

Sustainability and Cities

A Phenomenological Exploration of Urban settlements

Why Petta ?

Being the oldest part of the city and its geographic center its layered with history and culture, that can be seen in its ethnic and linguistic diversity through ages. Over the years Petta has grown on its own the effects of rapid urbanization around the rest of the city has brought in gradual change.

The traditional activities now deemed obsolete are being replaced by warehouses and commercial complexes while the younger generation moves out of the Petta towards an ever growing city to pursue more lucrative lifestyle that the IT city offers. The Petta still sustains as an economic hub of the city as it continues to embrace and adapt to the rapidly changing demands of the modern economy and culture, accommodating people of ethnic, linguistic, regional and national diversity while still retaining its identity over the ages.

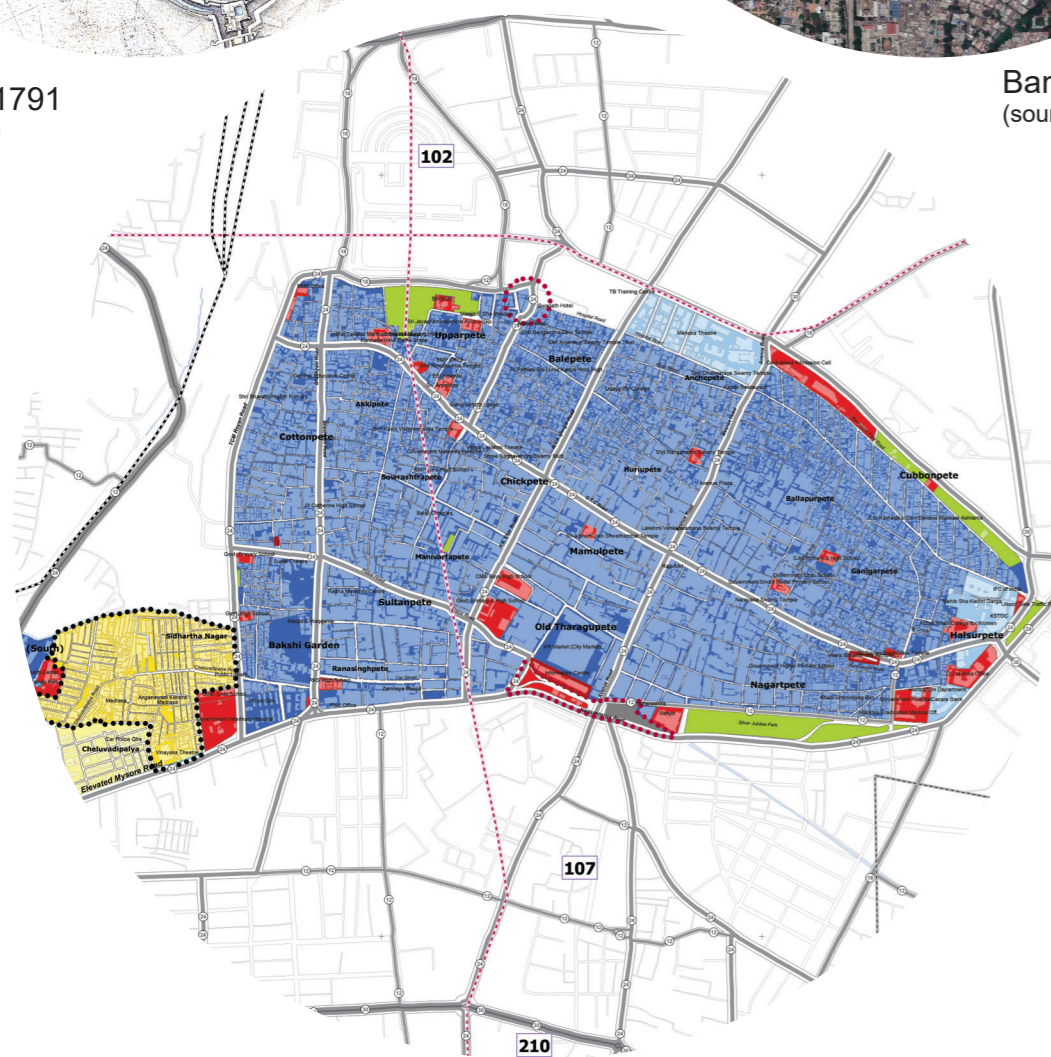
The Petta with its informal economy has always been as place of opportunities for people of all socio-economic backgrounds, gender and religion, the businesses across Petta blend in with the social and structural elements where the streets and squares are used by the inhabitants for professional activities and as an extension of their private spaces, this blurs the distinction between public and private where neighborhoods are bazaars and societies at once, that brings in its own complexities.

Despite of all these offerings there is an evident gap between the proposed plans of its development along the rest of the city these plans and proposals miss on the complex social and cultural structures within the Petta that are key to its sustenance. Through our exploration of the Petta we have tried to bring out these missing aspects through the voices of the inhabitants of Petta.



Bangalore Petta 1791 (source: British Library)

Bangalore Petta 2017 (source: Google Earth)



Bangalore Petta proposed Land use map 2015 (source: Bangalore Development Authority)

Transformation



Fort and Pettah of Bangalore 1849 (source: p.139 The Wesleyan juvenile offering)



B.V.K. Iyengar Road 19th century (source: TN Vasudeva Murthy)



Avenue Road, Doddapete (Chickpete) (source: TN Vasudeva Murthy)



Krishna Rajendra Market 1928



March 2017



December 2017



December 2017



Krishna Rajendra Market BGS Flyover 2016 (source: Wikimedia Commons)

Voices across Petta.



"People from all communities, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, all are here. Similarly, we have Kannada, Tamil, Telegu, we will all live as brothers and sisters in harmony." "Yes, a community for all. Where everyone is in peace."
- Zahir, Auto rickshaw driver



"I do think of that every day (about travelling 30-35 km every day, for work) but here I can spend some time, talk with my friends here, make some money also. There in the village no one will give money for talking, I don't feel like spending time there, no one will give me money, I have no one to support me, I only have a daughter."
- Begum, salesperson in KR market



"Bangalore is best as compared to all for us, I haven't been to any place, for me Bangalore is best, there is no problem here. Here we are getting food from our work, for us its best. Bangalore is no. 1 in India for us. There is no problem here."
- Muhammed Zahir, Auto rickshaw driver



"In the starting thiee was a big problem of the language, it was very difficult for us to do business, now its much diverse and people have adaptd to different cultures"
- Dinanath Mishra



"I miss home a lot, here there are no friends, there (Pali, Rajasthan) I have friends. We used to play there, here I (only) work."
"Yes, there are issues. It is different. I am new here, it's a bit difficult right now to fit in."
- Pitambar, salesperson in a shop



"A small structure as a home, one horse, one car, some greenery around."



SUSTAIN BY DESIGN

Sustain by Design was a studio on investigating the Sustainable Development Goals in creative and critical ways. Art and Design students engaged with specific issues on the ground in Bangalore, India.

SDGs Project Lead: Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE).

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