HYPER DENSE ENVIRONMENTS

the happy llamas

A 7 DAY DIGITAL COURSE ON LIVEABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVITY IN HYPER DENSE ENVIRONMENTS (HONG KONG)

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THEHAPPYLLAMAS.COM/DIGITAL

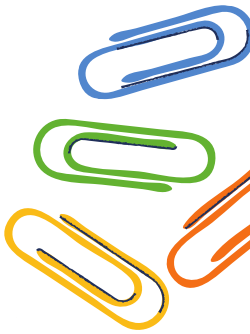
OVERVIEW

With an average density of more than 275 persons per hectare (accounting for only built-up area), Hong Kong is one of the world's densest cities. Of the total land area of Hong Kong, more than 70% comprises hilly terrain and environmentally sensitive areas with rich wildlife habitats. The city has preserved most of its ecological landscape in its natural state, classifying them as 'protected areas' - thus limiting availability of developable land. Topographical challenges coupled with rapid growth has led Hong Kong to embrace vertical living; where people, goods and services are concentrated in a tight footprint. This characteristic high density urban living in Hong Kong is largely viewed not only as desirable, but vital to its functioning as a global megacity.

The mixed-use dense urban fabric coupled with excellent public transport affords its residents ease of access, convenience, and precious savings in travel time. For business, the density offers significant economic advantages. Concentration of people facilitates exchange of ideas, spurs productivity and innovation, and contributes to the vibrant living-working environment of the city. To make such high densities work, the city has made consistent and repeated investments in public transport, water and drainage infrastructure, green spaces and recreational facilities and other supportive infrastructure.

Urban density of Hong Kong shatters the myth that people have cultural notions about use of space and density. Hong Kong hosts individuals and families from across the world and they are able to see value in the unique qualities that this global city has to offer. While on one hand it has very little to offer in terms of personal built space, it more than makes up through its well-maintained public spaces, excellent network of pedestrian pathways and world class public transport.

COURSE SCHEDULE



Teaching Tools:

The course will be taught online. It will utilize available open source resources including Google Earth (Aerial imagery, Street View and Terrain). Students will get an immersive experience of the city through planned walkthroughs and short exercises. Explorations on Google Earth will be supported with lectures, videos and additional reading material.

Project Outcome:

Students will apply the key lessons and learning from the class in the context of an Indian Metropolis like Mumbai. They will work in teams to explore context specific solutions in three areas: fostering and managing built density in core city areas, street network and pedestrian mobility, and access to green spaces and parks.

Day 1 3 hours	Introduction & summary of the course Exercise: Reading scale and patterns	Ice breaker sessions, introduction of participants
Day 2 1.5 hours	Overview of Hong Kong Exercise: Reading scale and patterns	Audio Visual Presentation and explorations in Google earth: aerial imagery and terrain
Day 3 1.5 hours	Decoding Density Exercise: people density vs built density	Audio Visual Presentation and explorations in Google earth: aerial imagery and street views

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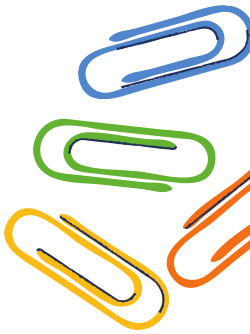

Day 4
1.5 hours

Walking and Public Transport

Exercise: Reaching places, exploring fastest routes and modes

Audio Visual Presentation and explorations in Google earth: aerial imagery, google map directions, and street views

Day 5
1.5 hours

Public Spaces

Exercise: Identifying different types and scales of public spaces

Audio Visual Presentation and explorations in Google earth: aerial imagery and street views

Day 6
1.5 hours

Housing

Exercise: Understanding housing mix and housing choice

Audio Visual Presentation and explorations in Google earth: aerial imagery and street views

Day 7
2 hours

Summary of the course

Exercise: Project presentation

Presentation of participant projects in pre-defined format

7 DAY COURSE

12.5 hours

INR 3,500

All sessions will be conducted on Zoom

MODULE CURATOR

VANISHREE HERLEKAR

Vanishree Herlekar is an experienced urban development and communications professional with over thirteen years of experience working internationally and in India in the urban planning, policy and development space. She has a demonstrated expertise in framing evidence based communication & advocacy and facilitating collaborative processes around urban issues. Vani combines her passion for cities and storytelling to help diverse groups including government agencies, institutions, grassroots NGOs, and community groups communicate their messages effectively and engage meaningfully with their stakeholders. Alongside her consulting work, Vani teaches at the CEPT University in the Faculty of Planning. Her teaching and research interests are in urban land planning and regulations, housing affordability and governance.

MODERATOR

ANKIT B

Ankit B is an educator. With a will to educate today's youth about the Sustainable Development Goals and the importance of sustainability, Ankit started The Happy Llamas. Ankit has worked in India and Brasil with brands like Amazon, Nike, FIFA, Olympics (IOC), among others. Ankit will be moderating the sessions on all days of the course.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

SHIMOLI SHAH
Architect
Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)
To begin with, I'd like to say that I am so happy the workshop turned out to be so interactive. Even though we had a group of people from different years of experiences, Rosie managed to make us all a part of the discussions. She made the sessions very interactive and fun. To attend an online workshop and still get to have group projects, talks, Q&A sessions, soil testings, etc, it was absolute fun and very well organised. It was a very involved one week long workshop. Honestly, I love hands on work hence I was a little skeptical about attending an online course but I am so happy that I did.

SADHYA BHATNAGAR
Architect
Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)
The 7 day long course on Natural Building has been a great experience where I gained an in-depth knowledge about natural building materials and techniques. The study material was well put and presented and so were the illustrations and accompanying explanations. It was great to learn from someone who has quite extensively studied as well as continuously practised with these materials and techniques. The course was kept pretty interactive and at no point did it turn boring. Rosie has been a patient mentor with concise yet well explained material and other insights into whatever we were learning. Overall amazing experience, and a 10 on 10!

HÉLÈNE FERRAT
3rd Year, ENSAL (École d'architecture de Lyon), Lyon
Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)
I was really happy to be a part of the digital course on Natural Building. The presentations were interesting and it was so cool to work in groups and communicate with other participants. It was pretty dynamic and particularly for me, it was the best way to work on my English and get a glimpse of the Indian Architecture. Overall, a 10 on 10!

MITHALI RAO
Architect
Participant - Introduction to Natural Building (May 2020)
The online format was pretty new to me but I think that the fact that there was a small ice breaker session was pretty cool. The details in formatting the sessions were well thought out. Rosie was hands on, answered all our queries and was basically a great facilitator! Also the fact that she was available for discussion even offline and was so enthusiastic about sharing added information on the Whatsapp group was really appreciated! Although I had already attended a few other hands-on workshops on mud architecture before, even then I got to learn a bunch of things like the VerSus wheel. One could clearly see all the planning and work that went into putting the course together and it was totally worth it. Overall, I had a great experience.