



DHARAVI: PLACES AND IDENTITIES

An Exhibition Understanding Different Communities on the Basis of Their Origin, Livelihood and Spatial Organization

STUDIOX

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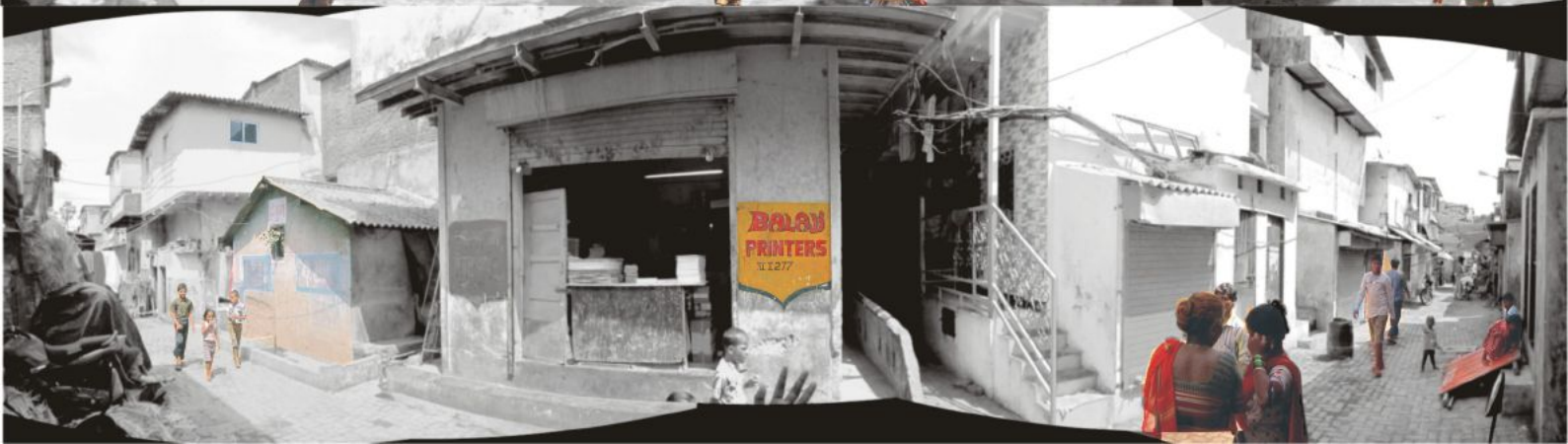
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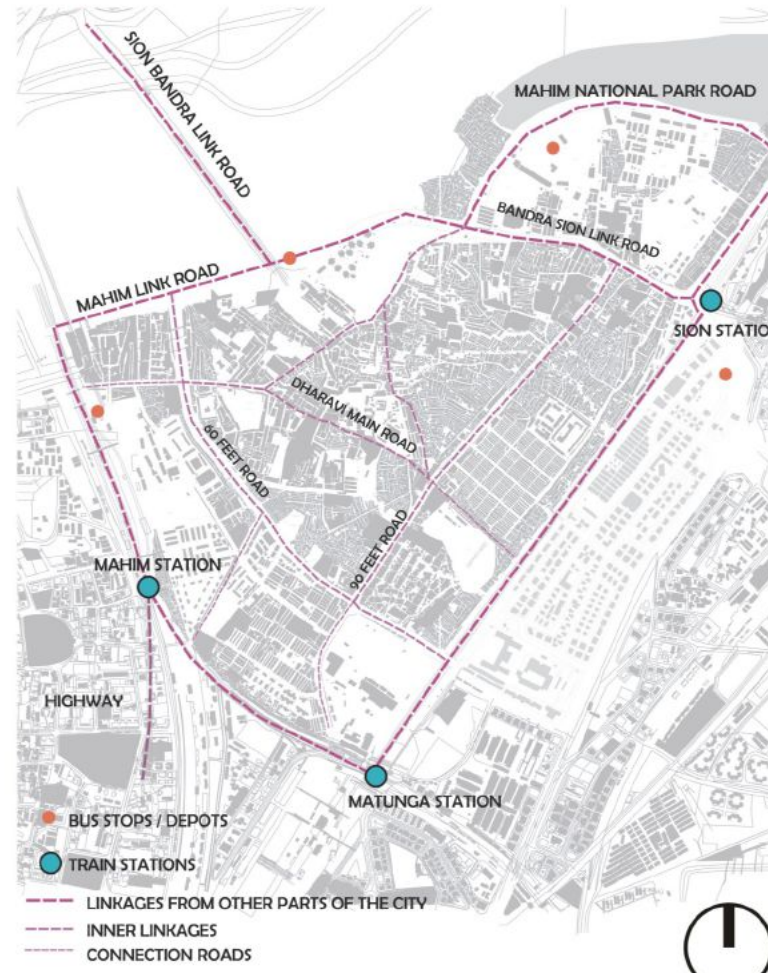
DHARAVI: PLACES & IDENTITIES INTRODUCTION



CITY LEVEL SCALE
location of Dharavi

MUMBAI IS THE MOST POPULOUS CITY IN INDIA AND HAS THE **HIGHEST GDP** OF ANY CITY IN SOUTH, WEST OR CENTRAL ASIA. THE SEVEN ISLANDS THAT CAME TO CONSTITUTE MUMBAI WERE HOME TO COMMUNITIES OF FISHING COLONIES. ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERIZED THE CITY DURING THE 19TH CENTURY.

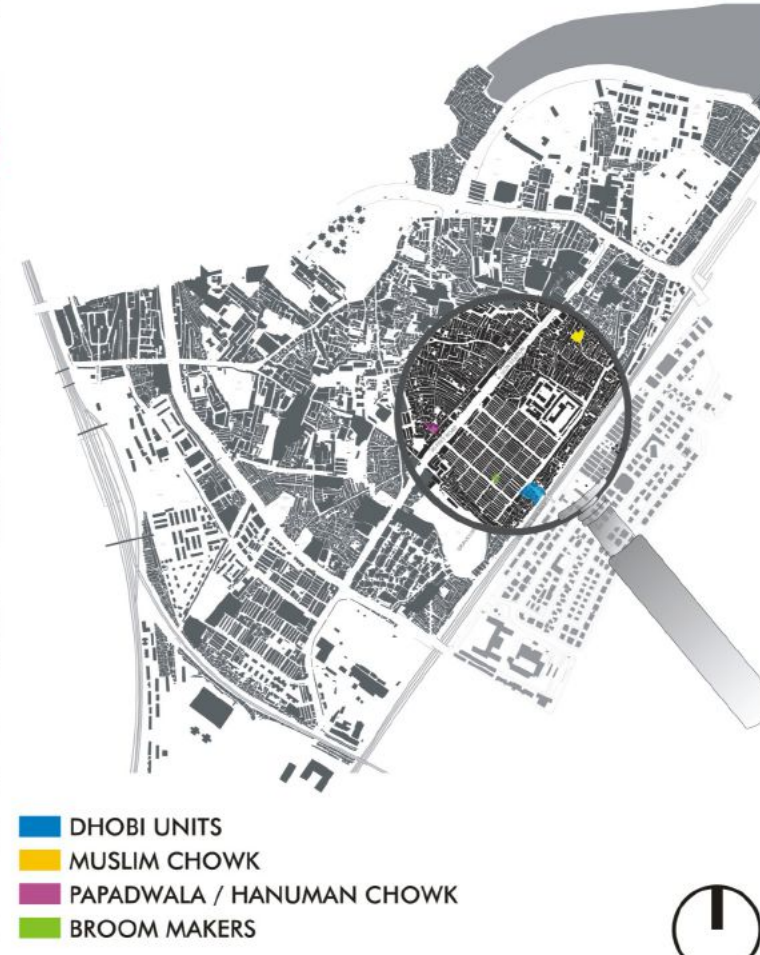
DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD MUMBAI GREW TO AN INDUSTRIAL TOWN AND IN THE COURSE OF GLOBALIZATION TO A MEGA CITY WITH ABOUT **20 MILLION INHABITANTS**. THE ECONOMIC CAPITAL STILL ATTRACTS TENS OF THOUSANDS PEOPLE EACH YEAR WHO COME IN SEARCH OF WORK FROM ALL DIFFERENT RURAL PARTS OF INDIA. THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING CONSTRUCTION **CANNOT** KEEP UP WITH THE GROWTH OF POPULATION: **NEARLY 50 PERCENT OF MUMBAI'S POPULATION IS HOMELESS OR LIVES IN ILLEGALLY BUILT SLUMS ON URBAN LEFTOVER SPACES**. THESE SLUMS HAVE PROPPED UP ALL OVER THE CITY - AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THERE ARE OVER **2,000** SLUM SETTLEMENTS.



INTERMEDIATE NAGAR LEVEL SCALE
showing roads and networks

DHARAVI, A CENTRAL AREA WITHIN THE MEGACITY MUMBAI AND ONE OF THE LARGEST INFORMAL SETTLEMENT OF ASIA, CONSISTS OF ABOUT **80 NAGARS** (NEIGHBORHOODS). THESE NAGARS ARE BUILT AND DOMINATED BY **DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES**. FROM THEIR ORIGINAL VILLAGES THE INHABITANTS BROUGHT ALONG SPECIFIC OCCUPATIONS, FOOD HABITS, CLOTHING STYLES AND CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

DHARAVI WAS SET UP BY IMMIGRANTS FROM GUJARAT WHO BUILT THEIR FIRST HOUSES IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY. OVER THE NEXT FEW DECADES IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM ALL PARTS OF INDIA TO WORK IN THE BOOMING TEXTILE INDUSTRY. TODAY, DHARAVI BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE TO THE FISHING VILLAGES IT ONCE WAS. **A CITY WITHIN A CITY**, ITS ONE UNENDING STRETCH OF **NARROW DIRTY LANES, OPEN SEWERS, CRAMPED HUTS** AND ALSO **HIGHER BUILDINGS** ALONG THE MAIN ROADS. **EXTREMELY DENSE AND COMPLEX** LIVING AND WORKING QUARTERS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED COVERING AN AREA OF TWO AND A HALF KM.



NAGAR LEVEL SCALE
showing the investigated areas

THE **URBAN STRUCTURE** IS VERY INTRICATE, AS **LIVING AND WORK SPACE ARE ALWAYS INEXTRICABLY LINKED**. ONLY A MINOR GROUP OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SLUM HAVE PROPERTY RIGHTS ON LAND AND HOUSING. MANY PEOPLE WORK AS DAY LABORERS OR DO **UNHEALTHY AND INHUMANE ACTIVITIES**. THE HOUSES ARE **POORLY LIT AND VENTILATED**. PRIVATE TOILETS ARE AN EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE, AND PUBLIC TOILETS ARE IN A **DILAPIDATED CONDITION IN MOST CASES**. ON AVERAGE, **FIFTEEN FAMILIES SHARE A WATER PIPE**.

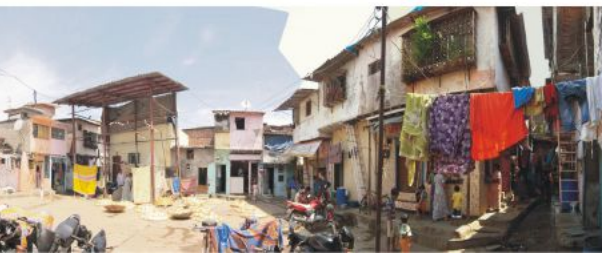
ESTIMATES OF THE SCALE OF **ECONOMIC ACTIVITY** IN DHARAVI CAN ONLY BE GUESSES AT BEST DUE TO SEVERAL ENTERPRISES BEING IN THE SHADOW OF ILLEGIBILITY. AN OFF THE CUT ESTIMATE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT STUDY PUTS THE DAILY TURNOVER AT **RS 5 CRORE (500 MILLION) A DAY OR RS 1500-2000 CRORES A YEAR**. THE PRESENCE OF INDUSTRY IN THE SETTLEMENT IS SO VIBRANT THAT EVERY SECOND OR THIRD HOUSE SEEMS TO BE THE SITE OF SOME OR THE OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.



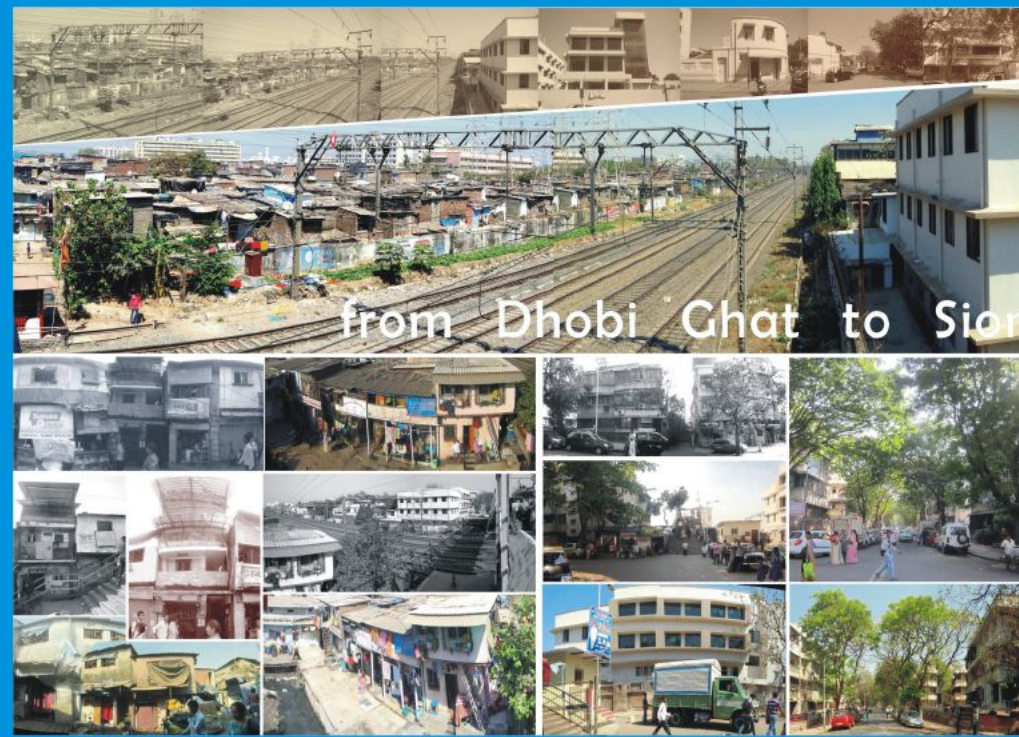
QUARTER LEVEL SCALE
showing the investigated areas

THIS **EXHIBITION** FOCUSES ON UNDERSTANDING DHARAVI – REPUTED AS ONE OF THE LARGEST SLUMS IN ASIA, THROUGH THE **LENS OF LIVELIHOODS**. WE THUS EXPLORE THE WAY DIFFERENT GROUPS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROCESS OF EVOLVING THE SETTLEMENT, MAP THEIR CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC LOCATIONS AND SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. STUDIES SHOW THE COHERENCE OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ARCHITECTONIC CHANGES DURING THE LAST DECADES, THROUGH THE LENS OF THE INHABITANTS' LIVELIHOODS.

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS OF THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN THE **STRUCTURAL HIERARCHY OF THE URBAN FABRIC**, THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN EXPLORED ON **DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SCALE AND ACCURACY**. A SMALLER QUARTER WITHIN EACH **NAGAR** HAS BEEN SELECTED TO STUDY IT IN DETAIL: **ALL BUILDINGS AND SPACES** OF THIS COHERENT AREA AND ALL INHABITANTS (AS FAR AS POSSIBLE) HAVE BEEN INCLUDED.



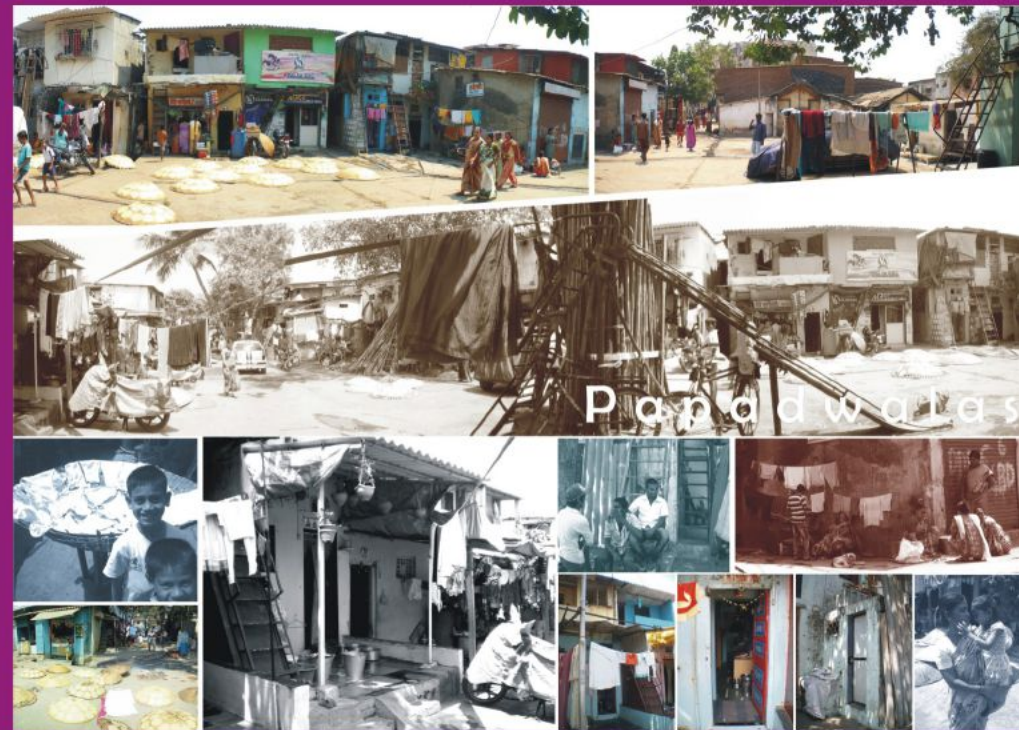
DHOBI GHAT



from Dhobi Ghat to Sion

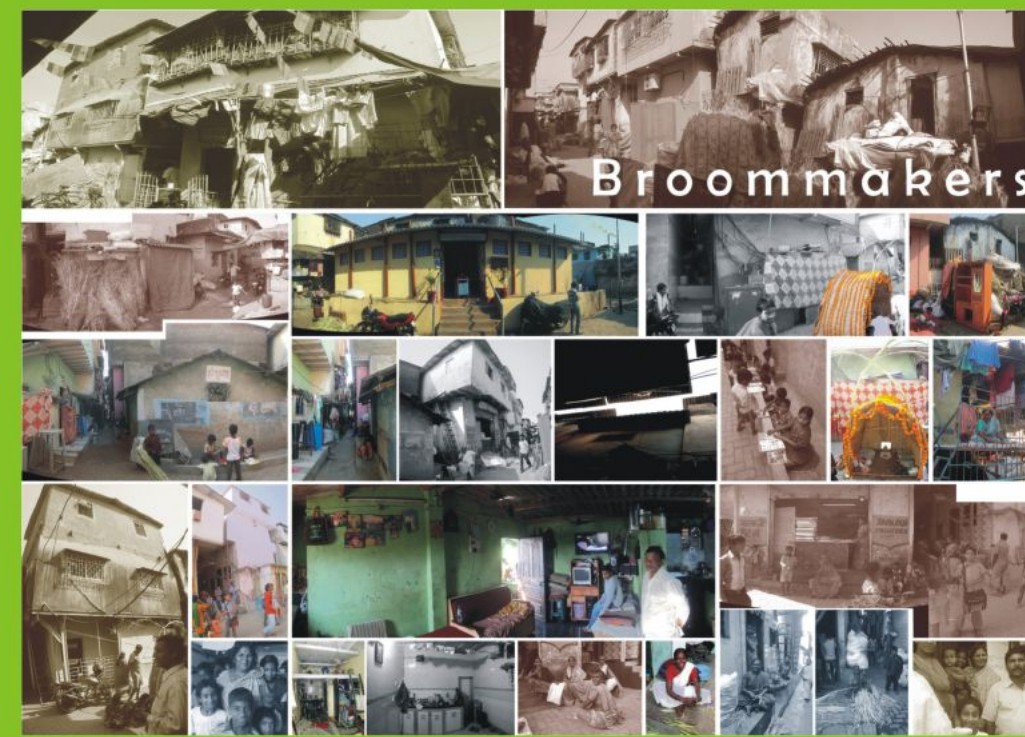
DHARAVI DOES NOT HAVE A TRADITIONAL **DHOBI GHAT** (A PLACE WHERE CLOTHES ARE WASHED, CONSISTS OF CHANNELS OF WATER WITH STONE PLATFORMS) .A GROUP FROM ANDHRA PRADESH IDENTIFIED THE **NALA (WASTE WATER CHANNEL)** FLOWING ADJOINING THE RAILWAY TRACK AS A POSSIBLE SITE FOR A DHOBI GHAT AND CREATED ONE IN THE 1940S IE BEFORE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT CAMP. IT IS SAID THAT THERE WERE 40-50 FAMILIES OF DHOBI'S LIVING AROUND THIS AREA TILL ABOUT 10-15 YEARS AGO. TODAY, THERE ARE BARELY 6-7 FAMILIES WHO OPERATE THE DHOBI GHAT IN DHARAVI.

PAPADWALAS



Papadwalas

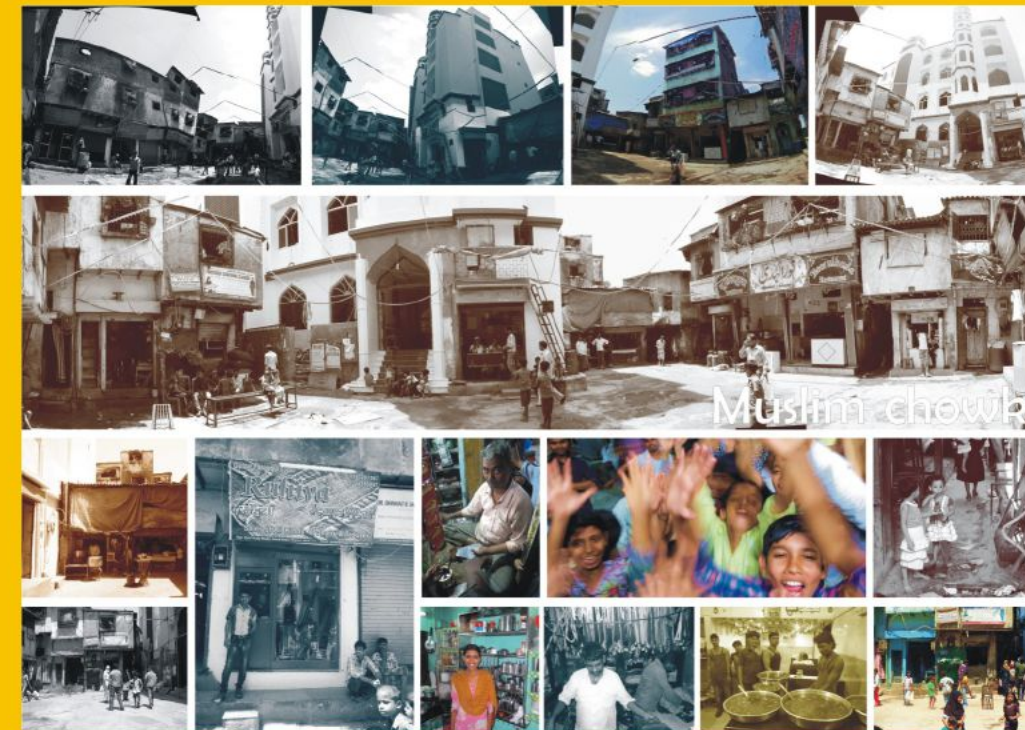
PAPADS ARE A ROLLED OUT PATTY OF VARIED PULSES WHICH ARE DRIED AND STORED AND ARE A POPULAR SIDE DISH IN SEVERAL PARTS OF INDIA WITH REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN PULSES USED. **HANUMAN CHOWK** IS ONE OF 3-4 CLUSTERS OF HOUSES (AROUND 100-150 WOMEN) WHO MAKE PAPADS IN DHARAVI. LIJJAT AND GANESH ARE THE TWO MOST COMMON NAMES IN THE INDUSTRY WHICH IS ORGANIZED AROUND HOME BASED WORK FOR WOMEN. THE WORK WAS INTRODUCED IN DHARAVI ABOUT 40 YEARS AGO AND THE NUMBER OF WOMEN INVOLVED HAS ONLY INCREASED SINCE THEN.



Broommakers

THE KUNCHIKARVE COMMUNITY, WHICH COMPRISE THE **BROOM MAKERS** COMMUNITY, IS A NOMADIC TRIBE. THE COMMUNITY MOVED AS DISTINCT GROUPS, SCATTERED IN SEVERAL PARTS OF MAHARASHTRA AND KARNATAKA. THE KUCHIKARVES MADE THEIR HOMES IN THE **SWAMPY AREA OF DHARAVI** WHERE THE CURRENT 90 FEET ROAD IS LOCATED. THEIR HOUSES EARLIER WERE MADE OF **TIN SHEETS**, AND THEY USED TO STOCK MATERIAL AND **PREPARE BROOMS OUTSIDE THEIR HOMES ON THE STREETS**. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENGAGED IN BROOM MAKING HAS REDUCED DRASTICALLY OVER THE YEARS DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIAL.

MUSLIM CHOWK



Muslim chowk

THE **MUSLIM CHOWK** COMPRISES OF A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNITED BY FAITH AND NOT REGION. THE MOSQUE IS NOT ONLY A PHYSICAL MEMBER OF THEIR CHOWK BUT A **STRONG SYMBOL OF THEIR COMMUNITY**. RECENTLY RENOVATED TO ACCOMMODATE MORE PEOPLE FOR DAILY PRAYERS, THE MOSQUE IS ONE OF THE TALLEST STRUCTURES SOUTH OF 90 FEET ROAD. HOWEVER, **SANITATION IS POOR AND STREET ACCESS TO THE CHOWK IS LIMITED**. OCCUPATIONALLY THEY ARE DIVIDED AS FEW MEMBERS ARE PART OF THE THRIVING LEATHER INDUSTRY, SOME ARE PART OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY WHILE OTHERS HAVE PRIVATE BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS TO THEIR NAME.



PAPADWALA CHOWK RECREATED AND THE SCULPTURE SHOWING 'LINKS TO THE VILLAGES'

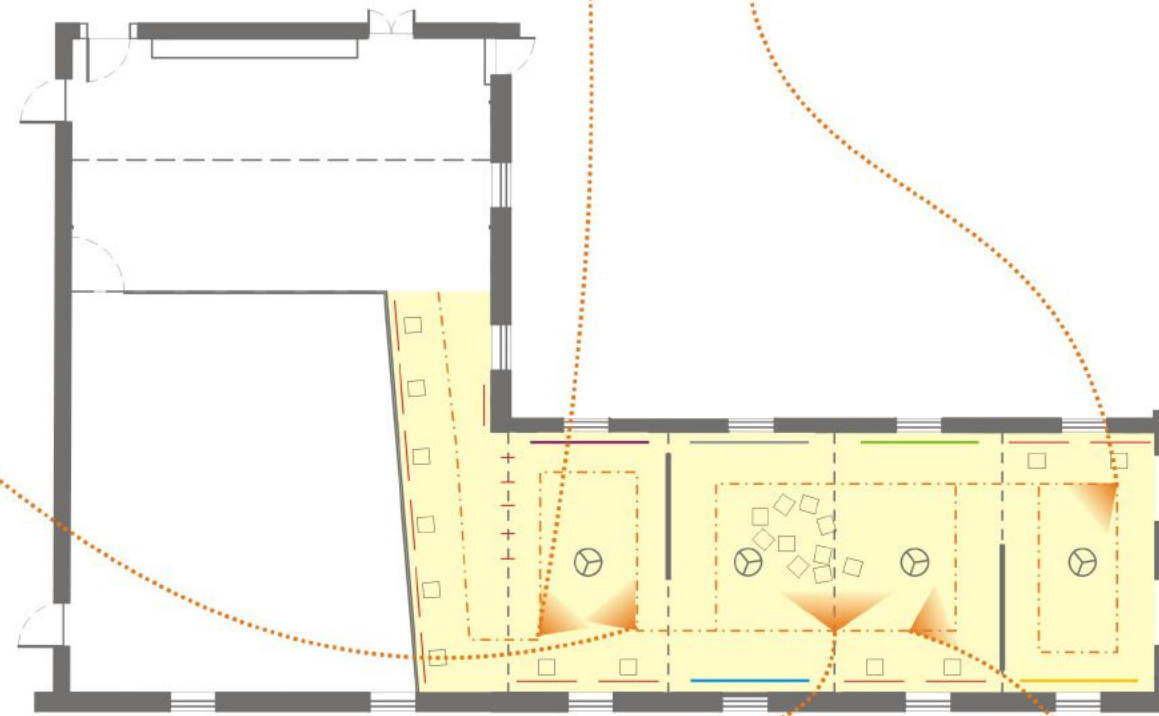


MUSLIM CHOWK RECREATED AND THE SCULPTURE SHOWING 'LINKS TO THE VILLAGES'



VIEW OF THE GENERAL PANELS ABOUT DHARAVI

SCHEMATIC PLAN AND WALKTHROUGH IMAGES



SCHEMATIC PLAN OF THE EXHIBITION

- PANELS ABOUT DHARAVI (13 NO.S)
- DHOBI GHAT PANEL
- HANUMAN CHOWK PANEL
- BROOM MAKERS LANE PANEL
- MUSLIM CHOWK PANEL
- AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION
- SOFT PANELS WITH PHOTOGRAPHS
- STEEL RECYCLABLE BOXES USED FOR DISPLAY



(L-R)–GENERAL PANELS ABOUT DHARAVI, THE SOFT PANEL FOR DHOBI GHAT, THE AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH, SCULPTURE SHOWING 'LINKS TO THE VILLAGES' & BROOM MAKER PANEL



SOFT PANEL OF THE BROOM MAKER LANE



AR. MARTINA SPIES ADDRESSING A GROUP OF STUDENTS



STUDENTS INTRIGUED BY THE INFORMATION OF MUSLIM CHOWK



STUDENTS AND VISITORS OBSERVING AND DISCUSSING THE RESEARCH PRESENTED



STUDENTS AND VISITORS OBSERVING AND DISCUSSING THE RESEARCH PRESENTED



VIEW OF THE SCULPTURE WHICH SHOWS THE LINKS TO THE VILLAGES



CORRUGATED METAL SHEETS USED TO DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPHS AND PANORAMAS



RESIDENTS OF DHARAVI ARE EXCITED TO FIND REFERENCES OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR DAILY LIVES AS PART OF THE EXHIBITION



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RESIDENTS OF DHARAVI ARE EXCITED TO FIND REFERENCES OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR DAILY LIVES AS PART OF THE EXHIBITION



REFERENCE MAPS OF DHARAVI SHOWING VARIOUS LAYERS OF URBAN DESIGN ELEMENTS



A SHORT AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION GIVING AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOUR CHOWKS



CHILDREN FROM DHARAVI ARE EXCITED AS THEY SPOT THEIR PHOTOS AND OTHER REFERENCES



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