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## GRAPHIC NARRATIVES FOR READING INDIAN CITIES IN CONSTANT MOTION

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### ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the definition of a methodological approach to map the territory through a perceptive/phenomenological investigation that represents time, space, and activities in urban space.

The primary research question of the paper is how to determine a methodology of analysis of urban settlement, by mapping spatial dynamics, temporal, and intangible characteristics of a place, and defining appropriate strategies to decode the sense of the "Kinetic City" (Mehrotra 2008) through urban narratives that depict in dialogue the temporality and fluidity of urban spaces.

Indian cities, like many in South Asia, are characterized by physical and visual contradictions, producing landscapes of extreme pluralism. Post-colonial urban spaces are the result of a continuous negotiation between elite and subaltern cultures, resulting in a temporal articulation and occupation of space.

Indian cities are in "constant flux" (Mehrotra et al. 2017), and therefore its mapping requires a study of the temporary occupations of space by people, animals, vehicles, and its different actions, such as vending, celebrating or resting. Mapping Indian territory has to include aspects of informality and temporality because these dynamic processes constitute the base for urbanization. According to Ananya Roy, "informality is inscribed in the ever-shifting relationship between what is legal and illegal, legitimate and illegitimate, authorized and unauthorized" (Roy 2009, 80).

The outcome of this paper is to focus on new methods for conceiving and narrating

the dynamics of the city: firstly, pointing out methods to read and record the complex urban reality and secondly, elaborating guidelines and indicators to understand and explain the city and the constant motion of everyday life.

### KEYWORDS

Graphic narratives; Indian city; temporality; informal activities.

### INTRODUCTION

This paper focuses on decoding a methodological approach to mapping, through a 'perceptive/phenomenological' system that can represent not only tri-dimensionality but also the fourth dimension of urban space claimed by human activities or events. These mapping strategies have the potential to translate and represent the intrinsic meanings of the "Kinetic City" concept (Mehrotra 2008), with narratives that uncover the relation between temporal and spatial structures.

Pioneering studies about the interrelation of urban spaces and social interactions were developed when urban areas started to bring together many cultural strands. In particular, the accelerated processes of urbanization and the effects they had on social sentiments gave rise to studies of Urban sociology, since the beginning of the last century. Sociologists such as Max Weber and Georg Simmel (1903) laid the foundations of urban sociology. Moreover, urban theories of the Everyday Life (Certeau 1984) and Everyday

Urbanism (Chase, Crawford and Kaliski 2008) developed an understanding of urban design not focused on aesthetics or style but on social structures, user experience, and co-creation of culture. As well as methodological approaches to the study of urban life by William Whyte, Donald Appleyard and Jan Gehl.

The object of this investigation is the urban context in India, which is amid a fundamentally transformative urban awakening. The processes of urbanization and urban growth are embedded in and play constitutive roles in shaping the complex and interactive political, social, demographic and ethno-religious contexts. In 1991, just under 220 million people lived in the country's urban areas. Exponentially, this increased to 380 million in 2011 and is forecast to rise to over 600 million by 2030 (Ahluwalia, Kanbur, Mohanty 2014). As per United Nations estimates, an additional half a billion people will live in Indian cities in the next 35 years, becoming almost 900 million by 2050. The urban modes of living have been long debated in the Indian context, where urbanization comes with its peculiar set of challenges. These are further exacerbated by the phenomena of urban informality (Roy 2005, 147–158), particularly in peri urban expansion or in rapidly growing small and medium towns (Denis & Marius-Gnanou 2011). The complexities of Indian cities also intensify issues of social, economic and political exclusion: the post-liberalization India has seen an 'invisibilization' of marginalized groups (Fernandes 2004), linked with urban economic modernization.

In this complex environment, the aim is to understand how mapping can be useful for rising appropriate design strategies. Cartographical work can effectively communicate temporal appropriations and particular uses of urban space, and layout methods and strategies for its application. For this reason, it is crucial to understand mapping not as an objective outcome but as

a construct and representational device, that is an integral part of the design process, as it is speculative and projective (Desimini & Waldheim et al. 2016).

This study is part of the ongoing research developed by the authors during the fellowship at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India (2019). It also includes a comprehensive reflection about how it can be taught for the researchers, as a method for reading the Indian complexity and strategies for mapping urban spaces in constant motion.

## 1. THE INDIAN CONTEXT AND THE KINETIC CITY – THE CASE OF AHMEDABAD

The city of Ahmedabad has been taken as a case study for this research as it embodies all the main characteristics and contradictions of the Indian city. Today, Indian cities comprise two components that occupy the same physical space. The first, which could be called the Static City, is made up of more permanent materials - concrete, steel, and brick. This is the two-dimensional conception that appears on traditional maps, and its presence is monumental. The other is the Kinetic City. Incomprehensible as a two-dimensional entity, it is perceived as a moving city, a three-dimensional construct in progressive development. The Kinetic City has a temporary nature and is often built from recycled materials - plastic sheets, scrap metal, canvas, and scrap timber. It is continuously modified and reinvented. Kinetic City is not perceived in architectural terms, but rather in terms of spaces and occupation patterns. It is indigenous urbanization with its particular 'local' logic (Mehrotra 2008).

In the international world, Ahmedabad is commonly known as an architecture Mecca, where the masterpieces designed by Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, Charles Correa and Balkrishna Doshi, as well the historical old city submerge in a vibrant kaleidoscope of everyday activities. Moreover, it has become

the seventh-largest metropolis in India and the largest in the state of Gujarat (Forbe's 2010). In 2017, the historic city of Ahmedabad (Walled City or Old City) became part of the UNESCO World Heritage list, according to criteria II, V (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551>). The motivation was the evident universal significance. The Walled City is not only a tangible testimony of a historical artefact that reflects the succession of eras, but also has a high intangible value of cultural tradition, transliterated in the urban landscape. In the light of these reasons, looking at the city today, Ahmedabad seems to reflect two distinctive souls, with the flow of the Sabarmati river dividing the city in two halves.

Ahmedabad was founded in 1411 AD as a walled city on the eastern bank of the river Sabarmati. It was established as the new capital of the Sultanate of Gujarat in western India by Ahmad Shah, the second sultan of the Muhammadan dynasty (Forrest 1977, 62-86). In those years, the Citadel was built (Bhadra Citadel) and the city was structured with significant trade fair routes in order to transform it into a manufacturing and trade center. Marbles and other precious materials had been imported from afar, to build magnificent mosques, tombs and palaces (Forrest 1977, 64). From this time until the arrival of the Marathas dynasty the city has grown and has consolidated its urban structure - the walls were built, in defense of the *pur*<sup>1</sup> (neighborhoods), administratively independent and controlled by the nobility named by the king (Gillion 1968, 26).

Still today, the walled city has preserved a fairly semi-circular plan, with the core in the center and radiating streets connecting the center to the edge. The site chosen on the eastern banks of the river provided the ideal

condition for the growth of the city, due to its location at the crossroads of important sub-continental trade routes and the proximity to water.

For this reason, historically, Ahmedabad has been one of the most important centers of trade and commerce in western India. The city's prosperous and eventful past and present is embodied in its vibrant kaleidoscope of history, art and culture. These conditions and character contributed to enrich the 'old city', which has a great architectural tradition reflected in many exquisite monuments, temples and even modern buildings (e.g. Premabhai Hall, 1976 or Central Bank Of India 1966 - 1967 designed by B.V. Doshi). This peculiar urban fabric is perfectly integrated into a multicultural palimpsest of different eras, in which the monumental landmarks emerge (<http://asi.nic.in>). In fact, within the walls, there are more than 30 mosques and *dargahs*, more than 30 Hindu temples, under one hundred Jain temples, and more *madrasas*, *jamaatkhaana*, *upaashray*, *dharmashaala*. Moreover, the rich domestic architecture in inlaid wood remains in several cases as precious testimony to the minute scale of the urban fabric.

The presence of these architectural landmarks - places and buildings - give a peculiar sense of belonging, continuity and identity. This area of the city is now packed with bazaars, '*pur*' with the clustered '*pol*' system of dwellings, and numerous places of worship. From a morphological and typological point of view, it is interesting to understand the structure of the urban space, where there is a hierarchization between public and private space still evident today. These are the result of centuries of growth over which newer elements are juxtaposed continuously with older ones. Old buildings

<sup>1</sup> Traditionally in the Old city, the *pur* are composed of *pol*, groups of houses, with one or two entrances, in which the social unit is based on the link of caste or trade (Vastu Shilpa Foundation, 2002). Therefore, the urban fabric reflects a hierarchical system of movements and social relations: from the level of the city to the settlement (*pol*), from that to the family or community spaces (*khancha*, *khadki*). The analysis of the fabric underlines that there are primary roads (*bazaars*), where traders arrived even from out of town. Secondary roads are linked to these and are characterized by a particular type of products such as jewelry, metal objects and tools and are accessible to residents of the *pol*. Finally, a third hidden level (*alleys*) is accessible by the workers for cleaning the streets. (Desai 2019, 39; Yagnik, Sheth 2016, 91-97)

and older areas of the city are assets, as they represent the history of the communities, embodying their tradition, heritage, and culture through architecture and urban form (<http://www.intach.org>).

Due to high industrial growth and its social and political history, Ahmedabad represents the dynamic two souls in its own physical body. In the eastern part, the original Walled City rooted in the tradition with the outside suburbia dotted with textile mills and *chaals*, constituted the working and industrial class. On the west bank of Sabarmati, there are new sprawls mainly inhabited by the middle class and characterized by cultural centers, universities and masterpieces of modern architecture (Yagnik, Sheth 2016, 257-258).

Since decades Ahmedabad has been undergoing major transformation in terms of use as well as built form. It is the city where new directions of a new urban future were tried out during the Twentieth Century. It was one of the first cities in India to be industrialized and the second largest manufacturer of textiles after Bombay. For this peculiarity Ahmedabad had earned the title of “Manchester of India” (Spodek 2011). Beyond the textile mills, Spodek has found similarity between Ahmedabad and Manchester. He applied the definition of “shock city” to Ahmedabad, a term coined one year before by British historian Asa Briggs in his book “Victorian Cities” for Manchester. “Every age has its shock city” and the shock cities are a “center of problems, particularly ethnic and social problems, and it provoked sharply differing reactions from visitors” (Briggs 1963, 56). Throughout the Twentieth Century, almost one third of the adult male population was working in the cloth mills (Spodek 2011, 6-7) and in 1920 the first *Textile Labour Association* was born. Ahmedabad became the headquarters of

the freedom movement and also one of the first places where movement against ‘untouchability’ had been taken up. In 1915 on his return to India, Gandhi decided to establish his ashram in Ahmedabad, until 1930. Gandhi’s activities made Ahmedabad a shock city, bringing a sense of unity to the city (Spodek 2011, 167). It had one of the first municipalities, one of the first to have established schools for western education, and the first girls’ school came up here in 1849 (Yagnik, Sheth 2016, 119-128).

Today Ahmedabad is a major industrial and financial city, contributing about 14% of the total investments in all stock exchanges in India and 60% of the total productivity of the state. Several scientific and educational institutions of national, regional and global importance have been established in the city, attracting a large pool of highly skilled young professionals. At the same time, a significant advancement of the IT sector and a virtuous development of transport infrastructure has been taken up, and in 2016 Ahmedabad has been selected among the first 20 Smart Cities in India (<http://www.smartcities.gov.in/>).

Moreover, Ahmedabad has had and is having a rapid urbanization. In 1992, the population of its Urban Agglomeration was 12 times that of the Walled City area (AUDA, 1992), but, at the same time, it is registering depopulation phenomena especially in the Old City, where the residents prefer to abandon the traditional pols for moving in the new neighborhoods of the city<sup>2</sup>. The Walled City reveals heavy congested traffic, intricate roads, polluted air, lack of water, weak maintenance of the traditional houses and fragile society. The city has indeed seen several communal riots in the recent past, due mostly to religious conflicts<sup>3</sup>, which created others fragile conditions.

<sup>2</sup> Analysis conducted by MCR18 students on Mandvi ni pol during the monsoon semester 2019, Urban regeneration Studio, Cept University. Tutors: Alisia Tognon, Ashna Patel, Jigna Desai.

<sup>3</sup> In 1969 Gujarat saw a riot between Hindus and Muslims during September–October. Unofficial reports claim 2000 deaths and over 48,000 people lost their property. (Gayer, Jaffrelot 2012, 53–60). In 2002 another Gujarat violence called Gujarat pogrom during February – March. Almost 2000 dead and 2,500 injured. (Jaffrelot 2003)

This general situation is creating pressure on the main level of the city, and the definition of public spaces as well. Rapid urbanization is creating an urban complexity and a real estate pressure, which is taking over the open spaces from the future planning of the city.

Reading and understanding these issues is a central question in the study of the Indian context. Urban open spaces (public and private) are the stage for a myriad of activities, such as vending, celebrating or resting, where simultaneously different actors as people, animals or vehicles are living together. At the same time, the sites have a mixture of uses throughout the daytime and the seasons, transformed with different activities. In Ahmedabad, a significant example of this condition is Manek Chowk, in the core of 'old city'. This square contains various events throughout the day, changing functions every day with a similar temporal-spatial succession. Early in the morning, the cows are grazing the leftovers of the night food market and the vegetable vendors. During the day the jewelry market comes up, and the shops extend their selling devices into the open public space, together with the vegetable stalls. In the evening, it is a lively and crowded food market. Many examples, such as this one is representative of a constant and current condition of the Indian city: a city in 'constant flux', where the interchangeable temporary occupation of urban open spaces is perpetual.

## 2. MAPPING EVERYDAY LIFE

When looking at the morphological and typological aspects, as in the western context, the act of mapping focuses on the representation of the more permanent physical conditions: streets, buildings, green areas, and other tangible elements. Differently, in Indian cities it is required to also study the temporary occupations of space. The study of everyday life through maps can be crucial in understanding aspects of temporality and informality, and in designing appropriate solutions that take into account these dynamic processes that constitute the base of urbanization in India.

Referring to the concept of "Everyday Urbanism", as "an approach to Urbanism that finds its meanings in everyday life" (Chase, Crawford and Kaliski 2008), spatial ethnography builds an empirical approach about the sensibility of looking at frequently unnoticed situations and experiences that occur in everyday life. This concept relocates the human body and its social networks in the center of space production. Based on Certeau studies, the physical environment is not deterministic of the humans action in space (Certeau 1984). The users of urban space contest and create new rituals, patterns, and flows that mold the existing territory.

Likewise, Jan Gehl advocates for a methodology to study the 'life between buildings' based on systematic

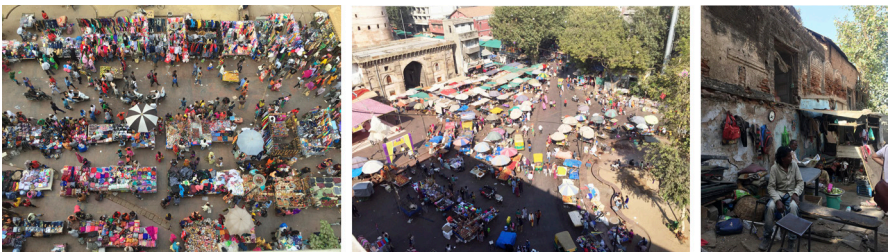


Figure 1. Market at Bhadra Fort, and informal settlements at Raikhad Gate, Ahmedabad (authors 2017-2019)



documentation, observation, and surveys, to understand how people behave in public open spaces. This is based on the premise that only by understanding how people interact with the physical environment, it is possible to design appropriate urban spaces. Understanding the agency of mapping as "neither reproduction nor imposition but rather in uncovering realities previously unseen or unimagined" (Cosgrove 1999, 213). Mapping is a precious method that can reveal and understand the logic and patterns of the everyday life of urban spaces.

Until the Renaissance, maps were a hybrid representation of spatial relations between objects (houses, people, animals) and fields (settlements, cultivated plots, oceans), and figurative elements, as monsters symbolizing dangerous areas. A map drawn in 1502 by Leonardo da Vinci changed the paradigm of cartography, it represented only streets and buildings (without any figuration) in a parallel projection seen from above (Bosselmann 1998, 13). This became the conventional system of mapping, used in representations such as the Nolli map (1736-38) or the Barcelona Ensanche (1866). This method represented accurately the physical conditions of the city in plan, but, by definition, neglecting many other aspects such as tri-dimensionality, experiential attributes, and social systems. These and other urban qualities were later addressed by urbanists such as Camilo Sitte (*The art of building cities*, 1889), Gordon Cullen (*Townscape*, 1961), Kevin Lynch (*The image of the city*, 1960) or Jan Gehl (*Life between buildings*, 1971).

Different methods of representation reveal different urban ideologies and distinct conceptualization of the role of the urbanist. Gordon Cullen and, in late 90s, Peter Bosselmann, represented the city through a sequence of images along a path, at a human-eye level, focusing on the experience of walking in the city. Kevin Lynch and Stanley Milgram studied how the city was perceived

and remembered by its users, representing those perceptions in maps (mental maps). In the 1960s, Jan Gehl related urban form with social sciences and studied, through maps, the activities of people in public space. This method represented geographical data with parallel projections, along with social data, represented by symbols. A map of Copenhagen done in 1968 shows the plan of a street with human temporal activities - people sitting and standing, street vendors, musicians - and the everyday life.

An important aspect of spatial ethnography of 'everyday life' is also its agency to challenge existing power structures. Annette Miae Kim, in her work about the sidewalk life in Ho Chi Minh City, uses the term "critical cartography" to 'describe the subset of mapmaking that aims to bring to the fore issues of power' (Kim 2015, 64) This is particularly relevant in the Indian context, where 'everyday life' is intrinsically connected with the 'informal'. Mapping everyday life means to document the informal along with the formal, and to build the bases for a new understanding of this relationship. Also, mapping has the agency to represent informal and formal structures with the same graphical quality, and therefore partially omitting the aesthetics of informality. This can reveal a new imagination, not based on aesthetics or material attributes, but focused on other aspects of these events, such as their metrics or the complexity of their operability on the use of open space.

With the complexity of temporary occupations of public open space in the Indian context, it becomes relevant to conceptualize mapping as a representation of four-dimensional situations, where time plays an important role. The production of appropriate maps and cartographical work that look at everyday life along with the physical and more permanent environment can be a way to uncover the relations between the static and kinetic city, and to understand them not as binaries but as nuanced and interrelated realities. This

conceptualization of the Indian city and the traditional use of space is present on the works of Architect B.V. Doshi, the founder of CEPT University, in 1962. In the words of Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya about his work: "not to clean up and isolate an architectural environment into simply an architectural art, but to connect it to life forms, is something which is peculiarly Indian. The weaving in of outdoor spaces and movements across this is something like the way an Indian house or street would work"<sup>4</sup>.

### 3. DEFINITION OF A METHOD TO MAP THE KINETIC CITY

The first step forward in studying Ahmedabad, as any other Indian city, is to understand how to examine its urban spaces by integrating physical and social information. Therefore, it is important to be able to formulate a method of spatial ethnography that binds together social science and physical spatial analysis. It is crucial to uncover how places are actually used in everyday life, the social process behind them and the meaning of these uses. Only then, design approaches can be appropriate to the complex context of an Indian city, where space is fluid and in flux. Mapping Indian territory means to combine formal and informal aspects. The concept of "informality" represents a state of deregulation, where nothing is fixed, as per ownership or land use, and mapped according to a prescribed set of regulations or laws. Informality is a dynamic process, which is the ground of Indian urbanization (Roy 2009). Comprehending the meaning of 'everyday life' and reading it allows the capacity to generate comprehensive and useful maps, which will include formal and informal, static, and kinetic aspects.

Looking at the European context, the informal components in the urban spaces are rare compared with the static ones. Rarely in

Europe, something is left unregulated, and generally, there is no informal appropriation of public spaces by citizens. Every area is planned, and there is an explicit definition between public and private spaces. These established conditions clarify the modality for reading urban spaces. Commonly, mapping a city in Europe means to map the physical elements: the streets, the functions, the buildings, the water systems, the green area, and not the human activities. On the contrary, mapping the Indian city means to study the movement of humans and animals, the social fabric and the temporal events, as part of the formal and informal occupation of public space.

In the afterword of the book *Cartographic Grounds* (Desimini & Waldheim et al. 2016, 251), Antoine Picon states the need for an urgent study of the conventional signs used in maps, since digital tools challenge the 'traditional notions about cartography'. A study of the mapping work developed in the Indian context, where reality is transformed at a fast pace, can bring forward a new nature of signs, that is able to represent the movement of bodies in space and the 'everyday life' in the urban context.

In the research about Kumbh Mela, by Harvard University (Mehrotra, Vera, 2015), we can see the event being mapped by a series of drawings spaced in time. Each map is done on a specific day and it represents a still frame of the construction and organization of semi-permanent shelter structures. This series of maps represents the dynamic process of assembling and disassembling a temporary city. The succession of maps uncovered the logics and patterns of temporary 'urbanization', not visible on one single map, but on the collection of many.

In many of the recent academic classes at CEPT University<sup>5</sup> we can see the centrality of human activities in the process of mapping. When asked to survey a territory, most of the students mapped the physical

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-19/pritzker-winner-doshi-put-his-stamp-on-ahmedabad-india>

and social environment, in dialogue. The maps revealed the temporary and informal uses of public space such as squatting, vending, or cow grazing, as well as the more permanent built environment such as dwellings or walls. For this, students created graphic codes for the 'events' happening in the territory, differentiating the temporal conditions of each one of them - mobile (walking, driving, cow grazing), stationary (seating, stadings, vending) or semi-permanent (squatting, vending, celebrating). Other studios experimented with a mapping process that examined the relation between everyday life activities and built form, through graphic narratives. These drawings narrated different events through perspectives or axonometries. Each of these frames presented a story about a place and its use by the movement of the bodies, expressing the activities performed and the relation with the physical environment. Just as a storyboard, these drawings mapped the use of space at a moment in time that is significant for the understanding of the territory. What determines the character of these places is the structure of relationships that materialize primarily on the ground: physical, cognitive, and symbolic connections. The drawings produced in this studio are synthesis, interposed between the tensions that bind permanence, erosions, and poetic resistances.

### 3.1. Method to study public spaces in Ahmedabad

For understanding the complexity of Ahmedabad's public spaces, the challenge is to identify a peculiar methodology for reading the flux and the constant motion of the city. To start, it is necessary to identify and compare different categories of public space that exist in the city of Ahmedabad. To be able to compare different open public spaces, it is essential to

select a set of sites with comparable contexts and similar characteristics. The analysis conducted during the research field should be organized in three different steps: exploration (1), restitution of data (2) and interpretation (3).

1 - Referring to the eight principles established by Jan Gehl in his book "How to study public life" the exploration phase sets the indicators of: counting, mapping, tracing, tracking, looking for traces, photographing, keeping a diary, test walk. Each site must be studied at different times of the day, and at two distinct moments of the week (e.g. weekdays and weekend). Generally, the most appropriate time for site visit is: 8am to 10.00 am and 06.00 pm to 08.00 pm. This is necessary because some particular places change drastically during the weekend. The Riverfront Sunday Market is such an example (Fig.3). The market was redesigned in 2012, along with a large area of the Ahmedabad's riverfront, to protect the city from the floods of Sabarmati River. The intrinsic character of the Sunday Market suggested studying the site during the week, while there is no market, and the area is almost empty, and Sunday when the entire area becomes crowded with people, animals, vehicles and vending structures.

2 - The second phase is to develop a way for the restitution of data by synthesizing and analyzing the data collected. The results of this phase are maps - of actors, flows, sounds and lights - that show not only the static elements of the physical space but also the changeable actors of the 'human space'. The aim is to express the tangible and the intangible aspects of the city, as a pillar for the kinetic soul of the Indian city.

3 - In the end, the analysis of the selected spaces is translated into a strategic plan or framework, to be used as tools in the design project. The definition of this framework establishes strategic outcomes for transforming urban spaces.

<sup>5</sup> <https://portfolio.cept.ac.in/>



Figure 2. Mapping the Riverfront market Ahmedabad, during the week (left) and on Sunday (right), an Indian case study of everyday urbanism, Master thesis Politecnico di Milano (Sara Rossi, 2019)



Figure 3. Riverfront market Ahmedabad, during the week (left) and on Sunday (right), Sunday (Authors, 2019)

## CONCLUSION

In a broad definition, we would like to recognize not only the importance of reading the urban spaces through maps but above all, the importance of understanding which types of maps are appropriate for each environment. This is particularly relevant if we acknowledge mapping as an initial component of the design process, where the

framework established initially can condition the consequent design decisions.

Drawings that represent not just absolute conditions but fluid realities, have the chance to generate solutions that understand the territory as ephemeral and therefore propose solutions that are also transitory. This is particularly important in a context of rapid urbanization as India, where urban spaces are in constant mutation, and are shared and

produced by people from different economic, social and religious backgrounds.

As underlined by Kim, urban design has produced disastrous results when it has been informed by ideological ideas that have been generated without ethnographic studies (Kim 2015). Ahmedabad has seen a recent increase of urban development projects that lacked critical knowledge about the local communities and the overall situation. Spatial ethnography is therefore essential for sensible and adequate projects that can explore the relation between pattern and logics of use of space and its physical limitations.

In the work of a student of Politecnico di Milano and exchange at CEPT University (fig.3), we can observe the methodology for mapping the kinetic condition of the Indian city organized in three phases. The first phase is set to explore the location and to rigorously study the site and the events that occur on it. For that it is necessary to examine the territory at different moments of the day, on different days of the week, or the year if there are any festival celebrations on the site. It is common that vacant spaces, for example, have seasonal festivals and are, therefore, occupied during parts of the year with temporary structures and activities, such as wedding parties or other celebrations. The data acquired during the visits is then synthesized and analyzed, looking for patterns and logics of everyday use. The result is a series of maps that represent not just the physical space but the 'choreography' of the bodies in the territory. This series of maps must then be analyzed to recognize logics of relation between physical environment and everyday use, and create new frameworks of understanding, which will inform the design process.

Since temporal and informal conditions of the urban territory constitute the bases of Indian urbanizations, these research offers a perspective on how maps can explore and make visible these phenomena, by mapping the everyday life.

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