

## NEW URBAN TOPOLOGIES – YANGON II

Information and communication were key words at Färgfabriken's follow-up program in Yangon. Proposals to the city authorities touched on artists as city planning campaigners, public programs on urban development, workshops on affordable housing and thinking ahead for Yangon. Some of the priorities were preserving and promoting public spaces, saving street food stalls, establishing streets for pedestrians only and green energy rating for new buildings.

Färgfabriken returned to Yangon in October 2015 to follow up the recommendations from the NUT program there in May. We had a mini workshop with our partner organisation T.S. 1 Gallery/PUN projects and some of the participants in the May seminar to fine-tune the recommendations which were presented the following day to the Director and Deputy Director of Yangon's City Development Committee (YCDC).

### **Institutional:**

- Communication between YCDC and local communities through surveys, neighbourhood kiosks, and online forums,
- Local artists as campaigners to improve the city (antilitter campaigns, health education, responsible use of space,
- Public programming and events featuring local professionals on urban development, also using mainstream media such as MRTV,
- Workshops for professionals on e.g. affordable housing and public housing,
- Plans for a modern art museum in Yangon? Culture and art should be invested in simultaneously with other projects to help promote citywide pride,
- What will and should Yangon look like in 10-20 years? Preventing polluted air, overcrowding, traffic congestion etc.
- A commitment from YCDC to work with us, use their name and logo and to follow through on recommendations.

### **Practical:**

- Street food support; preserving this traditional way of eating and meeting, inquire private land owners to rent out spaces for mixed public use,
- Streets for pedestrians only; give people a place to stroll,
- Create a green energy rating for all new building projects,
- Preserve and promote public spaces, riverfront, parks and lakesides.

The suggestions were very well received by the YCDC which will seek the Mayor's permission for implementation in cooperation with Färgfabriken/T.S. 1.

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