Post-independence architecture of Mysore City is governed by a version of a well-planned European model neighborhood, with highly defined ownership boundaries. This is in sharp contrast to the free flowing community ownership that existed pre-independence. This poster explores the effects of this imposition of boundary on sustainable neighborhoods.

Mysore was a precursor of sustainable practices in the early 1900s. Changes in the political and administrative structures after independence (1947) radically transformed the development practices in India and specifically Mysore. Housing design in pre-independent India was based on vernacular architecture, featuring communal spaces, with inherent sustainable characteristics. The thick walls, small openings and multipurpose areas of these pre-independence buildings clearly demonstrate sustainable design practice. After independence came a move to more formal demarcated layouts, with each house featuring clear, identified spaces for different activities. Priority shifted from the community to the individual, and prevailing common spaces became obsolete. This poster illustrates that such a transition has negative consequences in relation to sustainable development.

The built environment of pre- and post-independent India has shown transient boundaries of sustainable practices. The effects of imposition of boundaries (building regulations, prevailing practices) on sustainable neighborhoods of Mysore city is explored by using indicators; regulation, design, construction, material and socio-cultural aspects.

### pre-independence

**building design and construction:**
- Raised podium (jagali) acted as informal meeting places.
- Internally, a central hall was used for multi purpose with court open to sky.
- Thick mud wall (later brick), timber truss with terracotta tile roofing.

**planning and legislation:**
- Agrahara (Typical Layout)
  - Residential layouts had evolved from the prototype of the Agrahara (small Brahman villages) that were prevalent 150-200 years ago.
  - Residences were either linear with a shared party wall, or houses distributed around an open space.

**social and cultural:**
- Jajalis, which are always in shade, were a perfect space for socializing and acted as a meeting area for the inhabitants.
- People shared their leisure activities and entertainment with their neighbors in these informal spaces.

### post-independence

**building design and construction:**
- The standard house design is a set of rooms with a clearly identified function for each space.
- Well lit and ventilated rooms overlook the open space left as part of the setback on each side of the site or plot.

**planning and legislation:**
- Lalbaghur Shastri Nagar (Typical Layout)
  - Economically driven layouts are developed as plots and in certain layout model houses are constructed.
  - Roads, independent of houses, have pedestrian ways.

**social and cultural:**
- Open spaces, Roads, and Jagalis acted as interaction spaces and made the society intertwined and close-knit.

### conclusion:
- Development regulations have become a barrier to creating a sustainable built environment.
- Regulations often come into conflict with ethical boundaries of sustainable practices.
- Earlier sustainable practices with in the built environment have been eroded by globalising imperatives.
- Moral and social responsibilities have to be accounted for while reconfiguring the boundaries of a sustainable built environment.

### References: