

Both bottom up and top down



Yung Ho Chang,
USA;
Rahul Mehrotra,
India.

Architect and urban theorist Rahul Mehrotra moderated the Informal working group, which dealt with all imaginable forms of urban transformation that occur in the absence of regulation, from sprawling slums in Kenya, to illegally occupied houses in Switzerland and micro-urbanism in Japan. “We can learn from informal urbanism,” concluded architect Yung Ho Chang in his summary of the workshop. Chang touched on some of the traits that characterize informal urbanism: “It is innovative and integrative because it must always relate to other systems. And it involves extremely interesting information flows.” But above all, informal urbanism reacts with inspiration and vitality to conditions in which resources are limited. “One uses what one has, and looks for simple solutions. In many cases we can learn a great deal about sustainable construction by looking at informal urbanism.”



Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss, Serbia.



Informal urbanism working group.



Gretchen Wilkins, USA.



Andres Sevtsuk and Gretchen Wilkins,
USA; Alfred Omenya, Kenya.



Yung Ho Chang, USA; Bettina Andrag,
South Africa; Steven Spier, Germany.



Philippe Cabane, Switzerland; Juan Du,
Hong Kong; Louise Ganz, Brazil.