

Introducing RTG 2725 Urban future-making



Aboli Mangire

Aboli Mangire is an architect and urban planning researcher with professional experience that includes a range of projects in architecture, urban design and urban development. After studying Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Pune in India she worked for over 5 years on projects including housing, office buildings and urban spaces by bridging architectural design with multidisciplinary coordination. She has studied an advanced two-year Master of Science in International Cooperation in Urban Development at Technische Universität Darmstadt, focusing on the urban challenges of rapidly urbanising cities. In 2019 she received Erasmus scholarship for an internship in the field of architecture and planning in London. Her recent consultancy engagements include spatial analysis of urban layout, street connectivity, their combined influence on the walkability of neighbourhoods and quality of life in public spaces; while her research investigates the interrelationship between informal settlements, housing regulations and planning policies. The experience extends from urban contexts of the global north to the global south.

At the research training group “Urban future-making”, her research will undertake an inquiry on housing interventions designed for the urban poor in a medium-sized city in India. In that, it investigates the city-wide housing and urban interventions initiated as a response to a major earthquake that occurred in 2001 and the destruction it brought to the marginalised communities; how these interventions started as a technical reconstruction project and later expanded to become more than that, resulting in the democratic inclusion of previously denied social groups into the city’s development process and setting up a progressive trajectory of environmentally responsive architecture. The cross-disciplinary theoretical framework of urban future-making will be harnessed to systematically unravel a crucial role of housing design techniques, civil society organisations and citizens as the urban future-makers in the face of multiple crises. Specifically, the spatial and material qualities of the built housing units, their current usage and future adaptability will be investigated. By and large, the research contribution is anticipated to bring into perspective a crucial role of technical professionals in the current dialogue of innovative urban future, ecological transition, post-disaster reconstruction, and regional development where the rural meets urban. At present the case studies suggest a focus on the issues rooted in the social and the governance structures of that of the global south. However, the later addition of case studies from the global north is considered an option upon critical investigation.