Synopsis

This thesis attempts to look at the marginalised group of people in the city and the spaces they dwell in. Understanding the fact that the city is a place where differences and diversities are the intrinsic qualities of urban life, and that the city is where the different elements- social, cultural, economic, and political come together. These elements might not coexist in a harmonious relationship but they are each a feature that is present in every city. It is important to realise this fact and to design spaces that let these differences coexist without much conflict and to highlight the diverse elements as urbanistic qualities.

The thesis studies the social conditions of the increasing foreign Indian workers population and the mapping of their presence and culture onto our urban life. The social issue central to this thesis is that these workers have indeed contributed to our economy and it is important to acknowledge their presence and to give them their due recognition. The urban issue is the problem of their presence at Little India every weekend, creating an instant super-urbanism every weekend. This phenomenon is both fascinating and a challenge to deal with. Providing legitimate places for these workers to dwell in becomes an interesting issue to look at. Architecturally, the thesis aims to explore ways of architectural responses to the transient and temporal quality of such a place, to investigate the possible programmatic concerns for such a place.

An Induction Centre for the Foreign Indian workers is proposed as a vehicle to investigate these issues. The Centre will function as the place to initiate the new workers and at the same time serve as the place where they interact. However, understanding the fact that most of these workers come only at specific time and a place specific just for them would not be economically viable. Thus in formulating the programme, the considerations for use by the local residents and the visitors are taken into account. This also provides an opportunity to explore the relationship between the spaces of the different social group. The proposed building will in many ways attempts to be a place for the general public.