LOST OPPORTUNITY
Industrial Heritage of Mumbai’s Textile Mill District

Cities and Historic Textile Complexes
Typology, Good Practice, and Global Perspectives for Conservation
Berlin, April 24, 2020
Island City of Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region

Island City of Mumbai: 73 sq km
Colonial City to Global Metropolis
REFINING THE SKYLINE OF SOUTH MUMBAI
Deindustrialization of the city through the closure of 58 textile mills was seen as an opening opportunity for such urban transformation.
Symbol of the making of a Global City

Prerequisite for transformation is de-industrialization
GIRANGAON
Village of Mills

Land of 58 Textile Mills: 240 ha

Textile District: 1000 ha
10sq km

Source: Correa Committee Report
The study of this neighbourhood offers a window to the political, economical and social history of the Mumbai city.
The first textile mill was inaugurated in 1854
Textile industry became the economic backbone of the city for over a century
In 1980s there were 58 mills with 250,000 workers.
Each mill occupies a land area of average 4Ha
In his obituary of

"When we first went to see

the most marvellous scenes

nick and thin threads were
different machines while ends

nearly stacked elsewhere. Cloth

melted to it in quick

second machine dried it while

folded it automatically. Mere

pilgrims, including women and

bunch of these mills every day.

and children are now cities

of skilled artisans... one can

children as young as seven

and primitive machines and doing

the opening of these mills

may be one smart and

tort their fear and have
gone."


Official Residences
Indispensable feature in the textile mills
THE CHAWLS: Tenement housing for migrant workers
Community spaces for social and political interactions
1892: 100,000 workers, 20,000 women.

1930s: Two thirds of the city’s labour was employed in the textile industry.

1980s: Strength of the workers in 58 mills was 250,000 at the time of the strike.
Mumbai’s Textile trade Union was a Showcase for International Communist TU Movement