

BALAKRISHNAN BALACHANDRAN

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SUMMARY

Ongoing doctoral research on the role of planning in negotiating risk tradeoffs in disaster-induced relocation. Current status: ABD (cleared qualifying examination and successfully defended research proposal); field work in initial stages in the coastal communities of South Louisiana.

Recent teaching experience: Instructor, UP 447 Land Use Planning Workshop (for senior undergraduate students) in Fall 2018; Teaching Assistant, UP 510 Plan Making.

Professional background: Architect and urban planner with over 20 years' experience in urban planning and design. Leadership roles in Alchemy Urban Systems Private Limited, Bangalore and Environmental Planning Collaborative (EPC), Ahmedabad.

Senior advisory roles in several organizations – CEPT University, Ahmedabad, CDD Society and DBS Affordable Home Strategy Limited in India; Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association, Germany; and Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (USA and India)

Experience in post disaster reconstruction, land use planning, urban land management systems, affordable housing, sanitation planning and transit-oriented development. Work experience in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Palestine (Gaza), Mauritius, Mexico and Cuba.

EDUCATION

PhD in Regional Planning (ongoing; 2016-21)
Department of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Post Graduate Diploma in Planning (Housing)
CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India, February, 1995

Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.)
College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram, University of Kerala, India, June 1990

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Registered Architect, Council of Architecture, India
Associate Member, Institute of Town Planners, India
Member, American Planning Association, USA

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

ALCHEMY URBAN SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED, BANGALORE

Alchemy Urban Systems provides planning and policy research services to government agencies, national / international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donor agencies

Director December 2006 onwards

Strategic planning, business development, management of all ongoing projects. Team leader of specific projects related to disaster mitigation, urban governance and urban planning

CEPT UNIVERSITY, AHMEDBABAD

CEPT University comprises of five faculties – architecture, planning, interior design, building science and technology, habitat management.

Director, Professional Regulations Mission January 2014 to December 2015
Provided leadership to initiatives on legislative and policy reforms in the context of professions related to the planning, design and management of human settlements

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Planning and Public Policy January to October 2012
Participation in academic activities including teaching, thesis guidance and research

DBS AFFORDABLE HOME STRATEGY LIMITED, AHMEDABAD

DBS Affordable Home Strategy Ltd was set up in 2009 to create viable enterprise models for making affordable housing available to urban low income families.

Promoter-Director July 2009 to March 2013
Strategic planning, development of business model, collaborations and corporate governance

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COLLABORATIVE, AHMEDABAD

Environmental Planning Collaborative (EPC) is a not-for-profit urban planning, policy research and advocacy organization. EPC worked closely with government agencies, non-profits and other partners to promote productive, equitable, safe and sustainable living environments through collaborative interventions in urban planning and public policy. EPC is at present dormant and some of EPC's work can be seen on the website of the parent organization, HCP Design and Project Management (<http://hcp.co.in/projects-list/61/76/urban-planning>)

Executive Director April 2001 to November 2006
Strategic planning, business development; leadership of specific projects related to disaster mitigation, post-disaster recovery, urban governance, urban planning and urban design.

Project Coordinator, Business Promotion and Development April 1999 till March 2001
Liaising with the clients; management of specific projects related to urban planning and design.

Project Manager April 1997 till March 1999
In-charge of the overall management of projects related to urban planning and design.

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (CEE), AHMEDABAD

CEE is a Centre of Excellence supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India with the mandate to promote environmental awareness.

Project Officer and Editor, AmdaVadma April 1996 to March 1997
Research for magazine articles on urban affairs, editing of all articles, project management

UNNATI ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION, AHMEDABAD

UNNATI is a voluntary non-profit organization that promotes social inclusion and democratic governance empowering vulnerable communities to participate in mainstream development.

Project Associate March 1995 to October 1995
Management of a participatory research project on local governance and micro level planning

INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

The practice was named "*Panippura – atelier for arts, crafts and architecture*" and was operated primarily from my house.

Architect and sole practitioner June 1990 – May 1993
Design and supervision of architectural projects including houses, interiors and landscapes.

ILLUSTRATIVE WORK EXPERIENCE

A selected list of projects is provided below, organized in reverse chronological order. For each project, the following information is provided:

Title of the project; Client¹; Period

Brief scope of the project

Position held; Role played

Thematic areas covered

City Sanitation Action Plans for 30 Pourashavas in Bangladesh; Asian Development Bank; Jan-Dec 2015

Analysis of existing sanitation value chain; preparation of action plans; program design

Team Leader; Overall guidance, program design

Program formulation; Sanitation; Urban resilience

Emergency and Early Recovery Response for Gaza Crisis 2014; United Nations Development Program (UNDP); Jan 2015

Urban Planning Strategy for Gaza Reconstruction – review existing systems and practices for urban planning in the Gaza strip; analyze urban planning implications of the impact of the conflict with Israel in July-August 2014; propose short, medium- and long-term strategies for planned reconstruction and development

Urban planning expert; Consultations with Program for Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) and other stakeholders; Coordination with Housing Recovery Expert; Preparation of Urban Planning Strategy Report

Post-conflict reconstruction; Program formulation; Urban planning strategy

Visakhapatnam Chennai Industrial Corridor; Asian Development Bank; May '14 - Dec '15

Land Management Strategies including land pooling policy for industrial development; institutional framework for planning, development and management of industrial areas/ investment regions; benchmarking of best practices in institutional framework for planning, development and management of industrial areas/ investment regions

Urban Development Specialist; Development of land management strategy; expert inputs on the Conceptual Development Plan and Regional Perspective Plan

Urban planning; Urban land management; Corridor Development; Policy formulation

Regulatory Framework for Affordable Housing in Odisha; Department for International Development (DFID), UK Government; Oct-Dec 2014

Review existing State Affordable Housing Policy and draft new policy and guidelines

Team Leader; Project leadership; expert inputs on policy formulation to support affordable housing; interaction with key stakeholders in government and housing development

Housing; Policy formulation

Infrastructure and investment strategy for Dedicated Freight Corridor; World Bank; Jan-Oct 2014

¹ In many projects I was part of a team deployed by other organizations/ consulting firms. However, for brevity, only the main client's name is mentioned here.

Infrastructure and investment strategy for three sub-regional growth centers in Uttar Pradesh as part of a larger study called Development Options along the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor; assessment of existing infrastructure; proposals for infrastructure investment.

Urban and Regional Planning Expert; Strategic planning at regional scale; spatial integration of inputs from infrastructure planners and other experts; specific inputs on issues related to land management for urban and industrial development

Infrastructure; Strategic planning; Corridor Development; Program formulation

Land Management and Urban Planning Challenges for Industrial and Agro-processing Parks: An Assessment in the Context of Economic Corridors; Asian Development Bank; Dec 2013 - Mar 2014

Structuring an urban planning and land management framework in the context of industrial/ agro-processing parks as well as the economic corridor

Urban Planning Expert; Examine case studies of successes and failures using the land management framework to gain insights and thus improve the framework; apply the land management framework to identify strengths and weaknesses of the states on the East Coast Economic Corridor with focus on Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

Urban planning; Urban land management; Corridor Development; Policy formulation

Sustainable Urban Transport initiatives in Indian cities; Institute of Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP); May 2012 - April 2014

Mentoring ITDP's urban development team in India and actively participating in ITDP's initiatives in India

Senior Advisor, Urban Development; Chennai: Comprehensive Transportation Plan (urban development component focusing on Transit Oriented Development and land use transport integration); Pimpri Chinchwad: Strategising for Transit Oriented Development

Urban planning; Transit Oriented Development; Policy formulation

Preparatory study: Housing finance for low income group; KfW; Apr - Jun 2013

Overview of the affordable housing market in India; Analysis of the housing finance market for low & informal income segment; Conceptualization of a funding program by KfW in collaboration with the National Housing Bank

Team Leader; Overall leadership of the project; Specific inputs on issues related to housing finance for the low & informal income market segment

Housing; Policy analysis

Planning for Reconstruction of Kosi Flood Affected Areas; United Nations Development Program (UNDP); Jun 2009 – May 2011

Preparation of Regional, District and Settlement Plans to facilitate reconstruction of housing and infrastructure in the Kosi flood affected areas in Bihar; Regional studies on flood vulnerability; District plan for reconstruction and development of Madhepura district; Settlement plans for 3 panchayats in Murligunj block of Madhepura district

Project Director; To provide overall leadership for the project; Inputs for strategic and land use planning as well as disaster mitigation and resilience

Post-disaster reconstruction; Settlement planning; Resilience

Handbook for Reconstructing after Natural Disasters; World Bank; Aug 2008 to Dec 2009

Preparation of Chapter on Land Use and Physical Planning in “Safer Homes, Stronger Communities, the Handbook for Reconstructing after Natural Disasters”

Land Use and Physical Planning Expert; Expert inputs on land use planning, physical planning, development regulations, housing & infrastructure reconstruction

Post-disaster reconstruction; Settlement planning; Resilience

Regional Planning Strategies for World Heritage Site - Ellora; Archaeological Survey of India; Apr 2009 to Dec 2011

Preparation of regional development strategies of about 500 sq km area around the Ellora caves as part of ‘Site Management Plan’; Regional level assessments of infrastructure and tourism development potential; Preparation of a framework for regulating development

Project Director; To provide overall leadership for the project; Inputs for strategic planning and land use planning

Regional planning; Heritage conservation; Tourism development

Master Plan for Decentralized Basic Needs Services in Kolhapur; Kolhapur Municipal Corporation; Jul - Oct 2008

To analyze the sanitation situation in Kolhapur and propose strategies to integrate decentralized solutions for waste water and solid waste management into the mainstream systems of the city

Team Leader; To provide overall leadership for the project; To carry out GIS based analyses; To prepare strategies for integration of decentralized approaches with mainstream systems

Sanitation planning

Concept Master Plan for National Capitol Complex and Knowledge Industry Development at Highlands, Mauritius; State Land Development Company; Aug-Sept 2008

To prepare a Concept Master Plan and Design Guidelines as part of a bid document for joint venture development with private developer.

Urban planning expert; Review land use allocation, space requirement estimates and development norms; lead the preparation of Concept Master Plan and Design Guidelines

Urban design

Detailed Project Report for Bus Rapid Transit System, Pimpri Chinchwad; Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation; Oct 2007 to Mar 2008

Prepare proposals for integration of land use and transportation; analyze existing land use and density patterns; prepare a comprehensive mobility plan, integrating land use patterns with all modes of transportation; identify BRT corridors and propose land use changes along the corridor; prepare conceptual designs for the identified BRT corridors

Urban Planning Expert; Provide overall leadership for the project

Urban planning; Transit Oriented Development; Urban land management

Advisory Services for preparation of Local Area Plans in Delhi; Indo-USAID FIRE(D) Project; May 2005 to May 2006

Supervise the preparation of five pilot Local Area Plans in Municipal Corporation of Delhi and prepare detailed guidelines; develop the Scope of Work for consultants for the preparation of Local Area Plans (LAP); facilitate the preparation of the LAPs; undertake process documentation; prepare detailed guidelines for preparation of LAPs

Team Leader; Provide overall leadership for the project

Urban planning; Local area planning; Urban land management

Good Urban Governance in South Asia; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); June 2003 to June 2007

To document and disseminate case studies in good urban governance in three South Asian countries, carry out demonstration projects and to organize a regional conference to share the learning

Senior Governance Advisor; Technical guidance to local consultants on the entire process; Field level involvement in training, strategic planning and project formulation; Assistance to main contractor in project management

Urban governance

Urban Core Redevelopment, Dehradun; Mussoorie-Dehradun Development Authority; Nov 2003 to Nov 2006

To prepare a detailed proposal for the redevelopment of a street and a pocket of center-city land in Dehradun

Team Leader; Overall coordination of the project, Formulation of Proposals and Urban Design Guidelines; Implementation strategy

Urban planning, Urban land management; Redevelopment

Town Planning Scheme for Bhuj Area Development Authority; Gujarat Urban Development Company; Dec 2001 to Aug 2003

To prepare the Town Planning Scheme for Walled City of Bhuj as per the provisions of the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act. The Plan, covering an area of 1 sq.km has been divided into eight T. P. Schemes consists of proposals for land use zoning, road network and infrastructure development

Project Director; Overall coordination of the project, Detailed planning; Implementation strategy

Post-disaster reconstruction; Urban planning, Urban land management

Draft Development Plan for Bhuj Area Development Authority; Gujarat Urban Development Company; May 2001 to Dec 2002

To prepare the Draft Development Plan for Bhuj city as per the provisions of the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act. The Plan, covering an area of 56 sq.km including 2 adjoining villages, consists of proposals for land use zoning, road network, infrastructure development and general development control regulations

Team Leader; Overall coordination of the project, Detailed planning; Implementation strategy

Post-disaster reconstruction; Urban planning, Urban land management

Initiative for Planned and Participatory Reconstruction in Kutch; United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Feb 2001 – Feb 2002

The project involved four components that are expected to support the rehabilitation efforts of various agencies after the January 26, 2001. These are (i) Disaster mapping of four towns in Kachchh, Bhuj, Bhachau, Anjar and Rapar (ii) Information Management support for Kachchh Nav Nirman Abhiyan, a network of 20 NGOs working towards rehabilitation of Kachchh in close coordination with the Government (iii) Preparation of strategic and action plans for two

pilot communities (urban and semi-urban) for reconstruction involving intensive consultative process (iv) Preparation of a Post-earthquake recovery planning guide.

Team Leader; Coordination of information management at the Abhiyan Information Centre and to support planning related activities of Abhiyan for rehabilitation; Setting up a GIS based mapping information system to support and monitor rehabilitation efforts in Kutch; Institutional framework and implementation strategy

Post-disaster reconstruction; Strategic planning

Draft Development Plan for Gandhinagar; Gandhinagar Urban Development Authority; Mar 1999 to Jan 2001

To prepare the Draft Development Plan for Gandhinagar city as per the provisions of Section 9 to 16 of the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act. The Plan, covering an area of 387 sq.km including Gandhinagar Notified Area and adjoining 39 villages, consists of proposals for land use zoning, road network, infrastructure development and general development control regulations

Project Coordinator; Overall coordination of the project

Urban planning

Inputs for Revised Draft Development Plan of Ahmedabad; Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority; Feb 1998 – Mar 1999

To assist Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority with the preparation of its Draft Development Plan for the year 2011; covering an area of 1200 sq.km; proposals for land use zoning, road network, building regulations and infrastructure development

Project Manager; Overall coordination of the project; road network planning, report writing

Urban planning

Surat Inner City Revitalization Plan; Surat Municipal Corporation, USAID (FIRE) project; Sept 1997-Feb 1998

Devise a strategy to revitalize the inner city of Surat. The plan addresses the issues like traffic congestion, aging infrastructure, inadequate municipal services, loss of traditional character and heritage, deteriorating environmental quality and the dilapidation of low-income housing stock with the objective of sustaining the inner city's role as the vibrant central business district of Surat.

Project Manager; Overall coordination of the project; report writing

Urban planning

PUBLICATION – BOOK CHAPTERS

Book section title: The Reconstruction of Bhuj: Reflecting on the Planning Process

Book title: Land Use Management in Disaster Risk Reduction

Editors: Rajib Shaw, Michiko Banba

Year: 2017

Publisher: Springer

Abstract: The Gujarat earthquake in 2001 was one of the first major natural disasters in India significantly impacting urban areas. Considering this fact, in retrospect it appears that the degree of success achieved in rebuilding the affected towns is quite remarkable.

Post-disaster reconstruction situations are often characterized by expedient decision-making leading to the creation of new vulnerabilities instead of taking the opportunity to build resilience. This case study discusses two redeeming aspects of the planned reconstruction carried out in the town of Bhuj, very close to the epicenter of the quake and one of the most affected areas: (1) the role of land use planning and development control regulations at the city level in creating a new regime of resilience in this highly hazard prone city and (2) the role of land pooling in achieving relatively resilient reconstruction in the old city of Bhuj, a very densely built historic fabric. The author, who led the team that prepared the plans at both the city level and in the old city, takes advantage of the intervening years to reflect on the process, on the achievement, as well as on lost opportunities.

Title: Safer Homes, Stronger Communities: A Handbook for Reconstructing After Natural Disasters

Authors: Abhas Jha Jennifer Duyne Barenstein Priscilla M. Phelps Daniel Pittet Stephen Sena

Year: 01/01/2010

Publisher: World Bank

Abstract: The Section of the Handbook on Land Use and Physical Planning begins with Chapter 7, Land Use and Physical Planning, which describes why planning of both sites and land use is important, even in the post disaster context. The content of a traditional land use plan is described, as are the challenges that arise in post-disaster planning, which include lack of time, information and capacity. This chapter explores the complex issues associated with the need for access to land and secure tenure in reconstruction and presents recommended solutions. Case studies include one that discusses the planning process in Bhuj City, India, during which a number of residents were moved from the urban core to the periphery, and another that describes the innovative community-driven land adjudication process that took place in Aceh, Indonesia following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Title: Recovering from Earthquakes - Response, Reconstruction and Impact Mitigation in India; Chapter 7: Planning the Reconstruction of Bhuj

Authors: Editors: Shirish Patel, Aromar Revi

Year: 01/01/2010

Publisher: Routledge, India

Abstract: While the book as a whole is a compilation of lessons learned and insights gained from several earthquakes in India, my chapter focuses on the unique example of planned reconstruction in Bhuj, Kutch, Gujarat. The chapter describes the planning and implementation processes, first at city level and then at a detailed level for the walled city area. The paper discusses the inevitable tradeoffs that confront policy makers and decision makers and reflects on how they were addressed in Bhuj.

The information provided in this document is true to the best of my knowledge



(B.R. Balachandran)