

Dr. Aseem Inam

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Aseem Inam is an urbanist and activist-scholar-practitioner who is designing urban transformation at the exciting intersection of urban theory and design practice. Urban transformation is first, a fundamental change that leads to significant improvement in people's lives. Second, it is a series of radical shifts in urbanism, which consists of city-design-and-building processes and their spatial products. Third, it is revolutionizing the field of urbanism itself in order to become transformative design practice.

Dr. Inam was appointed the John Bousfield Distinguished Visitor in urban planning at the University of Toronto and prior to that, he was the founding Director of the highly innovative Graduate Program in Urban Practice at the Parsons School of Design in New York. He has also been an award-winning professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT], University of Michigan and the University of Southern California.

Dr. Inam has published two books, *Designing Urban Transformation* [New York and London: Routledge 2014] and *Planning for the Unplanned: Recovering from Crises in Megacities* [New York and London: Routledge 2005]. He has contributed chapters in other books, including *Extending Place: The Global South and Informal Urbanisms* [in *Place and Placelessness Revisited*, Routledge 2016], *Tensions Manifested: Reading the Viceroy's House in New Delhi* [in *The Emerging Asian City*, Routledge 2013], *Smart Growth: A Critical Review of the State of the Art* [in *Companion to Urban Design*, Routledge 2011], and *Meaningful Urban Design: Teleological / Catalytic / Relevant* [in *Writing Urbanism*, Routledge 2008].

As the Director of TRULAB, Dr. Inam has led several practice initiatives in urban transformation. In Toronto, he developed a community-based partnership with the Thorncliffe Park Women's Committee to nurture local entrepreneurship and informal economies, introducing new public spaces, knit together a network of open spaces, and use place-based strategies to empower communities. In Brazil, he worked with a micro-business support non-profit [SEBRAE] and mayors to develop asset-based transformative strategies that are unique to each city. In New York, he helped design a new interactive and collaborative strategy to nurture the relationship between street vendors, public space and public policy in the Union Square area.
