

DYNAMIC ASIA AND URBAN HERITAGE

by

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OUTLINE

1) Asian Urbanism

2) Challenges Ahead

3) Conservation and Memories

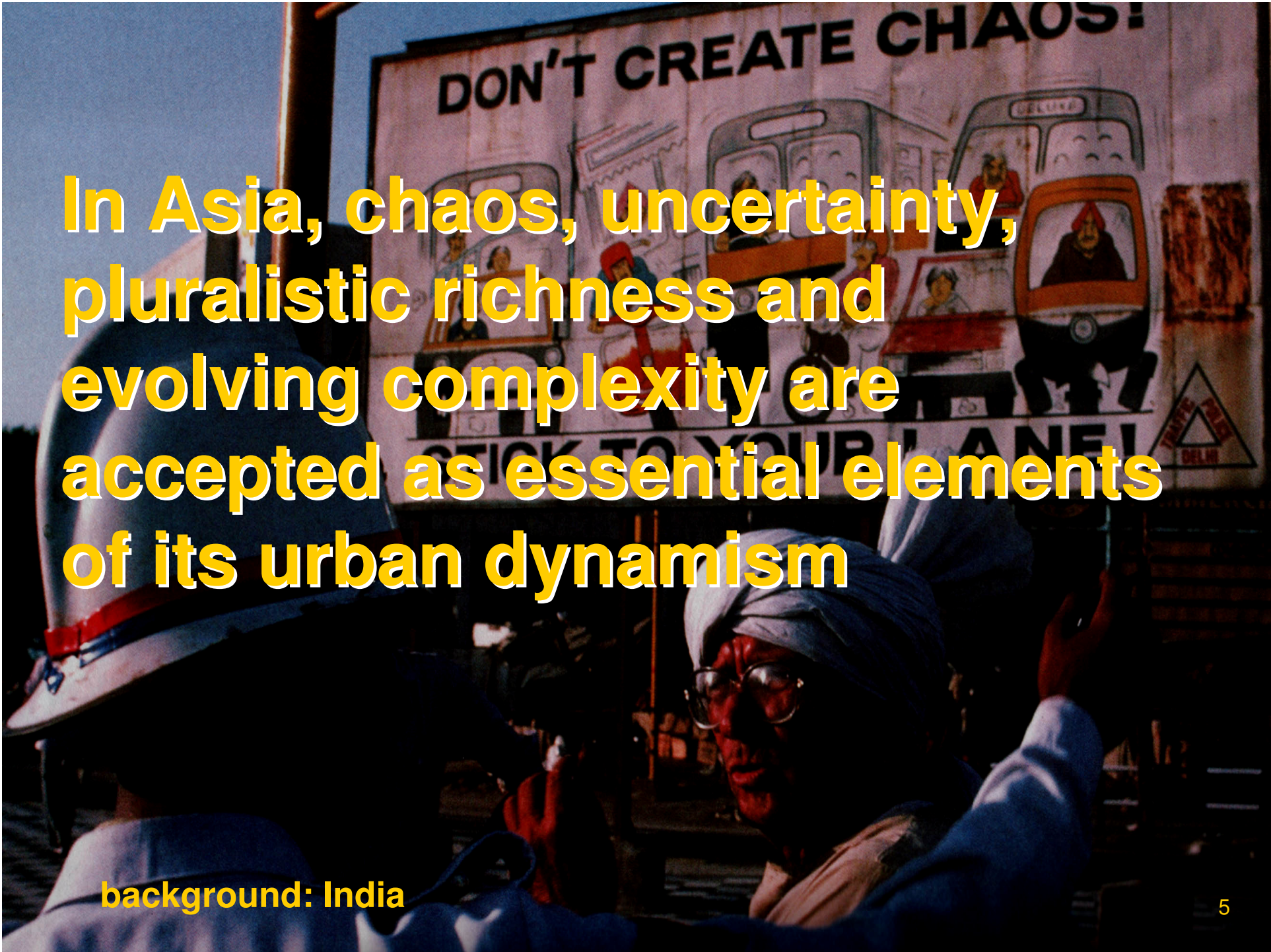
**4) Hong Kong Creative
Urban Instruments**

1) Asian Urbanism

A photograph of a young Thai boy sitting on a three-wheeled tuk-tuk. He is wearing a grey tank top and is focused on a laptop computer that is open on his lap. The tuk-tuk is moving along a street, and the background is slightly blurred, showing other vehicles and street elements. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline.

Driven by unprecedented levels of rapid technological changes and dynamic information transfers, traditions, cultures and values need to continuously evolve and redefine in response to the plurality of contemporary society.

Background: A Thai boy uses a laptop computer as a 'tuk tuk' three wheel vehicle, common as a means of transportation in Thailand, passes on busy Sukhumvit Road.



In Asia, chaos, uncertainty, pluralistic richness and evolving complexity are accepted as essential elements of its urban dynamism

background: India



A Dharavi (Mumbai, India) street pulses with merriment for the Hindu festival honoring a favorite god of the working class, elephant-headed Ganesh, who offers good luck

2) Challenges Ahead

Generic architecture is a regressive architectural attitude of accepting conceptual, spatial and visual replications which can be adapted universally anywhere, on any location, in any climatic condition and at any stage of economic development and level of technological know-how.

3) Conservation and Memories



As the storehouse of our individual and collective memories and experiences, heritage gives meaning to the past, explains the present and provides internal strength and confidence for the future.

background: Ancient Quarters, Hanoi

The richness of history, memories and local identities is often an indication of how much an urban environment is enjoyed by the people. We must consciously elevate the value of visual memories in our urban environment beyond the criterion of commodification

background: the Bund, Shanghai

4) Hong Kong Creative Urban Instruments

a) Compact Urban Central

gettyimages®

Central District, cityscape at dusk, elevated view





Queen Victoria Street, Central



Gage Street market, Central

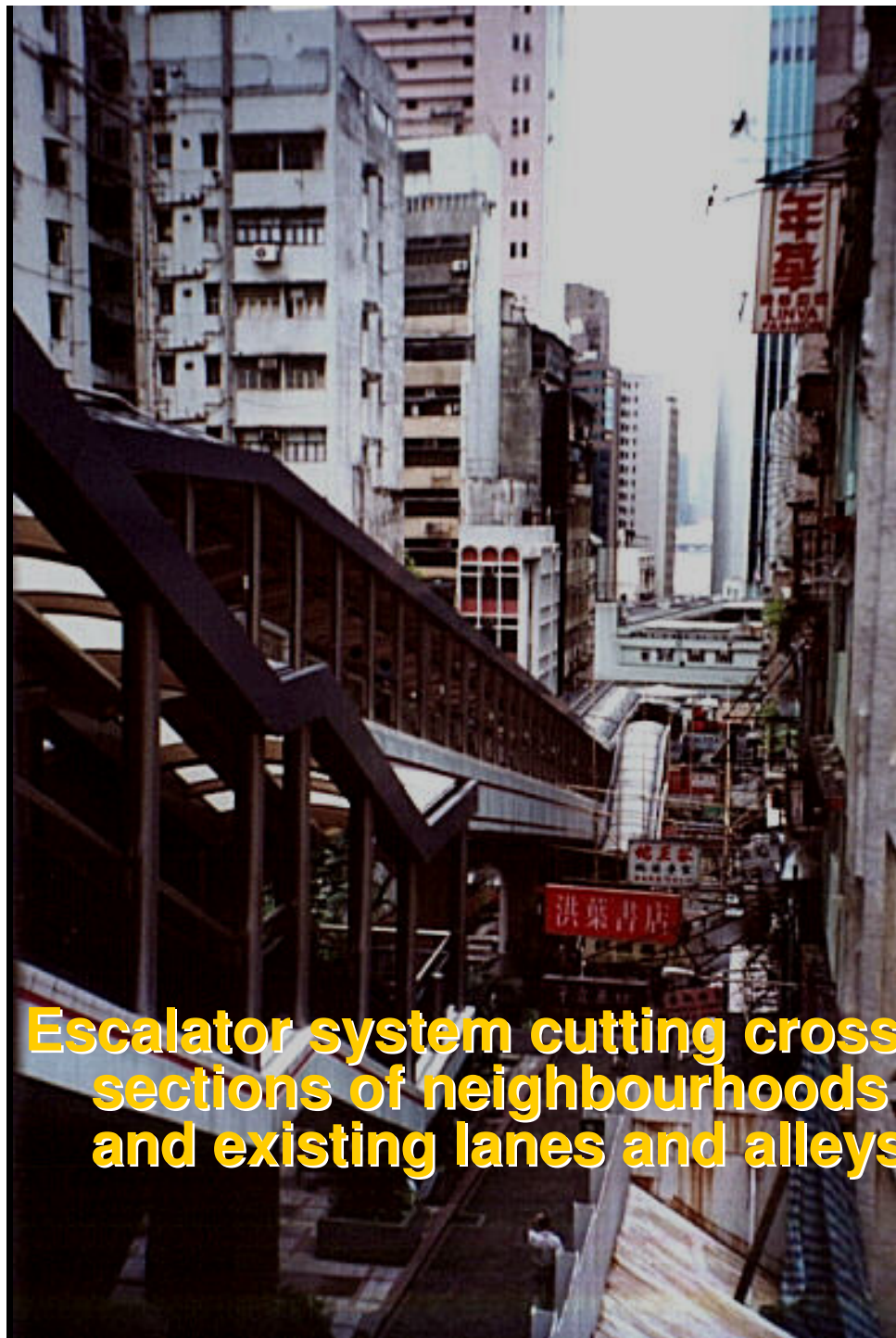
b) Second-level Pedestrian Connectors





c) Mid-levels Escalators

800m long and 135m
vertical climb escalator
system with an estimated
daily traffic of more than
50,000 people



Escalator system cutting cross sections of neighbourhoods and existing lanes and alleys



Conclusion

It is easier to build new iconic monuments, than to preserve what should not be demolished.

end