

Thanksgiving 1966

1/NY was covered for 3 days during the Thanksgiving weekend of 1966

SLOW ARCHITECTURE

Architecture and urban design are important elements of the reflection of our contemporary cultural identity. The ongoing search of defining that cultural identity, ecological friendly architecture and sustainable urban design should play a more important role than it does in the present situation. I think it is important to put the ever growing commercial pressure aside for a more tangible, humane, more perceptible, friendlier and sustainable architecture. More space for reflection, thinking and dreaming. Slow down.

This design approach requires extensive research into the complex layers of history and culture, into the specifics of the environment, sociology, biodiversity, but also building materials and craftsmanship. Research is an inclusive part of my working method. The people, the children, the different communities are the most important and valuable stakeholders in this search.

In my talk I will touch upon the so called 'open design process' in which listening and sharing of ideas/concepts becomes the starting point. This creates a higher level of ownership. Over a period of two years my team and I visited 12 cities in India, including Kolkata, using scenario thinking and future mapping as tools of re-invention. We have to look critically at how most architects and most planners sometimes forget who they design for; people !

In the Slow Architecture talk, I will present a 3-year journey called DELHi2050. I will highlight several challenges of urban South Asia and how mapping, info-graphics and conceptual physical models can be used as tools for *Making City*.