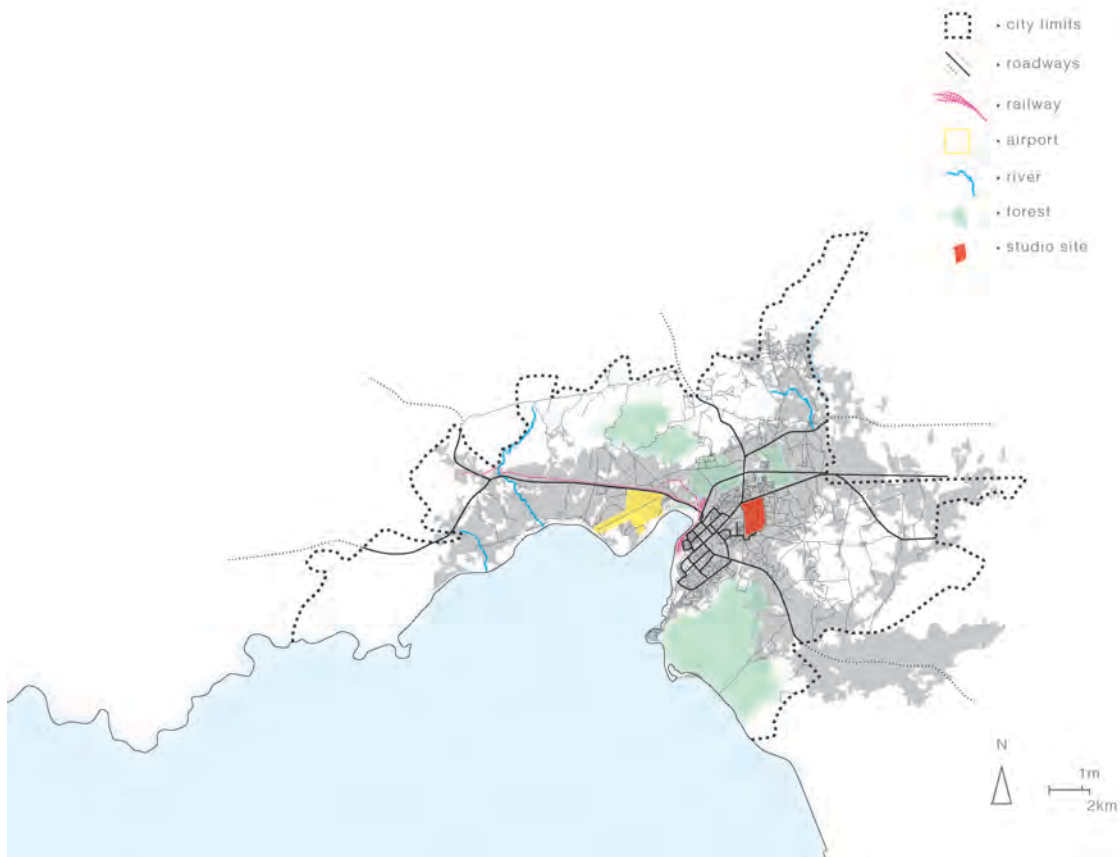

THREE DENSIFICATION MODES: Delhi, Kisumu, Medellín



INTRODUCTION

The subject of this Studio is a comparative urban dialogue between New Delhi, Kisumu, and Medellín. Like dynamic cities everywhere, they share concerns about the form of their continuing expansion and the consequent mandates for compact growth. This dialogue is of particular interest given the diversity of character and context of each, within the broad context of development in the "Global South." The New Delhi mandate involves densification of the Lutyens Plan for the original colonial city, long considered an international landmark in early 20th century urban design. In question is the evolution of this culturally significant and highly formalized hallmark from its ceremonial significance as new Capitol of India to expanded meaning as center of a new commercial metropolis. The Kisumu mandate also entails urban densification, but with sharply contrasting origins and formal characteristics evolving out of the commercial functionalism of an early 20th century port city. In question is the upgrading of areas along a rapidly growing growth corridor, within municipal resource constraints. The Medellín mandate entails densification of the "informal sector" periphery, within the context of a city recently transformed by new political will and substantial investment. In question is the next phase of development for a city that has become an international "textbook" case in terms of innovative urban design initiatives and projects. For each of the three cities, detailed study sites have been carefully chosen as particular "fragments" that will serve as windows through which to view the larger question of their respective development modes, and to comparatively explore "saturation" levels of density within the respective urban contexts.



Site 1: KISUMU, KENYA

Kisumu dates from the early 20th century as a British colonial era enterprise. In 1901 a major port facility was constructed at this location as the terminus of the Uganda Railway facilitating commerce via Lake Victoria. Within Kenya's rapidly urbanizing context, Kisumu has arrived at a current population of over 500,000, making it the third largest city in Kenya. In 1963, when Kenya achieved independence from Britain only eight percent of the population was urban; now it is over 35 percent and is projected to be 50 percent by 2050. Culturally it lies within the international territory of the Luo peoples within the Lake Victoria basin. Today it enjoys a strategic position as a business center for East Africa, and as an agricultural center surrounded by fertile lands that produce abundant sugar and rice.. The port makes Kisumu a gateway from Kenya into the Great Lakes Region, connecting to Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A new rail connection under construction connecting Kisumu with Nairobi, Mombasa and Malaba will considerably enhance commerce. Agriculture in the region remains vital, with numerous new initiatives including fish farming and coffee production. Kenya's recently adopted new constitution, devolution of power to the counties, and its growing and robust economy make this a dynamic time for urban design initiatives in Kisumu.

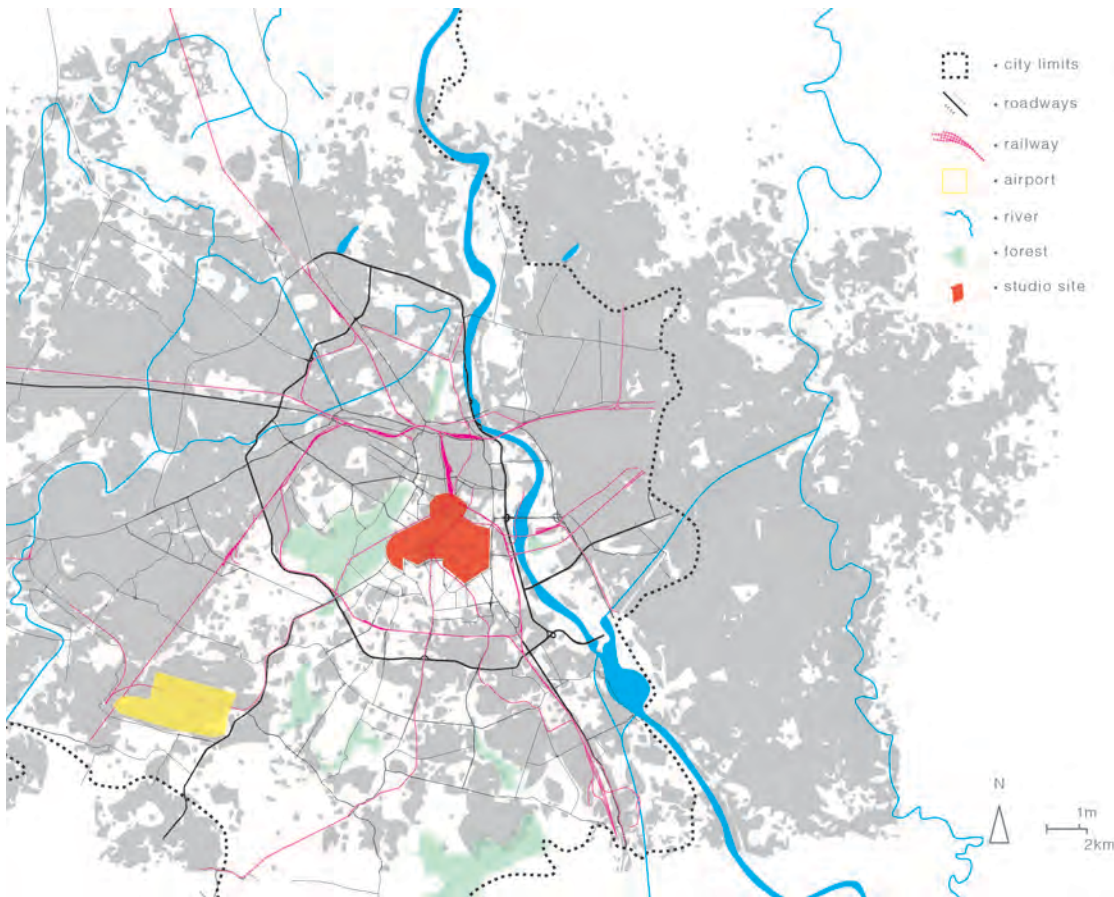
Kisumu Mandate

The specific sites for the MSAUD Studio are the areas of Manyatta A and Manyatta B, which have been earmarked for development in the recently prepared Kisumu Urban Plan. These unplanned areas are located next to the formal grid of the colonial city and are now in the path of rapid growth and real estate pressures. They are also among the most densely populated areas of Kisumu. While the development of Manyatta A is triggered by the construction of the highway and bypass road to its North, Manyatta B is being stirred from its near rural setting to respond to new opportunities. Manyatta is home to a native Luo population with strong cultural traditions and livelihoods based upon urban farming, and legal tenure of the very large homesteads in which they live among their extended families. The area also has a growing

migrant population that rents from the natives, and brings economic vitality to the area. The mandate for the studio is to re-envision Manyatta to help absorb development pressures from the downtown area, while also designing to preserve and enhance the life style and cultural assets of its current residents. This studio work will be directly incorporated into upgrading initiatives under way in Kisumu; and will be incorporated into an Earth Institute Urban Design Lab publication toward that end.

Sponsors and Collaborators in Kisumu

Our work will be made with the support of the Earth Institute's Millennium Cities Initiative and its Kisumu Office, together with the Earth Institute Urban Design Lab. Collaborators in Kisumu include the Catholic Organization for Relief & Development Aid (Cordaid), Maseno University and the Municipal Council of Kisumu (MCK).



Site 2: DELHI, INDIA

Delhi, India's "National Capitol Region" has grown to over 22 million, making it one of the largest urban conurbations in the world. It has been urbanized in various fragments over the last two millennia. Within this context, New Delhi is one of the eleven districts of Delhi, and has remained relatively immune from developmental pressure until the present, due to its enormous cultural and political significance as the Capitol complex for India. It dates from the famous plan designed by the British architects, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker (1911-1931). This entirely new urban complex was to house all of the government functions that were moved from Calcutta, and remains today as a highly formalized expression of the British colonial planning conventions at the height of empire. With a population of 250,000, New Delhi remains a municipal entity within the much larger Capitol Region. Given the hyper-development context of Delhi, there is growing pressure for redevelopment of New Delhi, and for study of the potentials for densification within the Lutyens plan. Proposed changes to the Lutyens plan are

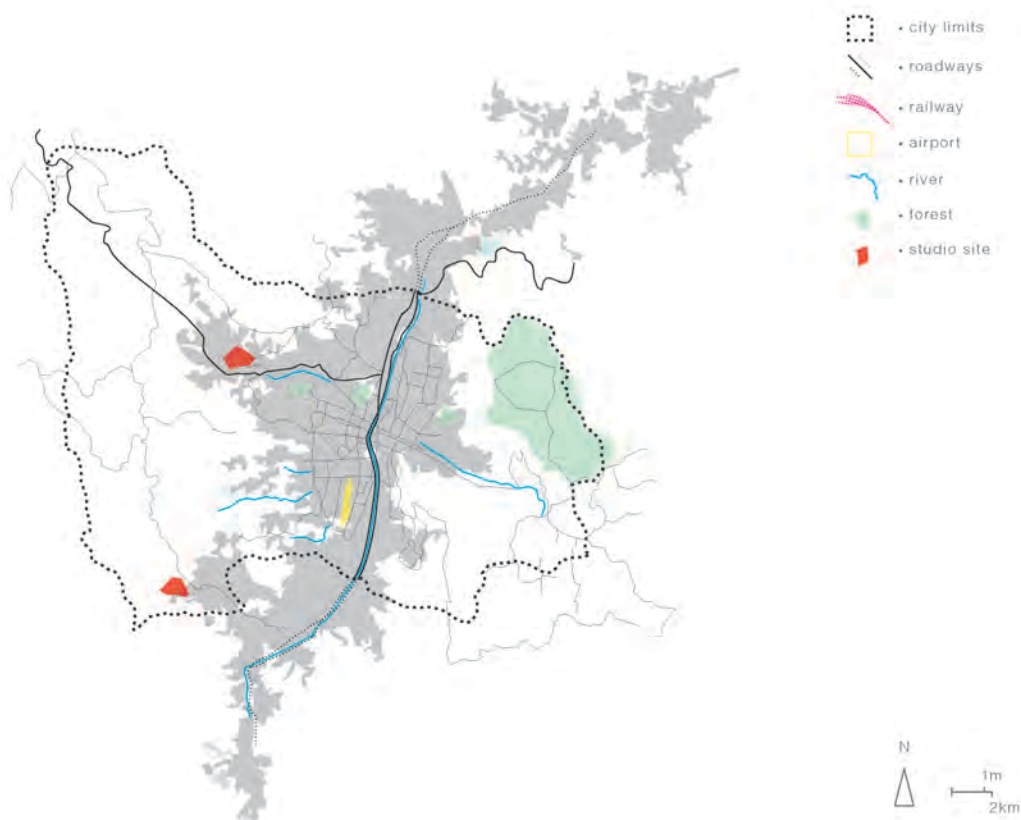
controversial, such that to date no such comprehensive urban design study has been completed.

New Delhi Mandate

The MSAUD studio will explore the question of new urban fabric infill alternatives in New Delhi's sparsely populated ceremonial core. In spite of its low density, this core is the best-served part of Delhi in terms of infrastructure, transportation and cultural amenities. It is surrounded by growing rings of dense and often haphazard development. Studio work will investigate Delhi's intense real estate pressures, socio-economic stratification, and ecological issues. The significance of the Lutyens composition to India's national identity will be analyzed, as well as the complexity of historic preservation at this scale. Additionally the requirements of a growing number of pedestrians in this car-centric area of New Delhi will need to be considered, in the context of its newly built Metro lines. The studio will re-envision this symbolic area to accommodate the modern-day needs of its citizens related to its public realm, mixed-use higher density residential uses, and office, recreational and commercial areas, to posit socially equitable and ecologically sustainable solutions. Our exploration of the spatial and functional alteration of the center of government of India will generate high visibility, and will reinforce the national importance of this studio initiative.

Sponsors and Collaborators in Delhi

Our work will be made in collaboration with faculty and students at the School of Planning and Architecture; with the resources and consultation of the New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC), the Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).



Site 3: MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

With a population of 2.4 million and an urban agglomeration of more than 3.5 million, Medellín is the second largest city in Colombia and among the most important in Latin America. It was founded as a

Spanish colonial outpost in 1616. In 1826, toward the end of the Spanish colonial period, it was designated as the capitol of a large region comprising parts of present-day Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama. The nature of its strategic location has to do with natural resource extraction, initially gold; and with the commercialization of a high quality coffee production. From the early 20th century until the 1970's, it became the most important industrial region of the country. Changes in the global economy, including cheaper labor elsewhere, plunged the city into a crisis with a proliferation of drug trafficking and its related violence that made it one of the most dangerous places on earth. The renewal of the city in recent years as global player in spite of the geographical restrictions, gives evidence of its well-known culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. These characteristics are precisely what brought the society together to change the environment that violence had imposed on the city during the 1980's and '90's; an effort that involved civil society, industry, culture and the public sector. The situation was reversed in a return to a very innovative city. Broad issues were addressed including social inequality and lack of inclusion for economic opportunity. This reversal makes Medellín a valuable case-study for cities everywhere, and as such in 2013 it was awarded in 2013 City of the Year award by the Wall Street Journal and Citi Global Competition, as the most innovative city of the world precisely for its efforts to repay a social debt by providing the best quality urbanism, architecture, civic amenities and infrastructure for the poorest population. In 2014 it will host the World Urban Forum where social equity will be a principal topic.

Medellín Mandate

The MSAUD studio will concentrate on densification for two specific sites: Corregimiento de San Antonio de Prado and Corregimiento de San Cristobal. "Corregimiento" is a term for rural administrative units; large rural land parcels on the periphery of the city. In particular, our sites are located at the top of the mountains that form the Aburra Valley towards the south and northwest respectively. Originally they were agricultural lands with the evolution of small urban cores that today are under intense development pressure because of the lower prices of land; lax building regulation and weak state control. We will study alternatives for consolidation of its urban centralities, with possibilities for reducing the urbanization pressure on land valuable for other uses including urban agricultural production. Related consideration will include the pressure imposed by infrastructural developments like at San Cristobal, which will be impacted by the proposed development of a deep-water port for Antioquia State (of which Medellín is capital city). It will entail development of new routes that would cross the *Corregimiento*; as well as other difficulties of connectivity for San Antonio de Prado and in particular through a corridor known for violence related to illicit commerce. Both sites present issues related to housing and habitat, public space, and economic mobility for their inhabitants. They tend to exist primarily as dormitory sites instead of more complete centralities that support an acceptable quality of life. Both sites are a major concern of the current Mayor and the Planning Department; as places on the border of the city that must be mandated to function as transition space, area for growth management, and with provision of adequate services for its people. The visibility of this studio work will be enhanced by the concurrent UN Habitat World Urban Forum to be held in Medellín in Spring 2014.

Sponsors and Collaborators

Our work will be made in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana and the Earth Institute Urban Design Lab, with support from the Institute for Metropolitan and Regional Studies; the Administrative Department of City Planning of Medellín; and the Agency for International Cooperation of Medellín and Antioquia

SITE VISITS AND BRIEFINGS (inclusive dates)*:

Kisumu: Monday 9:00am (work begins), January 13 thru Friday, January 17

New Delhi: Sunday 9:00am (work begins), January 19 thru Thursday, January 23

Medellin: Monday 9:00am (work begins), February 10 to Friday, February 14

*NOTE 1: The above dates have been set by the sponsoring local institutions. The detailed site visit itineraries for all cities will be issued toward the end of the Fall 2013 Semester. **All students are**

expected to be in attendance at Columbia during the first full week of classes, January 27 to January 31. All site briefings comprise an intensive period of lectures, site visits, and documentation that must be attended in full. The William Kinne Fellows endowment provides a travel stipend for each student, normally to the maximum of approximately \$2,000.

*NOTE 2: The above intensive working periods for each city is the minimum time needed. Additional days may be added (with or without Faculty) at the discretion of each team and in coordination with our host organizations.

*NOTE 3: The capacity for each site visit will be approximately one-third (20 students) of the class. The studio work teams will be organized accordingly. In the event that the numbers do not conform, a lottery will be held in order to balance.