

## Metropolis 2057

a project for Chennai (or Bangalore) – concept

### Short Concept:

Indian cities like Bangalore, Chennai or Hyderabad connect historic urbanism to a digital future. Next to ancient temples, we can observe international software engineers. Coffee shops with wireless LAN appear in the neighbourhood of traditional vegetarian restaurants. Thousands of young inhabitants in so called call centres talk daily and nightly to the rest of the world about computer problems. Within the last ten years, Bangalore and Chennai changed to a leading digital city. What does that mean for architecture and urbanism?

But the digital future is still connected to the historical city, to the Indian way of life. Bangalore will be a metropolis of urban contrasts. The combination of lifestyles, melting functions and architectural ideas seems perfect for world leading urban evolution. An uncountable number of different stories, technical interventions, philosophical thoughts and ideas meet cities like Chennai and Bangalore. Together with highly talented students, we want to discuss the future developments, problems and visions of this digital – historical urban lifestyle. Therefore it appears to us that Chennai (or Bangalore) is the perfect place for an interdisciplinary workshop focusing on architecture, urbanity and film.

Honey & bunny feel that Indian cities are spaces of the future. And we want to furthermore explore this feeling, this notion with students of the faculties of architecture and urbanism. It is our urge to interpret Chennai, together with those young creatives, as it is today and at the same time generate a vision for the year 2057. We want to make the students think differently about future urbanism and we want to teach them carefully in doing a conceptual project about their city.

## The workshop

### Intension

As Hans Hollein taught us during our studies at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, the intellectual discussion is a very important aspect of architecture and urbanism. Aspects like historical surroundings, philosophical ideas, future developments and emotions are essential. At the same time, an international debate is necessary to develop ambitious solutions.

We, as honey & bunny, influenced by Vienna, London and Tokyo discussed our ideas about urbanism at cities like Istanbul and Bukarest and we want to share our knowledge with students at Chennai. And we want to get inspired by their ideas, by the urbanistic visions of Indian architects and urbanists. We want to start an international discourse about the future of world cities.

For us, not everything is findable at the internet. An international debate needs an intercultural “face to face” cooperation. Especially urban phenomenons and developments are often based on emotions (we call it urban delirium). We want to talk about these emotions, which are responsible for urban evolution. Why – for example – is Bangalore the world leading software city? What is the special feeling at Bangalore? What will the jump to the digital – international Megalopolis offer Bangalore? How feel the inhabitants now, and how will they feel at 2057? We want to discuss questions like that.

### Background Information:

Urbanity, as understood by honey & bunny, stands for one of the most important topics of our time and for the future of social co-existence. During our study visit to London and our working stay in Tokyo we have already been researching on urban development and creating new thoughts on sociology, economical studies, philosophy, natural sciences (mainly looking at biological and technical developments) and of course architecture and film.

Honey & bunny productions understand themselves as an interdisciplinary group of artists that generate different ideas circling around urbanity and its features, and transforms them

into pieces of art to present those to the public. Just recently our visions on “mobility and emotion” were shown by the Viennese institution “Kulturaxe” and our experimental film production “future urban organism” was screened in various European cities.

Two visits to India in August 2004 and September 2005 caused a feeling that cities like Bangalore or Bombay will play a leading role in further development of urban space. Our last stay at Bangalore and Chennai in September 2004 (we did a lecture at ANA university) enriched our thoughts which lead to a first interpretation: As a whole lot of different mentalities, sociologies, expectations and conflicts, different kinds of architecture etc. meet at this city, Chennai can metaphorically be compared with foam or a glass of “international Champaign”. We claim that this urban foam is a necessity for social-urban evolution, hence indispensable for the evolution of a city. Evolution is always a result of conflicts; conflicts which come into being by different emotions hitting each other and thus paving the way for future urban developments.

## Strategy

We will use this quality of different emotions for a new interpretation of urban space. Somehow like an architectural psychoanalysis, we want to let students think about emotional components which affect urban developments. 12 teams of students should think about the presence and the future of Chennai. How do the international influences (like new jobs, the new food, different fashion styles, international brands and shopping centres, etc.) inspire urban evolution? Did the emotions of Chennai people change during the last years and how – and why? And how will those changes affect the future urban developments?

We want students to think about Chennai and we want to help them to develop visionary concepts for the future. As this teaching idea is somehow science fiction, we suggest to work with animation film. As the moving picture is in this case the best means to visualise the phenomenon of urban foam, we choose the medium animation to be our instrument of interpretation. Further reasons are:

- Animation film allows, with the help of using different angles, a differentiation of single social or cultural bubbles. These can, in a crystalline way, symbolise ideas, cultural backgrounds and mentalities.

- Animation film offers the chance to work both documenting as well as artistically interpreting, and furthermore to visualise visions.
- Animation film, as a moving image, can capture the permanent movement and the unbelievable plurality of Chennai and bring it together as an artistic project.

We want to pick up these thoughts concerning the future and generate a vision for Chennai 2057. We want students to think about their cultural and urban identity and the changes within the next 50 years. We want them to think about personal opinions, wishes, hopes, fears and visions. We want to start an international discussion about urbanism, architecture and film.

As inhabitants of Vienna we are aware of the fact that our point of view will always be that of a foreigner. Like authors or journalists we can only watch, feel and describe. We stand for the eye of the other – like the audience at cinema. For this reason we want to cooperate with Indian students as a first step to increase our awareness of India and to propose cultural dialogue as an answer to the foreigner's report.

#### Goals:

- The main goal of the intensive workshop is the student's interpretation of Indian cities, as well as a visionary discourse about the future.
- We want them to think about urban changes (like the jump to digital urbanism).
- We want them to think about urban evolution.
- An international discussion about visionary urbanism.
- An international discussion about urban identity and urban emotion.
- A cooperation between the ancient Vienna and the Indian cities of the future.
- The presentation of the project in Chennai and Vienna (maybe as an exhibition).
- To build a bridge of cultural cooperation between Chennai and Vienna.

#### Method:

- Honey & bunny will develop and write 12 catchwords like intimacy, fear, love or faith based on our feelings of Indian cities. These catchwords will again serve as a metaphor for the bubbles mentioned above.
- Each team of students will be confronted with one catchword, which will be decided by casting lots.

- Each team of students has to find a location in Chennai which represents the team's catchword and to shoot representative photos at the very location. The main attribute of the working progress is the location, especially by describing and interpreting its architecture. These photos must explain why the location is suitable for symbolising the catchword.
- Each team should present there location and there interpretation to honey & bunny.
- The pictures provide a basis for the students' developments of visions for the year 2057. Each team creates a scenario for 2057: What will the chosen location look like in fifty years? How will Chennai deal with the specific catchword in fifty years? Will the catchword be of any importance at all? The students will create an urban scenario on the basis of digital models. Within 7 days, they create a concept for the urban future and build models about their ideas. These models are able to be used for the feature animation films.
- At the end, the students produce short animation films about there concepts. The students should work as directors to learn how to present an idea.

Keywords:

- Intimacy
- Fear
- Trade
- Strangeness
- Faith
- Transit
- Power
- Heritage
- Tradition
- Love
- Harmony
- Risk

Proposed date of the workshop:

12<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

The workshop will last 10 working days.

Number of students: 20- 30

All students should work in teams of two.

Honey & bunny provide 4 public lectures and full time teaching with personal tutorials, open critics and two presentations.

Honorarium: 3000 Euro, plus transport and accommodation.

Schedule:

Friday	Opening lecture "architecture & emotion", introducing honey & bunny, explaining the aim of the workshop and the plot/script, handing out the tasks; students are asked to form 12 interdisciplinary teams of 2 or 3 persons each; keywords are assigned by drawing lots (1 keyword per team); The opening lectures will be held Friday night before the workshop, which will give the students time over the weekend to have first thoughts on the project.
Monday:	individual site research, interpretation of the chosen site, photo documentation; presentation of first ideas & photos of the chosen sites, discussion;
Tuesday:	Sonja & Martin will visit the teams at the different locations, Evening: lecture; screening of "future urban organism", discussion
Wednesday:	individual work. Each team creates an interpretational digital model of their site. individual tutorials
Thursday:	Each team starts to develop a future urban scenario for their site on a very conceptual way. individual tutorials Evening: lecture
Friday:	Developing phase for the future urban scenario; individual tutorials Evening: internal presentation of the concepts & discussion

Monday: digital model making of the future scenarios; individual tutorials  
Evening: lecture

Tuesday: digital model making of the future scenarios; individual tutorials  
Evening: internal review possibly with all project members

Wednesday: digital model making of the future scenarios, animation making,  
individual tutorials

Thursday: digital model making of the future scenarios, animation making,  
individual tutorials

Friday: individual editing of the films;  
final presentation of the short films in front of a jury (all project  
members + guests)

Lectures: we would like to invite all participants to contribute a lecture on the  
topic if they wish. We would like to offer (besides the introduction  
lecture and the FJO lecture) a lecture on Vienna and its identity and a  
lecture on Tokyo.