

DHARAVI: PLACES AND IDENTITIES

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

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

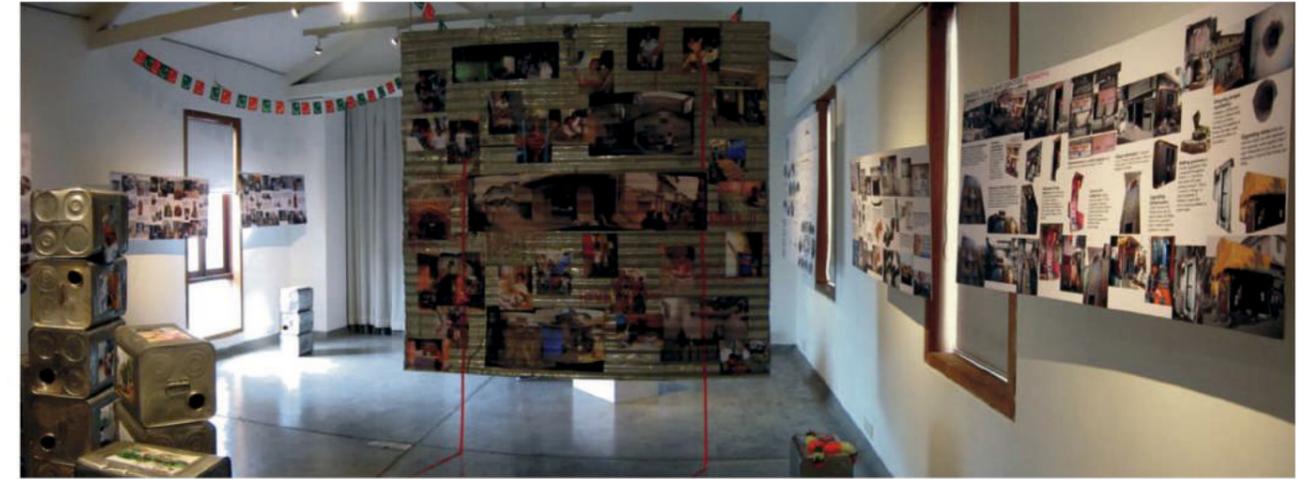
The **exhibition** focuses on the understanding Dharavi - Reputed as one of the largest slums in Asia, through the **lens of livelihoods**. We thus explore the way different groups have contributed to the process of

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.

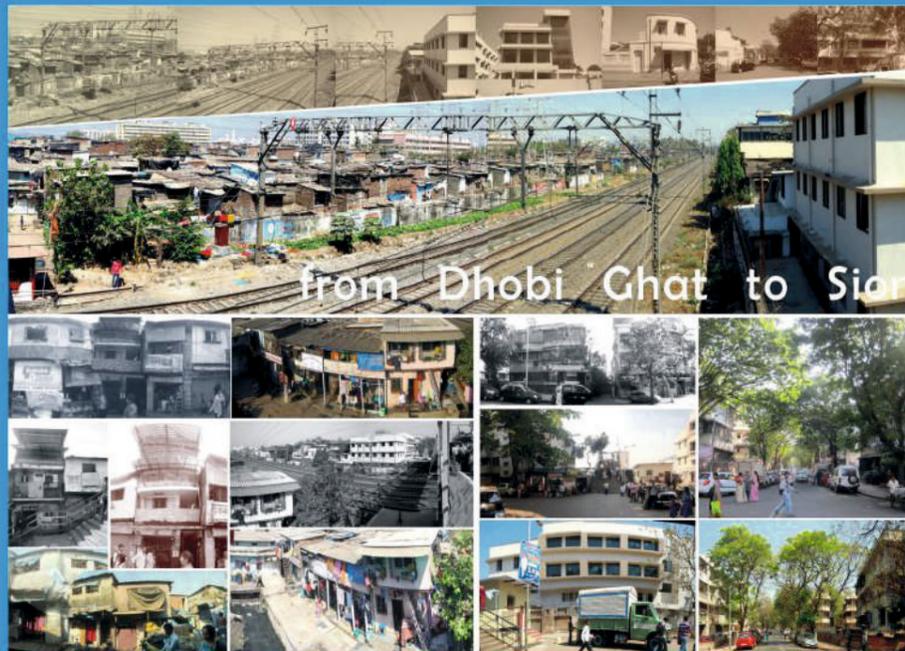


(L-R) General panels about **DHARAVI**, the soft panel for **DHOBI GHAT**, the audio-visual presentation of the research, **SCULPTURE** showing 'Links To the Villages' & Broom Making panel

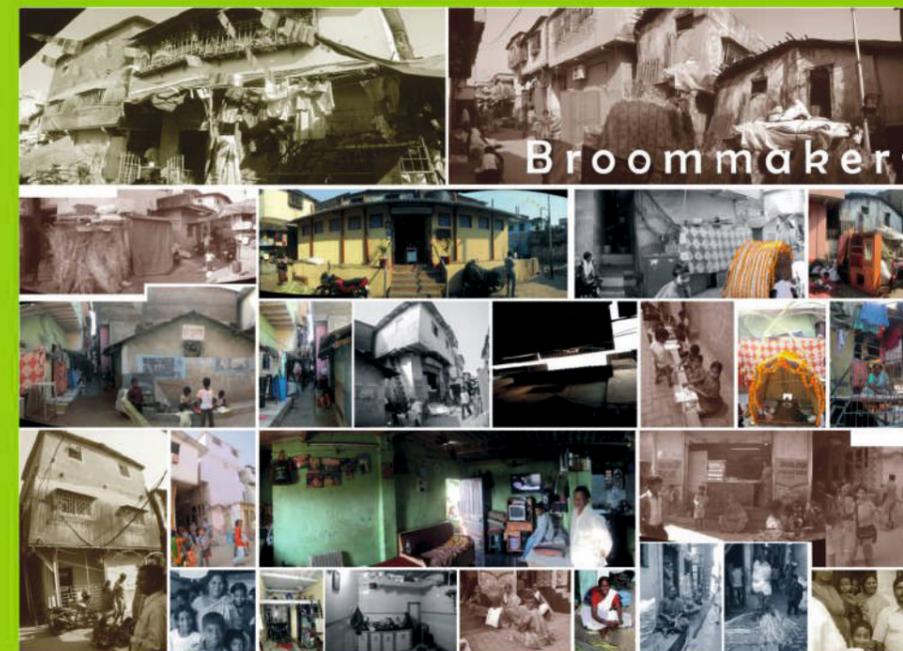


Soft panel of the **BROOM MAKER** lane

DHOBI GHAT



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 DHOBIS LIVING AROUND THIS AREA TILL ABOUT 10-15 YEARS AGO. TODAY, THERE ARE BARELY 6-7 FAMILIES WHO OPERATE THE DHOBI GHAT IN DHARAVI.



BROOM MAKERS

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 KUNCHIKARVES 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.

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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.

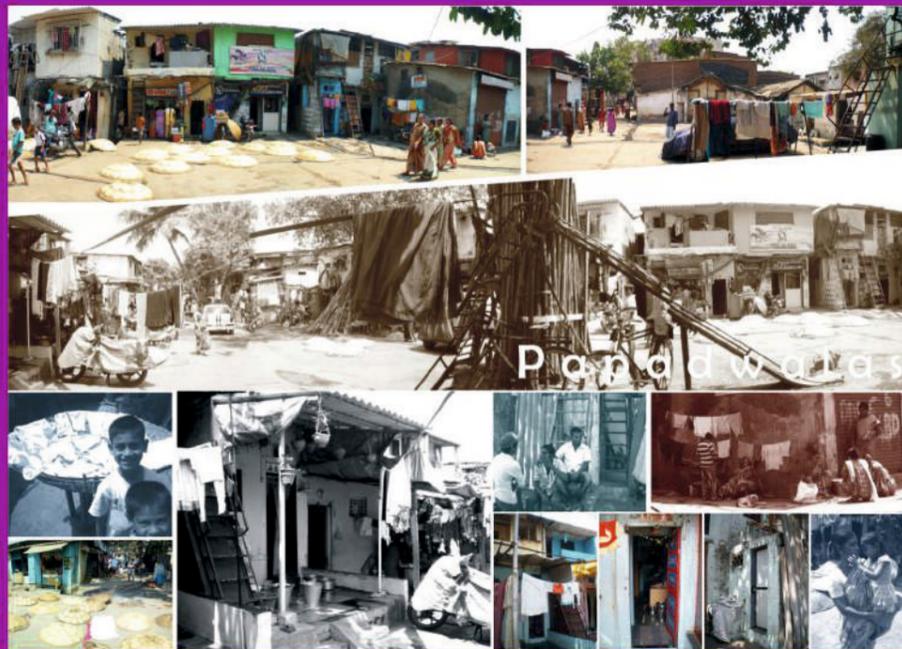


Papadwala Chowk recreated and the Sculpture showing 'Links to The Villages'



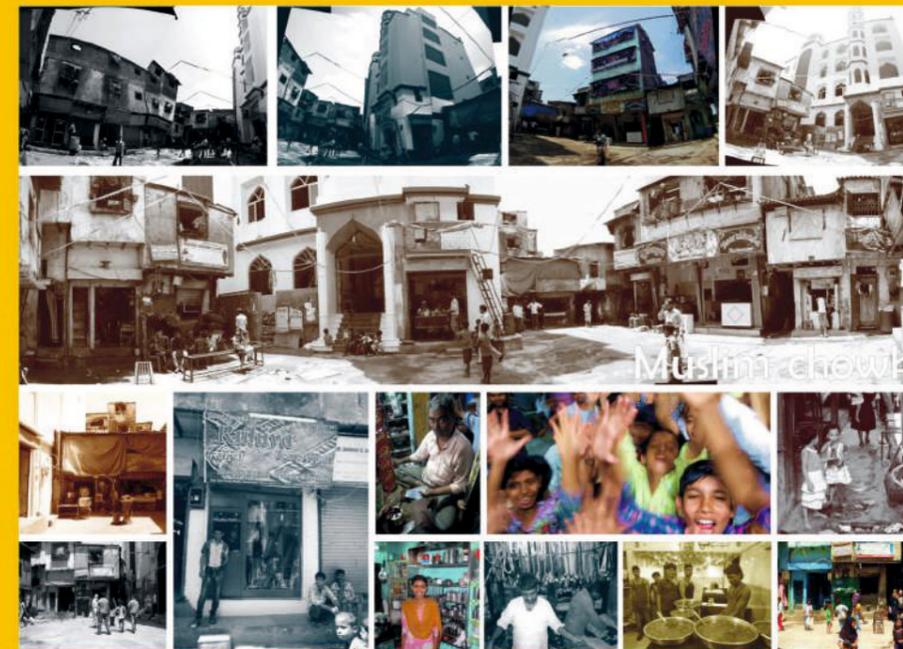
Muslim Chowk recreated and the Sculpture showing 'Links to The Villages'

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.

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.

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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



View of the Sculpture which shows the Link to the Vilages



Corrugated metal sheets used to display photographs and panoramas



Residents of DHARAVI are excited to find references of themselves and their daily lives as apart 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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Martina-
Insightful & Important
Do hope ideas will be
exchanged and then
implemented.
Enjoyed the presentation!
Brida Samaya

Beautiful & Intensive Research.
Commendable job, very informative
project on Dharavi.
Appreciate it much Martina :)
- Jayashree Ramani :)

Congratulations! Fantastic
Documentation of the
in-between spaces of
Dharavi & The importance
they have in the
livelihoods of many. The
presentation format is great!
Best - Nandini Sampat

Great job!
You have shown the actual
DHARAVI which was unknown
to us! Even though we are
Mumbaiers. On top of all a
very impressive & persuasive
presentation. Got inspired alot
by your work & it changed
our perspective towards lens of
Dharavi! Keep Going Martina
Hope to see your more work
in future!
Keep
Smiling :)
- Vidhi
- Viraj
Vidhi, Matru & Viraj Patel

Very Informative & beautifully
executed. Thank you for
organizing & putting this
together. A true eyesopener.
Ria.

Marti,
So much work &
thought, so beautifully
put together. I loved
how Dharavi was
brought alive. There's
so much to learn
about the city we live
in. Thank you for this
window into Dharavi.
Shwastika

Inspiring & informative!
Great job. Saumya.
LIEBE MARTINA!
GRATULIERE DIR ZU
DER SUPER RESEARCH AN
EINER DER WICHTIGSTEN
THEMEN IN DER ERSTEN
PLANUNG-DISKUSION!
AUCH GUTE WEITERWUNTSCH,
Kollman!

My dear Martina,
Great Work. No words to
describe what you have
done!
Pauloun
3/7/13

An Experience through
an important "common space"
of the city. Wonderful work!
Would love to see
something coming up next!
- Aditi

Hey Martina, what a
wonderful and insightful
culmination of the loving hardwork
invested by you over the last
2/3 years. I wish the planners
and architects of the city get
inspired to look at the city
through various layers you have presented.
-Neeraj.

Thank you for sharing
such an insightful work!
My vision of Dharavi has
definitely changed after this
great exhibit.
... Worth sharing with
public authorities too!
Thanks!
Jaundim

An insightful exhibit,
love the material used,
the map/memo timelines,
this exhibit makes me
see in movies in a real up-close
way... amazing work
Martina! Congrats!
Anisham Pathak



Comments and Reactions of the Visitors to the Exhibition