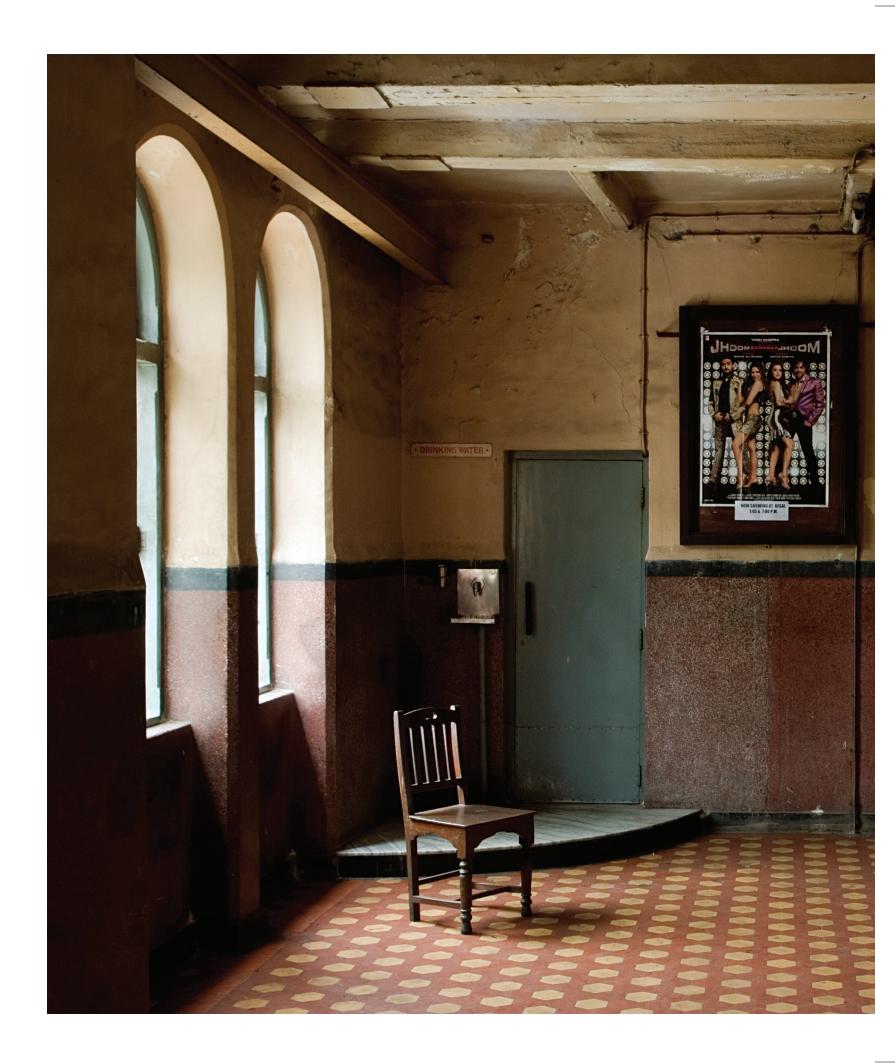
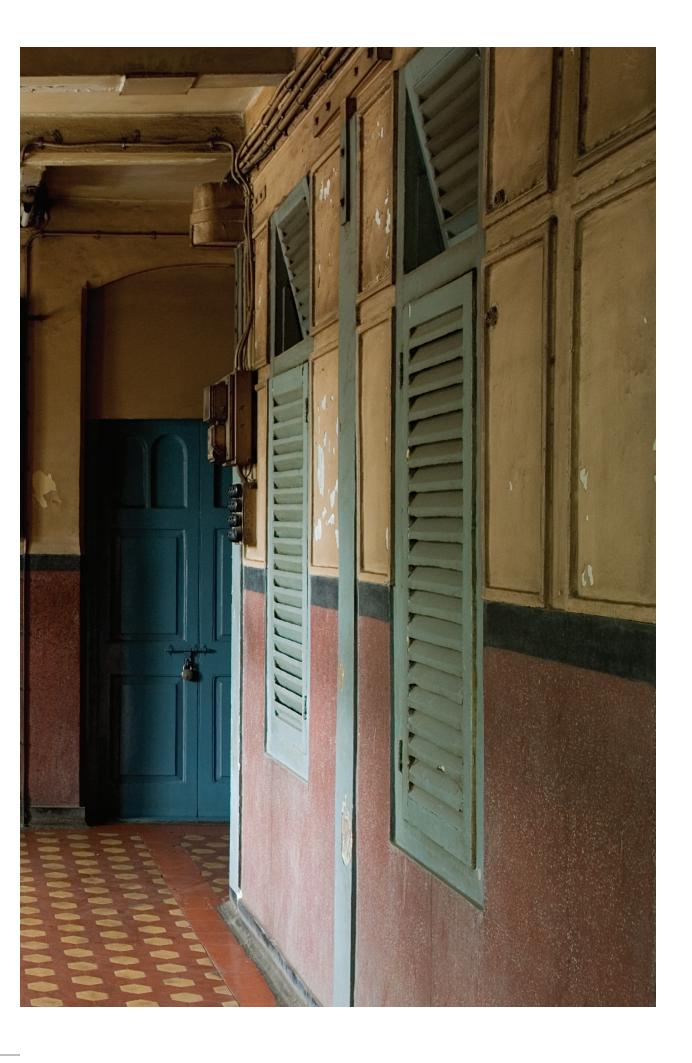
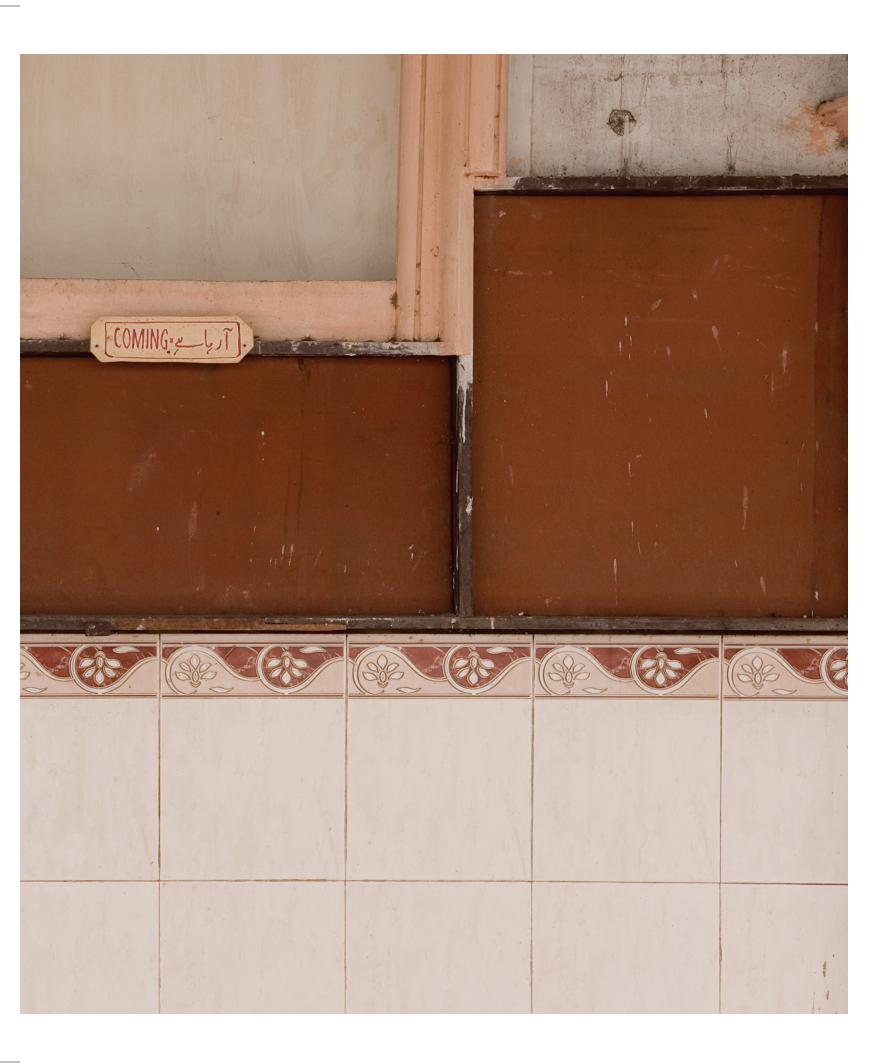
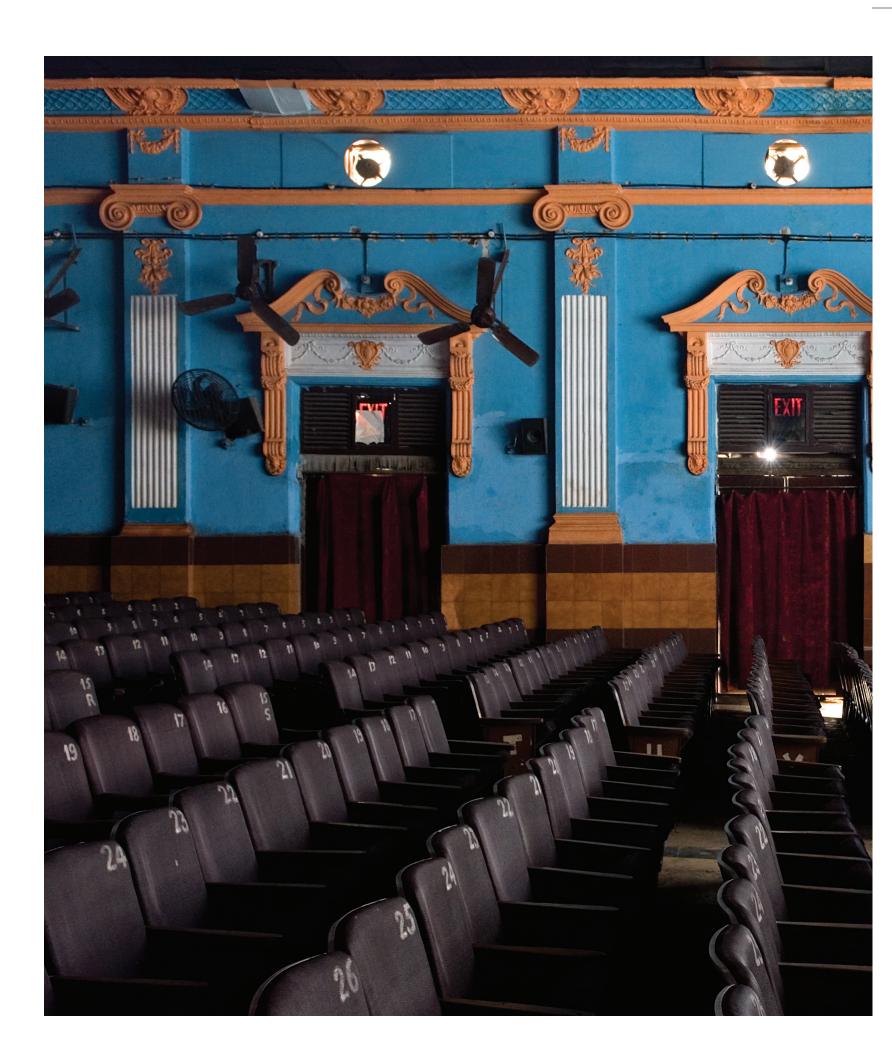
THE CINEMA HALLS PROJECT REPEAT SHOWS

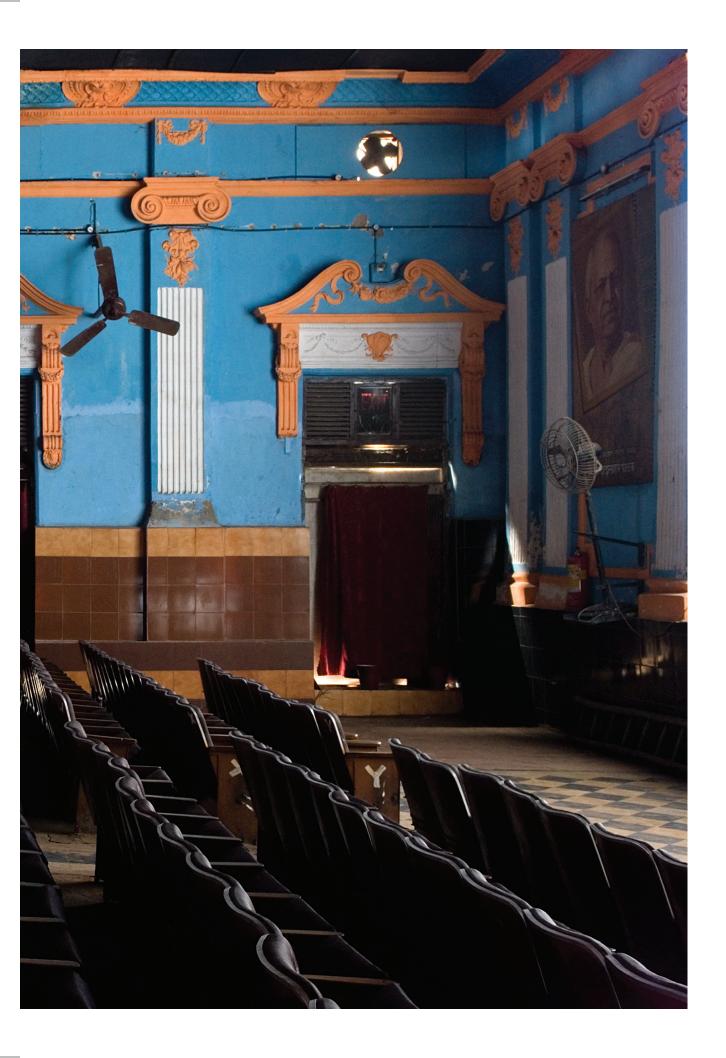


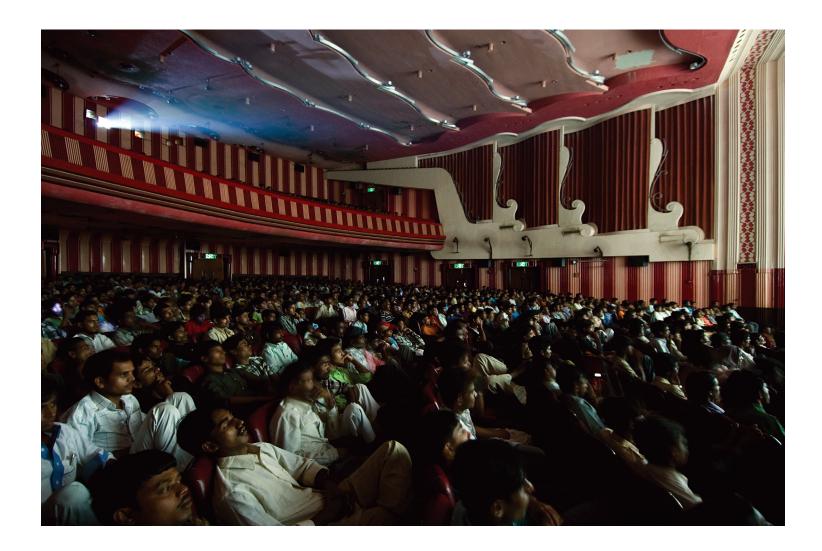












This series visually traces the lives of Bombay's disappearing single-screen cinema halls. Once symbols of modernity, the relationship that many of these halls share with the city has changed significantly as colonial Bombay metamorphoses into 'post-industrial' Mumbai. For long these cinemas were the core of the industrial success of Bombay cinema (and, for that matter, all kinds of cinemas) through their dense practice of 'repeat show' viewings that ensured the 'super hit' status of a film. Today, they constitute a waiting room for the game of real estate; as the game swings in one direction or another, their fate will be decided. Meanwhile 'repeat shows' dwindle in the face of a new order of development and entertainment strategies.



On the one hand, this collection of images is a repository of the architectural form and interior details of these buildings that range from the classic to the idiosyncratic. These single-screen cinema halls seem to exist today in defiance of the generic aesthetic and cultural experience of the city's new multiplexes. However, to view these halls merely nostalgically — and to relegate them to history — would be to deny them a place in the present, our lived present that is in constant play with both time past and pending. As these cinemas, which are simultaneously spaces of dwelling, labour and spectatorship, are explored, they reveal themselves to be sites of deep affective investment, traces of which are evident in every nook and corner.



