

# THE ORANGI PILOT PROJECT & THE LEGACY OF ARCHITECT PERWEEN REHMAN

A SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY THE AGA KHAN PROGRAM FOR ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • ORGANIZED BY JAMES WESCOAT, HALA MALIK & FIZZAH SAJJAD

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2014, AT 6:00 PM IN MIT ROOM 4-270 • KEYNOTE SPEECH BY ARIF HASAN, ARCHITECT, KARACHI

SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2014, FROM 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM IN MIT ROOM 4-270 • SATURDAY PROGRAM BELOW

**The Orangi Pilot Project (OPP)** was initiated under the direction of Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan in 1980. Orangi Town is located on the periphery of Karachi, Pakistan. It is a cluster of 113 low income settlements (that were mostly categorized as slums up until 1992), with a population of about 1.5 million. The organization's biggest success has been of providing social and technical support to neighborhoods in Orangi Town interested in self-help initiatives by demonstrating how to finance, maintain and manage facilities such as sewage, water

supply, schools, clinics, solid waste disposal and security. Its success is reflected in the fact that the OPP model has been adapted in many settlements all over the world; it is now recognized internationally as a model for self-sustained community-led projects.

**Perween Rehman**, architect and social activist, served as director of OPP-RTI for about 25 years up until her death. She had been involved with OPP since 1983 and had devoted a major part of her life towards improving the lives of residents of Karachi's poorest neighborhoods. At the time of her death, she was involved in an extensive project involving the documentation of Karachi's land use, which has been suggested as a possible reason she was fatally targeted allegedly by land-grabbing mafia in the city.

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I  
9:30AM • 10:50AM  
LAND & HOUSING

**OPENING REMARKS**  
James Wescoat • AKPIA@MIT

KARACHI:  
THE LAND, HOUSING & TRANSPORT LINK  
Arif Hasan • Architect, Pakistan

THE VIOLENCE OF COMMODIFICATION  
IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH  
Balakrishnan Rajagopal • DUSP

**MODERATOR:** Fizzah Sajjad • DUSP

II  
10:50AM • 12:25AM  
PLANNING, POLITICS & CONFLICT

PLANNING IN THE CONTEXT OF VIOLENT CONFLICT:  
COMPARATIVE REFLECTIONS  
Diane Davis • Harvard University

KARACHI AND 1960s CINEMA:  
CULTURAL WOUNDS & THE PRODUCTION OF SAMENESS  
Kamran Asdar Ali • University of Texas at Austin

PLANNING, POLITICS & CONFLICT  
IN A STATE WITHOUT POWER  
S. Akbar Zaidi • Scholar, Pakistan

NOTES ON CONFLICT & DOCUMENTATION IN KARACHI  
Laura Ring • University of Chicago

**MODERATOR:** Diane Davis • Harvard University

III  
1:45PM • 3:00PM  
COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING  
& PROFESSIONAL CHOICES

GENDER PERFORMANCES & VIOLENT URBAN SPACES  
IN PAKISTAN

Daanish Mustafa • King's College, London

FROM THE WEST PHILADELPHIA LANDSCAPE PROJECT  
TO ORANGI AND BACK AGAIN  
Anne Whiston Spirn • DUSP

BUILDING SOLIDARITY: REFLECTIONS FROM AFGHANISTAN  
Nabila Alibhai • SPURS Fellow, DUSP

**MODERATOR:** Hala B. Malik • AKPIA@MIT

IV  
3:00PM • 3:55PM  
GENDER, DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE

TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S LIVES:  
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & LEGAL REFORMS  
Anita Weiss • University of Oregon

BALANCING PATIENCE & URGENCY IN DEVELOPMENT WORK  
Gabriella Carolini • DUSP

**MODERATOR:** Azra Dawood • AKPIA@MIT

V  
3:55PM • 5:00PM  
DOCUMENTATION,  
KNOWLEDGE & EVALUATION  
URBAN ENVIRONMENT  
SOCIETY RELATIONS

EVOLVING SYSTEMS OF DOCUMENTATION  
IN ISLAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN  
Sharon Smith • Aga Khan Documentation Center, MIT

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED? UNDERSTANDING LONG-TERM  
CHANGE IN URBAN WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS  
James Wescoat • AKPIA@MIT

**MODERATOR:** Afreen Siddiqi • MIT ESD  
CLOSING REMARKS  
Nasser Rabbat • AKPIA@MIT

