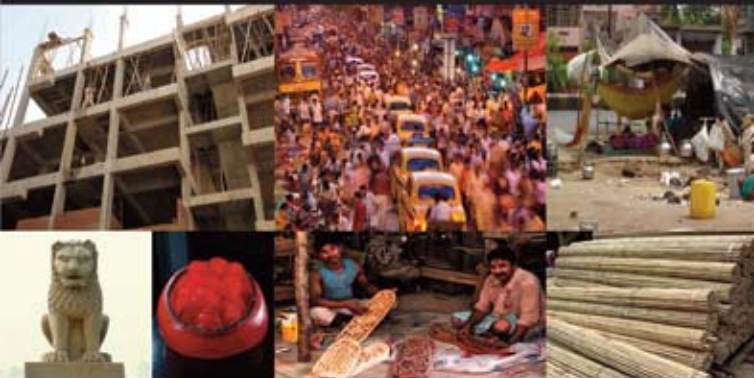


Instructors: David Mocarski & Cory Grosser

Living Home: INDIA



Creating New Furnishing Solutions for the living Environment



Transformable Furniture Solutions:

Project Brief

During our Summer Semester 2012 we will investigate the "living needs" of the low-income housing dweller in India. Due to the reduced scale of their housing units and the high occupancy, it will be necessary to explore design options for creating furnishing which are reduced in scale, transformable and/or apply themselves in new and innovative ways. To enable us to understand these needs, there will be a two-week field research trip to India, so we can first hand experience the low-income culture in India, their history and their desires. This research will assist us in understanding the parameters and restraints, which will help frame out and define this project. We will be introduced to: Indian furniture manufacturers and local craft makers. We will meet the people we are designing for first hand, so we can apply our creative ideas to their needs in a realistic and meaningful way. We will apply "Fresh Eyes" to current issues, needs and concerns and offer innovative solutions for products, materials and manufacturing opportunities. This is an outstanding project to integrate the interior living experience with the high quality low-cost housing shells being championed by Ashoka. This project will provide a venue to apply innovative design principals to an estimated 130 million low-income user base in India. We will be building full-size working proto-types to investigate the feasibility of manufacturing. It will be extremely important that we understand the influences of a historic culture and its ability to influence new ground breaking design.

Our Partner: Ashoka

Ashoka is the global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs – men and women with system changing solutions for the world's most urgent social problems. Since 1980, Ashoka has pioneered the field of social entrepreneurship in 70 countries, investing in Ashoka Fellows, who are practical visionaries with system-changing ideas. Rather than building one house or school in one community, Ashoka Fellows work at the systemic level, transforming the housing market or the way children learn. Furthermore, Ashoka is creating a network effect by linking 80 percent of the leading social entrepreneurs to many of their business entrepreneur peers, which then creates multiple dimensions of financial and community partnerships.

Housing for All

Over one billion people – 32% of the global urban population – live in urban slums in emerging countries, with 300,000 more joining them each week. In addition, virtually all net growth of 2.6 billion in world population between now and 2050 is projected to occur in these cities. Relatively poor nations will build the equivalent of a city of more than one million people each week for the next 45 years. Embedded in such glaring migration patterns and population growth implications, is the critical need for affordable and safe housing. The global poor face a broken housing market: inefficient or non-existent property rights systems, corruption laden bureaucratic processes, low-quality, high-cost building materials, limited delivery channels, and a lack of access to financing and sound technical assistance.