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New Surat, India-Re-defining the way we dwell



Building type
Urban Design

Location
Gujarat India

Site Area
18 Sq. Kilometers

Project Area
same

Client
KK Group

Completion Year
Ongoing

History: The developing world in its urge to grow seems to be making the same mistakes that the west made in their mad post-war rush. While some may argue that this is precisely what made them superpowers; it is our fervent belief that cities and towns in the developing world need to grow with a vision beyond the next 50 years; in order to prevent the rapid decline of cities as is witnessed in the United States today.

Client: We were approached by our clients to come up with a vision of a city that would define "smart growth" in the coming millennium.

Commitment: Terms such as "smart growth" and "sustainability" have become fashionable buzz words and have long since past their prime. Most often they are used as marketing tools which ring hollow after the first bell.

Our approach to the idea of a "smart city" in India is not bantering with terms such as "techno-hub, green buildings" etc. We wish to design an urban environment that fundamentally changes the way we dwell. Most great movements in any field evolve from an incredibly simple

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yet profound philosophical ideal.

One that is to re-capture what it means to dwell and how through the medium of design; we intend to change the way populations live and thrive in urban environments.

Concept: The conceptualized city posits a few simple rules

1. The human being must come first
2. A mother and child that grow together, dwell in harmony
3. Smart growth is achieved with significant investment in the human brain that develops new technologies
4. Dwelling is not just a physical environment; it is a philosophical and sociological environment as well.
5. Design is a key medium to the evolution of a society.
6. Local culture is integral to sustaining a city

With these few ideas in mind, we have put together a city where the people first approach, provides a hierarchy of connectivity, from a nearby airport, to monorail topped rings roads, to motorable parkways, to main roads, and most importantly pedestrian tendrils. People can drive to work, but can just as easily take other forms of transport

The design defines wellness holistically, from downtown you could get on to a network of tendril walkways or bikeways to get home. The city is designed in sectors that are planned to be self sustaining microcosms providing a valuable and necessary mix of affordable housing balanced with market housing. The neighborhoods are connected by a series of intertwined courtyards that permit seamless pedestrian flow from one to another. Sustainability flexibility and community drives their design.

The city is our effort to hope to say 'home is where the heart is'. It is about creating a legacy for our mothers and our children, defining new ideas for the youth of this generation so in turn they can leave a legacy for the generations to come. City Y defines a new way of dwelling, whether it be at work or home; with marinas, walkways, and parkways.

This is a city that resonates with words such as, history, education, commerce religion culture and art. A place where peace, sustainability and rejuvenation hold value and mean something for its inhabitants. City Y is fundamentally about the way we dwell, physically, spatially and spiritually. The time has come where we define how we rejuvenate our way of dwelling such that our mothers and children can start living.

Team

Cyrus Subawalla-Principal Designer
Gandhali Marathe- Project Architect

Previous Page & Image 2: View of Marina
Images 1-4: Pedestrian tendrils
Image 3: markets
Image 5: Neighborhoods

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