

[Past Imperfect history podcast: Robert Stephens, Bombay Imagined](#)

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Episode 5 of Past Imperfect features Robert Stephens, architect at RMA Architects in Mumbai and author of *Bombay Imagined: An Illustrated History of the Unbuilt City* (2022).

The architect Charles Correa once described Bombay/Mumbai as a great city but a terrible place. In *Bombay Imagined*, Robert Stephens, an American-born architect now living and working in Mumbai, chronicles several centuries of unfulfilled plans to make the city both greater and less terrible. *Bombay Imagined* demonstrates that smelly sewage, awful infrastructure, paltry open space, and inadequate housing are not simply modern problems: they have been around for over 300 years, in one form or the other. Consequently, Bombay citizens have established a long tradition of devising plans to mediate these perennial headaches.

The episode is accessible here: <https://scroll.in/article/1037962/podcast-from-sea-channels-to-gas-powered-lights-300-year...>

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