

PRAJNA RAO

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EDUCATION

Masters degree in Regional Planning, August 2008.

Cornell University, College of Art Architecture & Planning, USA.

Bachelor's degree in Architecture, May 2004.

University of Mumbai, Kamla Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute for Architecture, India.

WORKS

Mercy Corps,
Harare,
Zimbabwe

Planning Student Intern,

Jun-Aug 2007

Led a local research team in surveying the impact of new housing units on low-income resident groups using field interviews; reports included socio-economic data compilation and organisational review. Incorporated in Phase II of the International Joint Initiative.

**Growing Up
in Cities,**
Nairobi, Kenya

Project Team Leader,

Jan 2007

Led a local youth team in research on informal settlements, strategized design insertions, made presentations to the community, NGO groups and UN officials, as part of the UNESCO initiative for a safer urban habitat for children.

Design Cell,
Mumbai, India

Project Designer - Planner,

Aug 2005-July 2006

Reconfiguring mass transit nodes – Dadar railway station, Mumbai.

Administered traffic & pedestrian studies using graphs, diagrams and videos, conducted spatial analysis of various activities around the railway station area, recommending alternative traffic routes to increase pedestrian and vendor activity, drafted schematic designs for integrating vendors around the station, presented proposals to government officials and local groups. Commissioned by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

Redevelopment of mixed-use precincts – a pilot study. Mumbai.

Surveyed building conditions and movement patterns, drafted integrated strategies in land-use, transportation, infrastructure and finance – for comprehensive redevelopment of 3 civic wards. Commissioned by the Land Research Institute, approved by the All India Institute for Local Self-Government.

Revitalisation of urban heritage. Kanheri caves, Mumbai.

Conducted initial site surveys, including local and regional transport connectivity, identified local stakeholder groups and drafted a proposal for region-wide access and collaborative management of a Heritage site in Mumbai.

Reclaiming urban space. Gilbert hill, Mumbai.

Organised stakeholder meetings, conducted initial site surveys and drafted conceptual designs for proposal to reclaim community space around a national monument in Mumbai.

R M A,
Mumbai, India

Junior Architect,

Aug 2004-Aug 2005

Ayurvedic Healing Centre in Valpoi, Goa (built-up area: 2500 sq. m.)

Schematic design & development, presentation drawings and modelling, construction drawings, coordination with structural consultants and contact with clients.

Vacation / Guest House in Goa (built-up area: 1500 sq. m.)

Design development, presentation drawings and modelling, construction drawings, coordination with structural consultants and site supervision.

Office Interiors (built up area: 275 sq. m.)

Schematic design & development, presentation drawings and modelling, construction drawings, contact with clients and site supervision.

HONORS

Mario Einaudi International Research Grant - Cornell University 2007,
J.N. Tata Endowment Scholarship for Advanced Studies 2006,
Kamla Raheja Architectural Research Fellowship 2005-'06,
Charles Correa Gold Medal for Best Design Dissertation 2004,
Citation for Kamla Raheja Gold Medal 2004.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite 2, AutoCAD 2007, Sketch Up 4.0,
Dreamweaver MX, Arc GIS 9.1, SPSS 14.0, MS Office '03 & '07.