

ART ARCHITECTURE CITIES



2025 SAA
NEWSLETTER
JULY TO
DECEMBER

S A A

b.f.a
b.arch
m.arch
b.plan-
m.plan
integrated
m.plan

ODD SEMESTER
2025-26

AT
A
GLANCE

09
events

15
site
visits

06
expert
lectures

20
research
works

03
synergy
sessions



LEADERSHIP

Adieu

**Prof. (Col.) Virendra K. Malik,
Former Dean of the School of Art and
Architecture, Sushant University.**

His visionary leadership, global perspective, and commitment to academic excellence have left a lasting impact on our community.



It has been a privilege to serve the School during a phase of sustained academic growth and institutional strengthening. Along with improved NIRF rankings and successful NAAC accreditation, we advanced academic quality and accountability. We hosted the first international conference, the national conclave NCFAE in the context of NEP 2020, and Mud Futures, creating platforms for dialogue among academia, industry, and allied stakeholders.

Our students brought distinction through NASA awards, thesis recognitions from COA, and active participation at the Red Fort Annual Biennale. Studios in planning and urban design fostered participatory and community-based approaches. These achievements reflect collective dedication and shared vision. As Professor Emeritus, I remain committed to supporting the school's continued progress and academic distinction.

Welcoming

**Dr. Navin Piplani as the Dean of
School of Art and Architecture,
Sushant University.**

As he returns to his alma mater, his leadership and commitment to excellence will inspire the institution at large.



Dr. Navin Piplani is a distinguished academic and practitioner with expertise in architecture, heritage conservation, and design education. He holds a PhD in architecture pedagogy, exploring the interplay of history, theory and practice of traditional design concepts.

His experience spans senior roles such as Director of the School of Art & Architecture and earlier as Director for Creative Cluster, where he fostered interdisciplinary collaborations.

With a foundation in both project-based practice (including involvement at the Getty Conservation Institute) and academic leadership, he is highly regarded for nurturing innovation in educational frameworks and applying cultural-contextual insights to contemporary design challenges.

Message from the Dean



Dr. Navin Piplani
Dean, School of Art
and Architecture

It is with a deep sense of responsibility and optimism that I address you as the new Dean, following a recent change of guard in the School. I am honoured to build upon the strong academic foundation laid by my predecessors. Over the past academic period, the Departments of Architecture, Urban Planning, and Art have demonstrated commendable academic vitality—through international academic engagement, rigorous planning studies rooted in heritage towns and local contexts, and rich artistic explorations across painting, fresco, and other visual media. These diverse yet interconnected pursuits reflect our shared commitment to contextual learning, critical thinking, and creative inquiry. As we move forward, we shall continue to foster an environment that encourages interdisciplinary exchange, innovation, and societal relevance. I warmly welcome the new students joining us and look forward to working closely with faculty, students, and readers alike in shaping a vibrant, inclusive, and future-ready academic community.

Message from the HoDs



Dr. Suruchi Modi
HoD & Senior
Professor, Dept of
Architecture, SAA

It has been a rewarding phase for the Department of Architecture, with an international conference fostering global exchange and student projects exploring the Rivers of India. These efforts reflect our shared curiosity and commitment to context-driven learning. As Frank Lloyd Wright aptly said, “Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature.” We thank our readers for their support and warmly welcome the new batches to this continuing journey of learning and discovery.



**Dr. Tejwant
Singh Brar**
HoD & Senior
Professor, Dept of Art,
Planning and
Research(DoPAR),
SAA

It has been an engaging and productive period for the DoPAR marked by thoughtful academic exploration and creative expression. Planning students worked closely with heritage towns and local area studies, developing a strong understanding of context, culture, and place-based planning. Art students explored diverse mediums including painting and fresco, translating ideas into rich visual narratives. Together, these efforts reflect a vibrant learning environment rooted in inquiry and creativity. We warmly welcome the new students as they begin their academic journey with us.

Message from the Editors



Prof. Ria Kapoor
Assistant
Professor

Creating this semester’s newsletter has been a genuinely rewarding experience. As I gathered stories and updates, I felt proud of how strongly our activities reflect sustainability, experiential learning, and a participative spirit. Connecting with faculty and students gave me a deeper appreciation of the thoughtful work happening across the department. Bringing everything together felt like celebrating our shared energy and progress. I truly enjoyed crafting this edition and hope it captures the sincerity and vibrancy of our collective efforts.



**Prof. Manisha
Gaba**
Assistant
Professor

It is a pleasure to present this amalgamated newsletter of the Architecture, Art, and Planning departments, reflecting our shared creative and academic journey. Bringing together diverse ideas, expressions, and perspectives, the newsletter highlights the interdisciplinary spirit of our academic ecosystem. It showcases design explorations, artistic narratives, and planning discourse while celebrating achievements and scholarly pursuits. I sincerely acknowledge the efforts of all contributors and the editorial team in making this initiative a meaningful and inspiring collective record.



**Prof. Anushka
Routela**
Assistant
Professor

Working on this edition of the School of Art and Architecture newsletter has been a meaningful experience for me. I enjoyed curating and shaping the content, which brings together varied academic and creative practices from across the department. The contributions reflect a shared commitment to context, material inquiry, and thoughtful experimentation. This issue offers a focused glimpse into the School’s evolving pedagogical landscape, and I hope it encourages continued reflection and exchange within and beyond the School.



CAMPUS CURRENTS

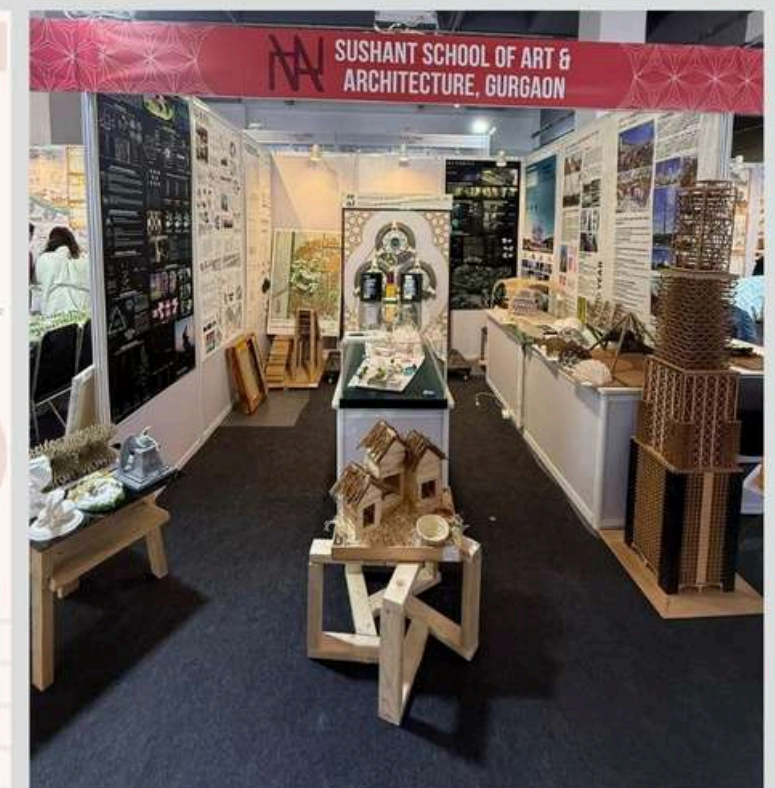
Aarambh



Architectural Awareness Program

Sushant School of Art and Architecture had the privilege to be a part of the Architectural awareness program "Aarambh" conducted by the Council of Architecture at NGMA, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, on 7th November 2025. The event was specially designed to introduce school students to the world of Architecture and its significance as a creative and impactful profession.

Our students of B.Arch fourth year, (Aditi, Aryan, Auditya, Ansh and Shweta) along with Assistant Professor Payal Malhotra, proudly showcased our students' work and presented our futuristic approach in architecture education to young minds from different schools who were keen to understand and curious to know more about the world of Architecture. Our team at the event from Sushant School was also accompanied by Dean Dr. Navin Piplani and supported by former dean Prof. V.K. Malik to encourage school students at the event towards creative career opportunities through the architecture profession. The insightful interactions between our students pursuing architecture and school students aspiring to join the creative field, along with engaging discussions with architectural professionals and educators, contributed to building greater awareness of Architecture as a vital discipline in nation-building.



International Conference on Art, Architecture and Urban Studies

The School of Art and Architecture, Sushant University, Gurugram, successfully hosted the First International Conference on Art, Architecture & Urban Studies (ICAAUS 2025) from 17–19 September 2025. Held in hybrid mode, convened by Dr. Pooja Lalit Kumar, the conference centred on the theme “Inclusive Environments for Growing Cities” and brought together distinguished voices from academia, government, industry, NGOs, and global partner institutions. Day 1 took place on campus, beginning with an inaugural session led by Ms. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, DePwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, who formally opened the conference. She was joined by eminent guests including Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, Founder–Lakshay Trust; Prof. Abhay Purohit, President of the Council of Architecture; senior leadership of Sushant University; and representatives from IIA Haryana Chapter.

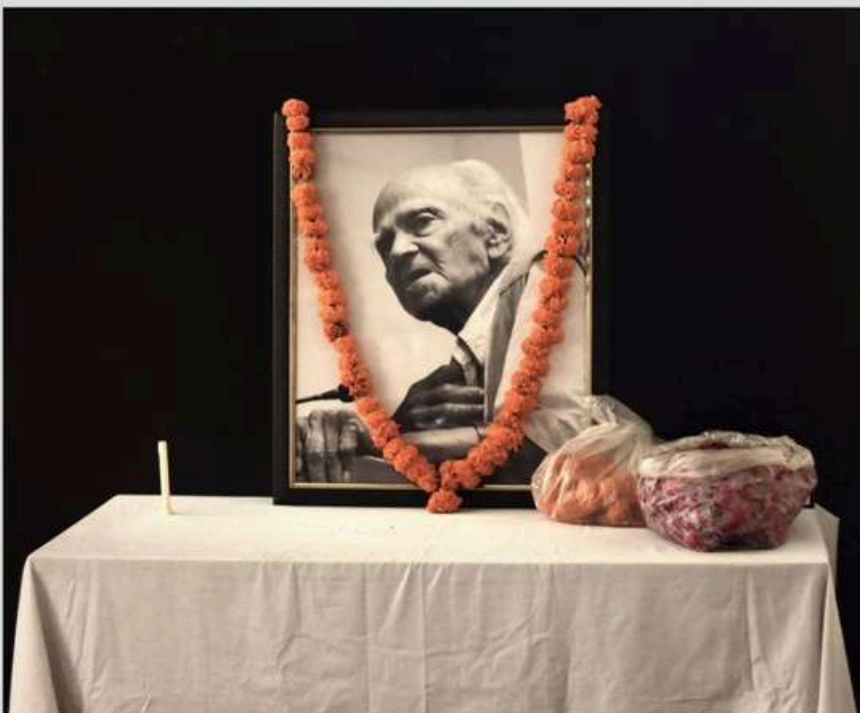
ICAAUS 2025

The conference featured vibrant creative activities on campus, including a BFA exhibition, a Riwayat visual showcase, the nukkad natak “Aaina – Inclusivity ki Pehchan”, and the clay workshop “Hathon Se Sochna.” School students’ posters on “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, created with Raahgiri Foundation, were also displayed. Days 2 and 3 featured online deliberations, including keynote addresses by international and national experts such as , Anya Sirota, Dr. Mohammad Saqib, Rajneesh Sareen, and Ms. Sreejata Roy. Paper presentations were organised under four themes: Accessible, Inclusive and Universal Design; Social, Cultural and Cognitive Equity; Economic, Resilient and Heritage-Led Growth; and Governance, Policy and Technological Innovation. The event concluded with a valedictory address by Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal and the announcement of competition winners, marking a meaningful culmination of the three-day conference.



SAA Founder's Day

The Founder's Day celebration honoured the birth anniversary of Mansinh M. Rana, recognising his vision and contributions to the institution. It is celebrated on 12 September every year. The event included a lamp lighting ceremony, a tribute to the founder, an exhibition of student work, and interactive sessions among students, faculty, and alumni. Speeches by the Dean, Director, and alumni highlighted the college's growth and legacy, followed by an award ceremony and cultural performances. Participants appreciated the meaningful coordination, inspiring speeches, creativity showcased, and sense of unity. The celebration successfully reinforced pride, community spirit, and commitment to the founder's values, making it a memorable occasion for all.



FOAID: GOLD WINNER

Students of the School of Art & Architecture, Sushant University participated in FOAID Delhi and designed ASTITVA (अस्तित्व), an experiential installation that explores illusion as both surface and revelation, reimagining the human form as layered energies and truths. Inspired by the Vedantic journey from Maya to Moksha, the installation unfolds as a four-part sequence—from a veiled meditating figure to its fragmentation, an unveiled chakra-based energy body, and finally a mirrored reconstruction that makes the invisible visible.

Translating Vedantic, Yogic, and Tantric concepts through optics and reflective architecture, Astitva embodies FOAID's theme Untold Dimensions. The team won Gold as 1st Runner-up.



Welcoming Batch of 2025

The School of Art and Architecture warmly welcomed the incoming students of B.Arch, M.Arch, M.Plan, and BFA in July 2025 through a thoughtfully curated orientation programme designed to familiarise them with the academic environment and institutional culture.

During the first week, students were introduced to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, faculty members, and administrative teams, along with an overview of the organisation's rules, academic framework, and campus facilities through guided campus visits.



Orientation

The orientation progressed with a series of interactive workshops and carefully designed, course-specific sessions that helped students transition smoothly into their academic programmes. Undergraduate students were introduced to foundational concepts through engaging modules that emphasised creativity, critical thinking, and visual exploration, alongside basics of structures, materials, and design processes. Learning was further strengthened through exposure visits that connected classroom discussions with real-world contexts. B.Arch students visited professional architectural practices such as Creative LLP to gain insights into office culture, project workflows, and practical aspects of the profession. BFA students explored Chawri Bazaar, observing traditional markets, material typologies, craftsmanship, and the socio-cultural dynamics that shape art and design practices.

For postgraduate students, the orientation focused on academic rigour and analytical thinking. They were introduced to faculty members and engaged in a hands-on exercise to understand urban form through the hierarchy of roads, helping them develop skills in observation, mapping, and spatial analysis that form the foundation of advanced studio and research work.



Wall Mural Painting



The Bachelor of Fine Arts programme at the School of Art and Architecture completed a site-specific mural project for the Vatel School of Hospitality, intended to enhance the ambience of the Vatel Café. Students from the 3rd and 4th year BFA cohorts were selected to design and execute the artwork, which centred on a minimalist visual approach suited to the café's calm and contemporary environment.

The project began with concept development sessions, during which students researched minimalist aesthetics and explored compositions that relied on clarity, balance and clean geometry. Working with a muted colour palette and simplified forms, the student team aimed to create a mural that would integrate seamlessly with the café's interiors without overwhelming the space. Considerations such as scale, visibility, and alignment with architectural features guided the design choices.

Execution took place over several days, with students working collaboratively on-site. The project offered them valuable experience with large-scale painting techniques, surface preparation and coordinated teamwork, mirroring professional public-art processes.

The project reflects the School of Art and Architecture's emphasis on experiential learning and the development of real-world creative competencies for its students.

Haatho Se Pehchan



Haatho Se Pehchan was presented as a student installation at the International Conference on Art, Architecture and Urban Studies (ICAAUS). Created by Bachelor of Fine Arts students during a clay modelling workshop, the work explored touch, materiality and embodied expression through collaboratively produced clay tiles. Imprinted with hand marks, facial impressions and subtle gestures, each tile recorded an intimate encounter between body and material. The installation invited viewers to engage through touch, shifting perception beyond the visual and emphasising clay as a carrier of memory and presence. Through collective authorship and sensory engagement, the work highlighted inclusivity, accessibility and shared human recognition, aligning closely with the conference's focus on experiential and community-oriented practices.

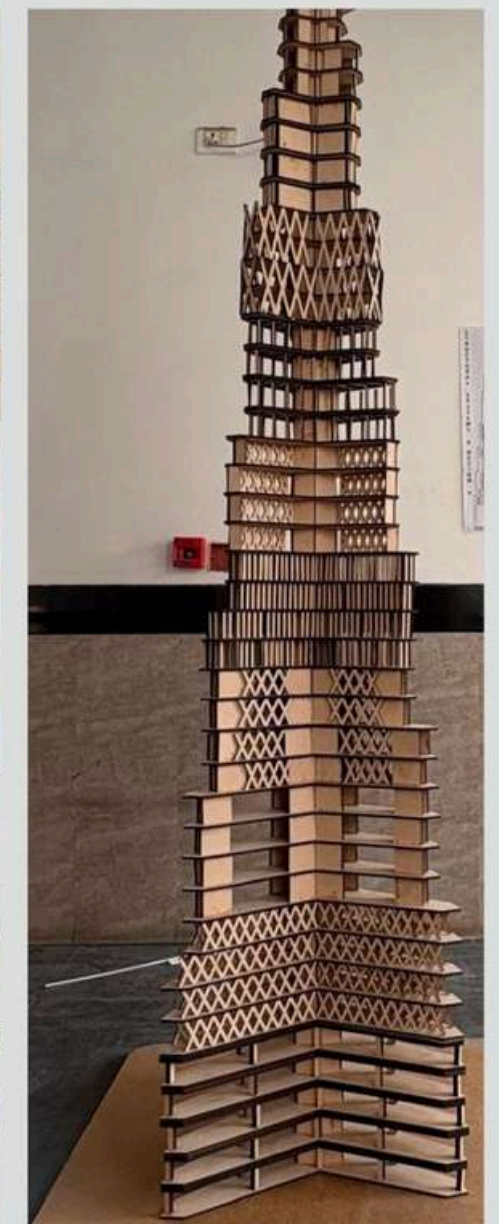
Board of Studies

The Board of Studies for Art and Urban Planning featured Ms. Sonam Chaturvedi (Artist, Collaborator, Place Maker and Educator), Sh. R. Srinivas (Former Town and Country Planner, TCPO; ITPI Nominee & External Expert), and Prof. (Dr.) Mahavir (Former Professor, Physical Planning, SPA New Delhi). Their deliberations focused on curriculum innovation and the integration of emerging technologies and pedagogies. Across both days, the agenda included confirmation of the previous minutes, approval of the School's Vision, Mission, and Core Values, and an extensive review of curricula based on stakeholder feedback.



Projects @ SAA

For the academic year 2025–26, the School of Art and Architecture adopts **"Rivers of India"** as its overarching academic theme, guiding teaching, learning, and design inquiry across all years and tracks. Rooted in the belief that rivers are ecological systems, cultural landscapes, and socio-economic lifelines, the theme was embedded across the Design, Construction, Knowledge, and Skills tracks. Drawing from syllabus modules and course objectives the Studios, lectures, and assignments collectively explored rivers as spatial, environmental, and cultural frameworks, while addressing relevant SDG Goals. Parallely, BFA students explored the idea of flow and movement through kinetic motors in art, translating the dynamism of rivers into interactive and moving installations.



E-Waste Management

As part of the ongoing collaboration between Sushant University and Karo Sambhav under the established MoU, the School of Art & Architecture undertook a structured e-waste management initiative during the semester. This initiative aimed to strengthen awareness, promote responsible consumption, and establish sustainable waste-handling practices within the campus community. The initiative was supported by Karo Sambhav and GIZ, whose guidance strengthened the pedagogical and operational aspects of the exercise.



The activity was integrated into the Community Service course for students of the Master of Urban Planning (1st year). Over the semester, students conducted a comprehensive campus survey to identify e-waste generation points across academic, administrative, and student-use areas. Students also played an active role in sensitizing the university community about the environmental hazards of improper e-waste disposal, its contribution to the expansion of landfills, and its broader implications for urban sustainability.

Following several weeks of collection drives, the students successfully aggregated 800 kgs of e-waste from various campus departments. This collected e-waste was formally handed over to Karo Sambhav for environmentally responsible recycling, ensuring compliance with safe disposal protocols and supporting principles of the circular economy.

Project: Narnaul

This hands-on exposure allowed students to engage directly with real-world planning challenges while understanding the cultural and historical layers that shape Narnaul. This study gains greater relevance as the Haryana government has expressed a strong vision to position Narnaul as a prominent heritage city, focusing on the restoration of Mughal-era structures, revitalization of historic precincts, and development of heritage-based tourism. By aiming to protect cultural assets while improving livability, the state seeks to integrate conservation with sustainable urban development.

A collaborative study of Narnaul is being undertaken by the Department of Planning, SAA, in partnership with ITPI Haryana Regional Chapter and the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Haryana.

As part of this experiential learning initiative, students of the Master of Urban Planning program visited the field on 9th October to closely observe the town's spatial character, interact with local stakeholders, and document its significant heritage monuments.

The study was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Navin Piplani, supported by faculty members Dr. Himadri S. Dey, Prof. Deepak Kumar, Prof. Ria Kapoor, and Prof. Chandni Thadani, ensuring academic depth and interdisciplinary perspective.



WISDOM
WINDOWS

2

Session on Bloom's Taxonomy

The School of Art and Architecture conducted an engaging and insightful session titled "Understanding Bloom's Taxonomy in Art, Architecture and Planning" on 12th August 2025 at Venue E-509. The session was organized under the theme "Bloom Where You Teach" to strengthen academic excellence and deepen faculty understanding of outcome-based education. Its purpose was to help educators meaningfully integrate Bloom's Taxonomy into curriculum design, teaching strategies, and evaluation methods within creative and design-oriented disciplines.

Sushant University
soaring high

SAA

BLOOM WHERE YOU TEACH

School of Art and Architecture presents

Session on Understanding the Bloom's Taxonomy in Art, Architecture & Planning

Speakers:

VENUE: E-509

Time: 2.30 pm

12th Aug 2025

Prof. (Dr.) Sachin Datt
Associate Professor
School of Design

Prof. Keerti Mishra
Associate Professor
School of Art & Architecture

The session was led by two distinguished speakers—Prof. (Dr.) Sachin Datt, Associate Professor at the School of Design, and Prof. Keerti Mishra, Associate Professor at the School of Art & Architecture. Both speakers shared practical insights, discipline-specific examples, and best practices for framing learning objectives and assessments across different cognitive levels. Their interactive discussion encouraged reflection on teaching methodologies and promoted a more structured and student-centric academic approach.



Everyone can Design 2.0

The School of Art & Architecture organized a week-long Faculty Development Program (FDP) titled "Everyone Can Design 2.0 – AI in the Creative Realms" from 21–25 July 2025 in hybrid mode. Building on its earlier edition



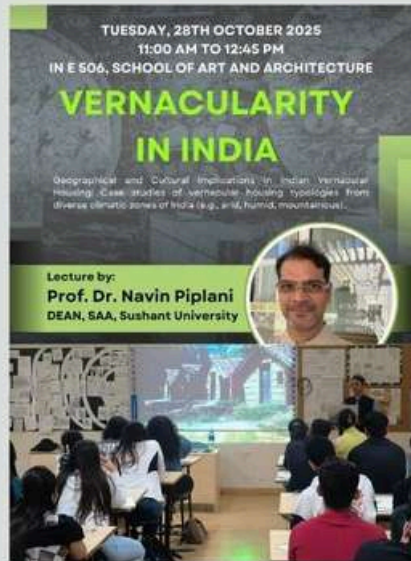
the FDP explored the growing intersection of Artificial Intelligence and creative disciplines, aiming to familiarize faculty with emerging tools, trends, and applications. Expert talks and workshops covered AI-driven creativity, advanced design tools, and applications of AI in art, architecture, media, and literature. Sessions also addressed the integration of AI in higher education, ethical considerations, intellectual property concerns, and responsible use of creative technologies. Cross-disciplinary activities encouraged collaborative exploration of AI-led innovation.



The program effectively deepened understanding of AI's role in creative fields and motivated faculty to incorporate AI-enabled methodologies in teaching, design studios, and research.

Vernacularity in India

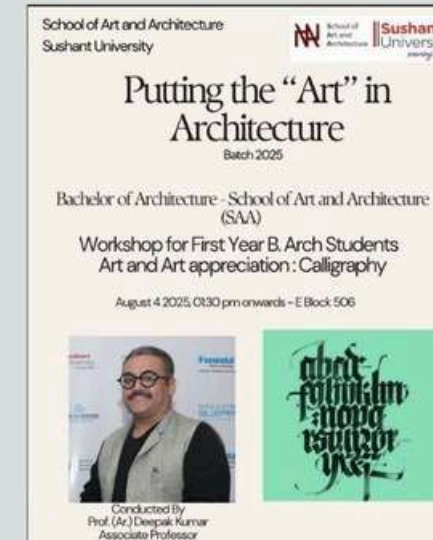
Lecture by Dr. Navin Piplani



The school hosted a lecture on “Vernacularity in India” by Prof. Dr. Navin Piplani, Dean and Director of the School. The session highlighted vernacular architecture as a blend of traditional knowledge, environmental adaptation, and cultural identity. Through case studies from different climatic zones, Prof. Piplani demonstrated how local materials and construction techniques offer sustainable responses to environmental challenges. Students were encouraged to explore the relevance of vernacular principles in contemporary design and climate-resilient development. The lecture concluded with an engaging Q&A and a vote of thanks appreciating Prof. Piplani’s valuable insights.

Putting the “Art” in Architecture

Hands-on session By Prof. Deepak Kumar

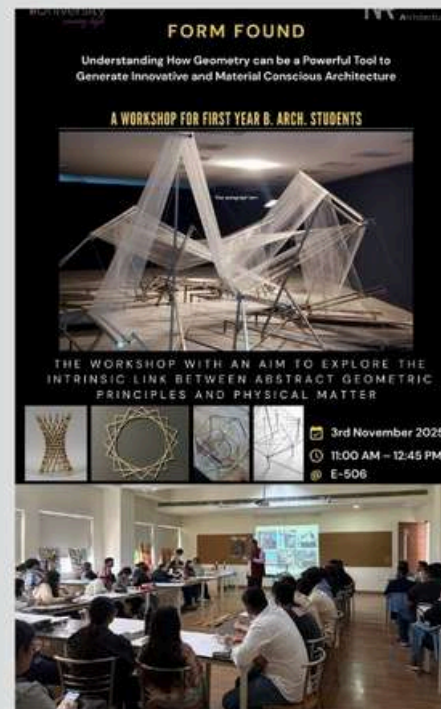


The School of Art and Architecture, Sushant University organized a hands-on Calligraphy Workshop for First Year B.Arch students, led by Prof. (Ar.) Deepak Kumar. The session explored calligraphy as a mindful art form, enhancing students’ understanding of proportion, rhythm, precision, and architectural thinking through expressive handcrafted lettering. By engaging with this slow, mindful process, students discovered that calligraphy is not merely decorative writing but a meditative art form that sharpens perception and expands one’s design vocabulary. The workshop served as a beautiful reminder that architecture, much like lettering, begins with a single line, one that carries intention, emotion, and the potential to shape ideas.

Form Found

Lecture by Prof. Col. Virendra K. Malik

The session enabled first-year architecture students to develop a strong foundational understanding of structural systems and their application in design. Through Prof. Col. Virendra Kr. Malik’s demonstrations and explanations, students learned how global construction methodologies can be thoughtfully adapted to local conditions. They gained clarity on the functioning and uses of various structural forms—including web, shell, folded plate, and pneumatic systems—and explored innovative concepts like tensegrity and reciprocal frame structures. Hands-on model building and live strength-testing further deepened their comprehension, allowing students to directly observe structural behaviour and enhance their practical, conceptual, and analytical skills.



Surveying and Leveling

Guest Lecture by Ms. Inderjeet Kaur

A levelling survey guest lecture was conducted to understand the site’s ground profile using an auto level and levelling staff. The process began with marking a 2 m × 2 m grid, forming a 6 × 3 point layout to ensure systematic elevation measurement. The auto level was carefully set up on stable ground, properly levelled, and aligned for accurate sighting. A reference reading was taken from the adjacent road, assumed as a benchmark at 100.00 m, with a back sight reading of 1.61 m.

Subsequent readings were recorded at each grid point, including Harsh’s point and the final foresight at Zaara’s point. Strict precautions—such as maintaining a vertical staff, eliminating parallax, and avoiding instrument disturbance—ensured accuracy. The survey revealed reduced levels ranging from 100.28 m to 100.46 m, indicating a gentle slope. All points lay above the design level, suggesting minor cutting is required for site grading and planning.



MS Excel for Data Analysis

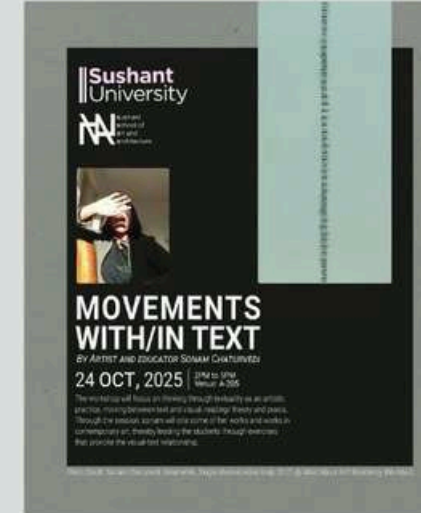
Hands-on Workshop by Prof. Himanshu Sanghani



The Department of Planning, School of Art and Architecture, Sushant University, successfully conducted a hands-on workshop titled "MS Excel for Urban Data Analysis" on 15th October 2025. The session was led by Prof. Himanshu Sanghani, Senior Professor at the School of Art and Architecture. The workshop was organized with the objective of enhancing students' technical proficiency in handling urban data using MS Excel – a vital tool for planners and researchers engaged in evidence-based urban analysis. The session introduced students to fundamental and advanced Excel functionalities,

Workshop on "Moving with/in Text"

By Artist Sonam Chaturvedi



The BFA programme at the School of Art and Architecture conducted a three-hour workshop, Moving with/in Text, led by artist and educator Sonam Chaturvedi. The session introduced students to experimental approaches to text in art, drawing from Chaturvedi's practice on time, intimacy and contemporary life. Through readings, visual references and hands-on exercises, students explored how text can function as form, concept and method within artmaking. The workshop offered a reflective space for interdisciplinary experimentation and enriched students' understanding of textuality in contemporary artistic practice.

E-Waste Disposal

Online session by Karo Sambhav

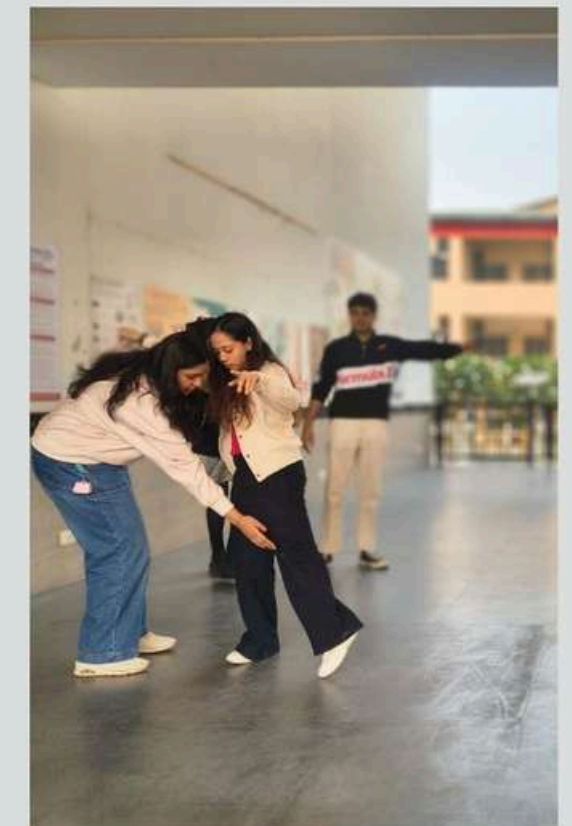
The awareness session conducted by Karo Sambhav on 3rd September was highly impactful, shedding light on the pressing challenges of improper E-Waste disposal and its environmental as well as urban implications. The session emphasized sustainable practices and the need for a circular economy to reduce long-term risks. Building on this learning, students of Sushant University will actively sensitize their peers through on-campus discussions and social media outreach, ensuring the message reaches a wider audience. As a concrete step forward, the students organized an E-Waste collection drive, gathering discarded electronics from the university and its students, which was handed over to Karo Sambhav post-Diwali for safe and responsible recycling.



Workshop on Body and Space

By Pallavi Varma

The Bachelor of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Architecture programmes jointly conducted an experiential workshop titled Body and Space: Exploring Spatial Awareness through Movement as part of the Art Appreciation 3 course for second-year students. The session introduced movement and embodied awareness as tools for understanding space beyond visual or structural definitions. Following an introductory lecture, selected participants engaged in guided movement-based exercises focusing on sensory awareness, balance, proximity and spatial relationships. Through individual and group activities, students explored how the body perceives, shapes and responds to space. The workshop encouraged reflective documentation and expanded conventional approaches to spatial thinking, highlighting the value of embodied experience in artistic and architectural practice.

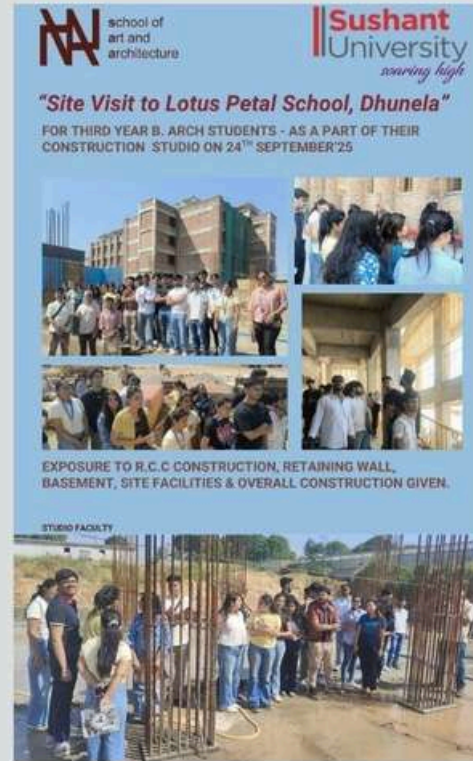


3

**STUDIO
BEYOND WALLS**

Field Visit to Lotus Petal School

As part of the Building Construction Studio, third-year architecture students undertook a field visit to the Lotus Petal School construction site at Dhunela, aimed at strengthening the link between classroom-based theory and real-world construction practices. The visit provided valuable hands-on exposure to RCC structural systems, including beams, columns, slabs, staircases, ramps, and retaining walls, helping students understand how structural elements come together on site. Students closely observed formwork installation, reinforcement detailing, column-beam layouts, expansion joints, and concrete testing methods, gaining clarity on sequencing and execution techniques. Interactions with site professionals and live demonstrations helped demystify complex construction details that are often difficult to visualize through drawings alone. The visit also emphasized the critical importance of quality control, workmanship, and safety practices in construction. Overall, the experience enriched students' practical understanding, reinforced technical concepts, and enhanced their preparedness for future professional architectural practice.



Field Visit to FICA Exhibition

Third Year Painting students of the Bachelor of Fine Arts programme visited the Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art (FICA) to view AgriForum: Acts of Re/Collection, presented as part of FICA's participation in Bergen Assembly 2025. Convened within the broader framework across, with, nearby, the exhibition featured works by artists and collectives including Sanchayan Ghosh, Rashmi Kaleka, Malavika Bhatia, Gram Art Project and others.

Through artist books, narratives and speculative propositions, students engaged with themes of land, labour, ecology and community knowledge. The visit strengthened their understanding of research-led, interdisciplinary practices and highlighted the role of ecological and participatory thinking in contemporary art.

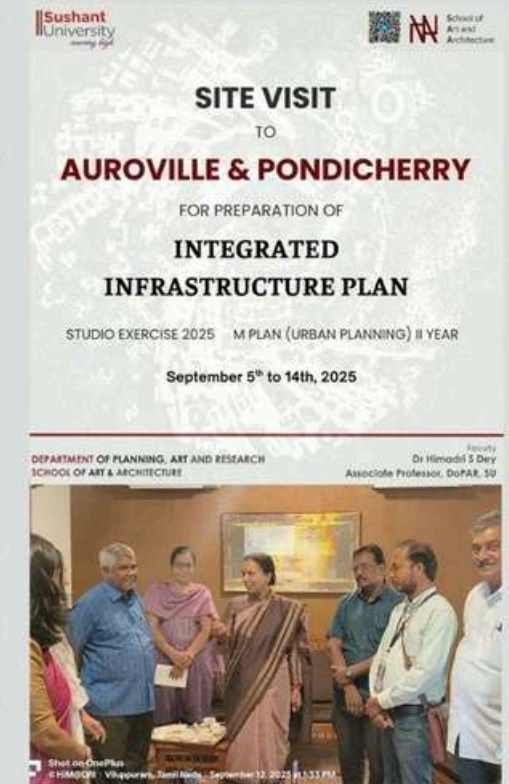


Field Visit to Pondicherry

Students of M.Plan (2nd Year) undertook a week-long field visit to Pondicherry as part of their academic exercise to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR). The visit aimed to critically examine infrastructure gaps related to urban mobility, housing, basic services, and public amenities, grounding planning proposals in on-site realities.

The fieldwork extended well beyond observation. Students actively engaged with diverse stakeholders, visited key government offices, and interacted with senior dignitaries, gaining valuable insights from Dr. Jayanti Ravi, IAS, Secretary, Auroville and Mr. Kulothungan A. IAS, DM, Pondicherry. These interactions enriched their understanding of governance structures, policy frameworks, and on-ground challenges.

The immersive experience laid a strong foundation for strategic proposals and innovative interventions, culminating in a comprehensive urban improvement plan. Special appreciation is extended to Dr. Himadri S. Dey for accompanying the students and providing continuous academic guidance throughout the field visit.



Field Visit to Old Delhi

The Urban Design Studio I & III field visit exposed students to the layered complexities of the Yamuna riverfront's brownfield stretch near the Old Iron Bridge, Red Fort, and Shastri Park. Accompanied by faculty Aparajita Srivastava, Shubhi Khare and Pratibha Malik, students documented ecological conditions, built morphology, land use patterns, mobility networks, and community dynamics.

The visit helped bridge theoretical learning with on-ground realities, offering insights into heritage-sensitive and environmentally fragile zones. Engaging directly with residents and informal activities deepened their understanding of spatial challenges. This experiential exposure will meaningfully inform the studio's upcoming SWOT analysis, visioning, and Local Area Plan proposals.



Field Visit to IHC, New Delhi

A field visit to the Indian Habitat Centre, designed by Joseph Allen Stein (1993), was conducted to explore the principles of scale and proportion in architecture. The complex, which blends modernist ideals with Indian architectural sensibilities, provided a rich setting through its courtyards, terraces, bridges, and layered spatial experiences. The visit aimed to help students understand how scale and proportion shape architectural design and human experience. Students studied human, public, and monumental scales, examining their impact on comfort, hierarchy, movement, and spatial focus, with special attention to transition spaces.

Working in pairs, students selected different spaces such as entry courts, courtyards, circulation bridges, and atriums for detailed analysis. They documented observations through sketches with human figures, recorded key dimensions and proportions, and identified spaces dominated by intimate or monumental scale. The exercise enhanced students' appreciation of scale transitions and highlighted the role of materiality in reinforcing proportion and spatial character.



Field Visit to Jindal Ceramica

A field visit to Jindal Ceramica provided architecture students with an in-depth understanding of the brick-making process, from raw clay preparation to final firing. The visit aimed to familiarize students with the complete lifecycle of brick production, bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world construction practices. Students observed each stage of manufacturing, including clay extraction, molding, drying, and firing, gaining insight into industrial standards and material behavior.

A key highlight was the hands-on brick molding activity, where students shaped raw clay into bricks, helping them understand traditional craftsmanship and material handling. Students were also introduced to various brick bonds, learning their structural logic and visual patterns through demonstrations and sample layouts.

Overall, the visit offered valuable experiential learning, strengthening students' foundational understanding of masonry, construction techniques, and the significance of basic building materials in architectural practice.



Field Visit to Art Gallery

An academic visit to Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi, was organized on 10th October 2025 for 2nd-year B.Arch students as part of the Art and Art Appreciation course. The visit exposed students to contemporary art practices and enhanced their visual literacy and aesthetic understanding. Students explored works by Vasundhara Tewari Broota and Shrimanti Saha, gaining insights into figurative expression, social themes, and interdisciplinary approaches.

By analyzing elements such as color, form, texture, balance, and rhythm, students connected artistic perception with architectural design. Guided by faculty mentors, the visit fostered critical observation, reflective dialogue, and creative thinking, reinforcing the vital relationship between visual arts and architecture.



Field Visit to Qutub Minar

As part of the Building Construction Studio, first-year B.Arch students undertook an academic field visit to the Qutub Minar Complex, Mehrauli, New Delhi, to study stone masonry and arch construction through direct observation. The visit was aligned with the course curriculum and aimed to familiarize students with the basic vocabulary of architectural elements through real-life exposure. Students closely examined the use of stone in masonry walls and arches, understanding their construction techniques, types, and structural significance. The activities included on-site observation of stone construction methods, along with sketching and photographic documentation of arches and architectural details. Overall, the visit provided valuable insights into material behavior and traditional craftsmanship and strengthened foundational knowledge of masonry techniques.



**ACADEMIC
VANGUARD**

4

FACULTY

PhD Awarded

Dr. Pooja Lait Kumar



With immense pride and joy, we celebrate Dr. Pooja Lait Kumar on being awarded her PhD from Jamia Millia Islamia, Central University.

Her thesis, "Exploring & Assessing Spatial & Socio-Ecological Resilience of Urban Communities to Disaster Risks: A Case Study of Gurugram," reflects a remarkable journey of learning, introspection, and resilience—echoing the very essence of her research. We applaud her dedication and commitment to advancing knowledge in disaster resilience and urban planning. Congratulations once again on this outstanding milestone!

ACHIEVEMENTS

Global Spotlight

SAA shines at 21st Asian Congress of Architects, Korea



Sushant University faculty member Ms. Avitesh Vaishnavi Nayak, Assistant Professor at SAA, proudly represented India as an official observer for the ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects at the 21st Asian Congress of Architects held in Incheon, South Korea, from 9–12 September 2025.

As part of a 65-member Indian delegation led by Ar. Tushar Sogani, she engaged with architectural leaders and young professionals from 22 ARCASIA member nations. The congress, themed "A Better Tomorrow," focused on sustainability, technological innovation, and collaborative design futures.

Ms. Avitesh actively contributed to youth-oriented forums addressing climate-responsive design, digital fabrication, and affordable housing. Her participation brought valuable insights that she aims to integrate into Sushant University's curriculum and research, further strengthening its global outlook.

FACULTY

RESEARCH



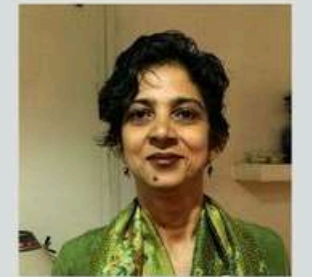
Prof. (Dr.) Navin Piplani has served as Keynote Speaker at the Maati Convention in Ahmedabad on the theme "Heritage Undiscovered," emphasizing the strategic role of cultural landscapes in sustainable urban futures. He was also a panelist at the ITRHD Conference focusing on Buddhist Heritage, contributing to discourse on heritage-led regional development. Additionally, he chaired a technical session at ICAAUS under the theme "Economic, Resilient and Heritage-led Growth," reflecting his leadership in heritage planning and resilient urbanism.



Prof. (Dr.) Suruchi Modi has engaged in research through her articles and a book chapter addressing themes such as urban neighbourhoods, net-zero energy strategies for low-rise housing, gendered spaces and women's mobility patterns, and vernacular housing in rural settlements. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals including IIA, ITPI, and Scopus-indexed journals such as The Scientific Temper. She has also authored and co-authored multiple papers presented at ICAAUS 2025 and moderated a session at the conference.



Prof. (Dr.) Tejwant Singh Brar has contributed to reputed peer-reviewed journals and co-authored multiple papers presented at ICAAUS on daylighting simulation tools in the Indian residential context, energy-neutral housing codes and standards, and Urban Building Energy Modeling for Positive Energy Neighbourhood development. He also served as Session Chair at ICAAUS 2025, demonstrating academic leadership in sustainable built environment research.



Prof. A. Bhardwaj has contributed to architecture pedagogy and urban studies focusing on the vulnerable stakeholder specifically gender equity and child friendly spaces. She co-presented papers at the Bricks Conference 2025 and ICAAUS 2025 titled 'A City For The Child – Discourse for Sustainable Development' and 'Inclusive City for Children: A Road Map' for which she was awarded best paper presented in that category. She has co-authored a research publication 'Casting Wisdom: Traditionally Inspired Architectural Expressions by Women Architects from Across India' in Journal of Architectural Designing, Vol 07 Issue 01, 2025. With three decades of practice and teaching, she promotes community advocacy through public participative endeavors.



Prof. (Dr.) Himadri Shekhar Dey is an interdisciplinary academic with 28 peer-reviewed publications across urban studies, law, human rights, sustainability, management, finance, and health sciences. His research covers gender justice, constitutional and criminal law, AI-driven workforce transformation, sustainable development, and public health. He actively contributes to academic capacity building as an FDP resource person and through training in sustainable cooling and heat mitigation. At Sushant University, he supports institutional development via MDP initiatives, serves as IQAC Member Secretary, and provides research leadership as mentor, guide, and conference session chair.



Prof. Shruti Hippalgaonkar's research contribution focuses on understanding the UNESCO Global Geopark framework and its applicability in the Indian context. She is currently engaged in assessing Indian geosites based on UNESCO guidelines. Her work includes presenting papers at international conferences, developing a conceptual framework for Indian geosites, and conducting extensive literature studies to analyze and evaluate India's potential geosites. She presented and published paper in Design 2030 international conference organised by KR Mangalam, Gurugram.

FACULTY

RESEARCH



Prof. Deepak Kumar has made significant contributions to research through applied and inclusive studies that bridge theory and practice. He has coauthored multiple research papers presented at ICAOUS 2025, reflecting his engagement with contemporary architectural and urban discourse. His work focuses on heritage led urban regeneration in Lucknow, critically evaluating policy driven cultural economies for inclusive growth, and explores the semiotics of designed spaces, highlighting the social, cultural, and spatial dimensions of the built environment.



Prof. Sehba Saleem's research links planning frameworks with social and environmental outcomes, focusing on sustainable urbanisation of towns, ecologically sensitive rural development, and coastal disaster rehabilitation. She has presented papers at the International Multidisciplinary Conference (Design2030) at K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, and the International Conference on Religious Architecture at NIT Patna on topics such as the role of shrines in shaping spiritual cities and place markers integrating Sufism, social life, and settlement patterns, including Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah. She also serves as a reviewer for Detritus Journal.



Prof. Keerti Mishra's research centers on Universal Design, Circular Economy, Design Education, Design Thinking, and convivial urban spaces. Her work explores inclusive strategies that promote equitable access and social participation while integrating sustainability, lifecycle thinking, and regenerative practices in the built environment. She advocates experiential and critical learning in design education, bridging theory and practice to advance socially responsive, ecologically conscious, and human-centered urban development.



Prof. (Dr.) Vinay Patel as a researcher presented a research paper at a 2025 webinar held at Raja Bhabhut Singh Government College in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh title is "Achieving Self-Sufficiency through Swadeshi: Challenges and Opportunities" He has also published one research paper title is "Visual Politics of Hijri Calendar on Commemorative Postage Stamps" his books has been published as a chapter in an edited book written by another author title is "International Art finds Expression on Indian Commemorative Postage Stamps"



Prof. (Dr.) Purva Mujumdar contributes to research in the Architecture-Engineering-Construction (AEC) domain through practice-oriented studies. She presented two papers at the ICBEM Conference 2025 at SPA Bhopal on assessing exposed concrete in residential buildings and mitigating radon exposure in construction to reduce occupational health risks. She has also co-authored papers in the Architecture, Engineering and Science Journal on building envelope retrofitting strategies for energy efficiency in healthcare architecture. Her work focuses on energy-efficient design, sustainable materials, construction methodologies, high-rise strategies, and innovation in building systems.



Prof. Savar Suri's research engages critically with India's layered urban heritage. He has recently been published in the Council of Architecture's publication: Architecture Time Space and People and also has received multiple certificates of excellence, for reviewing papers from IES College of Architecture, Mumbai and international publishers such as Routledge and Taylor & Francis in addition to co authoring papers concurrently featured on three Elsevier - SSRN top ten download lists.

FACULTY

RESEARCH



Prof. Ria Kapoor has contributed to urban planning research through applied and inclusive studies. She presented a paper at the ICBE Conference at SPA Bhopal on waste management practices of Bulk Waste Generators in Gurugram. She also co-authored multiple papers presented at ICAAUS 2025, focusing on inclusion of the informal sector in Banjara Market, development of a sustainable neighbourhood framework, and assessment of child-friendliness in Gurugram's neighbourhoods. Her work emphasizes sustainability, inclusivity, and evidence-based planning approaches.



Prof. Chandni Thadani presented two research papers at national platforms in 2025, highlighting innovative approaches in architectural pedagogy. At the SIDE Symposium 2025, IIT Delhi, she presented a sustainability-focused pedagogical framework integrating design education with policy and legislative understanding, earning the Distinguished Paper Award. At the MAATI Convention 2025, she presented a community-centred heritage elective that redefines conservation beyond monuments, emphasising lived heritage, stakeholder engagement, and future-oriented conservation planning.



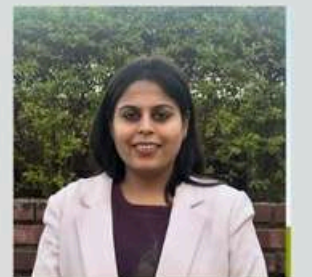
Prof. Shubhi Khare is an Urban Designer, and Architect, she contributes to architectural education through teaching, studio coordination, and international conferences. She guides M.Arch Urban Design students in preparing Local Area Plans and teaches B.Arch History of Architecture with a focus on vernacular traditions and sustainability through immersive learning. She presented the paper Climate Responsive Inspired Public Spaces: Enhancing Social Equity in Growing Cities at ICAAUS 2025 and moderated sessions. She has also submitted co-authored papers on temple squares, pilgrim cities, and challenges of foot-over bridges to the Vastu Kala Academy conference.



Prof. Naina Grover's research explores the integration of Vaastu principles—particularly the Mandala framework—into contemporary urban master planning presented in Conference . I presented my work at an international conference ICAAUS'25, highlighting how climate-responsive, mandala-inspired public spaces can enhance social equity in rapidly growing cities. The study bridges traditional wisdom with modern planning tools, positioning Vaastu-based urban design as a relevant and emerging approach in sustainable and inclusive city development.



Prof. Prerana Hazarika is an architect and urban planner with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Dehradun Institute of Technology and a gold medal in Urban and Regional Planning from the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur. Her research focuses on spatial analysis and disaster mitigation, exploring data-driven approaches to resilient planning. She recently authored a book chapter titled "Effective Communication in Remote Work Environments – Lessons Learnt During the Pandemic," published by Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group) in January 2025.



Prof. Manisha Gaba is an architect and Urban Planner, her research work primarily focusses on transit-oriented development and Sustainability. She has authored and co-authored 13 papers in various national and international conferences. She has completed Faculty development programs, "Urban Systems and Design Research Methodologies : Towards a Sustainable Environment" of COA-TRC and Residential training on "Heat-proof Cities: Pathways to Sustainable Cooling and Heat Mitigation" from Centre for Science and Environment, AAETI, Nimli.

5

SYNERGY
SESSIONS

SAA Diwali Celebration

The SAA team came together to celebrate Diwali in an atmosphere filled with warmth, positivity, and collective joy, reflecting the true spirit of the festival. The celebration commenced with a serene pooja, offering a moment of calm, gratitude, and reflection, and setting a harmonious tone for the day. This was followed by a delightful brunch, where colleagues gathered informally to share conversations, laughter, and festive cheer beyond the usual academic environment.

The celebrations grew more vibrant with engaging activities such as tambola and musical chairs, which infused the gathering with energy, laughter, and a sense of friendly competition. These moments of play created opportunities for colleagues to connect on a personal level, strengthening mutual understanding and camaraderie.

Overall, the Diwali celebration served as a meaningful pause from routine, reinforcing team bonding and showcasing the vibrant, inclusive, and collaborative culture that defines SAA as a close-knit academic community.



Dress to De-stress



The SAA team came together to celebrate Diwali with warmth, positivity, and shared festive spirit. The event began with a serene pooja, bringing everyone together in prayer and reflection, followed by a delightful brunch that set a cheerful tone for the day.

Sports Day @ SAA

Colleagues enjoyed meaningful conversations and the joy of spending time beyond academic routines. The celebrations continued with lively games such as passing the parcel, tambola and musical chairs, filling the space with laughter and friendly competition. The gathering beautifully strengthened team bonding and highlighted the vibrant, collaborative culture that defines SAA. Faculty also enjoyed doing Zumba along with light banter and a breather from academics.




SYNERGY SESSION

SYNERGY SESSION



**Join us
for
advancing
design.**

 <https://sushantuniversity.edu.in>