

SVKM'S NMIMS DEEMED-TO-BE-UNIVERSITY

BALWANT SHETH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

# BSSA REVIEWS

AUTUMN 2023 / ISSUE 004B





Inauguration of Academic Year 2023-24  
Orientation Programme & Inaugural Twin Lectures

Guest Speakers: Shimul Javeri Kadri and Paromita Vohra



Paromita Vohra and Shimul Javeri Kadri



Dr. Kaiwan Mehta

Shimul Javeri Kadri, noted architect, and Paromita Vohra, celebrated filmmaker, presented the second edition of the BSSA Inaugural Twin Lectures.

Kadri offered an extensive overview of her own practice, which spanned over three decades, giving students an insight into her process of translating conceptual ideas into tangible, built form. Her approach is deeply rooted in local, and historical context, as demonstrated in projects such as the Jain Heritage Museum, where a white austere structure evokes the use of white marble in Jain monumental architecture. Similarly, the Dasavatara Hotel in Bodhgaya merges mythology with form, drawing inspiration from the ten avatars of Vishnu to inform its diagram of spatial organisation. By utilising local materials and empowering local craftsmen, the project addressed cultural and geographical contexts and demonstrated focus on concept and materiality, while striving for a climatically appropriate form for its users.

Paromita Vohra’s practice engages with the socio-cultural dimension of space, particularly the dynamics of public spaces for women. Through clips from her evocative films, including ‘Where’s Sandra?’, ‘Q2P’, and ‘Unlimited Girls’, she highlighted issues of accessibility beyond basic physical spaces like toilets for women to the intangible domains of identity and self-expression. She posed provocative questions about societal milieu, such as the stigma surrounding love and

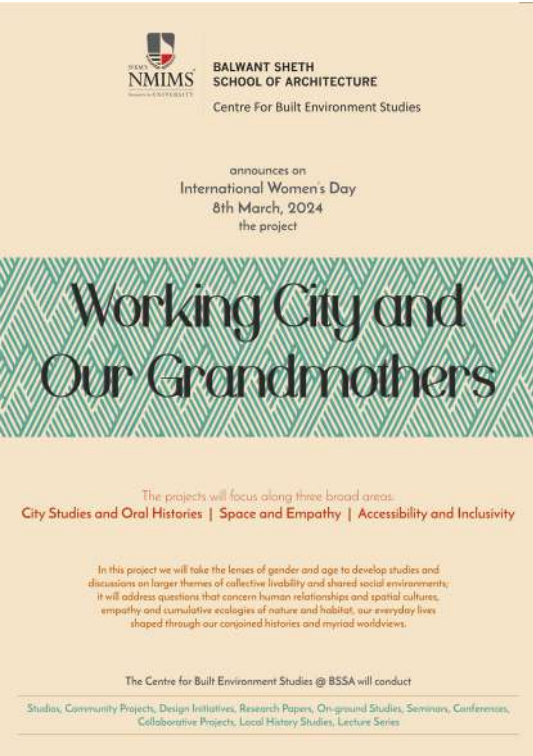


desire, urging a re-evaluation of urban spaces to foster inclusivity. There were several thought-provoking points such as: accessibility that goes beyond formal design. For instance, *Sandra from Bandra* created a precedence of safety and acceptability of a lifestyle thereby shifting the way a city can be accessed. The lecture encouraged students to articulate human behaviour as an architectural question.

The two lectures set the tone for our discussions and projects that continued throughout the year: Shimul Javeri Kadri inspired a series of projects that was sensitive to contextual awareness and cultural resonance and Paromita Vohra set us on a path of critical thinking about the city, human dimensions, and discussions of identity and inclusivity.

Deepika Nayak, 4th Year

Working Cities and Our Grandmothers



Projects will focus along three broad areas:

1. City Studies and Oral Histories
2. Space and Empathy
3. Accessibility and Inclusivity

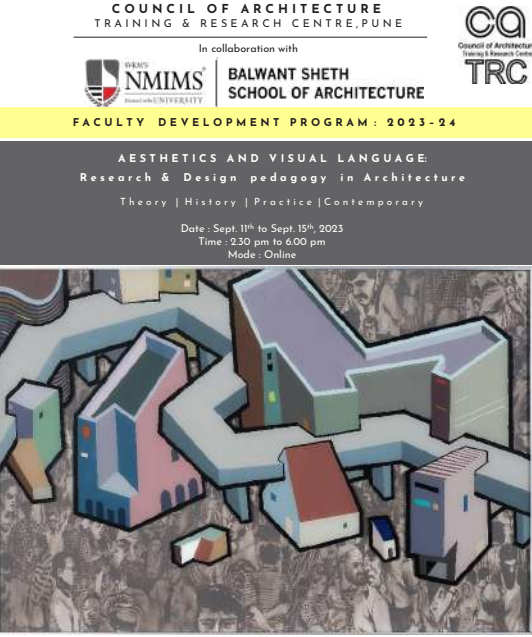
In this project, we take the lenses of gender and age to develop studies and discussions on larger themes of collective livability and shared social environments; we address questions that concern human relationships and spatial cultures, empathy, and cumulative ecologies of nature and habitat, and our everyday lives shaped through our conjoined histories and myriad worldviews.

We draw on the histories, lives, and writings of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Pandita Ramabai, Savitribai Phule, Rakhmabai, Katherine Mayo, Cornelia Sorabjee, Nelly Sethna, Pravina Mehta, Ganga Devi, Anandibai Joshi, Aruna Asaf Ali, Ismat Chughtai, Mahashweta Devi, and many other such dynamic journeys. We study movements such as Zubaan, Majlis, and Tara Books, and our contemporaries such as Romila Thapar, Upinder Singh, Brinda Somayya, Shanta Gokhale, Nalini Malani, Nilima Sheikh, Narayani Gupta, Nancy Adajania, Tapati Guha Thakurtha, Tejaswini Niranjana, Annapurna Garimella, Kavita Singh, Nayanjot Lahiri, Indira Jaising, Flavia Agnes, Madhushree Dutta, Shimul Javeri Kadri, Chitra Vishwanathan, Abha N Lamba, and many, many others!

Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Dean

Faculty Development Programs (FDP)

Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA) in Collaboration with Council of Architecture Training and Research Center



**Aesthetics and Visual Language: Research and Design Pedagogy in Architecture**  
Coordinators - Dr Kaiwan Mehta, Vidhi Jobanputra, Tanima Shrivastava

The Faculty Development Programme on “Aesthetics and Visual Language: Research & Design Pedagogy in Architecture,” conducted online from September 11th to 15th, 2023, was anchored by Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Dean of Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA), in

collaboration with the Council of Architecture (CoA). Dr. Mehta, the primary architect of the programme, alongside online coordinators Prof. Vidhi Jobanputra and Prof. Tanima Shrivastava, designed this initiative to address the often-underrepresented field of aesthetics within architectural education.

The programme was structured around four key themes: Theory, History, Practice, and Contemporary Perspectives. It provided a thorough exploration of aesthetics from multiple viewpoints. Noteworthy sessions included ‘Visual Studies and Aesthetics – Systems of Viewing and Knowing’ by Dr. Kaiwan Mehta; and ‘Aesthetics, Cinema, and Space’ by Ashish Rajadhyaksha. Other significant contributions were made by Dr. Annapurna Garimella, who discussed ‘Aesthetics and Culture’, and Dr. Mustansir Dalvi, who explored ‘Semiotics - A System of Visual Analysis’. Other noteworthy speakers included Dr. Nabanita Sengupta, Vishwa Shroff, Suprio Bhattacharjee, and Dr. Seema Khanwalkar.

The programme engaged with over 70 participants, and received highly positive feedback. More than 90% of attendees reported significant takeaways and a valuable learning experience. Sessions covered a wide range of topics such as the historical evolution and theoretical frameworks of aesthetics, practical applications in contemporary architecture, alongside discussions on the role of aesthetics in shaping cultural narratives, visual analysis methodologies, and the intersection of aesthetics with other fields such as cinema, to provide a holistic view of the subject.

By addressing historical development, cultural impacts, and contemporary applications of aesthetics, the programme aimed to fill the gap left by its frequent omission in architectural curricula. The initiative underscored the importance of integrating theoretical and practical aspects of aesthetics, promoting innovative pedagogical methods, and enhancing research practices in architectural design and education.

Vidhi Jobanputra, Assistant Professor

DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY
SEPT. 11 <sup>th</sup>	SEPT. 12 <sup>th</sup>	SEPT. 13 <sup>th</sup>	SEPT. 14 <sup>th</sup>	SEPT. 15 <sup>th</sup>
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Dr. Kaiwan Mehta</b> Critic and Researcher... SESSION 1 Visual Studies and Aesthetics - Systems of Viewing and Knowing	<b>Dr. Annapurna Garimella</b> Design and Art Historian, Researcher, and Curator SESSION 1 Aesthetics & Culture	<b>Vishwa Shroff</b> Visual Artist and researcher SESSION 2 Aesthetics as a Way of Writing Histories	<b>Ashish Rajadhyaksha</b> Critic and Researcher - Film and Visual Studies SESSION 2 Aesthetics, Cinema and Space	<b>Dr. Seema Khanwalkar</b> Semiotics - A way of Research - Object Histories SESSION 3 Semiotics - A System of Visual Thinking
<b>Dr. Nabanita Sengupta</b> Literary Studies Academic SESSION 3 Aesthetics - History and its Uses	<b>Dr. Mustansir Dalvi</b> Architecture critic and Academic SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking	<b>Suprio Bhattacharjee</b> Architecture critic and Academic SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking	<b>Dr. Seema Khanwalkar</b> Semiotics and Design Studies Scholar SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking	<b>Dr. Mustansir Dalvi</b> Semiotics - A way of Research - Art Deco in Mumbai Urbanism SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking
<b>Dr. Nabanita Sengupta</b> Literary Studies Academic SESSION 3 Aesthetics - History and its Uses	<b>Dr. Mustansir Dalvi</b> Architecture critic and Academic SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking	<b>Suprio Bhattacharjee</b> Architecture critic and Academic SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking	<b>Dr. Seema Khanwalkar</b> Semiotics and Design Studies Scholar SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking	<b>Dr. Mustansir Dalvi</b> Semiotics - A way of Research - Art Deco in Mumbai Urbanism SESSION 3 Aesthetics - A System of Visual Thinking

University, from 15th to 19th January, 2023. The vision of the programme was to enable and empower academicians from architecture colleges to access specialised knowledge and teaching methodologies related to the idea of an expanded perception of architecture practice. Sessions addressed topics like design strategies and processes, advanced technical knowledge of construction, services, materials, and others towards the re-purposing and retrofitting of existing buildings. Speakers raised pertinent questions such as: while architects create new designs, how do they work with existing buildings to create updated programs and evolving aspirations? This involves retrofitting and re-purposing structures for future generations, renewed purposes, and extended lifespan in a rapidly changing world filled with challenging ideas, environmental discussions, and social changes.

To convey this to participants, 15 experts from the industry were invited to share their experience and expertise. Detailed lectures were conducted by stalwarts from the Architecture, Engineering, Construction, and Operations (AECO) industry, which included practicing architects, conservationists, engineers, structural and MEP consultants, authors, and others. Case studies were presented on projects dealing with retrofitting, repairs, maintenance, repurposing, reconditioning, extension, and adaptive reuse. Discussions with speakers, coordinators, and participants added more relevance to the topic.

The FDP highlighted the need for thoughtful

integration of new architecture with existing structures, emphasizing different approaches for heritage conservation, renovation, and repairs of existing buildings. Design and services should be interwoven for successful retrofitting, renovations, and adaptive reuse projects. Importance of structural auditing, post-disaster retrofitting, traditional techniques, and Building Information Modelling (BIM) were highlighted, underscoring the need to future-proof buildings for sustainability, longevity, and resilience.

Arti Daga, Associate Professor

DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY
JAN. 15 <sup>th</sup>	JAN. 16 <sup>th</sup>	JAN. 17 <sup>th</sup>	JAN. 18 <sup>th</sup>	JAN. 19 <sup>th</sup>
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Brinda Somayya</b> Architect & Urban Conservationist SESSION 1 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Sushanta Mukherjee</b> IITD, New Delhi SESSION 1 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Sandeep Goenka</b> CEO, Sandeep Goenka Associates SESSION 1 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Anish Mukherjee</b> Director, Anish Knowledge Resources Pvt. Ltd. SESSION 1 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Anish Kiseri</b> Chief Structural Consultant SESSION 1 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition
<b>Ravi Engineer</b> Consulting Engineer - Energy, Water & Sustainability SESSION 2 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Garima Rai</b> Director & Principal, Garima Rai Architects SESSION 2 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Suprio Bhattacharjee</b> Architect, Academician, BSSA SESSION 2 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Vinod Kumar</b> Founder, People in Centre Consulting SESSION 2 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Sandeep Dhapre</b> Chief Structural Officer, Engineer SESSION 2 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition
<b>Karthik Kormmadi</b> Senior Consultant, Ekayam Consultants SESSION 3 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Rakesh Bhunia</b> Sr. VP, Eastern Services Ltd. SESSION 3 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Ruchi Jain</b> Sr. Founder, RAD Co. + Labs SESSION 3 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Benny Karthikeyan</b> Designer, BSSA SESSION 3 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition	<b>Rajat Malhotra</b> Executive Director, BSSA SESSION 3 Augmenting Living Buildings: Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition



Poster Symposium: Research Embedded Learning Across 17 schools of NMIMS

Faculty Team: Dr Ramesh Bhat, Vice Chancellor; Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Co-chair; Prof Amita Vaidya, Co-chair

**Street Art Beyond Vandalism**

**Introduction**  
An urban art, the contemporary street art has evolved over the last few decades, transcending the boundaries of graffiti and being recognized as a form of contemporary art in Mumbai.

**Research Objectives**  
• This research aims to explore the journey of Mumbai street art from its roots in graffiti to its current status as a recognized form of contemporary art.  
• To understand the socio-cultural and political factors influencing the growth of street art in Mumbai.  
• To identify the challenges and opportunities faced by street artists in Mumbai.

**Research Questions**  
• What are the socio-cultural and political factors influencing the growth of street art in Mumbai?  
• What factors led to the shift in perception, transforming street art from a form of vandalism to a recognized art form?  
• How has the government's role in promoting and regulating street art evolved?

**Approach**  
A qualitative approach, conducting interviews with street artists, art curators, and policymakers, and analyzing street art pieces.

**Current State of Scholarship**  
The current state of scholarship on street art in Mumbai is limited, with most studies focusing on its historical roots and its role in urban regeneration.

**Institutions**  
The study is being conducted at NMIMS Deemed to be University, Mumbai, India.

**Street Art: A Way of Expression**  
The study of street art is a complex and multifaceted one, involving a range of disciplines including art history, sociology, and urban planning.

**Conclusion**  
The study concludes that street art in Mumbai is a vibrant and evolving form of contemporary art, reflecting the city's unique cultural and social landscape.

5201210002 | Sagar Dahi  
B.A. (Hons.) - Liberal Arts

**Narratives of Resilience**

**A Qualitative Exploration of Healthy Coping Mechanisms in Online Mental Health Communities**

The digital age has transformed the mental health landscape, especially in countries like India, where diversity in cultures, languages, and socio-economic conditions present unique challenges in accessing mental health care. Traditional barriers, including stigma and inadequate infrastructure, hinder individuals from seeking help, making online mental health communities vital for support and resilience building. This study explores the role of these virtual spaces in fostering healthy coping mechanisms among individuals facing mental health challenges within the Indian context. It aims to understand how cultural, social, and individual factors influence the adoption and efficacy of coping strategies shared in online forums and how these mechanisms contribute to resilience against mental health disorders.

Utilizing a qualitative research design, the study examines narratives from multiple online platforms, supplemented by semi-structured interviews with clinical psychologists and passive observation of community interactions. This comprehensive approach seeks to identify and categorize healthy coping mechanisms, understand their cultural and social determinants, and evaluate their impact on mental health management and resilience. The anticipated outcomes include a deeper understanding of the healthy coping mechanisms prevalent in India's online mental health communities, insights into the influence of cultural and social contexts on these strategies, and recommendations for mental health practitioners, policymakers, and community moderators to enhance support in digital spaces.

This research not only contributes to the body of knowledge on mental health management in the Indian context but also offers perspectives for global digital age coping in the digital age, emphasizing the significance of online communities in mental health support and intervention.

**Keywords:** Mental Health, Resilience, Coping Mechanisms, Online Communities, India, Cultural Influence, Digital Mental Health Support.

**Hypothesis**  
Individuals with mental health issues participating in online mental health communities in India employ a range of culturally and socially influenced healthy coping mechanisms that contribute significantly to their mental health management and resilience.

**Methodology**  
This study will adopt a qualitative research design, utilizing thematic analysis to explore narratives within Indian online mental health communities. Data collection will involve:  
• **Content Analysis:** Examination of stories and blogs found in selected online forums and websites dedicated to mental health discussions in India. Websites and Forums used:  
1. It's OK to Talk (India's largest)  
2. Main Menu (Bharat's largest)  
These stories will be thoroughly studied and will be included and excluded according to a pre-made set of guidelines, to give priority to the qualitative nature of the study and to exclude the examination any out-of-context variable such as language that could impact the reliability of the study.  
• **Interviews:** Semi-structured interviews with clinical psychologists to gain deeper insights into the experiences of their patients and the coping mechanisms they employ.  
• **Ethnographic Techniques:** Passive observation of community interactions to understand the context and dynamics influencing coping strategy development.

Ethical considerations will include ensuring anonymity and confidentiality of participants and seeking consent for the use of their contributions in the study.

**Expected Outcome/Proposal**  
The study aims to deliver a comprehensive insight into the healthy coping mechanisms fostering resilience within Indian online mental health communities, emphasizing the significant role of cultural and social factors in shaping these strategies. It seeks to understand the critical observation that effective coping mechanisms can markedly reduce the likelihood of relapse or the onset of mental health disorders. Additionally, the research intends to offer actionable recommendations for mental health practitioners, community moderators, and policymakers to enhance mental health management within digital spaces. Furthermore, it aspires to stimulate more extensive research into the contributions of online communities to mental health support, particularly emphasizing the unique challenges and opportunities presented in non-Western settings.

8201210012 | Sini Shrivastava  
B.A. LIBERAL ARTS (HONS.)  
PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

8201210012 | Jyoti Dalal  
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

**ANAEMIA IN WOMEN: A SILENT EPIDEMIC**

**ABSTRACT**  
Anaemia is known to be the largest number of anaemic women in the international community, with over 238 million women affected. The goal of the research is to look at the trend and understand the reasons behind the increase of anaemia among women belonging to different socio-economic groups in India. A layered food consumption pattern of women by looking at National Family Health Survey data from 1999-2001.

**INTRODUCTION**  
Anaemia, a condition wherein the blood does not have enough healthy blood cells to hold oxygen to the body's tissues, often leads to related concerns like nutritional deficiencies, chronic disease and even blood disorder. Anaemic women face difficulty in carrying out their day-to-day obligations and participate in social and economic activities. Initiatives taken by the government of India like various iron fortification programmes, iron fortification and public awareness campaigns have reduced the prevalence of anaemia in India. However, if the prevalence of anaemia is different across socio-economic groups, it indicates the need for targeted government interventions to address the ground root problems leading to inequality of access to adequate nutrition.

**OBJECTIVE**  
Understanding the magnitude and distribution of the prevalence of anaemia across socio-economic group in India over time. Identifying the major risk factors of anaemia. Differences in the rate of financial literacy between men and women.

**METHODOLOGY**  
Secondary data collected from NHIS.  
Trends were analyzed from 1998 to 2021 of the prevalence of anaemia across socio-economic group in India over time. Food consumption patterns of women were analyzed, considering factors like caste, residence, age, education, wealth and marital status. Trends were then analyzed with quantitative techniques.

**RESULTS**  
Anaemia among Men and Women according to their Residence.

**CONCLUSION**  
Despite increased intake of various non-ferrous food items, anaemia in women rose across demographics, showing a clear trend of increasing anaemia in women. The consumption of non-ferrous food items might be leading to the depletion of iron in the body, leading to anaemia.

**Any Anaemia among Women of Eastern states**

**Milk consumption of Women (Residence)**

**Green Vegetable consumption of Women (Residence)**

**Milk consumption of Women (Caste)**

**Pulses/beans consumption of Women (Caste)**

7801210038 | ANANYA SENAPATI  
B.SC ECONOMICS  
DR. ANAND PRAKASH

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

**Helping reduce packaged food waste in households with ConServe**

**Abstract**  
Packaged food waste is a fast growing issue that is leading to global warming. The study explores food storage practices in Indian households and identifies factors influencing behavior change, including community food bank use, identification of common waste, and inadequate food management skills. Led to the development of an integrated solution: a user-friendly storage bank and Society Food Bank platform, rated at 3.8/5.

**Introduction**  
Food waste is a global issue with implications for food security, the economy, and the environment. In India, where food waste is alarmingly high, urbanization and fast-paced lifestyles contribute significantly to the problem (Miller, 2017). Rapid urbanization has led to a rise in reliance on convenient options like ready-to-eat snacks and packaged foods (Miller, 2020). This study explores the factors contributing to food waste, including consumer buying habits, food storage practices, and the role of community food banks.

**Problem Statement**  
Families and newly independent young adults tend to waste more food due to lack of food management skills, thus leading to their overbuying and impromptu wasting the food.

**Methodology**  
Data Collection: Interviews with households, surveys, and focus groups. Data Analysis: Qualitative and quantitative analysis. Conceptualization: Development of the ConServe platform. Design Validation: User testing and feedback.

**Results**  
Individuals aged 25-35 lack awareness of their home food inventory, leading to over-purchasing of certain products.

**Key Features:**  
a) User-Friendly Interface: Easy upload, tracking, visual aids. b) Customizable Settings: Personalize business days, notifications. c) Community Engagement: Promote food sharing, responsible consumption.

**Design Validation**  
What worked: Users found it straightforward to upload pictures to the app. Users appreciated the visual aids. Users found it helpful to have a community to share their experiences. Scope of improvement: Users need more guidance on the app's features. Users need more guidance on the app's features.

**Rating: 3.9/5**

**Conclusion**  
Confidence takes the widespread issue of packaged food waste, addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges. By empowering users to minimize waste and organize inventory, the app facilitates sharing surplus food items through features like the Society Food Bank and an in-app storage bank. Confidence takes the widespread issue of packaged food waste, addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges. By empowering users to minimize waste and organize inventory, the app facilitates sharing surplus food items through features like the Society Food Bank and an in-app storage bank.

8201200007 | Aashvi Arora  
8201200007 | Hrushika Gupta  
8201200004 | Tanisha Singh

Research Pathway II  
Dr. Anandilal Gupta Thakur  
Prof. Siddhesh Deshpande

SCHOOL OF DESIGN

**A STUDY ON FINANCIAL LITERACY AND HOW IT AFFECTS INVESTMENT MAKING DECISIONS OF WOMEN**

The information derived from secondary data indicates that there is a significant difference in the decision-making capabilities between men and women and the factors responsible for the same have been discussed. This paper aims to study about financial literacy and suggest a few ways to improve the same.

**INTRODUCTION**  
Importance of Financial Literacy in today's world. Differences in the rate of financial literacy between men and women.

**OBJECTIVE**  
To understand the factors responsible for the difference in the investment making decisions between men and women. To suggest ways to improve financial literacy among women.

**METHODOLOGY**  
Secondary data collected from NHIS. Trends were analyzed from 1998 to 2021 of the prevalence of anaemia across socio-economic group in India over time. Food consumption patterns of women were analyzed, considering factors like caste, residence, age, education, wealth and marital status. Trends were then analyzed with quantitative techniques.

**FINDINGS**  
Research shows that the involvement of women in taking investment decisions is related to the knowledge of financial literacy. Factors such as Social pressure, Non-supportive families play a huge role.

**CONCLUSION**  
This paper has presented the factors that affect the investment making decisions of women with special focus on financial literacy. Through research, the factors that determine financial literacy have been studied. The core of this paper deals with the financial rates among women. In a country like India where patriarchy still exists, it is high time that women get access to financial education. Doing so will not only benefit women in the society but also improve a country's economy. Managing financial assets comes under the purview of financial literacy. If women are more aware about this, they can improve on their decision making and protect their financial assets. Education and awareness are the first step in this process. The government can take initiatives by introducing policies. Educational institutions should include subjects on basic finance as educating the youth goes a long way. Efforts must be taken to increase financial literacy in the rural areas by making educational more accessible. Girls should be encouraged to go to schools by their family. The government must take note of these points and do the needful to improve the financial literacy rate.

8201200004 | L.SOUJANYA  
BBA LLB (HONS.)

KIRIT P. MEHTA  
SCHOOL OF LAW

**ECOLOGICAL STUDY OF LAKES IN THE VASAI-VIRAR REGION**

**NIRMAL LAKE I**  
The study aims to understand the ecological health of Nirmal Lake, Vasai-Virar region, and identify factors influencing its degradation. The study explores the impact of urbanization, industrial activities, and agricultural runoff on the lake's ecosystem. The study also aims to identify the factors influencing the lake's degradation and suggest measures to improve its ecological health.

**Methodology**  
Data Collection: Interviews with local residents, surveys, and focus groups. Data Analysis: Qualitative and quantitative analysis. Conceptualization: Development of the Nirmal Lake I platform. Design Validation: User testing and feedback.

**Results**  
Individuals aged 25-35 lack awareness of their home food inventory, leading to over-purchasing of certain products.

**Key Features:**  
a) User-Friendly Interface: Easy upload, tracking, visual aids. b) Customizable Settings: Personalize business days, notifications. c) Community Engagement: Promote food sharing, responsible consumption.

**Design Validation**  
What worked: Users found it straightforward to upload pictures to the app. Users appreciated the visual aids. Users found it helpful to have a community to share their experiences. Scope of improvement: Users need more guidance on the app's features. Users need more guidance on the app's features.

**Rating: 3.9/5**

**Conclusion**  
Confidence takes the widespread issue of packaged food waste, addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges. By empowering users to minimize waste and organize inventory, the app facilitates sharing surplus food items through features like the Society Food Bank and an in-app storage bank. Confidence takes the widespread issue of packaged food waste, addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges. By empowering users to minimize waste and organize inventory, the app facilitates sharing surplus food items through features like the Society Food Bank and an in-app storage bank.

7301200001 | SOUMYA CHAUHAN  
7301200002 | MRUNALI GUPTA  
7301200003 | CHIRAN KUMAR  
7301200004 | RAGU KOLH

4th Yr. B.Arch ECOLOGICAL DESIGN

**Research Embedded Learning**

Engaging with processes of thinking and critical understanding as key to the ideas of learning. Expanding the field of thinking and action beyond knowledge aggregation.

**Poster Symposium**  
across 17 schools and 8 campuses  
16 March 2024 | Exhibition on view 9:30 am onwards

Round Table with students 11:00 am  
Round Table with faculty members 2:30 pm  
Valedictory Proceedings 3:30 pm

Open to all students and staff across SVKM's NMIMS University

Urban Oasis: Conclave Held at 47-A Design Gallery, Kotachiwadi

Faculty Team: Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Tapan Mittal Deshpande, Nishant Modi, Mohammed Esa Shaikh

Engaging with Mumbai's Historic Neighbourhoods through Khotachiwadi

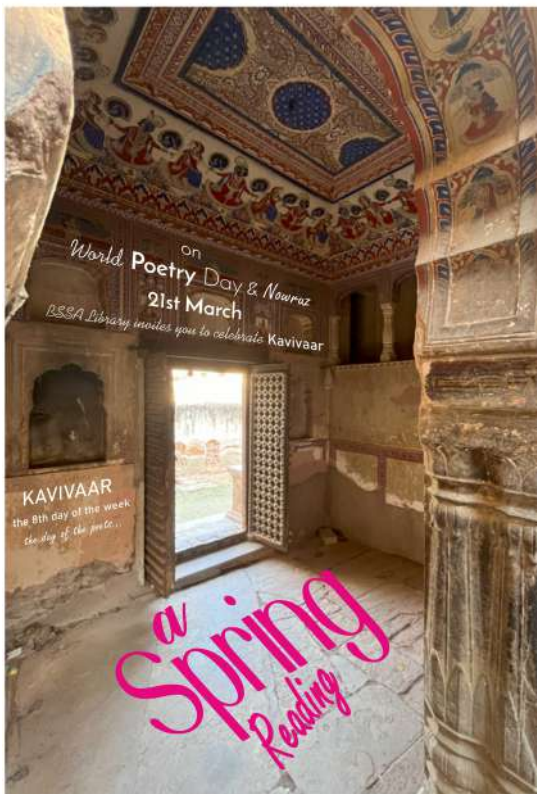
Organised under the aegis of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra, along with Balwant Sheth School of Architecture, SVKM's NMIMS, Mumbai Research Centre, Asiatic Society of Mumbai, and 47-A Design Gallery, Khotachiwadi

Conceived as a one-day, on-site academic conclave, Urban Oasis was a coming together of experts from fields of urban history, archaeology, art-history, architecture, conservation, and museum studies for a discussion on community histories, and the importance of local heritage, the risks they face and the potential they process in a contemporary world.



Kavivaar: A Spring Reading World Poetry Day

BALWANT SHETH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



The conclave was conducted in Khotachiwadi, in House #58, a 200-year-old heritage bungalow, one of the oldest surviving structures in the heritage precinct. Many residents of Khotachiwadi have stories of their house and ancestry that tie into bigger ideas that shaped the urban narrative of Mumbai as institutions and personalities such as 'Lokmanya' Tilak, Raja Ravi Varma, V.S. Gaitonde, and P.L. Deshpande have had a connection to this space. Several stories were highlighted to draw attention to the lesser-known and nearly forgotten histories of Mumbai.

As an extension to the conclave, a photographic exhibition was installed with around 50 digital reproductions of archival photographs by photographer (Late) Dr. Bruno Ferreira, at several important locations, along home fronts and sites of original bungalows not in existence today. Information boards, signage, maps and images, were placed throughout the precinct, making



scholarship accessible to the general public.

The presentations were audio and video recorded and transcripts from each talk will be edited to a succinct piece. Students actively participated and the conclave also fit into ongoing electives on Conservation and Cultural studies. Site-specific examples led to a larger discourse around topics such as "conservation for whom" and how these spaces not only contribute to shaping the city's overall visual and cultural identity, but also, through memories preserved in oral traditions, a unique perspective to the narrative of identity and tradition. As such, they each serve as a microcosm of urban histories sustaining tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Tapan Mittal Deshpande, Professor



World Poetry Day, was celebrated at BSSA with Kavivaar, a poetry and reading session at the Library. Observed just one day after the Spring Equinox (celebrated as Navroz in certain parts of the world), the aptly-titled event, 'A Spring Reading', featured acclaimed poets and translators: Ranjit Hoskote, Sampurna Chattarji, and Mustansir Dalvi. The session, attended by faculty and students of BSSA, was followed by the inauguration of an exhibition of installations based on The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams (1979), as part of the Second Year Architectural Design Studio. Honouring the day dedicated to the written word, the Dean donated 2500 books from his personal library to the NMIMS University Library.

Kimberley Advani, Assistant Professor



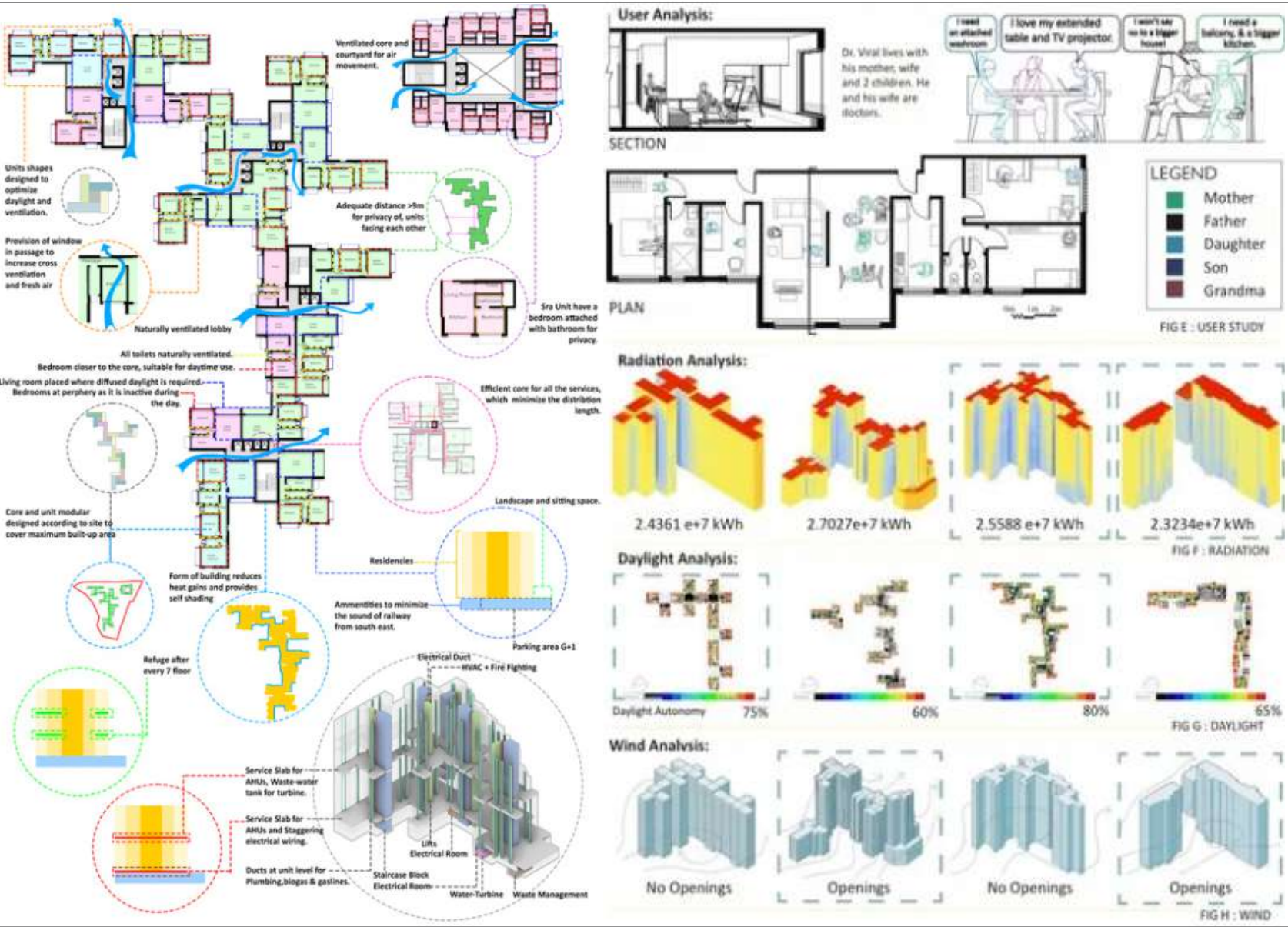
Left - Poetry Reading Panel with BSSA Dean Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Ranjit Hoskote, Sampurna Chattarji, and Mustansir Dalvi.



Right top and bottom - Mustansir Dalvi, Sampurna Chattarji and Ranjit Hoskote perusing the collection of books donated by the Dean to the NMIMS University Library.



Solar Decathlon India 2023-24  
B.Arch. 4th Year, B.Arch. 3rd Year, MPSTME  
Mentor: Shriya Bhatia



BSSA students won the National Solar Decathlon Competition, 2023-24. The Solar Decathlon Competition is aimed at designing a climate-resilient net-zero-energy-water building. BSSA Student Team Genesis, in collaboration with MPSTME, won the Divisional Award for the Multi-Family Housing Category. The award ceremony took place at Infosys, Mysuru campus. Team Genesis’ cluster redevelopment project for Bhagnari Co-op Housing Society was selected as the Grand Winner of the Solar Decathlon India Competition 2023-24. It exemplified a groundbreaking approach to sustainable urban living. Their Net-Zero energy, waste and zero-maintenance design integrated advanced environmental strategies and innovative architectural solutions. The building’s shape optimizes daylight and ventilation, with naturally

ventilated lobbies and bedrooms positioned for maximum efficiency. The core and unit modular design covers the maximum built-up area, reducing heat gains and promoting self-shading. Additionally, amenities, strategies for harnessing renewable energy onsite, energy efficiency, waste management, and resilience made it a well-rounded integrated project. The project set a new standard for green architecture, ensuring comfort, privacy, and sustainability for its residents.

The project team was guided by BSSA Faculty Lead Prof Shriya Bhatia and supported by Prof. Deoyani Joshi from MPSTME. The Project was led by Deepika Nayak and supported by her team members Akshat Shah, Disha, Jay Patel, Rajvi Rajgor, Sahil Bangera, Soumya Chauhan, Mrinalini Gupta, Ikjot Kohli, Prithvi Singh, Tanishka Mahuli,

Aarushi Himalian, Mannan, Nikhil, Drashtant Bosmiya, Jaival Kansara, Khushii Doshi, Ayushi Mehata, Sara Dadia, Disha Deorukhkar, Mannan Wadhwana, Nikhil Pendse from BSSA and Om from MPSTME.

Shriya Bhatia, Associate Professor

From Factory to Home: Exhibition  
Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA) and Godrej Archives  
Faculty Team: Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Pratishta Kunhithayill, Swati Sanghavi, Saman Ambreen

From Factory to Home: Shaping the Urban Landscape and Fostering the Community

The ‘From Factory to Home’ exhibition, a collaboration between Godrej Archives and NMIMS Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA), showcased industrial townships in India and their impact on urban landscapes and communities. The event, held on December 8th and 9th, 2023, was part of the “Conscious Collective” initiative by Godrej and Boyce.

The exhibition featured the evolution of industrial housing in India, highlighting townships like Jamshedpur, Telco Township, Titan Town, Mithapur, Kirloskarwadi, Batanagar, and Godrej’s Vikhroli Township. It explored how these townships evolved into vibrant hubs, providing not just housing but also civic amenities such as healthcare, education, and recreation.

The showcase emphasized India’s post-independent developmental vision as reflected in the five-year national development plan. BSSA team researched the evolution of industrial housing through historical references, books & magazines in the college library and collaborated with experts on the topic. Key elements of the exhibition included archival materials, photographs, readings, and an interactive game, meticulously researched and curated by Godrej Archives and SVKM’s NMIMS BSSA faculty.

Pratishta Kunhithayill, Assistant Professor



Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Industrial Investment Destination, the case of Rabale, Navi Mumbai  
Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA) and Kalsruhe University of Applied Science  
Faculty Team: Dr. Kaiwan Mehta, Pratishta Kunhithayill, Nishant Modi, Shriya Bhatia, Swati Sanghavi, Saman Ambreen

SVKM’S NMIMS Balwant Sheth School of Architecture (BSSA) and Kalsruhe University of Applied Science (HKA), Germany, have been working on a pilot project on industrial revitalization towards a sustainable and resilient industrial investment destination. R-Block area of Rabale, Navi Mumbai, which was planned as an engineering industrial cluster since 1970, is being studied for this project. The major industrial sectors established in R block are pharmaceutical and IT, which faced major setbacks that escalated during the Covid outbreak due to insufficient and deteriorated infrastructure.

The project’s progression over the past two years in phases:

- 2022 - Setting of Vision and Objective for the Project  
Examination of the decline in the efficiency of the site and the industries with the broad objective to revive the area were identified in collaboration with BSSA and HKA faculty and students’ teams. Comprehensive maps, surveys, and data were collected and documented by the team.
- 2023 - Identification of Areas of Concern and Planning Ahead

The broad areas of concern were identified as waste, water, energy, and mobility with revival as per sustainability aspects. The way forward for these areas of concern was identified as evaluating the potential for a sustainable industrial investment region, developing an energy, waste, and water management plan, and mobility plan. Budgeting and detailed work schedules were formulated to drive the project forward.

The team spearheaded by Mr. Nayan Patel (NMIMS) and Mr. Murad Futehally (Stakeholder and TBIA) along with academic heads, Dr Jan Riel (Kalsruhe University of Applied Science, Germany) and Dr. Kaiwan Mehta - Dean, BSSA, with faculty team is working for a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous industrial ecosystem in the Thane Belapur region. The various stakeholders from TBIA, NMMC, MSEDCL, MMRDA, and MIDC have been a part of meetings and discussions.

Saman Ambreen, Assistant Professor

Right top - Visit to the factory at Rabale

Right bottom - Meeting with all the stakeholders





## Guest Lecturers

- Case Study for lakes Kavesar, Upvan, Masoonda Talav Pali - *Stuti Borwanker*
- Inaugural Twin Lecture - *Shimul Javeri Kadri, Paromita Vohra*
- Gallery 47A , Kachchh - Born Again: Stories from Old Craft and New Design - *Andre Baptista*
- Guest lecture on Complex structural systems - *Vijay Patil*
- How building regulations and project feasibility is shaping society redevelopments within the city? - *Saloni Deodhar*
- Topography, drainage, and watershed analysis on GIS - *Pratiksha Chalke*
- Ongoing practices , culture and work ethics prevalent in today's Construction Industry - *Shalakra Samant*
- Place, culture, ecology and art making - *Parag Tandel, Sameer Kulavoor*
- Visual Storytelling - How Pictures Work - *Aparna Andhare*
- Life cycle of a Construction project-
- Navi Mumbai International Airport Limited - *Bharat Yadav*
- Primavera and Navisworks - *Sandeep Pathak*
- History, Site Background, Stakeholders involved and Proposed Plan of Eastern Waterfront in Mumbai - *Anupama Karanam*
- Understanding urban contextual forces, addressing scales of intervention and feasibility issues - *Gandhali Tipnis*
- Design, Construction & Services of a Metro project - *Durva Damle*
- Urban Land - *Dr. Binoy B V*
- GIS to map the contours , site mapping analysis - *Kshitij Mahashabde*
- Design Studio - *Chelsey Watthy*
- Design Studio - *Dhwani Vaghani*
- Metro project at Marol & Mantralaya - *Durva Damle*
- Design of Fountain Pens & Calligraphy/Photography/Geometry in Architecture - *Yashwant Pitkar*
- Directed Study program - *Vishwas Mote, Vipin Jain*
- Introductory class on Site analysis parameters for Ujjain - *Kimberley Advani, Dhruv Shah*
- Recognizing the significance of Buddhist sites like Sanchi within a broader timeline of Indian architectural history - *Pushkar Sohoni*
- Recognising the variety of architectural examples throughout space and time - *Vidhi Jobanputra, Tanima Shrivastava*
- Understanding process and challenges of on-site documentation - *Nikita , Dhruv and Ridhima*
- Ways of seeing a building through the process of photography - *Yashwant Pitkar*
- Water, nature and city- Exploring relationship of water systems/river and the ghats- Ujjain, Mandu , Maheshwar - *Dhanashri Sawant*
- Workshop of measured drawings and allied skillsets - *Manish Rangnekar*
- Historical context, locational significance and cultural influences - Bhopal/Sanchi - *Dr. Kaiwan Mehta*
- Study trip to Bangalore - *Ranjit Kandalgaonkar*
- Photography session (Bishnupur) - *Yashwant Pitkar*

- Guest lecture on Complex structural systems - *Vijay Patil*
- Urban History of Kolkata - *Iman Mitra*
- Kolkata Study Trip Introduction - *Ratoola Kundu*
- Lalbaugh Gardens - *Suresh Jayaram*
- Cubbon Park - BIOME Water Trust - *Suresh Jayaram*
- BIOME Office - *Chitra Vishwanath*
- Funktion Design - *Madhusudhan Sridhar*
- Manipal School of Architecture and Planning - *Trivikram TN, Deepika Jeevan*
- Urban Design (Digital algorithms) - *Devasmita Jha*
- Tree Walk: Water Bodies & their Ecological Context at Airoli Coastal and Marine Bio diversity centre - *Shreya Bhanap*
- Tree Walk: Water Bodies & their Ecological Context at Bhandup Pumping Station - *Gauri Gurav*
- Tree Walk: Water Bodies & their Ecological Context at Maharashtra Nature Park - *Dilip Shenai*
- Building Façades and Systems - *K.R.Suresh , Laxmi Arya*
- Building Façades and Systems - *Prashant Pant, Tanvi Shinde*
- Citizen engagement on walkability challenges and methodological aspects on understanding and defining walkability through various parameters and tools - *Rishi Agarwal*
- Site documentation and student understanding of slums, low-income housing, and slum redevelopments - *Neera Adarkar*
- The Use of Sustainable Materials in Interior Design - *Mangesh Jadhav*
- Making Mumbai Walkable - *Dhawal Ashar*
- Professional Practice on 'Copyrights' - *Kanak Kashyap*
- Waterproofing - *Aakash Somani*
- Project "Colliding Domains: Streets in the Neighbourhood": a) Introduction to Jaipur, History and Architecture b) Introduction to Shekhawati's Mandawa and Ramgarh - Art and Architecture - *Kalpita Ashar*
- Visual Storytelling - How Pictures Work - *Aparna Andhare*
- Introduction to sketching techniques - *Divya Butala*
- TOD & Mixed Used Development - *Sudipta Iyer*
- Computational Biomimicry and Robotics - *Kalaivanan*
- Landscapes of Accumulation: Real Estate and the Neoliberal - *Llerena Guu Searle*
- Basics & Beyond – Project Management in interior fit-out' space - *Vaishali Deshpande*

## Events and Competitions

- National librarian day- *Social Activities*
- Independence day - *Cultural Activities*
- COA Biennale- Samunnati - *Co-Curricular Activities*
- HSNL University Competiton - *Extracurricular Activities*

## External Reviews

- B.Arch 1st Year, October 2023 - *Krupa Shah, Lorenzo Fernandes, Jay Shah, Apurva Talpade*
- B.Arch. 2nd year, October 2023 - *Vrinda Gokhale, Shachi Somani, Anubhav Borhohain*
- B.Arch. 3rd year, October 2023 - *Nirmohi Kathrecha, Namrata Sharma, Vendatee Chaudhary*
- B.Arch. 4th year, October 2023 - *Shirley Ballaney, Jay Kapadia, Saloni Deodhar, Gandhali Tipnis, Sudipta Iyer, Prashant Prabhu, Vendatee Chaudhary, Pranav Naik*
- B.Arch 1st Year, December 2023 - *Singdha Agarwal, Vrinda Seksaria, Ayushi Patni Jain, Lorenzo Fernandes, Shachi Somani, Shikha Shah*
- B.Arch 5th Year, December 2023 - *Prashant Prabhu, Kalpit Ashar, Ritu Mohanty, Rajeev Thakker*
- B.Arch 1st Year, March 2024 - *Preeti Nautiyal, Misbah Hararwala, Shachi Somani, Chinmay Shidhore, Flora Sheth, Manali Patil*
- B.Arch 3rd Year, March 2024 - *Ravindra Punde, Samir Raut*

## Faculty Development Programs

**Council of Architecture Training Programmes**  
Aesthetics and Visual language: Research and Design Pedagogy in Architecture

Augmenting Living Buildings – Retrofit, Repurpose, Recondition

## Publication Team

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

*This edition of the newsletter includes this special supplement, ISSUE 004B, which provides an overview of all major events, programs, and announcements from both the previous and current semesters.*

## 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.



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