

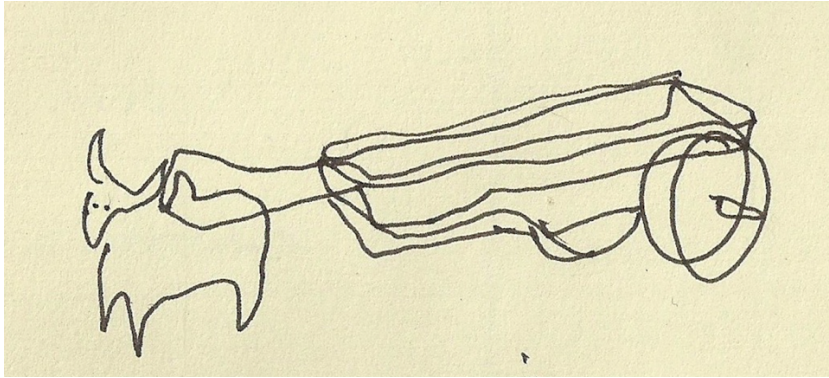
NEXUS - THE DICE OF DESIGN



NEXUS
The Dice of Design

Roger Connah Nexus Project, *The Poetic extracts.*

NID March-April 1987





1

200 yards from here Bahadur and his family
sit and live under a tree.

The tree is in the shadow
of a very large container.

Le Corbusier's Museum in Ahmedabad.

It is one of Corbusier's not-quite-famous buildings.

The cart and oxen Bahadur makes
from the idle mud is for home consumption.

A toy from crumple-able mud, as clumsy
and as beautiful as the word 'crumple-able'.

It costs 2 Rupees. Perhaps
they should get 5, or 10.

Later, an emporium, an institute
or an entrepreneur would charge 25 Rupees.

Who lives in the difference?



2

The mountain temple arrives on top
of a Maruti. A Maruti Deluxe 800. Like caviar
on top of smoked salmon
held aloft by the bearer. Hanuman
swings down, comes to our rescue
Myths need us as much as we need them.
Bears dance, buses burn but
the temple survives.
No caprice here. Burning the soles of our feet,
the sun too
reaches down, upstaging all.
There are a lot of temples
where the walls could dance.



3

This is a watermelon. A cycle rickshaw hood.

The canopy for a child struggling to avoid
direct sunlight. An ashtray in forbidden
regimes, unfortunate dynasties.

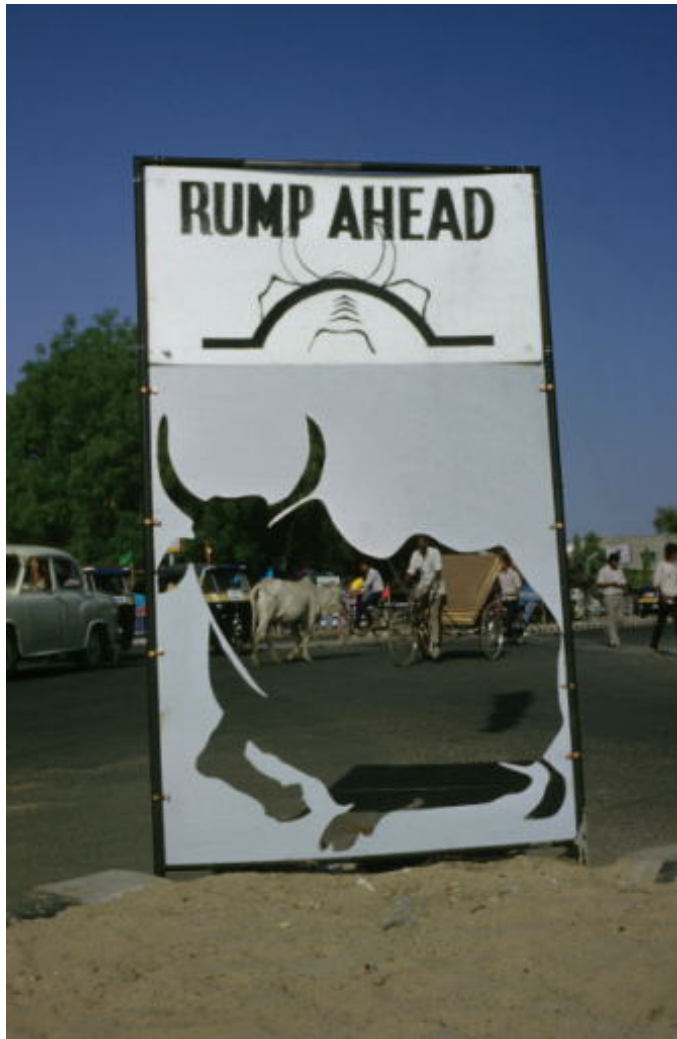
Folded away the sun leaves
so little unscorched. Lonely we
wait an eclipse of the
watermelon. So that we can call it
design or poetry.

Or *La Folie*.



4

Arcadia is a word that should
roll off the tongue. Where the country
meets the city and the city, if lucky,
still meets the country, while the
billboards meet the theatre.
Dressed up with nowhere
and everywhere to go, a bus station.
Nearby, a stone's throw, a beach,
the urban beach or the atomic café
where one can kick sand in the
face of dust and decay. And then
smile before it settles too quickly
into further decay.
Up, up and away!



5

Beware. Rump ahead!

Or close behind.

There are few ski jumps in India, yet the road is full of those soaring swerves. Black and white swerves of hockey players and terrorists, the kinetic art of the strangler, the politician and the administrator. Blindly cross at your own risk and tether yourself if you dare to the daily stasis.



6

A silkworm can crawl. If you
look at it close enough it will.
But it is scorn that it loathes. Like the word
folly it has little shared sense anymore.
It has escaped, it has been emancipated
and now must find new reassurances.
But it will. Because a silkworm
can crawl. All the way.



7

So what happens now? Survival or caprice?

The Lota exercise! Lota theory.

The pot, the tea pot, the bus depot. Gold spot

Lota before marriage, Lota after marriage,

Potsdam is a place in East Germany

Pozzo is a character in a play by Samuel Beckett.

Pozzo has a servant called Lucky.

Pozzo goes blind. Lucky,

Or life after pot?



8

Nexus is the dice of design
“Pledge but also wager symbolic
order and gamble”. Lines borrowed
from other projects, other minds.
The throw, they say, and should
we not believe them for it has been printed,
not only programmes a strategy of events
it anticipates the design to come
living one’s space, running risks
giving us chances.

9 NEXUS is the goat and the zebra crossing.



