

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

11.941 Learning by Comparison: First World/Third World Cities
Fall 2008

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

HUMANIZING THE CITY:

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FESTIVAL IN MANHATTAN AND MUMBAI

JOSHUA C. FIALA

11.941 LEARNING BY COMPARISON: FIRST WORLD/THIRD WORLD CITIES
PROFESSOR ASEEM INAM | FALL 2008 | PRESENTATION | 11/19/2008

FESTIVALS AS A HUMANIZING EVENT IN THE CITY

A TEMPORAL MOMENT WHEN HUMANITY DOMINATES ALL OTHER FORCES ACTING IN THE CITY

HOW DO YOU HUMANIZE THE CITY?

FESTIVALS ARE UNIQUELY HUMAN MOMENTS IN THE CITY

HOW DOES A FESTIVAL CHANGE THE USE OF SPACE?

CAN THIS ADAPTATION PROVIDE LESSONS TO HUMANIZE THE CITY?

DOES THE FESTIVAL ITSELF CREATE MORE HUMAN PLACES?

CITIES OF FESTIVAL

MANHATTAN | MUMBAI

| NEW YORK CITY (MANHATTAN), NEW YORK, USA |

origin | **16th century**
land area | **789.4 sq km**
population | **8.3 million (2007 census)**
population density | **10,481 people/sq mi (2007 census)**
mode share | **Public Transportation (54.6%)**
Car (29.7%)
Walk (9%)
Other (5.7%)
Cycle (1%)

(5) famous events | **St. Patrick's Day Parade**
July Fourth Festival
Festival of the Americas
Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
New Year's Eve Festival

| MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA |

origin | **16th century**
land area | **437.7 sq km**
population | **11.9 million (2001 census)**
population density | **27,209 people/sq km (2001 census)**
mode share | **Walk (55.5%)**
Public Transportation (36.3%)
Other (5.8%)
Car (1.6%)
Cycle (.8%)

(5) famous events | **Elephanta Festival**
Maharashtra Day
Ganesh Chaturthi
Navaratri
Kala Ghoda Festival

FESTIVAL TYPOLOGIES | PLACE TYPOLOGIES

FESTIVALS AND PLACES THEY OCCUR IN CITIES CAN BE CLASSIFIED INTO A FEW TYPES

FESTIVAL TYPOLOGIES

PROCESSION ----->

CENTRAL POINT

DECENTRAL NETWORK

**MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE
GANESH CHATURTHI**

PLACE TYPOLOGIES

MAJOR STREET/ARTERY ----->

PARK

PLAZA

**MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE
GANESH CHATURTHI**

FESTIVAL COMPARATIVE STUDY

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE | MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, USA

description	A Parade of Elaborate Floats, Bands, Clowns, Celebrities and Giant Helium Filled Balloons
time of year / day	Fourth Thursday of November / 9AM to Noon (3 Hours)
origin date	1924
origin idea	Macy's Employees Celebrating the Christmas Season with a European Style Parade
route	Central Park W. South to Broadway cont. South to 34th St.
size (attendance)	10,000 Parade Participants, 2-3.5 Million Spectators
size (area of city)	43 Blocks (2.5 Miles)
general effect	Crowded Route, Congests Midtown
spectacle	Pop Culture Icon Helium Balloons
costs	Event Clean Up, Police and Security Details
hidden costs	Irritation, Blocked Traffic, Interrupted Deliveries, Loss of Business, Noise
planning	Floats and Balloons Begin Prep Up to 1 YR in Advance
final preparation	Prepare/Secure Route, Inflate Balloons, Assemble Floats
aftermath	Balloons Deflated, Trash Removal

FESTIVAL COMPARATIVE STUDY

GANESH CHATURTHI

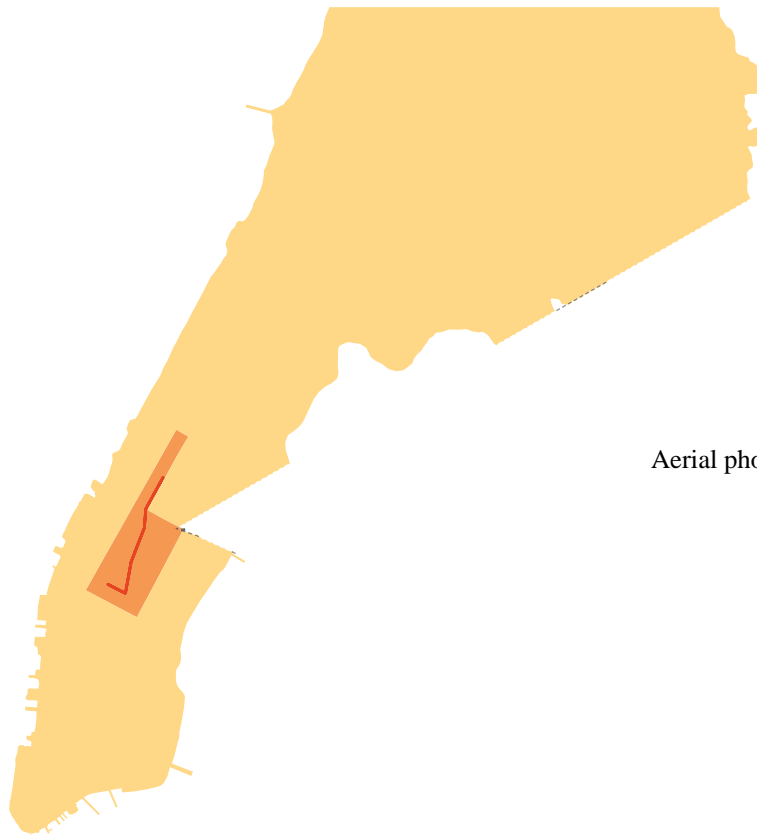
GANESH CHATURTHI | MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

description	10-Day Event Worshipping Ganesh, Processions to the Sea for Immersion of Idols
time of year / day	End of August/Beginning of September / All Day (Over a 10-Day Period)
origin date	1893 +/-
origin idea	Lokmanya Tilak installed public images of Ganesh for worship as British protest
route	Organic
size (attendance)	Difficult to Measure (11,200 Ganesh Mandals in 2008)
size (area of city)	Difficult to Measure
general effect	Crowded Routes, Congests City
spectacle	Ganesh Idols and Statues Worshipped and Paraded Through the Streets to the Sea
costs	Police and Crowd Control Measures
hidden costs	Blocked Traffic, Noise
planning	Idols Crafted up to 3 Months in Advance, Queuing Planning
final preparation	Close Popular Routes to Traffic
aftermath	Idols Immersed in the Sea, Pollution of Sea Water

COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE SPATIAL ANALYSIS

LOCATIONS OF FESTIVAL AT CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SCALES

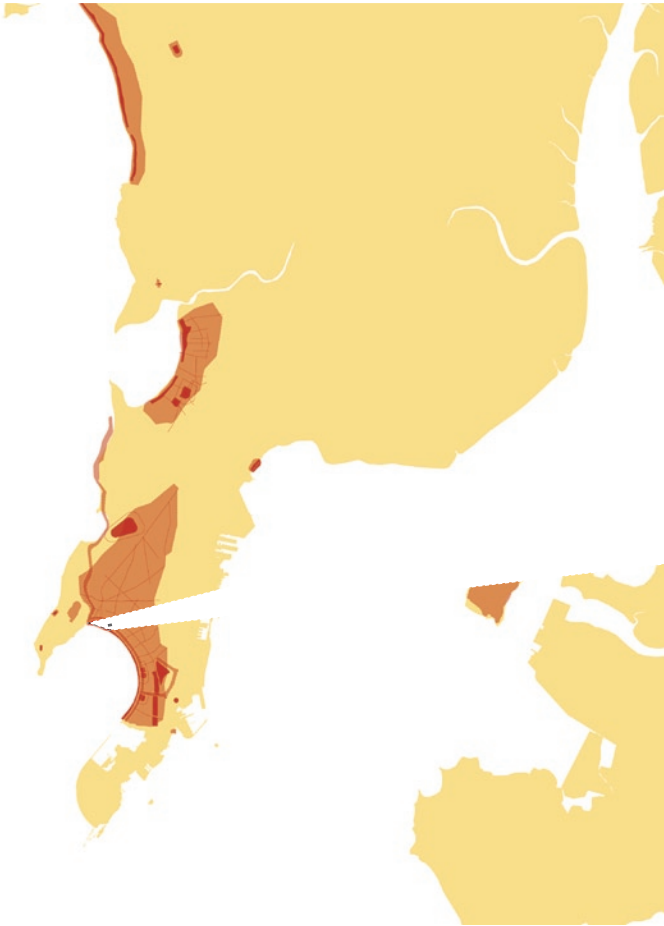


Aerial photo removed due to copyright restrictions

COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY

GANESH CHATURTHI SPATIAL ANALYSIS

LOCATIONS OF FESTIVAL AT CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SCALES



Aerial photo removed due to copyright restrictions

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE | GANESH CHATURTHI

FESTIVALS AS HUMANIZING EVENT

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
Manhattan, New York, U.S.A.

Ganesh Chaturthi
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

ADAPTATION OF CITY

Territory / Use

How do people **occupy & use** the city differently b/w ordinary & festival?

Intimacy / Connection

How does the condition of **connection and density of people** change b/w ordinary & festival?

Granularity / Activity

Does the **grain and mix of activity** change b/w ordinary & festival?

Movement

How does freedom of **movement** change b/w ordinary & festival?

Triangularity

What is the **center of focus** in ordinary & festival?

* Principles for effective event places adapted from Dennis Frenchman's *Event Places*

HUMANIZATION OF CITY

Vitality

How do the above adaptations benefit or negate city **vitality**?

Fit

How do the above adaptations benefit or negate human **fit** in the city?

Access

How do the above adaptations benefit or negate human **access** in the city?

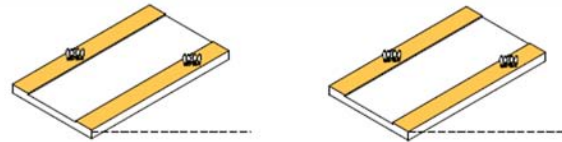
* Principles for good city from adapted from Kevin Lynch's *Good City Form*

COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY

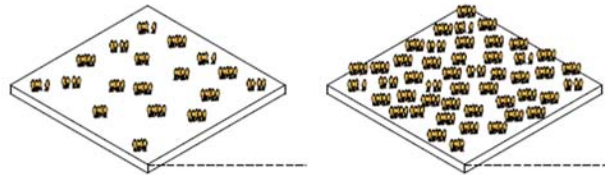
MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS DIAGRAMS

FESTIVALS AS HUMANIZING EVENT MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

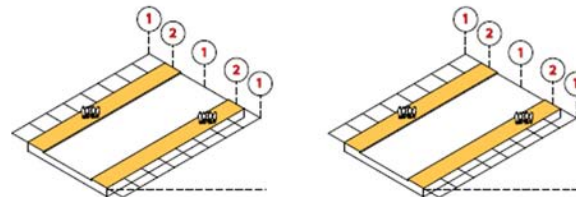
TERRITORY / USE



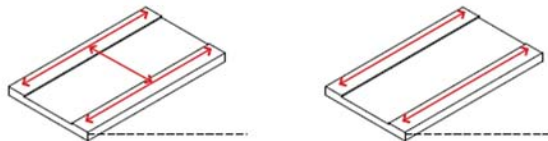
INTIMACY / CONNECTION



GRANULARITY / ACTIVITY



MOVEMENT

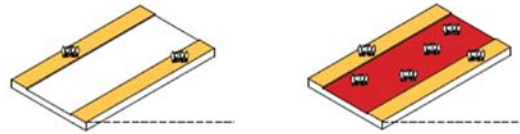


COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY

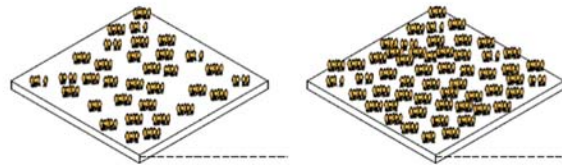
GANESH CHATURTHI FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS DIAGRAMS

FESTIVALS AS HUMANIZING EVENT GANESH CHATURTHI

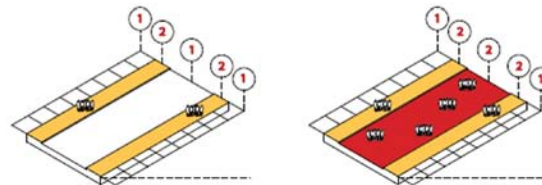
TERRITORY / USE



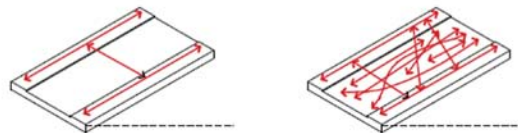
INTIMACY / CONNECTION



GRANULARITY / ACTIVITY



MOVEMENT



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE AND GANESH CHATURTHI

FESTIVALS AS HUMANIZING EVENT		
	Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Manhattan, New York, U.S.A.	Ganesh Chaturthi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
	ADAPTATION OF CITY	
Territory / Use	Not Changed (.)	Increased (+)
Intimacy / Connection	Increased (+)	Increased (+)
Granularity / Activity	Not Changed (.)	Increased (+)
Movement	Restricted (-)	Increased (+)
Triangularity	Increased (Except Times Square) (+)	Increased (+)
* Principles for effective event places adapted from Dennis Frenchman's <i>Event Places</i>		
	HUMANIZATION OF CITY	
Vitality	Only Benefited Intimacy/Connection (+)	Great Benefit (++)
Fit	No Effect (.)	Benefit (+)
Access	Negated Human Access (-)	Benefit (+)
* Principles for good city from adapted from Kevin Lynch's <i>Good City Form</i>		

TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS

FESTIVALS HUMANIZE THE CITY

ADAPTATION OF THE CITY THROUGH FESTIVAL **DOES** HUMANIZE THE CITY

THE MORE **INFORMAL AND ORGANICALLY ORGANIZED** SPECTACLE OF THE MUMBAI FESTIVALS PROVIDE A MORE DRAMATIC ADAPTATION OF THE CITY AND A MORE UNINHIBITED ASSERTION OF HUMANITY

FOCUS ON **ORDER AND SECURITY IMPEDE HUMANIZATION**

MANHATTAN'S HUMANITY IS ORGANIZED, SYSTEMATIC AND BUILT-IN FROM THE TOP-DOWN ORDER OF THE CITY GRID AND ITS PEDESTRIAN SCALE CREATE A VERY LIVABLE CITY

MUMBAI'S HUMANITY IS NOT RELATED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY, THE **SHEAR WILL OF THE RESIDENTS** OF THE CITY OVERWHELM LACKING INFRASTRUCTURE AND FORMAL ORDER IN THE CITY, PROVIDING THE RESIDENTS WITH A BOTTOM UP WILL OF THE PEOPLE TO CREATE A VIBRANT AND LIVABLE PLACE

A VIBRANT, LIVABLE AND HUMANIZED CITY AS FESTIVALS WOULD INDICATE IS **MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN LESS STRUCTURED AND ORGANIZED**. THE MOST EXTREME AND LIBERATING EXAMPLES OF ADAPTATION OF SPACE FOR FESTIVAL ALLOW COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, ACCESS AND OCCUPATION OF SPACE BY PEOPLE. **THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE ORDINARY USE AND ORDER OF THE CITY ARE SUBVERTED TO PLACE HUMANS FIRST.**