

What will challenge the development of our art over the next 10 years or so....?

**A global crisis of diminishing resources paralleled by an increase in human population living in poverty, and these people living predominantly within the urban setting.**

- Over half the world's population now lives in towns and cities, concentrated into less than 3% of the earth's land area
- About a quarter of these (that's approaching a billion) live in urban slums
- In 2030 it is projected that 5 billion people will inhabit urban areas, with most of the new urban dwellers living in developing countries, concentrating human beings in urban environments with often inadequate infrastructure (water, sewage, power and transport) and unsatisfactory shelter.
- For instance, over the next few decades the entire accumulated urban growth of Africa and Asia throughout human history will be duplicated in a single generation; such that about 80% of the global population of urban dwellers in 2030 will live in towns and cities of the developing world.
- Coincidentally, cities, while being invigorating places to reside, concentrate many of the earth's major environmental problems, in particular: pollution, resource degradation, and waste generation. But this is largely due to a history of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

(Bullet points above informed by UNFPA Report "State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth")

The challenge for architecture over the next decade and beyond is in discovering ways to bring the transformative potential of design to these growing urban populations, through alternative forms of practice that go beyond the very limited scenario of the architect and commissioning client, to engage both at the broader urban scale of sustainable infrastructure and meaningful public space, as well as on the ground in the midst of the social realities of these growing urban communities, translating their diverse identities, through creative making, into the fabric of individual and collective dwelling.

To put it another way.....our challenge in architecture is to discover new ways of wrapping poetry around the contingencies of growing, concentrated, collective human living along with the necessities of a sustainable future.

The poetry we make in architecture has to continue to lift the human spirit, just like the other arts, while at the same time accommodating ever more bodies needing to breathe, eat, drink, excrete, procreate, bleed and avoid disease.....all in greater proximity to each other than ever before.