



When you are walking along a street at night and a man  
walks from a long way off - because the street slopes up in  
front of you and the man is tall - comes running towards  
you, you don't go for him, even if he is a weeding dressed in  
red or blue or so.

Because it is night, and it is not your fault that the street  
slopes up in front of you. It is by the hill moon, and anyway,  
perhaps the two of them have saged the chase for fun,  
perhaps they are both after a third man, perhaps the first is  
helpless without cause, perhaps the second is out to kill  
you as well because an accessory to murder, perhaps the  
two men are partners of each other's existence and are simply  
running home to bed, each on his own initiative, perhaps they  
are sleep-walking, perhaps the first one is armed.

In any case, haven't you a right to be tired, didn't you  
find all this nice? You're happy not to be able to see the  
man or any more, either.

"This project has more than one version. One is a drawing by  
Living (1912) and shows a rooming-house (you can tell it is  
a notice bearing the words 'No Tobacco') part of the building of  
see the number of some twenty-three rooms (I say 'rooms' because  
the back rooms). The most interesting - and it could seem to be  
action represented by something truly veridical about it.

- 1 bathroom. The one on the third floor is empty, in the room on  
one on the ground floor, a man is having a shower.
- 1 fireplace, varying greatly in size, but all on the one axis. There  
them, if you prefer? The ones on the first and second floors on  
first floor is split into two by a partition which also divides the  
6 candidates and one Caliber-style machine.
- 3 telephones
- 1 upright piano with good
- 10 white individuals of the male sex, of whom...

The discovery of something unexpected about the  
always filled her with an intellectual wonder. She  
me over to the balcony railings of the 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
iron covers on the water main in the street  
know the species below (she says she doesn't  
housed? Well, the poor people of  
we did not call them the 1<sup>st</sup> class  
tramps, car parkers and  
They would then sit  
berthing their  
feet.

## KAIWAN MEHTA

The Street, and the Studio...A city researcher's  
Studio moves into the Gallery

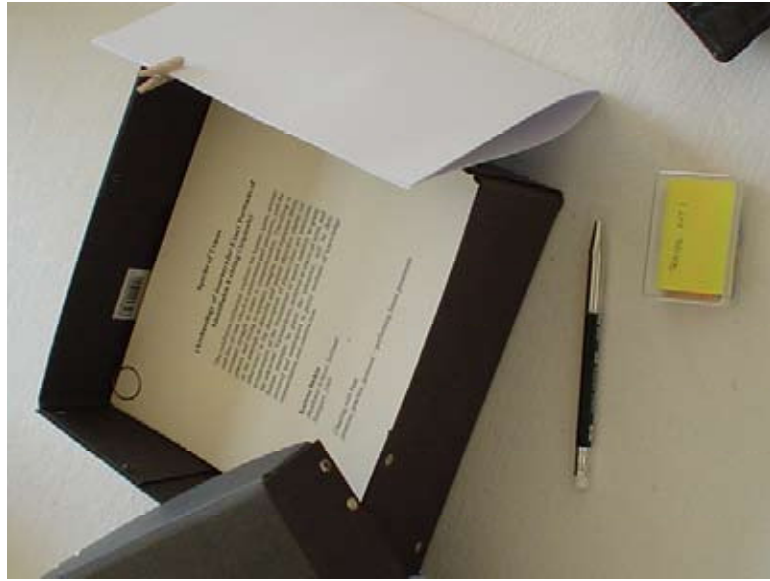
**KAIWAN MEHTA**

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Language has unmistakably made plain that memory is not an instrument for exploring the past, but rather a medium. It is the medium of that which is experienced, just as the earth is the medium in which ancient cities lie buried. He who seeks to approach his own buried past must conduct himself like a man digging. Above all, he must not be afraid to return again and again to the same matter; to scatter it as one scatters earth, to turn it over as one turns over soil. For the “matter itself” is no more than the strata which yield their long-sought secrets only to the most meticulous investigation. That is to say, they yield those images that, severed from all earlier associations, reside as treasures in the sober rooms of our later insights – like torsos in a collector’s gallery. It is undoubtedly useful to plan excavations methodically. Yet no less indispensable is the cautious probing of the spade in the dark loam. And a man who merely makes an inventory of his findings, while failing to establish the exact location of where in today’s ground the ancient treasures have been stored up, cheats himself of the richest prize.

Walter Benjamin - Selected Writings Vol 2:2: 1927-1934. Edited by Michael W. Jennings, Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard 1999 (in Marx Ursula, et al. (Trans) Esther Leslie. Walter Benjamin’s Archive – Images, Texts, Signs. London: Verso, 2007.)









## KAIWAN MEHTA

1975 Born in Mumbai

### EDUCATION

- 1998 Bachelor of Architecture: Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture (KRVA), University of Bombay (Mumbai)
- 2003 Master of Arts (English Literature): Institute of Distance Education (correspondence), University of Bombay (Mumbai)
- 2004 Post-Graduate Diploma: Indian Aesthetics, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai (Mumbai)
- 2007 Post-Graduate Diploma: Cultural Studies: Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, (Bangalore)

Currently enrolled for PhD (Doctorate) at Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, (Bangalore) through Manipal University

### CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS

Founding Director: Arbour:Research Initiatives in Architecture – a research based organization that initiates documentation, discussion and research in the fields of architecture, aesthetics and culture. (Established in 2010 under the aegis of the Priyanath Banerjee Memorial Trust)

Course Director: Art, Criticism and Theory [a six-month course designed to engage with those interested in art writing and theory; the course engages with histories, concepts and texts in art theory and criticism through lectures, workshops and tutorials] at Jnanapravaha (Mumbai) (since 2008)

Visiting Assistant Professor at NMIMS BS School of Architecture, Mumbai (Since 2008) and Rachna Sansad's Academy of Architecture, Mumbai (2008-10)

City Organiser – Pecha Kucha Nights – Mumbai – An international design event spread across more than 200 cities, under the auspices of Klein Dytham Architects, Tokyo (since December 2008)

Visiting Lecturer: Post-Graduate Diploma in Indian Aesthetics, Department of Philosophy, University of Bombay (supported by C S Vastusanghralaya Museum – formerly The Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai) (since 2005) Now with Jnanapravaha (Mumbai) (since 2007)

Senior Lecturer & Examiner: Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, University of Mumbai: (Lecturer since June 1999-2009)



Assistant Editor: Indian Architect and Builder magazine (March 2006 – March 2009)

Consulting Editor – Architecture – Time, Space and People; the official magazine of the Council of Architecture (India) (April 2004 to February 2006)

Programme Coordinator & Working Committee: Mohile Parikh Centre – Architecture Forum at the National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai (2002 – 2004)

Visiting Lecturer: Course: Theory, Culture and Representation: South Asian Centre, Bangalore, of the Long Island University, USA. (2006 – 2007)

Visiting Lecturer and Examiner: Interior Design Department: SNDT Women's University, Mumbai (2002 – 2004)

Advisory Committee: Centre for Education and Documentation: A research and education oriented archiving NGO and public library. (2005, 2011)

Associated with the PEN All-India Centre (Since 2011) and The Germany Year of India 2011

Also formerly associated with Mumbai Study Group, Mumbai; Jackfruit Research and Design, Bangalore

### SELECTED PROJECTS, PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

Participated in a panel discussion on Trans-Cultural institutions and exchanges in the area of arts and artistic residencies with Sarat Maharaj, Ute Meta Bauer, Jaen-Baptiste Joly and Mary Sherman for the conference on Trans-Cultural Exchange in Boston, April 2011

Participated in a curated show “The Hybrid Fuels” at the Sindelfingen Kunsveriene in November 2010 presenting the archive of my book Alice in Bhuleshwar

Delivered a public talk for The Goethe Institute, Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai titled “Love in the Time of Chinchpokli – On why theories love to imagine decaying cities” for the lecture series of ‘The Promised City’ project of the Goethe Institutes of Berlin, Warsaw and Mumbai on 13 October, 2010

Commissioned to write the Mumbai essay for the project - ‘The Promised City’ project of the Goethe Institutes of Berlin, Warsaw and Mumbai, published online and in the project catalogue (2010)

Designed and conducted a six-lecture workshop on “Orientalism and Aesthetics in 19 Century India” for The K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai in 2010, 2011.

Delivered a public talk at the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai titled “Not My City” on 12 May 2010

Curated Archivausstellung – a year-long exhibition, designed in 13 episodes with the 20 years archive of



Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany (2010-11) in collaboration with the State Archives at Ludwigsburg

Participant and Research Assistant: ADACH (Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage) Platform for the Visual Arts at the Venice Biennale (2009) with Artistic Director Catherine David (Paris).

Participated in a group show dealing with the concept of “Dealing with Fear” exhibiting an archive of extracted texts on cities and strangers, literary and otherwise, titled Species of Traces – Archaeology of Journeys for Exact Portraits of Identifiable Originals. (April, 2009)

Presented a paper Objects and Histories in a Dialectic Fairyland at the conference “Fetish and Consumption” curated by Catherine Perret (Philosopher, Paris) at Akademie Schloss Solitude (June 1008). Accompanied by an exhibition of the same title, this essay is now published in the exhibition catalogue.

Delivered a public talk titled Matters of Plaster and Dust for the Bombay Museum Society at the C S M Vastusanghralaya (formerly the Prince of Wales Mueum) in Mumbai, 19 February, 2007

Presented the paper Reading Plaster, Drawing Maps at an international conference on Sharing Architecture Cultures across the Maghreb and India organized by University of Evora, Portugal, 6-8 October, 2006 (To be published)

Public Lecture: Bombay/Mumbai – City: Text and Textures at the Architecture Department, University of Coimbra, Portugal, 4 October, 2006

Associated (interventionist and specific) with the academic project Bombay before the British (University of Coimbra and Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal) through research on communities in the ‘native town’ of Mumbai

Public Lecture: Youth, Urban Communities and Revolutions- From Premiji to Rang de... at the PUKAR Monsoon Workshop (May 2006), Mumbai

Presented a paper titled Maps and Motifs, at Department of Art History and Aesthetics, MSU, Baroda, for the conference New Art History: Interrogating Indian Art Historical Practices (February 2006) (Due for publication in December 2007: special issue Journal of Contemporary Thought, Forum on Contemporary Theory (of Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, International Lincoln Center, Louisiana State University and The William O. Douglas Honors College, USA), editors Shivaji K Panikkar and Parul Dave Mukherji)

Maps and Motifs: A solo photo-text exhibition of the oral history project on the “Native Town” of Colonial Bombay at the Claude Batley Gallery, Sir J. J. College of Architecture, Mumbai (February 2006)

Invited to participate in the Visiting Teachers’ Programme at the Architectural Association’s School of Architecture, June, 2003

Presented papers, and participated in various discussions and conversations in the areas of art, architecture and city studies in India and internationally.

#### RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Research Fellow: Mrs Avabai Wadia Fellowship at the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai, since June 2011. Topic of research – A Historiography of Architecture History in India

Research Fellow: Akademie Schloss Solitude (in the discipline of Architecture), Stuttgart, Germany (2007 – 2010)

Visiting Fellow at Joseph Attila Kor (Writers’ Institute) in Budapest (May – July, 2008)

SARAI Research Fellowship (2005) for project titled: Reading Histories: Migration and Culture -Politics of Mapping and Representation: Urban Communities

Library Research Fellow at Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS), Bangalore. Oct.-Nov. 2003 for project titled: Politics of Documenting and Archiving Urban Communities

#### BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Alice in Bhuleshwar: Navigating a Mumbai Neighbourhood (Yoda Press, New Delhi) (September 2009)

The book walks the reader through the sites and stories of colonial Bombay’s ‘native town’, engaging with its present and past through text, illustrations, maps and photographs. The book has received wide spread media attention and reviewed or discussed in publications like The Times of India, Time Out Mumbai, Mid-Day, DNA, Caravan and Parsiana. Readings and discussions around the book have taken place at Goethe Institute – Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, PEN @Prithvi, Mumbai, FLAMES, Pune, Art, Resources and Teaching, Bangalore, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, and Yodakin, New Delhi.

A Story of the Standard Chartered Bank in India (Spenta Multimedia, Mumbai) (Yet to be published)

Objects and Histories in a Dialectic Fairyland – Conference paper published in the book “Fetish and Consumption” – an exhibition and conference curated by the French philosopher Catherine Perret at the Akademie Schloss Solitude, Germany. (2009)

Ornament and Crime – Security Myths and Mumbai – Published (2011) in Mumbai Reader of the Urban Design Research Institute, Mumbai

Home and the Neighbourhood – essay in edited volume titled “Chawls of Mumbai: Galleries of Life” (Edited by Neera Adarkar) (Imprint One, New Delhi. 2011)

#### CURRENTLY COMMISSIONED

A book on the works of architect Mr. I. M. Katri

A book on the Kala Ghoda precinct, by the Kala Ghoda Association

As in September, 2011

**The Guild**  
*Art Gallery*

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