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Slum Redevelopment - Rethinking the Dharavi Neighborhood

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ABSTRACT

Dharavi is world's one of the densest slum settlements nestled within the city of Mumbai, India. Despite several redevelopment attempts, preserving the socio-cultural fabric and circular economy has remained a challenge. This paper endeavors to address this challenge by understanding the challenges and propose some design solutions tailored to this unique context. For this project, evolution of Dharavi is studied drawing parallels with squatter settlements in Mexico, distinguishing features of what may be termed as the 'slum of hope' versus the 'slum of despair'. Through meticulous activity mapping, we aim to understand the dynamics of various user groups within Dharavi, thereby informing the design of inclusive urban spaces. Furthermore, by examining housing case studies, we try to foster a more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities within Dharavi, while respecting and preserving its rich socio-cultural identity. This research not only contributes to the discourse on slum redevelopment but also offers practical insights and methodologies that may be applicable to similar contexts globally. By balancing the imperatives of urban development with the preservation of community identity, we strive to create a blueprint for sustainable and inclusive urban regeneration in Dharavi and beyond.

Keywords: Dharavi, inclusive neighborhood, low-cost housing, slum redevelopment, urban sprawl