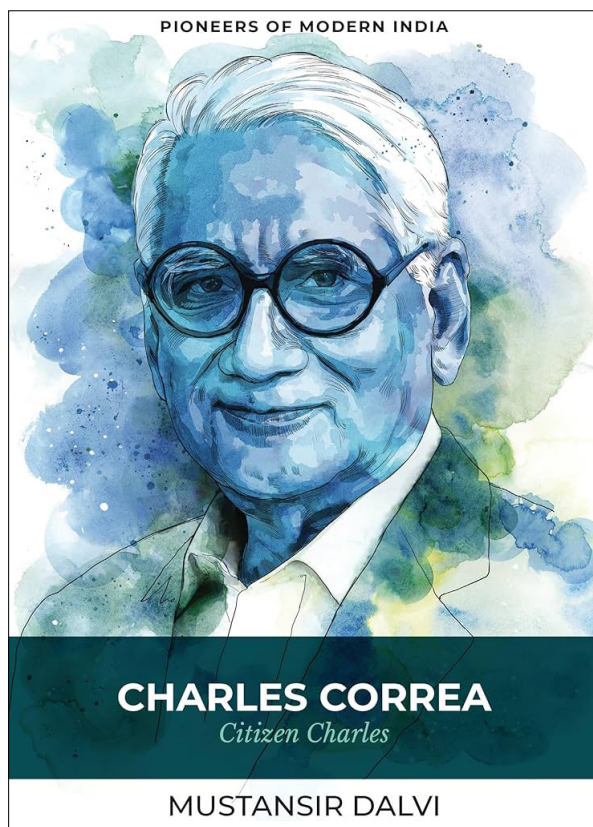




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Author : Mustansir Dalvi
Publisher : Niyogi Books
Paperback : 203 Pages
Language : English

Above all, he was Citizen Charles.

This is the first biography to be written on Charles Correa (1930-2015), architect, urban planner, film-maker and true-blue 'Bombaywallah'. He was a man of many talents, and one of the most globally honoured architects of his time. Today, Correa's designs remain with us as exemplars of a distinctly Indian modernism, which used contemporary international technologies to create buildings uniquely adapted to India's climate and customs. Correa's life-work is significantly because of his zeal to work for urban equity in post-Independence India, to uphold the claims of every Indian citizen to decent egalitarian housing, and access to public space.

This monograph explores the myriad Indian and international influences that shaped Correa's life. It follows him through his childhood days in Art Deco Bombay, his youthful exposure to the towering figures of International Modernism as a student and his commissions in newly-Independent India. It goes on to study the manner in which he developed a contemporary yet distinctively Indian architecture. It chronicles his enduring success as an architect, as well as the bitter disappointments he faced in his lifelong advocacy for an egalitarian and uniquely Indian urbansim.

To purchase, visit the link [here](#)

Excerpt from 'Citizen Charles' Chapter 5: Citizen Charles (page 128-143)

8

In 1985, perhaps for the first time since Independence, the Government of India, with Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister, turned its attention to the state of urban centres in the country. To this end, Gandhi convened a National Commission on Urbanization. For this, he mandated that the members be from outside of government, to get a fresh and unbiased perspective on the state of Indian cities. Acknowledging his experience and expertise, Charles Correa was appointed Chairman for the Commission.

The members of the commissions were diverse experts in urban affairs, management, and planning. They travelled all over the country, making surveys and meeting citizens' groups, non-governmental organizations, politicians, and government officials. Correa convened working groups on mass transportation systems, construction technologies, city management, urban poverty programs, amongst others to get inferences and findings which were as diverse as possible. The report was ready after two years. Their conclusions ran into several volumes and had the stamp of Correa's long engagement with the affairs of cities.

According to Correa, their findings were remarkably positive. The report pointed out that the cities in India were spread throughout the length and breadth of the country, and not agglomerated into specific areas. India was also not

¹In a letter to Correa, dated the 12th of December 1985, Rajiv Gandhi acknowledged the significance of the Urban Commission: 'The Commission on Urbanization faces important responsibilities and must do pioneering work in this country. Unless concrete steps are initiated in this direction right now it may be increasingly difficult to rectify the situation at a later stage.'

dominated unduly by a single city like Paris in France, or London in the United Kingdom. The 'well balanced nature of the urban settlement pattern across India' meant that each had a proportionate influence and synergy with the settlements in its vicinity. This also impacted migration patterns.

The Commission picked out 329 town and cities which were growing faster than the national average. They recommended increasing infrastructural facilities to push for greater economic prosperity in these cities. Such a choice bypassed political pressures about where the country's resources should be spent. 108 cities were in districts where less than 10 percent of the population lived in urban areas. Investing in infrastructure here would create functions, jobs and markets that would 'reinforce further than urban-rural continuum'. After 40 years since this exercise, Tier II and Tier III cities in India are the fastest growing, even as the metropolises are plateauing in growth.

The Commission firmly was of the opinion that rural India should not subsidise urban India. Instead 'urban centres should be perceived for what they are: engines of growth, fully capable of generating the resources necessary for their own healthy development, with a surplus to help fuel growth in the rural hinterland'.

Cities, particularly large cities in India, had their unique problems: the scarcity of available land for housing, and the unaffordability of land where available, had reasons beyond the natural pressures of growth. Behind the 'brutal mismatch between demand and supply' were historic reasons. Under Correa, the Urban Land Ceiling Act and the Rent Act were further analysed for their insidiousness in spurting land prices, as the influence of both had led to a freezing of

building activity. The Commission recommended a tax on undeveloped land which would go to a shelter fund for the urban poor. They also suggested a decontrol of commercial premises which fell under the Rent Act. These reforms also impacted the urban poor, which Correa described as the 'most wretched and dehumanising aspect of the urban scene'. There were specific proposals for employment programs and the supply of land for low-income housing. Needs had to be determined according to rational determinations of future requirement, rather than, as was the present case, making provisions only when the paucity of infrastructure was felt to be most acute.

The report suggested that the primary governance of the cities should be at the level of the city itself through elected city councils, and not top-down from the State Government. Cities should be able to determine their own future requirements. Moreover, it was recommended that, to begin with, the four biggest cities in the country should function as city-states. This did not happen, of course, with political pressures being too strong.

The Commission stressed on the creation of a full time National Urbanisation Council to monitor the progress of cities all over the country, oversee research, and guide policy. They would interact with higher levels of government and ensure consistency in policy and resource allocation towards all urban areas in India.²

Correa took the disappointments in his stride and kept on proselytizing his urban vision. He put most of his ideas into a book, *The New Landscape*, which was published in 1985. In this book he argued for holistic policies related

to urban development in India, instead of piecemeal or reactive measures. He argued for urban land, with public transport and municipal services, to be made available based on citizens' demand, rather than real estate profit. He saw affordable housing as being in direct correlation with public transport and employment distribution in cities.

The *New Landscape* discusses urbanization, the role of spatial resources, and equity in sharing urban spaces. Correa suggests that the cardinal principle for a Bill of Rights for housing in the Third world should include (in a non-negotiable manner) the following:

INCREMENTALITY
OPEN-TO-SKY SPACE
EQUITY
DISAGGREGATION
PLURALISM
MALLEABILITY
PARTICIPATION
INCOME GENERATION³

These principles provide patterns for high density, while allowing for individual identity and growth, and are the essence of his learning from the design of the Artist' Village at Belapur. Correa warns the reader and the policy-maker alike that by the year 2000, based on current trends, forty out of fifty emerging metropolises will be in the Third World. Several decades on, this has proved to be true, belying any consistent or universalist approach to urban change. Correa reiterates the impact of the tropical climate, in which these new landscapes will emerge, and advocates for the value of open to sky spaces in a warm climate. This profoundly influential, almost prophetic book is still relevant forty years after it was published, as most of the issues that he discusses

²References to the National Commission on Urbanization from Correa, *Housing & Urbanization*; 136 - 139

³Correa, *The New Landscape*, republished in *A Place in the Shade: The New Landscape and other Essays* (Panaji: Charles Correa Foundation, 2010) 213

in detail still remain unaddressed. If anything these issues have only become more acute with the rise in population, and the increasing pressure on resources.

Bombay, the city Citizen Correa served faithfully, is the ideal case study for what happens to a city when holistic policies are not put in place. It is worth quoting a CODA from the book in full:

‘If you drop a frog into a saucepan of very hot water, it will desperately try to hop out. But if you place a frog in tepid water and then gradually, very, very gradually raise the temperature, the frog will swim around happily, adjusting to the increasingly dangerous conditions. In fact, just before the end, just before the frog cooks to death, when the water is exceedingly hot, the frog relaxes, and a state of euphoria sets in (like those hot-tub baths in California). Maybe that’s what is happening to us in Bombay, as every day, we find it getting to be more and more of a great city...and a terrible place.’⁴

10

Bombay’s historic rise as a metropolis was powered by two growth engines- the docklands that took advantage of the natural harbour, and the mill lands that produced the textiles exported to all corners of the Commonwealth, and provided livelihoods to thousands of migrants to the city. These sites of production and employment continued even after Independence. By the 1980s the Mills were in decline, demand was reducing, and obsolescence was evident. The workers also faced declining standards of living. With increasingly uncaring mill-owners, this led to protests and strikes all across the many mills of Central Bombay. This went on for the large part of the decade, and rather than address workers’ concerns, the mill-owners chose to shut the mills down.

By the turn of the millennium, these sites and industrial buildings were decrepit and unused. These brown-fields lay sprawled over 240 hectares, over a large part of Central Bombay, in and around Parel. The erstwhile owners now only sought to exploit their value as some of the costliest real estate in the country.

In other parts of the world, such derelict spaces have been systematically revived and adaptively re-used to confirm to contemporary functions, and the need for public space. The Docklands and the Canary Wharf in London, industrial areas in Boston and Glasgow, are good examples of urban renewal. To explore the possibility of systematic urban regeneration, Correa was appointed chairman of the Committee for Textile Mills in Bombay in 1996 by the State Government. Correa sought to consolidate these parcels of mill land wherever possible, and to enhance their connections to existing transportation systems, particularly Bombay’s well-used local train network. Some of the mill buildings could be adaptively reused.

But the central concept of Correa’s proposal was to divide the accumulated land into three parts- one third would be used for open spaces and public amenities, one third for low-income housing, and the remaining third would be exploited for its real estate value in the open market.⁵ Given the cost of land in Parel, this latter third could easily subsidise the two others. The city would get a much-needed green lung, like the Central Park in New York, along with much more public space. The addition of social housing stock in the heart of the city would benefit those who wished to live closer to their workplaces. This scheme would also address the issues of the now unemployed millworkers who lived in chawls in the proximity of their mills, by giving them compensation, retraining, and new employment.

These proposals were accepted by the government but greed and self-interest soon stymied good intentions. Millowners had already begun to sell off parcels of land even as the Committee was undertaking its surveys. Later, a ‘creative’ reinterpretation of the three way proposal whittled it down to applying the solution only over the open lands in the mill plots, not including such areas on which buildings were already built. This diluted the proposal completely. As a result, most of these lands have been gentrified, occupied by high end malls and office spaces, with little by way of urban equity or public space.

11

In hindsight, Correa’s activism and interventions at the scale of the city provided visionary ideas, specific solutions, and design interventions, but received mixed success and responses throughout his career. Inevitably, his vision came into conflict with politics, and vested interests, and the status quo prevailed in most cases. Even worse, his ideas were implemented in homoeopathically diluted ways.

The impact of the National Commission on Urbanization can be seen in the 73rd (1992) and 74th (1994) amendment to the Indian Constitution. Through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the institution of Panchayati Raj was made part of the constitution. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act constitutionalised urban local governments. These acts empowered communities at the lowest levels of governance, allowing them a greater say in decision making and greater executive powers. This brought transparency and accountability in their governance, and made them directly accountable to their constituents both at an urban and rural level. In 2018, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs published the National Urban Policy Framework.

⁴Correa, *The New Landscape in A Place in the Shade*, 229.

⁵Correa, ‘The Council on Textile Mills’, in *Housing & Urbanization*, 132-135

While briefly acknowledging the findings of Correa's 1988 Commission, his recommendations for instituting city states and a National Urbanization Council are marginally built upon. The Textile Mills Committee recommendations were also confounded by a conglomeration of real-estate developers, millowners, and politicians. Profit clearly overrode urban equity.

Correa's greatest success as a citizen, activist, and architect-planner, was the creation of a new town, the first in the country since Chandigarh, Bhubaneshwar and Gandhinagar - New Bombay, or as it is called now, Navi Mumbai. After 50 years, since its inception on the pages of the Times of India, the city is flourishing. The planned nodes have been inhabited fully, some now reaching saturation, and good design has acted as a sponge to absorb the increasing pressures on them. The mass transport systems across the length of Navi Mumbai are efficient, although secondary local transport between and inside nodes never took off. Infrastructure is well developed, and the new town has consistently been in the top three cleanest cities in the country in recent years. Despite this, Navi Mumbai never became a City on the Sea: water transport never really developed, despite some fitful attempts at using hovercrafts and assorted sea vessels. The State Government never shifted its headquarters (and its clout) to Navi Mumbai, and that has continued to exert pressures on the island city and its infrastructure, instead of easing them.

12

Correa continued his involvement and activism in urban affairs throughout his career. In 2004, he was appointed chairman of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission. During

this time, the commission revised the master plan of Delhi and created 12 task forces for looking at issues such as heritage conservation, the need for master planning, and the presence of urban villages. In order to achieve this, professionals, government departments, and the citizens of Delhi were all involved in the deliberations. Despite his several setbacks Correa remained an urban optimist: 'Our cities are among the greatest things that we have; they are part of the wealth of India. They are places of hope. The skills we need are urban skills- we never have to ask the World Bank to send us an expert because our cities already provide them.' His optimism was rooted not in the changing physical nature of cities, but in its people. From policy makers to common citizens, from migrants to the marginalized, all contributed to the engines of growth. This led him to put together his various ideas as a citizen, activist, urban planner, and architect in his text *An Urban Manifesto*. This presents the essence of his attitude towards Indian cities:

'I believe in the cities of India.'

Like the wheat fields of the Punjab, and the coalfields of Bihar, they are a crucial part of our national wealth.

They generate the skills we need for development:

Doctors, nurses, lawyers, administrators, engineers — not just from the great metropolises, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai, but from a hundred smaller urban centres across the country.

Cities are engines of economic growth:

There is no way, either politically or morally, that we can divert rural funds to develop towns and cities. On the contrary, cities, properly managed, can generate surplus funds not only for their own development, but to help subsidise the surrounding rural areas as well.

Cities are centres of hope:

Too often we look at our cities from our own self-centred point of view. So we see only the shortages, the failures. But for the millions and millions of migrants, landless labour and wretched have-nots of our society, cities are perhaps their only hope, their only gateway to a better future.⁶

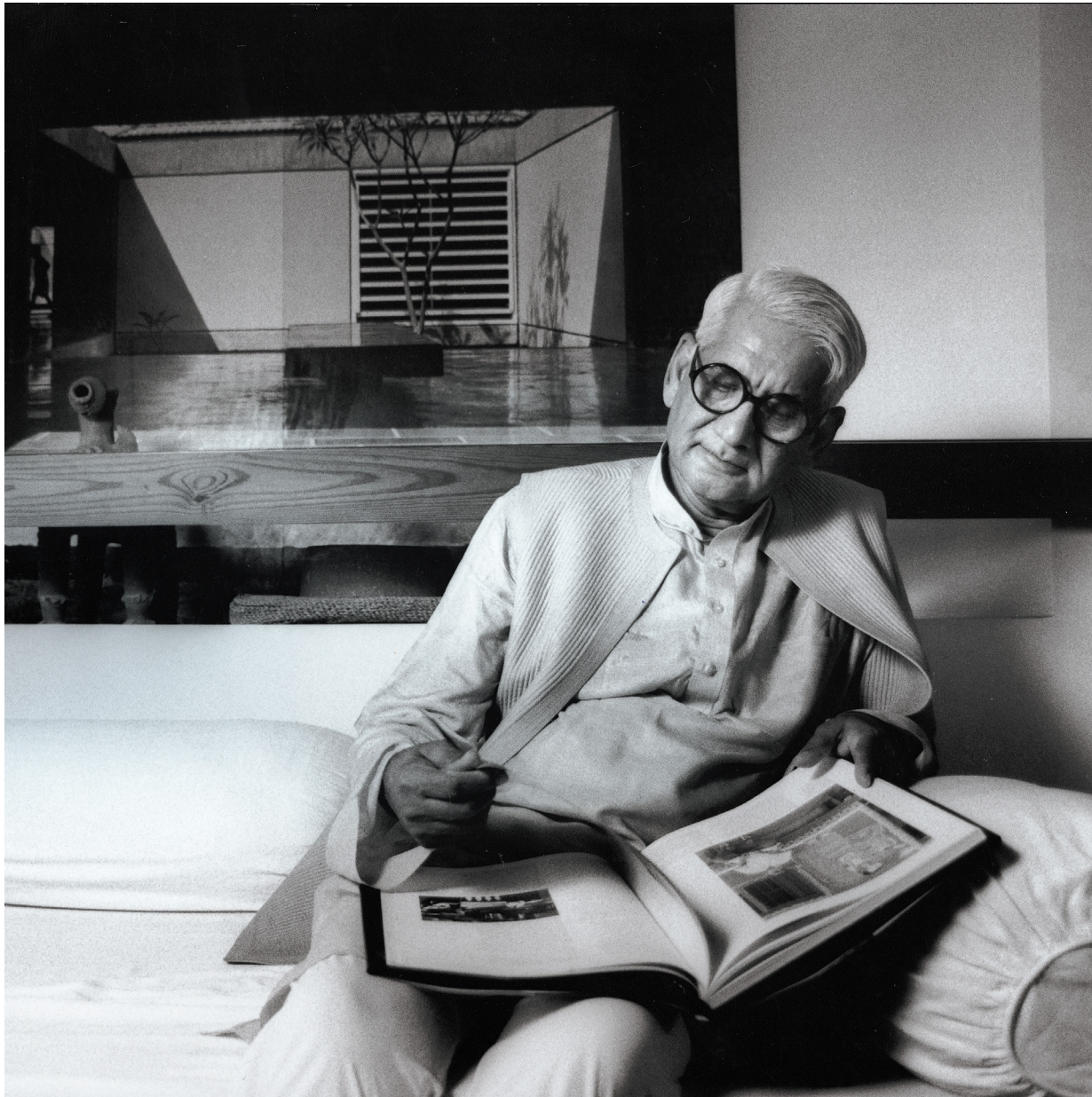
About the Author :



Poet, Editor, Academician, Professor
Sir JJ School of Architecture (retd)
Mumbai

Mustansir Dalvi is Professor of Architecture at Sir JJ College of Architecture (retired). He is on the Board of Governors of the MMR-Heritage Conservation Society and a Trustee of Art Deco Mumbai. Dalvi holds degrees in architecture and a diploma in Indian Aesthetics from the University of Mumbai. He received his PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay. He is the author of *The Romance of Red Stone: An Appreciation of Ornament on Islamic Architecture in India* (2011) and *The Past as Present: Pedagogical Practices in Architecture at the Bombay School of Art* (2016). Dalvi is the editor of *20th Century Compulsions* (Marg, 2016), a collection of writings about early Indian modernist architecture. His latest book, *Citizen Charles: a biography Charles Correa*, by Niyogi Books, is scheduled to be published in October 2024.

⁶Correa, *An Urban Manifesto in A Place in the Shade* (Panaji: Charles Correa Foundation, 2010) 135.



CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES CORREA A CRITICAL REVIEW ON SIX DECADES OF PRACTICE

Z-axis 2024 reflected upon Charles Correa's six decades of practice, bringing together scholars and professionals to talk about different facets of his work : his buildings, his ideas on urbanism, his writings on cities, as well as his role in the debates on architecture in India and globally.

Correa's architecture has often been described as human-centric and much of his career was dedicated to crafting an architecture for India that resonated with its people - it was humble, culturally rooted and climatically appropriate. Charles Correa's vision for India, in the formative years of its independence, were that of resilience, inclusivity and response to its origins. As we move ahead in the 21st century, his ideas not only resonate, but are relevant to the next generation of architects and urbanists.

Correa was and remains, a pioneer at the forefront of the movement. His work, especially his proposal for New Bombay (Navi Mumbai), eventually led to him becoming Chief Architect for CIDCO. His pioneering work on cities led to him being appointed the Chairman for National Commission on Urbanisation, the only such commission by the Prime Minister of India.

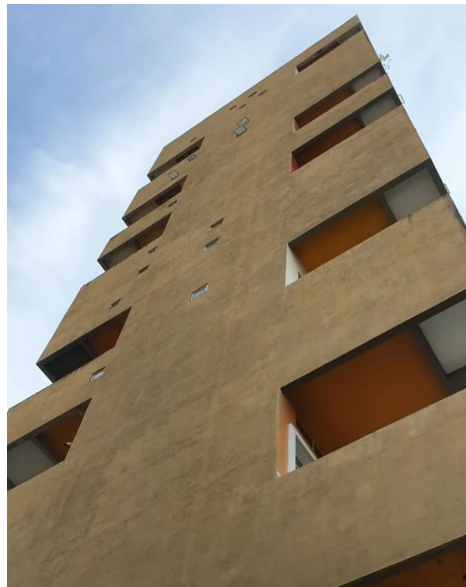
Through illustrated talks and discussions, our intent was to discuss the life and work of Correa. The conference raised awareness and urged the audience to revisit their approach to building design and tackle urban issues, and to make conscious efforts that will help define India's urban future.

Z-AXIS 2024 - CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES CORREA : A CRITICAL REVIEW ON SIX DECADES OF PRACTICE



CLOSED DOOR SESSION

The Charles Correa Foundation hosted a closed door session with the focus on content curation and structuring of the Charles Correa Monograph, a publication the Foundation intends to publish in the future. The conversations revolved around strategies for curating the content and format of the monograph, further building the Charles Correa archive, tentative costs and publishers, target audience and readers, book format and accessibility, timeline for the project and finally, what could come of, rather the larger implications and opportunities this monograph creates. The three hour session culminated with a visit to the Kanchanjunga Apartments, designed by Mr. Correa in the 80s.



SITE VISIT : KANCHANJUNGA APARTMENTS

Our invited speakers visited Kanchanjunga Apartments designed by Ar. Charles Correa in 1970-83.

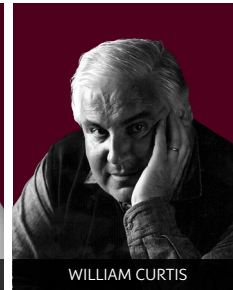
To know more about the project, click [here](#)

Photo credits : Rohan Shivkumar (left), Ranjit Hoskote (right)

Z-AXIS 2024 - CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES CORREA : A CRITICAL REVIEW ON SIX DECADES OF PRACTICE



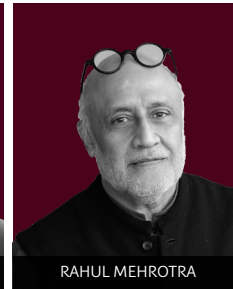
NONDITA CORREA MEHROTRA



WILLIAM CURTIS



KULBHUSHAN JAIN



RAHUL MEHROTRA

SESSION 1 : A PLACE IN THE SUN

This session tried to understand the opportunities architects are given to address the larger questions. The speakers addressed Correa and his legacy by looking at his oeuvre in light of the opportunities he saw in addressing the chance to grow as an architect. The abiding virtue of A Place in the Sun.

Nondita Correa Mehrotra | *The Conversations Continue: CCF and the Archives*

Keynote Address: William J. R. Curtis | *Taking the Long View: Charles Correa in Historical Perspective*

Kulbhushan Jain | *Charles Correa: Meaning and Pertinence*

Rahul Mehrotra | *Charles Correa and his Idea of India*

Discussant: Ranjit Hoskote



MUSTANSIR DALVI



MALVIKA SINGH



RAJNISH WATTAS



TRIDIP SUHRUD

SESSION 2 : VOLUME ZERO

“Architecture is magnificent because it deals with the recessions of the mind... with that which is not yet said, and not yet made.” -Louis Kahn
The quote above, referenced by Correa during the Belluschi lecture, Boston (1998) best defines the overtures of the second session; The speakers discussed Correa’s influences and his thoughts while developing his ideas.

Mustansir Dalvi | *Citizen Charles*

Malvika Singh | *The Quintessential Polymath A True Renaissance Person*

Rajnish Wattas | *The View from Chandigarh*

Tridip Suhrud | *A Memorial for Mr Gandhi*

Discussant: Ranjit Hoskote

Z-AXIS 2024 - CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES CORREA : A CRITICAL REVIEW ON SIX DECADES OF PRACTICE



CATHERINE DESAI



LIANE LEFAIVRE



RANJIT HOSKOTE

SESSION 3 : BLESSINGS OF THE SKY

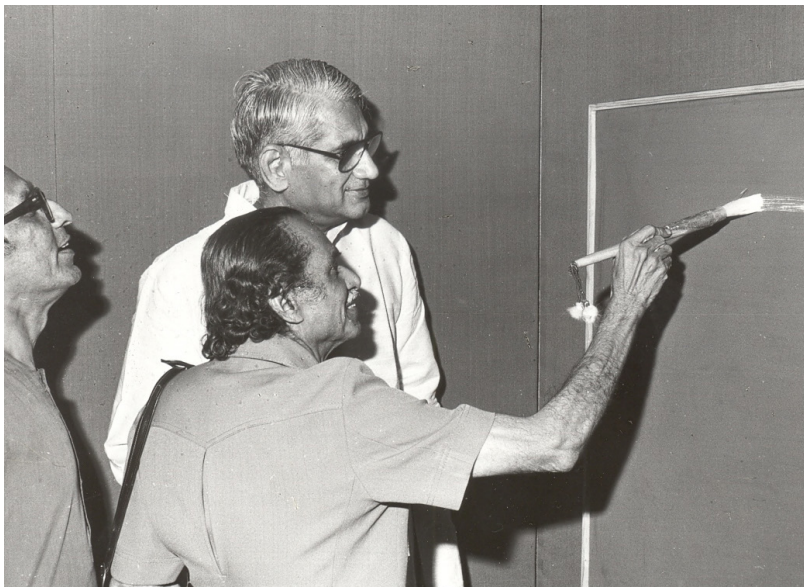
Beginning with a dialogue on the elevation profiles of his structures against the sky, followed by the dimension of formal sculptural and regionalism principles, and eventually, a relation between the built and the macrocosm, session 3 delved into these topics, taking examples from his early works, his trajectory as an urban regionalist and his role in post-colonial nation state formation.

Catherine Desai | *First works: Charles Correa in Gujarat*

Liane Lefavre | *Charles Correa and Regionalism of the Global South*

Ranjit Hoskote | *Charles Correa's Approach to the Sacred Everyday*

Discussant: Mustansir Dalvi



PRADEEP DALAL



KAIWAN MEHTA



SUNIL SHELAR



ASHOK VAJPEYI



AJIT KEMBHAVI

SESSION 4 : BUILDINGS AS IDEAS

Session 4 explored Correa's manifestations of Indian arts, ritualistic pathways, and contemporizing the Indian aesthetic through his collaborations with a diverse set of artisans.

Pradeep Dalal | *Like the shade of a great tree: Howard Hodgkin's Mural for the British Council Library in New Delhi, 1987-92*

Kaiwan Mehta | *Humility and Multiplicity – Architecture's Tryst with Indianness*

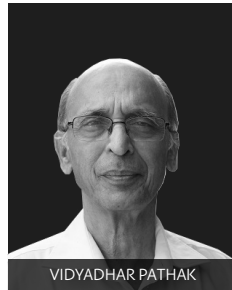
Sunil Shelar | *The Ritualistic Pathway – 3 projects with different topologies*

Ashok Vajpeyi | *A Home of Arts as a Non-building*

Ajit Kembhavi | *Architecture, Astronomy and the Cosmos: From Conversations to a Masterpiece*

Discussant: Rajnish Wattas

Z-AXIS 2024 - CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES CORREA : A CRITICAL REVIEW ON SIX DECADES OF PRACTICE



VIDYADHAR PATHAK



JAGAN SHAH

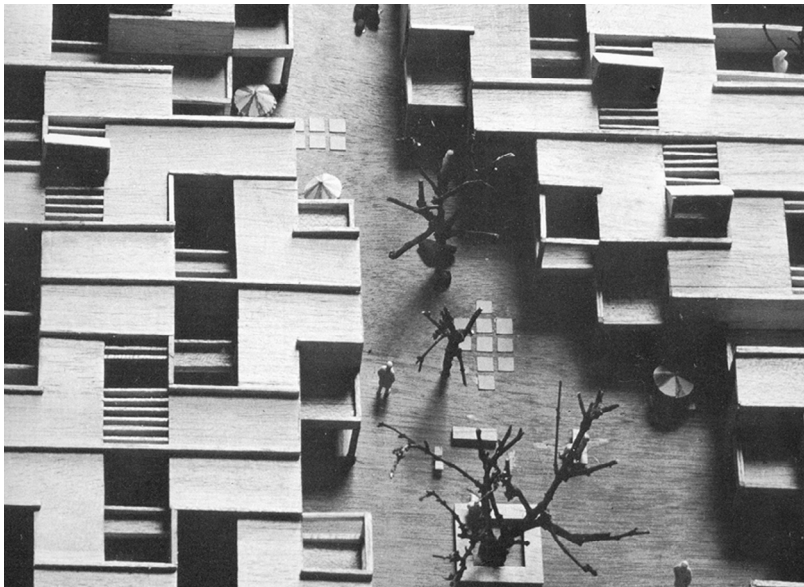
SESSION 5 : AN URBAN MANIFESTO

An extensive dialogue on the National Commission of Urbanisation, its premise, proposals and implications, took place in tandem with the morphology of his other urban design and urban planning proposals such as the Regional Plan of Goa, Navi Mumbai, Delhi Arts Commission, etc. during session 5.

Vidyadhar Phatak | *Charles Correa – An Urbanist*

Jagan Shah | *The National Commission on Urbanization: An Unfinished Project for Modern India*

Discussant: Rahul Mehrotra



ROHAN VARMA



DIRK VAN GAMEREN

SESSION 6 : SPACE AS A RESOURCE

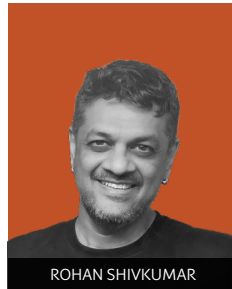
Correa's 1985 'Bill of Rights for Housing in the Third World' formed the basis of the penultimate session, which revolved around a "system of spaces" in his housing projects, additionally gleaning over how the idea of a habitat extends beyond geography and timeframe, through a personal narrative.

Rohan Varma | *The Bill of Rights for Housing in the Third World: Charles Correa's Manifesto for Housing the Masses*

Dirk Van Gameren | *Housing Lessons Charles Correa's patient search for a habitat for all*

Rohan Shivkumar | *Lovely Villa: A film on growing up in Charles Correa's LIC Colony*

Discussant: Catherine Desai



ROHAN SHIVKUMAR

Z-AXIS 2024 - CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES CORREA : A CRITICAL REVIEW ON SIX DECADES OF PRACTICE

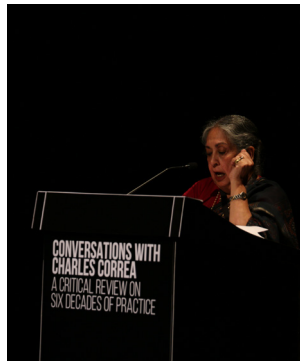


SESSION 7 : CLOSING SESSION

Closing remarks of the conference included provocations on how to further proliferate the ideas and intellectual outcomes of the sessions, into practice and pedagogy.

Discussant: Nancy Adajania







NAGARI 2024 THEME

Mobility is the capability to move from one location to another influenced by the push (i.e., outflux of people) and the pull (i.e., influx of people) factor. This movement is governed by three key interrelated choices that citizens make, namely, housing, transport and livelihoods.

Keeping transport as the central performative nerve in an urban environment, this year's Nagari bioscope looked at **Mobility in Urban India**. It aimed to create an anthology documenting the elements governing mobility and its dynamics in shaping Indian cities.

The past editions of Nagari have addressed the themes of [Reclaiming the Urban Commons](#), [Water in Urban India](#), [People and Livelihoods](#), and [Housing Adequacy](#) in rapidly growing towns and cities across India.

Nagari is unique as it has been conceptualised as a guided exercise, with a panel of Mentors on board to help participants on their journey to creating a film.

Visit the following link to read more about the subject, films, competition, mentors and jury:
[Nagari 2024 — Mobility in Urban India](#)



NAGARI 2024 AWARD CEREMONY

The Nagari 2024 Award Ceremony was held in collaboration with Conscious Collective, an initiative of the Godrej Design Lab on 14 December 2024. The event showcased trailers from this year's anthology addressing the theme 'Mobility in Urban India' and a panel discussion that discussed the legacy of the city film. The award ceremony concluded with the announcement and screening of the winning films of Nagari 2024 and awards close to Rs. 3 lakhs were given out. Additionally, as collaborators of Conscious Collective, all 11 films from Nagari 2024 were screened at the venue as a part of their two-day event.

The Golden Bioscope was awarded to [‘Sundari’](#), a story of a ferryboat revealing the fading connections between Mumbai's people, water, and history, as modern bridges transform the city.

[‘Shab Parak | The Night-Flyers’](#), a film offering a glimpse into the night bus service as an essential lifeline for a city that never truly sleeps—sustaining both its people and its heartbeat through the darkest hours, won the Silver Bioscope Award.

[‘Level Up!’](#) was recognised for the Jury Commendation Award for its compelling storytelling about the lack of inclusive and accessible public transport in Tamil Nadu.

[‘दिल्ली की आखरी लोकल | The last local of Delhi’](#) a film about the forgotten Ring Railway System in Delhi won the People's Choice Award opportunity for what could have been a sustainable and affordable means of public transport in the heart of the city.





GOLDEN BIOSCOPE AWARD

SUNDARI

Film by Sudarshan Sawant & Dhanesh Gopal
Mentored by Pankaj Rishi Kumar

Abstract:

In Mumbai, once an island city connected by the sea, modern bridges and land reclamation have reshaped its landscape, disrupting the lives of its original communities. Sundari follows the myth of a legendary ferryboat, once the heart of connectivity, who guided people across creeks long before bridges existed. Now, Sundari lives on only in songs and stories, her memory overshadowed by urbanisation. Through the perspectives of a woman recounting Sundari's tale, an ageing ferry operator who runs the Versova-Madh ferry, and a young child witnessing the changes, the film explores how progress, while practical, has disconnected a community bound by tradition and the sea.

Jury Citation:

Sundari is poetic, moving, and touching. It beautifully intertwines everyday life with local mythologies. Through its evocative visuals and compelling soundscapes, it addresses larger questions about what happens to the natural beauty of a place that becomes the detritus of urbanization. The film looks at an important issue for the communities living in close tandem with such environmental systems. Through the use of creative narrative devices, the film evokes a sense of longing and lament while asking pertinent questions about the city's exploding infrastructure, its relationship with nature and how we think about climate change.

Watch the film [here](#)





SILVER BIOSCOPE AWARD

SHAB-PARAK | THE NIGHT-FLYERS

Film by Sabika Syed & Nikhil Mehrotra
Mentored by Pankaj Rishi Kumar

Abstract:

Shab Parak explores the often unseen world of Delhi's night travel, told through the journey of the DTC bus 0543A. The bus runs from Anand Vihar to Kapashera Border, connecting the city's farthest corners as the rest of Delhi sleeps. The film engages with the quiet solitude of the night commute, capturing the passengers' experiences—from the anticipation of the bus to the long, soothing journey that lulls them to sleep, and the final arrival that brings them closer to home. Amidst the quiet of the city, passengers express their unease about other nighttime transport, and Shabbir, the bus driver, speaks of his sense of responsibility and care toward the travellers. Shab Parak offers a glimpse into the night bus service as an essential lifeline for a city that never truly sleeps—sustaining both its people and its heartbeat through the darkest hours.

Jury Citation:

Shab-Parak's power lies in its cinema verite form. It constructs a compelling narrative using real people's voices and beautiful images shot live on location; instead of relying on an external storyteller's voice. The film draws attention to a major issue, accessing the city at night, that relates not only to Delhi where this story is set, but to all urban centres. It gives us a glimpse into one of the many unnoticed worlds that exist within a city, and shows how strangers form a community through the simple act of travelling together on a late night bus.

Watch the film [here](#)





JURY COMMENDATION LEVEL UP!

Film by Bhargav Prasad, Archanaa Seker & Pavithra Sriram
Mentored by Bina Paul

Abstract:

20 years ago, Rajiv Rajan filed a public interest litigation demanding that all public transport be accessible. His ask was simple: Implement the law.

Since then, even the law has been amended but barriers physical and systemic remain, costing thousands of people their right to life. After a lengthy legal battle, in August 2024, Tamil Nadu introduced low floor buses to its fleet in Chennai.

But 58 low floor buses for a few routes in the state capital, while very welcome, is just the beginning of a long winding route to ensuring each citizen is able to realise the dream of independent commute. The destination will be reached when the law is implemented, barriers are brought down, and universal design is the norm or when Rajiv, who is still waiting for a bus, gets to travel by himself. For this we need to 'Level Up!'.

Jury Citation:

Level Up highlights a very crucial and pertinent issue that cities today need to address, that of inclusivity and accessibility. It raises important questions about urban accessibility for people with disabilities, focusing on both the physical and social discomfort faced by individuals trying to navigate the city.

The film presents its differently abled protagonists as heroes, but it does not shy away from showing their raw struggles with simple, everyday acts. The viewer is led to an understanding of the gravity of the issues they face, and the urgent need to bring about change.

Watch the film [here](#)



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

दिल्ली की आखिरी लोकल

THE LAST LOCAL OF DELHI

Film by Arundhathi & Sarah Zia
Mentored by Bina Paul

Abstract:

In the bustling metropolis of Delhi, lies an unused suburban rail transit network. As the city continues to deal with problems such as traffic congestion, deteriorating air quality and the lack of an integrated, multi-modal public transit system, the film talks explores the potential of the Delhi Ring Railway system as a viable public transit system. The film tells the tale of an erstwhile rail network that offered an effective and affordable alternative to travel across the city but has now gone into oblivion due to the lack of planning and support by the government.

Watch the film [here](#)



FINAL FILMS

We had received an outstanding response with 95 film outlines across 20+ Indian cities, out of which the following made it to the final selection:

साखळ्या आणचिकं | Chains & Wheels

मैं उां नहीं धलैदा | मैं तां नहीं खलौन्दा | I don't run down

Cycle of Life

Cowboys of the West (UP)

Iss shahar mein chalte hue (While walking through the city)

Homes on the line

Town on water

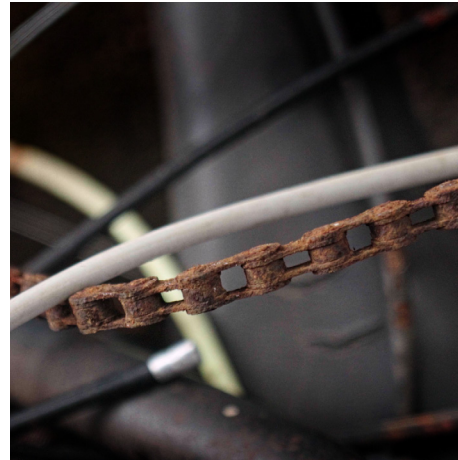
Sundari

Shab-Parak | The Night-Flyers

दिल्ली की आखरी लोकल | The last local of delhi

Level Up!

Watch the films of Nagari 2024 [here](#)



साखळ्या आणचिकं (CHAINS & WHEELS)

Film by Jayshankar Ramu, Aryaki & Sandeep Gaikwad
Mentored by Sourav Sarangi

Once a haven for cyclists; today's chaotic roads of Pune are nothing but a dangerous network riddled with lack of safety and facilities. Through the voice of the bicycles- the film takes a closer look at the working-class people, for whom the bicycle is the only mode of commute. They talk of the labour class and revolutions.

Watch the film [here](#)



मैं उां नहीं धलैदा | मैं तां नहीं खलौन्दा | I DON'T RUN DOWN

Film by Amit Jindal, Meenakshi Hans & Vanshika Gupta
Mentored by Arjun Gourisaria

Bhoond/Hanseat, the option of shared transport is on the verge of ending. If this public loved vehicle may go extinct, then it may hit the pocket and profession of low-income Punjabis. But why is this vehicle on extinction? Are the available options for transport worth it for the public?

Watch the film [here](#)



CYCLE OF LIFE

Film by Swanand Kottewar, Rahul Jambhulkar, Aniket Kolarkar & Sanket Ray
Mentored by Sanjiv Shah

Cycle of Life is an intimate exploration of change witnessed through the life of Umesh Sarate, an age-old cycle customer of Shinde Cycle Store, in Nagpur. The film traverses with him in a rural-urban-industrial landscape, as he uses a cycle to resell the goods he buys from the city. Parallely, Yogesh Shinde reflects on how the once flourishing cycle rental business is seeing a decline with time.

Watch the film [here](#)



COWBOYS OF THE WEST (UP)

Film by Harsh Chetwani, Vedant Patil,
Arkja Kuthiala
Mentored by Sourav Sarangi

Local trains often envelope multiple stories and journeys. Cowboys of the West (UP) attempts to explore the journey undertaken by informal milk suppliers (Doodhiyas) from small towns and villages that surround Delhi. The film intends to focus on how everyday travel for milk supply informs about the nature of mobility.

Watch the film [here](#)



ISS SHAHAR MEIN CHALTE HUE (WHILE WALKING THROUGH THE CITY)

Film by Amartya Ray
Mentored by Rajula Shah

Through Taufique and his colleagues who walk everyday to sell their wares in chawls and societies of suburban Mumbai, the film expands into a reflection upon those who are forced to walk for their livelihoods and an increasingly industrial metropolis that often makes them invisible through its structures and designs.

Watch the film [here](#)



HOMES ON THE LINE

Film by Amit Rathee, Nimit Phogat &
Mandeep Singh
Mentored by Rajula Shah

A city's interaction with a 4.5 km long elevated railway track, whose foundation is laid on the ruins of demolition. The journey celebrated above the bridge while the damage of emotions and the hardships of life while displacing is something that is often ignored in this process of infrastructural development.

Watch the film [here](#)



TOWN ON WATER

Film by Nitesh Sharma, Muskan Bhatt,
Avijit Newar & Avinav Saha
Mentored by Sanjiv Shah

Float through the unique rhythm of life on Kashmir's Dal Lake in Town on Water. This documentary flows through the evolving modes of travel—from ancient shikaras to modern pathways. Drift along as change weaves through the lake's currents, yet the unstoppable spirit of the shikara stands as a timeless testament to tradition and lasting power.

Watch the film [here](#)

EVENT UPDATES : CHARLES CORREA GOLD MEDAL 2024



AWARD CEREMONY

The 2024 cycle of the Charles Correa Gold Medal Competition invited colleges from across India to participate in a conversation about climate-responsive architecture and highlight undergraduate theses that looked at site and context in their proposed projects.

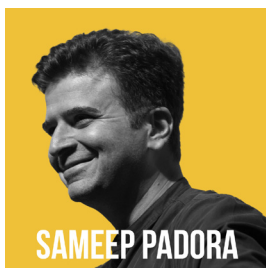
The entries were judged on their clarity while addressing real life issues, by an eminent jury of practising architects and academicians — Sameep Padora (Architect and Author), Edoardo Narne (Architect, Academician and Author), Vyjayanthi Rao (Anthropologist, Writer and Curator), Melissa Smith (Architect and Urban Planner) and Kaiwan Mehta (Architect, Academic and Researcher).

The Charles Correa Gold Medal Award Ceremony took place on 12 December, 2024 at IFBE, Mumbai. The event commenced with a panel discussion titled 'Architecture Thesis Project - What can they say, what can they do?'. The panelists were Kaiwan Mehta (Architect, Academic and Researcher), Ainsley Lewis (Architect and Academic), Vandana Sinh (Architect and Academic), and Mustansir Dalvi (Architect and Academic).

The Gold Medal was awarded to Dweep Jain from L.S Raheja School of Architecture, Mumbai for the project 'Water edges: Navigating Inequity and Dilemmas related to Urban water'. The Honourable mentions were given to Abhay Rajesh from Avani Institute of Design, Calicut for the project 'Land. Water. Life: Majuli's Symphony of Survival' and Neha Dalvi from School of Environment and Architecture, Mumbai for 'Re-Imagining Social Housing through Everyday Infrastructure'.

To watch the Charles Correa Gold Medal 2024 Award Ceremony, click [here](#).

JURY 2024



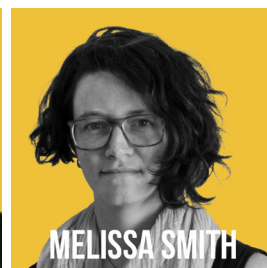
SAMEEP PADORA



EDOARDO NARNE



VYJAYANTHI V RAO



MELISSA SMITH

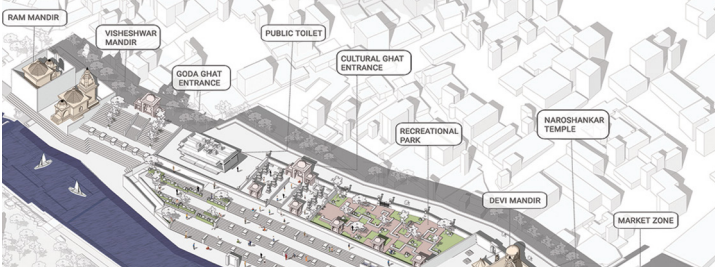


KAIWAN MEHTA

EVENT UPDATES : CHARLES CORREA GOLD MEDAL 2024

WATER EDGES : NAVIGATING INEQUITY AND DILEMMAS RELATED TO URBAN WATER

L.S. RAHEJA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, MUMBAI

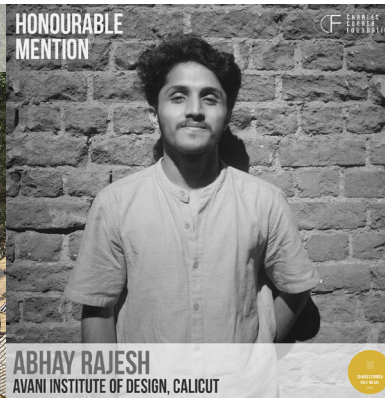


DWEEP JAIN
L.S. RAHEJA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, MUMBAI

The winning project 'Water Edges: Navigating Inequity and Dilemmas related to Urban water' by Dweep Jain, from L.S. Raheja School of architecture, is laudable as it works on multiple scales, addressing complex challenges at the urban scale as well as very detailed solutions to everyday problems, such as street furniture, building envelopes, and toilets. It is a sensitive response to the cultural framework, and incorporates astute observation into its design framework. As a result of this intensity, it sets an example of flexible thinking in its loose structure that allows change over time. It is putting the same importance on sacred space, scale, and the quality of details on a human scale. It also takes into account the larger time scale, placing it not only in the present but perhaps also in the future.

LAND, WATER, LIFE : MAJULI'S SYMPHONY OF SURVIVAL

AVANI INSTITUTE OF DESIGN, CALICUT

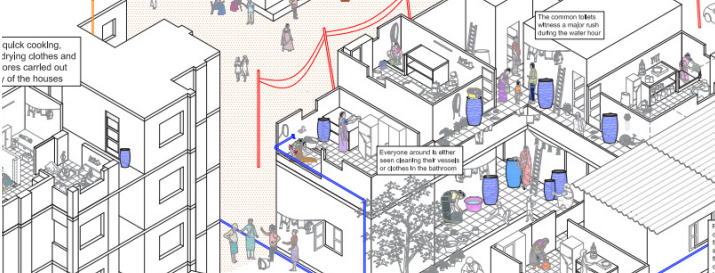


ABHAY RAJESH
AVANI INSTITUTE OF DESIGN, CALICUT

The first honourable mention was 'Land.Water.Life: Majuli's Symphony of Survival', by Abhay Rajesh from Avani Institute of Design, Calicut. It is evident from this project that a good student can control the scale, the section, details, and the environmental environment inside the projects using only a limited number of materials, underlining an architectural intelligence. The design is sensitive to the materials available and to the traditional architecture, but also projective, in the way it imagines how this format can be expanded to create new spaces and forms. It effectively creates spaces for livelihoods while simultaneously addressing how spaces could be used at times of catastrophes. It is a project that efficiently communicates a high quality of architectural space and structure.

RE-IMAGINING SOCIAL HOUSING THROUGH EVERYDAY INFRASTRUCTURE

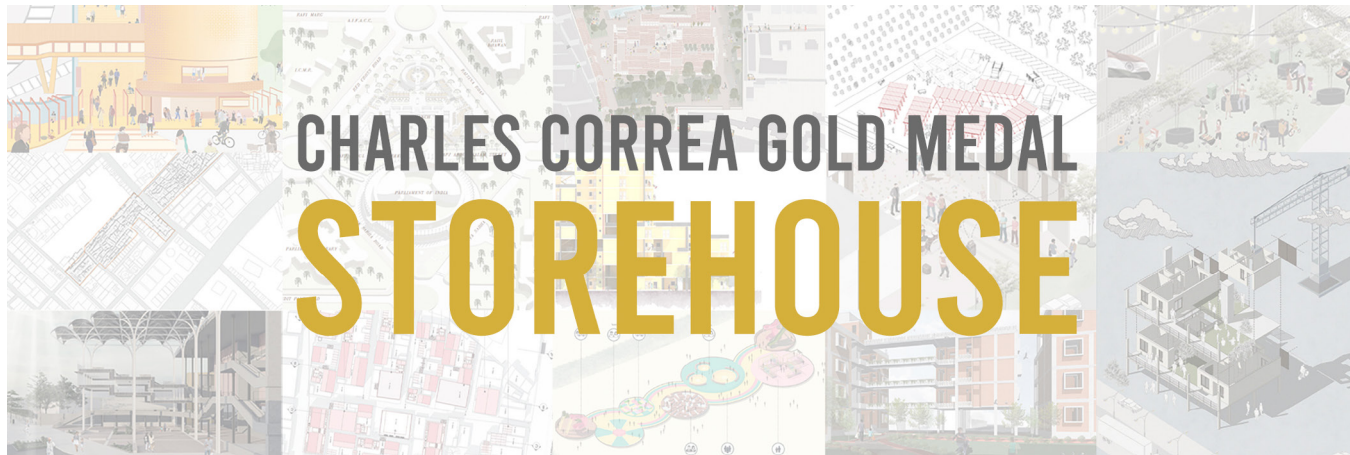
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHITECTURE, MUMBAI



NEHA DALVI
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND ARCHITECTURE, MUMBAI

The second honourable mention was 'Re-imagining Social Housing through everyday infrastructures' by Neha Dalvi, from School of Environment and Architecture, Mumbai. The project responds both practically and sensibly to a need for rehabilitation housing that is ubiquitous in Mumbai. It highlights certain qualities of sociality, which is connected to work, care, and maintenance, as opposed to an imagined social life of leisure. This design is contrasted well with the surrounding high rise landscape. The way the exterior spaces connect the houses and the pathways adds to the value of the design by creating a sense of community. The design is well considered within the space constraints that exist. It understands the way small spaces are used temporarily, and imagines the function that might take place in small spaces at the level of the unit as well as in its aggregation at the level of the settlement. The planning here is not only sensible but makes the project economically viable, adding another layer to the design.

Read more about Charles Correa Gold Medal 2024 [here](#).

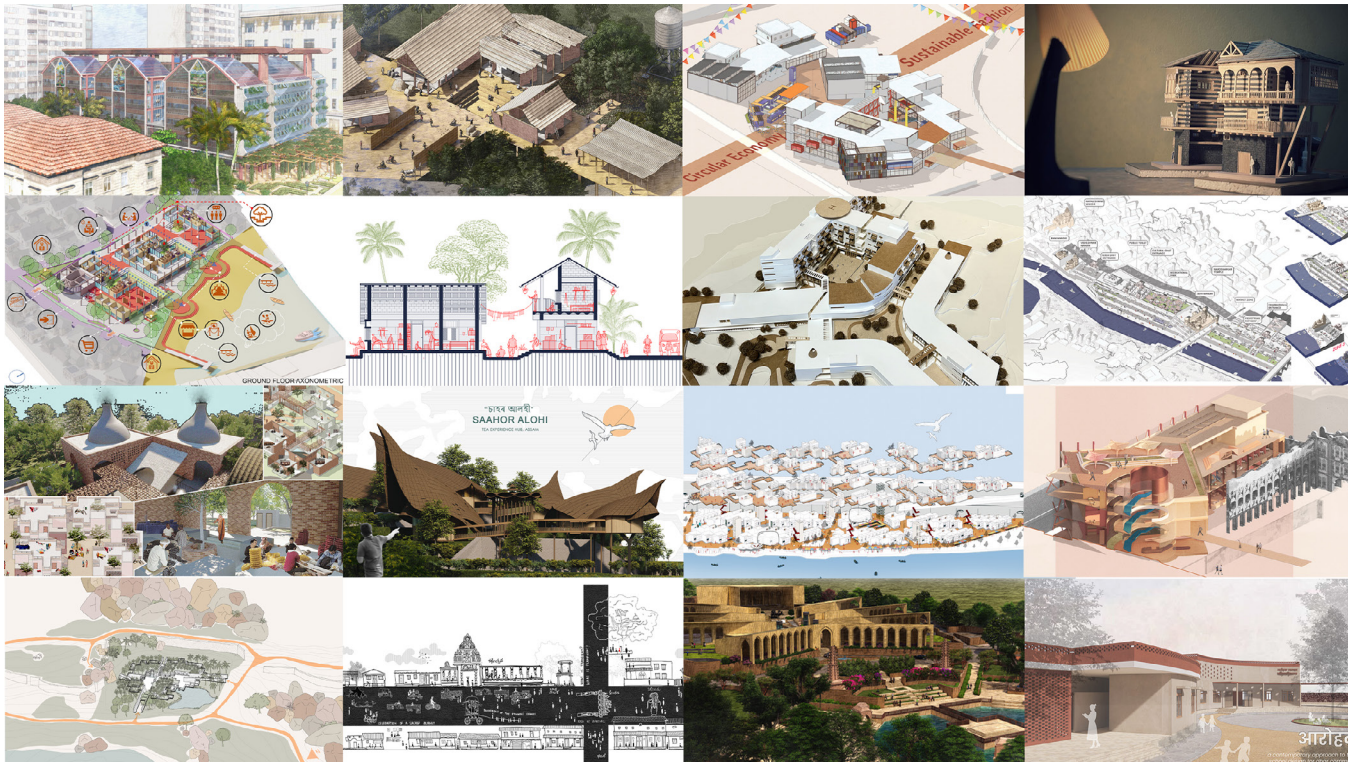


STOREHOUSE

CCF maintains a digital archive of undergraduate architectural thesis projects that were received as a part of the Charles Correa Gold Medal Award and updates it annually. By compiling academic projects from across India, the 'Storehouse' serves as a referential space for students and practices to explore new methods of generating and responding to place. The platform helps incubate cohesive systems to think about architecture beyond its built form - both physically and geographically - and the role it plays across communities and cultures and its social, economic and political implications.

For the ease of use and to assist in the needs of the academic operations, projects have been marked by labels to identify projects by typology, purpose and design. The compilation also offers an interactive map marked with site locations of the projects, that allows the projects to be navigated by region.

Visit the Storehouse using the link below:
[Charles Correa Gold Medal Storehouse](#)

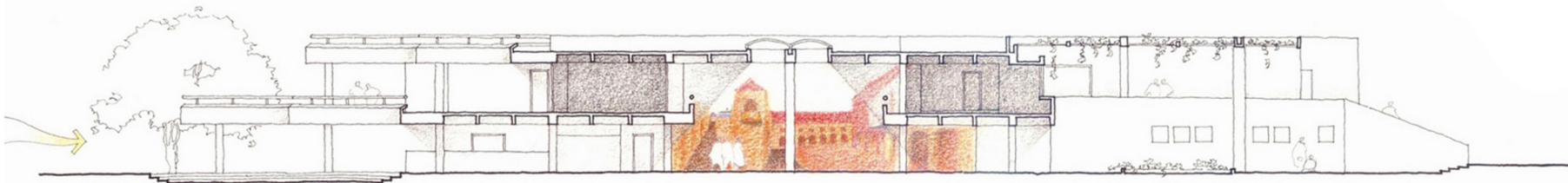


THEME ANNOUNCEMENT:

CHARLES CORREA GOLD MEDAL 2025

EQUITABILITY THROUGH DESIGN

'WHO ARE WE DESIGNING FOR?'



Kala Academy, Goa (1973 - 83)
Public realm - from the street to the Mandovi river

Charles Correa, architect and urbanist, initiated the Charles Correa Gold Medal in 1998 to honor the best undergraduate architecture thesis in India. As part of the Charles Correa Gold Medal program, the Foundation proposes to encourage students and schools of architecture to focus on pressing issues, and to highlight the role architects can play in society as “agents of change.”

For the next 3 years, the Charles Correa Gold Medal will focus on thesis projects that address ‘Equitability through Design’.

By raising the question, ‘who do we design for?’ the Gold Medal seeks to reflect on the opportunities and responsibilities that we as architects have in creating spaces that are equitable and inclusive. This encompasses equal access to space, shelter, infrastructure and the commons.

The thesis projects will be evaluated in terms of how they address current spatial injustices through design, and how they approach equity and inclusion at different scales.

PROJECT UPDATE : @169 BLOGS

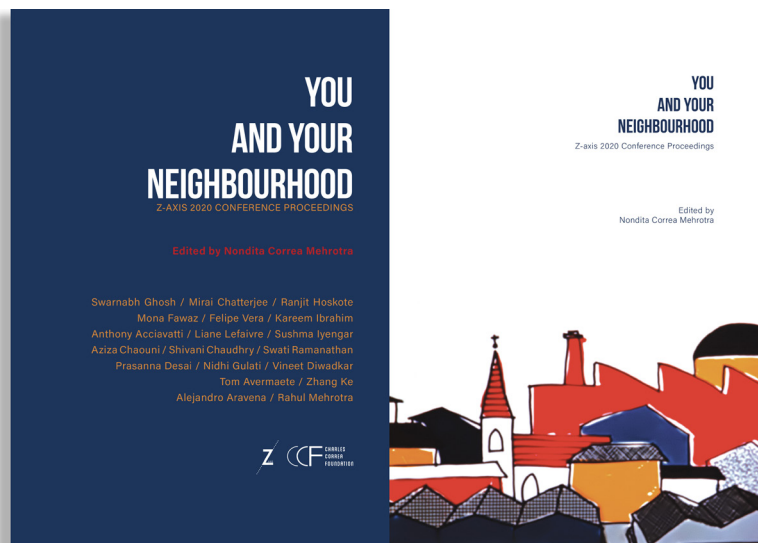


Charles Correa: Working with Artists

A photo essay exploring Correa's collaborative projects with artists, highlighting how murals integrate with his architecture.

Read the Blog [here](#).

PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT : NEW PUBLICATION



YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD | Z-axis 2020 Conference Proceedings

Editor : Nondita Correa Mehrotra
Publisher : Charles Correa Foundation
Paperback : 185 Pages
Language : English

This publication documents the Z-Axis 2020 conference proceedings. The conference drew attention back into our neighbourhoods to generate creative visions that uplift the public realm. The title of this conference, You and Your Neighbourhood, comes from Charles Correa's Master's thesis, a film he did in 1955 at MIT.

The Foundation's collection of publications identifies the different scales of Charles Correa's built and unbuilt work and writings which argue that the country's habitat must respond to the overriding parameters of climate, culture and financial resources, and that our physical environment should accommodate both diversity and synergy.

Visit the link to explore our collection: <https://charlescorreafoundation.org/category/publications/>

CCF MERCHANDISE



POSTCARDS - SET OF 10

Price : ₹200.00

A curated collection of 10 postcards featuring iconic works of Charles Correa such as the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Salvacao Church, Kovalam Beach Resort, and many more. The postcards also include some of the original sketches and his signature.

Dimensions : 6 x 4in

Click [here](#) to purchase



TOTE BAG

Price : ₹250

The Charles Correa Tote Bag, a functional accessory for all patrons of Charles Correa, features a reproduction of Charles Correa's signature. Crafted from durable 100% cotton canvas, it's perfect for carrying books, bottles, and more.

Dimensions : 14 x 14.5in

Click [here](#) to purchase



BOTTLE

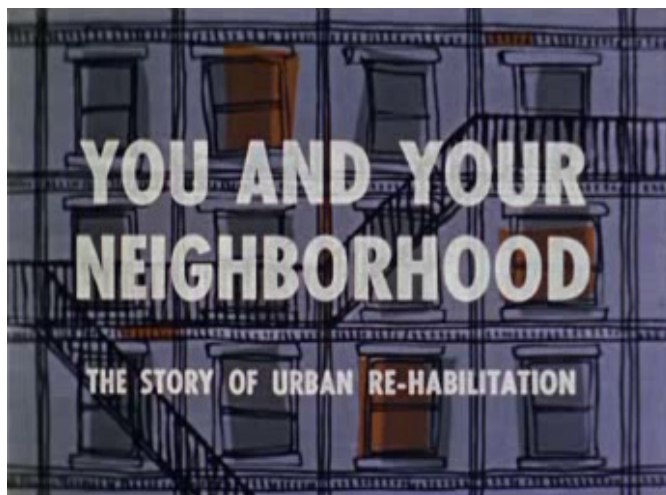
Price : ₹50

The 300 ml, round shape glass bottle of 43 mm Lug Neck features Charles Correa's Signature. The Bottle will be shipped out of Mumbai.

Dimensions : 180mm height

Click [here](#) to purchase

CORREA THROUGH FILMS : YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Directed by - Charles Correa

Film duration - 10:12 mins

"This is a story of re-habilitation — one of the most urgent needs in our cities and towns today."

Drawing from the condition of Bostonian neighborhoods in the 1950s, Charles Correa made a 10 minute animated film titled "You and Your Neighborhood: The Story of Urban Rehabilitation". Using hand drawn images and diagrams, he presented this film along with a 30-page report as his final Master's thesis at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1955.

In the 1950s, the Housing Association of Metropolitan Boston began mapping the growing changes in the city's neighborhoods. The Association chose to produce a film highlighting these changes and the need for better housing. The main aim was to create awareness among Boston's

citizens. With funding in place, the Association approached Prof. György Kepes at MIT, who, well aware of Correa's love for films, urged him to work on this film. Having been trained to think with diagrams as an architect, Correa then chose to work with cartoons to make the film. It is this film that he proposed as the output for his Master's thesis, something unheard of at MIT at that time.

Correa used his protagonist, Joe, as a metaphor to symbolise the actual problems faced by the people living in Boston's existing neighbourhoods. From issues caused due to the polluting factories and busy railroads amidst the neighborhoods, to the lack of playgrounds for children, youth centres, and shaded spaces for the community, the film discussed numerous reasons that attracted residents to move out of the city in search of a better lifestyle. It also depicted how the flight of residents to newer sections of the city - really the new suburbs, led to a gradual deterioration of the existing neighbourhoods.



"What if they all fix their houses? What then?"

The better things got, the more they would look after them! They would simply reverse the cycle that had spoiled their neighbourhood."

To respond to the decaying neighborhoods, the film drew on solutions like hosting meetings with the residents, forming neighborhood associations and discussing how they could reverse the damage through public participation and their initiatives. Repairing their own properties, clearing out empty lots and turning them into places where children could play, and putting the garbage out right before the collecting truck arrived – were some initiatives that the film touched upon. Additionally, it also highlighted the importance of involving law makers in the process of urban rehabilitation. The film, through its narration and visual treatment, drew emphasis on taking a bottom-up approach - the idea of a participatory approach for neighborhood betterment.

You and Your Neighborhood becomes an asset to understand how Correa's optimism was rooted not in the changing physical nature of cities, but in its people. These ideas of transforming our neighbourhoods at various scales starting from an individual level still resonate today. The question "How can we improve our neighbourhoods?" is one that we as citizens need to constantly ask ourselves. The film, true to its title, reminds us of the importance of working at different scales to make our neighborhoods liveable and accessible. Your neighborhood starts with you!

To watch the film, click [here](#)

¹Excerpt from the film *You and Your Neighborhood*.

²Excerpt from the film *You and Your Neighborhood* - Scene 48

FROM THE ARCHIVES : THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON URBANISATION (1985-1988)

Today, our nation is gradually beginning to realise that the process of urbanisation is much more than just the breakdown of Calcutta, or the overcrowding of Kanpur, or the traffic problems of Bombay—it is a phenomenon of unique scope and dimension, one which is going to change fundamentally the nature of our lives. From it will emerge the central, political, human and moral issues of our times, precipitated by the rising expectations of the millions upon millions of our people who want to find a better future.

— National Commission on Urbanisation, 1988

Nearly 40 years later the report by the National Commission on Urbanisation (1985-1988) exists as a mere reflection of itself. It now lingers as faint murmurs within the syllabus for future IAS officers with fragments finding their way into

Indian policy but failing to make a significant enough impact, as its vision remains unfulfilled.

In 1985 Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi appointed Charles Correa as Chairman of the first-ever National Commission on Urbanisation. The Commission, a mix of architects, planners, industrialists, economists, environmental engineering experts and administrators, produced a report that spanned over 14 volumes and 2000+ pages.

The Commission was developed in response to an environment that had begun to see urban centres stretched at their seams and a rapidly growing population with limited employment opportunities. It was pertinent to understand and articulate this phenomenon. For the first time ever there was a concerted effort to create a pan-Indian policy on urbanization. The commission thus undertook the task of creating a comprehensive document that addressed the urban situation in India by visiting all the states and Union Territories, meeting with key leaders of the state governments and concerned citizens and NGOs. Urbanisation, defined as a process by which the surplus population of workers in rural areas resettled in centres where non-agricultural job opportunities were available.

The commission had a large task ahead of them. They had to examine the state of urbanisation with reference to present demographic, economic, infrastructural, environmental, physical, shelter, energy, communication, land, poverty, aesthetic and cultural aspects. Identify priority action areas, make projections of future needs and estimate the available resources. A policy framework that addressed urbanisation holistically. The beauty of the commission lay in the way they navigated this long and arduous path ahead of them.

In the end, perhaps they had a broader set of ideas that overarched the report, a vision that guided the report beyond its terms of reference. This probably drove their

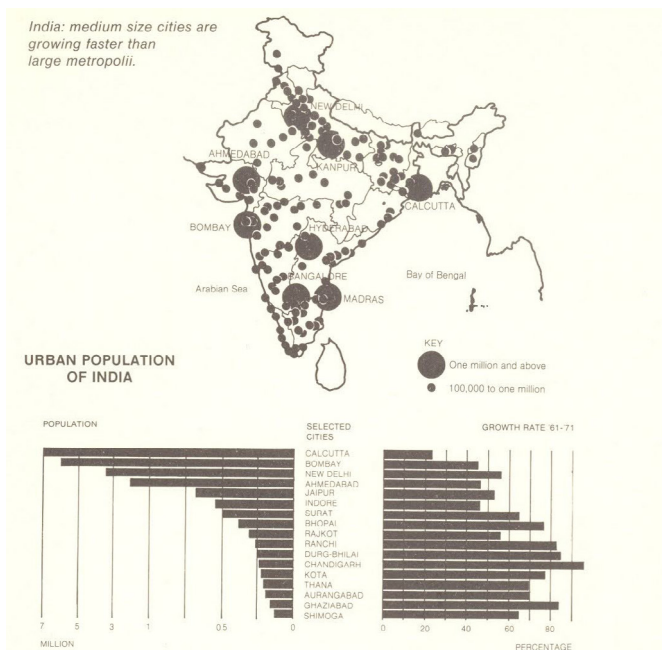
commitment to understand the true role of urban India in the national economy. A method to tackle urban poverty.



The City as a Horizon: Rag-pickers against the towering skyline
Image source : photograph by Joseph St. Anne, *The New Landscape*, page 133

They recognised that cities presented hope for a better future, a space laden with opportunities, and a way to escape pervasive social structures. Future, a space laden with opportunities, and a way to escape pervasive social structures. Amidst a time when the urban elite viewed migrants as the cause of the decay and refused to accommodate them, the commission outlined its importance. There was an influx of people towards major metropolitan hubs for livelihood, or, distress migration. They identified two methods that induced urbanisation—rural prosperity or rural poverty. They emphasised the need to address rural poverty induced migration and necessitated state intervention towards the cause. The rural-urban link or continuum as they phrased it, around which the idea of growth centres was propelled was central to their recommendation.

Agriculture, an undeniable facet of the Indian economy, was recognised as so and urbanisation was to be used as an



The growing urban population, especially in medium-size cities!
Image source : *A New Landscape* (1985) page 18.

FROM THE ARCHIVES : THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON URBANISATION (1985-1988)

instrument in agricultural and industrial development. The symbiotic relationship between the rural and the urban lay at the heart of urban policy reform. The possibility to create these centres arose as the report was one of the first documents to make recommendations that aligned economic policy with spatial planning. The interim report



An unaccommodating city forces the urban poor onto the streets
Image source : *A New Landscape* (1985) pg33

was submitted in 1987 and the final report in 1988. A policy document that espoused a decentralised approach to governance, viewed land as a resource, state investment as a way to attract private capital, and emphasized the need to address urban poverty with the same vigour as rural poverty. In a society like ours, to achieve a singular goal, it is necessary to utilize a variety of expertise. Even now all the departments exist as disparate entities.

Mr. Correa's analogy which compared the creation of a machine and its spare parts with the design of streetscape

rings true here. A city is a plural entity with multiple moving parts - the social, the economic, and the spatial. Planning as a practice requires this care and forethought where it is viewed as a machine and every new addition needs to be viewed critically.

It is necessary to acknowledge that the report wasn't just Mr. Correa's brainchild. Yet, his ideology remains evident within the report. Possibly behaving like a thread which binds the report together, a vision that informed his practice of architecture as well. It stands true to the principles he spelled out himself — equity, disaggregation, pluralism, income generation, participation. The report seemingly never strays from Correa's thoughts on urbanization. At the core of the report lay the urban poor who never once were pushed to the margins of the recommendations. The emphasis lay on transforming cities into places of hope, new economic opportunities and not spaces that perpetuated barriers to entry and opportunity. The scale of the project didn't deter him from his ideological underpinnings. He recommended



The Bazaar Economy and the low-rise settlement (Belapur Housing scheme)
Image source : *The New Landscape* (1985), page 56.

planning cities by using spatial hierarchies. The hierarchy enabled the formation of fully sufficient neighbourhoods with employment and accommodation at close proximity. It was a way to allay the burden on public transport, encouraging walking or cycling. An idea that has gained legs as micro mobility. The novelty of the recommendations itself were not that they were 'new' but in the way they were employed.

Recycling of land, for example, was proposed as a method to redevelop old factory buildings for newer industries or housing. This idea masquerading as adaptive reuse tends to forego the principle of equitability as old buildings are restored and turned into art galleries, hotels, and restaurants that populate the skyline as shanty towns line the streets. Finally, the model for low-rise high-density housing remained unbuilt. High-rise building projects price out large swaths of people as very few can afford to reside within it and they also alienate the 'bazaar economy' - the small contractors, masons and so on. The city instead of being a place of hope,



Restrictive monopolies and the high-Rise buildings
Image source : *The New Landscape* (1985), page 21.

FROM THE ARCHIVES : THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON URBANISATION (1985-1988)

a new economic opportunity tends to act as a barrier to opportunity.

Mr. Correa's architectural style also finds a voice in the recommendations. To build 'monuments' or 'urban events' around which non-building activities could flourish, a delicate balance. His vision lay at the heart of all his projects. For example, the City Centre Salt Lake City, Kolkata, a mixed-use development project contained within its pockets of commercial and residential. Social life arranged itself around a structure evidently, a facet of place-making. The everyday is ascertained through the tangible (the building) around which social activity surrounds itself.

In spite of its use at various instances, the report was never implemented. Urban India today remains riddled with issues, a pathological condition of a city persists. Need for shelter, breakdown of public transport, and limited economic opportunities still define life in the city. The commission's recommendations under the guidance of Correa don't just exist as a repertoire of ideas but also as a glimmer of hope. The report identifies the relationship between land and people that guides policy decisions unwittingly and laid it bare for everyone to see.

The commission's recommendations never forged an exploitative relationship with land and viewed it as a resource that translated into their policy from tenancy regulations to the planning of a city. The value of the report lies in the production of a remarkable piece of work that aligns itself with a human-centric approach.

The Commission

The National Commission on Urban Development was created by the Government of India on the 4th October, 1985. On 24th February, 1986, the scope of the commission was widened and the National Commission on Urbanisation was formed.

Charles Correa (Chairman)
Architect and Urbanist

Mahesh Neelkanth Buch (Vice-Chairman)
IAS

Ashish Bose (Member)
Demographer and Economic Analyst

Nilay Chaudhari (Member)
Civil Engineer and Environmentalist

Xerxes Desai (Member)
Businessman and Urbanist

Boniface G. Fernandes (Member)
Urban Planner

Cyrus Guzder (Member)
Businessman and Urbanist

Vidyadhar Pathak (Member)
Urban Planner

Amit Jyoti Sen (Member)
Economist

Kirtee Shah (Member)
Architect and Urbanist

Naresh Narad (Member - Secretary)
IAS

A world map with a blue background and white landmasses. Several black location pins are placed on the map: one in North America (USA), one in Europe (UK), one in Europe (France), one in Europe (Germany), one in Asia (India), and one in Australia. A red dashed box highlights the region of South and East Asia, specifically focusing on India.

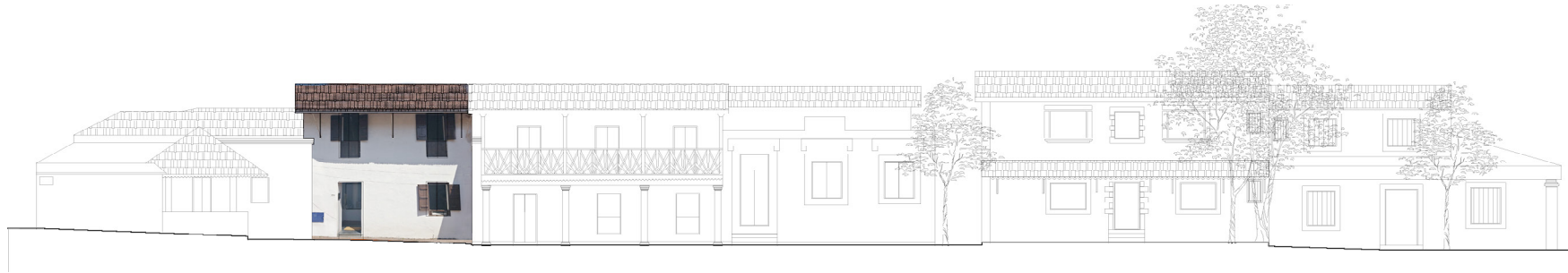
A black and white portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark jacket over a patterned top.

Suyashi Paliwal

2023-2024
Research fellow

Current location: Noida, Delhi

It is difficult to choose just one project that was memorable for me, but the Charles Correa Archives Website (the new one!) was a project that was very dear to me, as was the republication of *A Place in the Shade* (with the purple cover) - I had a lot of fun editing and compiling this one! Working at CCF was full of many firsts and learnings, and my time there enabled me to reflect upon the path I should take next - I'm now working to revive and reuse heritage structures.



At CCF we believe in creating meaningful discourse within the community of architects and designers to influence positive change. CCF's mandate is to identify ideas with potential, and process them into tangible, structured projects that can be pitched to the stakeholders and authorities. Our work follows an organic process that originates with identifying an issue or concern that has the potential to use a design intervention.

Sharing walls with heritage houses in the precinct of Fontainhas, the Foundation studio occupies a small footprint in this historic area. Our office is part of the neighbourhood fabric and the Fontainhas community. Located at street level, CCF always has its doors open to anyone interested in engaging in our work.

The CCF Newsletter will be distributed quarterly, issued to all our subscribers. To subscribe for future issues, please [click here](#).

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