

HOME RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION WORKING PAPERS Number 110

Thresholds of connected living: The inner city of Ahmedabad Jigna Desai Paper delivered at Home Renaissance Foundation V Experts Meeting: 'Home/Family and Climate Change'', Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham 28-29 September 2023

Thresholds of connected living: The inner city of Ahmedabad

Jigna Desai

Abstract

The inner city of Ahmedabad, while revered for its historicity, is also one of the denser localities of the world, with some areas accommodating more than 600 people per hectare at present. One may argue that while the inner city, like many medieval cities, was designed as a relatively high density, walled settlement that can be defended against attacks. Unlike many other cities of the time, however, the inner city of Ahmedabad has continued as a livable city, of course not without its own challenges. In this paper, I would argue that this has been due to the affordances that are provided by the threshold spaces of houses, neighbourhoods and blocks. These thresholds provide physical as well as social spaces that allow individuals and communities to shrink and expand during extreme climate and weather conditions. Threshold spaces also lend themselves to be subverted by the marginalised in often conservative social fabric of families and communities. In the larger discourse, this paper would investigate the architecture of the house and the settlement in context of climate change.

*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.