

International  
Workshop of ERC Research  
Project **METROMOD**

MUMBAI  
Sir JJ College of Architecture  
**13/12/19** → **14/12/19**



**BOMBAY'S SPACES  
OF SOCIABILITY:  
EXILES, MIGRANTS AND  
CONTACT ZONES**

## **BOMBAY'S SPACES OF SOCIABILITY: EXILE, MIGRATION AND CONTACT ZONES**

In her analysis of the development of Bombay's modern art scene in the 1930s and 1940s, Karin Zitzewitz draws on gallerist Kekoo Gandhi's narrative of the significant role played by spaces of sociability, noting that: "Gandhi's account privileges the salon and the cafe as the key spaces for the casual debates that drove the production of the artistic community."<sup>1</sup> The artistic community that Gandhi was referring to included the Progressive artists, many of whom had migrated to Bombay from other parts of India, as well as the local, often western-educated intelligentsia to which he belonged, and exiled European artists escaping Nazi occupation and war.

In this interdisciplinary workshop we intend to investigate links between migration and cultural production in the famously cosmopolitan port city by foregrounding the importance of spaces of sociability as contact zones: spaces that facilitate the exchange of ideas, foster debate and the formation of discourse, and encourage the construction of personal and professional networks across many borders. In addition to cafes and salons, clubs and hotels seem to have also

provided opportunities for performance, debate, exhibition and exchange. Focusing on, but not limited to, examples from the first half of the twentieth century, we invite papers that explore the intersections of migration, cultural production and urban topography in Bombay.

During the workshop we seek to address questions such as: How did cafes, salons and other architectural typologies and urban places encourage intercultural exchange? How did they create spaces of inclusion as well as of hierarchy and exclusion? Were gender, race or sexuality factors? Where were these spaces located within Bombay's urban fabric and why? Were there differences in the spaces depending on the neighbourhood? Who commissioned, designed, built and operated them? How did minority communities contribute to this? Did temporary or ephemeral spaces, such as festivals, play a role? At what scales did these spaces operate and what type of resonance did they have – within a neighbourhood, throughout the city, regionally, or even internationally? How did their built form or architectural language contribute to their function?

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<sup>1</sup> Zitzewitz, Karin. *The Art of Secularism: The Cultural Politics of Modernist Art in Contemporary India*. London: Hurst, 2014. p. 81

# FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2019

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09:00 am	Registration & Tea
09:20 am	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTION</b> Mustansir Dalvi & Rachel Lee (Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai and LMU Munich)
09:45 am	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Kaiwan Mehta (Editor, Domus) —> Where is the City?
10:45 am	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>
11:00 am	Swati Vijaya (Ohio State University) —> Rethinking Mumbai's Queer Heterotopia: Situating Suburban Spatialities and Subaltern Socialities
11:40 am	Pranoo Deshraj (TISS, Tuljapur) —> Traces of the Insomniac's City: Studio 29 and the Beginnings of Disco in Bombay
12:20 pm	Rachel Lee (LMU Munich) —> The Taj and Green's as Spaces of Sociability
01:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
02:00 pm	Daksh Jain (KRVI, Mumbai) —> Queerness / Public spaces in Bombay
02:40 pm	M. Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem) —> Social as Spatial: Anjuman-e-Islam and Muslim Sociability in Colonial Bombay
03:20 pm	Margit Franz (University of Graz) —> More than "Languages - Key to International Understanding": Charles Petras' Institute of Foreign Languages as a Cosmopolitan Meeting and Art Discussion Space in Bombay

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04:00 pm **REFRESHMENTS**

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04:30 pm Mustansir Dalvi (Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai)  
—> Poetry on Urban Social Spaces in Bombay

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05:10 pm **PANEL DISCUSSION** Citizenship and Space  
—> Sameera Khan (Independent Journalist, Mumbai), Kaiwan Mehta (Domus, India), Simin Patel (Bombaywalla), Shilpa Phadke (TISS, Mumbai), Sarover Zaidi (Jindal School of Art and Architecture, Delhi)

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05:50 pm **VALEDICTORY** Mustansir Dalvi & Rachel Lee  
(Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai and LMU Munich)

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06:00 pm **CLOSE**

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07:00 pm **DINNER** Chetana  
—> 34 K. Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai 400023  
[www.chetana.com](http://www.chetana.com)  
  
(Participants only)

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## **WALKING TOUR ON SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2019**

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09:00 am Simin Patel (Bombaywalla)  
—> Gentlemen Prefer Hotels: The Early Hotel Trade in Bombay, 1850–1903  
  
Meeting Point: Rhythm House, Kala Ghoda  
(Places are limited to 15, so register fast!)

# **SIR JJ COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE**

The Sir JJ School of Art was set up in 1857 as the Bombay School of Art & Industry, thanks to the vision and munificence of Sir Jamshejee Jeejeebhoy. In the second half of the 19th century, architectural learning was integrated with an art education that followed the Beaux Arts School of sculptural ornament and architectural detailing.

In 1913, architecture as a distinct discipline was recognized by the formation of a separate and independent Department of Architecture of the Sir JJ School of Art. Robert Cable was appointed as the first Professor of Architecture and headed the department until 1923. Cable, and his most distinguished successors, Professor Claude Batley (1923-43), Professor C. M. Master (1943-48) and Professor Solomon Reuben (1948-59) took the architectural department into a new modernist phase, making an impact on the city and the country at large with their own architectural practices, while educating several generations of architects who collectively transformed the city of Mumbai and gave a great reputation to the school as the finest architectural school in Asia.

In 1952, the department of architecture became a department of the University of Mumbai, and the school became the Sir JJ College of Architecture. In the last hundred years, the college has consistently excelled and has enhanced its reputation by having some very distinguished alumni including architects Padmashri Achyut Kanvinde and Pritzker Prize Winner Padmashri Balkrishna Doshi.

Sir JJ College of Architecture has been ranked the best architecture college in the country according to the independent 2019 Outlook-Drishti Poll for the last four years. The college has consistently been ranked in the top 3 architecture colleges in the country ever since the survey began.



SIR JAMSHEDJEE JEEJEEBHOY  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

# METROMOD

The research project "Relocating Modernism: Global Metropolises, Modern Art and Exile (METROMOD)" marks out a unique and unconventional map of life and work in exile metropolises in the first half of the 20th century. It refers to urban topographies, inner-city districts, outlying suburbs and streets, to places where interactions took place, but also to the venues used for exhibitions and collaborative projects. Urban locations were of particular importance not only for communicating, forming networks and formulating theories; they were also stations on the diverse paths of exile.

METROMOD focuses on six metropolitan destinations for refugee European artists between 1900 and 1950, when wars and dictatorships, violence and oppression forced thousands of artists to emigrate. New York, Buenos Aires, London, Istanbul, Bombay (now Mumbai) and Shanghai were important arrival cities or transit points for artists in the fields of modern visual arts and architecture.

The project challenges the concept of Modernism as fixed, stable and western. It aims to overcome established and still dominant narratives of Western European Modernism with its centres in Paris, Vienna or Berlin. METROMOD will contribute to a paradigm shift in writing modernist art history as a history of global interconnections, spurred by migratory movements and with an emphasis on instability, flux, contacts and networks.

METROMOD follows the hypothesis that the migration movements of artists in the first half of the twentieth century had a profound and long-term impact on art, architecture and photography history by establishing new transnational places of artistic encounter in global metropolises where concepts and works were significantly changed.

# METROMOD

# VENUE

Friday, 13 December, 09:00 am &  
Saturday, 14 December, 09:00 am

—————> Sir JJ College of Architecture  
78/3, Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Dhobi Talao,  
Mumbai 400001

## **PARTICIPATION IS FREE**

To register, please send an email to:  
[rachel.lee@lmu.de](mailto:rachel.lee@lmu.de)

Convened by:

Sir JJ College of Architecture: Mustansir Dalvi

METROMOD: Ekaterina Aygün, Burcu Dogramaci, Mareike

Hetschold, Laura Karp Lugo, Rachel Lee, Helene Roth

Administration: Christina Lagao

[www.metromod.net](http://www.metromod.net)



**European Research Council**  
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Concept & Design: Bureau Johannes Erler, [www.bureau-erler.de](http://www.bureau-erler.de)

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