

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UAP FIELDWORK, PUNE 2017

 NTNU

Norwegian University of
Science and Technology



PUNE 2017

Fieldwork in Pune, India - Fall 2017
AAR4525 - Urban Action Planning
Department of Architecture and Planning
Faculty of Architecture and Design

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INTACH





PREFACE

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This executive summary summarizes the outcome of the one-semester fieldwork in Pune and Delhi (India), conducted by students at the Faculty of Architecture and Design at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in collaboration with the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) New Delhi. The fieldwork was part of a research project "Smart Sustainable City Regions in India" (SSCRI) financed by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU). The fieldwork is an integral part of the 2-year International Master of Science Program in Urban Ecological Planning (UEP) at NTNU established in 1997. Similar fieldtrips have been undertaken previously in Nepal, Uganda and India.

The 22 NTNU students participating in the 2017 fieldwork have been divided into six smaller groups and were given the task to focus their further investigation on three different settlements in central Pune. In their project work, they practiced what we call the "Urban Ecological Planning" approach, which focuses on integrated area-based (as opposed to sectorial) situation analysis and proposal making using participatory and strategic planning methods. By spending one month in the assigned areas and engaging with local communities as well as relevant stakeholders, students gained an in-depth understanding of the local context, which allowed them to discover strengths and weaknesses and

identify opportunities and challenges in each of the areas, something that would be impossible to achieve by applying more traditional technocratic and purely quantitative planning methods.

A particular focus of this fieldwork was on issues related to land, housing, water, sanitation and livelihoods. Students were also tasked to put their areas and proposals in the perspective of the Smart Cities Mission, which is the largest urban development fund and initiative currently implemented by the Government of India.

The outcome of the student projects has been described in more details in three reports (each corresponding to one study area). Hard copies of these reports are available at the Faculty of Architecture and Design at NTNU, while digital files can be download from the Urban Ecological Planning page at the NTNU website.

We would like to give our special thanks to our project partners: the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU), faculty and students at the SPA New Delhi as well as the Dept. of Town Planning at the College of Engineering, Pune (COEP), the Maharashtra Social Housing and Action League (MASHAL) and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Pune Chapter.

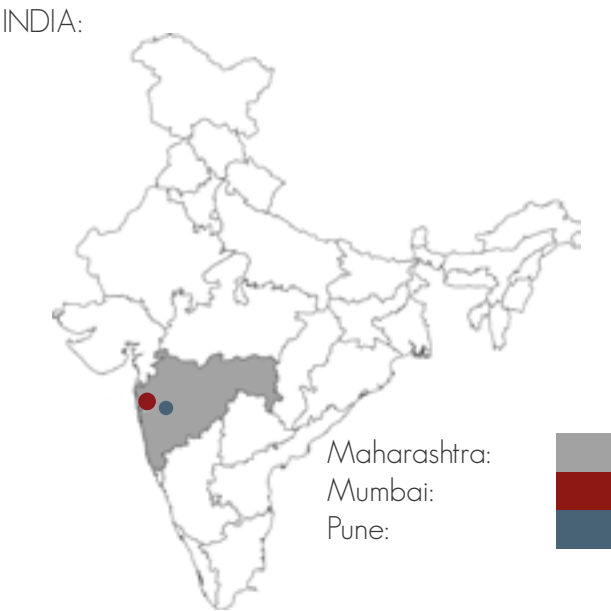


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INTRODUCTION

With a population of over 5 million inhabitants, Pune Metropolitan Region is the eighth largest in India and second largest in the state of Maharashtra, after Mumbai (approx. 20 million). Similarly to most other cities in the region, Pune experiences an unprecedented rate of growth: it is expected that the city's population will double by 2030. Despite its proximity to Mumbai, which is considered India's financial capital, Pune developed a strong local economy, based primarily on the automobile industry and a strong information technology (IT) sector. Pune is also a hub for plentiful higher education institutions, which gave the city a nickname "Oxford



of the East". The employment and education opportunities in Pune attract migrants from all states of India, putting enormous pressure on land and infrastructure.

In order to facilitate a more planned development of the city, stimulate economic growth and ensure high quality of life of the growing population, Pune has been chosen by the Indian federal government as one of the main cities to receive funds through the Smart Cities Mission. This initiative provides direct financing to local and city-wide infrastructure and construction projects, such as water, sanitation, power supply, solid waste management, transportation, mobility, digitalization and technology solutions, security and safety, affordable housing, etc. However, as we have seen during the fieldwork, projects financed from the Smart City Mission initiative are concentrated in the peripheral and more affluent areas of the Pune Metropolitan Region, which further contributes to increasing socio-spatial inequalities.

It is estimated that close to 45% of Pune's population lives in slums, that is to say, settlements which suffer from overcrowding, unsanitary living conditions, lack of access to basic services such as water and sanitation, exposure to flooding and other natural hazards, lack of security of tenure, or a combination of these. A big contribution towards



documenting and mapping slums in Pune was made by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) MASHAL. According to the information published by MASHAL in the "Pune Slum Atlas", in 2011 there were 477 slums in the city of different sizes, ranging from under 20 to over 2,500 building structures. These slums are also very different in terms of land ownership situation (public and private), legal status (declared and undeclared) and location in the city (central and peripheral). The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), which is responsible for spatial planning in the city, attempts to deal with the slum problem by redeveloping slums through a scheme established by the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA), but the rate of growth of informal settlements is much higher than the progress of slum redevelopment, resulting in a steady increase of population living in slum-like conditions.

Nonetheless, Pune is not only about the new industry, IT districts, universities and slums. The city –and particularly its central area– has a rich cultural history reflected in extraordinary tangible and intangible heritage worth preserving. This heritage resulted from the convergence of influences from different nations, religions and traditions that at some point of history came to Pune, not only from other parts of the Indian sub-continent, but also from the British Empire, which ruled over India for almost 100 years. The narrow streets lined up with decorated traditional buildings called Wadas, which are typical to the historic centre of Pune, where many families are still engaged in traditional crafts and professions, as well as other architectural wonders such as forts and temples, provide a sharp contrast the newly developed areas, where the urban landscape is dominated by wide streets

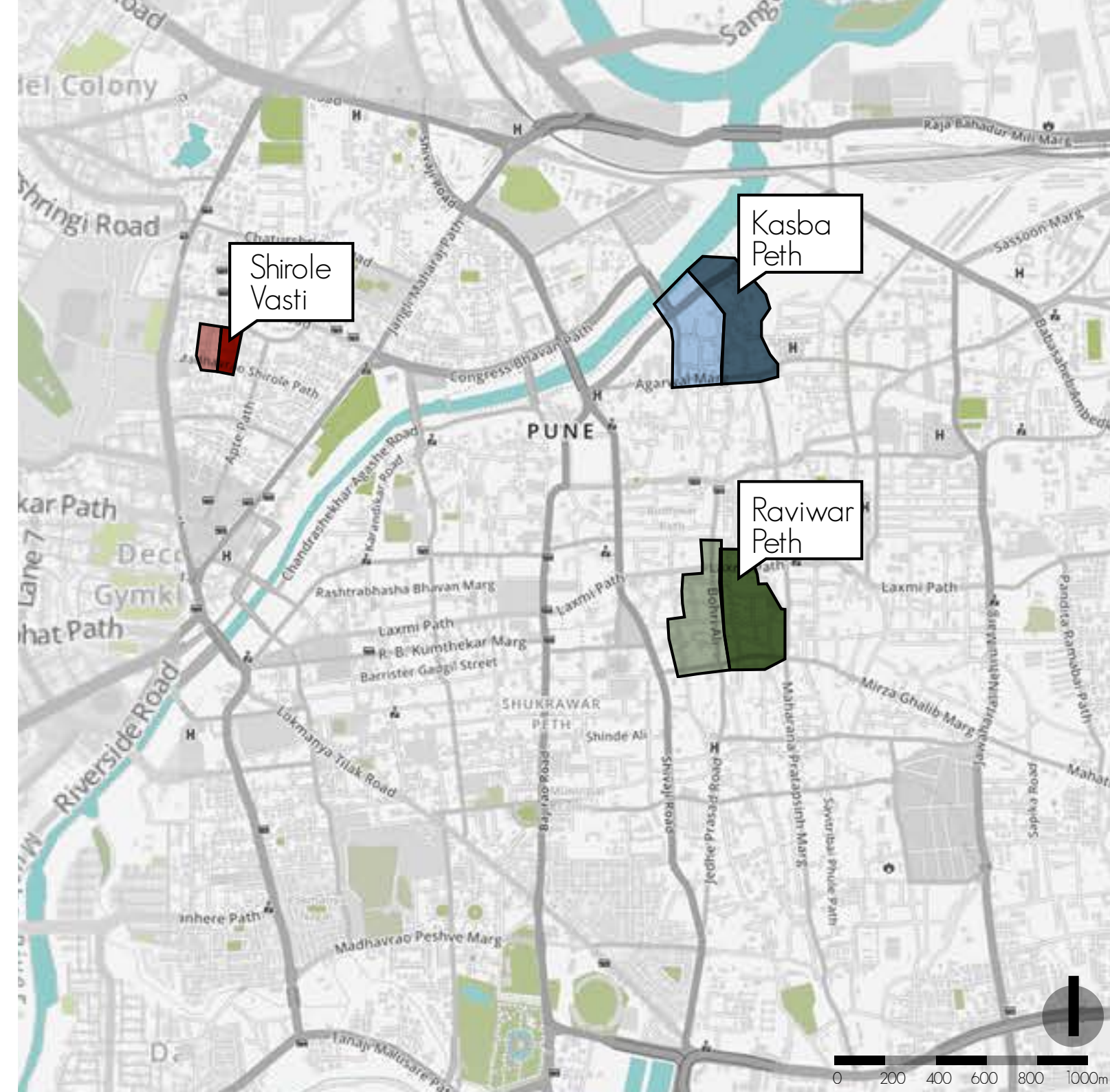
(engineered to facilitate the movement of cars) as well as monotonous high-rise buildings housing an anonymous crowd of the newly emerged middle-class. Preservation of the cultural and built heritage is a complex and challenging task, primarily due to a combination of such issues as unsupportive policy frameworks, development pressures and the processes of socio-economic transformation of the city. INTACH Pune Chapter, with whom we had a pleasure to cooperate, is one of the organizations which attempts to save and cultivate this heritage for the benefit of the current and future generations of people living in the city.

Our further in-depth analysis focused on three selected settlements in central Pune: one being a notified slum known as Shirole Vasti and two being old-city residential and marketplace areas: Kasba Peth and Raviwar Peth. Each of the areas were assigned two student groups. Due to their larger sizes, Kasba Peth and Raviwar Peth have been further subdivided into two smaller areas. In all the studied settlements, interesting dynamics of formalizing-informal and informalizing-formal can be observed. Because of their prime location, they are attractive for private investors who are willing to redevelop them -in parts or entirely- which will likely result in a drastic change in their character and living conditions. At the same time, we discovered small pockets of settlement in between that seem

somehow forgotten or left out of the official planning framework, which gave us an impression that they are “frozen in time”.

Our work focused on documenting the complexity of the current situation in these areas, taking into consideration the strengths and weaknesses of the social, human, physical and financial capitals. Based on the analysis of the identified issues, we proposed a number of realistic solutions and interventions that would represent alternative approaches to development, or compromises between the often conflicting interests of the different stakeholders involved in the process.

- Group 1:
- Group 2:
- Group 3:
- Group 4:
- Group 5:
- Group 6:





SHIROLE VASTI

GROUP 1 & 2

SHIROLE VASTI

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

Shirole Vasti slum is located on Shirole Road in the Deccan Gymkhana area of Pune. It started as a migrant settlement in the early 1940s. It is named after the wealthy Shirole family, who owned the plot where the occupation was initiated. It was declared a slum in 1984, and is currently comprised of 283 structures, 250 families, and 1400 residents with a density of 510 people per ha.

METHODOLOGY

Over a period of one month, we visited the area in order to understand the livelihood strategies. We did participatory activities with the assistance of Hindi and Marathi interpreters. We also gathered information from lectures with specialists and interviews with stakeholders. By the end, we organized a community meeting and discussed our improvement scenarios with the dwellers.

PHYSICAL

Shirole Vasti greatly differs from a stereotypical slum. Almost all residents have access to electricity and gas, and the pathways are paved. There are also garbage collection trucks doing daily rounds. However, badly maintained pipelines, along with the high density and demand for water supply, lead to



intermittent water logging during monsoon seasons. The narrow internal streets have insufficient lighting.

Houses range from concrete and brick structures to tin sheds, starting from less than 10m² of area. Most of the buildings have upper floors and residents have their own washrooms. There are four public toilet facilities.

SOCIAL

The slum is divided into four Mandals - Ganesh Tarun, Gurudatta, Nav Nath and Sri Krishna - that organize regular festivals. Meeting spaces and children's playground exist in the peripheral roads and the open grounds nearby.

POLITICS

Shirole Vasti falls under "Deccan Gymkhana - Model Colony" municipal ward. One of its four elected representatives is Siddharth Anil Shirole - a member of the Shirole family. The community has 752 eligible voters out of 82905 voters in the respective ward. Votes are bartered for services, hence clientelist politics is practiced.

ECONOMY

Due to the central location of Shirole Vasti, dwellers are engaged in various economic activities, varying from grocery stores, tailors, carpenters, and dry cleaners. Professionals from banking and education sectors, lawyers and doctors also live in the slum. Women are mostly involved with housework and childcare. Dwellers have saving schemes which they use to finance children's education and improve their livelihoods.

SRA SCHEME

The slum is eligible for the SRA rehabilitation scheme, which provides dwellers with free in-situ apartments of 25 m² built by private developers who in return get increased development rights. However, the beneficiaries are only those who own houses that were registered in the area before 1st of January 2000, regardless of the family size. Shirole Vasti is located on seven land plots with different ownerships, zoning, and statuses concerning SRA scheme. Despite that many dwellers approve the scheme, they also point to problems such as paying higher taxes and the lack of maintenance in the completed projects.

PROPOSALS

GROUP 1

PRESENT SITUATION: WHAT COULD BE DONE NOW

One of the main complaints we heard was about lack of cleanliness in the public toilets, given that the company responsible for the service only comes 15 times a month. Our suggestion is that the community itself set up their own cleaning scheme, and redirect the same 75 rupees paid now to the private company to the residents involved instead.

Other suggestion regards the lack of proper community space and playground, addressing it with the provision of recycling and organizational workshops. This would help the residents to release the open space used now for dumped materials recycling them into useful furniture and playground.

CHANGES TO CURRENT SRA SCHEME

The slum exists on an area of seven plots with different owners and zonings. In order not to leave anyone behind in the upcoming projects, we suggest a composite SRA scheme to rehabilitate the whole area.

We also suggest that a series of participatory planning workshops should be used to include dwellers' points of view in the design process. Designing aspects on the completed projects, such as small and

dark indoors community space and shops disconnected from the sidewalks level do not correspond to people's expectations.

RETHINKING THE SRA SCHEME: A NEW APPROACH

Opposing the idea of "one size fits all" in the current schemes, we suggest a semi self-help housing approach. The development should be customized to the different circumstances in the slum and be more focused on solving the most pressing issues in a way that does not undermine the qualities. The feeling of responsibility toward more than your own living space is also a recurring problem in apartment buildings. This often results in maintenance issues of those shared spaces. SRA could then improve the basic framework of the houses, giving people a structure that they can expand when they need. Neighboring houses could also have shared terraces to function as community spaces. Other principles to be adopted could be building shared kitchens and storage, and improving daylight using setbacks in the upper floors.

PROPOSALS

GROUP 2

Proposal 1: Lighting

The narrow streets and lanes in the slum lack proper lighting, and people occasionally get injured while walking in the dark. One of the main reasons for that are the upper floors that extend over original structures, thus cutting off much of the daylight. One solution could be the use of lights powered by solar panels. The solar panels can be installed on the roofs and connected to battery run lights in the pathways. Pune's annual number of sunny days is higher than most other cities on the same latitude.

Proposal 2: Time-Sharing of Roads

Shirole Vasti lacks well-functioning community spaces, play areas and parks for children. Currently, the community uses the vehicular roads as make-shift spaces for these purposes. There are associated dangers with using vehicular roads, and this proposal involves giving authority to the residents for closing access to them at specified times of the day.

Proposal 3: Community Trust

The future of the settlement, through the physical changes in the SRA scheme, would imply many changes in the lifestyle of the residents. It is important to improve the role of the community in participatory decision-making and hence the proposal

includes forming a representative body for the settlement, called a Community Trust. The composition would include residents, government representatives, and experts who believe in the goodwill of the settlement. This would also protect the residents from raising real-estate values. The changing of the tenure typology into one based on owning shares of infrastructure stock would imply better sense of ownership and ease of financial burdens. Besides which, a health subscription for the community would imply better collective use of finances for healthcare.



Photo: Krishnan Kavungal Anat



KASBA PETH

GROUP 3 & 4



GROUP 3

Photo: Emmanuel Alejandro Pérez Banda

KASBA PETH WEST

Kasba Peth is the oldest residential area in Pune which was established in the 5th century. Western Kasba is located in the western part of Kasba Peth along the Mutha River. It is the oldest residential area with narrow roads leading to Wadas, row houses and modern apartments. This area is characterised by its traditional buildings and social structure. The valuable heritage of historic settlements can be readily sensed while walking in this area.

Majority of residents have been living in Kasba Peth for many generations. There are two notable communities in the area which are defined by their profession. In Kumbhar community (earthen pot makers), people have been able to keep their traditional craftsmanship alive until the present day. Bhoi community is connected or used to be connected to fishing industry. The main social space in this community is the market area. There is also a Muslim community and mixed residents who do not have common field of activity.

METHODS

Unlike traditional urban planning which focuses on physical aspects of the area, the study focuses more on the qualitatives and informal structures of West Kasba Path.

Observation: area recognition and mapping.

Participatory mapping: to make a schematic map of the community.

Interview: informal interviews with local residents regarding their personal experiences; formal interviews with different stakeholders following the preparation of a questionnaire which covers specific topics, for example, the comment on 'community', 'family business', 'heritage' etc.

Grading : to give residents opportunity to estimate their satisfaction with different key-points, for example, 'facilities', 'opportunities' and 'availabilities'.



Photo: Emmanuel Alejandro Pérez Banda

ISSUES

Residents have an easy access to public facilities due to central location of Kasba Peth, meanwhile they are facing problems related to garbage collection, narrow roads and lack of open spaces. In West Kasba, residents are used to dumping waste directly in the streets line, corners of the blocks, public spaces and even in private open land. Some initiatives have been done by PMC in order to solve these issues, but the problems remains.

Streets are the most versatile space, sometimes being used as markets, children playground and interactive space. Nowadays residents are also using streets as parking space due to lack of parking lot, which has reduced the space's availability for socializing. This has mainly affected children in the study area as they do not have proper space to use as a playground.



PROPOSALS

Considering the issue analysis of the area, we designed a visionary project "Let's have fun and make our neighborhood better and happier" which will raise the interest among public through an easy and clear message.

"PLAY GREEN" will include designing and construction of creative, vertically developed playgrounds with minimal footprints and a colorful and cultural representative urban art gallery. The whole process of the project will be combined with building awareness in culture of garbage treatment, followed with the installation of more effective social-friendly trash containers. One of the goals is to motivate children to take ownership of neglected areas, buildings through visual stimulation, physical/recreational activities and social awareness. Kasba Peth can be an experimental arena for this initiative which could be implemented in other settlements.

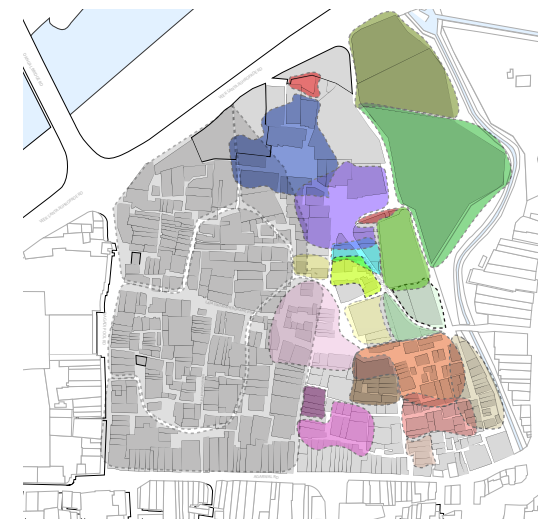


GROUP 4

Photo: Zwestin Gomgom Welfry

KASBA PETH EAST

One dynamic feature that is associated with Kasba Peth is the people. The social bond that exist among the people is a remarkable asset that has held the community together. The east side of Kasba Peth shows a great complexity when it comes to community and social organizations. Our first impression was that the east side of Kasba Peth was divided into two main communities: a muslim community in the north and a hindu community in south. However, there are different communities that reside within the two dominant areas. There is also the PMC area, an area owned by Pune Municipal Corporation and which houses workers of PMC.



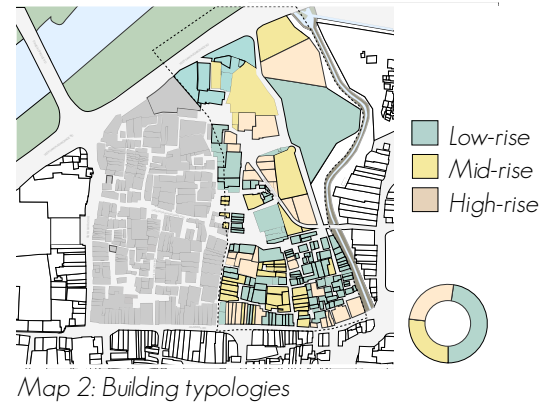
Map 1: Different communities

Compared to the west side of Kasba Peth, where a lot of the community's livelihoods are based on pottery or metal work, which has been passed on for generations, the east side of Kasba Peth does not have the same traditional professions. Historically, the east side of Kasba Peth was home to butchers and paper makers. Today the professions of Kasba Peth vary greatly including: doctors, auto rickshaw drivers, policemen, tailors, business men, a wedding planner, goldsmiths and more.

Kasba Peth still exhibits the characteristics of an old town, despite of the new development in the area. Walking into certain areas of Kasba Peth is like walking into a medieval Indian town. The streets are narrow, crowded with community activity, and named for the profession of those who used to inhabit them. The neighborhood feeling has been a strong asset to the people of Kasba Peth but with the new development that is taking place, Kasba Peth is on the road to losing that cherished treasure. Heritage is also at risk because there is no incentive, beyond loving an old building, to maintain properties. The current policies practically incentivize the destruction of old buildings. The owners of these buildings receive no tax credit or exemption making heritage status a punitive measure in all but name. The Rent Control Act applies further burden to property owners by keeping the rents at artificially low levels. With rent frozen, or only allowed to

increase at an incremental rate untied to natural inflation, owners can find themselves not receiving enough income to maintain the property.

In Kasba Peth, no part has been officially declared or documented as a slum. Though pockets of slums exist that clearly meet the criteria of Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act of 1971 and the UN-HABITAT. Basic amenities such as electricity and water are available in these area, but they may still qualify as slums because of insufficient of living space, lack of access to adequate water and sanitation. Kasba Peth just like most areas in Pune is confronted with the problem of solid waste management. Though, it is a small area, the high population density and economic activities make it one of the leading producers of waste. An inadequate amount of refuse containers and inconsistent collection are among the reasons solid waste management has not seen much improvement at Kasba Peth. The laws regarding littering and the disposal of solid waste have not been effectively enforced in the area, compound the issue. These public health and sanitation laws include fines should it be broken, but in Kasba Peth this has not been enforced.



PROPOSALS

Our proposals seek to increase the community bonds through street upgrading, provide better access to housing for slum dwellers, preserve the heritage of Kasba Peth, and help with the sanitation issue. Key to these proposals is the inclusion of residents and government stakeholders.

Proposal 1: Street upgrading

Street and public space upgrading supported by the participation of the community to keep the environment clean. This involves road improvement via clear, and unused by vehicles, sidewalks and traffics restrictions including making it one way and periodically closed.

Proposal 2 Slum upgrading

2.A. Slum upgrading for unidentified slum dwellers who live on small land private area. (As example in eastern Kasaba Peth - 17 families who live on 1700 square feet of private land)

2B. Slum upgrading related to inadequate of living space for people who live in less maintained high-rise building under SRA scheme. These related proposals seek to create better living for slum dwellers through policy changes and very active resident participation.

Proposal 3 Heritage Policy and Promotion

3.A Introduce Smart Heritage tax incentives

3.B Promote renovation and rehabilitation of older properties

3.C Close completely or add limitations to heritage development loophole

Heritage preservation through monetary incentives and promotion of alternatives to demolition would be an asset to all of Pune.

Proposal 4 Sanitation:

Enforcement solid waste management law, strengthen the spirit of community and improve sanitation infrastructure.



Section showing one-way road



RAVIWAR PETH

GROUP 5 & 6



RAVIWAR PETH



Raviwar Peth is a place with a very concentrated flux of people, mainly due to its flourishing commercial activity. But once a mixed-use area, this neighbourhood now suffers from the decaying in its residential use, mostly due to the worsening environmental conditions of the area. This, as well as the existence of a very active red light area in the surroundings, has resulted not only on the reduction of residents, but also on a decline of the self-esteem of the remaining ones, as well as a worsening on the state of residential buildings, with special consequences on older ones, which tend to be those of more architectural and heritage value. But the impact of this general decay of the city centre is not limited to residential

use. There is an undergoing shift in the commercial activities of Raviwar Peth, with shops offering products of less aggregated value taking over spots that once belonged to hardware store, and even jewellery shops, whereas these ones move to the outskirts of downtown, mainly shopping centres.

While trying to identify the reason for these shifts, our research has identified two strong reasons for the reduction of life quality as a whole on Raviwar Peth: the extremely intense traffic conditions of the area, and the lack of community feeling. While the first occurs mainly due to a tendency of suburbanization, which is recurrent in many urban areas

around the world, the second could be said as as a consequence of the first, as the reduction of the number of residents of a place tends to weaken its identity, which then brings a lack of appropriation for the place.

Using methods coherent to the Urban Ecological Planning approach, like observing, interacting and interviewing, our group has tried to go deeper into the context of the area, aiming to understand the specifics of the problems Raviwar Peth was facing, while trying to incrementally develop a realistic solution to what we had identified as the area's main problem. Throughout this process, we had the opportunity of talking to residents, shoppers, shop owners and street vendors, as well as politicians and experts in the area of Architecture, Art, Urban Planning, among others. And although expressed

through in many different forms, all opinions converged to the same issue: Raviwar Peth is not able to support the amount of traffic it is currently facing.

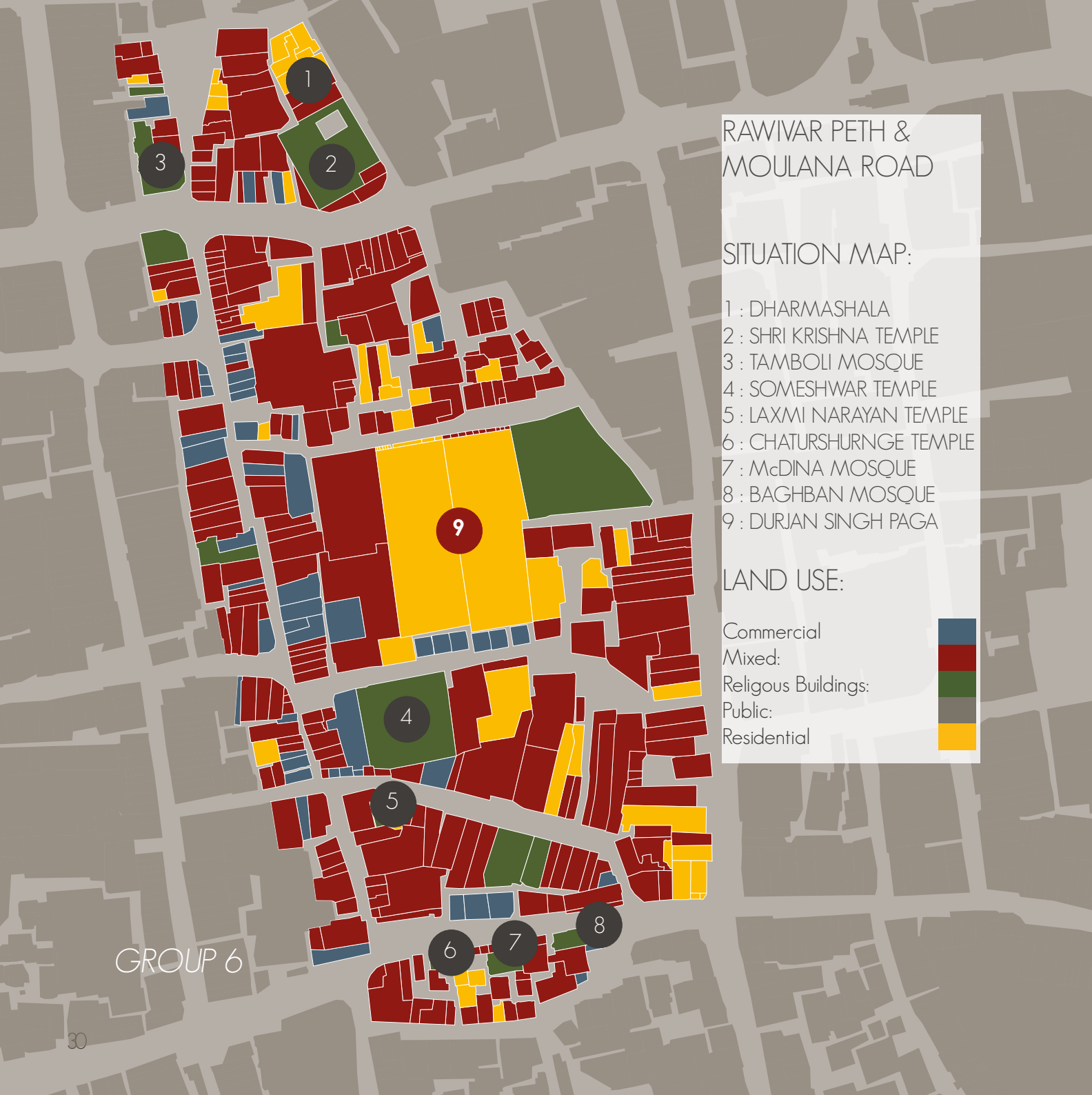
Our proposal for dealing with that is a simple, but powerful one: to close the streets to motorized vehicles - that is, to open Raviwar Peth back to people! Pedestrianization is a strategy that has been recurrently successful in bringing life quality back to city centres, in many different contexts. We acknowledge, however, the specificities of the Indian cities and society, and therefore intend to promote pedestrianization in a gradative way, making people gradually perceive the benefits of it. We also intend to propose it through a participative, community approach, with the hope to promote not only appropriation to the idea, but also to help Raviwar Peth enhance their sense of community.



Photo: Julianti Putri Setiawan



Photo: Julianti Putri Setiawan

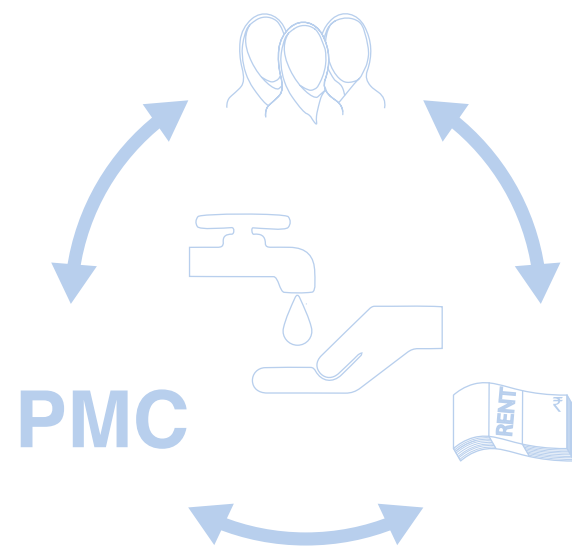


Our work focused on Durjan Singh Paga, a small residential area immersed and contrasting with the busy commercial lanes of Raviwar Peth. The area is close to Moulana A. K. Azad road, one of the main streets of the peth which was mapped together with its surroundings considering land use, nature and distribution of commercial activities, built and vacant space and buildings' heights, and shopkeepers and residents were interviewed. Raviwar Peth is a densely occupied area and predominantly commercial on the ground, with the upper floors used for residential or storage purposes. Diverse professionals with different religious background share the space, which is organized in a systematic way according to the type of products being sold. Its narrow streets suffer with high traffic congestion

which is aggravated by the presence of innumerable street vendors, whose location and nature of trade change along the day or according to the season's festivities.

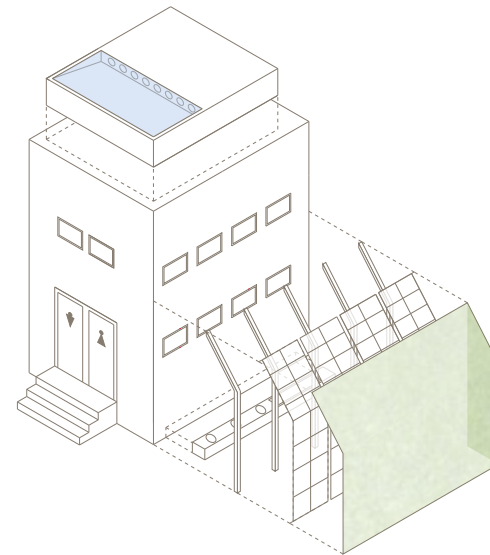
The group stumbled on the Paga and was both impressed and intrigued as the residents proudly told us about its historical value and yet the area didn't appear on any maps. Our in-depth research showed there was no official data on it either. To understand the reason, semi-structured interviews were conducted with residents and other actors involved with the community and timelines of life events were drawn, focusing on the settlers' relation to the area. The residents were very open and welcoming, facilitating our contacts and interactions.

Through these we understood the land is owned by PMC and the tenure situation is irregular. The relation to the municipality is ambiguous as some infrastructure and services are provided but the community has an undefined status and, because the surroundings areas are gradually losing their residential character, it functions as a voting bank for corporators who are very active before the elections and after that disappear. Some facilities were built as electoral promises, such as the toilets. These are directly or indirectly used by all residents and its management is precariously done by PMC, being the most frequent object of complaint.



The construction and management of the toilets will involve PMC and the residents of the Paga, having the women as leaders and establishing a monthly fee. This will strengthen their relations within and outside the Paga.

We observed that the community sense in the Paga is strong but they lack political voice. Our proposal aims to empower the residents through implementing small incremental change to trigger social awareness and strengthen their relations within and outside the community. Sanitation was their main complaint, especially regarding the cleanliness of the toilets due to a lack of sense of ownership. Therefore we proposed a plan for the design and construction of new toilets that will be led and managed by them, bringing back ownership. Existing resources in the community will be mobilized for this, having the women as their main leaders.



The toilets will be separated by gender and have showers on the upper floor, with water reservoirs on the roof. For the children, sheltered toilets are proposed outside.



Photo: Håkon Carlsen Vetlesen

CONCLUSION & REFLECTION

CONCLUSION

At the end of our two-month comprehensive study of Shirole Vasti – a declared slum, Kasba Peth – a historic Settlement, and Ravivar Peth – a market Area, we analysed various aspects of infrastructure, community, politics and governance.

Each area offered unique opportunities to understand how informality is not an isolated phenomenon, but rather it forms a continuum with formal frameworks. In traditional technocratic urban planning approaches, minute differences between areas in a sector may become just a number on spreadsheets, or be dissolved as a blur on its large-scale maps. By analysing different case studies from Pune and beyond, we have also seen how sector-specific interventions may solve one particular problem, but at the same time, create many others.

In the true spirit of Urban Ecological Planning, the fieldwork was not about efforts disconnected from ground realities, but rather first-hand experiences with communities. We were fortunate enough to be guided by the principles and precedents set by previous batches of students and supervisors who had carried out similar studies in contexts unknown to them, along with support from interpreters and admirers of our approach to study.

It would not have been possible to learn as much as we did without listening to what individuals within a community had to say. Our studies

reinforce arguments for the need for participatory development and planning in today's and future contexts. An idea that policies with the intention of development should be based on a combination of bottom-up and top-down, or as we say, a bottom-top approach. We finally arrived at the understanding that efforts in planning should be focussed on being strategic to achieve a goal, rather than being broad and comprehensive. The improvement scenarios proposed by each group focusses on how seemingly small-scale solutions could have large-scale impacts.

The future-plans for Pune, especially those of the Smart City Mission, Slum Rehabilitation Authority and Pune Municipal Corporation, unintentionally marginalise certain communities while trying to include them. This situation validates our study to the extent that we advocate for future studies to be focussed on addressing where these well-intentioned plans are limiting themselves.

At the summit of the fieldwork we reflected on previous experiences, personal values and most importantly on our roles as professionals and our position in practice.

REFLECTION

The fieldwork was a life-changing experience for most of us, being in a new country with a vastly different culture and planning systems. There were a lot of situations that left us culture-shocked, even the Indians among our group. But at the end of it all, we were satisfied with the outcome, and most importantly with the methods we used to arrive at it.

With sincere effort follows great exposure and knowledge building. We reflect on the intense fieldwork as better professionals as we were before, with increased sensitivities and aspirations for general equality and equity where they need to be.

Our group was a mix diverse cultures, expertise, motivations and preferences. Through various conflicts, arguments, discussions and opportunities to get to know each other, we managed to unite as a group focussed to make a difference.

This would be one of the most important experiences which we would carry with us on our way back home.

The fieldwork challenged our perceptions, our ideas, and everything else that we had brought with us to this amazing country. No matter what our areas of focusses are or would be, we would all be dependent on the skills we acquired for engaging with communities, identifying their strengths and promoting a change through it. These are learnings that are from far beyond the walls of a university classroom. Practical experiences such as these, supplemented by the reading material we have used gave us directions in which to act, not just for this fieldwork, but in the future as well. Overall, it was one of the most rewarding endeavours we have ever undertaken. The smiles of the people we interacted with validated our satisfaction.



URBAN ACTION PLANNING STUDENTS

GROUP 1:

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Solomon Quarm

GROUP 6

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