Equitable Urbanism: Economic Rejuvenation of Defunct and Derelict Districts, Taking the Case Of Kolkata

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Equitable Urbanism: Economic Rejuvenation Of Defunct And Derelict Districts, Taking The Case Of Kolkata
1. In an age where urban agglomerations are shaped by rapid economic and demographic changes, post-industrial areas are interpreted as symbols of the failure of the industrial age. With the economies of such areas moving towards a post industrial global situation characterized by growth of the global city of trans-national financial service industries.

2. Urban Development in the context of post-industrialism is also a point of contention, migration leading to the phenomenon of Urban sprawl, social fragmentation.

3. The increasing importance of knowledge in post-industrial societies results in a general increase in expertise through the economy and throughout society, this creates a disparity between the service class and the emerging class based on knowledge industry.

4. The entire process is the highest evolution of capitalism, Such societies then become notable for their ability to subvert social consciousness through powers of manipulation rather than powers of coercion, reflective of the “ideology of the ruling class" which is attained by valorisation of the certain networks within which these new knowledge based industries operates.
Kolkata was the capital of the British Indian Empire until 1911. The city was a major port and commerce center in world economy.

Since the late 1990s, Kolkata has managed to board the all-India bandwagon of buzzing economic sectors like information technology (IT) and business process outsourcing (BPO).
1. From 1960s to the late 1990s, several factories were closed and businesses relocated. The lack of capital and resources added to the depressed state of the city's economy and gave rise to an unwelcome sobriquet: the "dying city".

2. Kolkata's tanneries, numbering 500, were situated mainly in Tangra, Tiljala and Topsia areas of the city.

3. These areas, which were once on the outskirts of Kolkata, in the course of time, with the rapid expansion of the city, found themselves in densely populated areas.

4. Over the years major developments along the E.m bypass has further pushed these local businesses on the verge and has made ways for the new global agencies to setup their own in the new Frontier zone of the city.
1. The site is located at a prominent nodes of the E.m bypass connector that runs across the eastern edge of the city.

2. The site is a interface between the major developments in this corridor and has a lot of defunct pockets which are under a constant pressure of development.

3. The built environment is at an constant intercede of change as a result of Land sharks and due to its prime location in the city.

4. With the upcoming the metro under construction, this will see major changes in the near past.
PROJECT FOCUS

Design Vision

The design tends to create a network of interconnected systems within the urban fabric that would foster a holistic development model for Equitable growth for Locals and as well as for the Globals thus creating a brand value for the development framework.
Design Aim

1. To create a **symbiotic relationship** between the emerging and the local knowledge.
2. Creating **Integrated sustainable working clusters** which can cater to both the local revolving economy and the global forces as a model for development
3. **Knowledge Interface for the locals**, an interface which would help in the capacity building for the locals
4. **Integrated networks within the city fabric** which would facilitate the movement and circulation of products.

Design Strategies

1. Addressing the **morphological change** due to change in economic pattern and emergent of new class.
2. Reinstating the **collective identity** within the divergent systems so as to foster inclusivity within the manufacturing district.
3. Enhancing the **WORK-LIVE-PLAY** by creating a sustainable creative Cluster development model.
4. Enhancing and revitalizing the **Ecological assets** of the area.
PROJECT RESULTS

Design Moves

1- Connecting the **underutilized open spaces** through pedestrian access

2- **Craft bazar** as a key component of the creative cluster, redevelopment of the rubber and shoe production cluster

5- Proposed **MSME development centre** for the leather cluster

6- **Housing and work centre** for the artisans and workers

7- Enhancing their **live and work relationship** within the Thika tenancy land and the slum pockets.

8- Enhancing the **green spaces** and connecting the green spaces to the canal front thus improving the drainage in the area

9- **Canal front development** as a vibrant public.

11- **Adaptive reuse** of defunct industrial plots into ideation and R&D center for the leather and metal work clusters
Site Level Structure Plant

Two stage Functional Level Approach-

1. **Supportive Functions** - Which will help in the capacity build-up for the locals within these clusters
2. **Catalytic Functions** - Which will create the interface for engagement for both the locals and the emerging globals.

**Central node within the Creative cluster as an important institutional node for the whole cluster.**

**Innovation Hub** as a Catalytic interface for engaging locals with the globals, thus benefitting both the local creative cluster and the city as a whole.

**Creating Vibrant canal front**

**Enhancing the road network as a logistic loop for the new flattened factories.**

**Providing social amenities and training facilities for women within their housing areas, social infrastructure as an anchoring agent for the Cluster.**

**Social infrastructures like temples and mosques along ponds and water bodies with public toilet facilities.**

Conceptual work flow diagram of the WORk- LIVE Creative cluster
PROJECT RESULTS

Work- Live Creative Cluster

Section along the Proposed WORK- LIVE Creative cluster
1. This sustainable creative cluster development model envisioned in accordance with the existing site context. This will allow the community to continue their economic activities as well as empower them to dream for bigger goals. The development framework will allow them to expand and thrive.

2. The designed model will allow communities, involved in economic activities in terms of small and medium scale creative industries like leather products, shoe making, printing etc. This will also allow them to form groups or cooperatives; the new propose building typologies allows this scope of operations.

3. The work-Live-Play typology of housing would also ensure capacity building for women and younger generations.
1. The proposed new neighborhood concept based on a **system of social institutions** forming a **new spline** of the urban system would enable social cohesion.

2. Activating the existing SWD canal and **creating recreational spaces** for the communities, thus making the canal front as a part of the larger **BLUE- GREEN** network.

3. Providing bio-swales along the canal would help reduce issues of water logging and active public parks along the canal would encourage people and kids to engage in active recreation and leisure.

4. Thus this model would help to create an Equitable model for development which can be a prototype model for the future development.