

HYDERABAD IDENTITY

Theorie, analysis and future development of the spatial character

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PROJECT

Hyderabad, a city branded by the present boom of the information technology, is one of the fast-growing hot spots in India. In connection with its enormous growth it has been a subject of profound changes for some years. In the context of the research project SHAKTI (Sustainable Holistic Approach & Know-How Tailored to India) that addresses the sustainable development of the megacity on an interdisciplinary basis, the diploma thesis *HYDERABAD IDENTITY* deals with the spatial character of the city. The topic is therefore situated in the contextual and aesthetic field of sustainability.

The three-month diploma project included a three-week stay in India and has been elaborated on the basis of literature research, expert interviews, graphic analysis and field explorations.

CHALLENGE

In search of solutions for the needs of sustainable construction, the cultural and physical context plays a distinctive role. In the case of Hyderabad, the rapid development stresses the importance of the question of spatial identity for the process of urban planning. The knowledge of the local identity is a precondition for sustainable architectonic and urban solutions instead of a shallow 'facelift'.

Following this approach, three fundamental questions arise: How does the spatial character of Hyderabad look like? How to analyse the identity of a city? How will the spatial character of the megacity develop in the future?

OBJECTIVE

The goal is to create an interdisciplinary theoretic and methodical framework within which it is possible to analyse spatial identity in the context of urban planning. Based on this, the key elements of Hyderabad have to be identified and analysed within the scope of the urban cultural landscape. In the third step, scenarios for the future identity, which can serve as a compass for the direction of the development of Hyderabad, should be shown.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK & METHOD

On the theoretic-methodical level, Mehrotra's model for analysing identity via the *lecture of a cultural landscape* (Mehrotra, R. 2004) is expanded for the field study in Hyderabad. Following the idea of the anthropologist Hannerz (Hannerz, U. 2004), the parameters *market*, *politics*, *way of life* and *movements* are identified as critical dimensions for the investigation of a culture. In the

frame of the cultural landscape *types in the form of edificial objects or spatial structures* can be identified and analysed as representatives of the landscape.

ANALYSIS AND SCENARIOS OF HYDERABAD

The application of the model in the field inquiry shows an extremely multi-faceted image. Three typical identity clusters are identified within the complex cultural landscape: The *identity of historic structures*, the *identity of modern structures* and the *informal identity*. The cultural landscapes of the two former identities are analysed in-depth via the earlier identified parameters. Six representative structural types are defined and also analysed in detail.

1 IDENTITY OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES

The cultural landscape dating back to the time of monarchies is *the identity of historic structures*. It is established around three centres in the city: The Muslim old town, the British settlement and the power centre of the 19th century.

Scenarios for the future development of *the identity of historic structures* span from a future museum character to a consolidation of Muslim identity to a further internationalization of the spatial character, depending on the specific identity centre.

2 IDENTITY OF MODERN STRUCTURES

The *identity of modern structures* is located both on the outskirts of Hyderabad and in the centre around the lake Hussain Sagar. It began with the foundation of the State Andhra Pradesh in 1956 and has been subject of drastic changes since the 1990s.

The *identity of modern structures* radiates on the other identities and will expand spatially with the growth of the megacity. It is internationally oriented and may shift from a simple copy of Western lifestyles to a new Indian identity.

3 IDENTITY OF INFORMAL STRUCTURES

Spread all over the city, the cluster of *informal identity* is difficult to locate. Further research would be necessary for a better understanding of the acting culture and the accordant building types.