

Transforming Cities through Public Spaces

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492 million

Urban residents
currently in SAR

112 cities

Additional cities with
more than 300,000
persons by 2030

\$830 billion

Infrastructure backlog -
roads, water, sanitation

Big Opportunities **Big Challenges**

200+ million

People living in slums

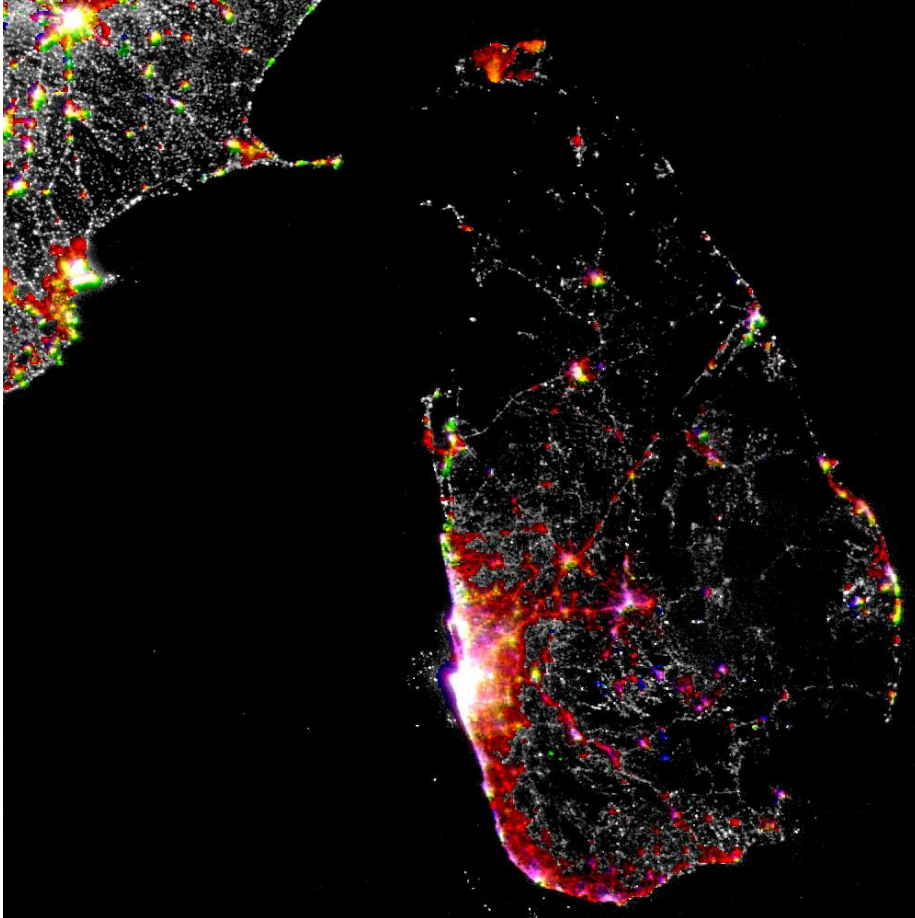
\$80 billion

Direct losses from
natural disasters
between 1971 & 2009

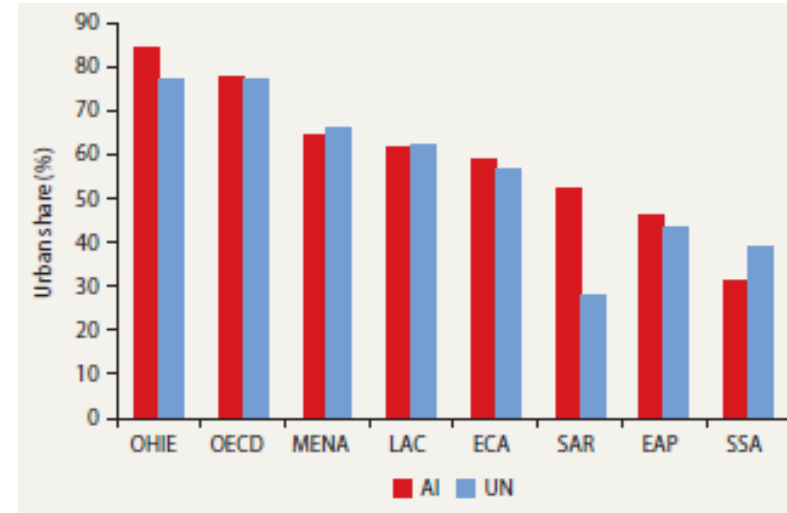
42 percent

SAR's share of world's poor;
1/3rd of total population

Urbanization has been messy and hidden

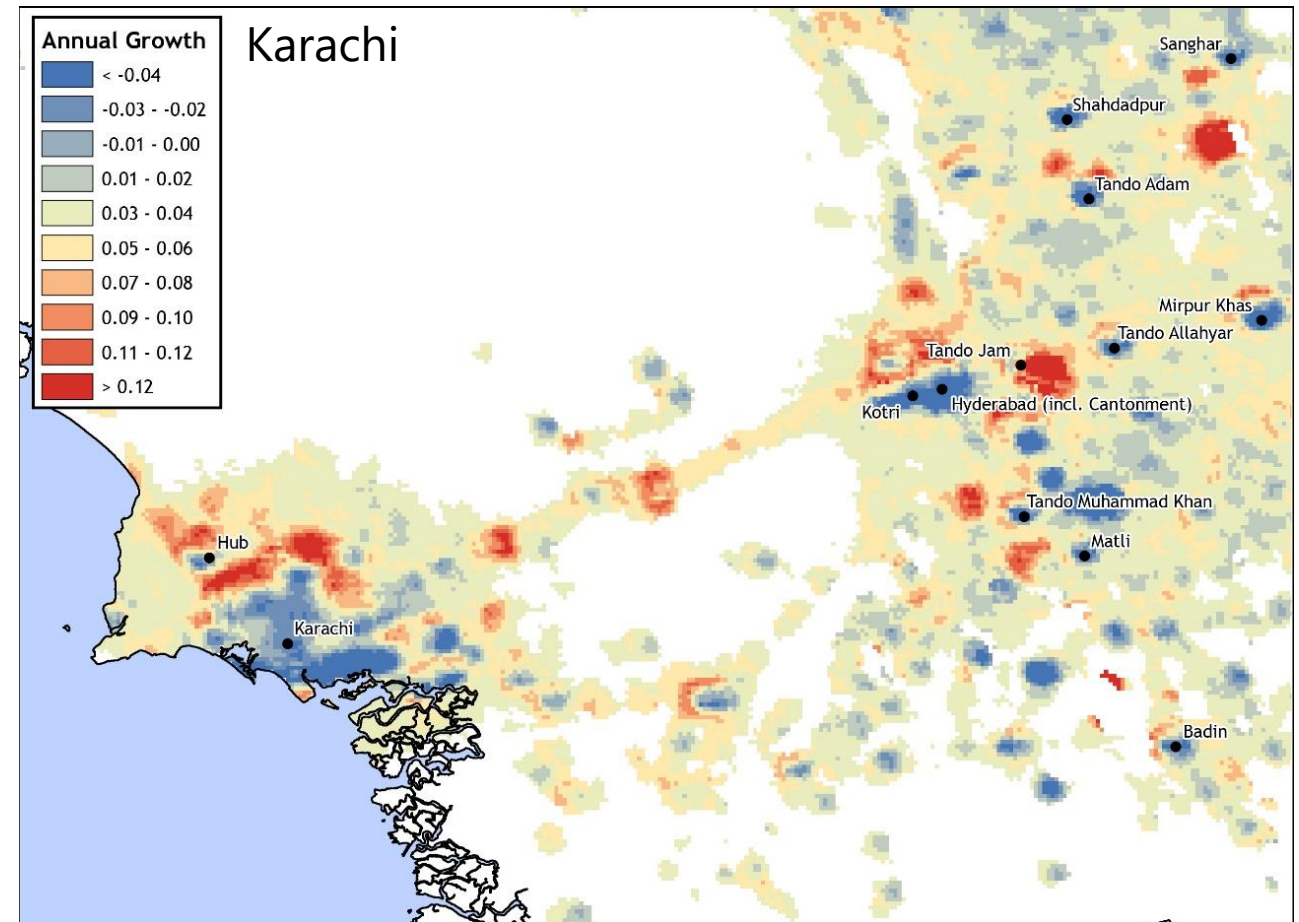
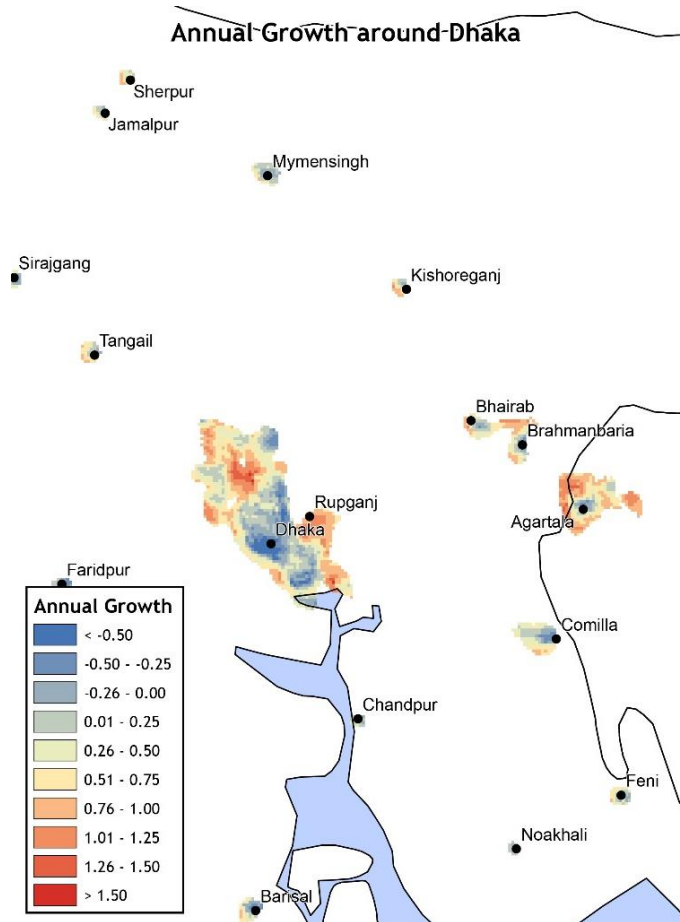


Tri-temporal nighttime lights image for Sri Lanka – red indicates new lights that emerged 2002 - 2012



- Messy urbanization associated with expansion into areas formally classified as rural
- This has contributed to hidden urbanization
- Urban settlements governed as rural

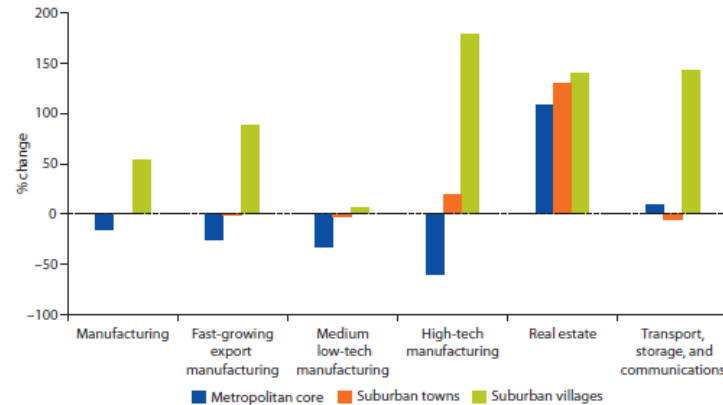
For many major cities, sprawl accompanied by stagnating urban cores



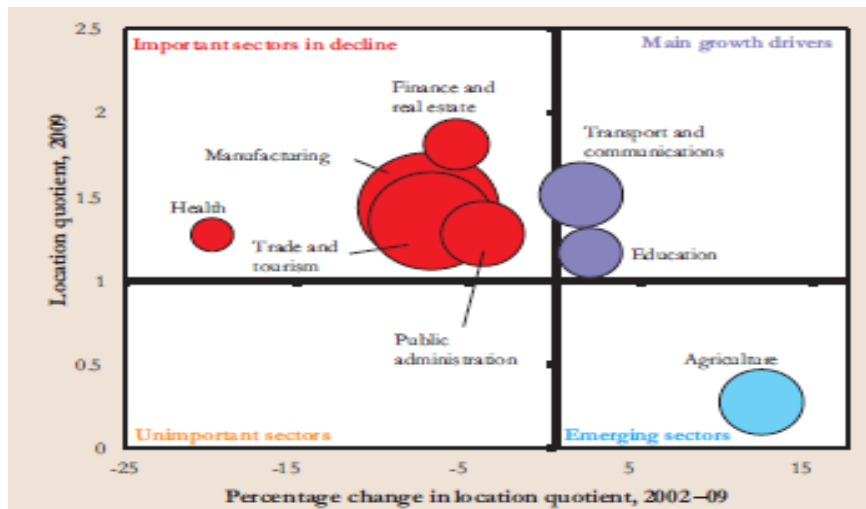
Manufacturing moving-out of major urban centers

Manufacturing moving out of Indian metro cores

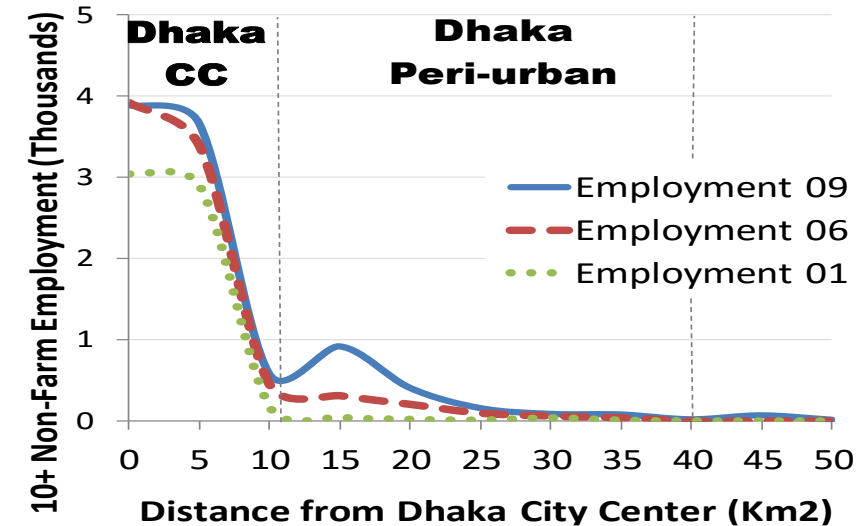
Figure 0.1 Employment Growth in Metropolitan Cores and Peripheries by Sector, 1998–2005



Declining manufacturing specialization in Colombo Metro Region

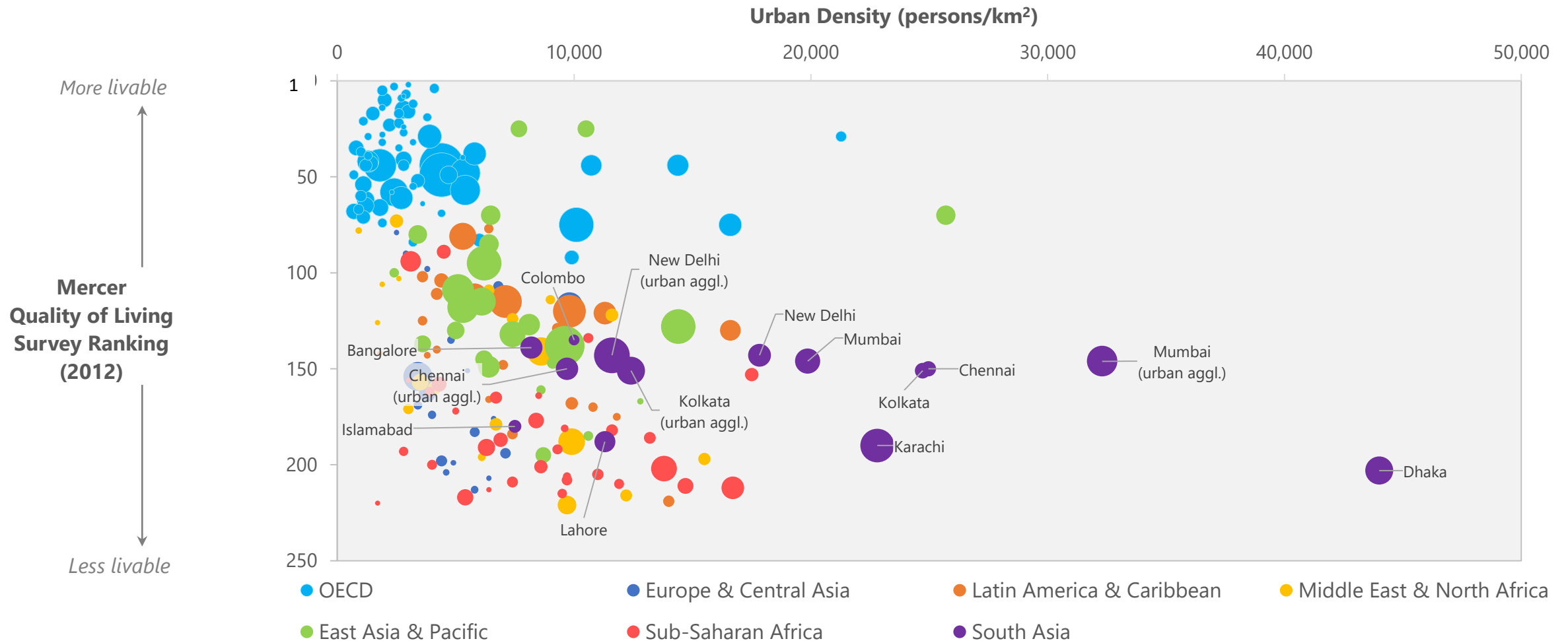


Sub-urbanization of garment manufacturing in Dhaka



De-concentration presents opportunity to move land to higher value uses (e.g. higher value-added services)

Not a livable city, by many measures

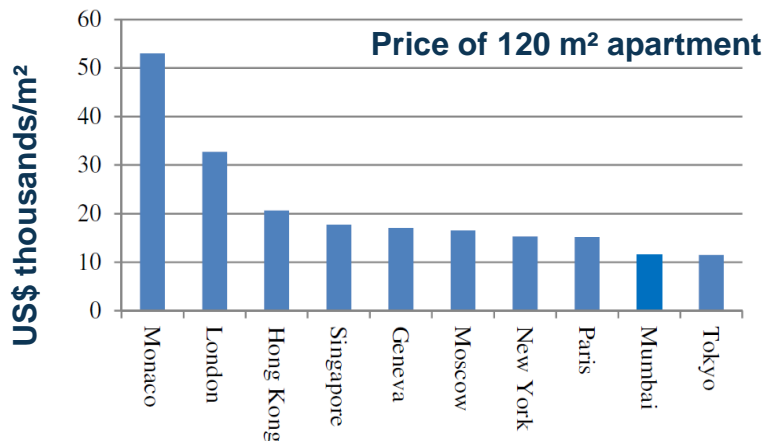


Sources: Mercer Quality of Living Survey (2012); United Nations Statistics Division (2014)

Congestion is Pervasive in South Asia



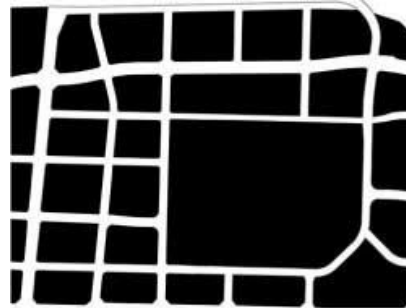
Successful cities are busy cities



Source: WB staff team based on Global Property Guide data

- Reflected both on the streets & in property markets:
 - London traffic moves at approx. same speed as in 19th century
 - London, Hong Kong, Singapore & New York amongst world's most expensive property markets
- Willingness to bear high costs because of strength of agglomeration economies
- **SAR** – high congestion costs balance agglomeration economies at much lower productivity levels

Public spaces occupy a big part of the city



MISSISSAUGA



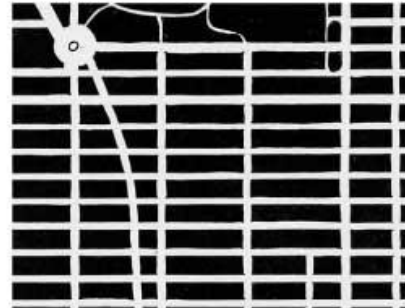
BARCELONA



COPENHAGEN



LONDON



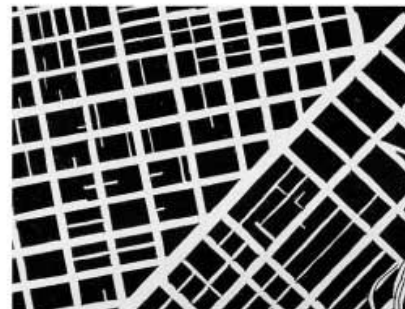
NEW YORK



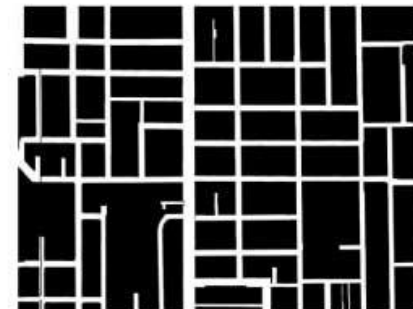
PARIS



ROME



SAN FRANCISCO



TORONTO

Public spaces are not just “nice to have”

Safety & Inclusion

*Metrocable/Public Spaces
Medellin, Colombia*



Before



After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Reduced crime rate
- ✓ Increased urban mobility
- ✓ Increased civic pride
- ✓ Increased access to public infrastructure
- ✓ Increased social inclusion

Recreation & Resilience

*Sabarmati Riverfront
Ahmedabad, India*



Before



After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Improved flood protection
- ✓ Increased access to public infrastructure
- ✓ Improved recreational space
- ✓ Increased social inclusion

Downtown Renewal

*Cheonggyecheon Stream
Seoul, Korea*



Before



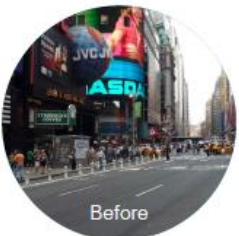
After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased biodiversity
- ✓ Reduced pollution
- ✓ Reduced heat island effect
- ✓ Increased access to green space
- ✓ Increased property values

Streetscape Improvement

*Times Square
New York City, USA*



Before



After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Improved pedestrian safety
- ✓ Reduced traffic congestion
- ✓ Improved capacity for public events
- ✓ Improved recreational space

Environmental Transformation

*Nanjido Park
Seoul, Korea*



Before



After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased biodiversity
- ✓ Improved air quality
- ✓ Increased civic pride
- ✓ Increased access to green space
- ✓ Improved recreational space

Historic Preservation

*Historic District
Lahore, Pakistan*



Before



After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased tourism
- ✓ Increased economic activity
- ✓ Increased community engagement
- ✓ Increased civic pride

Ecological Integration

*Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park
Bishan, Singapore*



Before



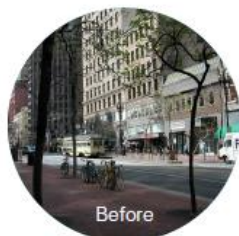
After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased biodiversity
- ✓ Reduced pollution
- ✓ Increased access to green space
- ✓ Increased property values

Innovation & Engagement

*Living Innovation Zones
San Francisco, USA*



Before



After

IMPACT:

- ✓ Increased civic pride
- ✓ Increased civic engagement
- ✓ Increased access to innovation
- ✓ Increased social inclusion
- ✓ Increased cultural vibrance

More inclusive, livable, and vibrant cities need #BetterPublicSpaces

SDG Goal 11, Target 7



Access to green spaces and better public places



Public spaces are assets, yet ...

Vehicles displace pedestrians; poor walkability



Streets have become major sources of congestion; public spaces unusable



Many cities have managed to transform themselves by leveraging their public space assets

Colombo, Sri Lanka



Medellin, Colombia



Examples of rapid results interventions



Crosswalks and traffic calming



Garbage collection



Pedestrianization



Sidewalk seating



Neighborhood Markets



Playgrounds



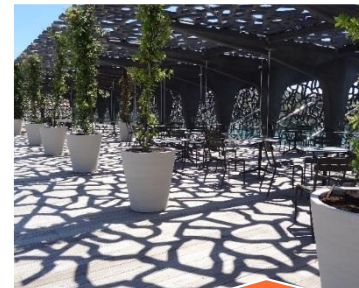
Safety features



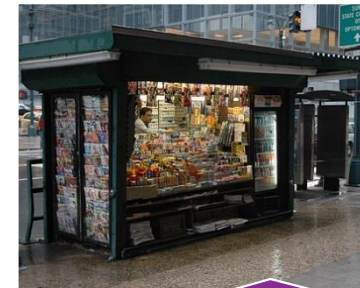
Burying cables



Street markets



Shade & lighting



Vendor kiosks



Neighborhood parks

Karachi: Example of a Rapid Results Project

Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project (KNIP)

- » Immediately following the *Karachi City Diagnostic*
- » \$100M, Board approval in April 2017
- » Focus on enhancing public spaces and mobility in 3 strategic neighborhoods
- » Framework approach to select and appraise sub-projects during implementation

KNIP uses highly visible, yet low-cost improvements to **demonstrate potential** for city transformation, **build consensus** and political buy-in, and **lay the institutional groundwork** for deep reforms and long-term engagements.



Buriganga Riverfront Redevelopment, South Dhaka

Conceptual Design



River ports infrastructure



Pedestrianization

Cultural heritage preservation

Landscaping & Lighting

Linear parks

Riverfront Promenade (during dry season)

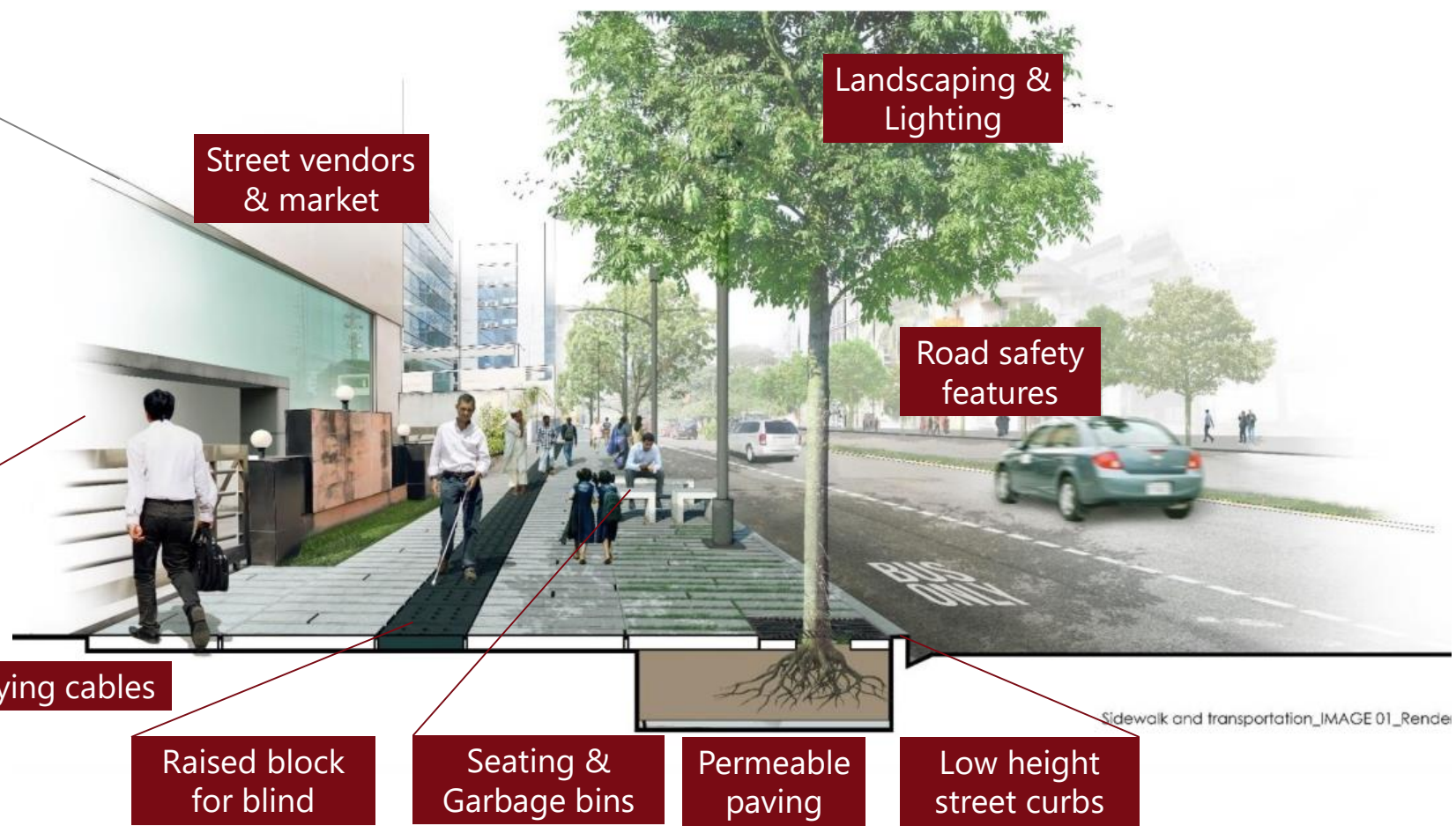
Riverfront Promenade (during rainy season)

Garbage collection

Sidewalk seating

Gulshan Avenue Walkability and Traffic Improvement, North Dhaka

Conceptual Design



Active ground floor

Street vendors & market

Landscaping & Lighting

Road safety features

Burying cables

Raised block for blind

Seating & Garbage bins

Permeable paving

Low height street curbs

Ahmedabad: BRT and Redevelopment



- City has well connected ring & radial roads corresponding to built-up areas
- BRT system helps improve air quality and has had a positive impact on urban development
- Land readjustment used successfully to redefine land-use and finance BRT

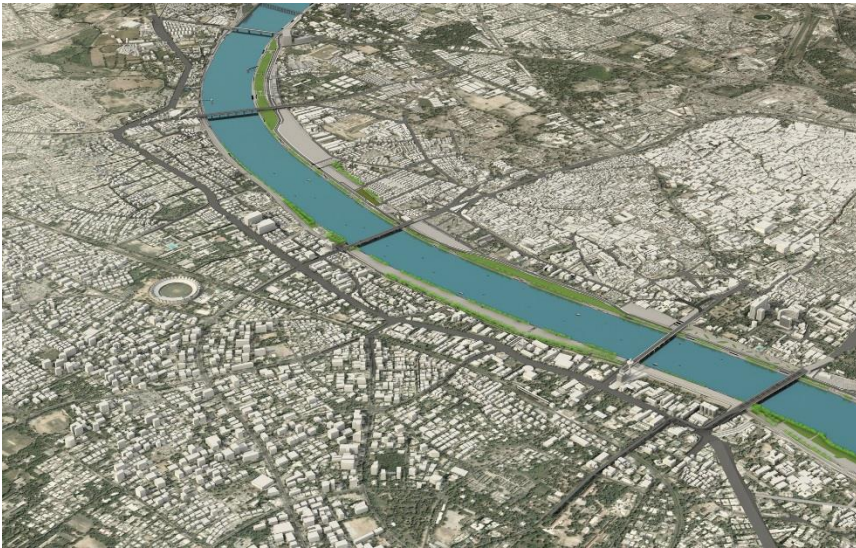
Ahmedabad CBD Densification



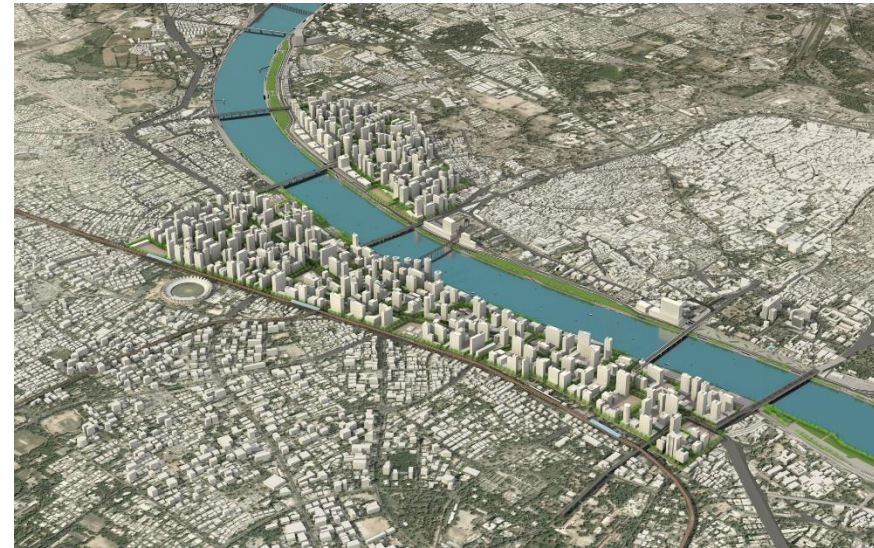
Existing Street Network



Proposed Street Network



Existing Low-Density Development in CBD



Proposed High-Density Development in CBD

Source: Bimal Patel, 2014.

Key Ingredients of a Metropolitan Transformation Strategy

Key ingredients of a metro area diagnostic and transformation strategy

1 City leadership

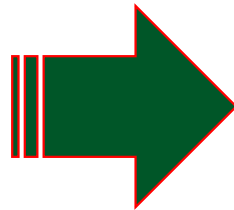
- » Shared vision and action plan
- » Proactive metropolitan planning
- » Coordinated institutions

2 Planning and Investments

- » Actionable planning documents
- » Catalytic interventions
- » Adequate financial resources

3 Meaningful consultations

- » Local communities
- » Private businesses
- » Civil society & NGOs



Comprehensive data-driven approach to analyze the economy, livability and key infrastructure needs

Identify key challenges and opportunities for transformation as a livable and prosperous city

Moving towards prosperous and livable cities

- Policymakers must focus on alleviating both current and future congestion pressures
- Strengthen urban governance and finance
- Manage urban sprawl and expansion
- Focus on city core rejuvenation



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