## GURGAON UTOPIA Anisa Rahim



## One

Gurgaon bears personal significance because my mother grew up in Gurgaon in a family home, affectionately known as the kothi, constructed before Partition in Sadar Bazaar. The kothi is on the top floor of a four-story structure connected by a long hallway where one can look down to the remaining floors, which include tailoring, footwear and fabric shops, an office-space for a cement factory and a Bengali sweets shop. Because of the household's unspoken gender segregation, there was limited movement between the bedrooms, the kitchen and the small balcony overlooking a vegetable market, but the expansive roof provided ample aerial views of Sadar Bazaar or what I like to now think of as 'old' Gurgaon.

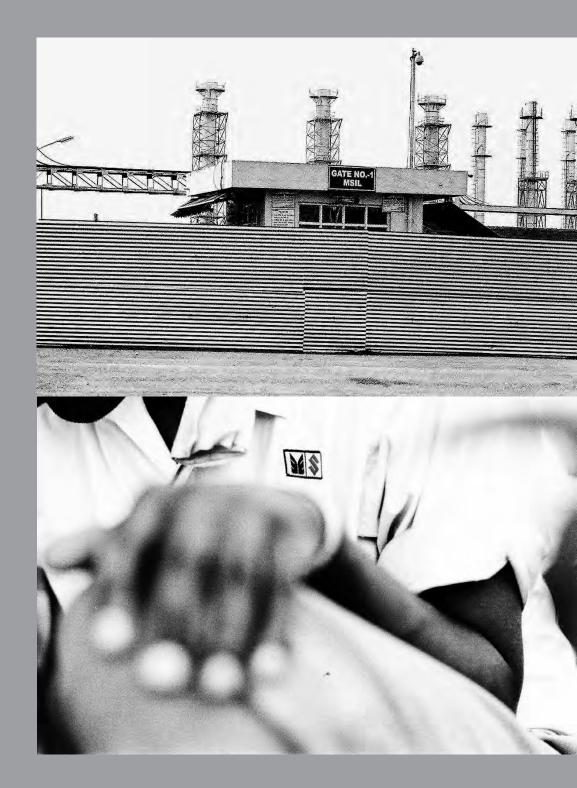




## Two

As my conception of Gurgaon expanded beyond this interior space, Gurgaon too rapidly changed from a village to an industrial hub and a major urban centre. Nowadays, people rarely think of Sadar Bazaar when they speak of Gurgaon. Instead Gurgaon is known for its multiplexes, malls, call centres, and glossy factories. But behind the sheen of new construction, there has been the influx of so many migrant workers with countless thousands of people going to work every day in what is an ordinary affair, but one bearing greater resemblance to a procession.







## Three

Gurgaon keeps expanding, foreshadowing the changing landscape of Haryana. The last set of images was taken at IMT-Manesar at the Maruti Suzuki complex, during the 2011 workers' struggle. The eerie amount of open space, the factories' attempts to erect boundaries and isolate ordinary people is met with new forms of resistance and collectivities.

