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Tracing the Logic of Past & Conjecturing the Future

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	A	H	M	E	D	A	B	A	D
	FABRIC SAMPLE - 1 OLD CITY - MANEK CHOWK MONARCHY	FABRIC SAMPLE - 2 MALEK SABAH THE ARRIVAL OF BROTHERS	FABRIC SAMPLE - 3 ASARVA THE HILL ERA AND CHAWLS	FABRIC SAMPLE - 4 ISANPUR INDUSTRIAL ERA	FABRIC SAMPLE - 5 SOLA GHE HOUSING	FABRIC SAMPLE - 6 NEHRUNAGAR IP SCHEME	FABRIC SAMPLE - 7 WADAJ IP SCHEME	FABRIC SAMPLE - 8 PRAHLADNAGAR NEW IP SCHEME	FABRIC SAMPLE - 9 GOOREJ GARDEN CITY RESIDENTIAL TOWNSHIP
GOOGLE IMAGE BASE SATELLITE IMAGE									
BUILT V/S OPEN OPEN AREA ANALYSIS									
PUBLIC REALM ASSESSIBLE OPEN SPACES									
LAND USE PATTERN VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS									
BYELAWS & ABSTRACTS									
NETWORK CONNECTIONS									
TPOLOGY UNIT TYPE, EVOLUTION ORGANIZATION PERSPECTIVES									
ACTIVITY MAPPING NATURE OF PUBLIC REALM									
VISUAL EXPERIENCE URBAN FORM									

All the cities are different from each other. This variation is observed in the urban form and the urban pattern. These urban patterns are human response to natural land. Each city has a certain geography, climate, natural resources and natural deficit. Humans respond to these conditions and built the city that makes each city different from the other. But as the cities grow, there are certain forces that give the cities, its urban form, such as nature, socio cultural, economical, technological, etc. These forces characterize the urban form and space. Also these forces which instill the urban form change and the shift in these forces lead to the shift in the urban form. There lies no edge where this shift can be identified in the form, but lie a logic which can be traced by critically analyzing the typo-morphology of the city. These forces are social, political, technological, cultural, economical, natural, etc. Any shift in these forces will lead to change in urban form and typology. These forces can be traced from the different parts of the city as they have evolved and logical conclusions can be drawn which makes the understanding of the city efficient. At the same time studying these factors and shifts in them, can conjecture the future shifts and hence can suggest the design of cities and the built form.

Everything we see around us, from mobile phones to built form to cities, is a response to the shifts that has occurred in the factors responsible for the constant change. These factors are not mutually exclusive but are intertwined in a complex layers, difficult to be decoded the implication of one on the other. To prepare a comprehensive list of the factors that lead to the change, following are few:

- 1) The level of technological development;
- 2) The particular level and type of construction;
- 3) The form of political organization;
- 4) The type of economy;
- 5) The dominant type of transportation and/or movement;
- 6) The religious culture and particular customs of the society being studies;
- 7) The policies and byelaws by the governing authorities; and
- 8) The Natural factors affecting the city structure and extension.

Any shift in these factors brings in change in the built environment around us. To understand how these factors and shifts actually affect our cities, urban morphology becomes the right tool to trace the logic of city building activity under these parameters.

Let us see these factors and shifts in them, in case of city of Ahmedabad, which has seen a spectrum of 600 years and trace the logic of the urban form and pattern. We take 9 samples from the city of Ahmedabad, each sample being 500mX500m and selected through a transect based on the evolution pattern. For example, one sample from the walled city of Ahmedabad, which now is World Heritage City to a sample from out skirts of Ahmedabad – a town ship which is growing rapidly. To understand the built-form, street pattern, the building footprint , density of each sample, and to understand why is it the way it is, we just answer to the above mentioned factors, and see the shift has happened from the previous sample and we can trace the logic of the city building activity.

Each sample unfolds a different story under each parameter starting from the mobility and movement and established the logic of narrow walk able streets to MRTS flyovers, and that intertwines to the logic of human scaled built form and intricate wood carvings to be appreciated and that shifted to high rises with signboards that can be read from a moving train at an elevated level. That is also a result of construction technology used then where the maximum wooden log size used as main structural system limited the size of the deep narrow houses with a courtyard, that are now replaced with steel building with large column less spans creating large building footprints with more and more consumption of energy for day lighting and ventilation. If one speculates the future sample for the city, and tries to conjecture the appropriate built form for the future, based on the shifts that can occur in these parameters. It will be interesting to see how city is a response to these shifts and how can we learn from the past and use the newest shifts to appreciate the learning's from the best of past to accommodate our future cities. ■