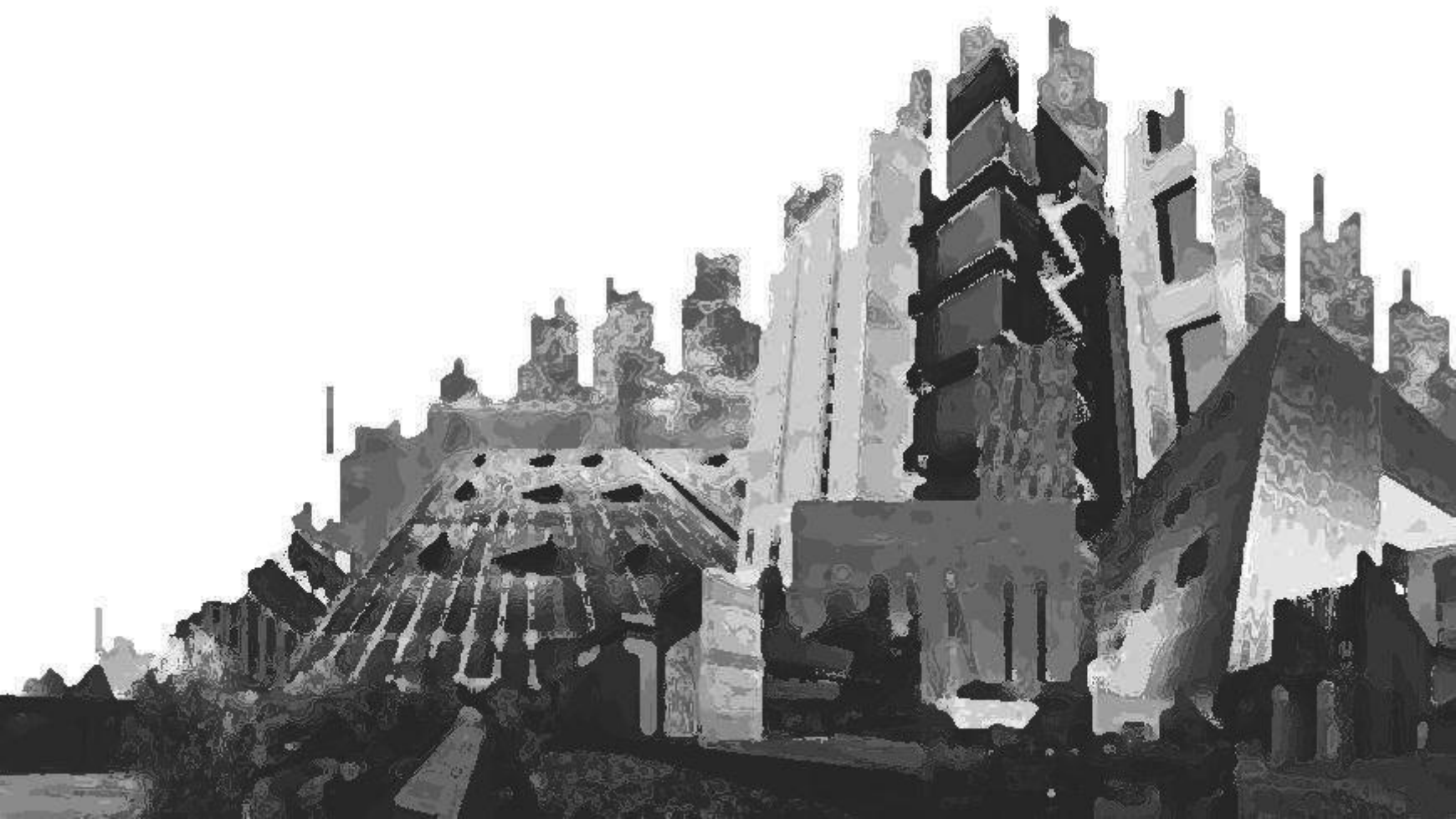


DESIGN IN THE TIMES OF COVID – 19

guidelines: a way forward



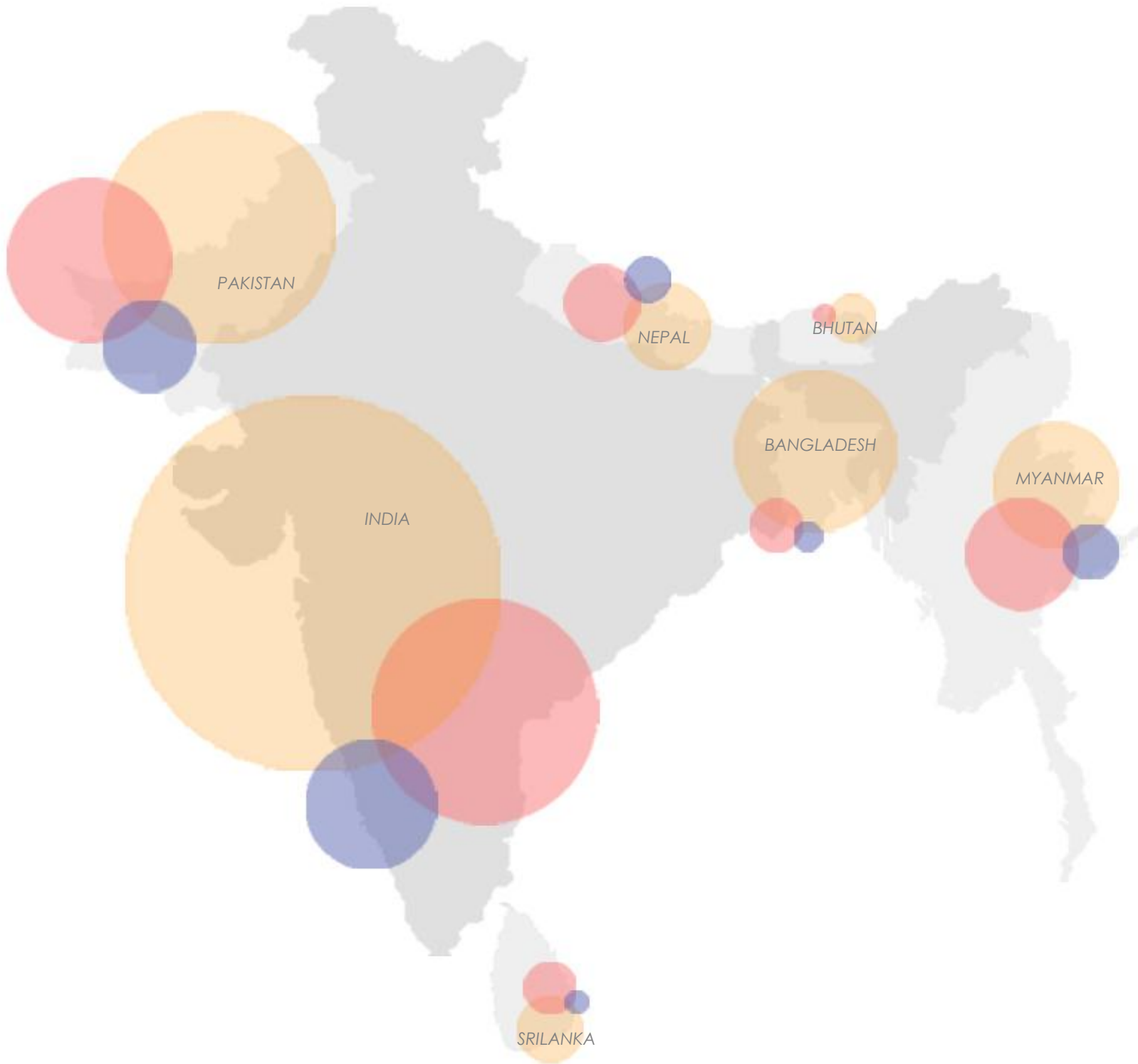
Preface

Design surrounds us; we occupy it - seemingly with little or no thought given to its impact, its history - or indeed, consciously or otherwise, what it responds to.

History has been witness to defining events that have forever altered our notion of the world we live in, and hence how we engage with it. They force a re - examination of life, our values, and our ideas of aspiration. Time and again, the process of design - the principles of design have evolved - to serve better evolving needs, and acknowledge this change - calibrating itself to an altered pace of growth, development, and the idea of community.

This year - 2020 - has seen one such event. The Coronavirus Pandemic has spread across the world, and forced us - as a community - to once again re-examine our lives; to adapt; to respond - and then - to persist in small ways and big.

How then, must the process for design adapt itself to these uncertain times? What are the principles - the learnings - that can be incorporated into our current ways of building - not just spaces, but a sense of renewed identity; a sense of comfort; a sense of association with that which surrounds us?



POPULATION

TOTAL CASES

DEATH CASES

What, then, is the need of the hour?
What are the principles we must follow?

S . C . A . L . E

Fo . R . G . E

A . U . D . I . T

Ma . S . C . S

S . I . T . E

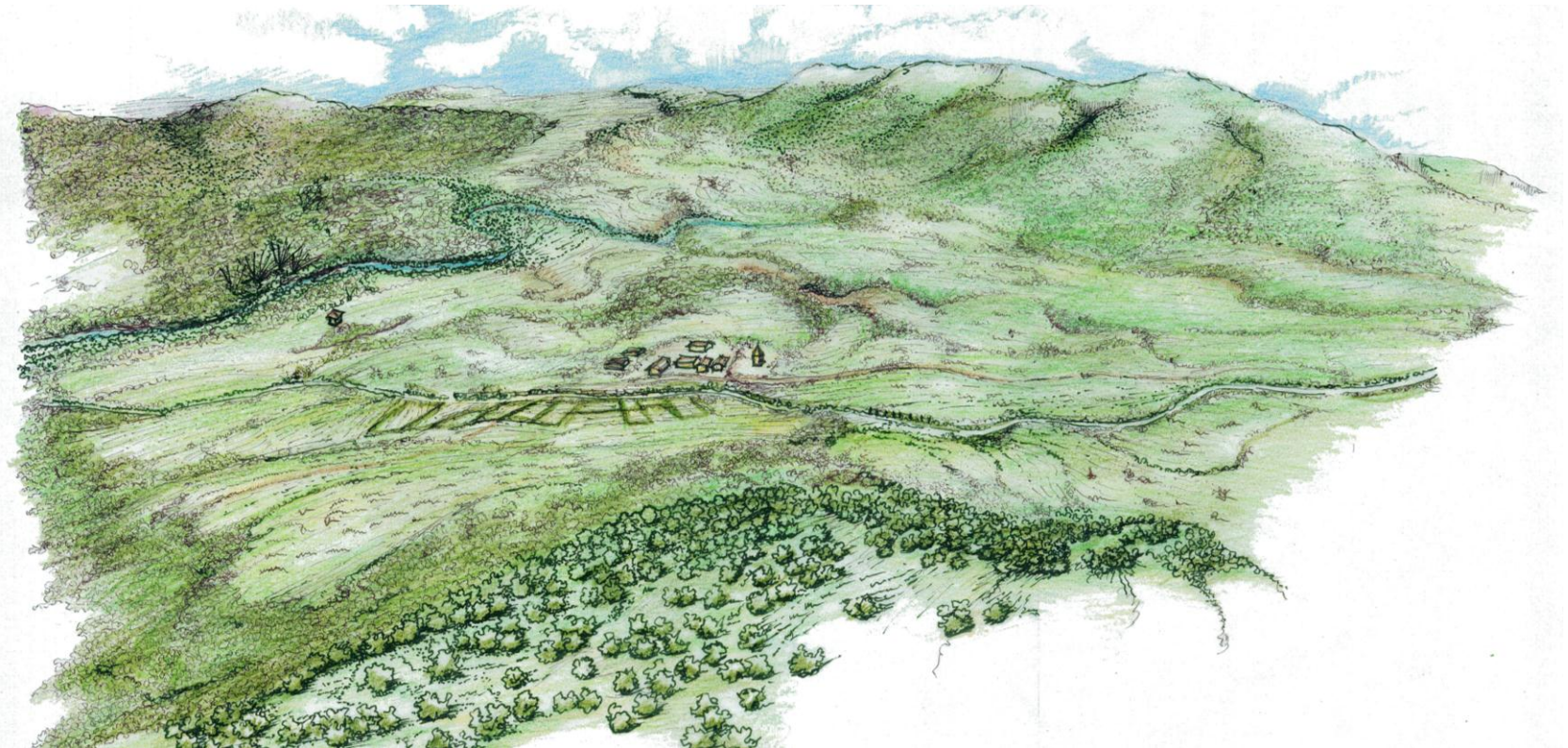
Examining the relationship between man & nature

What was once a basalt quarry near Vadodara now is a testament to the idea of the resilience of nature.



Regarding environmental planning and preservation

The undertaking of this project – Maha Eco - was more about the process than the outcome – a process that stemmed from an understanding of, and the need to develop a method to maintain the intricate balance within the existent ecosystem. The project was divided into multiple steps – starting from initiation and planning to execution and monitoring.



Recognizing the need for public parks in community building

The 250 public parks in Ahmedabad are evidence that a model must be developed to address the challenges pertaining to the design and rejuvenation of public parks. The Udhyan Pravah initiative, supported by U.N Mehta Foundation, began by studying parks across the city and assessing them for their location, approach, grading, canopy cover, lighting, and existent plans.



Design is fluid, and its processes and outcomes must respond to the current times. Like so many other elements, the pandemic has impacted our idea and relationship to the spaces we inhabit – altering our relationship with nature, space, and even our idea of comfort. How we approach the creation of the spaces then, must be altered to reflect a new set of circumstances and needs.

The principles mentioned in the document serve to act as a guide – reminding designers of changing priorities, the need for a renewed approach, and most importantly, to respond to nuances presented not only in the conversations with the patrons, but by the very land with which they interact regularly.