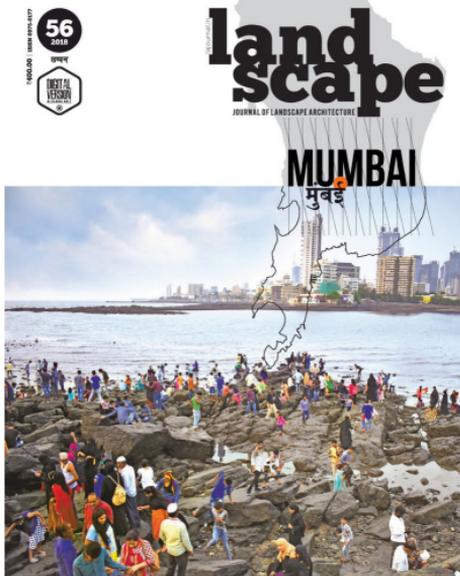


Landscape Planning for Risk Reduction and Resilience Building

Although landscape studies have long been a part of architecture and design disciplines, it is only recently that the landscape of risk reduction and resilience building is coming up in discussion among policy makers and planners. The landscape of risk (and resilience) is becoming an important area of study as demand for leadership to reduce risk and norms that safeguard humanity is increasing in South Asia.

Over twenty interviews of India's leading disaster risk reduction and resilience experts conducted by All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) for Save the Children, India, suggest the need for a new way of looking at risk and resilience. And landscape studies may be



one way to plan risk reduction and resilience building.

In this light, a recent 56th issue of Journal of Landscape Architecture, 2018 on Mumbai offers a range of ideas to consider. The issue leads the readers to find a new way of reading risk in maps, reports,

and development projects as Shilpa Gaurish Chandawarkar suggests. Writings on cities do not directly deal with risks but needs a way of reading risk that is yet to be developed, that is yet latent, and that is yet evolving. By locating risk and resilience in her framework, we find a new way to read risk in plans and planning process. Shiraz Allibhai in this issue throws light on nurturing risk reduction and resilience in a city: what it takes; what it means; and who has a lead role to play. Though he per se does not talk about risk, or resilience, he indeed tells a lot about nurturing in urban areas beyond Mumbai. What can be done can be done in many similar and different cities or towns of India. And that is the potency of Mumbai I have admired. Saylee Soundalgekar is talking about publicness in her piece, what disaster risk reduction experts can find in her piece is a way of

experiencing urban risk in public spaces. In most disaster risk reduction studies and research, risk is down there in the locality or a plan, away from disaster risk reduction experts and Saylee invites experts to experience specific risk before planning process is started.

The time has come for architects, landscape designers, and disaster risk reduction experts to jointly find an additional narrative for risk in cities that can help make safer plans. And we know that a single narrative is never enough to turn ideas into a doable plan, even if the narrative is scientific or technical and about urban risk.

If India wants to leave no one behind in its efforts to make its cities safe from disaster risks, additional ways of landscape studies and planning must be explored. ■

- Mihir R. Bhatt