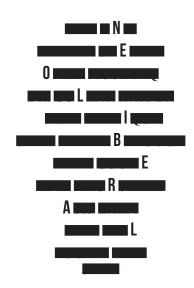


Acknowledgements



LAHORE: NEOLIBERAL ESTATE PENUMBRA

PHOTOBOOK BY FAIZAN ADIL
WITH THE HELP OF EMA ANIS & MATT COOKE



Dedicated to

DISCLAIMER

This book is based on research work developed under the Master in Photography degree program of the Interactive Design Institute and is solely based on the author's opinion. There will be flaws in the information and difference of opinions. It is recommended that this work is viewed and read with an open perspective.

If you would like to point any discrepancies or provide any further information regarding this topic, please leave an email to the author at faizanadil@hotmail.com.

www.faizanadil.com

PREFACE

The book you are about to read is the result of research undertaken for two years for the postgraduate programme at Institute of Interactive Design (IDI), conducted in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, UK. It is a photography-based book but is not merely a coffee table photobook. Here, the pictures do not speak for themselves; the research does.

Between 2019 and 2021, I dedicated my entire time into conducting primary and secondary research contemplating the changing urban landscape of the city of Lahore in Pakistan, the unchecked control of private entities over the city and its consequences. I conducted several interviews of people from different walks of life in an attempt to untangle the mess of the real estate sector. There were many contradictions in the findings: official information is either absent or it contradicts with what individuals in official capacity had to tell me on conditions of anonymity. And this is what the outcome exactly is: the real estate sector in the city is an absolute mess. The deliberate lack of transparency from official authorities has paved the way for illegalities to take place, and there remains absolutely no accountability.

I have attempted to break down this issue by providing an overview of neoliberalism, how it affects the society, the economy, the democracy, and what it has done to the urban fabric of Lahore in particular. Then the book goes further into the details of how land authorities work in Lahore and where the loopholes are. It also discusses neoliberal architecture in the local context and the intersectionality of advertisement billboards in manipulating minds towards neoliberal agendas.

One of the most important takeaways from this research for me is that not everything is always black and white; there are always grey areas. And this is what I would want the readers to keep in mind while experiencing this book. I hope this book leaves people with an urge to think and question.

CONTENTS

Inside: The Walled City of Lahore	
Neoliberalism	54
Neoliberal Skyline for Sale	84
Neoliberalism and the Society	89
Interviews	10
Inside a Privatized Welfare Estate Election	15
Katchi Abadi (Shanty Town)	194
Bibliography	23

INSIDE: The walled city of lahore

"Jine Lahore Nai Vekhya O Jamya e Ni"

(He who hasn't seen Lahore is not even born)

Lahore — a city of gardens, romance, education, war, politics, trade and liberation. It's a city that never sleeps. Its tempestuous historical life was moulded by the Mongolians, British, Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus over several decades, and it once remained the capital of the Ghaznavid dynasty (from 1163 to 1189). It's the breezing city of River Ravi.

The 13 gates that enclosed the city during the Mughal era have become a poetic representation of the life and struggle of Lahore's existence and survival. Many have entered the city, idolised it, occupied it and then left. The city exudes the persona of an exotic gravitational site. Once ruled by emperors and imperials, it is now under the control of capitalists, industrialists and neoliberalists. Today, those who still live within the old 13 gates have come to be known as the residents of "Old Lahore" or "The Walled City of Lahore".

I have seen many people — writers, poets, architects, artists, tourists — who romanticise with the old city. For them, this romanticism is akin to idolising the city, of owning it. In a conversation with Dr Gulzar, he told me that people who idolise things are people who believe in God. It represents an affiliation and appreciation towards something tangible and intangible.

Those who have dwelled on this land before the 20th century have seen a great many dynamic shifts through political and capitalist endeavours. They see the city now as a destroyed cultural, socio-economic and political façade.



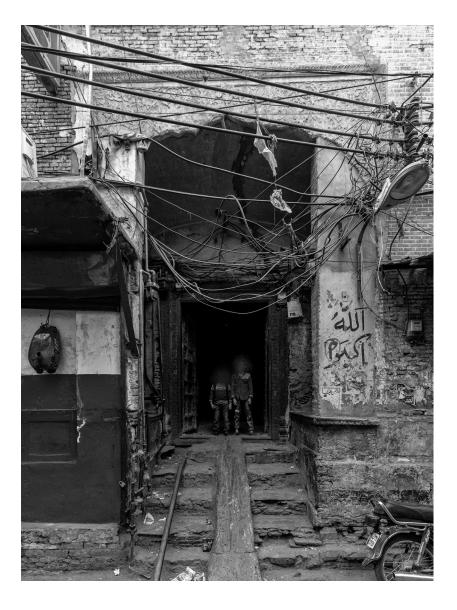








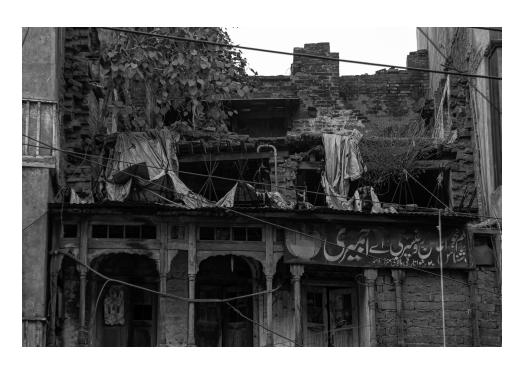


















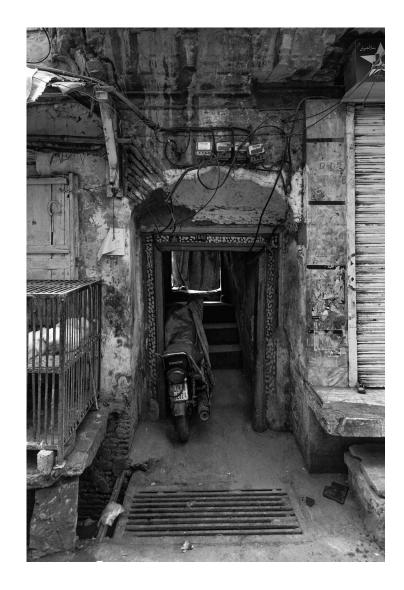


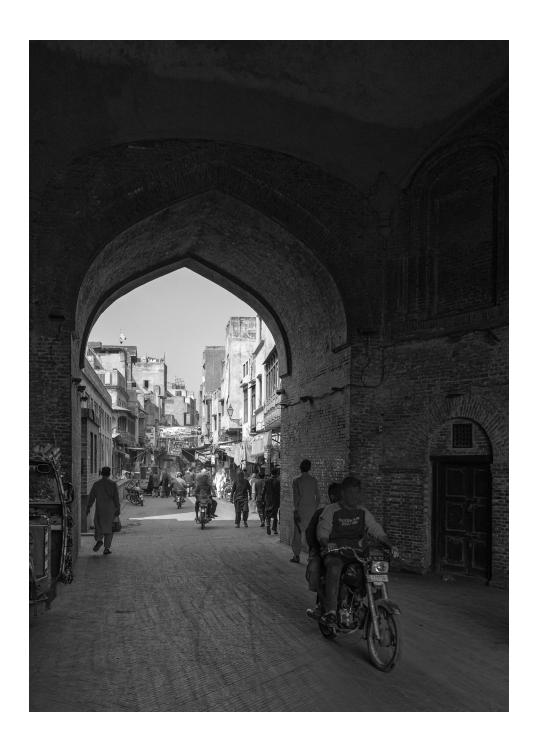










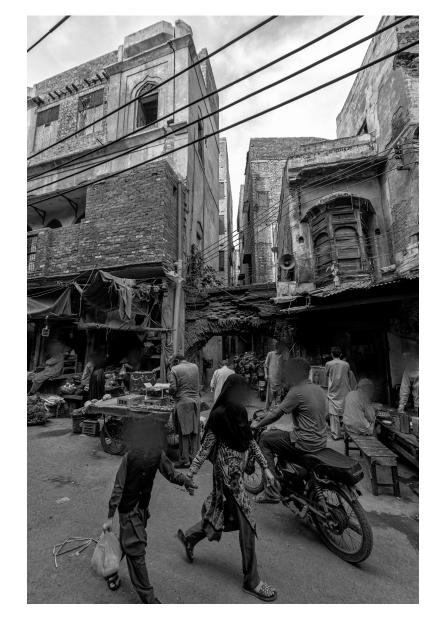




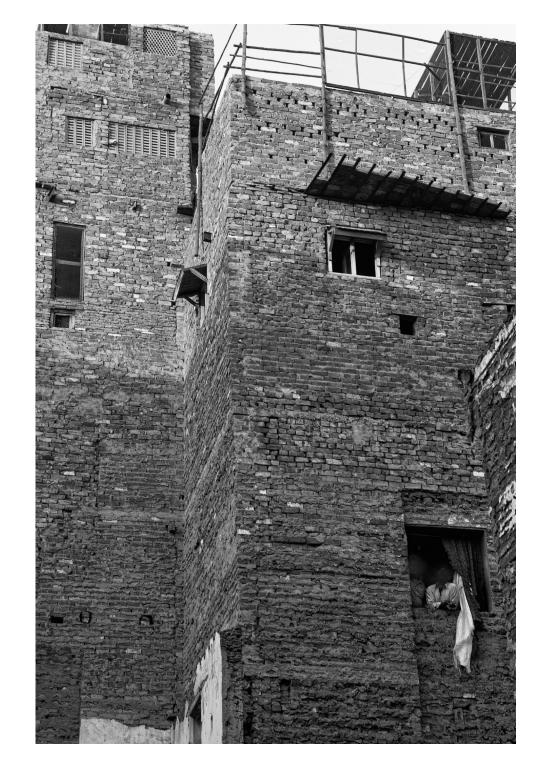














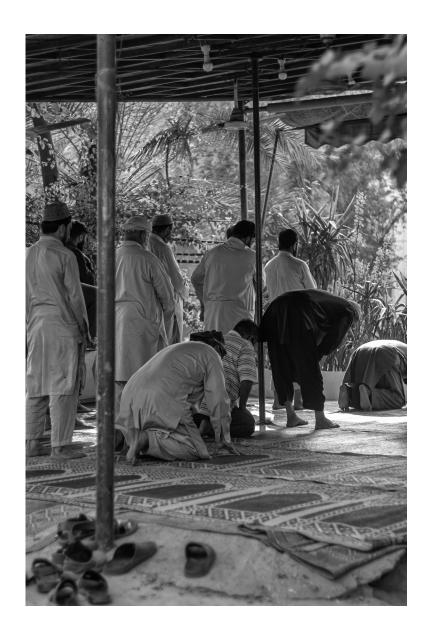


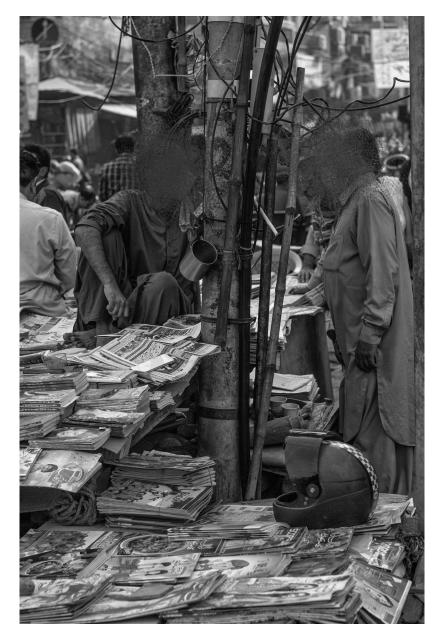
































PRIVATIZATION

noun

"the transfer of a business, industry, or service from public to private ownership and control."

Definitions from Oxford Languages

DISMANTLING LAHORE

The title of "Walled City" accurately serves as an expression of the current residential dilemma of the city Lahore, now known as the capital of privatized gated communities. Where romanticism nestled between the 13 gates ends, the city sprouts into every direction, ever-expanding. Every year, we see a new Lahore earmarked by neoliberal estates in the outskirts. The outskirts of the city keep adding on, without any official demarcation of the city boundaries. In today's free-market economy, there is a great neoliberal lust of institutes.

Lahore is a centuries-old city. At the time of Pakistan's independence in 1947, Lahore's premises were defined by three core elements: River Ravi, the border with India and agricultural land. The city's expansion during the last three decades happened haphazardly, taking over a lot of the surrounding agricultural lands into its fold. New policies for this rapid expansion and privatization of land were the demand of the time but superimposition of outdated by-laws worsened the existing conditions of the city resulting in the mess of unequal distribution and supply of the utilities.

Globally, whenever cities expand, the supervising authorities strategically analyse the urban demand and need of the ever-growing population of the society and do not bring reforms that disrupt the living conditions of its inhabitants. One of the basic responsibilities of these development authorities is to plan for the future and propose new by-laws. Whereas in Lahore, most of the residential and commercial by-laws were left untouched and applied homogeneously at approximately 60 to 70 per cent of the city.

This uncontrollable urban sprawl of land authorities, particularly in the form of privatized societies, creates a certain cultural imbalance in the socio, economic and geographical life of Lahore. Today, the modernized mega Lahore is transformed into Pakistan's 'Capital of Privatized Societies'. As the population of the city grows, the city continues to grow as well, expanding at its peripheries, engulfing everything that comes in its way — like wildfire.

Almost every piece of land in the city has been procured by the city's development authority in the last two decades. This unsupervised expansion of the city is availed as an opportunity and cashed by capitalists who turn these pieces of land into separate state-like entities. Neoliberalism is known as the root cause of these private gated residential economies. The neoliberalism in real estate of Lahore is post-normal but not the abnormal.

65% PRIVATIZED

35% STATE

From the way I see it, as much as 65 per cent of Lahore's land is now under private control



NEOLIBERALISM

noun

"a political approach that favours free-market capitalism, deregulation, and reduction in government spending."

Definitions from Oxford Languages

NEOLIBERALISM

If you have ever heard the phrase "Only those who work hard can succeed in life", and have also come to believe it, then congratulations, you have successfully been manipulated by neoliberal ideologies.

In today's world, money works in a very different way. It's not hard work that brings capital but rather a power structure that ensures that the rich support the rich while the poor are viewed as an 'eyesore' because they 'just don't work hard enough'. Today, 26 rich billionaires own as much capital as 50 per cent of the poorest people on the planet, according to an Oxfam report published in early 2019 (Elliot, 2019). These rich people have a large stake in world politics and the economy that enables them to manipulate economic policies in favour of their personal gains, with no care of the world, the environment, or the people. And this power is given to them by neoliberalism.

In its literal sense, 'neoliberalism' is an economic term which was first envisioned by economist and philosopher Friedrich Hayek in the mid-1930s (Metcalf, 2017). The 'neoliberalism' theory evolved from 18th-century classical liberalism and promotes the idea of individual prosperity specifically in the context of freedom of the market. In simple words, neoliberalism is an economic policy associated with unrestrained global capital of an individual or an entity. This term neoliberalism as an economic policy and phenomenon was propagated and popularized in the 1980s owing mainly to US President Ronald Reagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and economist Milton Friedman (Monbiot, 2016). The foundation of neoliberalism is to present favourable conditions

for a private individual or entity's liberty, growth, technological advancement and transnational collaboration without caring for the greater good, the society, the climate or for ethics.

The problem appears in the mixed market when the free market of privatized entities overpowers the planned market. The neoliberal phenomenon flourishes at that moment which is visible throughout the world. There are multiple factors in the rise of neoliberal economies in which prominent white-collar corruption by the authorities of a respective country appears.

One of the biggest disasters of neoliberalism is how it turns everything into a commodity, by marketizing the nature of every aspect of human life, the society, politics, environment and culture (Metcalf, 2017). Even the states themselves turn into a market viewing all acts as transactions (Gray, 2010). Neoliberalism also deepens the social divide among people by introducing the concept of competition as being inherent to human nature and thereby pitting people against people (Monbiot, 2016). By making people think that they can only be successful by maximizing their personal and material gains, neoliberalism "has become incorporated into the common-sense way many of us interpret, live in, and understand the world" (Harvey, 2005).



NEOLIBERALISM IN LAHORE'S REAL ESTATE SECTORS

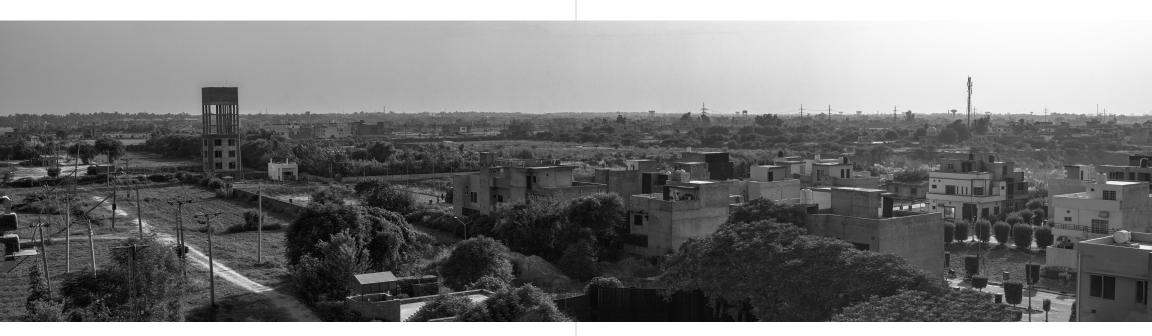
In 2017, the population of the city of Lahore stood at 11.13 million and by 2019, the population increased by 3.7 per cent to 12.64 million (Macrotrends, n.d). According to some estimates, Lahore is expected to become the world's largest city by 2050 with 42.46 million people (Khawar, 2017).

This growth shows the rise of urbanization in Lahore. The facilities of health, education, jobs, and industries sectors are majorly found in the city, resulting in large rural to urban migration. This urbanization has a great role in the expansion of Lahore. The boundary of the city is extensively expanding, occupying the outskirts and covering the agricultural lands.

"Lahore alone lost some 20,000 acres to housing, factories and other non-agricultural activities during past 10-12 years. No record is available for other districts of the province" (Alam, 2013). Journalist Iftikhar Alam claims that throughout the province of Punjab, private entities as well as the government have occupied acres of agricultural lands resulting in a shortage of food production and supply, and gives the example of Lahore Development Authority (LDA) that has occupied land from Rohi Nullah to Kasur to develop a society on 3,000-acre agriculture land (Alam, 2013). The same is supported in a report by Reuters news agency:

"In Lahore, Pakistan's second-largest city, nearly 300,000 acres (121,000 hectares) of farmland were converted to urban built-up land in the past 40 years and a substantial part of that land was converted to support over 250 housing schemes, according to a 2016 study by Pakistani academics." (Mustafa, 2019)







The rise of urbanization in Lahore is not ambiguous; it's visible in the form of privatized societies. These privatized societies not just provide residential space but they also create space for commercial activities. Some of these societies have their own community centres, hospitals, schools and security. More facilities in a society mean higher land price and low facilities mean lower prices. The real estate market is not only based on the land area but also depends upon the builder/brand and the capital involved.

Many of these private societies in Lahore have been declared illegal by the Lahore Development Authority, but interestingly, LDA's list of approved societies (LDA, n.d) also includes some names that have ongoing cases on them for massive embezzlement of millions of funds and illegal occupation of land, such as Al-Kabir Town (Dawn, 2020). LDA's own list of illegal societies names 557 societies that are not approved (LDA, n.d).



PENUMBRA

noun

"the partially shaded outer region of the shadow cast by an opaque object."

Definitions from Oxford Languages

LAHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPROVED SOCIETIES

According to the 2018 report of Government LDA, they have approved 236 societies under their banner

Abdalian Housing Society Phase 1 Abid City Abid City 2 Abouzar Housing Scheme Abpara Housing Scheme Accounts Group Housing Scheme AGRICS Town AGRICS Town Phase 2 AGRICS Town Phase 3 Ahbab Cooperative Housing Scheme Ahmed Housing Scheme Ahsan Park Air Lines Housing Scheme Aitchison College Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Akhtar Estate 1 Ark Villas Al-Rehmat Housing Scheme Al-Asar Housing Scheme Al-Hamd Forts Al-Hamra Town Alia Town AlJanat Housing Scheme Almawa Housing Scheme Alpha Cooperative Housing Society Angoori Bagh Scheme
Architects Engineers Housing Scheme Phase 1
Architects Engineers Housing Scheme Phase 2 Army Welfare Trust Housing Scheme Phase 1 Army Welfare Trust Housing Scheme Phase 2 Audit & Accounts Housing Societ Avecinia City Awaisia Housing Scheme Ayubia Town Azam Garden Housing Scheme Azizia Town Bagh-e-Iram Housing Scheme Bahria Town (Safari Town) Bahria Town (Sector A) Bankers Avenue Cooperative Housing Scheme Campus Colony Campus View Town Canal Burg
Canal View Cooperative Housing Scheme China Town Chinar Bagh Housing Scheme Chinar Courts Farm Housing scheme Chodary Khushi Muhammad City Park Housing Scheme City Star Residency Class IV Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Dilkusha Colony Dream Gardens Dream Gardens Phase 2 Dubai Town Land Housing Scheme Eden Abad Eden Abad Extension Eden Abad Ext-1(A+B) Eden Boulevard Eden Canal Villas Housing Scheme Eden Gardens Eden Gardens Extension Eden Park Eden Place Housing Scheme EME Co-operative Housing Scheme Engineering University Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Engineers & Architects Housing Scheme Phase 3 Ethad Town Ever Green Housing Scheme Excise - Taxation Faroog Avenue Fazaia Housing Scheme Fazal Elahi Colony Formanites Housing Scheme Phase 1 General Sher Ali Khan Housing Scheme Ghee Corporation of Pakistan Ghousia Town Gardiono Courts Housing Scheme GM Riaz Gosha-e-Ahbab Phase 2 Gosha-e-Ahbab Phase 3 Gosha-e-Ahbab Co-operative Housing Scheme Government Superior Services Government Officers Cooperative Housing Scheme (C & D Sector) Government Servant Housing Scheme OLD Green Acres Farm Housing Scheme

Green Valley Green Forts 2 (Rev) Guldasht Town Gulfishan Town Gulshan-e-Awan Housing Scheme Gulshan-e-Dawood Housing Scheme Gulshan-e-Jinnah Housing Scheme Gulshan-e-Lahore Housing Scheme Gulshan-e-Rail Housing Scheme Phase 2 Gulshan-e-Mustafa Housing Scheme Gulshan-e-Shalimar Housing Scheme Hassan Town Home Land(Eden Palace Villas) Icon Valley IEP Town Sector B IEP Town Sector A
International City Farm Housing Scheme
Iqbal Avenue Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1
Iqbal Avenue Phase 3 Irrigation Society
Islamia College Old Boys Housing Scheme Ittefag Town Jaffar Town/Ismat Nagar Jewan Mal Jowan Mai Judicial Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1 Judicial Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1 Extension Judicial Colony Phase 2 Judicial Housing Scheme Phase 3
Judicial Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 3 Extension KEMC (Doctors town) Khayaban-e-Quaid Khayam Mini City Phase 1 Khuram Town Khayaban-e-Amin Khayaban-e-Khair-ud-Din Khayaban-e-Khair-ud-Din (Ext) Khayaban-e-Zahra Khyber Housing State Kings Town Housing Scheme Lahore Avenue Lahore Chamber of Commerce Housing Scheme Phase 1 Lahore Chamber of Commerce Housing Scheme Phase 2 Lake City Bella Vista Land Bareze Sector A Land Bareze Sector E Marium Town Mascot Housing Scheme Meraj Town Housing Scheme Mid Land Farm Housing Scheme Millat Tractors Employees Housing Scheme Model Housing Scheme Muhafiz Town Phase 1 Muhafiz Town phase 2 Muslim Nager Naddi Kinaray Nasheman-e-Idbal Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1 Nasheman-e-Iqbal Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 2 NESPAK Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 2 Site 1 NESPAK Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme NESPAK Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 2 New Lahore City News Paper Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme NFC Housing Scheme Phase 1 Nishan Colony OPF Housing Scheme P&D Employees Housing Scheme
Passco Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme
Pakistan Atomic Energy Housing Scheme Pakistan Raiput Town Pak Arab Housing Scheme PCSIR Employees Cooperative Housing Society Phase 1 PCSIR Employees Cooperative Housing Society Phase 1
PCSIR ECHS (Alfalah Avenue-1)
PCSIR Employees Cooperative Housing Society Phase 2 Revised
PCSIR Employees Cooperative Housing Society Phase 2 and 3 PGEHS Phase 1 Extension PIA Housing Scheme Phase 1 & 2 Pindi Raj Putan Housing Scheme Public Health Engineering Dept. Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Punjab Board of Revenue Housing Scheme Punjab Government Employees Housing Scheme Phase I
Punjab Government Employees Housing Scheme Phase I
Punjab Government Employees Housing Scheme Phase I
Extension Punjab Government Employees Housing Scheme Phase 2 Punjab University Employees Housing Scheme Phase 1 Punjab University Employees Housing Scheme Phase 2 Ravians Housing Scheme

Raza Town Housing Scheme

Regent Park

Rehman Estate Revenue Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Block A Revenue Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Block B River Edge Housing Scheme (Revised) River View Cooperative Housing Scheme Royal Residencia Housing Scheme Saddat Cooperative Housing Scheme Saighal Estate Housing Scheme Sally Town South Saman Berg Khurd Saman Burg Sargodha Cooperative Housing Scheme Saroba Garden Satellite Town Shadab Colony Shahid Town Sheraz Housing Scheme State Enterprises Housing Scheme State Enterprises Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1 State Enterprises Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 2 Sui Northern Gas Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1 Sui Northern Officers Housing Scheme Phase 2 Sukh Chavn Garden Sun Flower Housing Scheme (Revised)
Sunny Park Housing Scheme
Sunny Park Housing Scheme (Extension) Superior Courts Employees Housing Scheme Tariq Gardens Housing Scheme TECH. Society (The Engineers Cooperative Housing Scheme) Tricon Village Housing Scheme Tuxedo Farm Housing Scheme Valencia Housing Scheme Phase 1-4 Valencia Housing Scheme Phase 5 Venus Housing Scheme Wapda Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1 Wapda Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Phase 1 Extension Wapda Retired Officers Housing Scheme Wapda Town phase 2 West Wood Colony
Women Housing Scheme
Wyeth Employees Cooperative Housing Scheme Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Zubaida Khatoon



LAHORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY UNAPPROVED SOCIETIES

According to the 2018 report of Government LDA, they have 557 unapproved societies under their banner

Arth Carden, Morra Bagrina Dharma Chand, Bagrina Road, Labore.

Al-Modina Carden, Morra Bagrina Dharma Chand, Bagrina Road, Labore.

Rama Park, Kharia Distributury, Labore.

Bagrina Homes, Bagrina Road, Labore.

Bagrina Homes, Bagrina Road, Labore.

Hakim Town, Mozara Bagrina Dharmachand, Bagrina Road, Labore.

Bagrina Madadherinis near Chini gunden, Anghourt Marion did bysas, Labore.

Land Suddrivision near HP Town, Mozara Bagrina Dharmachand, Bagrina Road, Labore.

And Harmachand Bagrina Dharmachand, Bagrina Road, Labore.

Park And Ericheve, Mozara Statischat, College Road, Labore.

Park And Bagrina Dharmachand, Bagrina Road, Labore.

Park And Statischath, College Road, Labore.

Park And Statischath, College Road, Labore.

Park Ander Statischath, College Road, Labore.

Park Ander Statischath, College Road, Labore.

Park Town, Laignerische market Garbin, Mozara Bagrina Dharmachand, College Road, Labore.

Park Yew, Villas, Jak, Minne Road, Maltan Road, Labore.

Park Yew, Villas, Jak, Minne Road, Labore.

Park Yew, Villas, Jak, Minne Road, Maltan Road, Labore.

Park Yew, Villas, Jak, Minne Road, Maltan Road, Labore.

Park Jewes Villas, Jak, Minne Road, Maltan Road, Labore.

Park Jewes Villas, Jakore Los Minnes, Minnes Road, Labore.

Park Jewes Villas, Jak, Minnes Road, Maltan Road, Labore.

Park Jewes Villas, Ja Arthol ceatain't can't little Black Earlock
Arthol ceatain't can't little Black Earlock
Black Earloc Golf Vew Residencia (Bahria Propoca), Adjacent to Sector A. R. C. & Raiswind Road Bahria Town Histolian Vew Residencia (Bahria Town Histolian Vew Residencia) (Bahria Charles) (

Mian Ji Abdullah Housing Scheme, Near Raiwind Flyover, Railway Road, Raiwind Nauman Biock, adjacent Lanote canas rains, society of the same canas.

Artho Homes, Of UBD Canal Lahore
Paradise Valley, Phase III, Adjacent Rail Town Housing Scheme, Lahore
Illegal Extension Opposite Pot No. 70 to 78, Sultan Town, Raiwind Road, Lahore
Abdullah Garden, Faissalabad Road, Shahkot illegal Extension Opposite Piot No. 70 to 78, Subra Toron, Raisenid Road, Labore Adabilità Carder, Jaisabade Road, Sabade Adabilità Carder, Jaisabade Road, Sabade Adabilità Carder, Jaisabade Road, Sabade Road, Sab Shahkot Iqbal Avenue Housing Scheme / Mustafabad Road, Warburton, Nankana Al. Isnnat homes / Bucheki Road Nankana Briadum Colony, Chai No. SSRB, Tchul Shahkot
Shahkot S Al-Sant 100m Farooqabad, Sheiknupura Tariq Town, Farooqabad, Sheikhupura Afzal Town, Green Valley, Sargodha Road, Sheikhupura Rehman Garden, Burjwala, Iaghore Sheikhupura Road Garden Town, Lahore Sheikhupura Road Shaheen City Phasel and II, Lahore Faisalabad Road Shabeen City Phasel and II, Lahore Faisalabad Road
Ayou Garden, Sharapper Road, Sheishingura
Makaha City, Sharapper Road, Sheishingura
Makaha City, Sharapper Road, Sheishingura
Hagal Land subfrision adjacen to be New Cro'll line, Sargodha Road, Sheishingura
Higal Land subfrision adjacen to be New Cro'll line, Sargodha Road, Sheishingura
Hiran Minner City, Hiran Minner Interchange Sheishingura
Hiran Minner City, Hiran Minner Interchange Sheishingura
Alvisand Gorden, Washuston Road, Fernovastwana, Sheishingura
Abid Town; MouzaChak 40 (Ferovasia)
Argal Town; MouzaChak 40 (Ferovasia)

Akram Block, Not Abdul Mahla Al Haq Garder, Fanan Fown Forn, GT Rond Al Had Garder, Fanan Fown Forn, GT Rond Al Bather Christian Hall Hally Daswell Rond Near Railway Phatak Al Shafi Town, Fish Bally Blashwell Rond, Ferozwala Al Spird Villis: Jaranwal Rond Al Syed Villis: Jaranwal Rond Al-Fajir Garder, Motorway Bypasa, Kala ShahKaku Al-Fajir Garder, Motorway Bypasa, Kala ShahKaku Alhand Garder, Bris. Badu Ferozwala Alland ucuten Pri-I flush retorevals
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Arnhad Town; Chair Shei Shaha and Maria Shaha Mana Chri, Lahnes Shei Shaha and Jones Shahanquarhumdur Abdul Malik
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Mentar Park, New Metorway Bypas, Kaija ShahiKaku
Mashag Town; Moraz Masinshiai
Mashag Town; Moraz Masinshiai
National Iown; Moraz Badu
National Iown; Moraz Badu
Nazir Garden Pl Hi, GT Road Shah Khalid Town
Nazir Garden Pl Hi, GT Road Shah Khalid Town
Perz Abbas Town; Bladley Baharesul
Panjab Park IVS, College Road, Shah Khalid town
Panjab Park IVS, College Road, Shah Khalid town
Radia Town; Moraz Tahua Khardyar
Rajpoot Town; Darpahi Gill, New Rana Town
Raza abad; Morazi Tahua Khardyar Raza abad; MouzaThathaKhurdyar Rehbar City; Mouza Badu Rehman City Ph II; Mouza Faizpur Khurdar (thatha khuda yar) Rehman City Ph III; Mouza Khaki Rizz Block; Chak No 39
Royal City HS; Bhahly Bahnewal Road, Ferozwala
Sadaat Town; Mouza Khaki
Sanam Abad HS; Abdian Road, Ferozwala
Shah Khalid Town; GT Road, Ferozwala
Shahc Khalid Town; GT Road, Ferozwala
Shahcen Valley HI; College Road, Ferozwala
Shahcra Town; Mouza Chaid Ad, Ferozwala
Shahzaid Town; Mouza Chaid Ad, ferozwala
Shamzi Fark; Chai No 39
Shamzi Fark; Chai No 39
Shamzi Fark; Cy, Mouza Khaki Small City; Mouza Berth
Sun Shine Garden; Ferozwala
Syed Colony; Mouza Maindhiali
Syed Shah Jilal City; Rana Town
Tahir Garden; Kala Shah Kaku
Tarip Block Ph-!; Murad Town, Ferozwala
Tayyab town; Bypass Kala Shakaku
Tayyaba Garden Ph 1-l1; Jaranwala Road University Town; Motorway Bypass, Kala ShahKaku Usman Town; Tatha Khudayar Claima Foron: 1 thin kindayar

Zaffet City; Shanagar Khardya

Zahid Foron: Moora Thatha Khardyar

Zahid Fari, Paris, P town Gulshan Haider Ph-II; Mouze Bhanewal G.T. Road Lasani Housing Scheme; Sharaqpur Road Gulshan e Mehrab; Collage Road, Shah Khalid town Rehman City Ph-V; Ahdian Road, Ferozwala Capital City Housing Gulshan E Attar Ahmed Town Tehsil Muridke Mushtaq Park (old Al Kareem Garden) Tehsil Muridke Al Wahid Town Tehsil Muridke Zaman Garden Tehsil Muridke

Canal View Tehsil Muridke Mittata itwo Ishah Mendad.

Nor Park Telah Mendad.

Almad Davidgen, Tahah ar Mittata Salam Albarda Mendadi Men Khanbede Town Depalpur Road near new adda Khanlun Khas, Kasur Jadah Tiwow Mhain Road, Blai Phern, Tsahi Patnicia Model (vi) Hasning Schnere-Whitan Road, Pantal Marchan Handa (vi) Hasning Schnere-Whitan Road, Pantal Handa (vi) Hasning Schnere-Whitan Road, Pantal Handa (vi) Hasning Schnere-Whitan Road, Panta (vi) Hasning Schnere-Whitan Road, Handa (vi) Handa (vii) Handa (viii) Handa (vii) Handa (vii) Handa (vii) Handa (viii) Handa (viii) Handa (viii) Handa (vi Midd City Pengler Mod Khadina Khan, Tehul Kasur
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Halip Path/Rifk Raw Road, Kot Radio Kishan, Kasur
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Billuline Gander, Languager Road, Kanggunger

Halluline Gander, Kanggunger Road, Kanggunger

Haljuline Carlott, Kanggunger Road, Kanggunger

Chariman Colony/Houtafielad, Dathi Road, Tebuli Xaura

Chariman Colony/Houtafielad, Dathi Road, Tebuli Xaura

Chariman Colony/Houtafielad, Dathi Road, Tebuli Xaura

Jamal Para Piace Ulivace Chair Road, Christoli Kangra

Jamal Para Piace Ulivace Chair Road, Christoli Kangra

Jamal Para Piace Ulivace Chair Facel Wida, Main Depulpur Road, Kanur

Jamal Para Piace Ulivace Chair Facel Wida, Main Depulpur Road, Kanur

Halluline Chariman Dayana, Khadian Rhan, Kanur

Wijdi Bluckoff Chanisan Dayana, Khadian Rhan, Kanur

Wijdi Bluckoff Chanisan Bayana, Khadian Rhan, Kanur

Haji Bluckoff Chanisan Payana, Khadian Rhan, Kanur

Higal Land Sad-division New Mezzan Bink, Pintoli Ravindi Road, Kot Rada Kishan District Kasur

Al-Noor Developed Shali Road, Bille Pinton, Tehni Pintoli

Scheme Developed by Malik Muknisa Mulian Road, Jambert Tehni Pintok

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ESTATE

noun

"an extensive area of land in the country, usually with a large house, owned by one person, family, or organization."

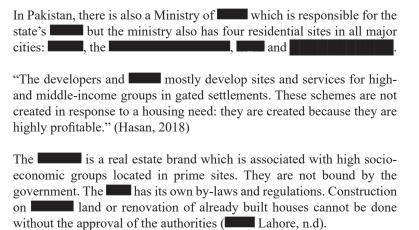
Definitions from Oxford Languages

AUTHORITIES IN LAHORE THAT CONTROL LAND, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

The functionality of the government and its various institutes responsible for land acquisition, land laws, and development of privatized communities, can be understood by looking at the list of authorities responsible for land regulation in the city. The workings, hierarchies and functionalities of these institutes are highly complex, as they often overlap with each other and are inter-connected in their responsibilities (Bhatti & Rana, 2018). Below is a list of department and ministries that are operational in Lahore for housing and development (The Government of Pakistan, n.d) (Ministry of Privatisation, n.d) (Cooperatives Department, n.d):

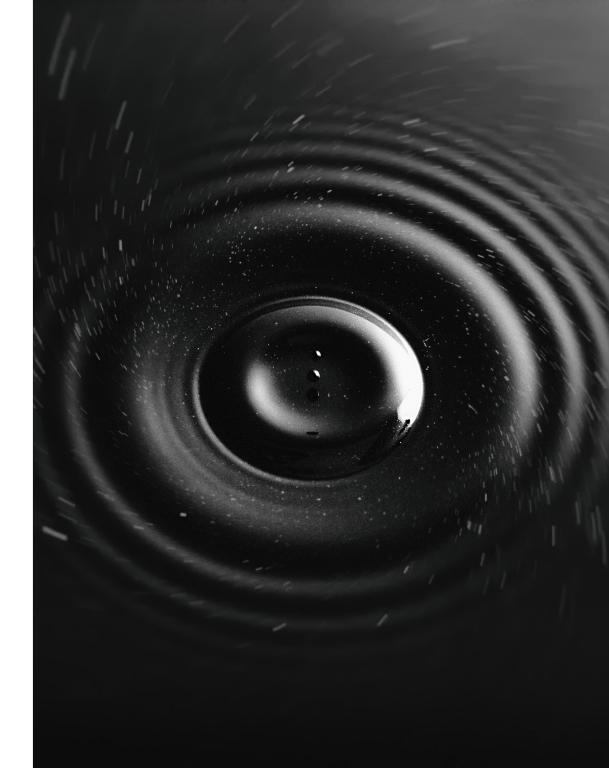
- Cooperatives Department (Provincial)
- Home Ministry (Provincial)
- Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering (Provincial)
- . ``
- Local Government and Community Development (Provincial)
- Planning and Development Board
- Lahore Development Authority (LDA) of Lahore division which covers multiple cities
- Department of Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering
- .
- Local Government and Community Development Department
- Tehsil Municipality Authority (Government city department)
- Communication and Works Department (Provincial)
- Housing and Works Department (Federal)
- Punjab Land Record Authority
- Privatization

The data for LDA is not entirely available online. They are still using hard copies for property files registration. In 2013, the real estate record of LDA was destroyed into ashes by an unknown fire in a building in which five people died (The News, 2013). The Lahore Development Authority whose job is to approve the design and construction of buildings with all the primary elements, including fire safety, wasn't able to secure its premises. This case is still running in the National Accountability Bureau.



"At the end of the 1970s, development was proceeding slowly and the society's financial situation was deteriorating. To avert a crisis, the then development was deteriorating. To avert a crisis, the then development of Pakistan, dissolved and formed the development rights." (Hasan, 2018)

Pakistan is a country which is low on resources, such as water, electricity and gas. All cities face load shedding of gas and electricity and many areas face extreme shortages of water year-round. Private gated communities offer 24/7 uninterrupted electricity, water and gas to its residents at a premium price, but what these communities are actually doing is taking up resources from the rest of the city to provide them to their community residents. In 2016, historian Gul Hasan Kalamati said that all of Karachi's electricity and water was being directed to private communities Bahria Town and (Masood, 2016). The Pakistan Meteorological Department also predicts that the country will run out of water by 2025 (Ebrahim, 2018). "With a per person annual availability of water at 1,017 cubic meters, Pakistan is fast closing in at 1,000 cubic meters, which indicates the country is water scarce." (Ebrahim, 2018). Another environmental lawyer and activist Rafay Alam also says Lahore's groundwater was "thoroughly exploited, extracted and poisoned" by pollution. (Reuters, 2018).





DEMOCRACY

noun

"a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives."

Definitions from Oxford Languages

THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

"The State shall provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, as are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment"

(Constitution of Pakistan, 1973)

Currently, Pakistan is a democratic country on paper. The state is made up of the National Assembly, the Parliament and the Senate. The elected people are responsible for upholding the Constitution of Pakistan, however, the country is practically run, exploited and manipulated by the Laboratory. The state is responsible for providing all basic necessities of life, however, widespread corruption has led to privatization in the country paving way for politics to get merged with business and for unchecked capital power to flourish and control the country.

"Between January 1991 and September 2015, the government completed 173 transactions for Rs 650 billion that included the sale of companies from power, oil and gas, transportation, telecommunications, banking and insurance sectors." (Ahmed, 2019)

While privatization policies introduced under regime were posed as a progressive and intelligent move, the privatization has in fact caused more harm than good (Tahir, 2014). Today, the population of the country relies on the private sector for everything, including healthcare, education, housing, electricity, water, and security, despite paying all taxes. Citizens have now turned into customers because of privatization (Ramay & Shah, 2020).

The major role of a democratic government is to ensure the health, education and safety of its citizens. But what exactly are the priorities of Pakistan's government?

In 2018, the country spent a total of Rs21 billion during the general elections, to cater to 106 million registered voters in the country. The total estimated cost of the elections came to about Rs440 billion if you add the estimated cost of expenditure and spendings of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the federal and provincial governments, hidden donors, security establishment, political parties, voters and candidates.

During the entire electoral process, there are loopholes and lack of transparency. The Federal Bureau of Revenue is unable to trace the amount of funding as cash liquidity doesn't go through the process of bank transfers but moves in hard cash from person-to-person. This is why it is hard to trace exactly how much money is circulating among donors and spenders during the electoral process.

This also reveals how candidates are funded by capitalists in elections, bringing forth the open truth of the encroachment of capitalism in politics. Citizens vote for these candidates to improve their living conditions, but on the contrary, if the government passes a bill changing the basic salary of an individual to Rs1,8000, the law will not affect the majority of the population that is employed by the private sector. Private organizations are free to exploit labour as they please.

On the contrary, Pakistan has an annual budget of Rs13 billion for health, Rs77 billion for education and Rs152 billion for Public Order and Safety. However, get Rs1.15 trillion which is five times more than health, education and law and order combined.

These contradictions in the budget somehow reveal the reason behind corruption and privatization in Pakistan. In the absence of quality public education, qualified faculty and quality infrastructure, the people of Pakistan do not prefer public institutes for elementary and primary education, consequently making room for private educational institutes that run without any state interference or compulsion on their fee demands. In the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone, a news report revealed that there were nearly 21,000 'fake' enrolled students and 70 out of the total 90 schools established were 'ghost schools'.Same goes for the health sector. As of 2018, there were a total 1,279 government

hospitals in Pakistan, catering to a population of 200 million. Out of these, only 60 are major hospitals.

The absence of security, good infrastructure and basic amenities like water, electricity and gas, paves the way for private communities that come into an agreement with the government, usurp land and resources of cities and then sell them at a premium in the free market to those looking for all these 'luxuries'. The incompetence of the state is such that citizens prefer not to pin any hopes on it or demand services in return for their taxes, but instead find it easier to put all their bank into a private community that has absolutely nothing to do with the state.

If a government's duty is to provide facilities to its citizens, then why does it outsource land and resources to capitalists to build and run welfare and private societies?



NEOLIBERAL SKYLINE FOR SALE

With its "termite-like" nature, neoliberalism seeps deep into the world and our lives and takes root by changing the inherent nature of politics and thereby threatening democracy (Brown, 2011). When it comes to mass communication, neoliberalism lets powerful private investors take over the media and propagate its own profit-oriented messages without any state intervention or control (Chomsky and Herman, 1988). With neoliberalism's free-market ideology, the lines between the public and the private become blurred (Iveson, 2012). The private entities end up with more power than the state and consequently are able to control the state in various subtle ways (Chomsky and Herman, 1988). This can be seen by looking at outdoor advertisements found in metropolitan cities across the world. The skylines of cities are now emblazoned with huge billboards displaying advertisements of profit-making private corporations (Iqani & Baro, 2017).

Several of these advertisements are also found on public spaces, such as public bus stands, public buses, public toilets etc, as the state becomes dependent on private companies for financial sustainability (Iveson, 2012). The same applies to the private media: in Pakistan, there are hundreds of private TV channels and they all rely heavily on advertisers and politicians to generate revenue (Dawn, 2013). If they hurt the sentiments of any big advertiser, such as the case with Dawn Newspaper that covered the illegalities of the notorious gated community Bahria Town (Journalism Pakistan, 2016), advertisers then cut down on their ads resulting in huge losses for the media outlets. This phenomenon also leads to informal forms of censorship where media outlets stay wary of speaking about private corporations' ill-doings.

Since advertising plays a huge role in defining people's sensitivities, changing their attitudes and building public opinion, it is important to understand how neoliberal agendas are being pushed through advertisements. The outdoor billboards are defined as the urban landscape of a city and have remained a subject of interest for their pivotal nature in branding cities. The architecture itself is being negatively impacted in the neoliberal world (Hatherley, 2017).

The effects of neoliberalism on media, advertising, social inequality, architecture and the urban landscape, all through the semiotic photography of billboards in the city of Lahore the impact is clearly visible in all sorts of products branding. With a Mughal rule background followed by British colonialism, Lahore has a rich cultural history with a strong architectural character. However, modernism and neoliberalism





have changed the demographics of the city (Malik, 2019). Now, the city is full of misplaced modern architecture embedded within old areas, out of context high-rise buildings and a skyline full of bright dazzling billboards. What role are these billboards playing in changing the mindsets of the public? Is there any involvement of neoliberalism in the workings of the media and the advertising industries? Is neoliberalism changing the way advertisements work and influence society? Are outdoor advertisements playing a role in increasing social inequalities? All these questions document the evolving materialistic desires of human beings that are being strengthened by neoliberal economies and capitalist media funders.

In this contemporary era, the streets, shops, markets, highway and boulevards are a monetizing vending machine for the capitalists. The scenery of constant persuasion of indulging and poking the forced fetish desires feed into the insecurities of the general audience. There is not a single place that is not used for advertising.

Today, as demand for housing grows, billboards are heavily taken over by private real estate advertisements. These advertisements are selling a residential utopia by claiming to provide services that the state has failed to provide. Interestingly, the state also depends on their capital to survive.





NEOLIBERALISM AND THE SOCIETY



ARCHITECTURE

More than 1,000 migrant workers lost their lives to construction work in Qatar in preparations for the 2022 World Cup. When the London-based Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid was questioned about the deaths of workers on her Al-Wakrah stadium, she said she had nothing to do with it and that it was the responsibility of the Qatari government to take care of the workers (Gibson, 2014).

Author Douglas Spencer, in his book "The Architecture Of Neoliberalism", provides a scathing critical analysis of neoliberal values embedded in modern architecture, and mentions practices of architects such as Zaha Hadid, Patrik Schumacher, Rem Koolhaas, Greg Lynn and Alejandro Zaera-Polo. Spencer talks about how neoliberal architecture, that reached its peak in the 1990s, relies on feelings and sensations in an attempt to evade practicalities, on-ground realities and criticism. He calls this "post-critical architecture". (Spencer, 2016)

The presence of neoliberal values in architects means that these are individuals with massive wealth who build and design spaces based on their desires, with no regard to functionality, labour safety, maintenance costs, climate or destruction of nature. The built structures are often extremely eye-catching and beautiful, but mostly fail to cater to the functionalities of its purpose or the sensibilities of the local context and culture. By outsourcing work to contractors, the architects forgo all responsibilities.

"I also understand particular architects and theorists, in the arguments promoted and publicized in their writings, as instrumental to a neoliberal agenda, whether by design or in effect. ... The extensive analysis of some of their writings ... should be understood, in this spirit, as a critique of arguments and positions, rather than as a criticism of the individuals who have signed their names to them." (Spencer, 2016).

Modern architects, like Zaha Hadid, use their architectural work to express their ideas, but sometimes for the sake of art, they fail to understand the context and the sensibilities of the structures and their usage (Fiederer, 2016). Hadid's building, a fire station, had to be turned into a museum because it failed to serve its purpose as a fire station. Writer Alex Cocotas calls such architects "starchitects" who only design for the one per cent elite of the world.

"Some of the starchitects' projects are beautiful, to be sure. But they also often waste public money, facilitate corrupt and exploitative practices, and strengthen a planning model that excludes the populace from decision-making." (Cocotas, 2016)

EXPLOITATION

Neoliberalism gives rich entities and individuals unchecked power to carry out acts without consequences or any consideration for the law. The horrors of this phenomena come to fore only when things go wrong. In 2013, Rana Plaza, a garments factory in Bangladesh collapsed resulting in the death of 1,132 people and injuring more than 2,500 (Thomas, 2018). These garment factories make expensive branded clothes for international clients but provide no security or enough

monetary compensation to the workers who often remain at the mercy of the rich industrialists (ILO, n.d). In 2017, a similar report came from Pakistan regarding a high-end fabric brand ripping off its workers of Rs100 million every year by not providing them with social securities (Hasan, 2017). Another documentary 'True Cost' by Andrew Morgan revealed the misdoings of textile manufacturers and the conditions of the workers inside the factories (Morgan, 2015). The high-end brands that contract garment factories in third-world countries like Bangladesh often lower the prices they pay them and the contracted companies then sustain themselves by lowering the wages and increasing the working hours of their workers (Morgan, 2015).

In Pakistan, bonded labour also exists despite being illegal. These brick kilns are owned by capitalists, and function as a private entity but due to the suppression of these owners and loan on the labour and lack of government law implementation, nearly 25 million people are still working as bonded labour (Ghani, 2019). The government has declared it illegal in the Bonded Labor System Abolition Act 1992. Many people from rural and deprived areas are forced to work in inhumane conditions with extremely low wage and no social security as many of them do not have a national identity card. These kilns employ children, especially those who have inherited debt from their parents. "In Pakistan, it is illegal to employ someone who is under 16 years of age. But almost 70 percent of bonded laborer's in Pakistan are children, who make up over one-third of the four million or so people working at brick kilns in Pakistan." (Ghani, 2019).

"The government of Punjab has established fixed wages for brick kiln workers. The sum of 1036 rupees has been fixed by the government for the production of 1000 bricks. But still, the employees receive no more



than 400 to 650 for 1000 bricks. Moreover, brick kiln employers receive "sood" (interest on a personal salary loan) on the amount of money, which they have advanced to their employees. Employers deduct 25 in every 100 rupees as "sood"." (UITBB, 2016).

In a 2016 interview of American political theorist Wendy Brown, the author of 'Undoing the Demos', she discussed how in the golden era of American education, federal and state money was invested in the public higher education system which included special support for minorities and the working class (New Economic Thinking, 2016). High-quality higher education was available for any qualified high school student 'by pretty much close to free' and she is also a product of this 1970's

era (New Economic Thinking, 2016). She went to the University of California where the tuition and fees were 600 dollars per year and the room was another couple of thousand. She didn't take money from her parents as the income from her part-time job was sufficient for her. This is no longer possible in the current era for a variety of reasons. 'The total cost of the total state support now for the University of California hovers around 12% of its budget and the rest of the budget come from tuition and from private comers" (New Economic Thinking, 2016). It has disturbed the research components and education components of public research universities. The private entities give sponsorship and funds to the university's selected candidate to research their demanded subjects like medical research on anti-anxiety which helps them in their product development and capitalistic needs while for the student to survive and get the degree she/he can't select the topic of research for themselves.

REAL ESTATE RATE

When it comes to the prices of real estate in Pakistan, there are three types of valuation: The District Commission rate (commonly referred to as DC rate), an FBR (Federal Bureau of Revenue) rate and an open market rate. The DC rate is an amount which gets fixed by the government for a piece of land, the FBR rate is at which Withholding Tax is charged, and the open market rate is whatever price an owner wants to sell the property at. The open market rate, in the absence of any restrictions, usually ends up being 5-10 times more than the DC rate and 2-4 times more than the FBR rate, making real estate a very profitable investment, particularly for

private communities that own large pieces of land. Selling a property in the open market at a rate higher than its registered value ends up bringing black, untaxed money.

Recently, there has been a mega trading initiative by the governments of Pakistan and called the also included the widening of the Ferozepur Road of Lahore, which cuts through almost the entire city. Previously, the road had three lanes for traffic. Under the road had six lanes. To make space for the new lanes, several markets

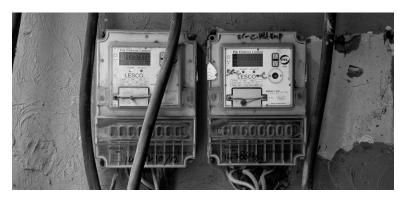


and residential sites along the Ferozepur Road were demolished by the government. When the properties got demolished, the owners were only compensated with the current DC rate which was way lesser than the open market value. Alternatively, the government claimed to allot owners a new piece of land in the outskirts of Lahore as compensation.

In Lahore's area, there is a gated community under the name of the

Neoliberalism is this privatization, and consequent exploitation, in the real estate business, hiding the government and its responsibilities under the wing of capitalism.

ELECTRICITY UNIT



In some private entities, the electricity unit is higher than the rest of the city. For the city, the off-peak hour unit in rupees is 14.83 and in peak hour 20.70 rupees. In Pakistan, there is a problem of low shedding. In some private entities, they run their own electricity plant to provide electricity in their area 24/7 and they charge an extra premium for this service while some have high electricity units without the extra facilities. For example, in one of the gated communities in Lahore, a fixed electricity unit is 30.00 rupees including peak and off-peak hours. Which is higher than the rest of the citizens and there is also no-load shedding in their area as they are also using their own power generators to produce electricity.

In _____, nothing can be constructed or altered without explicit approval from the authorities. In fact, the owners of a house need to buy mud for the construction of their houses from _____ themselves and not from any other vendor because of the fear of termites.



INTERVIEWS

The following text is based on excerpts of interviews conducted with seven professionals working in varying areas. These interviews have been slightly edited for clarity, but mostly remain in the original conversational language. All the interviews have been merged with respect to the topics and issues. The interviewees remain anonymous.



How has Lahore's architectural landscape changed over the years?

Architecture is a reflection of society. When we talk about society from a broad perspective, its premises are defined by different components of socio-economics, geo-political, culture and facilitation. All these components, and specifically the socio-economic factor, have been understood very lately. If we look into the architectural practice in Lahore, after the Mughal era of the old city, the Colonials built their setup of Cantonment and then the first gated community under the name Model Town. During this whole period, they didn't disturb the city of Mughals and Raja Ranjith Singh but they were leaving their marks. The cantonment we see today was far from the old city in their era. Their purpose was to define their territory and not to overtake the old city. If we look at their urban settings from Google Earth's aerial view, we see that their Cantonment and Model Town areas were planned in an urban setting for the ease of the common man, although other government residential areas and pieces of private gated communities are planned by the LDA. When we say planned, [it] does not only mean making plots but planned is about how to keep the community connected, how to fulfil the basic necessities and requirements of the society. Society means, if 10, 20 or 40 people are living [at a place], then their basic necessities should be fulfilled through educational institutes, transport access, hospital/ clinic, greenbelt, park and many other facilities. This practice was not first brought by the Muslims, not colonizers. This practice can be seen in the 7th century when Islamic cities were developed. So, if we look into the Islamic civilization, the cities were defined by the army/defence institute. The defence institute defined the place of civilians according

to their job/ skill structure, the market area, community centre, the entry and exit point of a city. The reason it was set by the defence institute is so that they have the data of their citizens, and that the communities will not fight with each other. The colonials didn't introduce a new thing, which means this education existed in humanity, and the administration used to be sensible.

In this region, the Colonials set these precedents. After the [Indian subcontinent] partition, people started building structures according to their desires due to lack of driving forces. After the partition, people were influenced and culturally imperialized by their past that parallelly reflected in their precedent which defined the value of their design practices. The reason is that the Mughals had their own method, not discussing the con and pros of their administration. We are discussing what culture they brought through urban development and monuments. It smoothly reflects the culture of Mughals historically and architecturally.

After partition to present, we are still not clear in which direction we are going. Are we following westernization or living in the past? Our people are very much confused about which direction they want to move to. We are subjectively culturally imperialised nation.

Does architecture play a role in perpetuating class divisions?

Architects themselves can't correct the structure of a city. Architects can only perform efficiently if they are ensured freedom in practice. In Pakistan, there is no respect for architects. It's like a doctor treating the patient but the patient prescribes medicine himself. Clients give the demanding and commanding information of plot and design to architects. They are not in the required diagnosis process of design and functionality. In Pakistan, architects are not architects, they are draftsmen. The capitalists [clients] show them pictorial and design references to replicate the building according to their desire. The architects in western society and eastern society historically are the ones who shape society. In a gym, you need a trainer who will tell you how to use weights and diet according to the individual's body structure. Same goes to the architect who designs the environment to construct architectural houses and space to have communal living and shared spaces so they have a sense of community. Due to the imposed behaviour, we are living among selfish people. To survive, architects unwillingly design the structure according to the client in which they have no say and command. Clients demand architects to design the house to isolate themselves from the society, by adding barbed wires, multi-camera setups so they can overlook their surroundings 24/7. You can use as much capital as you want. In servant quarters, they tell architects to use the least quality material. It doesn't matter if this quarter is dark, congested and there is no room for ventilation. These people [servants] work 24/7 as a slave in their homes. This ideology directly reflects the thinking approach of the high socio-economic group towards the lower socio-economic group. Due to

this rubbish behaviour, it automatically reflects the city planning. This neoliberal phenomenon has elevated this hate speech and culture among society.

In Lahore, there are a lot of posh societies. Near each society, there are nomad areas and informal settlements and sites which are not parts of the gated communities. For instance, is one of the main high socioeconomic privatized communities of Lahore. In Lahore, there are a lot of villages and informal settlements.

" as it is called, was the one of the first villages that was incorporated into this housing scheme. It was the agricultural land of this village that was purchased by and then developed. Eventually, as the community prospered, the original inhabitants of this area were imprisoned within their own village to keep a separation of classes." (Khalid, 2015)

People forget if there is no the time, then who will clean their houses. If the human body digestion system disturbs for two days, it affects the functionality of a whole body. Most of the time, residents talk about these communities in derogatory terms and say that these 'Katchi abadi' places should not exist near their residential sites. They say that such spaces give off bad smell and odour in their areas as they don't follow hygiene, clean their space or elevate their living standards. On the other hand, it's the duty of the high socio-economic group to take care of the

other human beings despite their socio-economic class and structure. It's the responsibility of a society to take care of each other. The elite class can get less ill by taking care of them as these people work in their homes. The polarization is clearly visible in our society.

In the past, the old city of Lahore was trashed intentionally so the department can get money for its cleaning, and with the slow cleaning processes, it will paralyze people mentally to look for privatized gated colonies as they provide the facilities which the government has failed to provide its citizens. The stigma of the status quo is also attached to the old city and the new residential sites. In Lahore, people have relocated from the old city for their children's marriages, especially for their daughters.



What are the constructional labour safety protocols practised in Lahore, Pakistan?

Safety protocols are not followed in Pakistan in line with international standards. Even the government has protocols but, on record, they haven't been able to execute their standards. Even though in Government projects, they follow the standards. It's unsure if they have a skilled labour certificate in Pakistan. Recently in the making of a commercial mall, a labourer died. He couldn't survive due to the negligence of the project contractor who didn't provide safety equipment to its labour. This incident didn't come to the mainstream media as the capital industrialists prevented this information from being released to the public.

An architect's experience with a gated community builder capitalist:

The client asked us to design gated community housing from scratch, in which he demanded the plotting for 3, 5 and 8 Marla* plots of the available land. So, we designed the basic layout for the plotting in which we defined the greenbelt, spacing for the surrounding, pedestrian area for minimum vehicle use in a society, community centre (usually the mosque), common parks with maximum vegetation to improve the air quality so smog effect gets decreased. According to this proposal, we had around 80 residential plots in the community. But the client said he has no interest if the residents have a park, greenbelt and other rest of the things proposed in the design. The client said to make a dead-end road with maximum plotting and focus on only two things: the grand entrance and the commercial zone near the entrance of the society, after that make

^{*}The marla is a traditional unit of area that is used in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The marla was standardized under British raj to be equal to the square rod, or 272.25 square feet, 30.25 square yards, or 25.2929 square metres.

maximum plots till the end of the society. With the client's input, the number of plots shifted from 80 to 140 plots. The LDA had nothing to say regarding this client input due to the incompetent law of the land.

In a few cases, private entities get licenses from any government department. As a result, the capitalist marks the plotting of a society and without electricity, sui-gas and the proper roads they launch the sale of plots to the public. Then people start buying the plots and from that money, the capitalist will install the electricity, water pipeline and gas tunnels. Moreover, the residents of this society will follow the by-laws of the private entities which are approved by the Lahore Development Authority.

Group is one of the authentic groups for design and construction services. They designed their own gated society due to its name and people's trust. People bought their property in no time due to their value. One of my friend's architects bought 5 Marla plots in their society. Again, the Group gate entrance was grand and in the front, they designed 10 Marla modular architectural houses of the same design and dimensions surrounding a park. Behind the 10 Marla houses, they left the 5 Marla plots, showing the facade of an elite socio-economic group on the front with all the big houses. When asked about the by-laws of construction, the Group said that "you have to follow the and our society laws and the drawings will be processed by us. You can't submit these drawings to the directly." In their 5 Marla homes, there is an and privatized society law that in the back street of a home they have to leave 5-foot land from the wall. In this space, they can only construct one washroom without adding one more washroom on the first floor. But people don't follow this law. When the construction gets complete, they apply for the completion letter. Then the authority



will examine your construction and, as a result, they will fine you for constructing the extra washroom. Then you just have to pay this fine in a monetary amount and they will give you the completion letter. It's an old law of which also exists in other cities. The is 200 per cent familiar with this practice of washroom construction in the backyard. It's a need for the 5 Marla home as space is already very confined and tight. It's a requirement of this socio-economic group instead of way-offing this law. The malpractice of is performing "legalized extortion" with lower and middle socio-economic groups.

The building of the very authority that makes the law of construction caught fire in 2013. They used the fire staircase as the regular use staircase for the workers and government officials. Instead of making a separate isolated structure for the fire exit staircase, they integrated the fire staircase within the building. After that fire, they revised the fire exit regulation in their universally applied constructional law book. We can assume how corruption works in Pakistan and why these neoliberal economics are flourishing in this country.

"In our offices, we are still using the post-partition method of communication for approval. We don't communicate through email for approval. We post messages and responses through letters run by the Pakistan post. To say yes and ask for changes I have to post a letter. We save archives of these letters in a room." -

To understand the value of architects in Pakistan:

The 1987 Pritzker Prize winner Japanese architect Kenzo Tange designed the Supreme Court of Pakistan in the capital Islamabad. It was a column beam structure on which he designed the form of the building. Later, he was instructed by the ex-president and the to add Islam in his design, for which he had to change the form of the building.

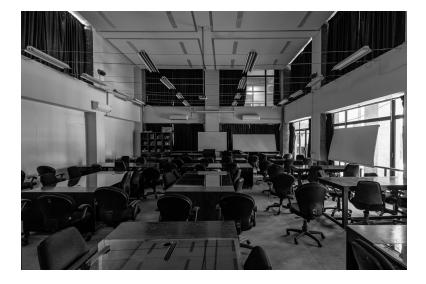
The builders of gated communities are obsessed with duplicating designs in architecture. Gated communities are designed to show power, wealth and their superiority among others. The gated community housing blocks are divided into sections respective of the status quo.

Government officials are not allowed to run their own businesses as long as they are the servants of the nation. To survive in the system, people have to bribe all the way from the lower to the higher hierarchy of government officials. Outside government departments, the private entities can manipulate and harass you out of the government jurisdiction.

There is an association called the Lit's a government autonomous entity that works with the government for the betterment of architectural professionals and code of academics conducted with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Most of its strength comes from the power given by the government. Was established in 1983 as a private entity by architect Lit's She proposed to the government to make a national body of architects and town planners of all Pakistan under one roof. A body that will give licenses and look after the practices of the practitioners to ensure that all work is done to an optimum level. It was initiated in high spirits with

a good startup but for the last two decades, the has not performed their role and duties efficiently. Before 2020, the architects and students got their licenses right after their degree and now, they have recently launched the international method of giving licenses like the Royal Institute of British Architects and American Institute of Architects. The graduates have to appear in a test after some period of practice under registered firms which are around 150 in number. In my opinion, more than 90 per cent of Pakistani firms are not registered under the Just recently, they have started gathering their data.

An architect conceives the idea/design and the civil engineer leads the application. In Pakistan, most of the houses are constructed and designed by civil engineers. The question is, does the give licenses to the civil engineers? The engineers get licenses from



"An architect's dream is an engineer's nightmare." (Unknown)

but doesn't give the license of design practice. There are a lot of architectural and construction consultancy firms in Pakistan run by capitalists who are not architects and engineers. To run their practices, they have an inhouse architect whose license they use in their practices. The has failed to perform their roles in Pakistan. generates funds through educational institutes by providing accreditation. They also get funds from the licensed architects through an annual license renewal fee. There is a new rule which states that after getting the license, you can't renew your license every year if you haven't completed the credit points also practised internationally by RIBA. For the credit points, the will conduct different seminars and workshops for the professionals. For being a licensed architect, architects have to earn those points. If an architect works on philosophical ideas and new technologies which is not directly technical — for example, if I am working on the case of a lower socio-economic and political condition of a gated town to analyze the architecture of a city — there is no funding, journal and workshop in Pakistan by the and Higher Education of Pakistan. The is only conducting the workshops in the domain of management and technical engineering. There is no discussion of social sciences in architecture by the _____. For practice, an architect's license is not an issue. They design and have their designs vet by a registered person by giving them a fee (bribe). Previously, they have conducted tests for architects who got a degree before getting

accredited by the has a stronghold in the educational institutes. On thesis day, they will send their official as an observer to see the conducting method of an institute. They have a rule that the observer for the evaluation can only be an architect. There was a time when the made a compulsory rule for thesis students to develop their work on a minimum 10,000 square foot area site, which makes no sense. If a student wants to make a perfect house of one canal in his/her thesis, then he/she is not eligible to present their work in the thesis.

Currently, in thesis scoring, the has made a rule that the external jury has 60 per cent weightage and 40 per cent weightage to the internal advisor. They have given the grading power to the external jury. Internationally, there are renowned universities who only call external jurors for discussions only and have the internal jury have the 100 per cent weightage on scores. In my university, I used to call architects and multi-disciplinary (artists, curators, writers, philosophers, doctors. etc.) individuals as a juror according to the thesis project for the benefit of the students. Now the universities have to send the list of jurors to the for approval. The juror members have to be registered members. Recently, we sent the jury list to the for approval but they declined the names of the jurors because they claimed that the MIT graduate architect has an expired license and the other conservation chief architect of Agha Khan Trust, _____, is not an architect according to their architect's database. Moreover, the funniest part is that the internal advisor and academic architects of the institutes were also not I license holders. At large, the does not support experimental ideas and practices and there are no senior academic people in the organisation. There is no benefit in getting the license in Pakistan. Their laws dissolve when capitalists and strong family backed architects' names come in their way. The is a white-collar mafia.

If we talk about the current and the future of architects in Pakistan, there are a lot of architects who have changed their profession and practices in Pakistan, due to the lack of respect and value of architects. One, the capitalist/client is strong; and second, the bad practising system. In Pakistan, the civil engineer (technical education) is superior to architecture. Currently, the is also functioning under the influence of a certain political party and and seconding to political influence. On paper, they have a role and responsibility to overlook the working of but unfortunately, they are not performing a single role with the superimental studies, but on paper and execution, they deny the experimental studies. They don't support free thinkers.

More than 90 per cent of Pakistan's institutes that are offering architecture degrees are not-for-profit organisations — which are more than 40 institutes. All of these institutes are charging high fees and do not support lower socio-economic groups of Pakistan. In one of the non-profit institutes, bachelors in architecture is a five years degree and each year they have to take two semesters and one semester's fee is 280,000 rupees (1335 pounds). The neoliberal values are commonly visible from each major sector of Pakistan. These students and future practitioners are trained in support of neoliberalism as they also rely on capitalist clients.













































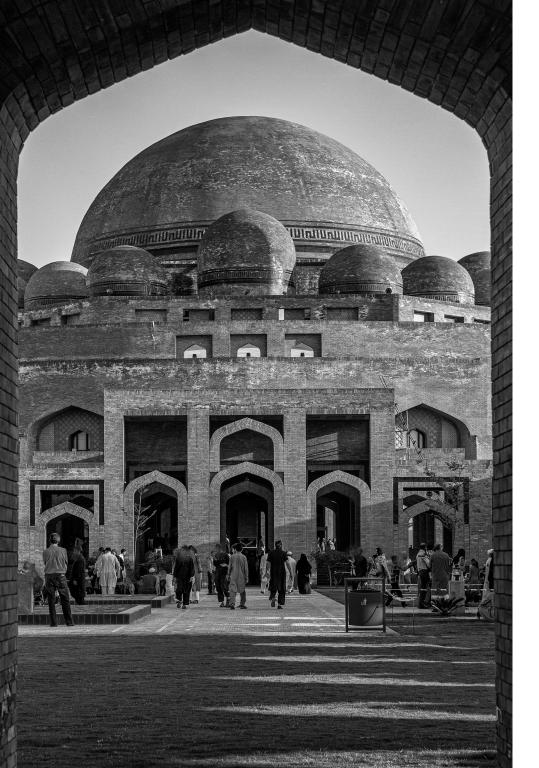










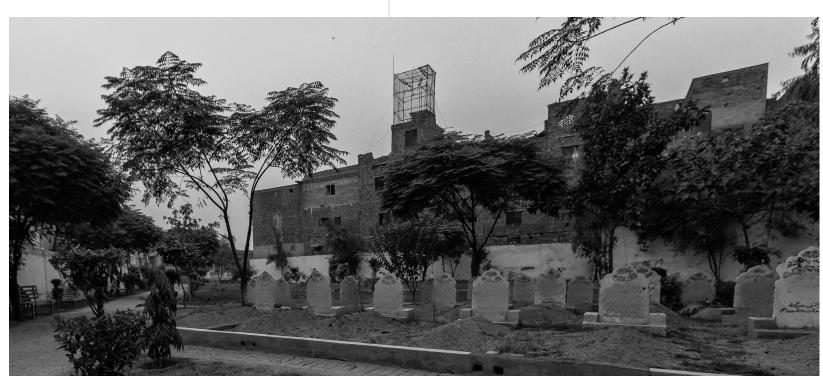














INSIDE A PRIVATIZED WELFARE ESTATE ELECTION

The visuals you are about to see are of an election campaign held inside a private welfare society of Lahore in 2020. The elections are held every four years to elect a president, vice-president, finance manager, sports and education coordinator of the society. Only the residents who own property inside the society can vote. The candidates for the elections are also the ones who own a property. The houses in this community are no less than 12-Marla (approx. 363 sq. yards) each, worth millions of rupees. And there are approximately 400 houses in the society. Before the elections take place, there is a rigorous electoral campaign by the two competing parties that go as far as they can to bring the other party down.

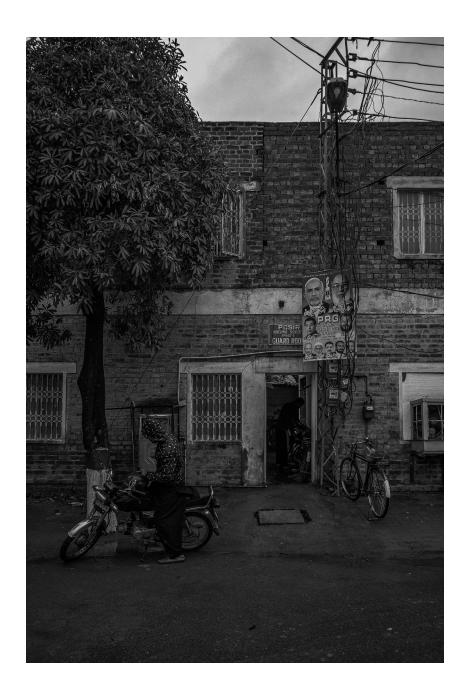
This election campaign brings to light a very distressing and complex phenomenon that takes place in the shadows of neoliberalism. Gated communities are built by private and welfare investors, and in some cases, like that of a cooperative private society, they make arrangements with the government which are more often than not monetary in nature. The government keeps its shares in exchange for staying out of the matters of the community. This election campaign, although reflecting just one aspect of neoliberalism, reveals everything that goes wrong behind the walls.

Since this is a welfare society, it has links with the government but they also remain just monetary in nature. During the elections, the government's only role is to organize the polling booth for the elections at the expense of the society's funds, and provide polling staff. Other than that, the society pays taxes to the government on a regular basis.

During this two-month long campaign, the cost of all the billboards, banners and lunch parties hosted by the competing candidates, in an obvious attempt to lure voters, can be easily estimated to be around more than Rs 1 million. But the question is: where did this money come from? And why are the candidates investing so much capital into these campaigns when they claim to be taking on voluntary duties of the Presidency, with no salary. There is no return on this capital, at least not on paper. An in-depth study into these elections, including interviews of some key stakeholders, reveals that there are actually monetary benefits for the winning candidates, but they are not entirely legal, publicized or documented. These gated communities have their own by-laws which allow them to earn money in several ways, such as charging commercial vehicles an entry fee, rent from a mobile signal tower, maintenance charges from the residences, surcharges from utility bills, rent from shops inside the community, rent from functions that take place inside the parks, as well as an exorbitant fee just for transferring a piece of land (plot) from one person to another. The community managers claim that all the money they receive goes into the maintenance of the community, such as sanitation, janitorial services, upkeep of parks, salaries of guards and government taxes. But there is enough reason to believe that the incoming and outgoing numbers do not necessarily add up.

153













EXCERPT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PRESIDENT OF PRIVATIZED GATED SOCIETY

Welfare means the well-being of every individual. But negativity can seep into absolutely everything. Some people join or form welfare parties for their personal gains or to promote their hidden agendas. Same can be said about welfare societies. is a welfare housing society, but you can also call it *welfrabe* (wel-trickery) society.

The society generates funds in multiple ways, including giving space to external parties, such as a telecom company to install a telecom signal tower inside the society. The tower does not belong to anyone, neither the society's committee nor any of its members. The premium they charge from the telecom company goes directly into the society's bank account, which is then used to perform several tasks inside the community.

The society's bank account generates funds of about Rs10 million per annum, from various sources such as utility bills from each house which covers services of filtered water, sewerage, janitorial services, security and mosque's functioning and conservation. They also rent out society parks for different functions like weddings, parties, commercial shoots etc, for which they charge Rs10,000 from society members and Rs30,000 from non-residents. More than 50 events take place in these parks every year. Other than that, they receive rent from commercial areas (small shops inside the society), hoarding advertisements of national

and multinational companies, a fee for plot (piece of land) transfer and charging a token fee of Rs50 to 100 for every commercial vehicle that enters the society. The last one alone generates about Rs20,000 to Rs50,000 every month.

When it comes to the post of the President, there is no requirement of education by the welfare corporate law of the government. The only requirement is that the candidate needs to own a house or a piece of land inside the society. There is no official salary of elected members as well, but the committee can decide to bear some expenses of the individuals, like paying for tea, fuel for their cars or their telecom bills. It all goes into the expenditure of society funds. There is a loophole which allows us to add these costs in the papers as official costs. We call it recovery and adjustment.

The reason why people want to become President of the society is power. If you run for elections, everyone in the society will know you by name and face, all your pending tasks will be done instantly and every worker, sweeper, electrician, gardener, the security guard will listen to you. Second, if the plot price is Rs20million, by litigation and power, I can buy this plot at Rs7 million.

163

Because of all this, spending Rs1-2 million on an election campaign is not such a bad idea, as I can get a lot more money from just one plot after winning the elections. So, you cannot judge the intentions of an individual. There is a quote from Imam Ali (a.s.):

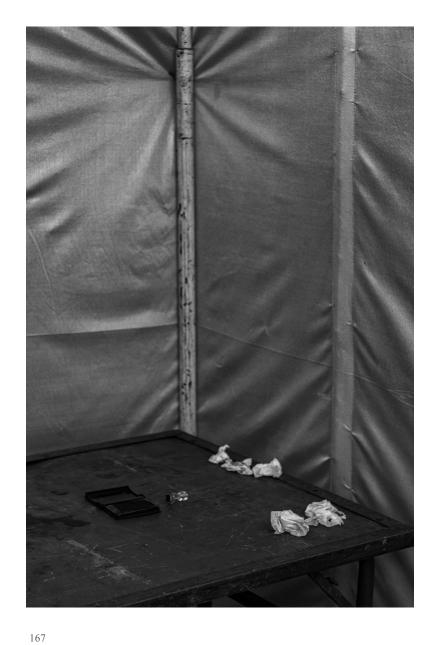
"Authority, power and wealth do not change a man, they only reveal him."

 $(Imam\ Ali,\ n.d.)$

As for our relationship with the government, we have to pay charges to the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) on monthly basis for extracting and discharging water. Every time a piece of land is transferred from one person to another, a separate fee is charged other than the land's price, 80 per cent of which goes to the provincial and federal government of Pakistan and 20 per cent goes to the society.



165











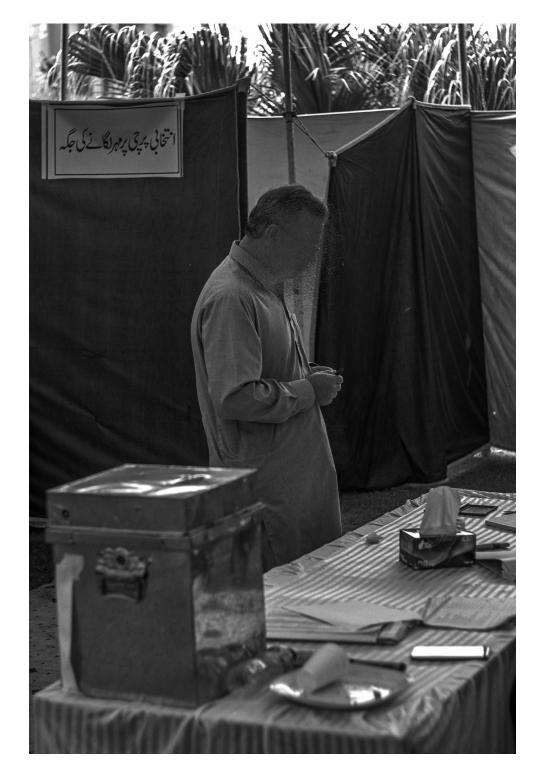


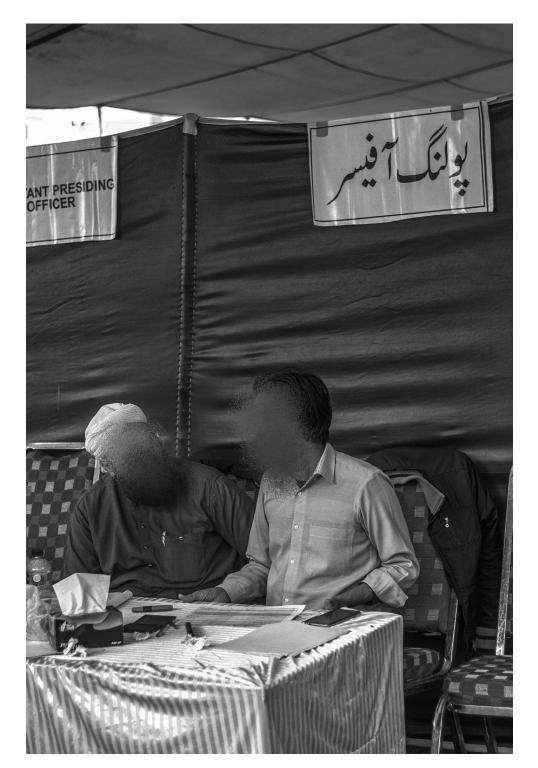




























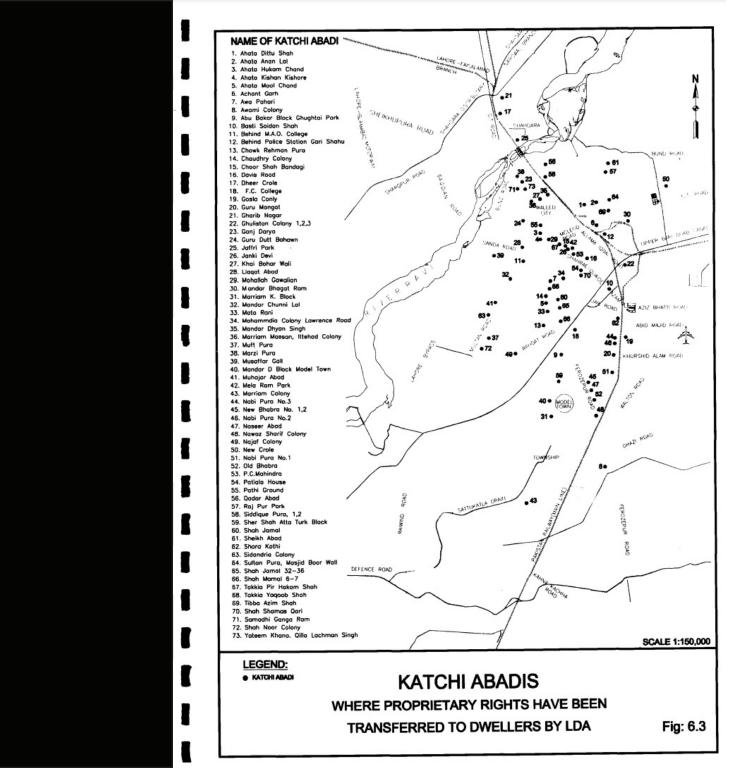


(SHANTY TOWN)

noun

"a deprived area on the outskirts of a town consisting of large numbers of shanty dwellings."

Definitions from Oxford Languages





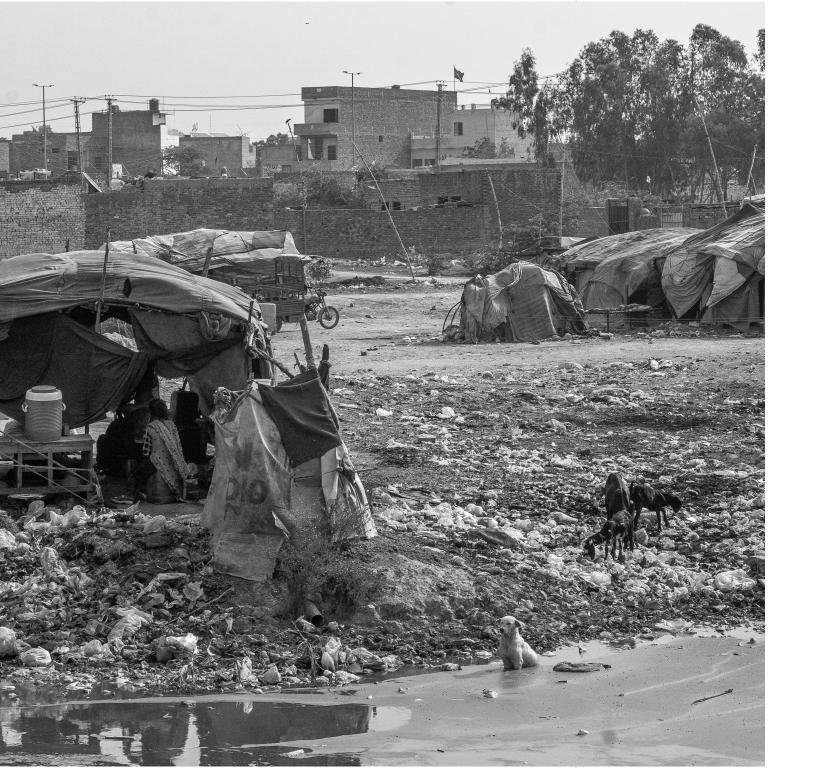






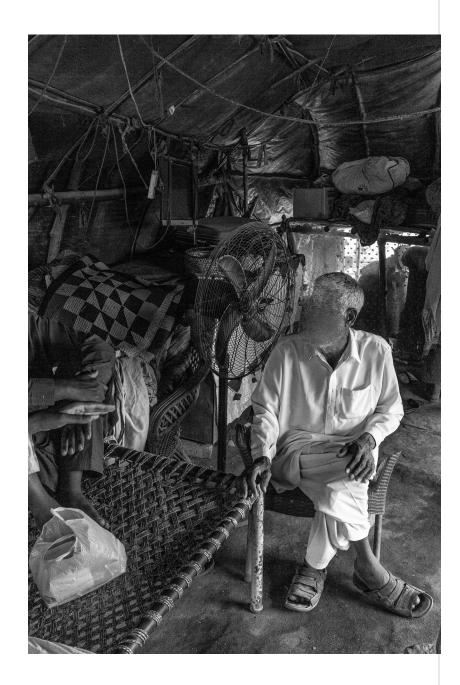




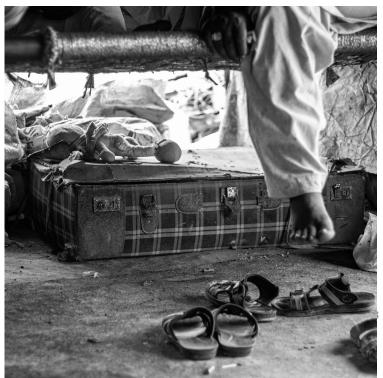
















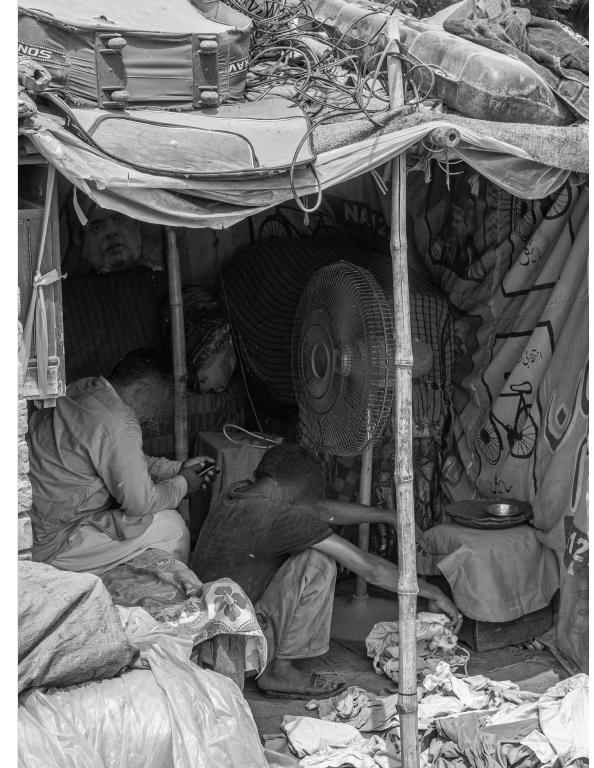




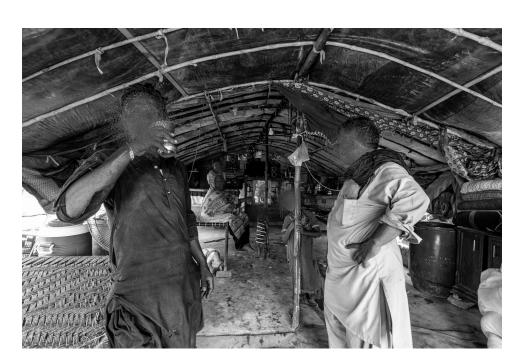












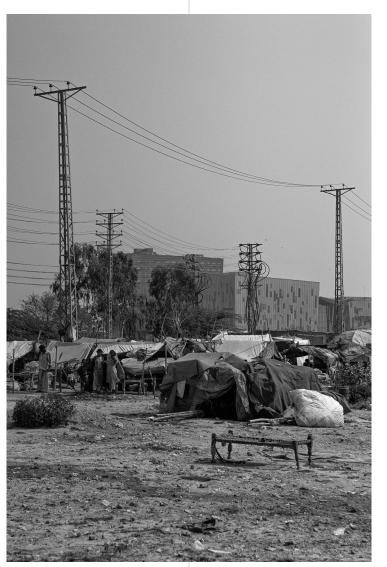




















"Pakistan PM house spends Rs10 million on tea in a year. Where 60 million Pakistanis were living under the poverty line."

(Khaleej Times, 2016)



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