIND TURBINES HARNESS
LOCAL WINDS THAT DO
NOT BLOW CONTINUOUSLY
IN ANY ONE DIRECTION

CERTAIN VEGETABLE CROPS
CAN ALSO GROW AT THE
TERRACE LEVEL. THESE
MAY EITHER GROW IN SOIL
OR IN HYDROPONIC TUBE
SYSTEMS

GROWING STURDY, HARDY
PLANTS AT THE TERRACE
LEVEL. THE LAYER OF
SOIL USES RAINWATER AND
ACTS AS AN INSULATION
FOR LOWER FLOORS

THE TERRACE ACTS AS A
LARGE CATCHMENT SUR-
FACE FOR STORMWATER
RUNOFF WHICH CAN BE
HARVESTED EFFICIENTLY
AND STORED FOR DOMES-
TIC PURPOSES IN
UNDERGROUND TANKS

ENERGY GENERATED
THROUGH SUCH ALTERNA-
TIVE MEANS CAN BE
USED TO RUN LESS
HEAVY APPLIANCES LIKE
LIGHTS, FANS AND
WATER HEATERS

catalogue for greening vertical neighborhoods: in 2030, environment will be central to discussion on urban crises generating a context for greening vertical blocks. this manual is designed to convert high resource consuming apartments into green blocks.

TOOLS

skywalk prototype

trapezoidal staircase as public space

ferris wheel storage for mobile shops

balcony extension as sky lounge
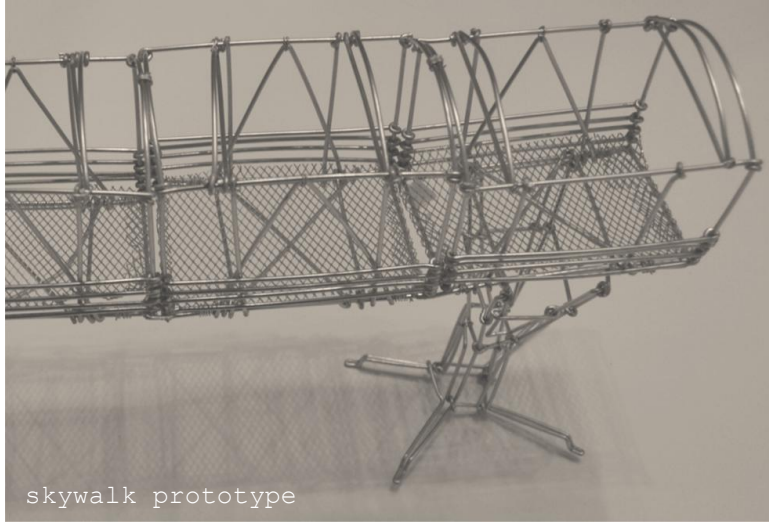
catalogue for retrofitting skywalks: mega projects often provide opportunities to accommodate activities other than transportation. This catalogue explores the possibilities of retrofitting skywalks to accommodate such new activities.

POSSIBILITIES
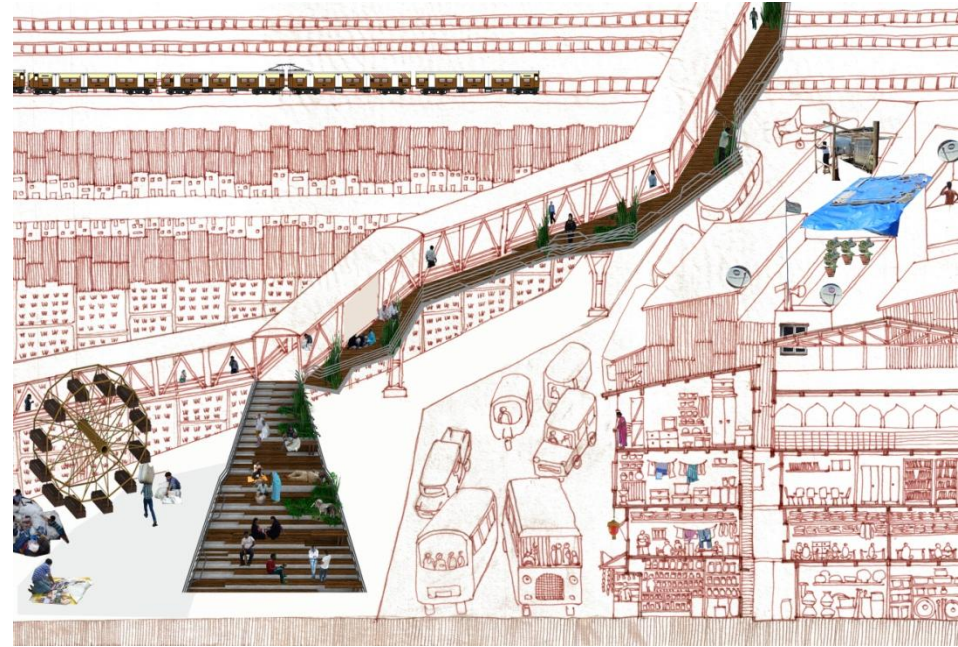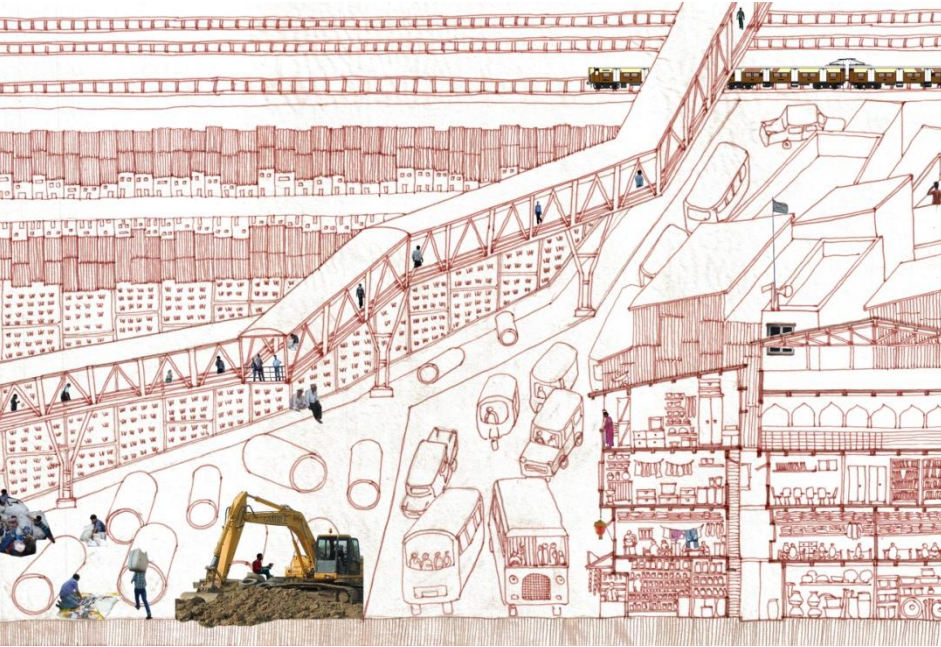
bandra skywalk – this proposal uses the catalogue for retrofitting old infrastructure to modify an existing skywalk. here the skywalk is re-imagined as a sky-garden and sky-lounge creating the much needed public space for the dense nearby slum.

TOOLS
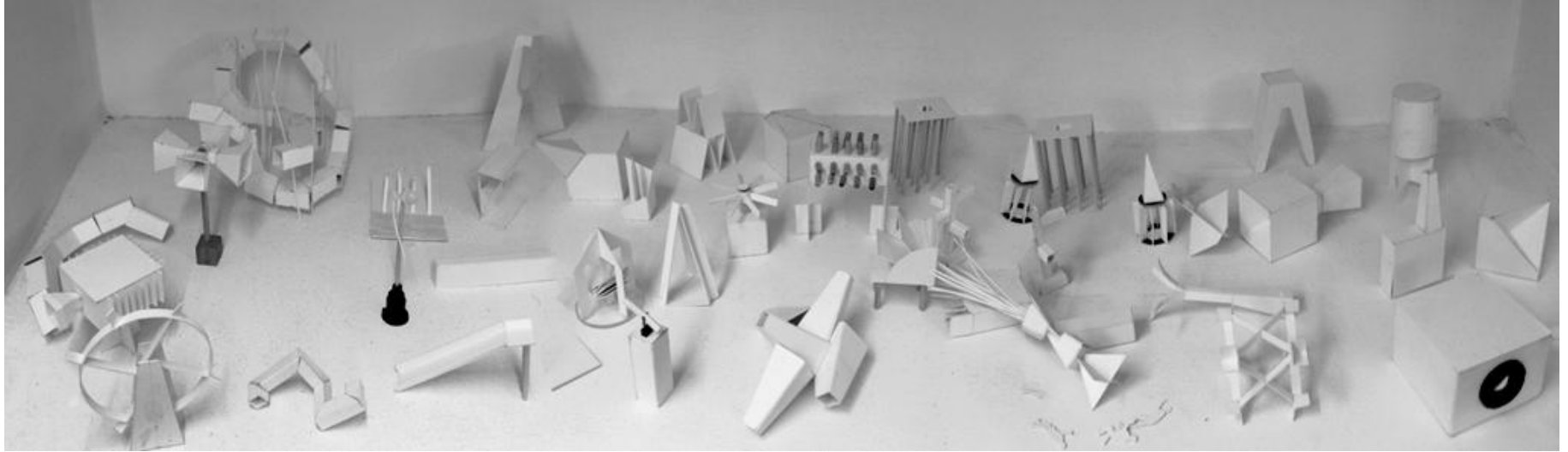
catalogue for new programmes: as mumbai's economy, environment, and demography will change to create a landscape of high polarization, newer programmes will have to emerge to manage the ruffles created by these changes for the city to readjust itself. this is a catalogue of such programmes.

TOOLS
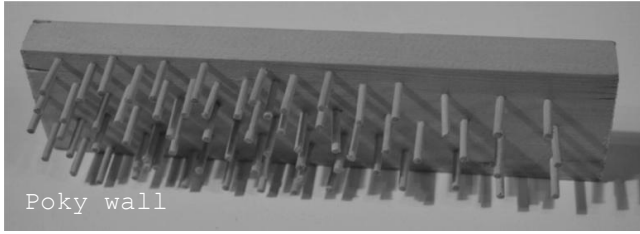
Poky wall
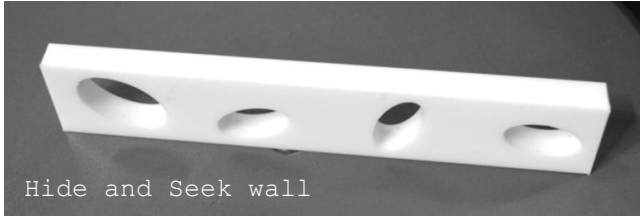
Hide and Seek wall
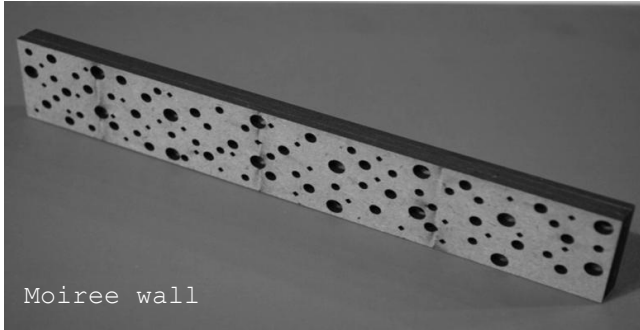
Moiree wall

The stilt wall
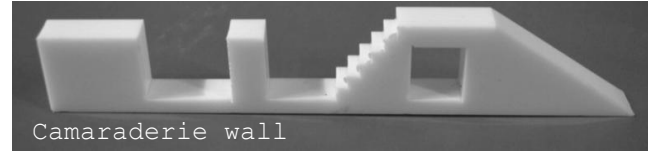
Camaraderie wall
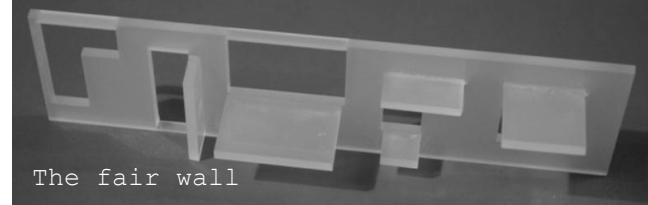
The fair wall

catalogue for designing boundary walls between neighborhoods: in an urban landscape where ambiguities of space, claims, and edges, which hold multiple activities and high transactional capacities have been clarified this catalogue offers possibilities to reshape boundary walls to increase transactional capacities

bombay bio diversity guide: this is a catalogue for promoting environmental tourism. a heightened sense of environmental crises and acute environmental stresses alongside the presence of a rich biodiversity in Mumbai provides an opportunity for proliferation of environment related enterprises. This book is a guide book to the various biodiversity-rich sites in Mumbai
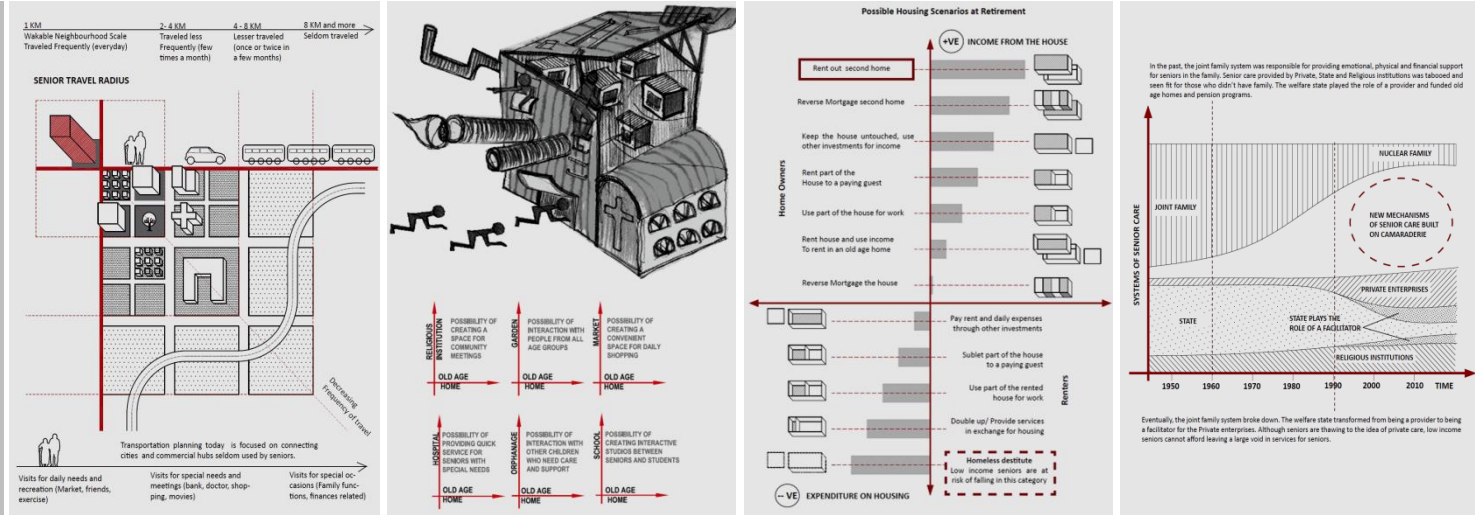
senior city: this is a catalogue for developing senior infrastructure and systems. in 2030, mumbai will have many more old people. this catalogue is a compilation of new possible institutions, programmes, enterprises, infrastructure and systems that respond to the city of the old.
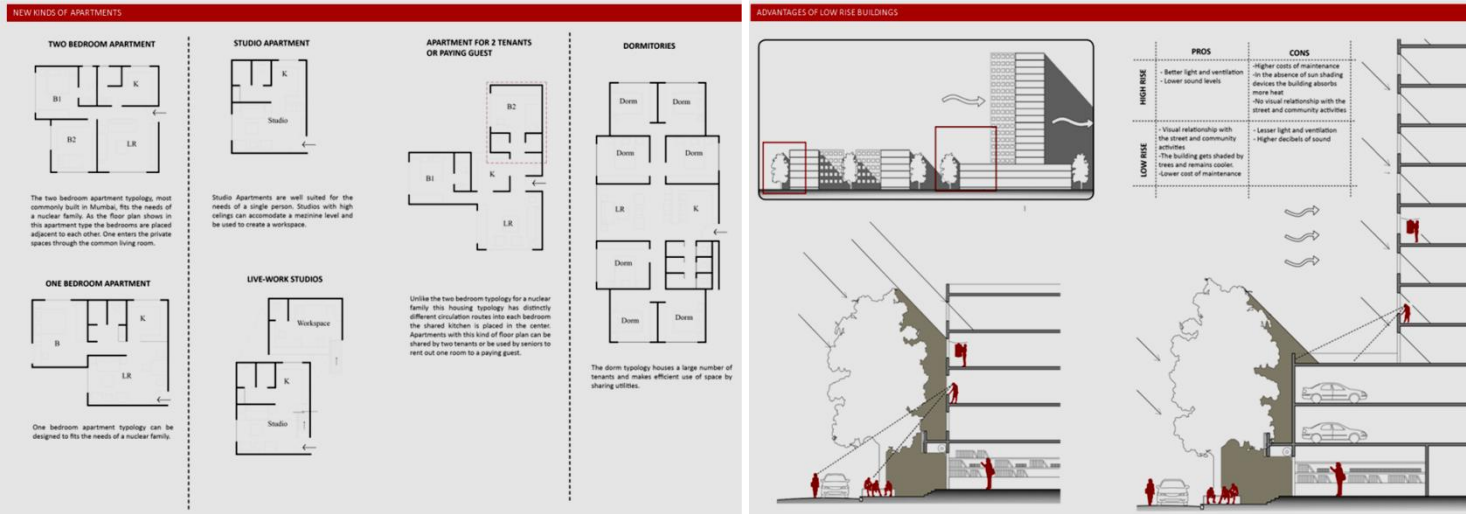
manual for redevelopment of old buildings: mumbai will be a site for constant redevelopment of old buildings. however, such redevelopments tend to be insensitive to local cultures and environmental aspects forcing the older occupants out. this manual is designed for the old occupants as a checklist of things that they should ensure while redeveloping their properties so that they are not forced out of the new developments.
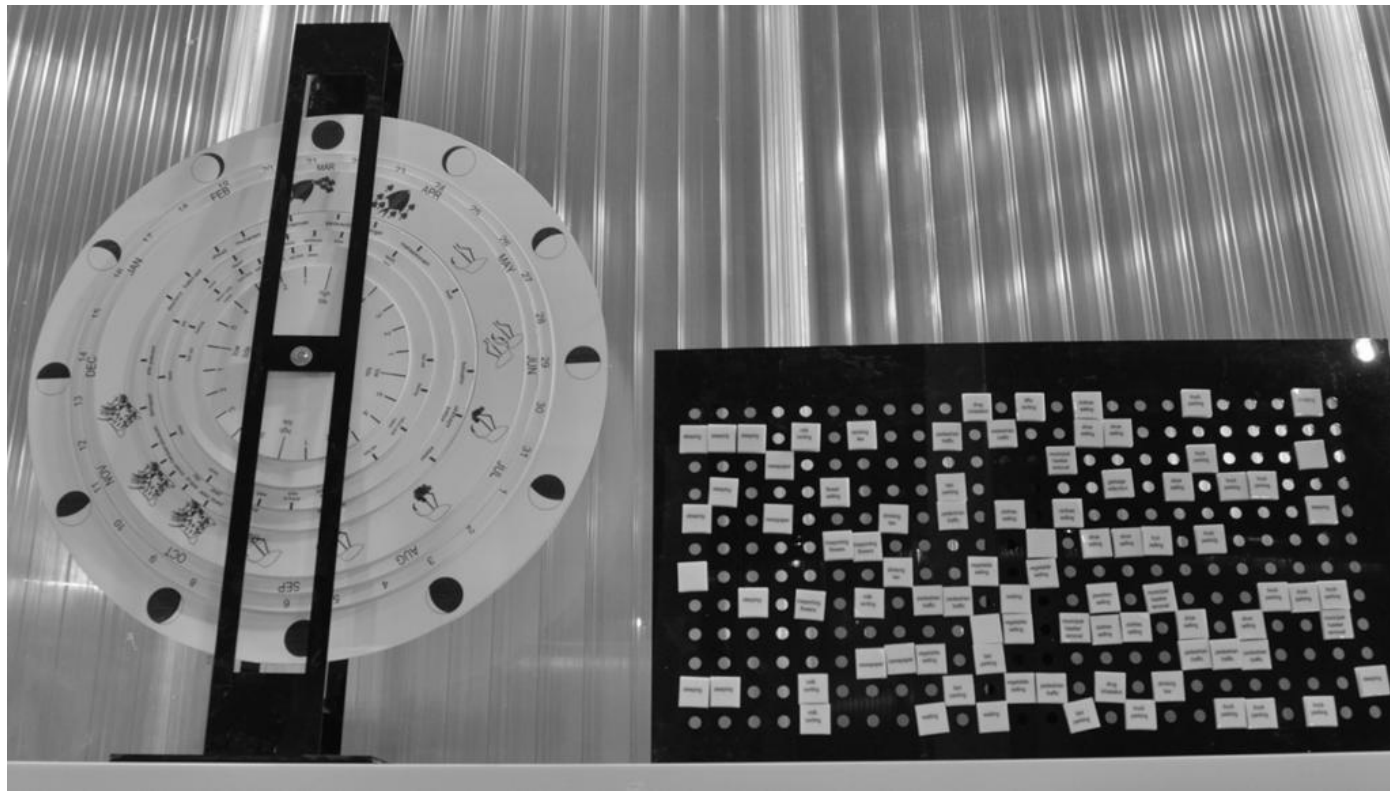
timescapes – these are clocks to map city rhythms. a. **polyrhythmic clock** - to understand relations between different urban elements along the eastern waterfront of mumbai – tidal movements, lunar phases, daily lives, festivals, etc. b. **activity clock** - to map the time of streets at a typical transit node of mumbai. it shows the change in density and nature of activities (transactions) with respect to the transit node.

retrofitting old settlements
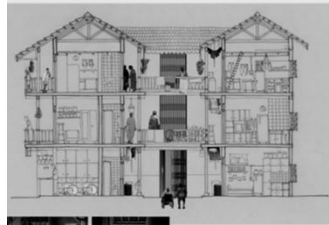
Readapting old chawl housing into Old Age Homes with the addition of extra elevators, structural strengthening and letting out shops below for facilities for old people
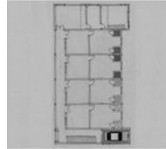
Introducing individual toilets inside chawl housing and converting common toilet blocks to stacked parking.

RETROFITTING CHAWLS (OLD INDUSTRIAL HOUSING)
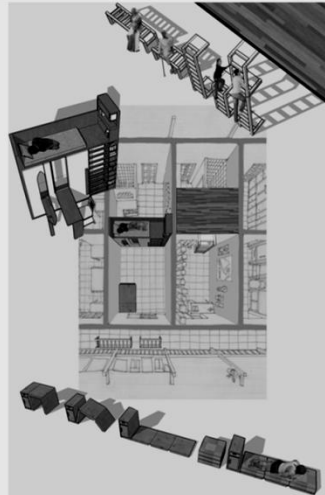
Designing multiuse furniture to optimize space.

Addition of a rain roof (barsati) and possibilities of expanding small public activities run by social entrepreneurs.

Incremental addition of a room and terrace for an expanding family or to rent out for additional income. This is done by a local contractor instead of large builders.

Original house

ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES

Expected Possibility

Before 1700   By 1900   By 1950   By 2010   By 2030

RETROFITTING OLD VILLAGE HOUSING

catalogue for retrofitting old settlements: in a context of large scale urban redevelopment and renewal the existing occupants of inner cities, slums and old buildings are threatened and often displaced. this catalogue discusses many ways in which such older settlements could be retrofitted.

POSSIBILITIES

mohammad ali road – this proposal uses the catalogue for retrofitting old settlements to develop a skin of staircases. these staircases provide not only infrastructural support and fire escapes to the dilapidated buildings, but also provide spaces to house new enterprises and everyday life.

POSSIBILITIES

METRO·CONNECT.

12 JANUARY 2032, MUMBAI CONNECT OF THE DAILY POLITICAL, SUPPLEMENT OF THE DAI[...]

FaSI: LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

Landmark Building before it was covered in hoardings. Photograph taken by Farhin Baig, August 2012. Source: Daily Political Archives.

Nearly a decade after the BMC implemented the controversial policy allowing hoardings on residential buildings, it is finally introducing clauses in the policy to help regulate the rampant use of hoardings that have become a menace to the housing societies, especially tiresome for the residents who live on the same level as the Metro. The Municipality is set to implement "FaSI", which, as Supriya Dule of the AD-Free Mumbai campaign explains: "FaSI stands for Facade Space Index, and it is very much the same as Floor Space Index, what we call FSI. So there will be a regulation on the area of the facade that can be used for advertising. This will mean that ads will mostly be restricted to the first floor of all housing societies." But would this be good for us? This will definitely help bring in some light and ventilation into these apartment complexes, but what about those who live on the same level as the Metro?

Ms. Bhindiwala, an urban planner working with the Planning Authority had this to say about our question, "I think it is a good development. No doubt, groups like Ad-Free Metro and GAS (Ghatkopar Air Society) prefer to have them (hoardings) completely removed. We can, however, restrict them to the two floors that are on the same level as the metro. If you have noticed, these levels are anyway no longer strictly residential. More business is coming in as the street has moved from the bottom to the top. We have to take this patterns (sic) into consideration."

What began as a means to generate revenue many years ago has become an urban menace. Will FaSI save these societies? Or will it create its own menace?

LAXMI MITRA, METRO CONNECT

HAVE YOU INSTALLED RAIL-GUARD YET?

DAILY COMMUTER, 5 MARCH 20[...]

Unguarded construction site at Saki Naka. Photograph taken by Rukmini Sana.

Mumbaikars who live along the Metro Line have to deal with the risk of accidents and death on a daily basis. Only last week, two children were badly injured when they fell from the window of their home on to the train tracks. Fortunately, they were rescued in time by alert commuters waiting for the 3:30 PM local. There are several construction sites along the Metro corridor as the municipality is adding several new lines. The picture above shows an unguarded and open construction site in the Saki Naka area. This increases the danger of accidents and harm for the residents of the Metro corridor. The municipal engineers of our city have come up with an innovative solution for our urban problem.

While we may be confident of taking care of ourselves, it is our children and the elderly who are more susceptible to the dangers of passing trains, of the risk of injury from discarded objects and the constant stream of commuters. In 2024 alone, the BMC recorded 23 accidents on the Versova Andheri Ghatkopar Corridor. Of these, 9 resulted in deaths, and 11 people were left paralysed and 2 had to have their limbs amputated. In light of this alarming statistic the government engineers have designed "Rail-Guard", an easy to

assemble, lightweight and flexible panel that attaches on to windows and doors of the buildings along the Metro. The municipality plans to distribute this at a subsidised cost to citizens. We spoke to Mr. Anees Ansar who is the chief designer for this novel product who said, "I remember how excited I was when the Metro first started in the city. I went on a ride with my father and we used to go together to Ghatkopar every Sunday. It makes me proud to have designed something so useful to everyone. This panel has telescopic joints which means it can fit almost all sizes of doors and windows. It is not only useful for those who live along the Metro but also for everyone else. My father was always sad to read about these daily accidents on the Metro. So I think if he were alive he would have told everyone to install this and provide a safe environment to their families."

Let us hope that this cheap and easy to install panel replaces the risk and brings back the same excitement and joy to the metro.

David Ghose, Daily Commuter

THE DAILY C[...]

13 SEPTEMBER 2019, THE DAILY COMMUTER, PART OF THE MUMBAI[...]

THE FAC(AD)E PROBLEM

On Monday, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Regulation passed a new regulation that will allow housing societies to see facade space on their bruildings for advertising purposes. This new regulation is only applicable for residential spaces along the Metro Corridor. This controversial regulation comes in the wake of protests organized by housing societies demanding the right to rent advertizing space as a means to 'generate revenue'. Mr. D. Gambhir, the secretary of the VAG Ghar Sammelan (VAGGS) pointed out that commercial buildings along the metro corridor have been selling the space on their building facades ever since the Metro corridor was started seven years ago. He said, 'It is high time that housing societies too get the right to earn money from such sources. Think about all the good that can be done with the money! We could upgrade our green spaces, install mechanical parking slots and increase the free space available to us. There are many good things that we can do, why should only they (commercial buildings) profit?'

Many others do not agree with this point of view. Mr. Sant from the Ghatkopar Air Society (GAS) had this to say, 'We cannot expect to turn the places where we stay into revenue generating machines. The municipality has overlooked several problems this could create. Think about it, right now, this law allows us to cover our buildings with hoardings, but there is no clarity on the amount of area hoardings are allowed to cover. This will lead to bad light and ventilation in the building. No one is talking about this.'

Mr. Sant's objections are echoed in the city's leading environmental forum. 'The municipality has instituted new policy without thinking about the environmental problems it is going to create for its residents. this is very typical of the present goverment which has passed several policies without drawing up a detailed environmental impact assesment report.' We went to the municipality office and met with the Chief Engineer for the BMC, Mr. Deshpande who has been crucial to the implementation of the policy, 'You have to think of this new policy as a new window of opportunity for he city, not just housing societies. Think about all the good things people can do with the money. this will mean a reduction in building maintenance costs and we can also think of introducing a municipal tax that can then be used to make the city better. These organizations who are saying that we have not thought of the future are completely incorrect. We have thought of the future. That is why we have this policy.'

It appears that the citizens of the city, will just have to wait and watch. But for those who commute on the Metro everyday, their view is about to be significantly altered.

ANU GARG, MUMBAI NEWS NETWORK

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future archive – in the context of mega-infrastructures like the skywalk and metrobridges changing the landscape of the city, this is an archive of the future that foretells city transformations

the future has many dimensions and cannot be approached as one project nor can it be imagined as one vision. it requires multiple engagements by many actors.

mobility is about navigating different ecosystems of the city to make one's own future.

this project conceptualizes the city's ecosystems, future trajectories and tools for such navigation. it is also about making tactical interventions to settle the ruffles created by mega projects

After this we intend to:

1. Bring the project to Mumbai – it will inform the development planning process

2. Initiate full scale research to develop and resolve each of the tools

3. Take necessary actions to demonstrate implications of some tools

Collective Research Initiatives Trust (CRIT), practicing in Mumbai since 2003, is a network of individuals interested in developing areas of critical research in, and responses to the contemporary urban realm. The team for the project 'Being Nicely Messy' included: Rupali Gupte, Prasad Shetty, Prasad Khanolkar, Chitra Venkataramani, Rohan Shivkumar, Khyatee Kanchan, Anuj Daga, Jeet Dutta, Kartik Gala, Vinita Gatne, Shivani Shedde, Prachi Patel, Apurva Talpade and Namrata Kapoor with support and assistance from RR Planks, Addmake India and Lycodon fx.

crit.in