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Eros in TransUrbia

This paper will compare the politics of religious building in Amsterdam and Mumbai, two postcolonial harbor cities rife with democratic (in)tolerance, pluralism and sensuality rapidly shifting form under liberal fast-capitalism. Of particular interest will be an unbuilt Turkish-Dutch mosque in Amsterdam and a highly successful Hindu temple in Mumbai. Far removed from each other as these seem, their entanglement in international metaphysical, aesthetic, political, sexual and financial currents as well as in the common vicissitudes of liberal democracy-on-the-ground reveal the shared geopolitical and semiotic domain within which they operate. The nature of this global domain reveals itself in a recurring logic of securitization, ecumenical tolerance, visual consumption, financial adultery and gender propriety which they struggle to realize (or deny). This suggests that the domain of religion in world cities is not so much opposed to the secular as intricately with secular forms of *eros*, that link religion and politics to sexuality and visual aesthetics.