

Competition

PLANETARY URBANISM -

Critique of the Present in the Medium of Information Design

WINNING PROJECTS

First-Prize Category



INFORMATION OVERLOAD.

From the Map to the Ground and Back

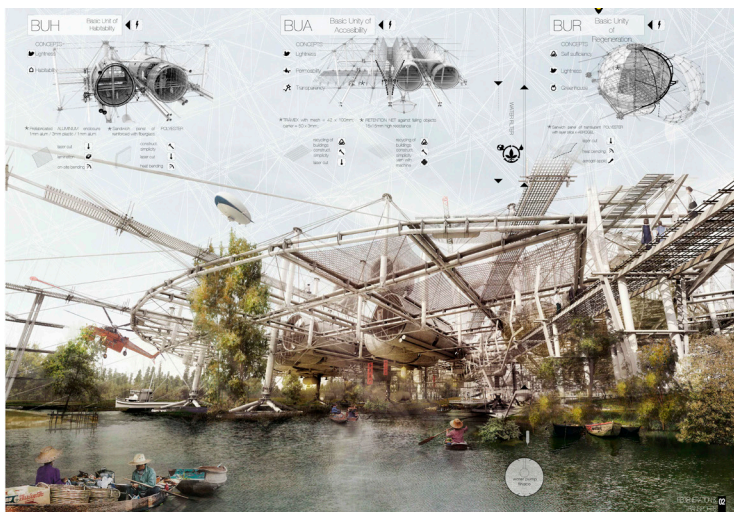
*Mapping a complex, informal settlement
KARAIL BASTI of Dhaka, Bangladesh
based on original generated empirical data*

"Information Overload" attracts the viewer/reader by an unconventional graphic pattern that fills the space of a clear contoured map of one part of the Megacity Dhaka (Bangladesh) that is not officially registered by the authorities. The interdisciplinary research group had to establish its own empirical database in collaboration with the inhabitants of that informal quarter. The results of that investigation, derived from first hand information – observation, autopsy, conversation, recording of social and cultural life in the quarter and mapping the complete built environment – are expressed in handwritten (!) lettering that follows the space of the buildings and leaves blank the open spaces of lanes, places etc. So the structure of the quarter is characterized by inscription as well as by description. The title is chosen ironically for a demonstration of a very effective graphical conception that allows a first glance at something complex and vivid drawing you in and making you curious for going deeper into details.

This is a visual magnet so strong that you cannot distract yourself. Once started reading the miracle happens. All painfully handwritten texts represent elements of human interest in the normally inaccessible territory of Karail Basti. There is so much information and so dense that also the viewers themselves like to escape in canoes to get some air!

Team:

*Günter Nest, Elisa Bertuzzo, Louisa Scherer,
Marcus Jeutner, Paul Klever, Anna Sauter*



RE GENERATOR

Plan to Regenerate & Recover the Wetlands from Hangzhou

The project states the connection between population growth and the partly destruction of the ecosystem especially through building systems. It is searching for forms to provide shelter in a sustainable way. The city of Hangzhou in China has been chosen as an example due to reasons of its rapid population growth, the erosion of the natural ecosystem of the wetlands and of the coastal location.

The proposal shows an alternative cellular construction system, which can be inserted in the city. It is elevated above the ground to give the wetlands a chance to recover. The elevated structure also considers the rising sea level as an impact of climate change.

"Re Generator" reminds of the city utopia "New Babylon", which

was developed by the Dutch Constant Nieuwenhuys mainly in the sixties, but in this case the leading idea is not *homo ludens*, but a new synthesis between technology and nature. The project develops very detailed an utopia to become real – both from the point of construction as from the point of an urban metabolism, in which the cells should function like living cells.

A well balanced combination of dramatic, large photorealistic artist impressions and highly detailed technical details overwhelms the viewer and takes him into a world of imagination.

Author:
Gabriel Munoz Moreno

STATES OF REFUGE IN AUSTRIA

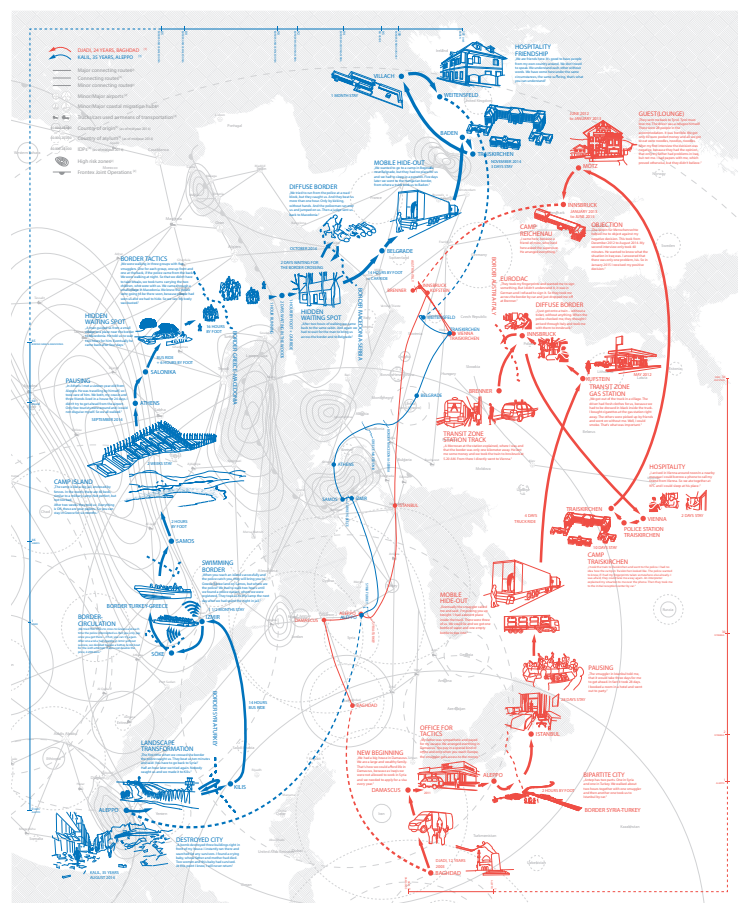
Fluchtraum Österreich. Räumliche Manifestationen gegenwärtiger Asylpolitik und reglementierte Zustände des Wartens

The submission succeeds to present the current public debate on European asylum politics in an innovative and multi-layered way. By the example of Austria insights in the personal and individual dimensions are given that normally hide behind those abstract and statistically based discussions: The rules of the Austrian asylum system are converted into a fictive building that represents the structures and processes in a spatial dimension, considering even subjective emotional perceptions of asylum seekers. A mapping of the escape routes of two refugees is enhanced with their individual experiences. In a similar way the authors illustrate the living circumstances of a mother and her daughter on the

basis of their personal belongings, daily routines or their use of space. The mapping of personal data up to professional backgrounds indicates the wide range of knowledge and experience those affected refugees stand for.

This intense and intelligent research succeeds to combine official statistics, research literature and own research data into a dense picture of this complex issue. The information is very well structured and visualized and thus comprehensible.

Team:
Nina Kolowratnik, Martina
Soi Gunelas, Birgit Miksch,
Johannes Pointl, Lea Soltau,
Anton Wagner, Mario Weisböck



Viel Licht, viel Schatten
Plenty of Light, Plenty of Shadow

The impact of urban light pollution on human health, fauna and the environment is a largely neglected issue in the debate about the impact of global urbanization. Constant extensive lighting in big cities, mainly caused by an inefficient and badly aligned street lighting has been identified as the main reason. In a simple and clear design the authors present different features of light pollution and their negative effects. Those range from an analysis of different light sources, wasted light radiance and energy consumption to the impacts of constant lighting on human health and the quality of sleep in particular. The four panels are homogeneously designed and easy to read. The phenomenon of light pollution is demonstrated by the example of

41 European cities: The form of a periodical system for luminary density and the visibility of stars at night skies are particularly convincing examples of visualisation.

The chosen yellow colour for the visuals at a dark blue background works wonderful to demonstrate the effect of artificial night light sources in our build environment. The diagrams often use a recognizable picture as basic forms like a butterfly to show the effect of light killing insects or city lamp poles to show the ineffectiveness of light distribution.

Team:
Vanessa Lang, Daniel Grasmeyer, Sascha Hermanns



Second-Prize Category

Subversive Tehran

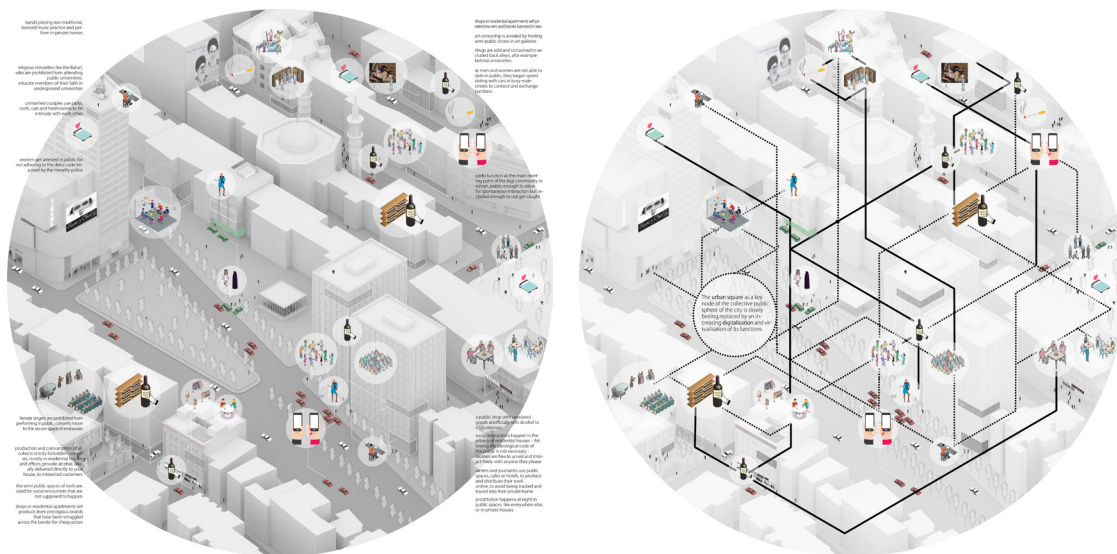
The submission presents in an attractive design a simple, clear and actual thesis: Features of public space can be displaced into digital virtual spaces. The authors demonstrate by the example of Tehran how politically restricted activities of modern life

(related to religion, politics, gender, sexuality etc.) seek for alternative niches in urban space. Therefore digital infrastructures play an important role to support and maintain those activities and to build networks. The use of the QR-codes that link to

international media and newspapers, such as The Guardian or the NY Times, however seem contradictory: They present a possible strategy for making repressed information available even within a controlled space. But this opposes to the purpose of conspiracy that some of the presented informal practices may require.

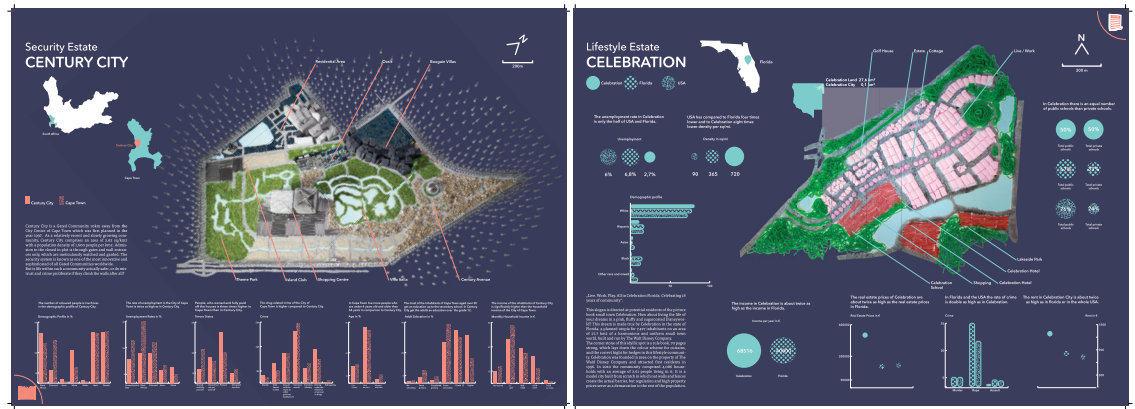
A series of friendly looking and realistic computer-generated aerial views in grey-tones hide an overview of secret 'underground' social activities. Colour is only used to pinpoint the activities themselves. An isometric line diagram explains the connections.

Team:
Ivo Pekec, Fereshteh
Assadzadeh



Gated Communities

The submission has a well structured narrative based on empirical facts, city examples and global data that describe a trend of planetary urbanism. Walls, barriers, gates and other security measures separate inhabitants who decided to live in confined neighbourhoods for lifestyle preferences, prestige or security reasons. Real estate developments separate rich and poor creating a divided city – one of the most important features of today's way of city making. Inspired by the metaphor of an iceberg, the entry reveals the deep mo-

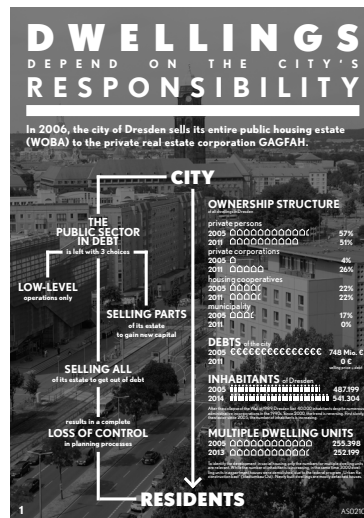


tivations that make residents move to enclosed areas, where dreams of happiness, comfort, charm and peace are all mixed in the search of a world 'apart' and not to be part of the world.

The use of a dark background is always effective to create drama. Reproduction of real models can be a weak element in any information graphic, but the humor in the choice of model ma-

terials makes it worthwhile.

Team:
Nina Schengber, Madeline Rasche, Sven Hendrik Olde, Monika Paul



Dwelling is the Basis for Social Coexistence

The project analyses the consequences for city planning caused by the privatization of municipal dwellings. This common neo-liberal policy is presented by the example of the German city of Dresden. In 2006 the city sold its entire public housing estates to a private company (GAGFAH) what had deep impacts on the diversity in city planning, the transparency and competition in the housing market and in the end caused a lower housing quality. The authors demand a policy to redeem the housing estates and

to found new municipal housing cooperatives and, on the other hand, to seek for alternative ways to involve citizens in the process of residential construction.

Using only text can be boring for an infographic but the typographical boldness is effective and leads to quick answers to different aspects of the housing market. So you read almost a whole article without realizing it.

Team:
Diana Felber, Michael Wicke, Arne Schmitt

Urbanism and Disassembly

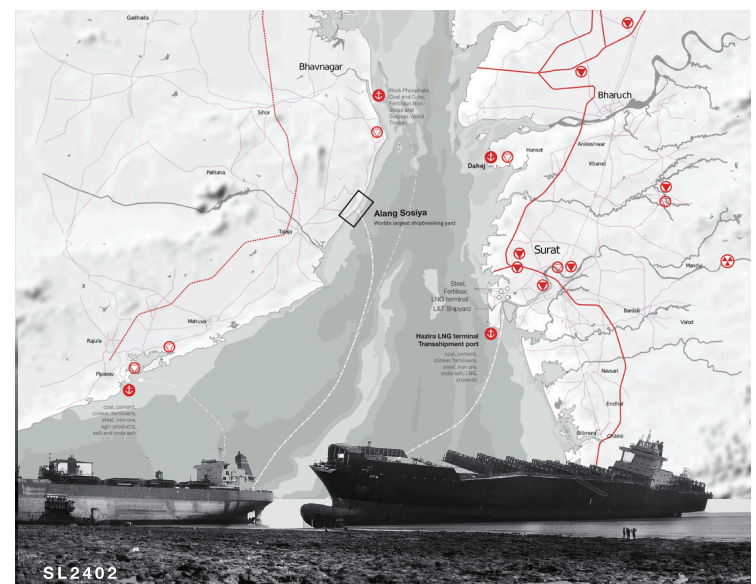
The submission presents ship breaking in Alang, India, as an activity with multiple features that range from the characteristics of shipwrecking as a work-place to the fact that it is also a massive occasion for the recycling of a broad range of materials.

The project focuses on two features: The character of the work of disassembling huge metal ships which is shocking. The other feature lies in the power of the idea: the subterranean economy that feeds, among others, the urban economy, but is never shown as part of that urban economy. In its simple design but powerful content, it generates a knowledge space that opens up a

hidden world without which our cities today could not survive: global trade and the fact that the carriers of that global trade at some point will die. And if they were left to float in oceans and on beaches they would wreck environments and pose dangers to ocean travel. Instead, they disappear in a dark hole of brutal work done by men with bare hands and feet.

There is no need for colour in this story: using an aerial photo, scenery photos, a location map and a strong flow chart tell a horrifying story.

Author:
Aditya Barve

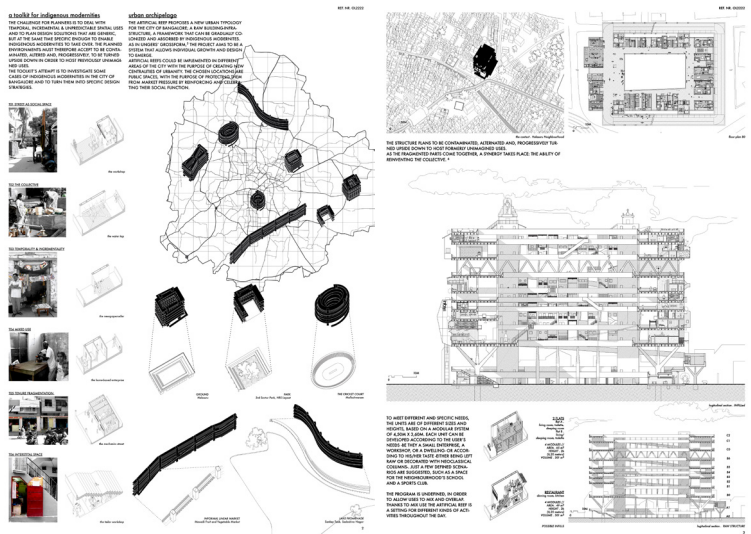


Artificial Reef. An Infrastructure for Indigenous Modernities

The "Artificial Reef" is based on the idea of building on two apparently contrasting concepts that are defined by tradition and modernity. This entry proposes a new urban typology as response to the chaotic, sprawling urbanism of one of the most dynamic cities in India: Bangalore. Based on the premise that new planetary solutions should respond to temporal, incremental and unpredictable spatial uses, this entry uses maps and graphs in black and white contrasting even more the notions of 'in-

digenous' and 'modernities' as a way of accentuating a new urban form. The proposal is based on a reinvigorated notion of urban planning that requalifies the public space and reevaluates the street. It suggests unambiguously the need for densification in a way that traditional quality areas are preserved and enriched, it is in search of a new urban agenda that promotes more heterogeneous and socially diverse neighbourhoods with multiple land uses and walkable places. The aim is to reinvent identity and collective values.

Author:
Olivia Grandi



New Tribal Territories

The submission addresses the conflicts that the process of constant modernization causes on indigenous people and their living circumstances. By the example of the Indian Adivasi the author demonstrates the effects of the expansion of state and market into tribal area. Their proposal aims for a territorial and cultural transformation, where modernization is in accordance with traditional knowledge and landscapes.

This concept offers Tribal people what had been displaced from the forests an opportunity

to recreate new relationships to natural and green spaces in an urbanising context. This uses the deep traditional Adivasi skills and culture in the regeneration of urban ecologies which create and support evolutionary green urban habitats. These habitants in turn offer the opportunity to define new typologies of green architecture that are related to and derived from the green urban spaces. Spaces that range from natural forests through rich diversities to scales of habitats and potential biodiversity corridors.

Author:
Elisabeth Yarina

Community based Climate Change Adaptation in Tobago

Through the example of Tobago the submission illustrates the effects of climate change on the environment and the local economy of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Rising sea level has deep impacts on the low-lying coastal line thus affecting tourism industry as an important economic base of those states. At the same time coastal wetlands and natural flood protection areas are strongly jeopardised and suffer undermining. The project presents an intelligent strategy

how to involve local stakeholders into the process of climate change adaption planning: In field studies and design charrettes different climate change vulnerabilities have been identified. Ecologically based design proposals have been developed to increase the local community resilience to climate change.

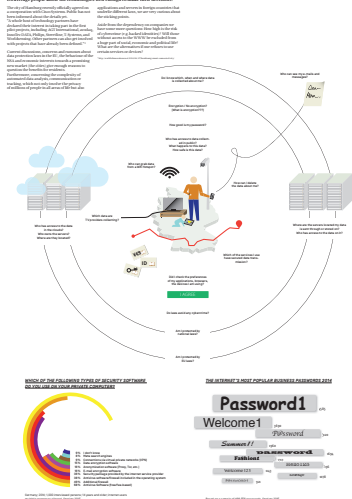
Effective use of tourist style photos of beaches, nature (trees and forests) and an overview of different negative effects on mangrove trees create an attractive overview of the theme.

Team:
Luna Khirfan, Mandy Zhang



Third-Prize Category

Just trust us – or take this!



Just trust us – or take this!



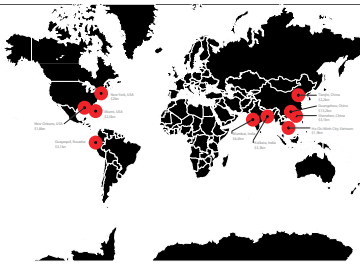
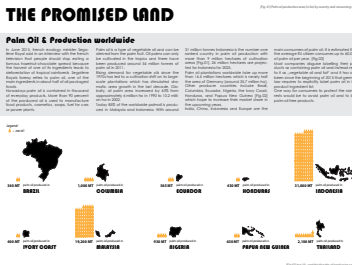
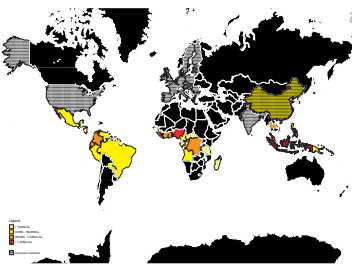
Just Trust Us - Or Take This

In occasion of an agreement between the city of Hamburg and the American communication enterprise Cisco Systems regarding services for a "Smart City" the entry raises the question whether this attempt of designing the city more efficiently by the outsourcing of several municipal communication and control services to international operating big data enterprises undermines e.g. the German Federal Data Protection Act as a guarantee of data privacy and freedom of information.

One value of this contribution is to be seen in a rather sophisticated demonstration of what an average citizen and user would have to consider in order to clarify the terms and use conditions of those digital services and the juridical texts as well.

An obvious overload of information (text that is too small to read) and a dazzling flow chart- is a deliberately and well chosen vehicle of creating a 'wow-effect'.

Team:
Curie Kure, Hanna Biresch



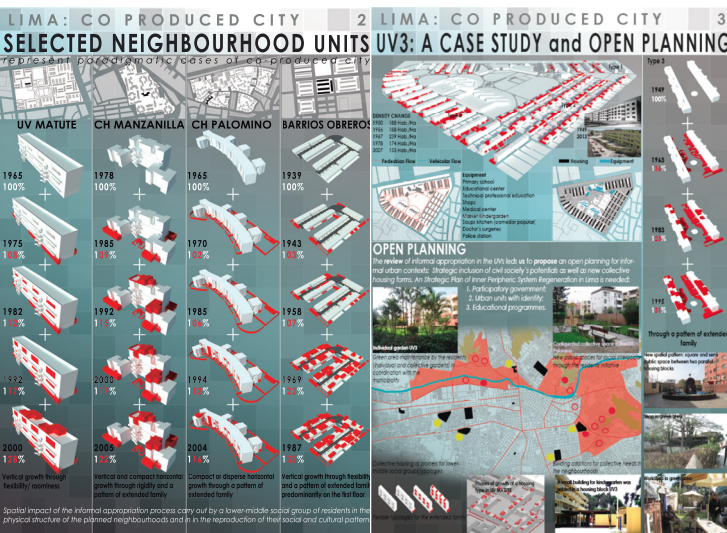
The Promised Land

The project presents the vast number of palm plantations across the world, most of which are geared towards producing palm oil for biofuels and, a far second, for human consumption. Palm oil plantations and processing sites are not unlike the large number of stock markets across the world. Both are key entities in the global economy, and both look like a collection of local, very local, entities. The submission tells us a story about an essential ingredient in major components of

the global economy: biofuels and food, both increasingly corporate entities. The submission goes further when it also shows and underlines the localized negatives of palm production and consumption. This is a brilliant intervention and it is visually clarifying.

Huge black and grey schematized pictures and icons unify a pictorial narrative. Highly accessible. No more or no less than needed to do the job.

Team:
Ira Leifried, Louisa Höppner



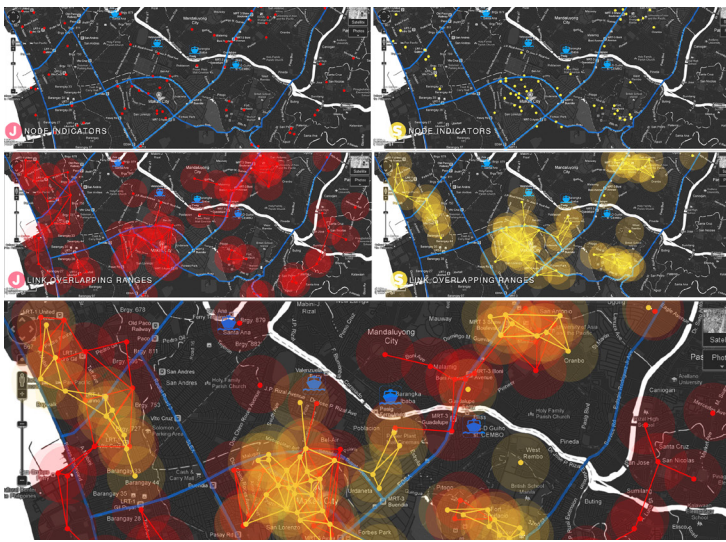
Lima: Co Produced City

The project deals with informal changes of neighbourhoods in the Inner Peripheries System (IPS) of Lima, which consists of old informal settlements. Some of the housing developments lacked social features. The citizens of these areas have adapted their environment to their social needs by informally creating facilities like kindergartens or shared-use of spaces etc. Case studies illustrate the enlargement and densification of four apartment buildings over a period of fifty years. The special impact of the informal appropriation can easily be shown

by the changes of the physical structure of the apartment blocks and neighbourhoods. This process should be integrated into future urban planning. The authors suggest an open planning structure, using modular extensions for future expansion aiming at social needs.

Intriguing thematic maps are combined by a kind of playful lego-style representation of the development in housing.

Team:
Patricia Caldas Torres,
Paula Kapstein Lopez, Edith Aranda Dioses, Mariel Valdivia Lopez



Ground Constellation

In underserved urban areas which also have scarce data, well located fast food and American coffee house locations become indicators for urban activity. The overlap of these nodes with 400 m walkable radii define zones that can support mobility, proximity, shelter and popular access. The connection point between these are places where necessary nodal investments including shelters, mobility access, maps, safety and surveillance, Wi-fi, lighting and

general improvement of public infrastructure can be targeted with the limited budgets available. Mobile apps can supply locational data pertaining to these services nodes which allow users to access necessary urban goods and services.

On black and white aerial photographs, a series of colored clouds appear that attract the attention of the viewer who wants to know more about the theme.

Team:

*Adrian Lorenzo Alfonso,
Mary Pearl Robles*

Tehran: Green Meeting Blue

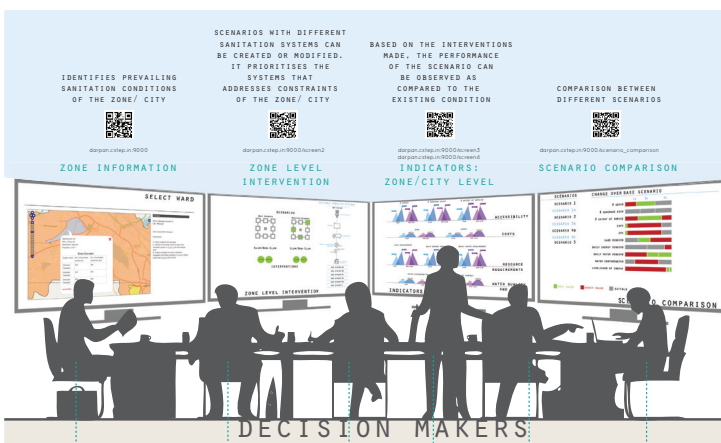
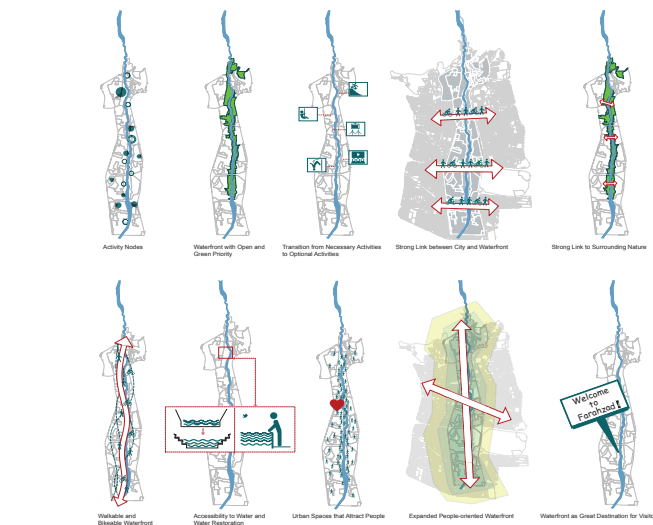
In the context of the analyses of the social and physical boundaries of Tehran and the problem of regaining groundwater because of the river canalisation, the project proposes using the example of the quarter of Farahzad a new connection between city and river thus combining the creation of social meeting places and nature restoration of environmental integration and social integration.

The narrative reaching from the

current status to the vision of possible improvements is presented by clear schematic sketches which easily can be followed.

Team:

Shadi Azizi, Hamid Reza Mousavi, Alireza Delpazir, Mohammad Mahdi Zanjani, Azizi Shadnaz, Vahedi Nima, Arezoo Khamesi, Hesam Tavasoli, Siavash Ghorbani Jazi, Milad Heidari, Seyed Ali Chavoshian, Alireza Ghazizadeh



Sanitation in India

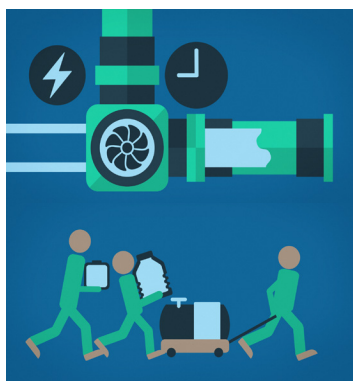
This contribution addresses one of the most urgent challenges in Indian cities: the establishment of modern sanitation systems. The project analyses technical options for possible solutions to improve the urban sanitary system for slum and non-slum areas and offers a decision support tool, supported by links with QR codes to related

websites for scenario development. This work is a good example for a solution oriented information design targeting the responsible decision-makers.

The many big scale diagrams surprise by their unconventional forms. The choice of colours adds to an unfamiliar appearance.

Author:

Bhawna Welturkar



The Water Issues of Accra

Topic of the project is the sustainability of the urban water metabolism as one of the challenges of the Anthropocene. Animated infographics illustrate the problems with freshwater supply in Accra, the rapidly urbanizing capital of Ghana. The infographic highlights

the physical, socio-economic and political challenges related to the availability of freshwater in view of population growth and changing lifestyles. By presenting the current situation the submission questions ongoing strategies of the government and the citizens in terms of a sufficient availability and accessibility of drinking water in the future.

Hidden in the form of a harmless childlike animation, reality takes the viewer by surprise.

Team:

Richard Appiah Otoo, Lilian Stathogiannoopoulou, Sarah Costa, Daniel von Pazatka Lipinski, Sofia Wulf, Syrus Khazaeli