

REPORT

## ***HOMEing 2 - People, Pigeons and the Public Realm***

The Second lecture of  
HOMEing – The SSAA Alumni Series

June 15 2020

### **Concept Note**

#### **About HOMEing**

Sushant School of Art and Architecture and the Sushant School Alumni Association present  
HOMEing  
SSAA Alumni Lecture Series



#### ***HOMEing – find your way home***

In this series, we tap into our remarkable ability to navigate back to one's nests (or lofts, habitats, bases) and to get rooted to one's history, past, with astounding accuracy to, even across huge and disorienting distances.

Over the years, SSAA Alumni has felt connected to their alma mater in a deep-rooted way, homing in as visiting faculty, as jurors, as full-time faculty or in general as well wishers, advisors and more recently as parents of the new wave of budding architects!

The HOMEing series is a collaboration between the School, the Students' Council and the Sushant School Alumni Association. We discuss the works, innovations, projects, research of our Alumni (in all spheres of the built environment) in such a way that it contributes to the growth of the school, be it of its students or of its faculty - a veritable Homing. We want to become a real platform for the alumni to 'Home in' to SSAA and get involved with the academics and the future of the school. We also want to become a platform by which our students gain more insight with respect to the opportunities that the

education at the school provides them – the avenues it opens for them and the paths that are fostered.

As makers and thinkers of the built environment, we have all had particular journeys and trajectories. We have branched out into varied allied fields but remain rooted in the values that our Alma Mater has inculcated in us. We are what Sushant made us. This is a call to our Alumni – ***find your way home.***

### ***People, Pigeons and the Public Realm***

2020 is the 25th year of graduation of the second batch of graduates from SSAA – the 1990-1995 alumni who have gone on to do brilliant things in their careers. Runit Chayya, co-founder of Grain Collective, New York, and Sujata Hingorani, Partner at Oasis Design Inc. New Delhi, are two birds that are HOMEing back to SSAA in this very aptly placed and curated Jugalbandi. Our very own, Prof Suruchi Modi, Urban Designer and Alumna of SSAA Batch 1996-2001, is the moderator of the session.

In the current times, the relevance of looking at public spaces of our cities has gone up multifold. Public space frameworks need to incorporate processes for making cultural shifts where design becomes almost secondary and one (almost) forgets about the details. Our speakers would talk about their projects, thoughts and philosophies with respect to the public realm. They will span a whole gamut of ideas – from details to actualizations, of people and their intrinsic needs within the built and unbuilt, of memories, experiences and ideas of the past, present and future.

**Sushant School of Art and Architecture  
and  
Sushant School Alumni Association  
present**



# **HOMEing #2**

**4:00 to 5:30 pm, Monday 15 June 2020**

## **People, Pigeons and the Public Realm**

Google Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/npm-bgfe-pod>



## Speakers



Runit Chhaya

Founding Principal at Grain Collective, New York  
SSAA Alumnus Batch 1990-1995

<http://graincollective.com/#>

Grain Collective, led by Runit Chhaya and Sapna Advani (alumni 95) is a landscape architecture, urban design and community planning practice. Grain Collective is dedicated to a rich design and planning process that incorporates research and collaboration from varied professionals and stakeholders to create successful, aesthetically pleasing and experientially diverse environments.

**GRAIN COLLECTIVE**

Landscape Architecture | Urban Design | Community Planning



Sujata Hingorani

Principal Landscape Architect and Partner as Oasis Designs Inc., New Delhi

SSAA Alumna Batch 1990-1995

<http://oasisdesigns.org/>

Having a strong commitment towards improving the 'quality of life' in our cities, Oasis Designs Inc. has been consistently involved in designing various urban level projects like urban precincts, public spaces, streetscapes, revitalization of water bodies in the cities, eco corridors utilizing the drains of the city, open space network of the city, sustainable storm water management practices, promoting working landscape as an catalyst for Transit Oriented Development and other urban regeneration projects.

**OASIS**  
DESIGNS INC.

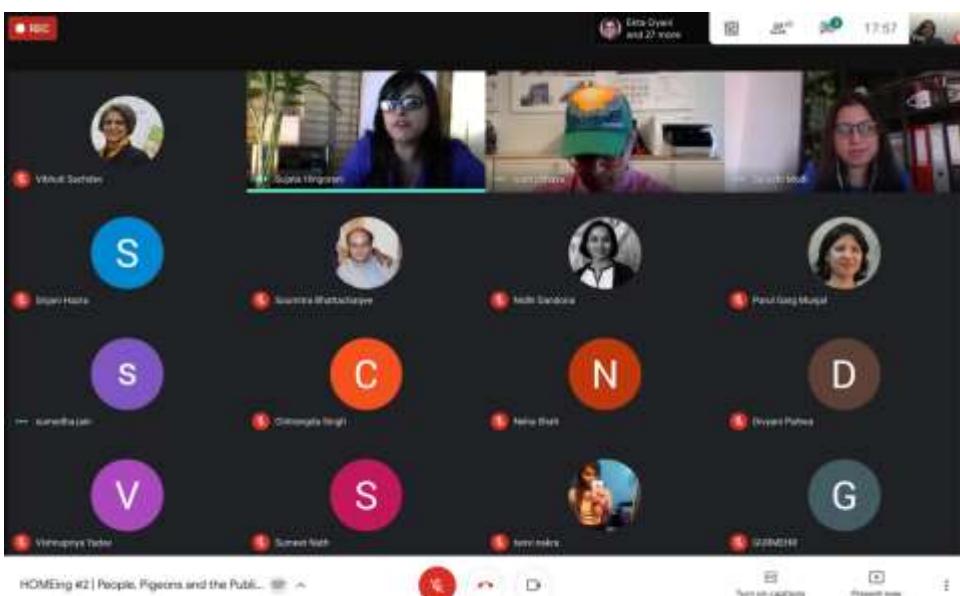
## Moderator

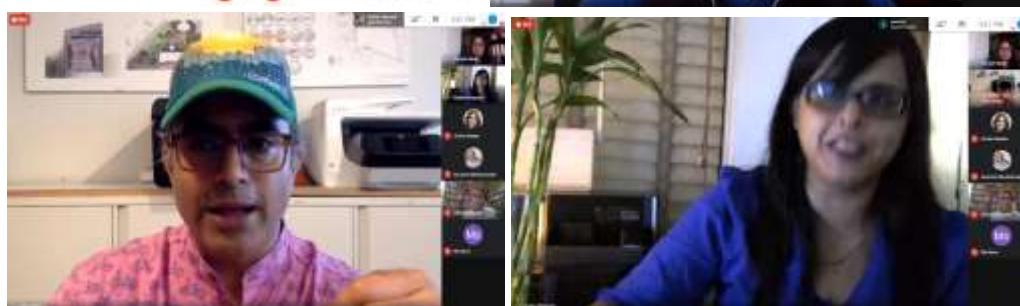
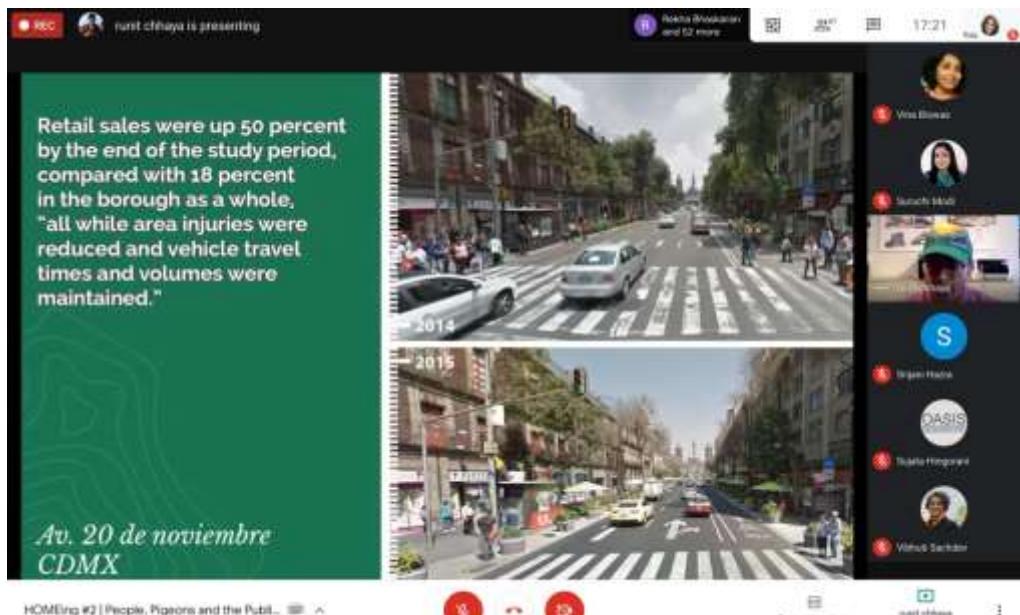


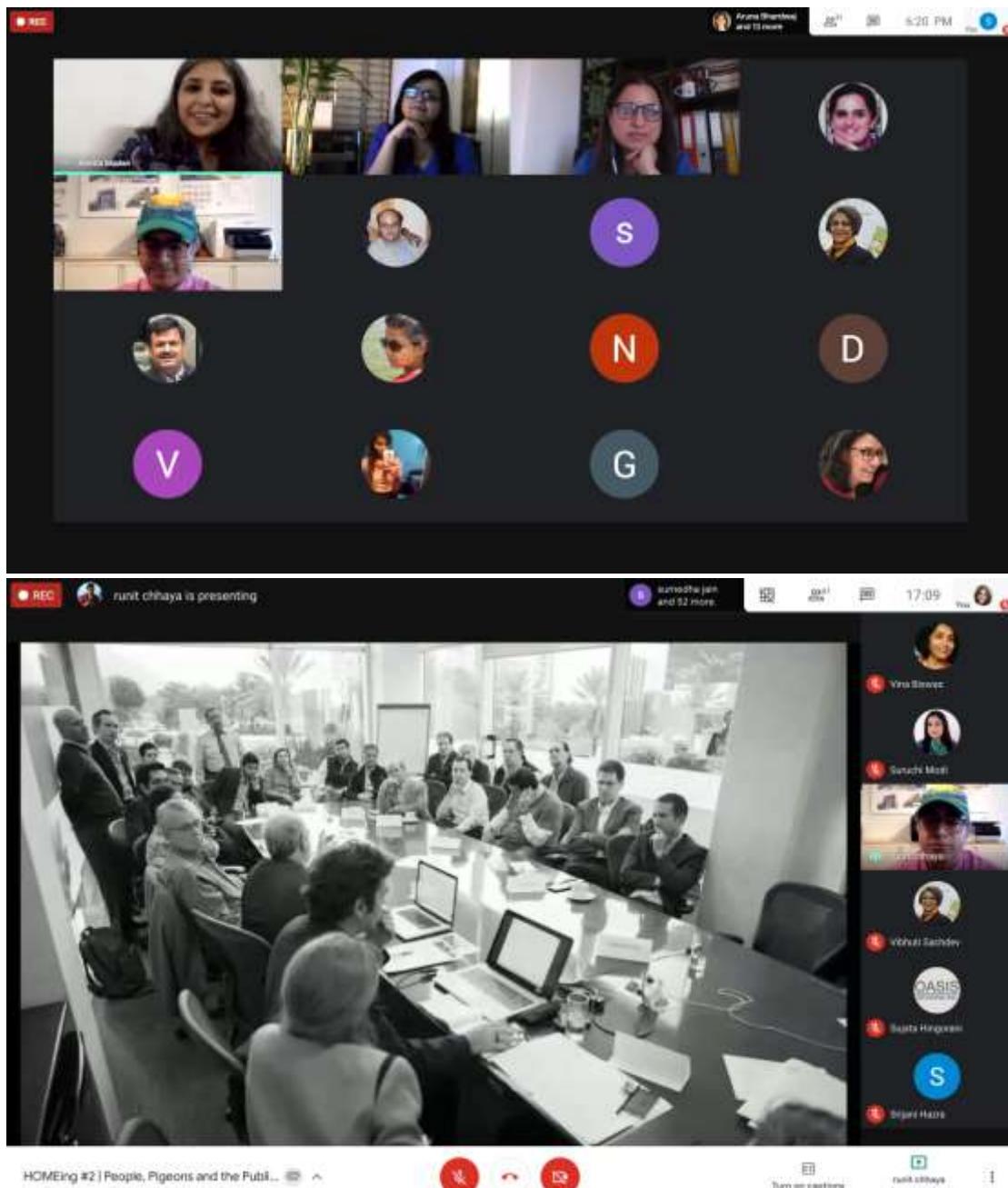
Prof Suruchi Modi  
Postgraduate Programmes Head, SSAA  
SSAA Alumna Batch 1996-2001

Suruchi Modi is an architect and urban designer with a specialization in Tall Building Design from the University of Nottingham UK and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. She is a Professor and Programme Head for the Masters Programmes in architecture at Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Ansal University Gurgaon. She was awarded for her project: Revival of mixed land use concept as a tool to develop a sustainable city model at CEPT University and is also an international award winner of the Passivehaus skyscraper design for New York City. Her work aims to extend the realm of sustainability to the real estate driven high-rise development of our cities today bringing forth the more appropriate concepts & technologies for tall buildings.

## Proceedings







The presentations led to a vibrant discussion on the various projects and methodologies that were presented by the two speakers. Urban projects in various cultural contexts were discussed in terms of their inclinations, concerns and public participation strategies as design triggers.

Runit Chayya presented projects from the American continents and discussed the role people play in defining their immediate urban environments. Sujata Hingorani's presentation raised critical issues with respect to the value that we assign to the public realm in India.

The programme was well attended by faculty, students, academics, professionals and alumni from across the years.

## Chat record of the programme:

Studio LINEDESIGN

16:31

Beautiful

Rekha Bhaskaran

16:35

great transformation of the Pune street

palack changwal

16:35

I have a question for Sujata maam about JM road project.

Suruchi Modi

16:37

Palack we will take questions in the end please

palack changwal

16:37

Sure maam.

Suruchi Modi

16:37

you may ask then or can write it here

You

16:43

Please everyone other than presenters, keep your cameras off

Rajat Ray

17:32

Hi Roonit

And Sujata

runit chhaya

17:34

RAJAT

Rajat Ray

17:34

You look super ☺

Suruchi Modi

17:42

moving to questions from all of you next

Suruchi Modi

17:46

please be ready to ask questions

Bhawna Dandona

17:47

Sujata please comment on the relevance of these public realms after COVID.

Bhawna Dandona

17:48

Innovations in new design ideas

sumedha jain

17:49

There seem to be a lot of spontaneity in creation of public realm abroad.we don't see this response here in India.is this an architectural issue? And how does a city like delhi get there?

Vibhav Tyagi

17:49

I couldn't really understand how reducing the road size could actually benefit the traffic flow, if you can explain the three Cs in a little detail that would really help!

Suruchi Modi

17:51

Vibhav and Sumedha, would u like to ask in person  
sumedha jain

17:51

Okay

Vibhav Tyagi

17:52

I'd love too but mic issues :(

Suruchi Modi

17:52

ok, ill ask for you Vibhav, sumedha u can go next

sumedha jain

17:52

Yes

Sameer Chadha

17:54

Impactful work guys- very proud. Sujata- what is needed for a transformation of all/ most streets in our country? If you were made national chief architect like Rana :-) ? And if you could comment on political/ policy challenges/ weaknesses currently. Thanks.

Sumeet Nath

17:58

Great work Sujata . Very impressive. Am more up date with Runits work as managed to occasionally catch up with him. Kudos to you both

Sameer Chadha

18:02

written

Suruchi Modi

18:03

palack would u like to ask the question

Ms Batra

18:03

Great going guys. Three cheers to both of you Sujata and Runit ☺☺

sumedha jain

18:04

Very good idea!

palack changwal

18:04

Already answered..It was also about the on-street parking.

Himanshu Sanghani

18:04

Sameer's question is linked with Sumedha's...that political will and that vision to see what we really want to see within the city will transform the city and then spontaneity could be achieved

Parul Garg Munjal

18:05

A number of recent projects as undertaken under recent govt. schemes have shown failure in terms of integration of consideration towards physical infrastructure...street lighting, electrical wires, drainage, sewerage etc...what has been your experience and reflection on the way forward?

Suruchi Modi

18:05

Parul will u like to ask in person

## Participant List

The screenshots show a participant list interface with the following details:

- Header:** SEARCHING FOR PEOPLE... (0)
- Central Area:** A large dark rectangular area containing a white 'SEARCH' button.
- Sidebar:** A vertical list of participants on the right side of the screen.
- Participants List:** The sidebar lists approximately 20 participants, each with a small circular icon next to their name. The names include: **N**, **John Doe**, **Jane Smith**, **Mike Johnson**, **Linda Wilson**, **David Miller**, **Sarah Davis**, **Robert Green**, **Emily Brown**, **Paul Wilson**, **Alice Miller**, **Bethany Green**, **Mark Davis**, **Karen Wilson**, **Jeffrey Miller**, **Christina Green**, **Howard Davis**, **Patricia Wilson**, **James Miller**, **Elizabeth Green**, and **William Davis**.