Market for Cultural Exchange (and vegetables) To communicate beyond language and values
Emil Stefansson
BA Project 2017-18
The simplicity in the past everyday-life has come to an end. During the 20th century, inventions and machines have given us shorter distances between people than ever before; our planet is not enough. Nowadays, globalisation is so present; the local is rare; though, this is the westerner’s reality. But India has another reality. Through our mapping of the old city of Ahmedabad, we got to know the people very well. How they live, what they do, who they are. The local products are celebrated and used in a larger scale than in the West, offered through local markets. However, technology from abroad has entered the society, with smart phones that dominates. But India is also a country of traditions. What your parents are is what you yourself will be. Or at least that’s how it was. Nowadays, when English is wider spoken and almost all children are going to school, new possibilities are growing in the society.

To travel from Sweden to India takes around 12 hours, compared to several days or weeks 100 years ago. India has been famous among backpackers for many years now, especially for the cultural clash that appears. However, Ahmedabad is not a hot spot for backpackers. On the other hand, the city has potential. With B.V. Doshi’s recent Pritzker prize award, a small boom in the interest of Ahmedabad might occur. The architecture in and around Ahmedabad can’t be neglected, as well as other attractions. But, despite hotels and guest houses, there aren’t many hostels: the accommodation backpackers prefer.

Ahmedabad is full of tourist attractions and has the potential of attracting people from all over the world. But the city is so much more, where non-touristic experiences are among the most important aspects of its genuineness.
The site is defined by a wall, a busy road and housing units. The traffic is intense and noise is coming from all around. The site is mainly used by a market that has been there for generations, where people sell fresh vegetables. Different niched markets are nearby, as well as the Manek Chowk square and the famous Jumma Masjid Mosque. The climate is hot and despite from some trees, no shade is provided. The market sellers mainly use parasols to give themselves shelter, but nothing is permanent. Also, some of the sellers lives on the market in tents, though they can’t afford to move elsewhere, near the market.

An abandoned governmental plot is placed on the site, behind a wall where the market sellers position themselves. A part of the plot is used by children as a playground, the rest is made for spontaneous parking.
The analysis is based on how backpackers could interact with the people of the market in Ahmedabad. This could be done by investigating coming eating hours. By creating possible scenarios including the backpackers, the desired spaces could be design further on in the process. By building models, these spaces could be investigated, questioned and redeveloped over again.

Sections where also a helpful tool to investigate relationships between spaces and the existing, even across Danapith road. How could sunshade and the building’s structure communicate with the common people of the market? How is it improving the living conditions for every user?

**Elements**

- Low otla for feeding cows
- Otla, a social meeting space
- Street as parking
- Street as a playground

**Windows**

- False balcony
- Framed shaded windows
- Brick or concrete screens
- Framed opening windows

The part of the design is that is should be able to be built. With the help of NGO’s like PRAYAS, IHF and Terre Des Hommes Core, a crowdfunding could collect enough money to realise the project.

I took plenty of inspiration from the context and how especially windows and other openings are displayed and used. Many kinds of windows occur and they could all be represented in the building.

Indian elements such as the otla, a social platform should also be present since people in these contexts tend to be much more social than Westerners. There are different kinds of them, and the street also serves as a transformative space, that depends more on the surrounding context than the actual use of the street. For example, it could be used for parking, playground or a market.

**Problem definition**

- NGO’s like PRAYAS, IHF, Terre Des Hommes Core
- Spread the word
- Crowdfunding
- Construction
- Income from temporary users
- Circular economy

**Engagement process narrative**

**Market for Cultural Exchange (and vegetables)** To communicate beyond language and values

Emil Stefansson
The design came from the users and how the narrow site is shaped. Here, the shadows are of significant importance, where the market actually needs to be situated. To improve the market, the building will be “hovering” above the market to create a better user experience and market seller condition. To gradually increase the market’s height, the relationship with the busy Danapith road is more open and less aggressive.

It makes no sense to get rid of trees that are actually providing the shade that is so precious on the site. Instead, the building is adapting to them, bending around them like a snake. To fit the program, the building is extending towards the housing unit as the site allows it to grow wider, close to the big tree. Here, the circulation meets in a “triangle”, where also many people can interact, a suitable spot for a larger community.

Process

To communicate beyond language and values
Emil Stefansson
BA Project 2017·18

Market for Cultural Exchange (and vegetables)
Market for Cultural Exchange (and vegetables) To communicate beyond language and values

Emil Stefansson

Design

Social spaces in between sleeping spaces

Playground kept and improved

Program diagram

Social interaction collage

Market for Cultural Exchange (and vegetables) To communicate beyond language and values
Emil Stefansson
Market for Cultural Exchange (and vegetables) To communicate beyond language and values
Emil Stefansson
BA Project 2017·18
Structure

Plans

Ground floor scale 1/200

Second floor scale 1/200

Common functions are based in the bottom scale 1/200

Construction on site scale 1/400

Structure

Market for Cultural Exchange (and vegetables) To communicate beyond language and values
Emil Stefansson
Structure

Variations of balcony spaces

1. Railing for social roof
2. Concrete roof slab
3. Louver window
4. Double layered brick wall, plastered
5. Single brick layer
6. Concrete floor slab
7. Steel beams and columns

Structural grid

Third floor

Roof floor

scale 1/200

scale 1/200

scale 1/200

scale 1/400