

# Cityspinning

**Cityspinning is a series of interventions in the public spaces of Bangalore and Delhi. It is an attempt to seed an open platform to gather proposals for using public and unused spaces in our cities.**

**Keywords :** public art, urban interventions, reclaiming public spaces, anarchist infrastructure building, bangalore, india.

## **Introduction: Porous City**

By Prayas Abhinav • January 5, 2009

EXPLORING POROSITY : MOBILE AND TEMPORARY CULTURAL SPACES in BANGALORE

### **Projects:**

#### **i) A mobile cultural space in Bangalore**

A vehicle which can be parked in many different parts of the city and is developed for being used as a compact cultural space. Some of the features of the vehicle are summarized below. They will be realized in a phased manner, which will be defined soon.

1. the vehicle will have a usable inside-space as well as a roof space. it will offer free wireless Internet, clean drinking water, mobile charging space etc. to each neighborhood in which it is parked. events happening at the vehicle might be live webcast when there are no privacy issues.
2. a wide set of environmental sensors will be installed at the vehicle and the data collected will be shared in standard formats on the site.
3. some of the possible places in which the vehicle can be parked: parking lots, under flyovers, empty grounds, along the high-way etc. site-responsive uses of the space will be conceptualized for each location at which it is parked.
4. organizations and individuals in the city will be involved in proposing different uses for the space through a web-based network.
5. a parallel exploration will be to use alternative energy sources for all the needs of the vehicle. I would explore solar, cow-dung and other sources that come-up in the research.
6. the vehicle will be made from natural, crafted, hand-woven or grown materials as much as possible.
7. some possible uses of the space:
  1. invite artists to live and work in the unit and work on multiple-kinds of projects,
  2. run small themed festivals in the unit (alternative energy pioneers, urban farming, new games for your kids etc.) for people in the neighborhood to drop in and interact and participate,

3. offer a small performance space to promote local musical/theatrical talent,
4. offer a meeting space to local youth initiatives,
5. offer a publicity and distribution mechanism for alternative cultural, political and activist groups,

### **Why?**

Cultural activities in Bangalore are usually staged in clearly designated spaces. Conversely, seeking out living spaces which are in the midst of people, do not have specific designations and are more open, welcoming and approachable would effectively create a map of existing and new alternative spaces for culture.

1. This would allow more people to find their place in existing and experimental cultural discourse and get involved in it if they choose.
2. Give un-conventional private and public spaces and locations cultural associations, leaving them open for future interpretation.
3. Seed a network of fluid, impermanent, invisible pockets in the city for autonomous artistic research and practice.
4. Enliven neighbourhoods by allowing children and adults in the area to be aware of varied environmental parameters of their locality and a range of media tools to develop small artistic projects of their own.

### **Exchange:**

Continuing the tradition of open-definition/specification labs/hubs around the world, the project will maintain detailed documentation of the process of putting it together and share it through the web. The effort would also make friends in the region and around the world to harness the innovative potential and conceptual diversity of practitioners and researchers around the world to extend the role which it could possibly play.

After traveling around different parts of Bangalore for a year, the vehicle will be gifted to some other artist / group in the country / region to be re-configured and re-used in some locally relevant scenario.

### **Some urban farming projects around the world**

By Prayas Abhinav • February 3, 2008

Found some urban farming projects initiated by artists and architects. PetPuja is quite similar in scope to many of these efforts, and so have much to learn from them.

**Fallen Fruit**, is “an activist art project which started as a mapping of all the public fruit in our neighborhood.” (USA)

<http://www.fallenfruit.org/>

**Edible Estates** is an “an ongoing series of projects to replace the front lawn with edible garden landscapes responsive to culture, climate, context and people!” It “proposes the replacement of the domestic front lawn with a highly productive edible landscape.” (USA)

<http://www.fritzhaeg.com/garden/initiatives/edibleestates/main.html>

**Dott07**: Urban Farming was a massive, effort to “increase local food production and reduce food miles.” It culminated in a “banquet for 1,500 in the town’s main square. Participants in the growing project created the menu from produce they’d harvested. Local producers

*provided meat and vegetables to supplement the meal, which was cooked and eaten in the open air.” (UK)*

<http://www.dott07.com/go/urbanfarming>

**The City Planting Farm Modules** “enable persons to grow plants in cities.” The modules are made of fibre cloth, soil and water hose and are made into flexible forms.

[http://www.n55.dk/MANUALS/CITY\\_FARMING/CITY\\_FARM.html](http://www.n55.dk/MANUALS/CITY_FARMING/CITY_FARM.html)

*Links via WMMNA.*

<http://www.we-make-money-not-art.com/archives/2007/03/-photo-set.php>

### **World Food Garden**

Individuals empowering themselves and each other to grow small food gardens worldwide

*"If you think you are too small to make a difference try sleeping with a mosquito"*

- The Dali Lama

<http://worldfoodgarden.org/>

**URBZ** is a tool for participatory planning for citizens, researchers, activists, architects, planners and developers. URBZ is committed to information sharing, open sourcing and public participation.

<http://www.urbz.net/index.html>

**Project BudBurst** is a national field campaign for citizen scientists designed to engage the public in the collection of important climate change data based on the timing of leafing and flowering of trees and flowers. (USA)

[http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen\\_science/budburst/](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/)

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**CEMA** is a new media lab at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology.

The Center for Experimental Media Arts (**CEMA**) is an innovative lab where artists, hackers, engineers, and scientists come together to develop new tools and methodologies for investigating and acting in the world.

<http://cema.srishti.ac.in/content/>

**KHOJ** International Artists' Association is an artist led, alternative space for experimentation and international exchange based in India.

<http://khojworkshop.org/>

**dharavi.org** is a multimedia wiki website designed to gather information, images, and ideas on Dharavi in Mumbai. Dharavi is one of the largest informal settlement in the world.

dharavi.org offers a space to discuss the Dharavi Redevelopment Project and its alternatives.

<http://www.dharavi.org/>

### **CitySpinning**

<http://cityspinning.org/>

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