



FUTURE CITIES

# ( Our Futures )<sup>35</sup> Explored

Ahmedabad • February 24 - March 7 • 2014

35 researchers and creative practitioners from India and Britain meet to explore the theme of Future Cities, in the spirit of open-minded and open-ended creative collaboration.

UNBOX LABS is a programme of the University of Southampton, funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, and the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India.



गणराज्य डिजाइन अकादमी  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN

# ACTION AT THE INTER- SECTIONS

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*UnBox has explored and celebrated interdisciplinary practice through annual editions of the festival since 2011. Multiple, non-linear formats at the festival have encouraged conversation, interaction and exploration amongst diverse practitioners.*

*UnBox is a space where the right ingredients and conditions come together to yield unexpected inspiration and partnerships. We believe in the power of open-minded creative collaborations.*

*The UnBox Labs described in this publication are a form of 'controlled experiments' - in harnessing ideas within collaborative, people-centered settings. We believe this approach to be essential for driving sustainable and inclusive resolutions to the complexities that our collective futures will throw up.*

*Importantly, we believe that UnBox Labs can be a powerful learning experience for the emerging generation of global practitioners, and shape a collaborative atmosphere for ongoing dialogue, inspiration and exploration.*

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**2 COUNTRIES  
35 DESIGNERS AND RESEARCHERS  
7 MENTORS  
7 PARTNERS  
2 WEEKS IN AHMEDABAD**



## VIEWING OUR FUTURE CITIES WITH PEOPLE-CENTERED PERSPECTIVES

*The theme of future cities was an initial anchor from which teams were free to envision and explore through collaborative experiences.*



ENGAGE  
IN  
DATE  
BUILD &  
REVEAL

*Simplicity and Flexibility shape our process.*

*In order to facilitate, provoke and engage without prescription, the process framework has to be pared-down and flexible. It is this minimalism that allows fellows to own their lab experiences in a personal and authentic manner. This also drives participants towards the UnBox ethos of collective responsibility, open sharing and building on skills of the group.*

# ENGAGE

## *Balancing autonomy and facilitation*

With 35 fellows from diverse backgrounds, a balance is critical between structured facilitation and allowing the group to take charge of ideas. The Lab pushed the fellows to engage with each other and the Future Cities theme in a comfortable, reflective atmosphere. The mentors encouraged them to step out of their comfort zones and re-examine their assumptions and practices. This process teased out overlapping values and motivations amongst fellows, and set the ground for natural collaborations.

Fellows volunteered for 'Unconferences' to share knowledge and opinions amongst themselves



*The UnBox Labs way evolved from the core values of UnBox along with values shared by the fellows.*



*A value sharing exercise that mapped individual's key values led to themes that was to feed a 'manifesto' for the lab.*



*Fellows also had opportunities to share and make connections through the first few days*

# EXPLORING THE CITY WITH LOCAL PRACTITIONERS

*Talk on Ahmedabad, by Neelkanti Chhaya and Riyaz Tayyibji.*

*Talk on student projects that explored the city from the point of view of animals, by Gauri Bharati CEPT.*

*Talk on authoritarian state planning in Ahmedabad and India, by Navdeep Mathur, IIMA*



Visit to Riverside School. Group of Fellows were shown around the school by students prior to a discussion on the Design For Change programme with the school's founder and director, Kiran Bir Sethi.



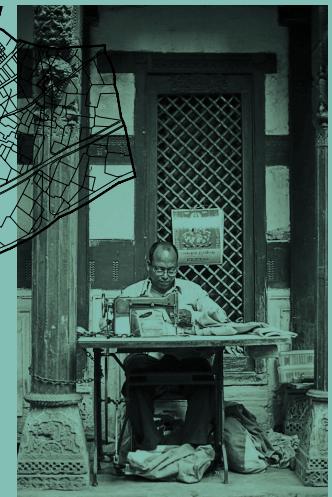
Visit to Sarkhej Roza where Bhavna Ramrakhiani, Convener of Ahmedabad Community Foundation, took us on a tour of the Roza followed by a discussion on issues of preserving and using heritage sites.



Visit to *Gandhi Ashram*, including a discussion with Tridip Suhrud, on public spaces and the need for modes of engagement to stay current.



The 'Makers Stories' exercise got the Fellows out exploring Ahmedabad. Working in small cross-cultural groups (to overcome language barriers around the city) of ideally 3 people, the Fellows were asked to find at least one story about makers in the city. (A list of potential areas of interest around the city had been drawn up previously by Mentors Praveen Nahar and Jon Rogers). The intent was to get the Fellows to see a glimpse of 'making' activities that are fast disappearing from our city realms and excited about making for their own projects.



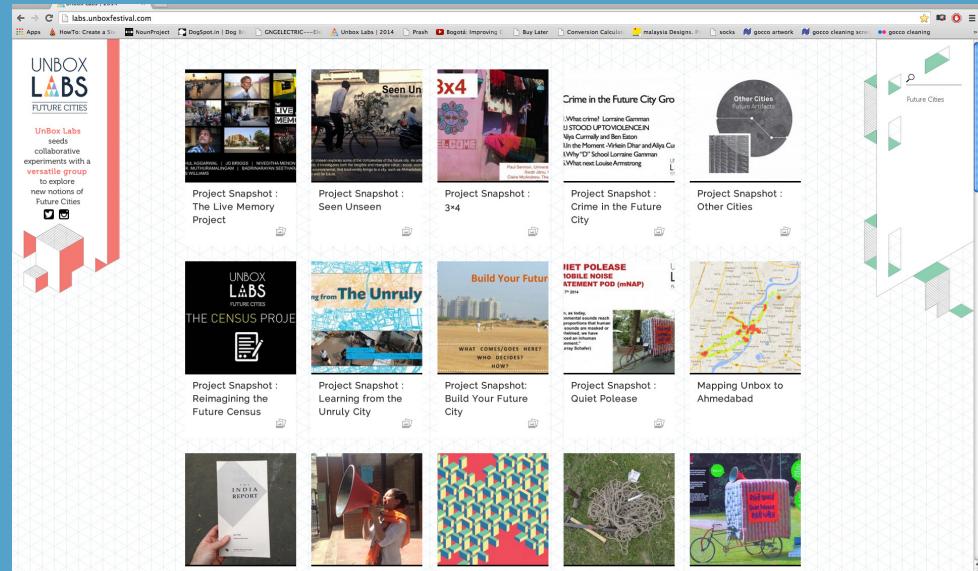


# IDEATE

# TEAMS

## *Organic growth of ideas and teams*

With a wealth of information and opinions being gathered, ideas and teams gradually found each other organically. A number of short exercises for the group encouraged ideation, critique and cross-pollination. Creative tensions were rightly seen as inevitable, and added some useful texture to the labs, further propagating exploration, conversation and debate.



Blog posts were an ongoing channel for sharing thoughts and opinions, and these were regularly printed out and pinned up in an area of the work space.



The 'areas of interest' wall, which emerged from the Fellow interests, was continuing to expand in a multitude of ideas, and was then subjected to a process of editing. One of the Fellows volunteered to spend 10-20 minutes organising the wall into themed groupings for the group to then review.

This highlighted four themes, or 'sub-themes' to Future Cities. Fellows were asked to break out and spend around 3 hours in four groups, each group exploring one of the sub-themes- Systems, Play, Stories, Space.

Each group distilled their thoughts to 4-5 sheets of core thoughts & principles, which they pinned up and presented back to the whole group.



Following these presentations a more focused 'Project Ideas' wall was created. Fellows were asked to pin up their project idea proposals and/or tag their names to proposals, with an indication of what role they aimed to play- co-founder/ teammate/consultant.



This exercise acted as a 'final' round of focusing Fellows into intended teams around specific ideas to explore further.

**Serendipity was an intrinsic part of the framework for interactions in Week One.**

The open mental spaces offered enough flexibility, allowing for unexpected discoveries and departure opportunities for fellows, with respect to the thematic focus and their own inter-relationships.

# BUILD

## *Developing ideas and early prototypes*

With the 'ingredients' and 'conditions' now in good order, 'reactions' began to appear in good measure. Fellows shifted into team roles and ideas moved closer to reality. Mentors provided guidance as needed and propagated the values of early prototyping. The city provided context as well as a pool of resources, as teams sought local expertise and assistance.



*Some teams were developing ideas rather than focusing on objects...*



*Other teams were experimenting with full-scale mock-ups of environments...*



*While one team quickly created a prototype to test around the streets of Ahmedabad...*

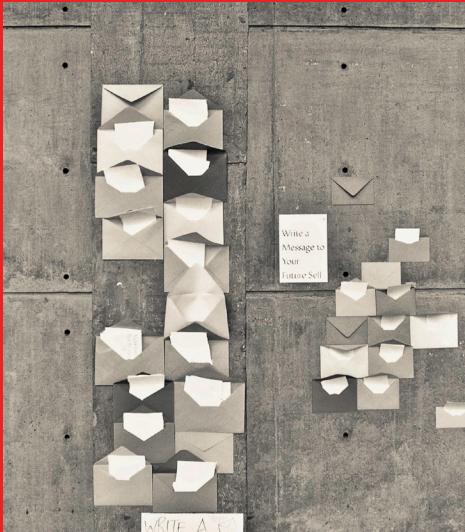
# REVEAL

## *Sharing learnings*

The concluding phase of the Lab made visible the ideas of the fellows, sharing where they had reached together, highlighting the partnerships that made them possible. While the lab was a transient space to initiate ideas, the value of the experience is in the new partnerships and conversations that have arisen from it. Several projects have future plans of development and collaboration, and teams are committed to finding sources of support and funding to carry through with their plans to demonstrate new ways of engaging with our cities.



Open sharing to engage further and seed discussions about the future



9 WAYS  
TO  
SEE/SEED  
THE FUTURE

# THE LIVE MEMORY PROJECT

Anshul Aggarwal  
Badrinarayanan Seetharaman  
Dilys Williams  
Jo Briggs  
Niveditha Menon  
Vivek M

## STORIES OF MULTIPLICITIES THAT ALLOW CITIZENS TO ENGAGE AND INTERACT WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CITY

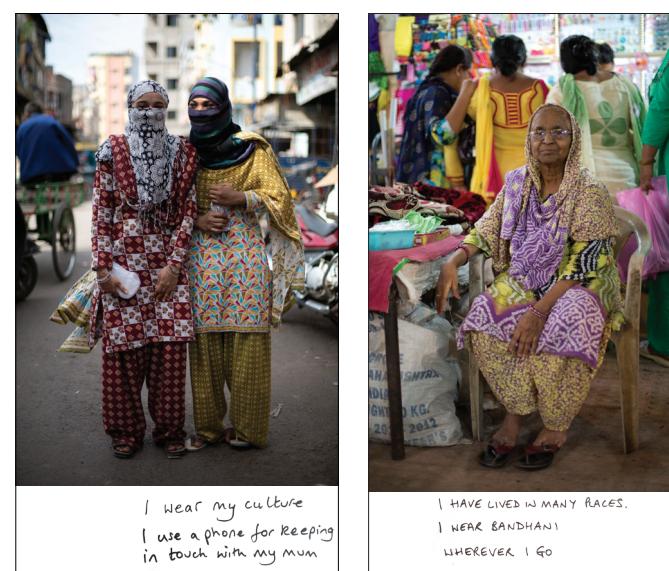
The most profound challenge that cities face is to live with and account for difference and indeed, their sameness, meaningfully. The Live Memory Project connects a cross-cultural team with Ahmedabad's various communities to elicit and capture individual voices in a tapestry of stories and anecdotes relating to citizenship. The project sought



"SOMETIMES STUDENTS SIT HERE ON THE TERRACE  
THE WHOLE DAY AND WATCH THE SPACE TRANSFORM."



Goswami  
Manek Chowk, Ahmedabad



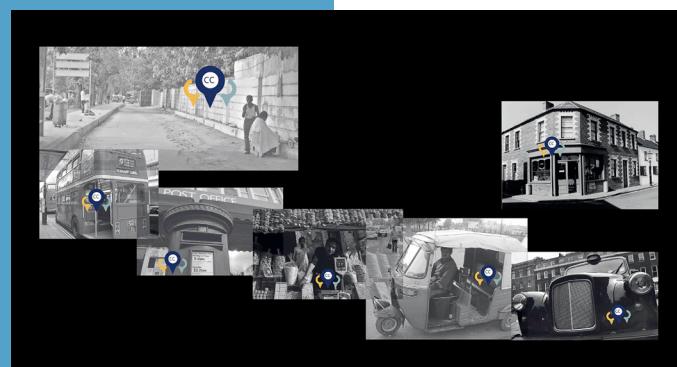
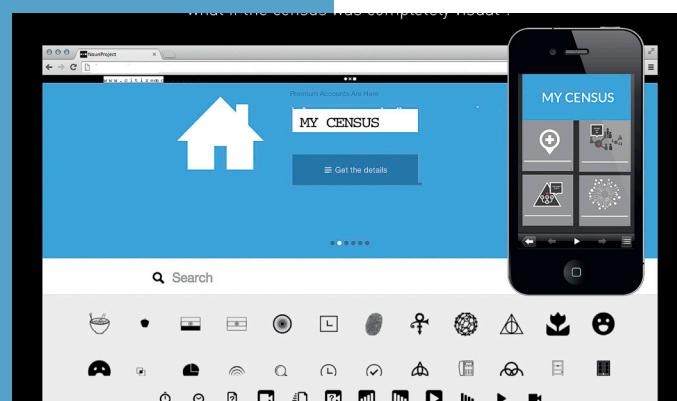
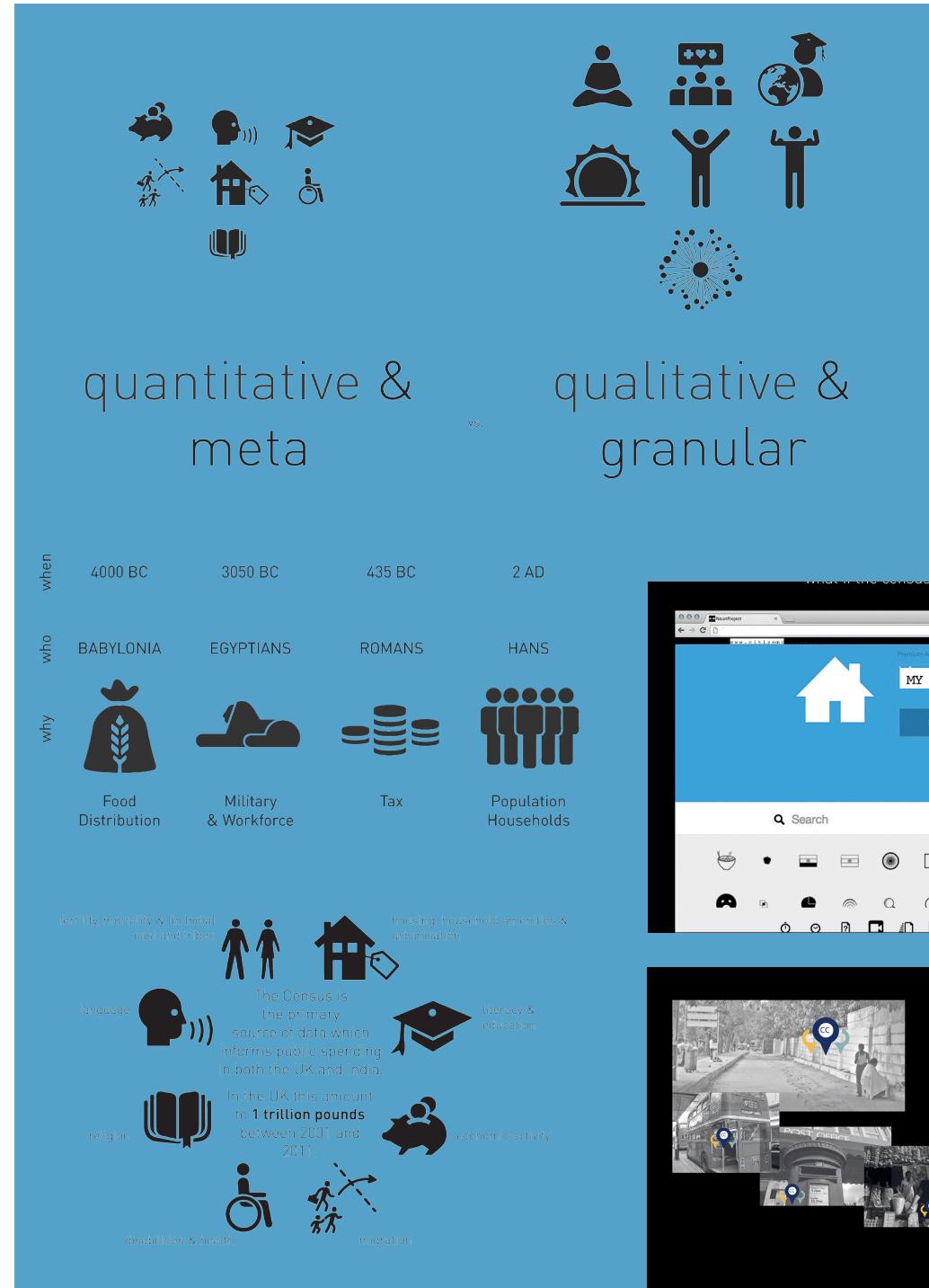
I WEAR MY CULTURE  
I USE A PHONE FOR KEEPING  
IN TOUCH WITH MY MUM

I HAVE LIVED IN MANY PLACES.  
I WEAR BANDHANI  
WHEREVER I GO

to capture daily routines and something of its citizens' values through stories recounting their vitality, connectivity and resourcefulness. It prototypes a process to aggregate, document and map out stories of spaces, people and change in the city across multiple media on a live, interactive platform. The team intends to pursue the project in various manners- through physical meet-ups, creating new research as well as further builds on the platform.

# RE- IMAGINING THE FUTURE CENSUS

Cassie Robinson  
Julia King  
Louise Armstrong

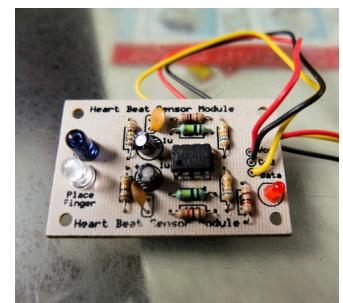
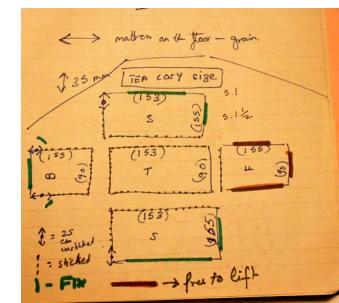


## CAN THE CENSUS BE A MECHANISM FOR A MORE PARTICIPATORY SOCIETY?

Census statistics have been the core of social architecture for thousands of years and it is the key tool that directs huge amounts of funding for nation states. Yet that purpose and methods have altered little over the years. The team wants to reimagine the census and view it as a tool that engages and empowers citizens and governments with the information it collects to support the basic human needs of city citizens. It can create new conditions that re-enfranchise people to be active participants in their future. Looking forward the team will further develop the project brief in order to effectively communicate the idea both in the UK and India. The ambition is to put together a proposal to run parallel city-wide trials in the UK, India and a potential third country to reimagine what a future census could be and what it could enable.

# QUIET POLEASE

Aditi Kulkarni  
Ankit Daftery  
Michael Edwards  
Persis Taraporevala  
Shradha Jain  
Tatjana Schneider  
supported by Vivek Sheth



## RAISING AWARENESS OF THE EFFECTS OF NOISE POLLUTION ON PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND SENSE OF WELLBEING

The team created a mobile sound-reducing box installed on a cycle cart and took it to different parts of the city. People are encouraged to step inside and listen to a changing landscape over headphones, pointing out the contrast between the sound levels the human body is supposed to encounter and the levels that they are exposed to in everyday life. During the field experiment with the intervention pod in Ahmedabad, the team observed that people were drawn to it and gathered around it to find out more, and it also acted as a seed, sparking off a lot of conversations amongst them on this and other issues. The team will be working on strategizing a formal campaign, with the mnAP as the central piece of the exercise, to a larger, multi-city exercise that also includes reclaiming roads and areas for peaceful interactions.

## 3x4

Claire McAndrew  
Paul Sermon  
Swati Janu  
supported by Vivek M



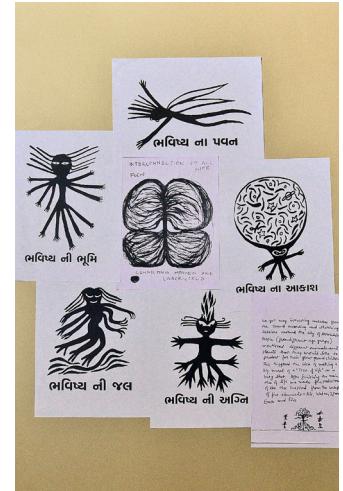
### ENVISING A FUTURE WHERE EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP, AND INFORMALITY IS NOT VIEWED AS A PROBLEM, BUT AS A SELF- MADE SOLUTION.

Resettlement colonies are set-up by the government to relocate people from informal settlements within the city to vacant land, usually on the periphery. 3x4 metres is the plot size provided in some of these resettlement colonies. 3 x 4 explores the qualities and values built through self-organised communities that are lost

in the resettlement process. The project contributes to dialogue on the right to the city - a futurescape imbued in inclusiveness, openness and access. It looks at public and private spaces within the city, intersecting with the need for subjective interventions to transform them into engaging spaces that empower citizens and enable inclusive growth. The team intends to pitch for further funding to undertake practice-based research and develop the project through public installation opportunities and user observations.

# SEEN UNSEEN

Kavita Singh Kale  
Melissa Sterry

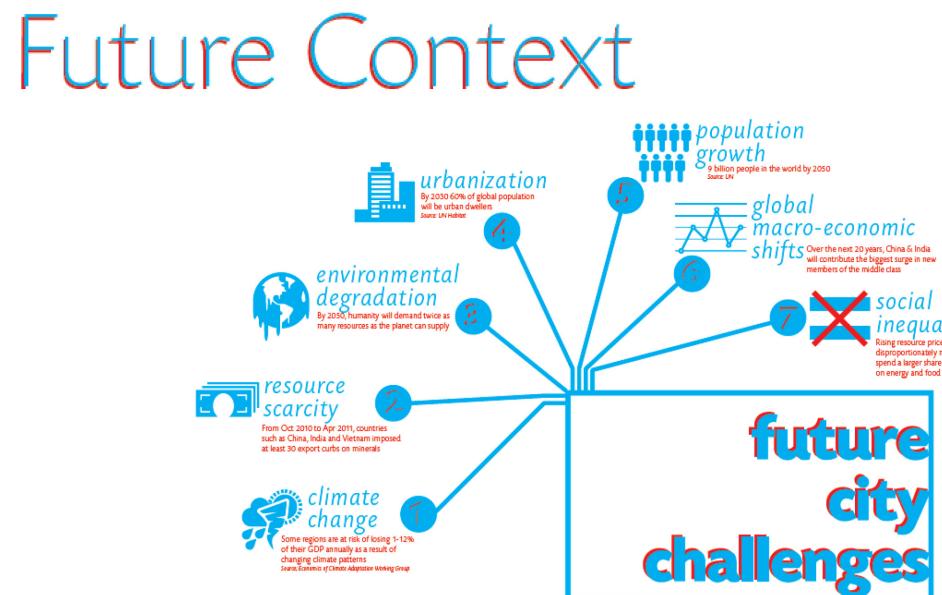


## EXPLORING THE TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE VALUES THAT BIODIVERSITY BRINGS TO A CITY

Engaging universal language and motifs, including the Tree of Life, Seen UnSeen acknowledges that the breadth and depth of the contribution made by flora and fauna species to humanity, at both the city and global scale, is too great to represent by metrics alone. During the lab, Seen UnSeen engaged a variety of research methods, including a short survey of citizen values and interest in biodiversity, the creation of a mural of the tree of life on a wall adjacent to a busy city street - and observations of reactions therein, the creation of a handful of icons representing natural elements and consciousness and placing them on rickshaws about the city, by means of raising awareness of biodiversity and its role in the city. The team plans to develop more media, to create further awareness and dialogue around these issues.

## LEARNING FROM THE UNRULY CITY

Louise Armstrong  
Tom Corby  
Virkein Dhar  
Vivek Sheth



### INVISIBLE LAYERS AND UN-WRITTEN RULES CAN INFORM AND EMPOWER THE CITIZENS OF A RESILIENT FUTURE CITY

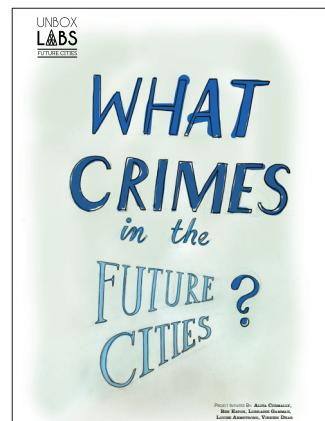
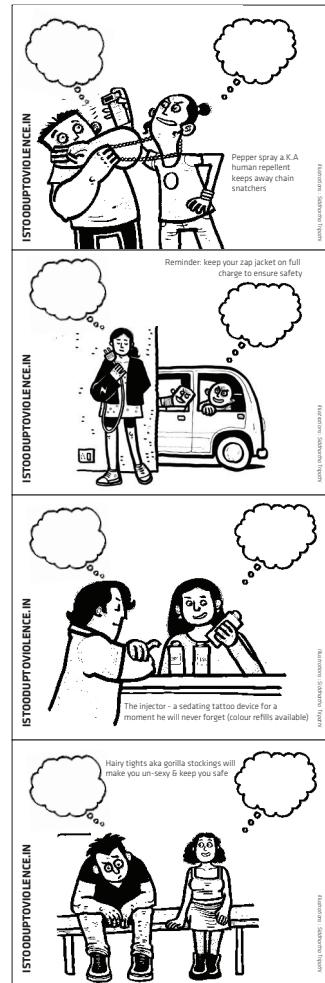
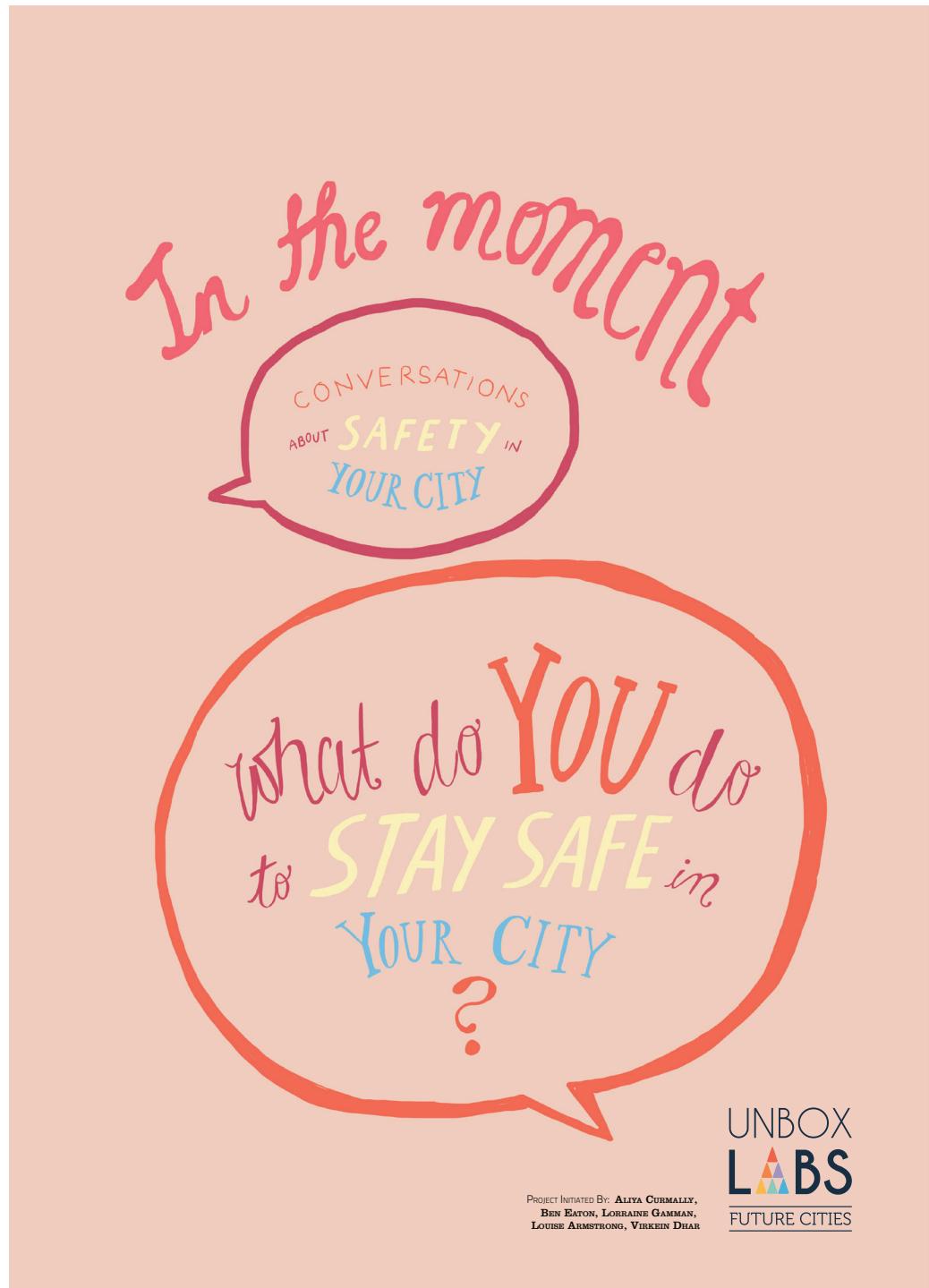
The project explored the social protocols that enable efficient sharing of resources and space as a negotiated process for the common good. The team sought to learn from the knowledge and practices developed by inhabitants and make them visible as codified knowledge toward other contexts and futures. By focusing on street-level knowledge derived from the people of the 'informal' city, the team sought to understand and utilize the unspoken rules and behaviours operative within city contexts to empower citizens to thrive in the complex urban settings of future cities. The team will continue to explore various future manifests for this idea.

## CRIME IN THE FUTURE CITY

IF CITIES 'GET THE CRIME THEY DESERVE'  
THEN IT IS BOTH POSSIBLE AND  
IMPORTANT TO MAKE INTERVENTIONS  
THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

With increasingly urban populations, changing migration patterns, political and economic instability, weak government, and a growing youthful population, crime will continue to be an issue in future cities in India and beyond. The team sought to address this through a platform that empowers women who have faced violence to anonymously share their stories, through conversations about where people feel safe in our cities and through the idea of "the prison as an Ashram" where design thinking is used as a teaching tool to turn prisons into holistic "creative hubs".

Aliya Curnally  
Ben Eaton  
Lorraine Gamman  
Louise Armstrong  
Virkein Dhar  
supported by Sijya Gupta, NID



## BUILD YOUR FUTURE CITY

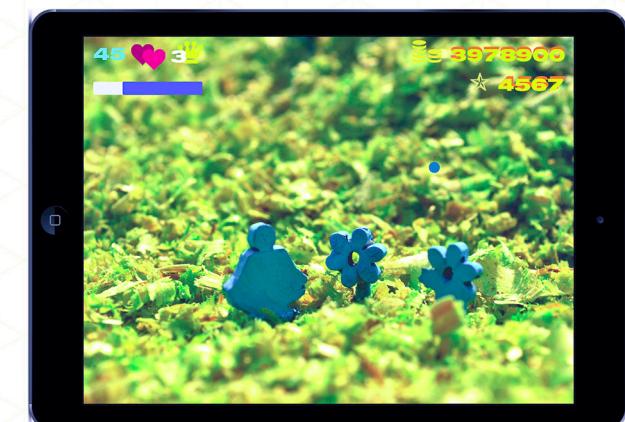
Aliya Curnally  
 Shantesh Kelvekar  
 Vishal Kundra  
 supported by Thommen Lukose, NID



**NEEDS AND DESIRES OF PEOPLE CAN INFORM THE DESIGN OF A CITY, SO THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN AND MAKE THE CHANGE.**

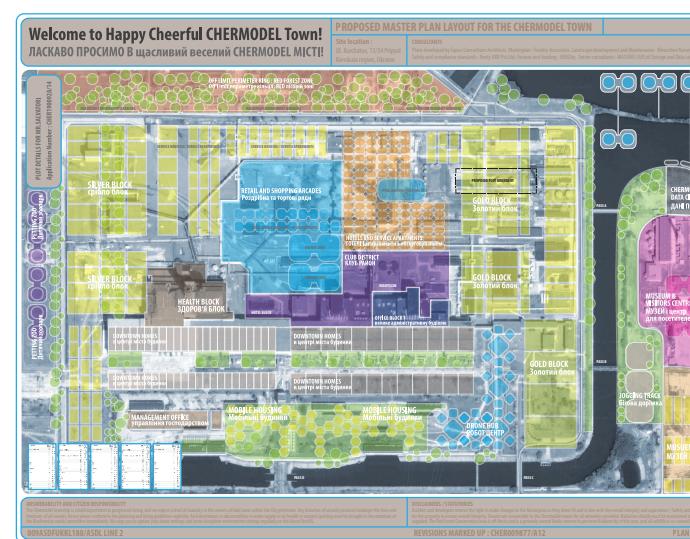
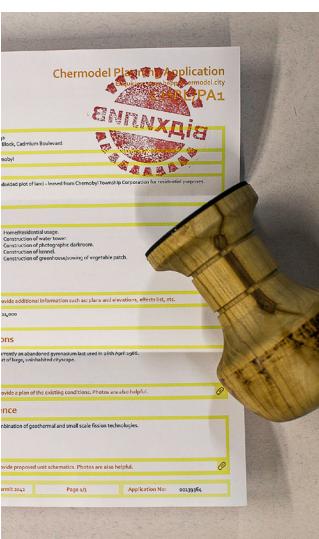
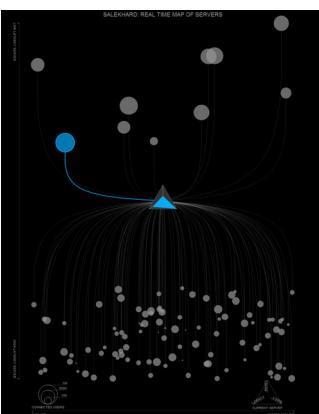
The project seeks to engage and inform people, create awareness, trigger excitement for them to participate in the design of future cities while providing feedback to developers and market forces on the interests of consumers (future

residents) to create a collaborative and integrated vision. Focusing on one aspect of the city- open spaces- "Go Outside" is an interactive tool of engagement where people have the opportunity to express the type of open space they want and explore what they would like to do there. The team intends to seek further expertise to gather support and test "Go Outside" in three different Indian cities.



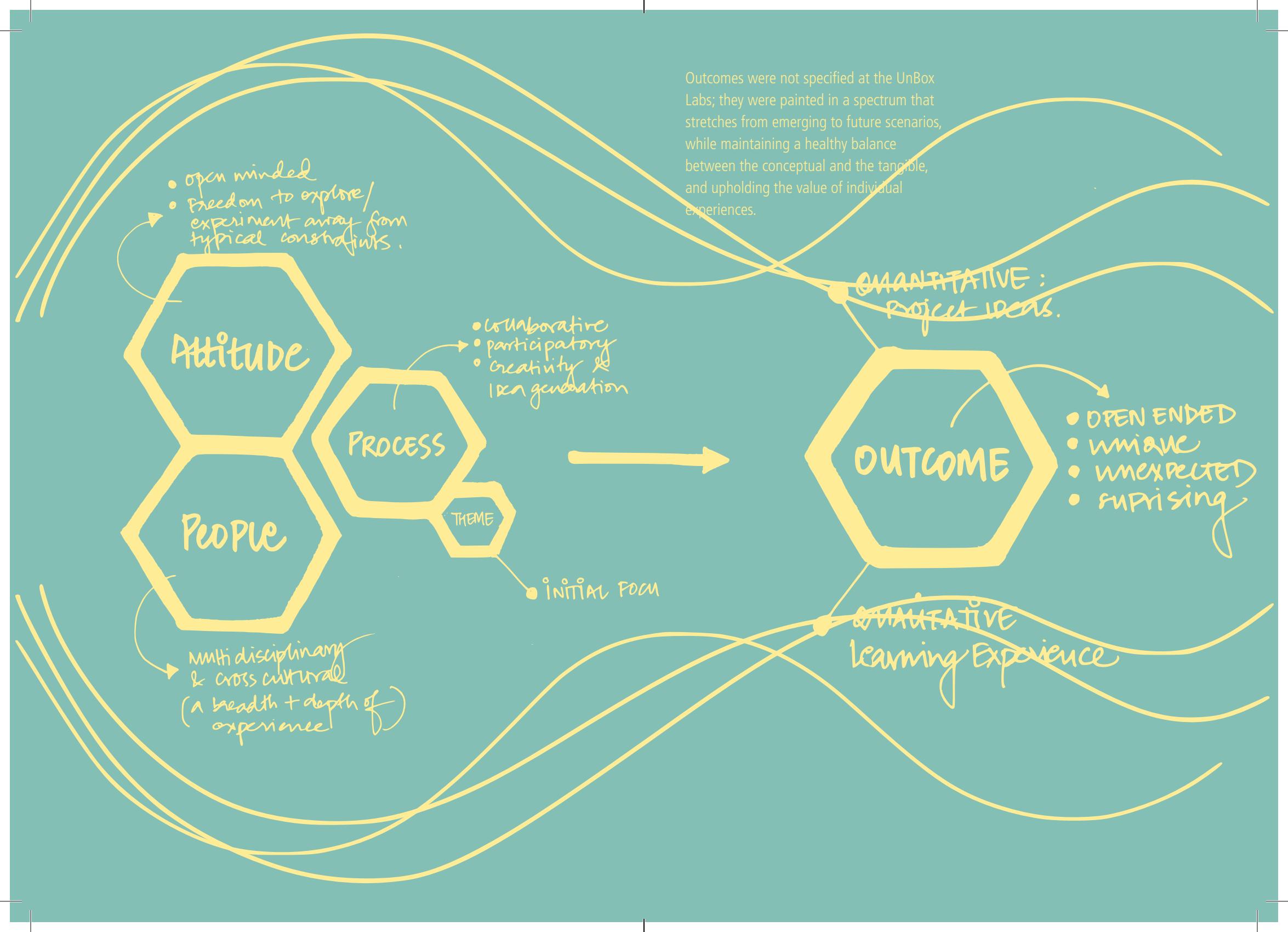
# OTHER CITIES

Ayaz Basrai  
 Ben Barker  
 Ben Eaton  
 Cassie Robinson  
 Carlo Zapponi  
 Dan Watson  
 Patrick Stevenson-Keating  
 Sara Anand



WHAT WILL THE FUTURE OF CITIES LOOK LIKE, NOT THE BUILDINGS AND THE STREETS, BUT THE WAY WE LIVE IN THEM?

The project team engaged with three of the most compelling narratives, whittled down from a group exercise where over 100 stories of our far-futures were imagined as newspaper headlines. Grouped under the term of Other Cities the team imagined how we would live in a world governed by data and our access to it, in a world where antibiotics no longer work and nuclear wastelands reaching their half-life are treated as nature reserves. Through original newspaper stories and speculative timelines for these three cities, the team also created stories, artefacts and images of these cities, in order to begin to touch and imagine how these futures, some inevitable, others less so, might feel.



future!

"To borrow from a scientific analogy, the Lab is in some way the 'primordial creative soup' out of which new ideas are given a life of their own..."

The hope is that some seed ideas will mature into fully formed projects with multidisciplinary, cross-cultural teams. The open sharing of these ideas could also inspire others to take on and adapt these approaches with a longer scope of engagement. Finally, the hope is that the experience of UnBox Labs will be both positive and long-lasting for everyone involved. And that it provided some meaningful beginnings...

## THOSE INVOLVED

### FELLOWS

ADITI KULKARNI	Creative Director, Sourcebits
ALIYA CURMALLY	Writer, Transmedia Producer
ANKIT DAFTERY	Interaction Designer, Arduino
ANSHUL AGGARWAL	Engineer, Freelance
AYAZ BASRAI	Founder, The Bus Ride
BADRINARAYANAN SEETHARAMAN	Co-Founder, 501Labs
BEN BARKER	Co-founder: PAN Studio
BEN EATON	Co-director and Digital Artist, Invisible Flock
CARLO ZAPPONI	Data Visualization Designer, Nokia
CASSIE ROBINSON	Point People, LondonScape & the Intimacy Lab
CLAIRE MCANDREW	Research Associate, The Bartlett
DAN WATSON	Founder, SafetyNet Technologies
DEEPTI B. JAIN	Independent Design Consultant
DILYS WILLIAMS	Director, Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion
JO BRIGGS	Research Fellow, Northumbria University
JULIA KING	Urban Researcher and Architectural Designer
KAVITA SINGH KALE	Co-Founder: Underground Worm Design Studio
LORRAINE GAMMAN	Director, Design Against Crime, Central Saint Martin
LOUISE ARMSTRONG	Senior Sustainability Advisor
MELISSA STERRY	Design scientist and futurist
MICHAEL EDWARDS	Music Technology, University of Edinburgh
NIVEDITHA MENON	Consulting Faculty, IIIT Bangalore
PATRICK STEVENSON-KEATING	Founder, Studio PSK
PAUL SERMON	Professor of Visual Communication, University of Brighton
PERSIS TARAPOREVALA	Programme Manager, Gati Dance Forum
SARA ANAND	Visual Designer, carbon12 creative
SHANTESH KELVEKAR	Partner   Landscape Urbanist, ReadingGrounds + GroundReserach
SHRADHA JAIN	Founder: Studio.Clock.Works.
SWATI JANU	Architect and writer
TATJANA SCHNEIDER	University of Sheffield, Co-Founder: AGENCY
TOM CORBY	CREAM, University of Westminster
VIRKEIN DHAR	Independent Creative Professional
VISHAL KUNDRA	Associate Director, AECOM
VIVEK M	Independent Photographer
VIVEK SHETH	Co-Founder, The Dodger Blue House, Mumbai

### MENTORS

CHRIS HAND	Head of Communication Design, Pearl Academy
CLAIRE MOOKERJEE	Project Manager : Future Cities Catapult
INDY JOHAR	Co-Founder 00:/, Young Foundation Senior Innovation Associate
JON ROGERS	Chair of Creative Technology, University of Dundee
MATT MARSH	Creative Director: Firsthand Experience
PRAVEEN NAHAR	Senior Faculty, Industrial Design, NID
TANISHKA KACHRU	Faculty of Communication Design, NID

### PARTNERS



UnBox would like to thank ALICE MASTERS & STUART SANG for their invaluable support and guidance

## HERE ARE SOME THOUGHTS THAT PEOPLE SHARED ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE UNBOX LABS

### FELLOWS

For me, this was primarily a platform to understand what several interesting people are trying to do in this space and how we can all come together to inspire each other and build something.

**Anshul Aggarwal**

The lab has been the most valuable of all the UnBox editions that my studio and I been involved with, mostly because of the longer format. The lab has provided me directions to take forward in the next 15 or 20 years of my practice; it is not a two week wrap up for me.

**Ayaz Basrai**

The Lab was definitely UnBox in its ethos, especially in the way we fed each others projects. There isn't a project that belongs to one person; there are always ideas that are feeding off each other. The best thing has been the tension between the freedom to explore and the bits of programmed activities. For me, it has involved re-looking how we design for the city not so much for the now, but also for the future.

**Ben Barker**

The idea of future cities in the context of India seemed more interesting...looking at it from a different prism, allowing us to jump off a different point, leading to conversations that had potential for more friction.

**Ben Eaton**

The UnBox LABS has provided a lens into each of our worlds and our interests and I think there is going to be lots of future collaborations out of this.

**Claire McAndrew**

A new experience, in a new place, with a whole bunch of new exciting people..and the opportunity to explore and experiment with the idea of future cities...and really getting the most out of the cross cultural collaboration.

**Louise Armstrong**

I expected to work with lots of academics and creatives and people who work with technology, but I didn't expect to be so overwhelmed by the context.

**Lorraine Gamman**

I actually found a bunch of really receptive people, some of whom I worked with and some of whom I would have liked to work with. Our group was really committed to the idea and together we were able to bring some unique things to the project that I certainly couldn't have (alone).

**Michael Edwards**

It has been wonderful but it has also been eye opening in a lot of ways...sometimes it is nice to not have a goal and to just live in the process, and I have learnt that by working so closely with so many creative practitioners during the course of the lab.

**Niveditha Menon**

### MENTORS

The process of the lab has been a unique take on how to be able to co-design – not just a response to a challenge but a co-design of the process itself. And to enable voices that don't get heard at facilitated events; hearing those voices has been refreshing and exciting.

**Jon Rogers**

It was heartening to see participants from diverse backgrounds, coming together with a willingness to absorb and ability to listen to each other, deeply engaging with the city of Ahmedabad, its people, and its culture.

**Praveen Nahar & Tanishka Kachru**

We need more of these discourses. Future cities is not just about design, it is about the whole economic, social and socio-economic structure of design. Only when you democratize the future of a city in its discourse, can you hope to democratize its reality in twenty years time. For me it is a critical topic, a critical occasion, and it starts to setup a domain for a new conversation, by talking about a social and system-level city, which is a big leap forward.

**Indy Johar**

It has been a remarkable achievement in such a small amount of time to get people into the right space, giving the right skills and techniques, working around meaningful projects to come up with the right outcome that the audiences will find extremely provocative.

**Matt Marsh**

Future cities is about finding integrated solutions to face urban challenges, the ones we see now and can foresee, but not through Waste, Water, Transport – the usual ways that have often solved a problem while creating another. The lab has been at its core about Human-Centred Design, rather than any other specialism or city department.

**Claire Mookerjee**

One of the joys of having so many participants is that you have enough teams so you have a wide range of outcomes. The goal is not to have finished tangible exhibition-quality outcomes, but to have reached a starting point, which is a very powerful idea. And everybody is doing something here that they haven't done before.

**Chris Hand**

### PARTNERS

The British Council likes to work in partnership and UnBox enables us to bring together some of our most valuable partners from across government, education and the creative sectors. By working with UnBox over the past four years, the British Council is fostering dialogue and thought leadership and getting talented young people from both India and the UK to connect with each other. This year's Unbox Labs enabled a large group of innovative thinkers from different backgrounds to meet, debate and collaborate on finding solutions that society needs at this time of rapid urbanisation. I was impressed by the range of ideas presented and the UnBox Labs has also helped us to cement our relationship with key institutions like the National Institute of Design (India) and AHRC in the UK.

**Shreela Ghosh, Director Arts South Asia, British Council**

The positive energy which I witnessed among the experts from various walks of life and different nations at NID during the UnBox Lab, was truly inspiring. The event has brought out well-rounded concepts for building a sustainable future. As Mr Ratan Tata said, 'If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together.' I am sure UnBox LABS will go a long way in creating a city that encourages walking together.

**Pradyumna Vyas, Director, NID**

The AHRC was delighted to support the UnBox Labs 2014. Finding new ways to support UK researchers in the arts and humanities to work in collaboration with partners in the creative and cultural sectors is one of our priorities, as is encouraging international networks. The UnBox Labs provided an innovative and inspirational environment for the eight UK researchers supported by the AHRC to explore new research projects and new collaborations in India. It was a stimulating and productive two weeks, and we look forward to seeing the results of the Labs at this year's UnBox Festival.

**Emma Wakelin, Associate Director of Programmes, AHRC**

The interdisciplinary approach of the UnBox Labs has enabled it to build bridges between the urbanization, social science and arts and humanities research. It is important to note that the lessons learned in the UK are complementary to those learned in a society like India with very different trajectories and challenges. What's clear is that India and the UK have much to gain by sharing their knowhow in the creative sector which is why SIN values the work being done under the UnBox Labs.

**Mark Sinclair, Regional Director, UK Science & Innovation Network (India, Middle East & Africa)**

## A NOTE FROM UNBOX

The UnBox Labs this year explored a new format that evolved from the UnBox Fellowships of the previous years. At its very core, we have tried to seed and catalyze the UnBox values of open-minded sharing, cross-cultural collaboration, interdisciplinary inspiration and making friends. We hope that at the end of the lab we have a bunch of people who have been inspired by each other's work and are more reflective of their own practices.

The lab and its format has been extremely adaptive and flexible and we have learnt a lot through the process. What we have strived to achieve is a balance between facilitation and a chance for people to explore on their own, thus creating a space for people to make meaning of where they're coming from and get out of their comfort zones, to really be empathetic and learn from other practices and other people; and each of the 35 Fellows we have here represents a very strong individual practice, while also being extremely inspiring and open people to learn from.

With the theme of Future Cities, what we've also sought to explore is a departure from most of the current dialogue around cities, both in India and the rest of the world, which has been mostly about technology and large-scale policy. We wanted to see how a group of interesting people could re-look cities through more people-centered approaches and solutions.

UnBox began in 2011 as a festival to explore the possibilities of interdisciplinary collaborations, defined by its tagline "Action at the Intersections". The lab as a format is vital, as it allows us to engage with a core group of practitioners and thinkers, through dedicated space and time, in exploring how a more people-centered, cross-cultural, interdisciplinary approach can inspire action and change within the Fellows as well as in the world we inhabit.



In the 5th year of Alchemy, Southbank Centre's annual festival showcases the best of music, dance, literature, comedy, fashion, art and design from the UK and South Asia. With a vibrant festival atmosphere and a rich programme of workshops, performances and exhibitions, Alchemy showcases international masters alongside emerging talent. UnBox LABS will host an open panel and discussion about the future of our cities with select Fellows and mentors at Alchemy on 22nd May 2014. Alongside this, glimpses from the Lab will also be presented via a film and this book.

[southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/alchemy](http://southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/alchemy)



The UnBox Festival creates unique and whole experiences around practice-based learning, transformational education and interdisciplinary inspiration, breaking down traditional notions of work and play. Pioneering practitioners and thinkers spanning diverse fields, from India and around the world, perform as catalysts at the intersection of design, culture, social change, art, technology and enterprise. Participants apply themselves to challenging new contexts, build new concepts with others, and inspire new thoughts by sharing their own practice and co-creating interdisciplinary experiences.

In 2014, the UnBox Festival will take place in New Delhi over November 28, 29 & 30. Alongside several other workshops, labs, seminars and other experiences, UnBox LABS will present projects that have emerged from the various cross-cultural and interdisciplinary collaborations that began in Ahmedabad. Teams will further work on their ideas and engage participants in a variety of intimate formats during the festival, to kickstart new thoughts, conversations and collaborations and possibly inspire other projects.

[unboxfestival.com](http://unboxfestival.com)



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