Thinking about ‘Pallava’

INDEX

1. The site
2. Mumbai city
    Scale comparison of site with south Mumbai
    Life in Mumbai
3. Ahmedabad city
    - Scale comparison of site with Ahmedabad
    - Life in Ahmedabad

4. The facts about designed cities

5. Time line of cities

6. Case studies
    - Abuja, Nigeria
    - Brasilia, Brazil
    - Washington, U.S.A
7. Imagining life beyond the built
    - What will the built be shaped by

8. Charter of expression
    a. Sustainability
    b. Green Infrastructure
    c. Diversity
    d. Freedom and Control
    f. Art and Culture
    g. Neighborhood j.

9. Imagining Daily and Weekly activity flow of various age groups in ‘Pallava’

10. Experiential qualities of day in the life of a *‘Pallavite’*

11. Daily and Weekly activity routes of various age groups

1. The Site



0.2 miles 1 3

2. Mumbai City

Facts

Total area of Mumbai 603.4 sq. kms divided in two parts Mumbai city and Suburban district,
Mumbai is one of the fast growing global city

Population - 20.5 million
It is the most populated city in India and ranks Sixth in the world scenario.
It is the richest city in India, has highest GDP in Asia

60% of its people live in slums
Massive construction boom where 80% is single rooms

Main public spaces, maidans, and sea fronts, pavements along seafronts
Deficit of open spaces
City has only 0.03 acres per 1000 persons, London has 12 acres per 100 people

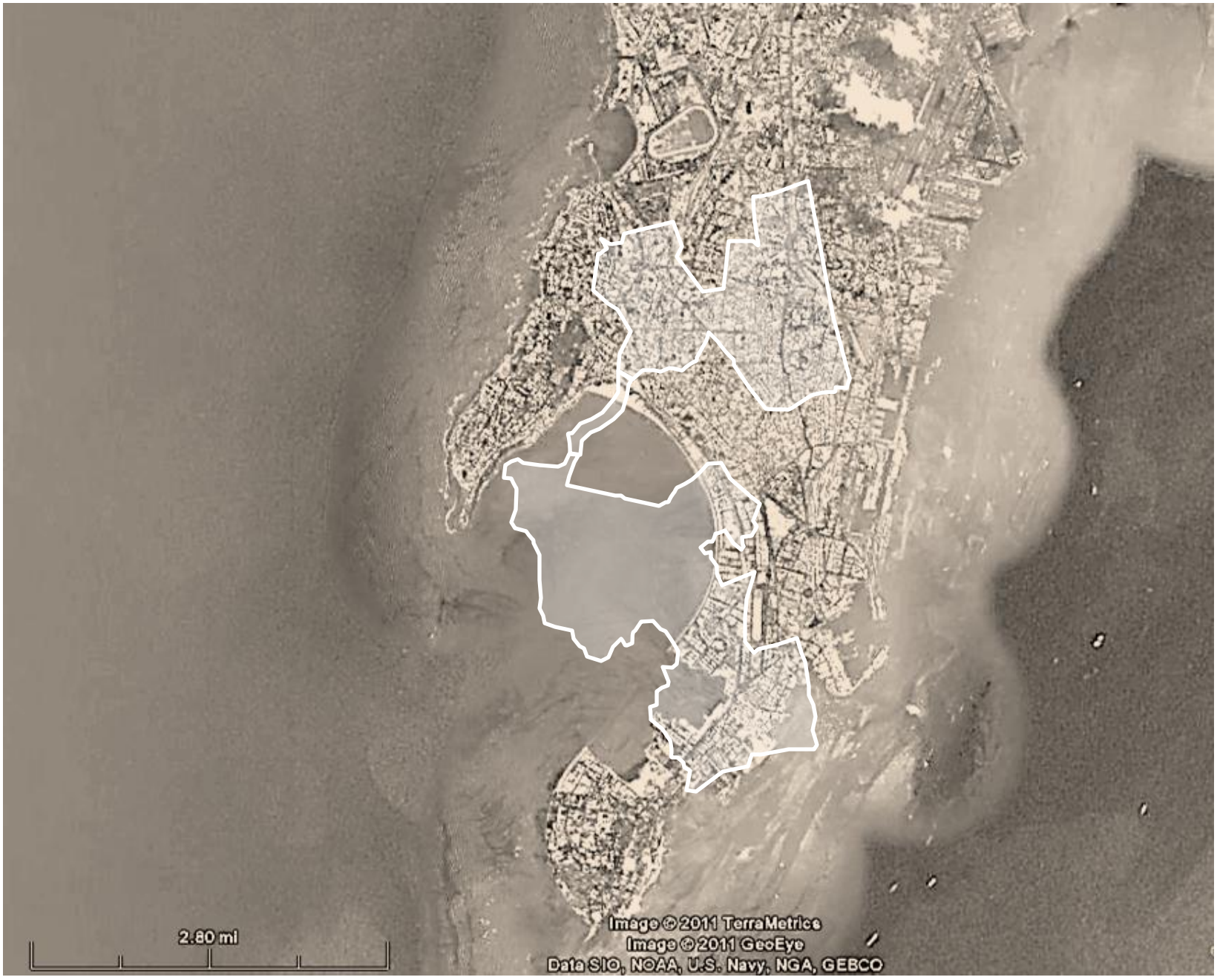
Challenges

Mumbai demographic pressures, political tensions, widening social inequalities and environmental threats

It is undergoing constant change and transforming into to a hyper modern city like shanghai.

Complex patchwork of religious practices, intersected by regional class and caste, partly social inequality increased in the last 30 years.

3. Site scale comparison with South Mumbai



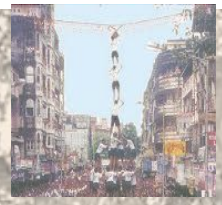
Life in Mumbai

Economic classes

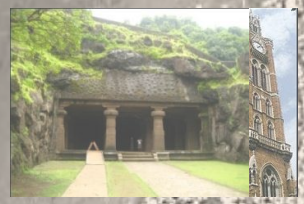
Art

Cultural diversity



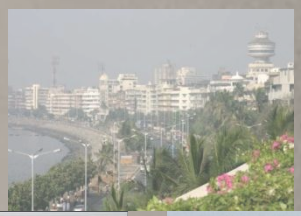
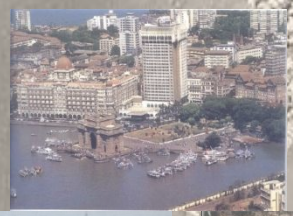




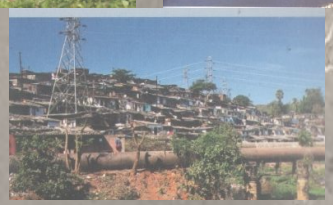
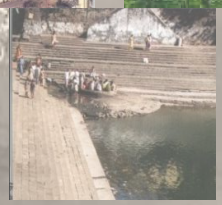
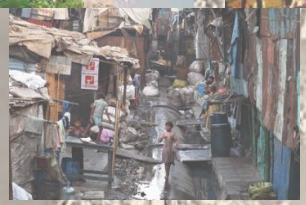
Sense of Security

Festivals



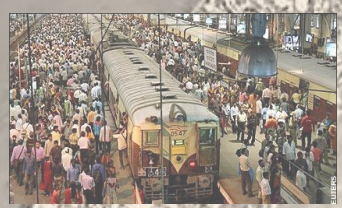


Identity and Character

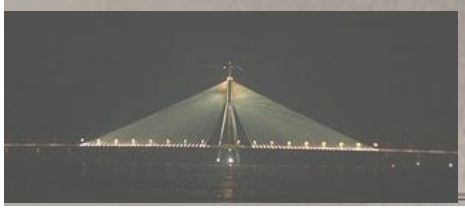
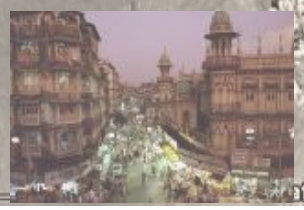
Dynamism

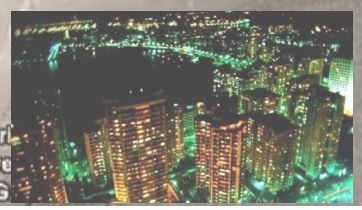






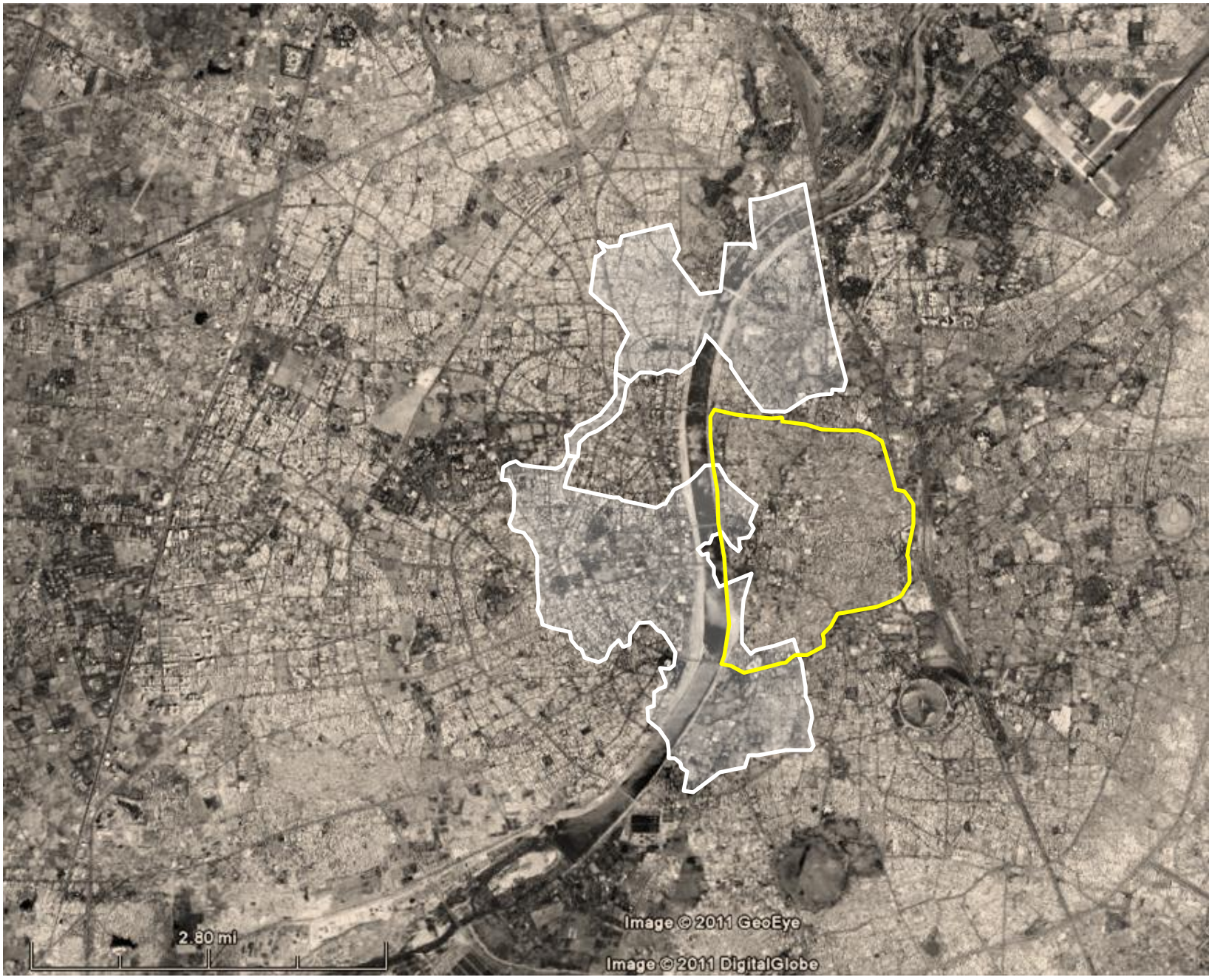
Night life



Freedom

3. Site scale comparison with Ahmedabad



0.2 miles 1 3

Life in Ahmedabad



Gestation

But it took 17 years to build a suitable home for the Australian parliament in Canberra. Work started on Abuja, the new capital of Nigeria, in 1981, yet only the first of four phases has been completed so far. The president and Congress waited for ten years in Philadelphia for the White House and the Capitol to be built. The National Cathedral, which featured in the original 18th-century plan for the city, was not finished until 1991. Only Brasilia, once finally begun, was more or less completed on time.

Finance

President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria was deposed in a military coup in 1983 thanks partly to the financial crisis brought on by the spending on Abuja.

Unseen perceptions of reality

Most of the Brazilian architects who competed to design Brasilia ignored the site's topography completely.

Who will want to live there?

It took six years for St Petersburg to accumulate 150 houses. Washington's population was barely above 8,000 in 1815, 15 years after the federal government had arrived. As late as the 1840s, pigs still roamed along the Mall, its chief ceremonial axis. Predictably, almost all the first citizens of artificial capitals are civil servants. Three-quarters of the original inhabitants of Belmopan were employed by the government, as were most of the original inhabitants of Abuja, Brasilia, Canberra and Washington.

Narrow Aims

Brasilia was supposed to be everything that Rio de Janeiro, the previous capital, was not: small, sober and efficient. When the debate about a new capital was still in its infancy, in 1810, Veloso de Oliveira, an adviser to the Portuguese king, insisted that "the capital should be in a healthy, agreeable location free from the clamorous multitudes of people indiscriminately thrown together." As one Australian bureaucrat put it, "I love Canberra, because it's a place designed for middle-aged civil servants with children." Brasilia's designers, for example, dreamt of a prosperous, mobile society. So they made no provision for the poor. Predictably enough, huge, unplanned shanty towns have sprung up beyond the sleek, rational city centre. Likewise, many of Washington's problems spring from its conception as a showpiece rather than a working city. And the capital's hybrid status—not quite a state, nor a municipality, nor a federal territory—hampers efforts to fix things.

Bureaucratic Aloofness

it prevents artificial capitals from seizing the public imagination and altering the course of a country's history, as their designers invariably intend.

The inland locations of Canberra and Abuja did not succeed in luring their countries' populations to the vast uninhabited interiors.

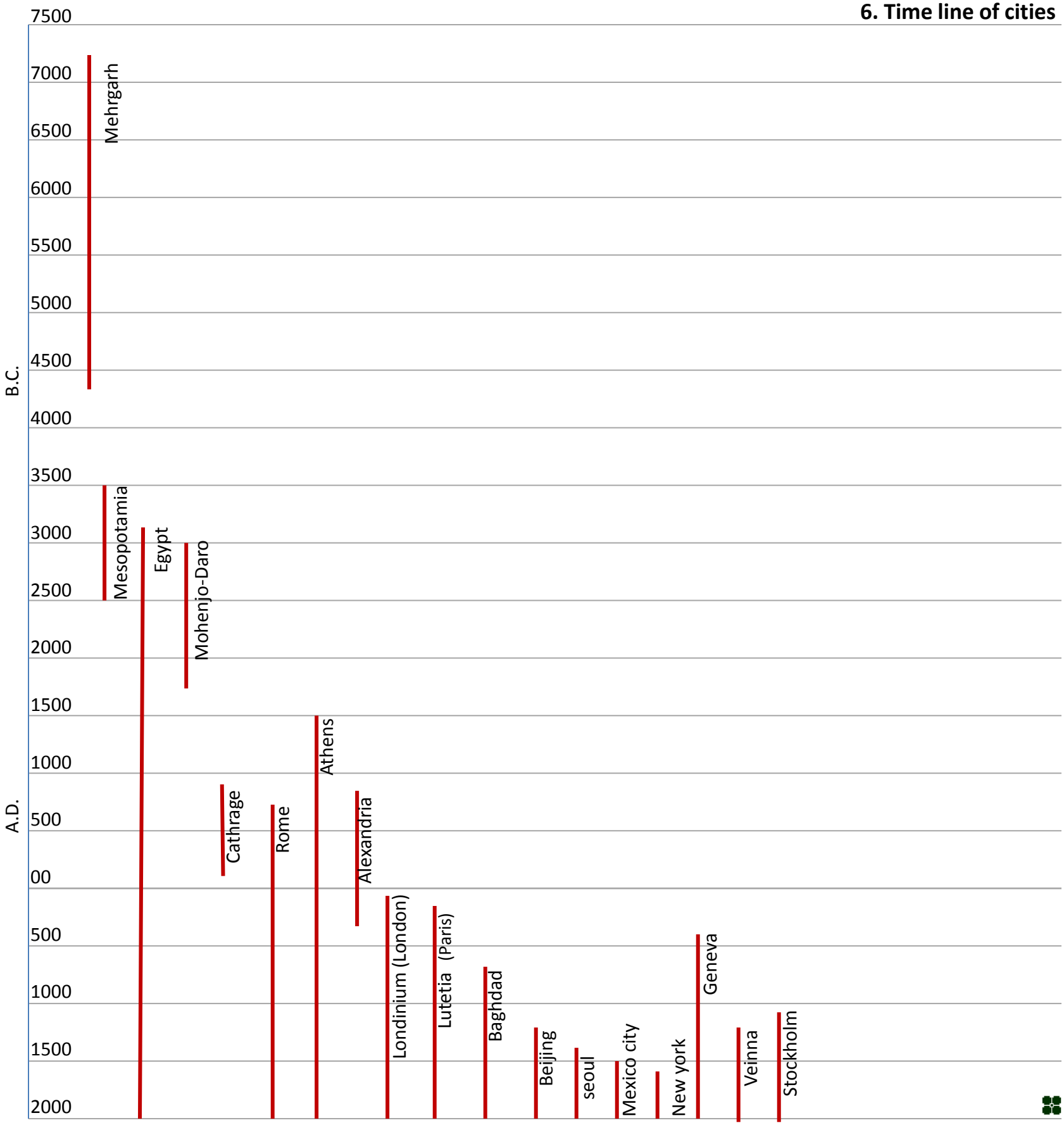
Nor did the transfer of Belize's capital from the coast to the more central Belmopan deter Guatemala from claiming the territory.

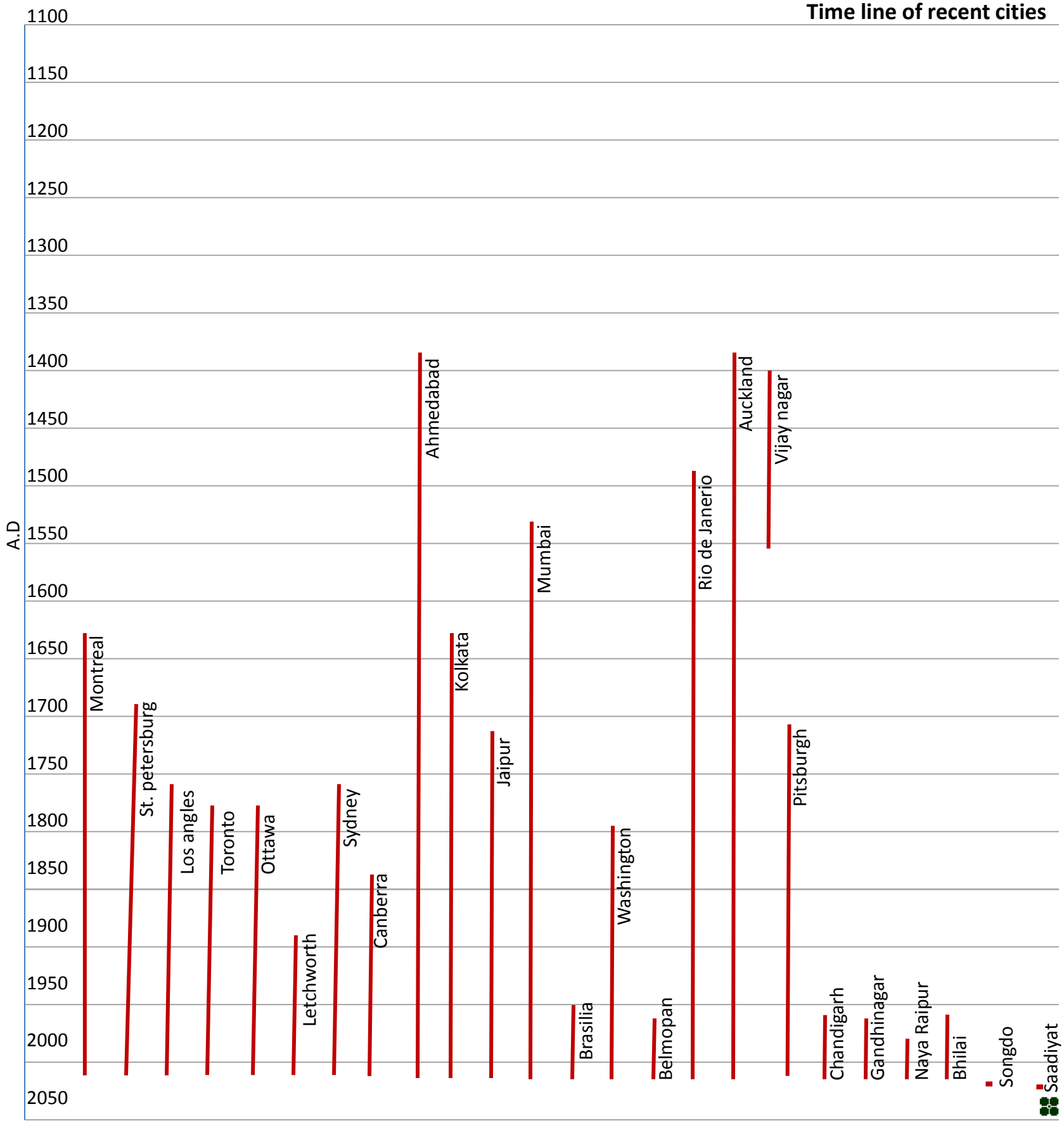
Nor did Washington's location reconcile the secessionist states of the South to the federal project,

Nor does Ottawa's tactful symbolic bridging of the border between Quebec and Ontario cut much ice with today's Québécois.

The construction of Abuja drove the indigenous Gwari people off their ancestral lands, in the same way that development elsewhere in Nigeria has come at the expense of local populations. The crumbling roads and bumbling schools of Washington have become symbols of the federal government's inability to solve problems even in its own backyard.

6. Time line of cities




Time line of recent cities
A.D
1100
1150
1200
1250
1300
1350
1400
1450
1500
1550
1600
1650
1700
1750
1800
1850
1900
1950
2000
2050
Montreal
St. petersburg
Los angles
Toronto
Ottawa
Letchworth
Sydney
Canberra
Ahmedabad
Kolkata
Jaipur
Mumbai
Brasilia
Washington
Belmopan
Rio de Janerio
Auckland
Vijay nagar
Pitsburgh
Chandigarh
Gandhinagar
Naya Raipur
Bhilai
Songdo
Saadiyat

Abuja , Nigeria



Started – 1981, Completed – 1991

Population - 776,298

Work started on Abuja, the new capital of Nigeria, in 1981, yet only the first of four phases has been completed so far.

President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria was deposed in a military coup in 1983 thanks partly to the financial crisis brought on by the spending on Abuja.

The construction of Abuja drove the indigenous Gwari people off their ancestral lands, in the same way that development elsewhere in Nigeria has come at the expense of local populations.

Brasillia , Brazil



Started 1956, Completed – 1960
Population – 3599,000

Most of the Brazilian architects who competed to design Brasilia ignored the site's topography completely.

Brasilia was supposed to be everything that Rio de Janeiro, the previous capital, was not: small, sober and efficient.

Brasilia's designers, for example, dreamt of a prosperous, mobile society. So they made no provision for the poor. Predictably enough, huge, unplanned shanty towns have sprung up beyond the sleek, rational city center.

Washington, U.S.A



Started – 1790, Completed –

Population – 56,00000

Washington's population was barely above 8,000 in 1815, 15 years after the federal government had arrived. As late as the 1840s, pigs still roamed along the Mall, its chief ceremonial axis.

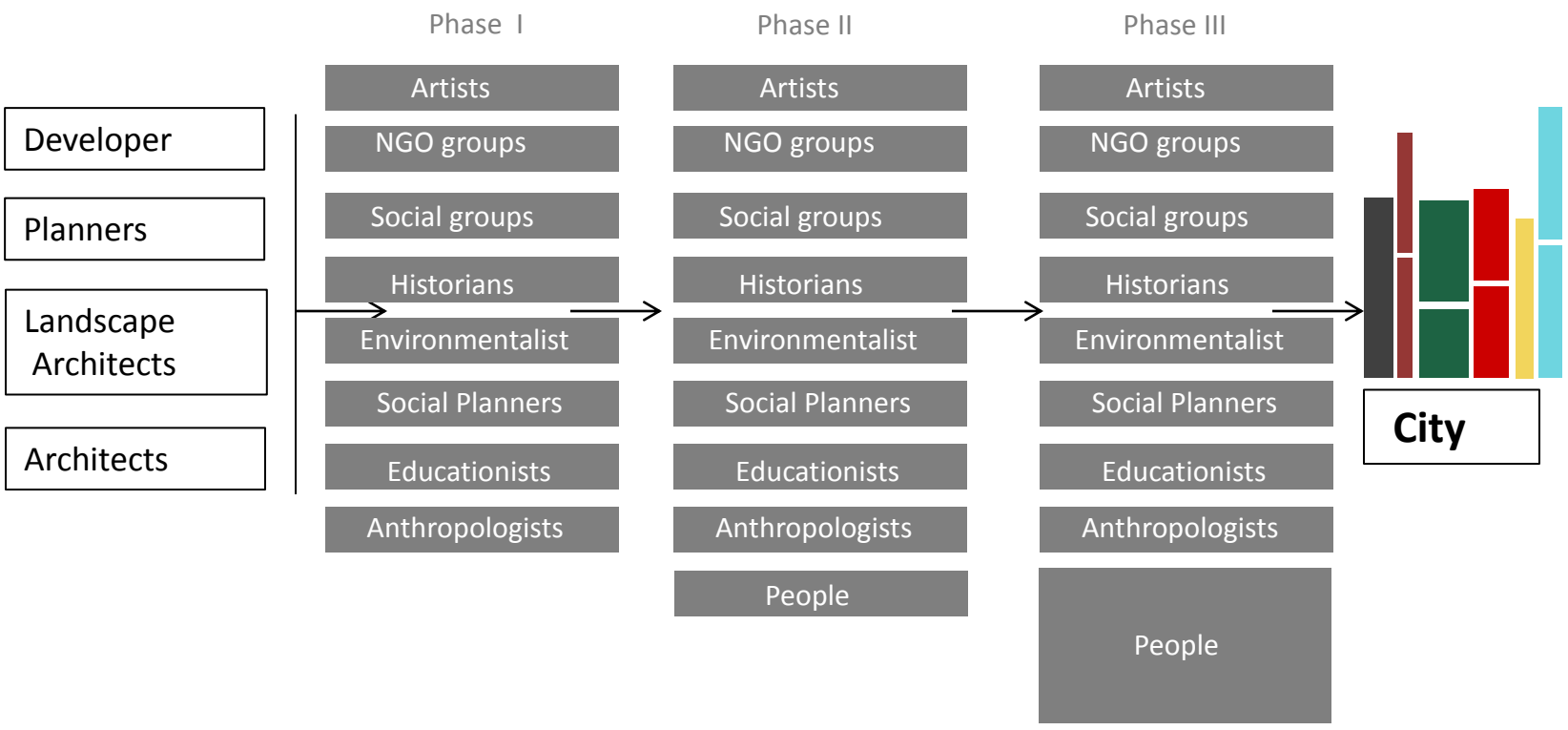
Washington, is conceived as quiet, orderly place where civil servants could get on with their jobs without distraction, Urban monotony in turn, puts off other prospective settlers. (No places for diverse interests)

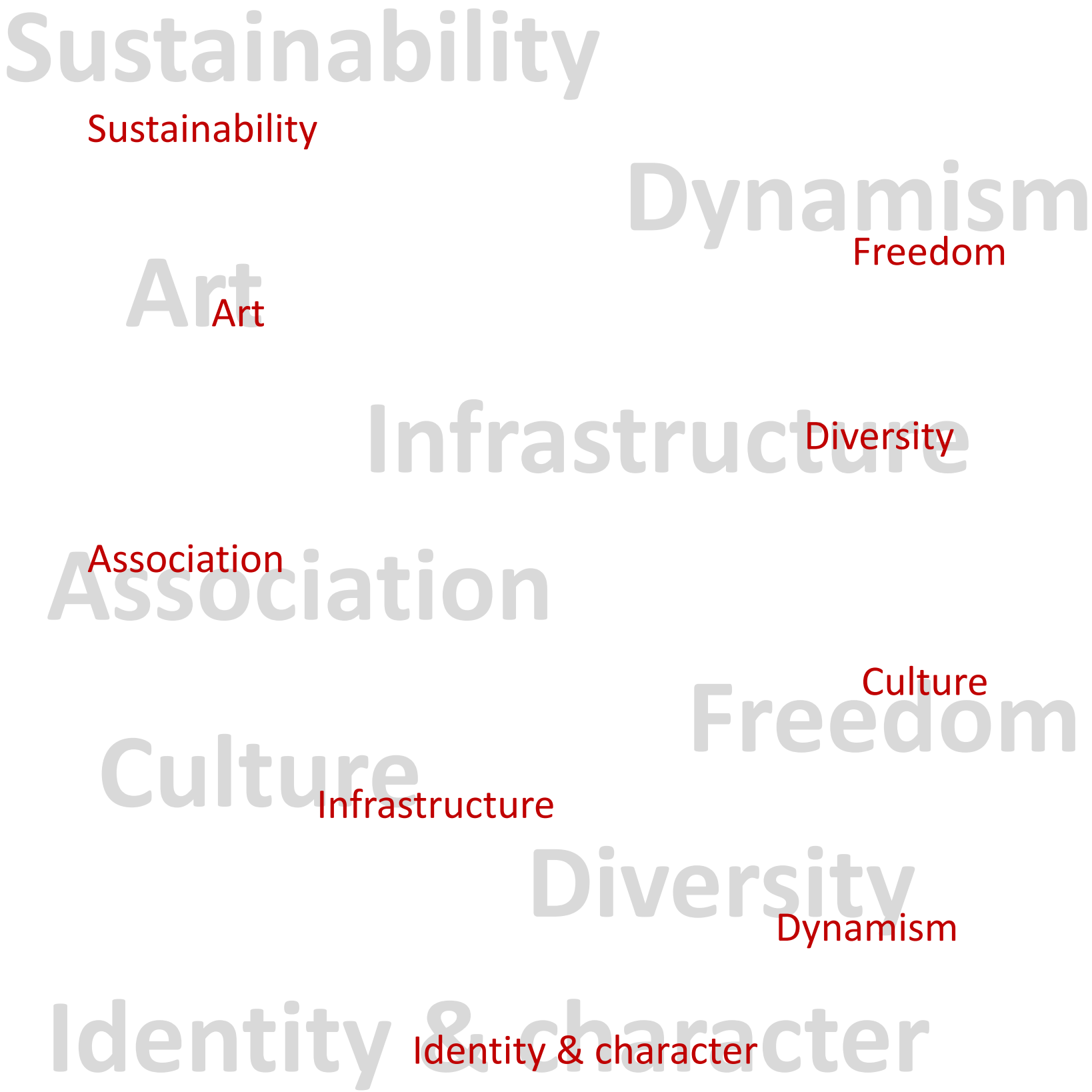
Likewise, many of Washington's problems spring from its conception as a showpiece rather than a working city

The crumbling roads and bumbling schools of Washington have become symbols of the federal government's inability to solve problems even in its own backyard.

What will the built be shaped by ?

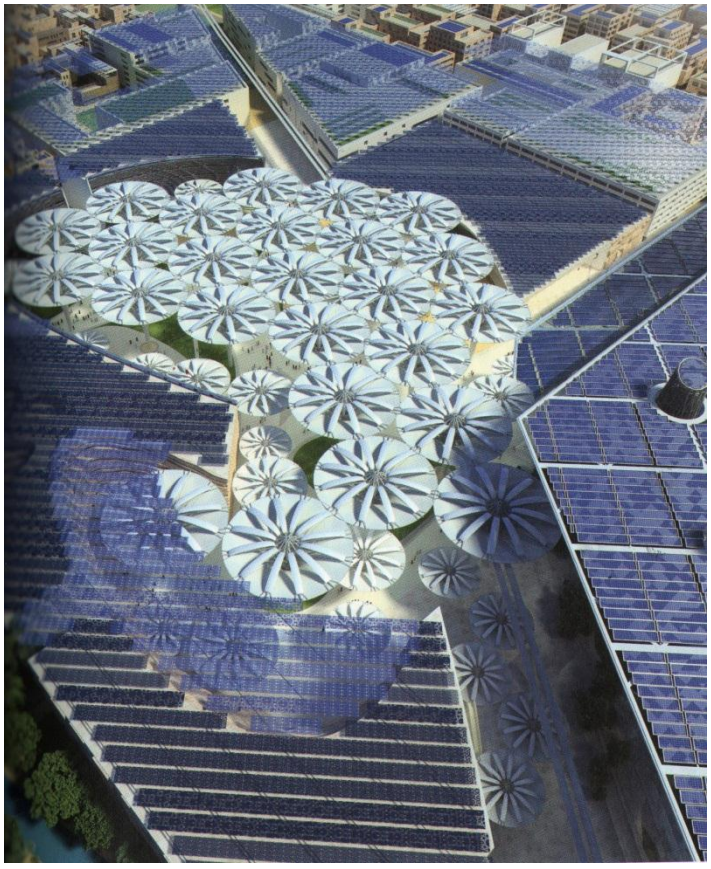





Sustainability
Sustainability
Dynamism
Freedom
Art
Art
Infrastructure
Diversity
Association
Association
Culture
Freedom
Culture
Infrastructure
Diversity
Dynamism
Identity & character
Identity & character

Masdar green city, UAE





Masdar city is a visionary Institutional ecocity in the oil rich Abu Dhabhi. Launched - 2008, Completion - 2025

Energy

A photovoltaic power and solar panels on the present buildings will produce the main source of electricity., expected production is 100 MW

Water & Recycling

Desalination plants that run on solar energy will fuel the city's drinking water. The entire wastewater used to irrigate crops for biofuels or for food, or to water parks.

Architecture

To avoid the use of air conditioners, electricity guzzling, the city will be surrounded by walls to block the hot winds and sand. The streets were laid narrow to emphasize the shadows, and oriented to maximize air circulation

Transportation

Car traffic will be prohibited within the city. For short trips, pedestrians and cyclists will be encouraged. For longer trips, various means of transport will be deployed. Personal Rapid Transit, rapid transit and light will move in the city.

b. Green Infrastructure

New ANAM City, Nigeria



ANAM city is a dynamic model for sustainable development that balances ecology with economic growth, delivers world-class quality of life across generations and leverages technology within the African culture of collective progress initiated by Dr. Aloy & Gesare Chife Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

The key components of ANAM's green infrastructure are the Ezichi river, dense forestry, wetlands, seasonal swales, open spaces, productive landscapes, and recreational areas.

Strategies to integrate, preserve and optimize the green infrastructure within the master plan include –

Integrated green spaces, wetlands, ponds and agricultural areas for productive and decorative purposes within urban fabric

A continuous and accessible system of environmentally significant areas

Enhanced waterfront as a social and commercial amenity

c. Diversity

Flanders, Belgium



Flanders is the community of the Flemings but also one of the institutions in Belgium, and a geographical region located in parts of present-day Belgium, France, and the Netherlands Ethnic concentration foster the development of community structures and activities, such as shops, places of worship, neighborhood associations,

Intercultural education was developed to bridge the gap between home and school culture , as a result of understanding heterogeneity as a strong tool in building community where there are sound citizens without loosing their cultural bearings.

A unique cultural landscape evolved as result of different lifestyles of the communities.

d. Freedom and control

Manhattan , New York



Freedom of Expression National Monument, a public artwork by architect Laurie Hawkinson, performer John Malpede, and visual artist Erika Rothenberg

Enormous red megaphone will occupy Foley Square in Lower Manhattan, nestled between the bustling federal, state, and city courthouses, and provide a platform for New Yorkers to speak their minds

e. Art and culture

Mumbai , India





The **Kala Ghoda Arts Festival** is an annual festival, usually around nine days long, festival has grown in stature and popularity, attracting visitors and participants from other parts of the country, and the world.

Festival feature the visual arts, dance, music, theatre, cinema, literature, lectures, seminars and workshops, heritage walks, special events for children, and a vibrant street festival

f. Neighborhoods



Mosaic of subcultures

The homogenous and differentiated character of modern cities kills all variety of lifestyles and arrests the growth of individual character.

Heterogeneous- people mixed together irrespective of lifestyle or culture- seems rich actually depresses variety, arrests possibilities of variety, possibilities of differentiation and encourages conformity , reduces all life to a common denominator.

City of ghettos - ghettos still homogenous initially and no variety of life styles emerge, isolated from outside society, intolerant to other lifestyle

City of sub-cultures - from boundary of other subcultures by non-residential bond for new ways of lives to develop. People can choose kind of subculture. (PG. 43-Image 50)

9. Imagining Daily and Weekly activity flow of various age groups in 'Pallava'

Age Group	Morning	Noon	Evening	Night
60 and above	Home, Temple, Neighborhood park	Home	Library, Park, Club	Home
Weekends	Same	Same	Same	Same
45 - 60	Home, Gym, Daily shopping, Park	Work environment	Small Gathering, relatives, Shopping, Business activity	Walk in neighborhood
Weekends	Club, Gardening	Relative's place, Social work	Shopping, eateries	Weekend houses
35 – 45	Gym, Park, Kids school, Breakfast joint	Work environment	Street side eateries, Shopping	Restaurant, Park
Weekends	Home, Kids activity	cultural activity, Relative's visit	Adventure trips, movie,	Restaurant, pub , long drive
35 – 23	Gym, Breakfast joint, Public transport	Work environment	Café, Restaurant, Exhibitions, Sports complex	Park
Weekends	Small trips	Library, relative visit	Movie,, Restaurants	Pub, Disc
18 – 23 18- 13	School, college	Cultural activity, tuitions	Sports complex, Community parks	Home, parks
Weekends	Adventurous trips, exploring new areas		Restaurants, Café, movie	
0 – 13	School		Tuitions, Activity classes Parks	Neighborhood park, home
Weekends	Visit to zoo, museum, Amusement parks	Friend's home	Sports complex, cultural event	Restaurant, movie

Daily visits to Green spaces

Weekly visits to Green spaces

10. Experiential qualities of day in the life of a *'Pallavite'*




Climatic comfort while commuting




Scenic beauty in thoroughfares





Eateries in proximity



Street markets as meeting places




Convenient transport to far places




Cultural variations and interests




Areas for individual explorations



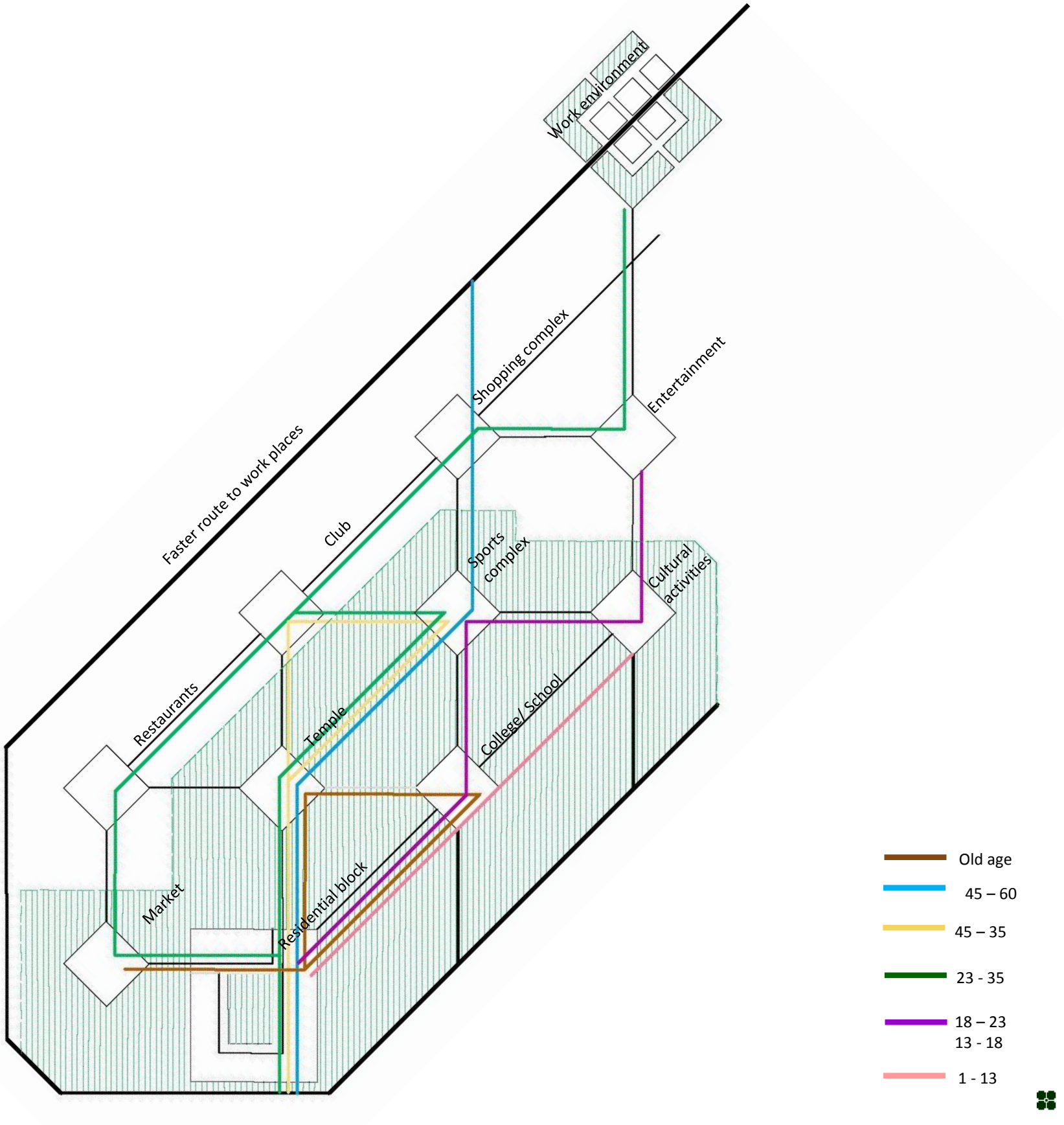

Natural learning environments





Free and safe environments

11. Daily and Weekly activity routes of various age groups



PRABHAKAR BHAGWAT