

## **Emerging Exchanges: New Architectures of India**

**April 30-May 1, 2009**

*Theresa Lang Student Center  
55 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY*

The Architectural League of New York  
The India China Institute  
Parsons The New School for Design

India's architectural and urban landscape is being remade in unexpected and exuberant ways at this defining moment in its history. New economic growth, proliferation of media technologies, transnational modes of production, as well as new state and social dynamics are presenting challenges to the entrenched traditions and extraordinary diversity of India. Modern architecture in India, represented by the seminal practices of Balkrishna Doshi, Charles Correa, Raj Rewal and others has long been on a world stage, however the present moment is marked by new ideological and ideational shifts away from early modernist positions.

The Delhi/Ahmedabad axis has moved east and south to Mumbai and Bangalore which now includes a new generation of architects, both Indian and international, who are involved in a diverse range of practices and productions that are re-imagining entrenched histories of both modernities and traditions. Centrifugal and centripetal dynamics characterizes contemporary practices where many architects look to balance global and transnational imperatives as well as more situated approaches to building. The circulation of these inward and outward movements has resulted in both the glittering towers that reproduce the Special Economic Zones of Shanghai or Dubai as an enclave in a landscape of contested territories and economic disparities. At the same time, some architects are engaged in emplaced material practices related to landscape, siting, local building fabrication, and programming, which has led to reconsidering new regionalisms and the informal sector.

The Architectural League of New York, the India China Institute and Parsons The New School for Design plan a two-day conference to probe these material economies and territorial intersections in Indian architecture today. These circuits and realignments will be examined by keynote speakers, project presentations and interdisciplinary panels in order to present a body of emerging architectural practices, while unraveling the forces of the larger cultural and social dynamics that these projects generate, concentrate and disperse.

**Thursday, April 30**

**09:00 AM – 09:30 AM: Registration**

**09:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- **Tim Marshall**, Dean Parsons The New School for Design
- **Ashok Gurung**, Senior Director, India China Institute
- **Rosalie Genevro**, Executive Director, Architectural League

### **Material Economies**

Presentations of architects who are currently working in India will be followed by a multi-disciplinary panel who will respond to the social, economic and cultural issues generated by an architecture between a critique of modern rationalism and utopianism, as well as a shaky and unstable postmodern regionalism and ethnocentrism. The debate will be between the material, spatial and constructive expressions of architecture and how different modes of its production have consequences in relation to labor market, material extraction as well as socio-economic relations.

**10:00 AM – 10:15 AM: Kazi Ashraf, introduction**

**10:15 AM – 01:00 PM: Panel 1**

1. Rahul Mehrotra (MIT/Mumbai)
  2. Gurjit Singh Matharoo (Ahmedabad)
  3. Anupama Kundoo (Auroville)
- Reinhold Martin, respondent

Presentations 2:

4. Rajeev Kathpalia (Ahmedabad)
  5. Billie Tsien and Tod Williams (New York)
  6. Samira Rathod (Mumbai)
- [Himanshu Burte, respondent]**

**02:00 PM – 4:00 AM: Material Economies Panelists**

1. Carol Breckenridge (New School)
2. Kenneth Frampton (Columbia)
3. Prem Chandavarkar (Bangalore)
4. Reinhold Martin (Columbia)
5. Anuradha Mathur (Philadelphia/NYC)
6. **Himanshu Burte (Mumbai/Berkeley) [not yet invited]**

**Friday, May 1**

**09:00 AM – 09:30 AM: Registration**

**09:30 AM – 01:00 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- **Tim Marshall**, Dean Parsons The New School for Design
- **Ashok Gurung**, Senior Director, India China Institute
- **Rosalie Genevro**, Executive Director, Architectural League

### **Territorial Intersections**

Architecture and the narrative of regions and territories will be examined in five senses: the inevitability and significance of a situated architecture, regional shifts in focus and production, (3) urban India versus rural India, international, transnational and local exchanges, and media, utopias and phantasmagorias.

Brian McGrath, introduction

**10:15AM – 01:00 AM:**

Presentations 1:

1. Prem Chandavarkar (Bangalore)
2. **[Pei Cobb Freed office??] Rosalie's contact**
3. Anuradha Mathur (Philadelphia)
- Vyjayanthi Rao (New School), respondent

Presentations 2:

4. Soumitro Ghosh and Nisha Mathew (Bangalore)
5. **Gautam Bhatia (New Delhi)**
6. Sudhir Jambhekar (FXFowle, New York)
- [Vikram Bhatt, respondent]**

**02:00 PM – 4:00 AM: Territorial Intersections Panel**

1. **Michael Sorkin [has not confirmed yet]**
2. Gurjit Singh Matharoo (Ahmedabad)
3. Rajeev Kathpalia (Ahmedabad)
4. Vyjayanthi Rao (New School)
5. Rahul Mehrotra (Mumbai/MIT)
6. Samira Rathod (Mumbai)