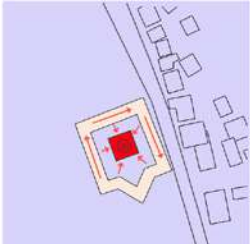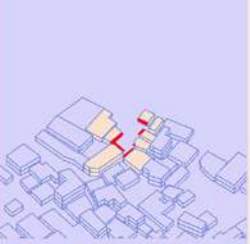# BALWANT SHETH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

BSSA REVIEWS

AUTUMN 2023 / ISSUE 003

Temples as a center, anchors, seemingly symbolic but begins manifesting physically, a need to surround it, not only due to circumambulation but to be able to access it from every direction

Large unbuilt surrounding area on 3 sides of the fort, main road access to the jetty on the eastern side — 6

Supplementary verandahs and larger overhangs accompany the single storey structures
They promote interactions by blurring the lines of ownership of those spaces, since they are partially open and loosely attached to the structure, giving a sense of community

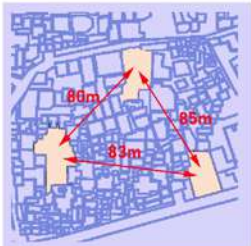The site is away from most crowded or commercial functions

Due to higher height on south, east and west side, space is naturally shaded and cooler across the day
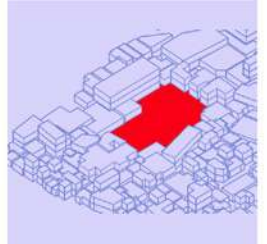
Current usage:
Annual sports competitions (kabbadi)- winter
Festival celebrations (about once a month)
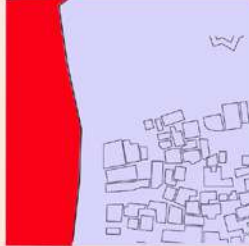Used for informal sports like cricket by kids
Unused other times

Proximity to site elements

All three of these sites form nearly an equilateral triangle, 80m away from each other
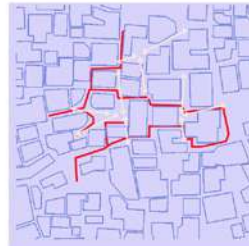
This kind of circulation becomes more "confusing" however enables much more visual connect on the street level

Close proximity to the sea, physical or even visual connect to the sea very rare in koliwada despite the professions, allows to connect the design to the sea — 5
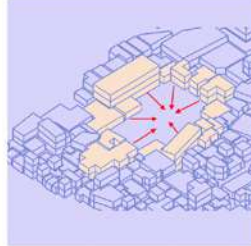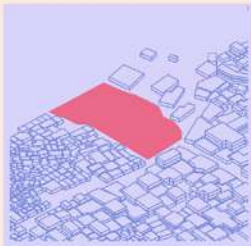
Surrounding heights and arrangement force to look inwards, this along with no direct road access creates a courtyard and a sense of intimacy
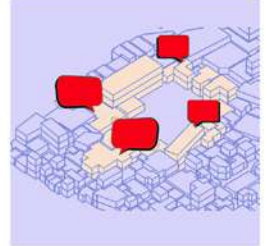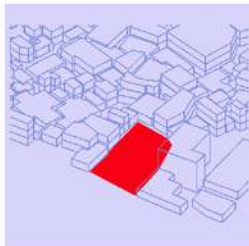
Lots of interaction and dialogues occur across the courtyard due to its enclosed nature — 1
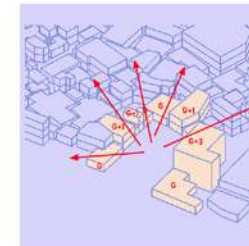
Regular outline, large open existing ground

Current Usage:
Informal and formal sports activities(mainly cricket)
Informal hangout space for youngsters
No natural or artificial shade/ cover, gets hot during the day, uninviting

Current usage:
Informal gathering space
Informal play area for children
Unused most of the times

Large interior area and shorter surrounding buildings allow a more open and uncongested space, allowing ample sunlight
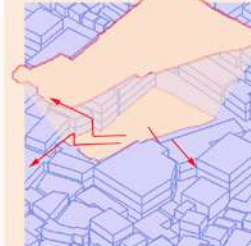
Lower height of nearby buildings and being enclosed by only 2 sides makes the space open up vertically, allowing sense of release

Relatively regular plot, 1/2 niches
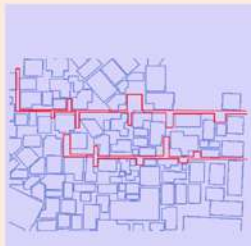
The plan follows a spinal layout, with the main access road being the "spine" and branches emerging from it. This establishes heirarchy and simplifies circulation. The focus shifts to efficient circulation and creating pockets of space which can be accessed easily
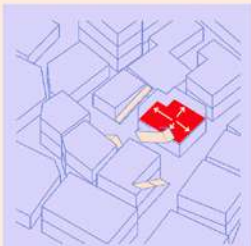
Exposed staircases offer a break in the facades and keep them dynamic, moreover becoming inviting for public access without restriction. They add to the ad-hoc nature of the site and maximise interoir space while offering transparency
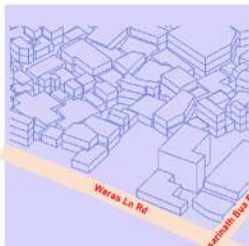
Surrounded on 3 sides, with one side as a main road access and proximity to the main koliwada rd
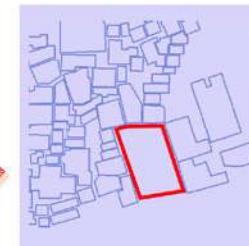
Very regular outline, allows for flexible planning
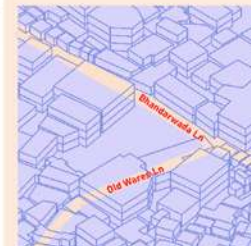
Directly connected to a secondary and tertiary lane on east and north side
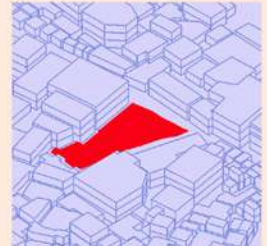
Current usage:
Informal gatherings
Festival Celebrations- Idols and worship
Sparse Parking (2 wheelers)
Informal play area for children
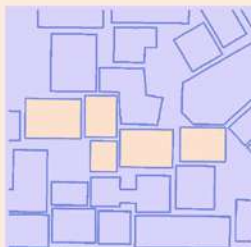
The building outlines v/s the roof outlines. The roofs and overhangs create intersections, which make unified spaces and promote interactions, creating better interpersonal relations and a sense of unified spaces — 4
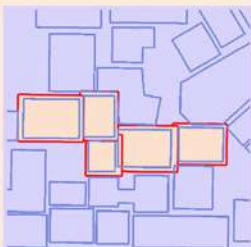
Low building cover and lack of trees and built area make the space feel empty and hot — 3
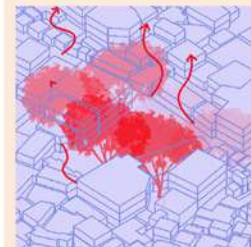
Ample Tree cover keeps space shaded and cooler microclimate over the day — 2

Dean's Note
Dr. Kaiwan Mehta

We live in times where knowledge and thinking are probably in a volatile state of being like never before; volatile, in the sense that they are actively called upon as history and future, as ideas and interpretations, as ideologies and science, and yet we try to capture, conquer, and harness knowledge and thinking as if they were wild waters that can be best employed when banked or dammed. Neither in the state of wilderness nor in the state of alignment with rules or dominant beliefs, can knowledge be productive or useful, knowledge and thinking are best when they are in flux, in a churning, in states of debates and confrontation, in dialectic states of being, dialogue and argumentation. Which is why even in mythologies all across the world, the 'churning of the ocean' as well as cycles of destruction and rebirth are the ever constants for gods and human, nature and civilization!

As educators our final aim is to build the ability of our students, our future citizens, and future sharers of the human civilization to be able to engage in the 'churning of the ocean' not as blinkered cogs in the wheel but as active participants and contributors. Developing these abilities takes stages of preparation and building of knowledge like building blocks first, and later much like puzzles. No knowledge or the ability to think exists or can survive outside systems and tools (of the trade). These systems and tools that hold knowledge are like the skeleton and muscles that hold a human body, mind, and soul together. Tools and systems can be learned only for a very short while. After the first few stages of learning, if you wish to take the best of advantage of their role, they require nurturing and building with practice - riyaaz or exercises - and that then becomes the mode of learning.

Hence education is a long-drawn process of equipping oneself with knowledge as building blocks, as a puzzle and a subject of debate and conversations. It is also equipping oneself with tools, systems, and processes, as given and inherited, as well as that which will be yours onl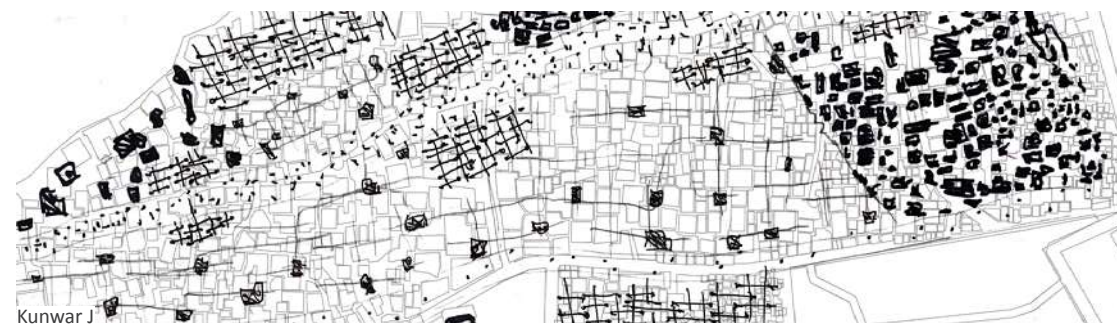y through a process akin to gardening and tending. At BSSA and NMIMS we spend long and creative discussions of education processes and protocols of pedagogy; our responsibility towards our wider set of stakeholders - our civilization, our world, our communities, our professions - is important and crucial, as we shape not just professionals and skilled task-manager, or role-deliverers, but we contribute towards a larger social space of human beings, a space of collective living, and being citizens, with knowledge and thinking that will forever challenge what we know, and grow dynamically through dialogues and newer imaginations.

Centre for Built Environment Studies (CBES)
Dr. Kaiwan Mehta

SVKM's NMIMS University's BSSA has launched the Center for Built Environment Studies (CBES) as a platform for collaboration with realities of the built environment on the ground through professional projects that are of public-value and contribute to the civic development. The platform will allow faculty members and students to work on active projects on the ground with governmental and non-governmental agencies, through expert consultancy, specialized advocacy, critical thinking, and focused as well as expanded research.

The Center will also initiate and generate conclaves, seminars, and consultancy focused group discussions, as well as conferences as a way of discussing, reviewing, and creating new knowledge on various aspects and studies of the built environment. CBES will focus on the relevance of professional research and academic advocacy as a way of intervening in the public sphere with positive contribution to the urban and social space.

The school, with some faculty members and some students has already been involved in conducting research and studies for the Thane Rabale Industrial Area (which is in collaboration with the Hochschule Karlsruhe (HKA) and they have already presented to project to the governmental collaboration between State of Maharashtra and the State of Baden-Wurttemberg) as well as many aspects and areas of the recent Metro construction in Mumbai. These projects are also often taken into our studio teaching such as Urban Design, Directed Study Programmes, and Architecture Design. We look forward to enhancing the school's industry connect and stakeholder outreach through the activities of the Center.

Kunwar J

Bachelor of Interior Design (B.ID) programme at BSSA
Dr. Kaiwan Mehta

SVKM's NMIMS University's BSSA is happy to announce a new 4-year professional degree programme, as per UGC guidelines, in Interior Design called Bachelor of Interior Design. The programme addresses this age-old practice with new and emerging debates in last few decades, world over - the role of design in shaping our material worlds of habitation! Interior Design has often been seen as an aspect or subset of Architecture, while the two professions and practices are connected - it is very important to acknowledge that Interior Design is an independent practice — a field of action and thinking on its own — and that its education programme should approach learning not by emulating the traditions in architecture schools, but by drawing out new arenas and processes of learning.

The new programme at BSSA is shaped to approach Interior Design as a practice of its own kind and the courses are so designed to address this field or work, and contributing to the built environment, as a science and art with independently identified design protocols and processes, understanding the worlds of materials, people, and socio-economic realities. Like most programmes at BSSA now, after the first five semesters, a student literally shapes her/his journey in the next three semesters through directed study programmes, thesis, and internships. The programme also engages with interdisciplinary studies and learning processes, as well as exposure to varied kinds of practices and work types in the wider field of design and the built environment, that an Interior Designer can participate in.

We look forward to our new journey with this new programme and engaging the field of interior design in more creative and critical ways!

Design Thesis · Film Production · Literary Landscapes · Building Systems and Services · Moving Images · Professional Practise Systems · Illustration · Integrated Design Workshop · Design Studies · Construction Technologies and Techniques · Visual Communication and Representation · Building and Design Materials · Set Design · Design Research · Directed Study Programme · Practical Training · Pottery

Architectural Design
B.Arch. 1st Year
Mentors: *Shashank Shrivastava, Pranali Patel, Siddhant Tikkoo, Kuwalsanam Chintala, Manushi Shah, Kshitij Mahashabde*
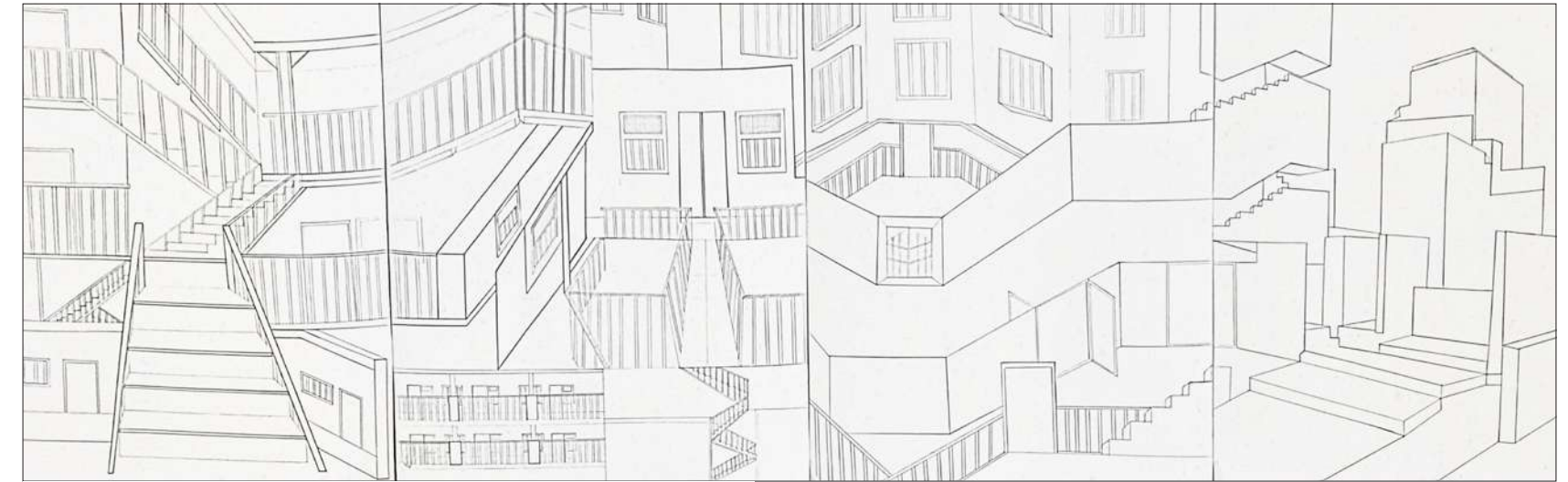
Exploring the concept of a maze and piquing curiosity through the use of staircases - Tanvi O

Exploring the idea of projections, the interplay between them and their effect on light - Binoy S

Exploring the idea of intersections and vantage points - Raj S

Basic Design
B.Arch. 1st Year

The motive of the Basic Design Studio, in the second semester was to offer students a range of ergonomic study, initially by tracing our own body language and positions in different manner.

It was a fun engaging activity of tracing your own colleagues and getting a deeper sense of understanding proportions. The expected outcome was to have a seating designed based on our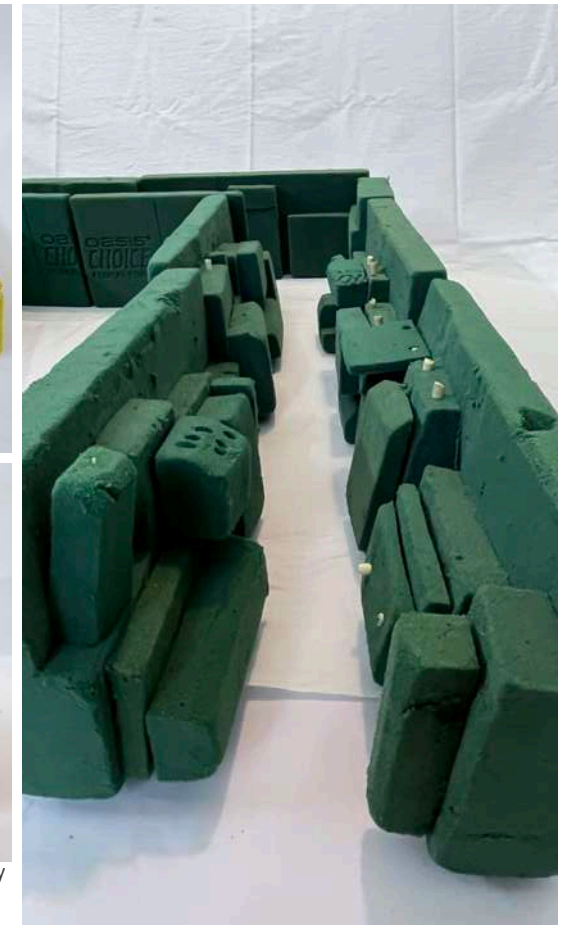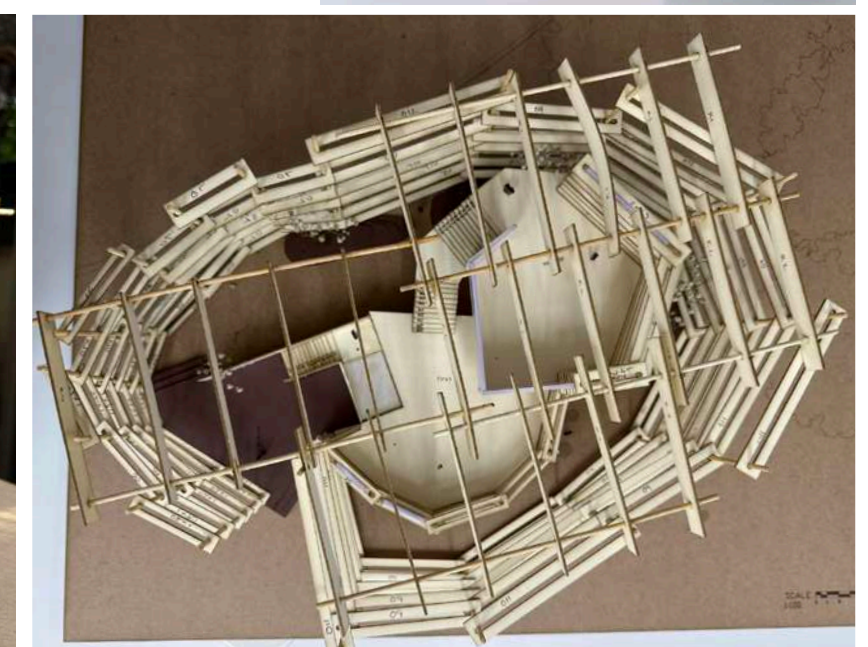 own comfortable body language. We dived into the tangent of understanding to maintain a certain language of design throughout the product, which was very crucial. It was also supposed to be interactive with its user in its own way. Exploring how different materials were compatible with each other and the product itself, we witnessed the whole process of making this furniture alongside the carpenters including some hands on process by students like giving the finishing appeal, and had simultaneous discussions with the faculty about the several challenges that we came across, like the stability of the structure and making the product constraint to a limited area. The end goal was prioritizing the surface and the structure of the furniture rather than aesthetics.
Jyotiranjan Behera, Devanshi Solanki, Riya Sharma, Samruddhi Shetty, Vidhi Ganeriwala, Tanishka Shekhawat, 2nd Year
Mentors: *Rohit Anchan, Janki Shah, Tanima Shrivastava, Sapna Lakhe*


Jyotiranjan B, Devanshi S, Riya S, Samruddhi S
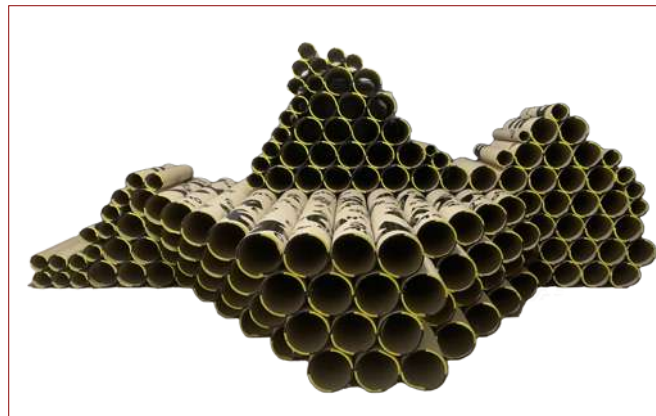
Vidhi G, Tanishka S

Building Construction
B.Arch. 1st Year

In the second semester, students in Building Construction delved into the fundamental concept of how smaller building units combine to form larger, intricate systems, with a focus on mechanisms and construction techniques. The journey began with a comprehensive study of a complex mechanism – an auto rickshaw. By scrutinizing the amalgamation of diverse materials and the various joineries that bound them together, students gained an understanding of the significance of ergonomics in design and its impact on end-users. The class was introduced to the essential components of brick construction, such as bricks, piers, and stone masonry.

To acquaint the students with brick bonds, they were divided into groups and provided with wooden bricks. Collaboratively, they were tasked with replicating different bond patterns, which evoked a sense of solving a complex puzzle and kept them thoroughly engaged. Students underwent a step-by-step tutorial on constructing arches. Exploring the geometry of various arch designs, the class grasped the construction techniques, enhancing their practical skills and knowledge. In conclusion, the second semester offered students a dynamic learning experience, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application.
Fatima Khatri, 2nd Year
Mentors: *Nishant Modi, Pratishta Kunhithayill, Tanima Shrivastava, Ipsita Datta, Soham Raje*
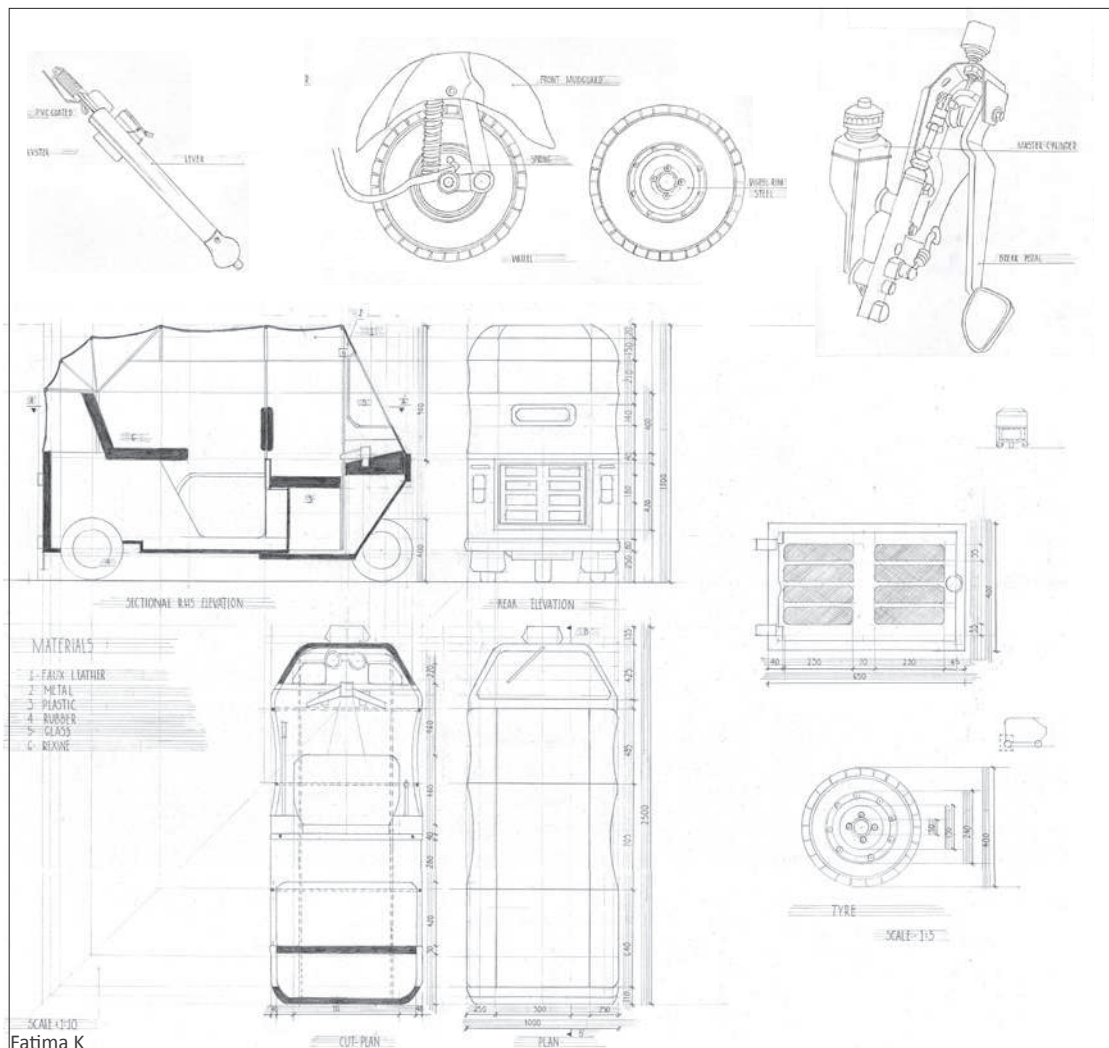
Fatima K

Study Trip
B.Arch. 1st Year

The 1st year Architecture students explored the region of Kutch and Bhuj as a part of the Academic Study Trip. The Trip was incorporated with the subject Elements of Architecture, that demanded exploration into design and construction of architectural elements governed by climate and resilient practices, materials, techniques, events, and phenomenon.

The extensive travel plan led students to explore the phenomenal landscape, vibrant culture, local food, and architecture. The trip involved exploration of occupation-based villages Bhirandiara, Hodka, Dhordo, visit to the white desert; hands-on workshop with Hunnarshala and Ajrakh studio, visits to community buildings like Khamir, Shrujan LLDC for Arts and Crafts, Bhuj old city complex including markets, Prag and Aina mahal and museums and memorials like Smritivan.

The output of the trip involved, collecting, mapping, and documenting regional significances of the place via object, apparel histories, stories of resilience through cultural practices, and architectural style in a travelogue by each student. They made posters to record the processes of hands-on workshop including techniques and material. They created a collection of objects that represented localness and uniqueness of the region. The trip culminated with an exhibition of all the learnings, displayed and presented by the students.
Nishant Modi, Assistant Professor
Mentors: *Kimberley Advani, Nishant Modi, Tanima Shrivastava, Sohil Soni*

Workshop at Hunnarshala

The trip culminated with an exhibition of all the learnings, displayed and presented by the students

Architectural Design
B.Arch. 2nd Year

The design project for the second-year, semester 4 students was based on their study tour to Udaipur. This project was conceived as a culmination of their experiences and observations in this culturally rich city.

The aim of the project was to explore the intricate interplay between water, architecture, culture, and public spaces, both within the historical context and in the present day.

Drawing from their explorations during the Udaipur study tour, students embarked on a design journey that aimed to translate their observations into architectural projects. Students closely examined and synthesized their encounters with two key sites in Udaipur, Saheliyon ki Baari and Bagaur ki Haveli, and the Gangaur Ghat. These sites served as a foundation for understanding how built and natural elements seamlessly coexist within Udaipur's unique regional context, characterized by its topography and lakes.

Saheliyon ki Bari, initially a serene garden for royal leisure, now serves as an art gallery. The proposed project extended its purpose, introducing artist residency and studio spaces. This program included living spaces, well-equipped studios with ample natural light, creative exchange zones, and a dedicated exhibition area for artists to present their work.

Gangaur Ghat, located along the iconic lake, serves as a hub for cultural festivities and puppet displays. The project introduced performance spaces and a lake-viewing Gallery to the site, offering versatile venues for artistic expressions, from music and dance to theatre and puppetry.
Prachi Donde, Assistant Professor

Mentors: *Farshogar Tangri, Kimberley Advani, Prachi Donde, Sohil Soni, Dhruv Seth, Soham Raje, Jeeya Savani.*
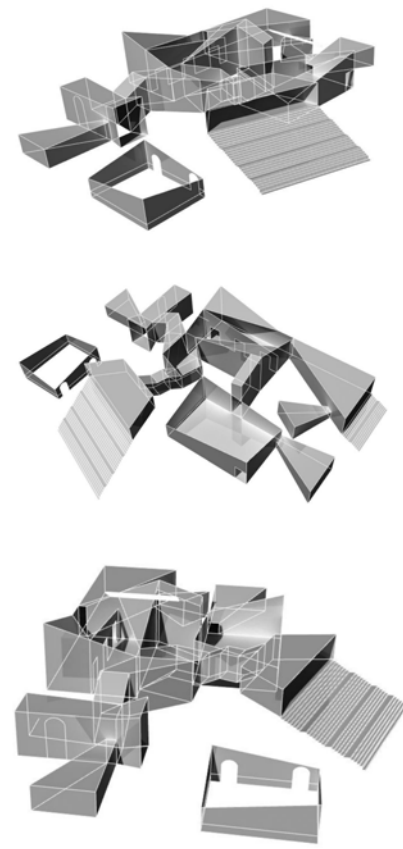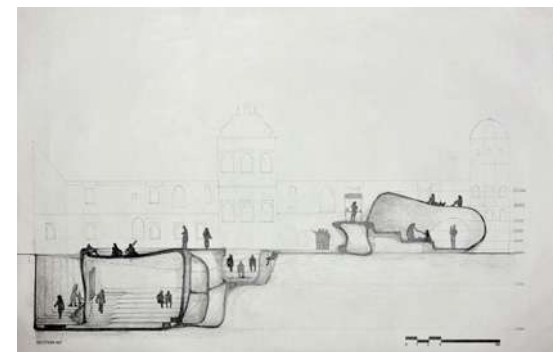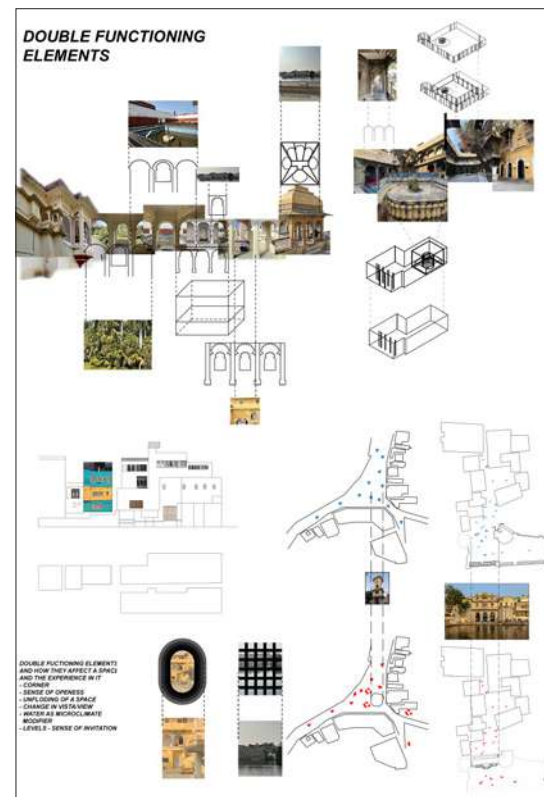
Akanksha P
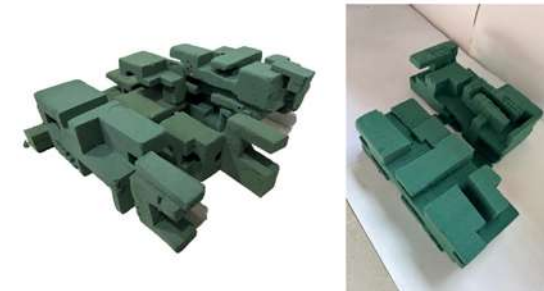
Rutuja S

Aaron D

Jaival K
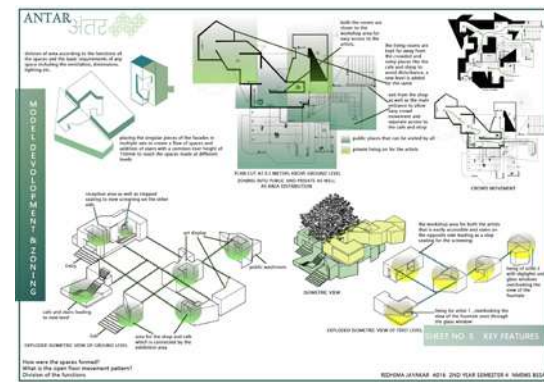
Kush B

Deepak P

Khushii D

Ridhima J

Aaron D

Drashtant B

Theory of Design
B.Arch. 2nd Year

Being students of design, we are used to the process of ideation and creation. However, to translate an idea or a design into a positively influential cohesion of form and function, we use wide range of examples from history.

Theory of Design is a subject which lets us explore these possibilities, through documentaries and discussions. Throughout the semester we watched short overviews on structures and have lectures on why they were designed in a particular way. We also understood the social and political conditions that dictated the design aspects. It helped us to identify what were the setbacks and successes in each of these cases. From these lectures we extracted ways of adapting ideas to our designs and how we might express our experience through architecture. The discussions provided us with extensive knowledge on architecture and how to identify certain trends or properties in an architectural expression like: open space design, use of materials, reason for site layout, form of expression, cultural context, ornamentation, simplification or even transparency and underlying reasoning for certain design aspects.

At the end of the semester, we were divided into groups of three. We selected one of the structures we had studied, to analyse based on the knowledge and information we had gathered during the course of this subject. From this we created posters with mind maps, diagrams and annotations, to convey what we had studied. This provided us all with a structured arrangement of all the information which we could then discuss and educate each other.
*Anoushka Fonseca, 2nd Year*

As architecture students, the most important aspect is to broaden our minds and understandings. We are not blank canvases that enter into this field but people that come in with at least 18 years of conditioning and teaching. This course is teaching us to look past this world. Theory of Design in specific does not just end at teaching different architecture styles and theories but it is just the beginning. It is known that architecture is always responsive to the given time period and situations. Watching and learning about various structures through different time periods and historical changes helped us understand cause and effect at a far more conceptual level. Analyzing these structures and our thoughts together to understand and form a cohesive reflection about the structure's history and value in the modern world was the most important aspect of this course. This subject has allowed for many healthy discussions in class that further build our knowledge about the subject. It taught us the value of knowing the value of historical representations of these buildings, and how did they respond to any event? It was done through individual analysis and documentary videos. Understanding the nuances of each structure and their impact was important and was achieved through the lectures delivered by our faculty.
Sara Dadia, 2nd Year

Mentors: *Suprio Bhattacharjee, Kimberley Advani, Dhwani Shanghvi, Pranali Patel.*
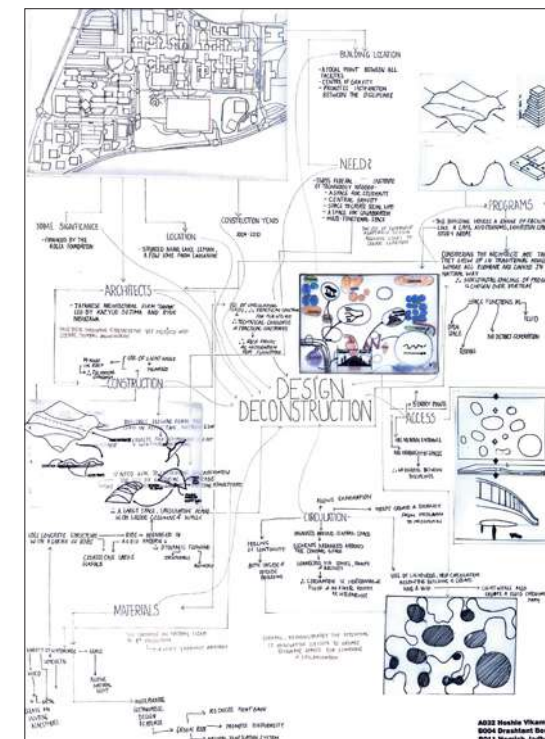
Hoshie V, Drashtant B, Hemish J
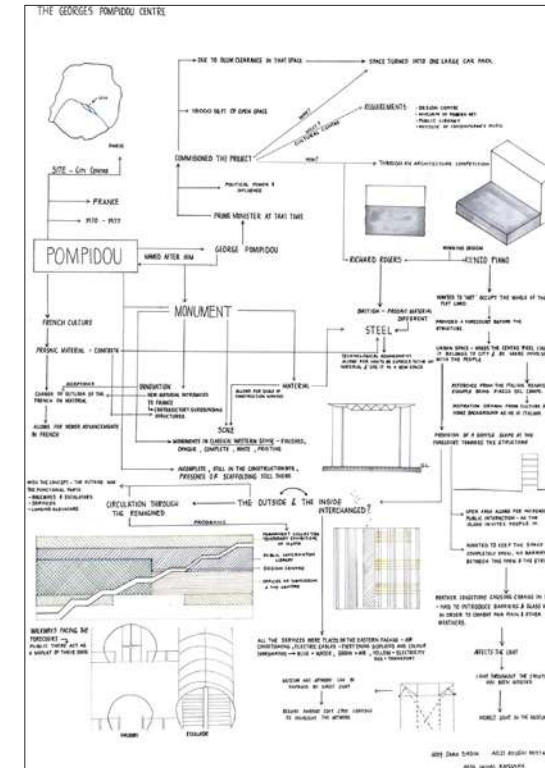
Sara D, Ayushi Mittal, Jaival K
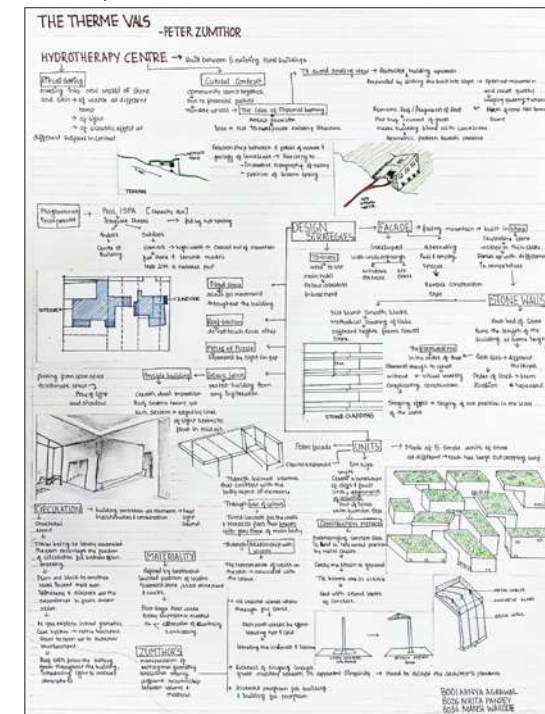
Aanya A, Nikita P, Mansi W

Elective - Material Workshop
B.Arch. 2nd Year

Construction Waste to 'Up Ur Space'

The Material Workshop - elective's success in the previous semester (AY 2022-23) spurred the creation of its sequel, 'Up Ur Space,' focusing on re-purposing construction waste to cultivate sensitivity and inculcate the value of using their ability and resources to help others in some way or other. Aligned with the 'Worthy Waste' initiative, the elective empowered students to innovate and craft items from construction debris. In groups of 5, students explored material properties to fashion sustainable crafts like pen stands, coasters, lamps, and more, tailored to specific user needs after understanding behaviour and preferences. Visiting construction sites, they sourced materials to create practical items for their chosen audience's desks.

A 'Fundraiser Sale' was organized by the students which showcased their creations, receiving a positive response and meeting fundraising goals. This endeavour revealed students' creativity, managerial skills, and their contribution to societal welfare, supporting RuHI's cause for paediatric cancer patients.

The course delivered a comprehensive learning experience, imparting design comprehension, empathy, and resource optimization. It emphasized the value of re-purposing construction waste, teaching life values, and meeting user demands with innovation. In the words of Elvis Presley, "Values are like fingerprints. Nobody's are the same, but you leave them all over everything you do."
Arti Daga, Assistant Professor
Mentor: Arti Daga

History of Architecture
B.Arch. 2nd Year

Teaching History of Architecture is a much more dynamic question of pedagogy than one may think. Why do we teach it, and how do we teach it are constant questions and they never seem to allow us to get resolved! We obviously and clearly can no longer teach History of Architecture as a mode of familiarisation with building systems, styles and language, and elements, etc. as much as one would say these are still important to lecture on, discuss and study. However, architecture and design, have also got to be explored as modes of reviewing and reflecting on, after learning, the subject and matters of History. Between the two words - History and Architecture - we have taken the word History for granted as a system of accessing knowledge - and in our case knowledge around Architecture - but very often we get lost because we are neither fully experts on architecture, nor of the subject and field of History, especially in the age of social media, and a tradition that lets us believe that history was a matter of general knowledge and reading buildings a matter of common sense. Both assumptions are hugely problematic, and one could debate these

in detail at another occasion - but here let us say, these are some of the preoccupations and expert reflections that drive what and how we teach History of Architecture.

Visiting museums and exhibitions, historical neighbourhoods, and spaces of production in a city (such as a workshop for making Ganapati idols for the annual festival, etc.) have been integral to the way we understand History and Design — its relationship with life, and craft-making and choice-making, language and location. In the assignment presented here, the students were required to present the study of an architectural case through an exhibition mode, with a focus on aspects of the building they were studying and how best a plan or a detail would get represented. In this case the students drew their primary inspiration from the Discovery of India exhibition at the Nehru Center in Mumbai.
Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Dean
Mentors: *Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Dhwani Shanghvi, Vidhi Jobanputra*

Study of Dilwara Jain Temple interior planning - Diahyan K, Shashank J and Nikeet C
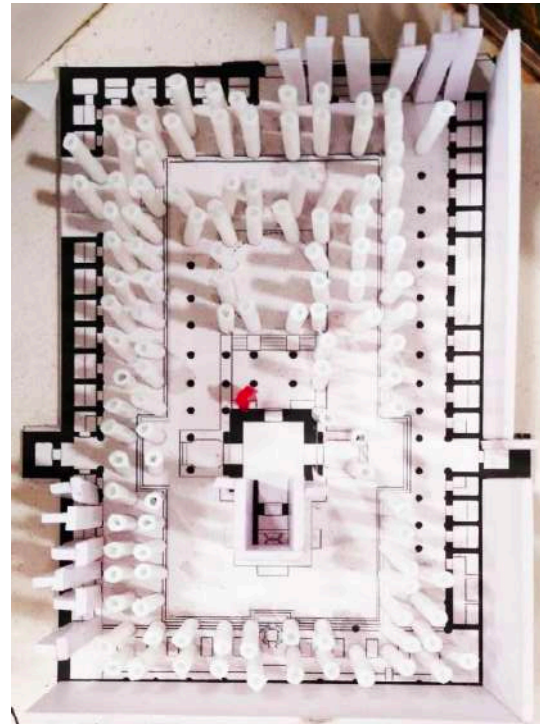
Architecture Design
B.Arch. 3rd Year

Building is a disruptive act, an act of material violence, with consequential destructive materializations and territorial appropriation. Widespread disregard for ecological processes, natural systems, histories of occupation, indigenous communities, cultural diversity and integration, leads to spatial aggression and violence, emphasising extant territorial contests and community polarization.

Conscious spatial and architectural actions are needed to mitigate these prior acts of violence through specific reparative acts – a reconciliatory restructuring and redefinition of what it means to intervene or act upon a specific situation or setting, through a deliberate dismantling of archaic and normative building strategies. The ensuing studio project, seeks to locate each student's work within a triad of historic maritime forts along Mahim Bay, Mumbai. A situational understanding cultural, social, occupational as well as physical geographies – leads to an engagement with this altered or 'constructed' landscape, and its extant urban conditions – communities, conveniences, utilities, facilities, infrastructure, edge conditions, topographies, conflicts, etc.

A reading of 'Field Conditions' (Stan Allen, 1985), encourages an egalitarian spatial strategy cognisant of its social and geographical specificity: a ground for conceptual spatial action binding disparate and otherwise dissociated fragments within the urban landscape. This cohesive spatial strategy thus attempts to locate itself at the intersection of architecture, landscape, urban design and ecology, through a set of territorial, material and tectonic actions that question the very boundaries assumed to exist between the aforementioned spatial disciplines. Each project is thus a spatial provocation for us to consider, a reparative effort at binding the city through a constructive territorial intervention.
Suprio Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor
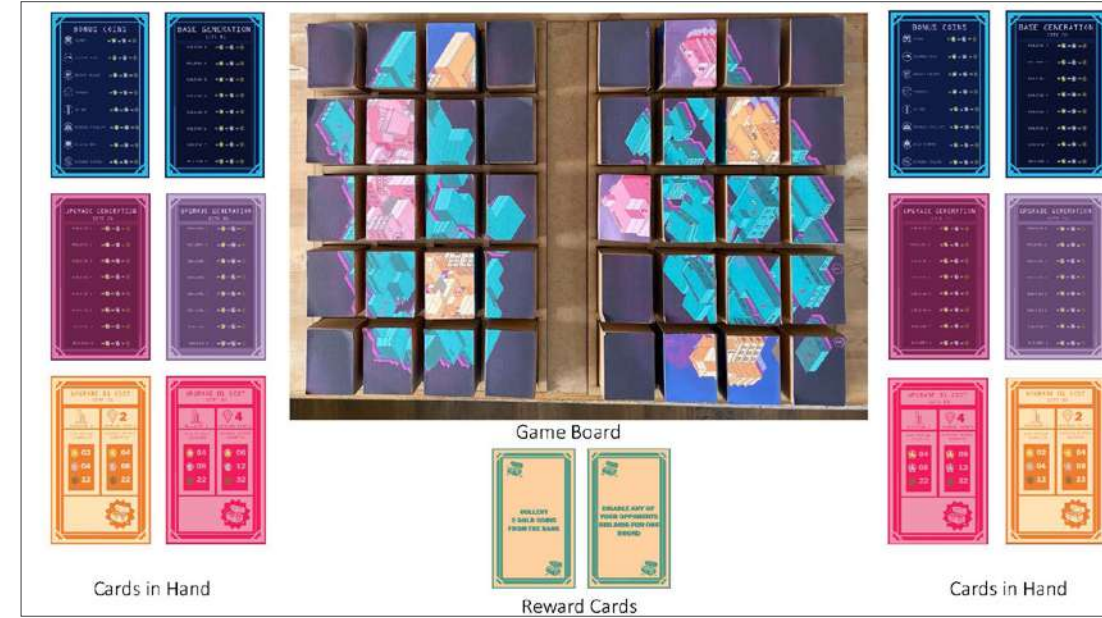Mentor: *Suprio Bhattacharjee*
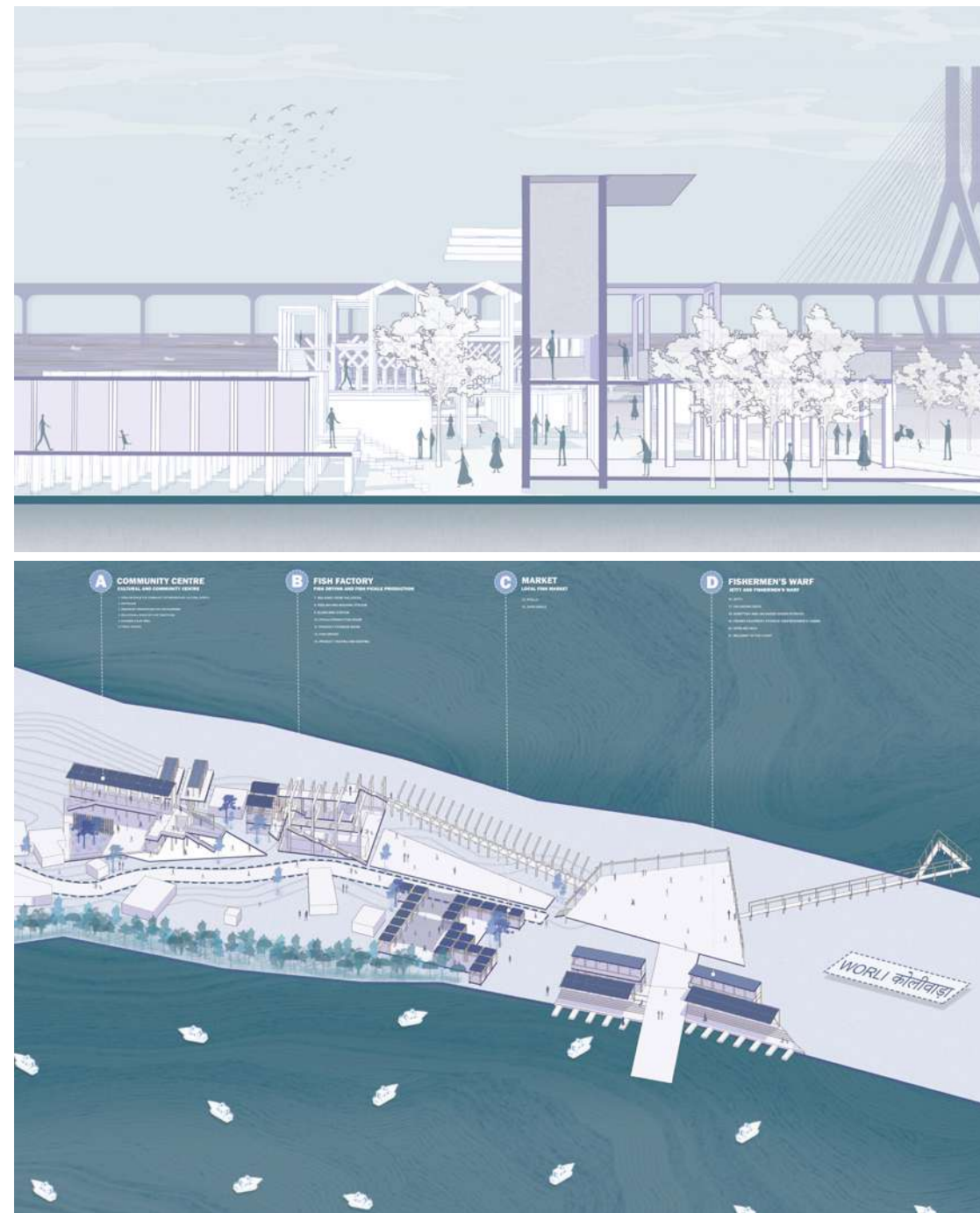
Sahil B

Graphics
B.Arch. 3rd Year

Mentors: *Dhwani Shanghvi, Pranali Patel, Nishant Modi, Dhruv Seth, Ipsita Datta*

The Graphic design for a game, evolved as an understanding, mapping, and analyzing the site. - Harshit G, Kunwar J, Sahil K, Sonali K

Graphics generated out of qualitative data collection on site. The Graphics are a response to mapping the site characteristics and observations. - Aditya K, Rudr M, Deepika N, Neha M

The infographics represent sound as an element of mapping the site over various time zones and usages observed on the site. - Ira P, Helly P, Jay P, Nikhil P

Elective - Innovation Design
B.Arch. 3rd Year

The third year elective – Innovation Design encouraged students to investigate alternate design approaches to sensory and cognitive limitations. Three subsets made up the entirety of the course.

The first subset focused on activities to engage, acquaint and sensitize participants to visual, hearing and speech impairments. Roleplaying was used to explore regular activities like counting money, solving puzzles, taking a stroll in the park, etc. The process was documented as a video compilation.

The second subset focused on putting oneself in the position of someone with cognitive difficulties such as dementia and autism through a lecture and discussion-based curriculum. The design strategies employed globally to address autism and dementia, particularly in the fields of urban design and architecture was the main theme of these lectures. Additionally, a number of related short films, artworks, and books resonating with the same there were discussed and debated.

The third subset concentrated on using the previously learned information. This was portrayed by assembling various ideas into 5 collapsible panels, of which 4 dealt with a particular impairment. Each panel discussed a particular lens through which we should consider designing spaces for activities such as living, working, learning, and leisure. The fifth panel examined a number of famous structures, including the Guggenheim and IIM Ahmedabad museums, to determine how well they can serve the needs of people with varied disabilities. The students also proposed a number of architectural changes that would make these structures barrier-free and inclusive.
Vidhi Jobanputra, Assistant Professor
Mentor: *Vidhi Jobanputra*

Landscape Design
B.Arch. 3rd Year

Master Plan, Hardscape & Softscape Plan @ 1:200 - Divya D

Landscape playing a key role in well-being, learning and engagement was explored at various sites in the city like schools, colleges, medical schools, and hospitals. Site conditions were documented and analyzed for their strengths, opportunities, and threats at macro and micro scales. The designs were an outcome of the concerns and intents identified in response to the sites, existing users, and programme of the buildings, contributing to invigorating open spaces, resulting in innovative designs and transformative strategies to create spaces to learn, explore, inspire, challenge, reflect, relax, heal, rejuvenate, and socialize. The studio helped develop a fundamental knowledge of landscape planning to understand landscape as a spatial and experiential component. Tree Walks' by botanists organized at various locations sensitized the students enhancing their knowledge of plant materials, clusters, seasonality and native species.
Dhanashri Sawant, Associate Professor
Mentors: *Dhanashri Sawant, Shriya Bhatia, Tanima Shrivastav, Pratishta Kunhithayill, Pankti Sanganee*

Urban Design
B.Arch. 4th Year

The Urban Design studio explored and critically analyzed opportunity and contrast in the development, changing trends, and appropriating usages of the industrial and surrounding neighbourhoods of the Trans–Thane Creek Industrial Area (TTCIA). The Trans-Thane Creek Industrial Area (TTCIA) is an industrial belt between Thane and Belapur in Navi Mumbai, under the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) and the pivotal stakeholders being Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). The Studio proceeded with an inquiry and response through site analysis, interviews, case studies, readings, and lectures. The Studio broadly identified and worked on 4 themes: environment and ecology, industry and economy, Infrastructure and mobility, and socio-cultural aspects. Employing these lenses, the studio focused on understanding urban morphology, street typologies, public-private spaces, and stakeholder relationships and enquired about how urban developmental regulations shape the relationship between people and place.

The studio progressed in the direction of learning tools of mapping, data analysis, representation, and develop inferences by understanding urban systems at macro and micro scales. The studio concluded with design strategies and guidelines as a response to site context and inferences.
Nishant Modi, Assistant Professor
Mentors: *Atrey Chhaya, Ritu Mohanty, Shriya Bhatia, Pankti Sanganee, Nishant Modi, Pratishta Kunhithayill*
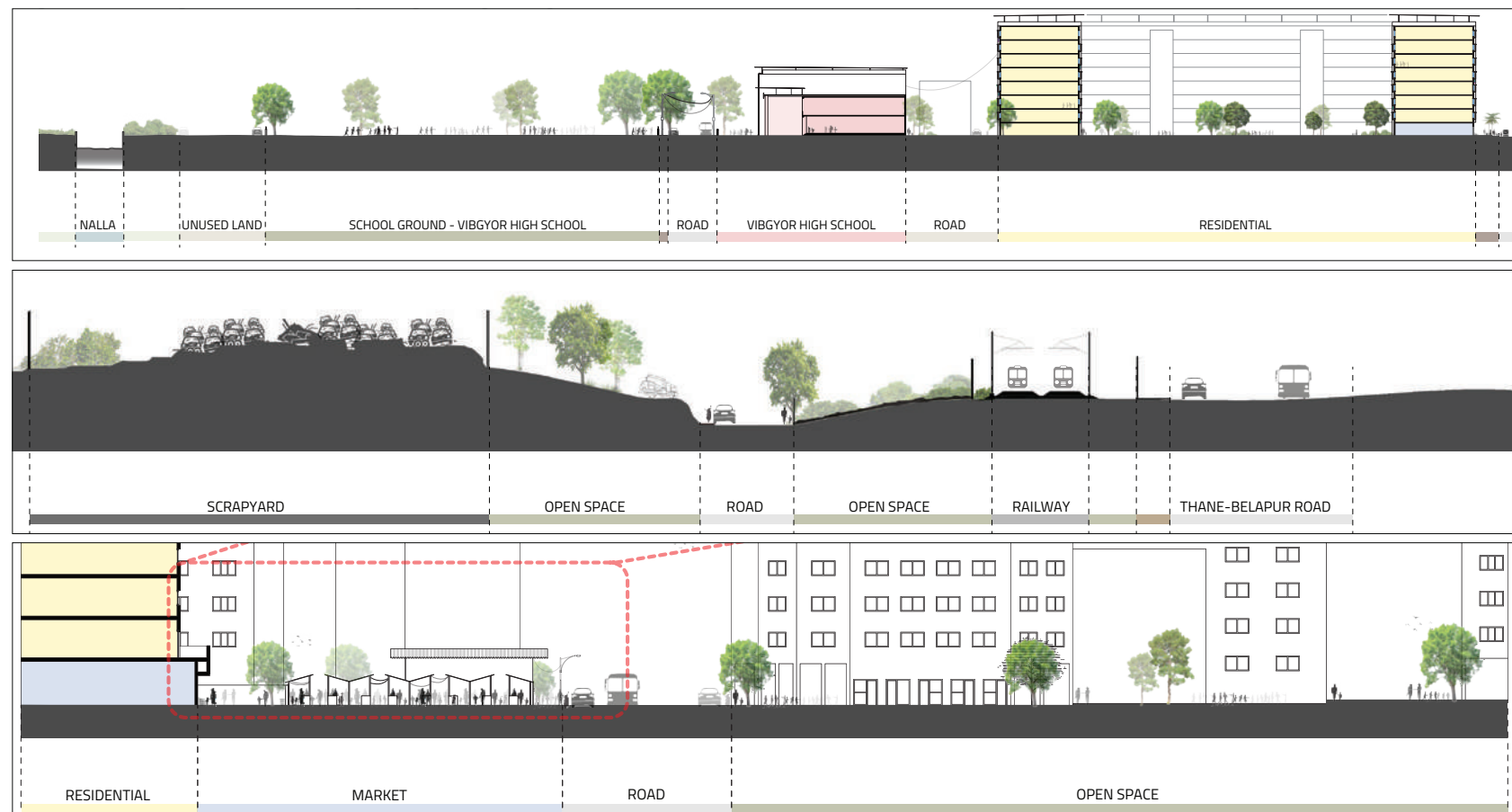
Drishti S, Sidhhant A, Manav P & Purav S

Rabale Project
CBES - Centre for Built Environment Studies

NMIMS Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA) and Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (HKA), Germany, presented a pilot study for the Redevelopment of the Thane Belapur Industrial Estate. The two universities have collaborated for knowledge sharing and specializations in the field of urban development and infrastructure. This project aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and is a demonstration of the commitment of both the institutions involved.

The event was attended by Dr. Frank Mentrup, Lord Mayor of the City of Karlsruhe, who led the delegation, Mr. Bipin Shah, President, Thane Belapur Industries Association, Mr. Amit Sheth, Hon. Secretary, Managing Committee of SVKM, Mr. Nayan Patel, Committee member of SVKM, Dr. Ramesh Bhat, Vice Chancellor, SVKM's NMIMS, Dr. Sharad Mhaiskar, Pro Vice Chancellor SVKM's NMIMS, Dr. Ashish Daptardar, Registrar, SVKM's NMIMS, Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Dean, Balwant Sheth School of Architecture, Dr. Alka Mahajan, Dean, Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management & Engineering, Ms. Meena Saxena, Director Department of International Linkages, Mr. Murad Futehally, Coordinator of this project and other dignitaries from both the Institutes. Dr Jan Riel of HKA joined the event virtually.

The project, spearheaded by a team of motivated students and faculty of NMIMS' Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA) and Hochschule Karlsruhe, aims to modernize the Thane Belapur Industrial Estate in India and develop a scalable and transferable strategy for redeveloping existing industrial areas. The case study of Rabale Industrial zone in the Thane-Belapur Industrial Belt will be used to understand the current status of industries, infrastructure and environment and to develop an action plan for the future. Thane Belapur Industries Association and the IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry will collaborate with the two institutes.

The project focuses on the key areas of waste management, water management, energy, mobility and ecology, with specific outcomes aimed at reducing congestion, upgrading infrastructure, and promoting industrial activity. Discussions with industries and experts will help to understand their needs and to evaluate potential growth of this region. The key focus is to include industries which requires skilled manpower, export-oriented industries and non-polluting industries in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The team is working on a detailed survey and analysis of the Industrial Estate towards implementing a redevelopment and modernization plan.
Shriya Bhatia, Associate Professor
Pratishtha Kunhithayill, Assistant Professor

Kalaghoda Installations
B.Arch. 4th Year

(Over)Loading... Final model at Site

Plastering with Muslin & POP

Waqt Ki Baatein interaction of people with the installation

Phasemagoria interaction with users

Solar Decathlon
B.Arch. 4th Year

BSSA students have been participating in the Solar Decathlon India (SDI) challenge since the first edition in 2020. It is a multi-disciplinary college competition where teams design affordable net-zero-energy-water buildings which are climate resilient, affordable, and market-ready by partnering with developers, clients, or other real estate proponents on real projects. In 2022-23, our teams: Team Amphibious, Team ESI, Team Inferno 2.0, and Team Augment participated in the competition. There were forty-five students from BSSA along with five students from Mukesh Patel School Of Technology Management and Engineering, one student from D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering and six students from Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture. We collaborated on projects. They had worked on an educational building in Nashik, a multi-family housing project in Jaipur, another educational building in Hyderabad, and Office Building in Surat. The project and industry partners were: Perkins and Eastman, Eco-First (a TCS subsidiary), Deepak Builders, Vanita Vishram Women's University and Sancta Maria International School, Hyderabad. Prof. Ami Mangaldas, Prof. Arti Daga, Prof. Dhanashri Sawant, and Prof. Shriya Bhatia were faculty leads mentoring the 4 teams at different stages of the competition. There were five students from previous BSSA SDI teams who were the student resource group supporting the teams. Three student teams were ultimately able to come up with a sustainable climate-resilient building solution at the end of the competition.
Shriya Bhatia, Associate Professor
Mentors: *Dhanashri Sawant, Arti Daga, Ami Mangaldas, Shriya Bhatia*

Thesis
B.Arch. 5th Year
"Re-imagined Shared Living" - Experience over Ownership

"Re-imagining Shared Living: Experience over Ownership" is an architecture thesis project that explores the growing trend of shared living spaces in India, focusing on the aspirations and lifestyles of the Gen-Z population. As India witnesses an influx of young individuals migrating to urban centres for education and better opportunities, the Gen-Z cohort stands out as digital natives with distinct priorities and behaviours. The Gen-Z generation places significant importance on gaining experiences, freedom of movement, and exploration rather than traditional ownership of property and material possessions. As the prospect of home ownership becomes less feasible for young adults, they embrace the sharing economy and opt for shared living spaces that offer sociable and active lifestyles, less financial burden, and flexibility.

The project investigates the rise of shared living and its potential to address challenges in contemporary urban living, such as population growth, rising property prices, and the desire for greater collaboration and social interaction. The concept of shared living also becomes relevant in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it highlights the value of adaptable and sociable spaces, especially for digital nomads who seek remote work and high mobility. The goal of the thesis is to propose space-efficient and cost-effective solutions that cater to the emerging generation's desires and needs. By exploring the

architecture of shared living, the project aims to offer practical and sustainable alternatives for modern living that enhances efficiency, health, and well-being while preserving individual choices and comforts. Through this investigation, the project envisions a future where shared living spaces can play a pivotal role in shaping urban environments to meet the evolving demands and aspirations of young individuals and society as a whole.

Khushi Saraiya, 5th Year
Mentor: *Vidya Raghu*

Thesis
B.Arch. 5th Year
**"The Wall / Transversing Intra Urban Boundaries"**

Cities are embodiments of social realities intricately tied to growth and development. The city moulds itself around its inhabitants and becomes a reflection of its civilization. Migration and urban movement patterns affect and often contribute to long-term changes in the urban form. As a result, the city evolves around it, forming borders and fragmenting from the inside. In recent years, the interplay between socio-economic structures and urban planning have grown more apparent. One of these examples, which has recently come under scrutiny, is the sociological and architectural isolation of lower economic residential colonies in the city. The socio-spatial borders and barriers developed between settlements are one of the most visible physical expressions of fragmentation. Exclusion from society is at once an active and passive phenomenon, and architecture is the catalyst as well as the result, closing and widening gaps between demographics. The intent is to re-look at this buffer and transform it functionally such that it reduces the psychological effect on the residents of the informal settlements while converting the current road into an active urban space. This will also affect and activate the unused space on the other side of the wall, ultimately reducing stark physical boundaries. This intervention aims to thus reactivate neglected urban spaces and incorporate them back into the city's fabric.

Shraddha Parikh, 5th Year
Mentor: *Hemant Purohit*

The Association for Computer-Aided Architectural Design Research in Asia (CAADRIA)
M.Arch. 1st Year

The 28th International Conference of the Association for Computer-Aided Architectural Design Research in Asia was held at CEPT University in Ahmedabad from March 18th to 24th. It brought together professionals, researchers, and students in the field of architecture to explore the latest advancements in computational design. With a focus on evaluating and predicting habitat performance, the conference provided a platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation. The conference featured workshops where participants gained hands-on experience and knowledge; and the "Intelligence Aggregation Architecture" workshop, led by Nora Fankhauser and Mohammed Saifiz, which focused on using computational design tools to create adaptable floating communities resilient to environmental changes. Martha Tsigkari, from Foster+ Partners, showcased her expertise in computational design, emphasising the impact of technology on idea development in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry. Attendees had the opportunity to expand their knowledge, exchange ideas, and foster collaborations to advance the field of architecture through technological advancements and sustainable practices.
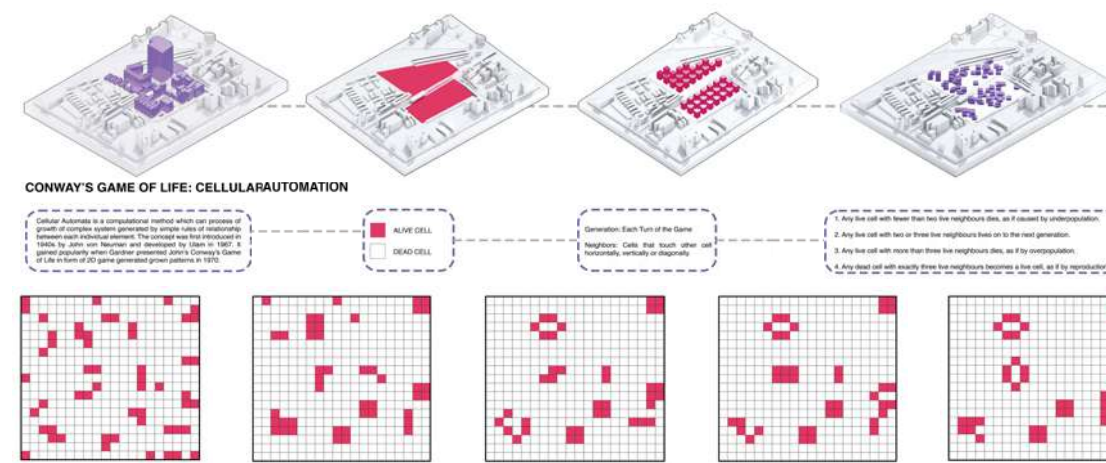
Ipsita Datta, Assistant Professor
Mentor: *Ipsita Datta*
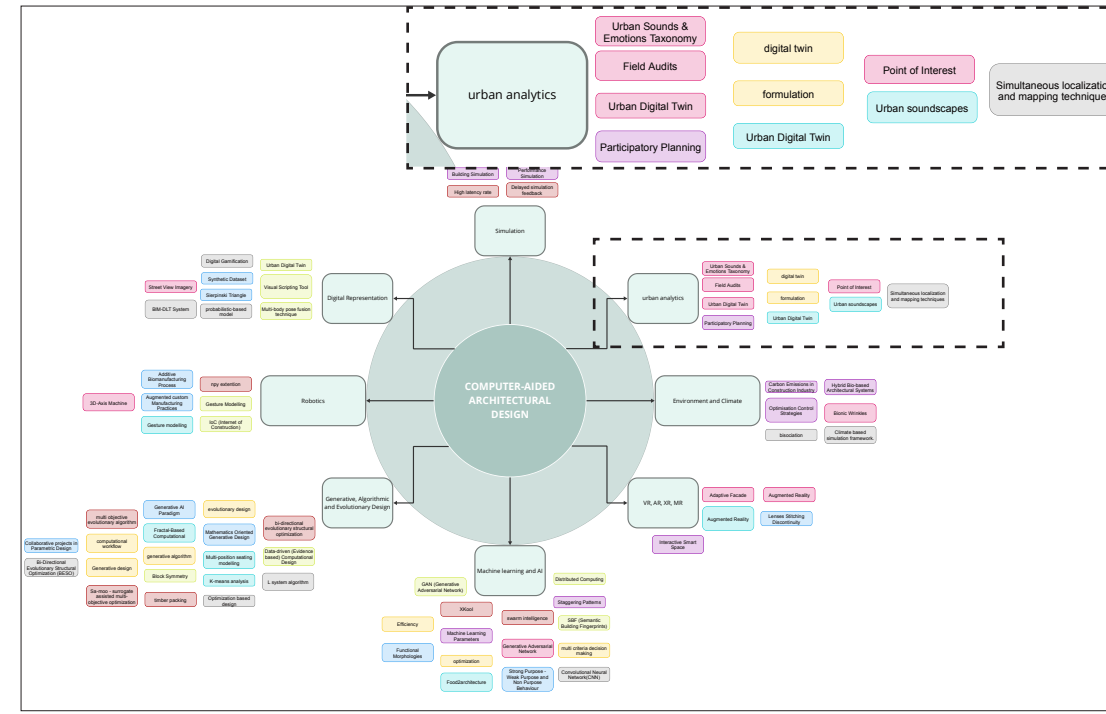
Adity S

Dhruva P

Design Studio
M.Arch. 1st Year

The semester revolved around a transit-oriented project that aimed to primarily resolve the mobility concerns whilst identifying local issues in the neighbourhood. It was an approach of a collaborative teamwork that fostered an environment of shared knowledge and diverse ideas.

While we went through varied interesting concepts and theories, the concept of Game of Life resonated with our idea the most. We identified our site to be at the conjunction of Lower Parel Railway Station - Lower Parel Monorail - Currey Road Station with understanding the fabric of neighbourhood, incorporating a design that promotes incrementation yet defies the existing piecemeal development in Mumbai. Exploring the idea and rules of Game of life led drawing parallels to functionality of a neighbourhood which formulated the basis of our design into eight rules.

While the physical results manifested in form of models, drawings and presentations, the true outcomes went beyond the tangible.

*Gauri Palande, Divakar Vamsi, 2nd Year*
Mentor: *Atrey Chhaya*

Dhruva P, Aditya S

Thesis
M.Arch 2nd Year
"Reviving the Metropolitan Lost Spaces by Rethinking Urban Voids"

The genesis of the issue began from a space that carries the city's waste. A dump yard is a space that a city depends on highly but is also a largely neglected area which contains portions of land area that are under-utilized. Spaces in a waste land are under decay and hence have not been redeveloped for better use creating an urban void. Voids can be present in an urban or rural context of a city. This thesis focuses on urban voids present in the city of Mumbai. We were able to identify voids in Mumbai and understand their typology according to the medium by which they are caused or formed. We were also able to identify that these voids are inefficient and have improper planning. To explore such dimensions within the city a sectional drawing process was practiced. The site was documented through sketches, sections and photographs. A framework was created which lead us to identify a typology, scale, factors that affect the void and approach for design. For the design intervention Borivali National Park flyover was selected and studied according to the framework and sectional analysis was formed. This thesis is an attempt to understand how a void does not create a negative impact, but looks at the positive niches it has developed over the period of time.

Nimisha Surve, 2nd Year
Mentors: *Dr. Kaiwan Mehta*
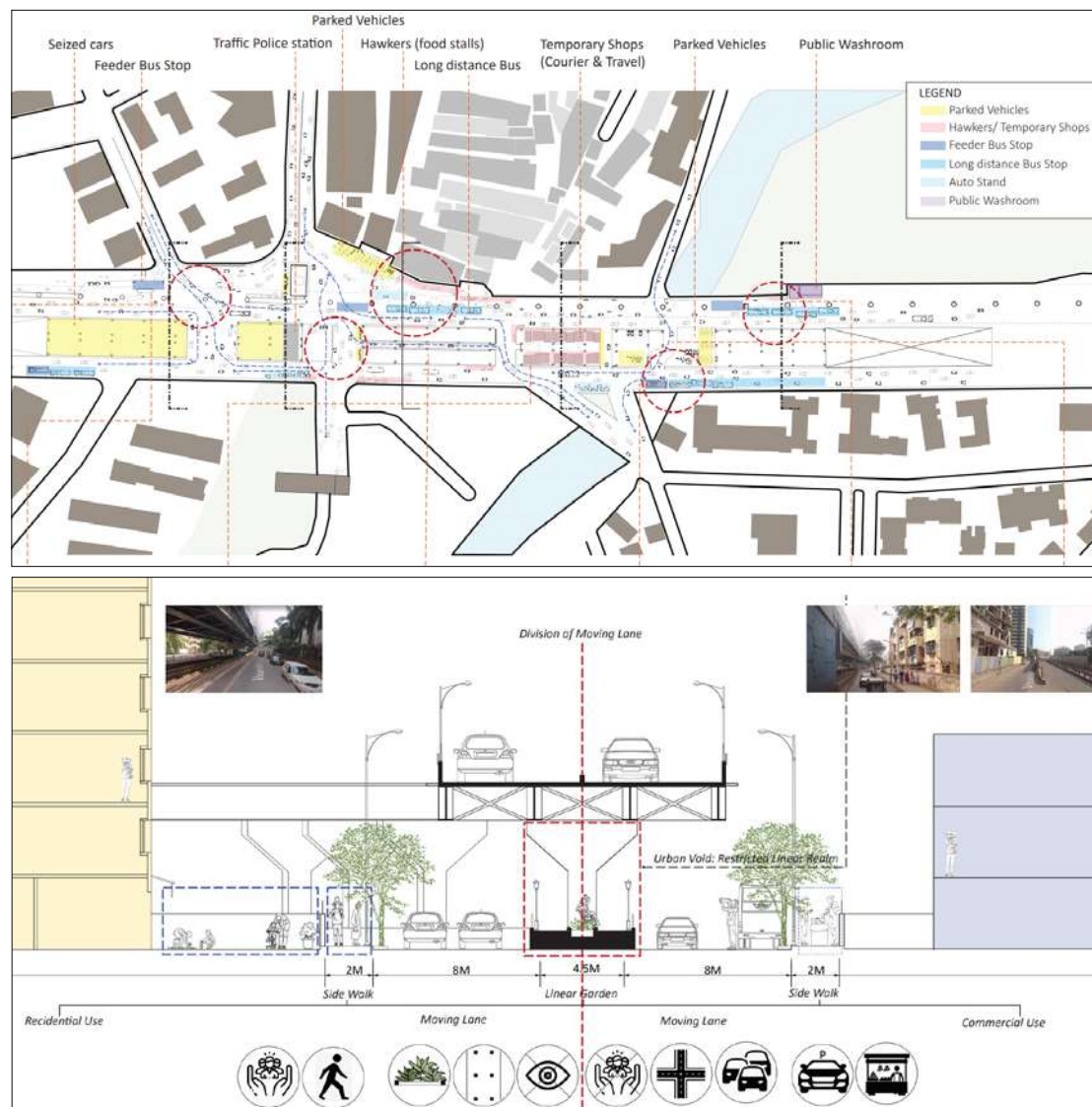
Elective - Performative Building Skins
M.Arch. 2nd Year

The studio introduced students to theoretical and rhetorical knowledge to explore various possibilities of façade design along with new design mediums. It is aimed at understanding the context and parameters corresponding to the physiological and environmental adaptations resulting in kinetic adaptability, materiality and pattern formation to generate new façade design. The process method began with individual case studies of built facades to help understand the design, mechanics and material and replicate it as a scaled model to learn the workability of facades. Students were encouraged to arrive at a research question with an environmental parameter of their choice. Through rigorous design and prototyping, they had to prove their hypothesis by means of digital tools and establishing the logic of definition, build and manage parametric data structures, and develop data-driven responsive geometries and envelopes. The students had the liberty to develop their concepts through generative design and physical prototyping. The prototypes had their own challenges with respect to material and customizing joineries. The outcome reflected continuous negotiations between the performance of form and pattern and one's aesthetic sensibility. The concluding output was a working prototype answering their research question by developing new "performing skins".

*Ipsita Datta, Assistant Professor*
Mentor: *Ipsita Datta*
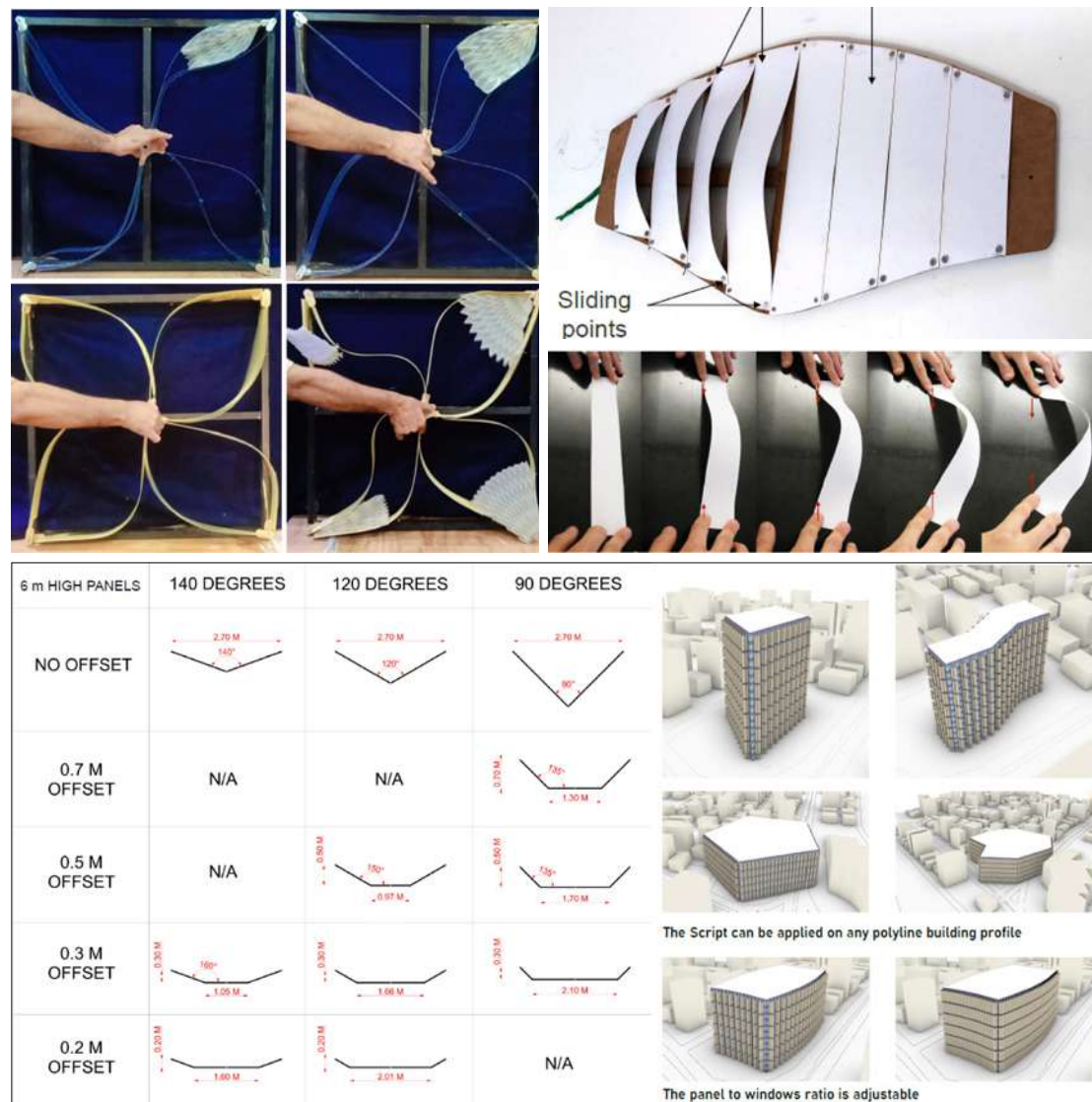
Thesis
CIED 3rd Year
"Therapy & Counselling Centre" - Focusing on Single parent family

In Mumbai, the absence of a dedicated mental health centre inspired my thesis to create such a space. Recognising the profound impact of space on mental well-being, I delved into family backgrounds, conducted interviews, and identified spatial requirements. Designed areas will cater to individual and group sessions, fostering a sense of community, belonging, and organic connections. Through the incorporation of natural light, calming colours, and flexible layouts, the architecture prioritises emotional well-being. The envisioned centre offers diverse programs, including group therapy, art, music, and adult/child therapy, emphasising mental and physical health. Dedicated play areas for children are strategically integrated to ensure a family-friendly atmosphere, addressing the unique needs of single-parent households.

Nishtha Ghevariya, 3rd Year
Mentor: *Akbar Bivji*
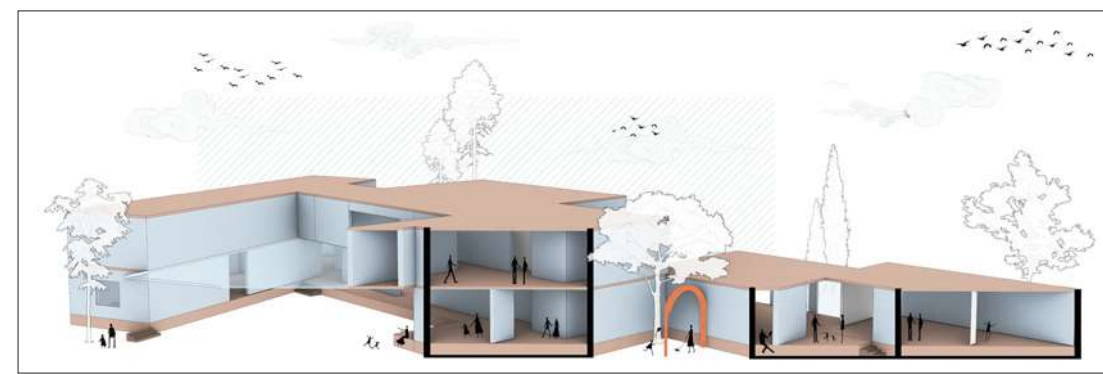
Nishtha G

Freescape
B.Arch. 3rd Year

Freescape '23, Phantasm, was the pride and joy of the batch of 2025. The fest took place between 5th Jan to 9th January 2023, and hosted 5 events: Prom, Games Day, Art Day, Cultural Day and Sports Day.

Inaugurating Freescape, the Games Day had 11 games like Escape Room: Hogwarts Mystery Escape, which also repeated on the next day! While upholding BSSA traditions, such as Hogathon and fashion show on Games Day, we also introduced new events to empower our students and foster space for the exchange of ideas, camaraderie, and personal development. Art Day was specifically planned to offer our creative and entrepreneurial students a platform to showcase their businesses, works, and talents. We extended our invitation to all! On this day we also created an immersive digital art experience room and a serene monochrome room designed as interactive spaces.

While certain aspects proved more successful than others, our ultimate aim was to establish a lasting legacy that can be further developed in the years ahead. We envision greater student participation, increased opportunities for student displays, a plethora of student-run workshops, and, of course, an abundance of fun! The Cultural Day consisted of our Annual Debate competition, dance and band performances by our students. Congratulations to our debate winners! We concluded our fest with a fantastic Sports Day, and proudly crowned the first-year students as the Freescape winners! We will always remember your enthusiasm and spirit!

The long days and nights, ruminative discussions, and even occasional arguments are all cherished memories. We sincerely hope that Freescape was as meaningful and unforgettable for each of you as it was for us.

Deepika Nayak, 3rd Year

NMIMS Virtual Faculty Lounge

NMIMS

Virtual Faculty Lounge
Conversations on Learning and Collaboration
Thursday, 24th November 2022 | 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
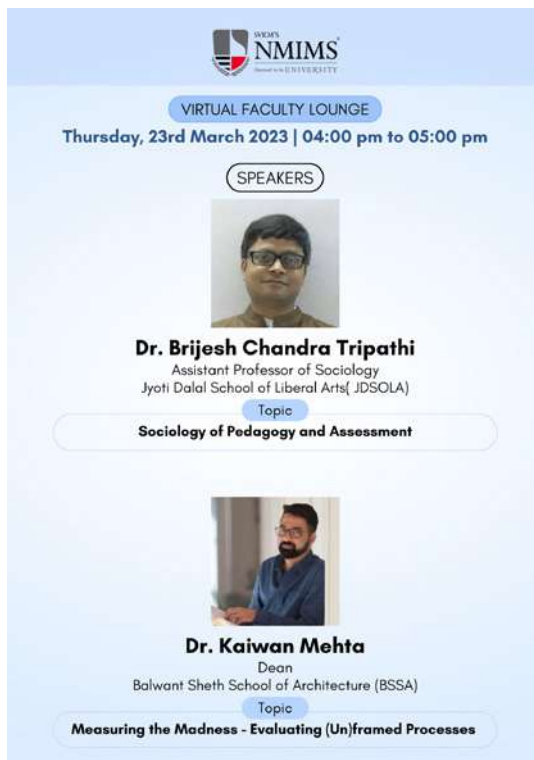
Speakers

Dr. Kaiwan Mehta
Dean
Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA)

Topic
Shaping Teaching Models across Disciplines -
The case of Humanities in Professional Degrees
…
Case Presentation by:

Dr. Madhavi Gokhale
Professor (Communication) and Program Chairperson
School of Business Management (SBM)

Title
"Repurposing Literary Classics as Pedagogical
Interventions to Discuss Leadership in a B-School"

NMIMS

VIRTUAL FACULTY LOUNGE
Thursday, 23rd March 2023 | 04:00 pm to 05:00 pm

SPEAKERS

Dr. Brijesh Chandra Tripathi
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Jyoti Dalal School of Liberal Arts (JDSOLA)

Topic
Sociology of Pedagogy and Assessment

Dr. Kaiwan Mehta
Dean
Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA)

Topic
Measuring the Madness - Evaluating (Un)framed Processes

Disclaimer

Student work featured in this newsletter is meant to be indicative of broader studio directions and the diversity of resolution, and hence not intended to validate or emphasize the work of one student (or faculty/mentor) over another. Projects were selected from a pool of works shortlisted by the editorial team in consultation with respective studio and subject faculties and the availability of print-quality material while being cognizant of the format and length of the newsletter. As such, by the nature of the previously stated process, this newsletter and the works & subjects thus represented will not intend to provide a comprehensive account of all the semesters or subjects in the school.

Open Seminar

The Open Seminar strengthens the bridge between academics and practice by inviting academicians, architects, project managers, and engineers who have highlighted the virtual, organic, practical, and magnanimous aspects of architecture.

Dr. Eva Wottolik, Ar. Mahendra Parekh, Ar. Vaishali Deshpande and Engr. Amit Barde engaged the students with the diverse facets of the field.

Ar. Pau Millet Lopez shared his experience as a coordinator in the technical office of Sagrada Familia Basilica in Barcelona, Spain. Students were intrigued to learn about Antoni Gaudi's architectural marvel and the obstacles faced over centuries of construction. The lecture exposed the students to some notable features of architectural practice like team management and leadership, structural engineering, material selection, sustainability, and pre-fabrication.

Neil Leach, an academician, author, researcher, and co-founder of Digital FUTURES highlighted the advent of AI (Artificial Intelligence). His lecture posed questions about the future of the architectural profession and presented an overview of the threat to architects in the age of AI.
Dhanashri Sawant, Assistant Professor

Neil Leach in conversation with the audience

L-R: Anirudh Piratla and Vaishali Deshpande

Amit Barde in conversation with the audience

Faculty Development Programs

Council of Architecture Training Programmes
- Tools & Techniques for Data Management & Analysis in Architectural Research
- Interpretation of Sustainable Development Goals in Architecture Pedagogy - Humanities, History and Conservation
- Aspiring Research in Diverse Domains of Architecture
- Art in Architecture: An Interdisciplinary Perspective and its Application in Architectural Design
- Revisiting the Role of Associated Subjects in Architecture Education
- Re-imagining Urban Voids
- NEP - Way Forward in Architecture
- Transformative Pedagogy as Response to Contemporary Challenges of Architecture Education and Practice
- Understanding Indian Knowledge Systems in Architecture and Planning
- Crossing the First Milestone in Research

DelftX, Delft University of Technology
RTC1x: Rethink the City: New approaches to Global and Local Urban Challenges

Papers Published/ Presented at Conferences

SRBE International Conference 2022, Manipal School of Architecture and Planning in collaboration with Deakin University, School of Architecture and Built Environment (Geelong, Australia), Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design, International Islamic University Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), University of Moratuwa and Auckland University Technology, December 2022
Reducing Disaster Risk and Reinstating Livelihood through an Ecosystem Approach / *Nidhi Shenai*

Annual Sociological Conference (Sosiologipaivat) on 'Knowledge and Doubt', Working group 'Sociology of Waste', Westermarck Society & Tampere University, Finland, March 2023
Spatiality of Cities Influencing Relationships with Waste / *Shriya Bhatia*

Papers/ Articles Published

Tekton, May 2023
Re-Place / *Nishant Modi*

Everyday India - Graphic Design and Multiplicity from Gullies to High Street edited and curated by Sameer Kulavoor and Zeenat Kulavoor, Baro Market, Mumbai, 2023
Design, and the Worlds it holds / *Dr. Kaiwan Mehta*

Rathin Barman: Unsettled Structures. The Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, 2023
The Weight of the City / *Dr. Kaiwan Mehta*

Publication Team

Editor: *Dr. Kaiwan Mehta*

BSSA Editorial Team: *Suprio Bhattacharjee, Sheema Fatima, Kimberley Advani, Ketaki Jadhav, Nupur Gandhi*

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All images have been sourced by faculty, staff and students of BSSA.

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