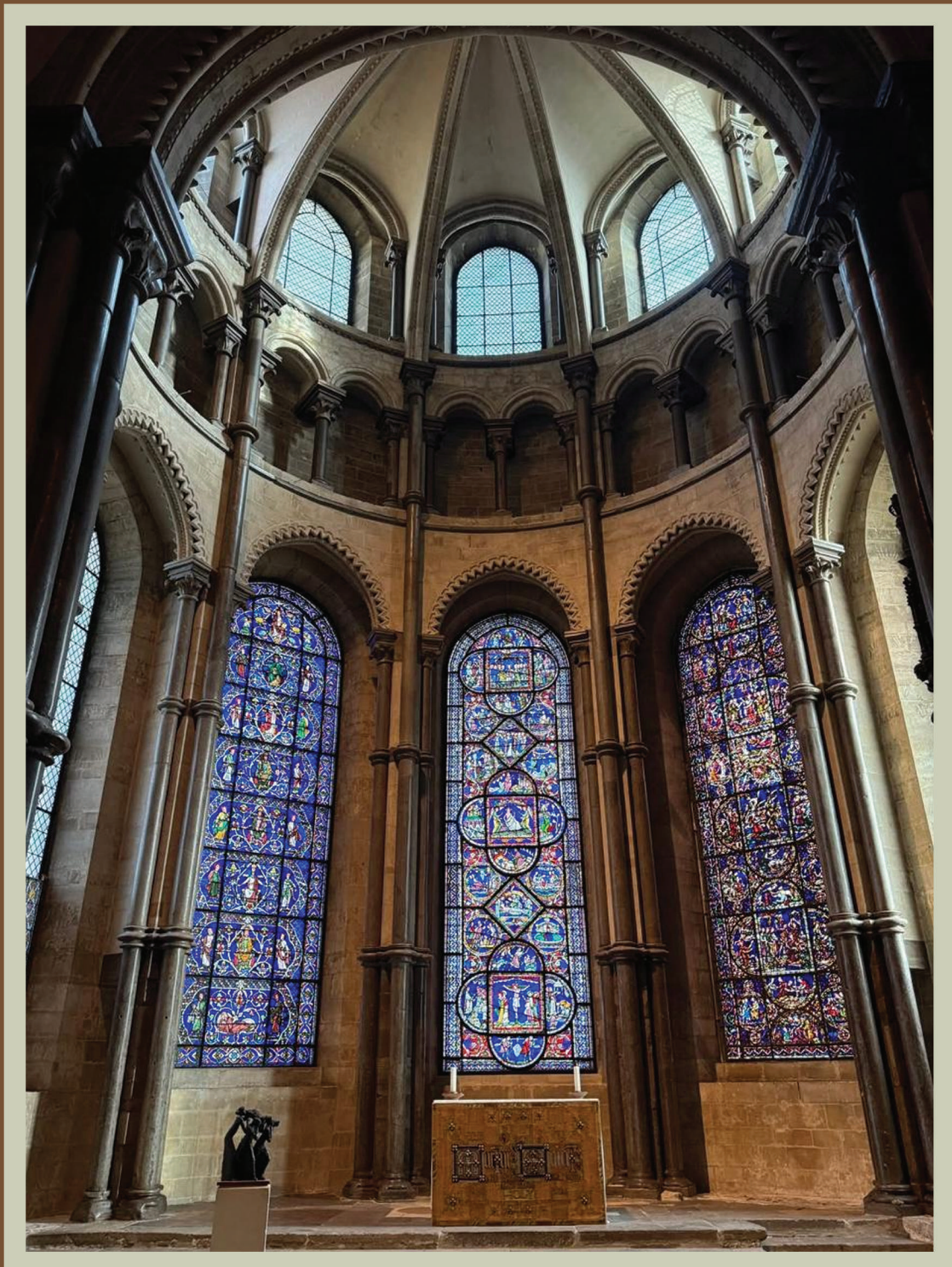


Kalinga Kanvas

The Timeless legacy of
Excellence and Splendour



THE **editorial** Team



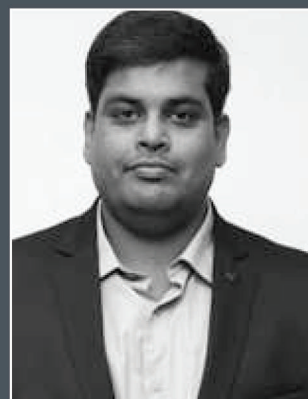
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Chairperson's Message
2. Chief Editor's Message
3. Forward
4. In loving memory of Prof. (Dr.) K. Mohan
5. Chapter Event's
6. The Scholar's Choice

(A) **From Qualification to Competence :
Academic Experience, Policy Promise, and
the Reality of Architectural Education**

Dr. Deepashree Choudhury

Professor and Head, Interior Design, Budha Group of Institutions,
Karnal, Haryana, India

(B) **Architecture and the Sustainable Development Goals :
An Analytical Overview**

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Ar Debasis Das**

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7. I Walk I Look I See I Stop I Photograph

London Diaries :
by **Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty**

8. Architect's Work

125 Bedded Sum Ultimate Annex Corporate Hospital, Bhubaneswar
Architect : **Soumyajit Mishra**

Driems University
Architect : **Srinibash Patra**

RBI, Bhubaneswar
Architect : **Rohit Sharama**

Mohanty's Residence
Architect : **Srinibash Patra**

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty
Chairperson,
The IIA Odisha Chapter

It gives me immense pride and pleasure to present this volume of Kalinga Kanvas, a collective expression of creativity, scholarship and professional excellence nurtured under the aegis of The IIA Odisha Chapter. This edition beautifully curates diverse voices and thoughtful narratives that represent the evolving architectural discourse of our region.

This volume captures the spirit of design through its varied contents. The featured project showcases innovative spatial thinking and contextual sensitivity reminding us of architecture's responsibility towards society and environment. The thematic explorations invite us to reflect on emerging trends and contemporary challenges shaping our built environment. Scholarly articles add depth by examining research-driven insights, reinforcing the importance of knowledge-based practice. The creative sections celebrate artistic interpretations, demonstrating how imagination and technique harmoniously coexist in architectural expression. Together, these contributions form a vibrant tapestry of ideas, perspectives and aspirations.

Beyond the pages of this publication, our Chapter has witnessed a year filled with meaningful engagements. From professional development programs and student outreach initiatives to design competitions and knowledge seminars, each event strengthened our collective commitment to excellence. Our workshops fostered technical advancement; our panel discussions encouraged critical dialogue; and our collaborative gatherings reinforced the camaraderie that defines our fraternity. Each milestone reflects not only participation but passion. Hence, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of every member of our Chapter. It is their enthusiasm,

discipline and collaborative spirit that transform plans into programs and ideas into impactful initiatives. The seamless coordination of our executive committee, the creative energy of our young architects, and the guidance of our senior members together uphold the legacy and vision of the Institute.

As Chairperson, I, Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty, extend my heartfelt appreciation to the editorial team, contributors, sponsors and every individual who has contributed their time and talent to this endeavor. This publication is not merely a compilation of works; it is a testament to shared purpose and professional unity. May we continue to design responsibly, think critically, and serve society with integrity and imagination. Let this volume inspire us to strive further, dream bigger, and build better-together.

Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty
Chairperson,
The IIA Odisha Chapter

CHIEF EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Prof. Dr. Bharati Mahapatra
Chief Editor, Kalinga Kanvas

We express our profound gratitude, affection, and respect to Prof. K. Mohan, who has left an indelible mark on all of us fortunate enough to have known and learned from him. This edition of Kalinga Kanvas is dedicated to his memory, honouring a remarkable academician, a thoughtful intellectual, and above all, a compassionate human being. His teachings and philosophy of life will continue to guide the academic community.

As life moves forward, this issue also captures moments of celebration and collective activities. We are pleased to present excerpts from the events of the IIA Odisha Chapter, including the Annual Design Carnival. This year's carnival was particularly distinctive, as it unfolded in the truest spirit of public engagement, on the **STREETS**, the most vibrant and enduring of spaces in the public realm. The event brought architecture closer to people and reaffirmed the importance of public spaces as platforms for dialogue, creativity, and shared experiences.

Over time, Kalinga Kanvas has been evolving as a platform that showcases diverse projects, reflects on emerging ideas, and facilitates the exchange of experiences across varied landscapes and cultures. The magazine has brought together multiple perspectives on architectural education and practice, particularly in response to the rapidly changing contexts of our time. We hope that Kalinga Kanvas will continue to grow into a rich literary medium of expression, bridging the academia and professional practice, while promoting thoughtful discourse, creativity, and critical reflection within the architectural community.

Prof. Dr. Bharati Mahapatra
Chief Editor, Kalinga Kanvas



Dr. Prof. Deepashree Choudhury
Editor, Kalinga Kanvas

"Some legacies are not etched in stone or steel, but live quietly in the minds they shape and the values they leave behind."

Every edition of Kalinga Kanvas is an attempt to engage with architecture beyond the tangible; through people, ideas, values, and the legacies that quietly shape our profession. This edition carries a deeply personal resonance for me, and for the Orissa Chapter of the Indian Institute of Architects, as it is dedicated to the memory of Prof. K. Mohan; a teacher, mentor, and academic leader whose presence continues to guide us even in absence. His journey reflected a rare balance of scholarship and service. As Director of the GITAM School of Architecture, Visakhapatnam, from December 2015 to March 2023, he provided thoughtful leadership during a critical phase of growth. His excellence as an educator was recognised with the GITAM Best Teacher Award in 2015, and more recently through the K. B. Mahapatro Award at the Design Carnival 2025; honours that only partially capture the depth of his influence. His calm conviction, intellectual clarity, and generosity of spirit shaped not only institutions but also the confidence and conscience of countless students and colleagues. He taught with humility, led with integrity, and reminded us' often through quiet actions rather than words, that architecture is ultimately a social and ethical responsibility. His work across sustainable architecture, environmental design, disaster resilience, and climate responsiveness stood firmly on the belief that architecture must serve society with sensitivity and responsibility.

Mohan Sir was never defined merely by positions held or accolades received. To those of us who had the privilege of knowing him closely, he was a steady source of encouragement, clarity, and ethical grounding. He believed deeply in education as a transformative force and in architecture as a socially responsible act, but his true legacy lives in people.

It is therefore fitting that this edition reflects concerns that were close to his heart. The scholarly contributions engage critically with architecture's role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, question the gap between academic qualification and real competence in architectural education, and reimagine the teacher's role as an empathetic mentor and ally in an evolving, technology-driven classroom. Together, these reflections reaffirm values of responsibility, inclusivity, and human connection that Mohan Sir consistently championed.

The projects featured in this edition further echo this ethos. From the planning of an emerging university campus that prioritises learning environments and contextual responsiveness, to a climate-sensitive residential project and a thoughtfully conceived interior design work, each demonstrates architecture as a careful negotiation between function, environment, and human experience; principles that Mohan Sir upheld throughout his academic and professional journey.

As Kalinga Kanvas continues its larger pursuit of integrating Odisha's splendid legacy with contemporary innovation, we humbly invoke the blessings of Lord Jagannath, the eternal symbol of continuity, compassion, and collective conscience. May His grace guide our thoughts, our work, and our responsibility toward society.

This edition is offered as a quiet tribute; one rooted in remembrance, gratitude, and resolve. While Mohan Sir may no longer walk beside us, his values remain deeply embedded in our classrooms, our practices, and our collective professional spirit. In honouring his memory, we reaffirm our commitment to build with sensitivity, to teach with sincerity, and to lead with humility. "In remembering him, we do not look back in loss, but forward with the responsibility to live the values he entrusted to us."

Dr. Deepashree Choudhury

Editor, Kalinga Kanvas.

Professor and Head, Design, Budha Group of Institutions, Karnal, India

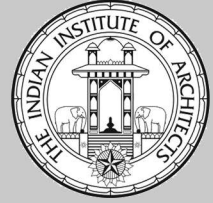
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Odisha Chapter

—
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**MOMENTS
BECOME
MEMORIES
WE HOLD IN
OUR HEARTS
FOREVER.**
—
—

Never knew this special day would become the day I bid you a final goodbye...

Your humour, your wit - even in the smallest of interactions - will remain etched in memory forever.

No one can ever take your place. Stay blessed wherever you are, and continue to bless us from afar.

You will be missed deeply, Sir.

Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty
Chairperson,
The IIA Odisha Chapter



In loving memory of Prof. (Dr.) K. Mohan

With profound respect and gratitude, we remember Prof. (Dr.) K. Mohan - an architect, teacher, researcher, mentor, and institution builder whose life was devoted to the advancement of architecture and the nurturing of generations of students.

Born on 2nd February 1961, Dr. Mohan's journey in architecture began with distinction. A graduate of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, he went on to complete his Master's at Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, and later earned his Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee as an MHRD Fellow at the Centre of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management. His doctoral research on pedestrian-level wind environments around tall buildings reflected his lifelong commitment to understanding the delicate relationship between the built form and natural forces. A scholar of rare depth, he enriched his academic foundation with advanced diplomas in environmental studies, environmental economics, sustainable management, disaster management, and urban planning - always staying ahead of the evolving discourse on sustainability and resilience. As an educator, Prof. Mohan was present at the very inception of the Architecture program at Andhra University and went on to serve in pivotal roles across several esteemed institutions. From shaping young minds as a Lecturer and Professor to leading institutions as Principal and Director, his leadership was marked by vision, integrity, and quiet determination. At the Gitam School of Architecture, Gitam University, he served as Senior Professor and later as Director, guiding the school with wisdom and grace. His academic influence extended far beyond the classroom. He was a Visiting Professor at multiple universities across India, sharing his expertise in sustainable architecture, climatology, landscape design, disaster-resistant architecture, and tall building studies. His lectures were known not merely for their technical depth but for their philosophical insight - seamlessly connecting science, environment, aesthetics, and human well-being. An internationally recognized researcher, Dr. Mohan presented and published extensively on wind engineering, disaster mitigation, sustainable landscaping, and green technologies for tall buildings. His collaborative research at the University of Auckland stands as a testament to his global academic engagement. From conferences in India to global platforms, his work consistently addressed one core concern: how architecture can protect, heal, and harmonize with nature.

He was also a practicing architect of substance and sensitivity. Through "Habitat" Architects and Engineers in Visakhapatnam, he designed residences, institutions, and community spaces that reflected thoughtful planning and environmental responsiveness. His work on community infrastructure under the Overseas Development Agency (U.K.) demonstrated his commitment to socially responsible design.

A recipient of the GITAM University Best Teacher Award (2015) and winner of the First Prize in an open housing competition at Yendada, he wore his achievements lightly. For him, true success lay in the accomplishments of his students and the institutions he helped build.

Beyond his titles and accolades, Prof. Mohan will be remembered for his humility, intellectual generosity, disciplined scholarship, and unwavering dedication to architectural education. He believed architecture was not merely about buildings - it was about responsibility: to climate, to community, and to future generations.

His life leaves behind not just a body of research or a list of accomplishments, but a legacy of minds shaped, institutions strengthened, and values quietly instilled.

He will remain, in the hearts of his students and colleagues, a guiding force - steadfast as the structures he studied, and nurturing as the landscapes he cherished.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his vision continue to inspire.

It was indeed a day of coincidence that call for a memorable last day of his departure from Sri Sri University which we never new would be last day of our meet .He was a kind of jovial and devine soul,a great teacher and mentor too to be remembered in our heart for ever.

• **Ar Biswaranjan Nayak**

One day he told Nrusingha - Fan ta tike bandh kori diyo. And Nrusingha nonchalantly went out of the room without doing the needful. Mohan was pretty cheesed off by this. After five minutes Nrusingha comes back with a bottle of FANTA.

• **Ar Ratnamala Misra**

Farewell to Mohan sir. It was a privilege to be his student . He will be missed . Rest in eternal peace sir ??

• **Ar Swati Joshi**

Its so heartbreaking to hear the news. Mohan sir was a true Guru in all sense. He had inspired so many of us in his own brilliant ways.

His subtle humor,his humble nature and his ever shinning personality will be deeply missed.His values will stay with us forever and always.

May his soul rest in peace.

• **Ar Parthiba Chakraborty**

Deeply saddened by the loss of a great gentleman and inspiring teacher... may his soul rest in peace.

• **Ar Dhillon Kar**

Mohan sir was a cherished teacher who touched my life in each stage. The subjects he taught me during my Barch degree are still so fresh in my memory. He inspired me to do my masters abroad and his recommendation letter helped me to make my dreams into reality. He was a part of my DSC for my Phd too. As a teacher I constantly referred to his notes and presentations. He was a wonderful mentor and has inspired many others like me to shape our career. I miss the stories and long conversations we had.

Prayers to lord Jagannath to give enough strength to his family members to overcome this situation.May his departed soul attain moksha and find eternal peace. A loss to many of us.. a great human being and a fabulous teacher,will miss you sir !

• **Ar Suvaj Mohanty**

With heavy hearts we remember and honour our beloved Mohan sir, who shaped our lives in ways words can barely express. He was not just a teacher to us; but also a guide, a mentor and a quiet source of strength for all of us.

What made him exceptional was not just his knowledge, but his humility. As we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his life that has made a difference and that he will continue to live on through the values he instilled in us.

To his family, we offer our deepest condolences. The loss is shared by every of his student who had the privilege of knowing him.

• **Ar. Smaranika Satpathy**

getting to know him in 1995 to this year 2025, it's been 30 years in these years we've seen life closely, experienced highs and lows and came across different kinds of people. none like him, he was the only one who never showed even an iota of bias or difference in attitude towards a weak student or a highly successful one (my academic record was bottom level as you all know); he didn't say harsh words but still had a humorous, sarcastic hint when he offered criticism, he never indulged in gossip. he could spend hours talking about any of the topics in design but didn't waste time on talking about petty things he had simple tastes and lifestyle. never made us feel he has lavish or unnecessary greed. was as happy and content to ride a scooter, even though he could have demanded chauffeur driven car, he got so involved, spent so much time and effort in mundane things like student events, programs, all those things which one would feel, why to get involved, why take the headache or responsibility - who will notice or appreciate - it didn't matter to him. he knew someone has to do the difficult else it won't happen. he didn't believe in half hearted efforts.

he'll remain forever a guiding light, an inspiration. such people are rare and god has stopped sending them long time ago. we are lucky to have been with him, we are blessed to have his love and affection. he didn't want ever, anything in return.

can't get over the feeling of helplessness and sorrow. till the end he was teaching, one institution after another. looking after and moulding the lives of his students. he didn't get to enjoy the leisure of retirement, gone too soon!

• **Ar. Ayaskant Mohanty**

Dr. K. Mohan was a man with a child-like heart and a sharp brain. After completing his B.Arch. from Andhra University , Visakhapatnam he did his masters from IIT, KHARAGPUR and later did his Ph.D from IIT, ROORKEE.

He started his teaching career from his own alma mater Andhra University , Visakhapatnam and after a few years he joined PMCA . After the sad demise of Ar. Saurashtra Das(The first principal of PMCA) he became the principal till he left for KITS,Ramtek, Nagpur. He was a favorite of our Director Ar K B Mohapatra and again he joined back PMCA in 2004.

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During his second tenure in PMCA, post graduation program started in the institute. To continue his academic excellence he joined PhD program at IIT, ROORKEE in 2007 and after completion he joined as the first HOD of Architecture at GEETAM UNIVERSITY, VISHAKHAPATNAM. He went on to become the Director of School of Architecture at GEETAM and served in the position till his retirement.

The last phase of his teaching was in the Department of Architecture,Sri Sri University, Cuttack.

He had been awarded with the Best Teacher Award and K B Mohapatra Memorial Award by IIA Odisha chapter for his outstanding academic contribution to architecture. Personally he was very humble and humorous. His sudden demise left a huge void among his students and colleagues.

We really missed a brilliant teacher and a very friendly person.

- **Ar. Maitreyee Mishra**

Deeply saddened by the demise of Dr.K. Mohan Sir. A great mentor and an inspiring human being. May his soul rest in peace. Om Shanti

- **Ar Bikas Patra**

Chapter Events

Design Carnival & Build Expo 14th to 16th November 2025

The Indian Institute of Architects (IIA), Odisha Chapter successfully hosted its flagship annual event, the **Design Carnival & Build Expo 2025**, in the capital city of Bhubaneswar from 14th to 16th November 2025. Spanning three days, the event delved into the convergence of artificial intelligence and architectural design under the theme “AI – Architecture Intelligence,” highlighting how emerging technologies can transform design methodologies and shape the future of architecture.



The event was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Mr. Manoj Ahuja was graced by distinguished senior members of the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) and the Council of Architecture (COA).

The inaugural evening marked the grand launch of Build Expo 2025, showcasing state-of-the-art innovations and products from leading names in the building and construction sector. A major highlight of the evening was a Master Class by renowned architect Nuru Karim, who explored the changing dynamics of architecture, urbanism, and computational design in the era of artificial intelligence.

The second day featured a vibrant lineup of interactive student competitions and hands-on workshops designed to encourage creativity and interdisciplinary collaboration among architecture students from across Odisha. A special Master Session by Sahil Tanveer provided valuable perspectives on merging artificial intelligence with speculative design and urban planning, emphasizing AI's role as a creative partner in envisioning the future of urban environments.



The evening featured a panel discussion titled “Synergy in Architecture: Dialogue between the COA, IIA, Academia, and Practicing Architects,” which facilitated meaningful conversations on fostering collaboration across various sectors of the architectural community to achieve a more integrated and sustainable future. The day concluded with student cultural performances

followed by a fellowship dinner, celebrating the shared spirit of camaraderie and collaboration within the profession. The concluding day featured the much-awaited Street Carnival, inaugurated by BMC Commissioner Chanchal Rana at Janpath in collaboration with the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). This public-facing celebration brought together vibrant art installations, architectural exhibits, and live performances, offering a dynamic

showcase of the creative spirit of local architects and students. The audience rose to their feet in a standing ovation during the valediction ceremony which included many awards.

AR. Otto Koenigsberger Lifetime Achievement Award – 2025 was conferred upon Ar. Soumyendu Shankar Ray, in recognition of his lifetime dedication, leadership, and lasting



impact on the architectural profession, who got deeply moved at the moment of honour filled with emotion and gratitude. **AR. K. B. Mohapatra Award – 2025** was conferred upon Ar. Raj Kunwar Nayak, honouring her dedicated service and



valuable contributions to teaching and enduring legacy in the Smart City planning over all these years. **AR. Adikanda Biswal Legendary Award – 2025** was proudly presented to Prof. Dr. Bharati Mohapatra in recognition of her exemplary professional journey in the field of teaching. **Ar.Srikant Paikray award for the best architect of the year 2025** was bestowed upon Ar. Srinibas Patra of Rhythm architects. For a moment, emotions seemed to take over as the recognition of years of dedication, creativity and perseverance resonated with him. **Ar SAURASHTRA DAS YOUNG ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR AWARD LOL– 2025** Was bestowed upon Ms. P. Dheenidhi of Sri Sri University, for best thesis and in recognition of her promise, innovation and academic excellence. The ceremony then moved on to the much-anticipated Category of the Design Carnival Awards. The award for the **best project in the Residential category** because of its seamless integration of functionality was once again conferred upon Ar. Srinibas Patra. **The Best Project – Commercial / Institutional** was conferred upon Ar. Soumyajit Mishra of Konzept Archidesign Consultants whose work stood out for its thoughtful planning and innovative design making it a deserving winner in the category. The ceremony concluded with the **Best Project in the Interior Category** being bestowed upon Ar. Rohit Sharma whose work reflects not only technical mastery but also a deep sensitivity towards space, people and the built environment, making this recognition truly well-deserved.



Ar Smaranika Satpathy
Co-editor
Kalinga canvas



Street Carnival

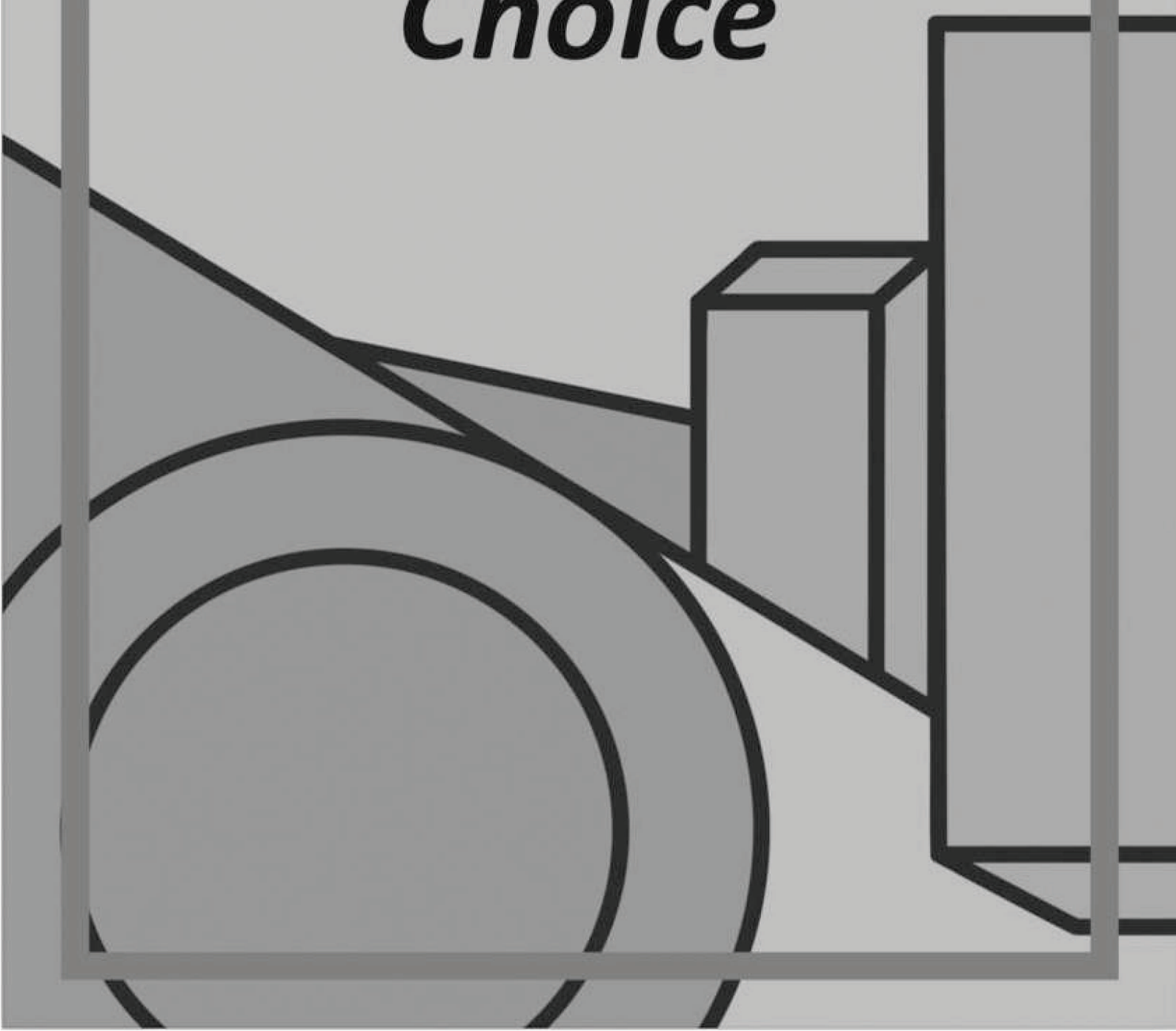




Street Carnival



***The
Scholar's
Choice***



From Qualification to Competence : Academic Experience, Policy Promise, and the Reality of Architectural Education

Dr. Deepashree Choudhury

Professor and Head, Interior Design, Budha Group of Institutions,
Karnal, Haryana, India

Academic experience is not shaped merely by qualifications held or years spent in service, but by the ecosystems within which academicians are allowed to grow. As architectural educators, we often prepare students for professional realities while quietly negotiating our own, precarity, exclusion, and uneven access to opportunity. This article emerges from that silence. It situates the lived experience of architecture academicians within the promises of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, questioning whether competence can truly flourish without systemic support. The National Education Policy 2020 envisions higher education institutions as spaces of experiential learning, academic autonomy, research integration, and innovation (Sarkar et al., 2025). Architecture, as a discipline grounded in practice, materiality, and social engagement, should ideally exemplify this vision. Yet, across many architecture colleges' particularly in the private sector, the everyday academic experience reveals a widening gap between policy intent and institutional reality and for a large section of architecture academicians in India, lived academic reality remains misaligned with national policy aspirations.

This article examines that disconnect by situating the everyday experiences of architecture educators within the frameworks of India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, NAAC, and NIRF, and asks a fundamental question: Can competence truly flourish where systemic support is absent?

Understanding the Policy Landscape in Higher Education in India

To appreciate the gap between policy intent and institutional reality, it is essential to briefly understand the key policy instruments shaping higher education in India. Given the scope of this article, only a select few frameworks that have a significant and direct influence on architectural education are outlined below:

- NEP 2020 (National Education Policy): India's overarching education reform framework, which emphasises experiential learning, multidisciplinary education, research integration, faculty autonomy, and inclusivity.
-

- NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council): The body responsible for accrediting higher education institutions, focusing on teaching quality, faculty stability, institutional culture, and research environment.
- NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework): A ranking system that evaluates institutions based on parameters such as research output, citations, funding, teaching resources, and perception.
- SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds): A national MOOC platform intended to democratise access to high-quality education across institutions.

While these frameworks are progressive in intent, their implementation reveals deep structural asymmetries, particularly for architecture colleges outside the elite, centrally funded ecosystem.

Experiential Learning and the Graduate Faculty Paradox

“

Architecture cannot be taught only through drawings and theories; without field exposure, experiential learning remains a policy promise rather than a classroom reality.”

Many published sources report that in India, in recent years, architecture colleges have increasingly appointed fresh graduates with little or no field experience as full-time faculty (Chhikara et al., 2025). While this trend addresses immediate staffing requirements, it places young academicians in an inherently vulnerable position, expected to teach professional competencies they themselves have had limited opportunity to acquire. NEP 2020 strongly advocates experiential, practice-integrated learning, especially relevant to architecture. However, many architecture colleges, particularly in the private sector have increasingly appointed fresh graduates with minimal field exposure as full-time faculty. This creates a paradox: young academicians are expected to teach professional competencies; construction processes, regulatory negotiations, site realities etc. that they themselves have had limited opportunity to experience. Without structured mentorship, practice immersion, or institutional support, experiential learning risks remaining a policy slogan rather than a classroom reality.

The emphasis of NEP 2020 on experiential and practice-based learning becomes difficult to realise when the educator's own academic journey lacks immersion in construction sites, professional negotiations, regulatory processes, and real-world problem-solving (Sachdeva & Latesh, 2023). Over time, pedagogy risks becoming abstract, procedural, and disconnected from the realities of architectural practice. The burden of bridging this gap is unfairly placed on individuals rather than being institutionally addressed. The responsibility of bridging this gap is quietly transferred from institutions to individuals, turning structural deficiencies into personal struggles.

Contractualization and the Erosion of Academic Autonomy

NEP 2020 and NAAC both emphasise faculty autonomy, stability, and professional development as markers of quality education. Yet, the growing reliance on contractual and short-term appointments in architecture colleges tells a different story.

Job insecurity often results in:

- Compliance-driven teaching
- Excessive teaching and administrative loads
- Limited time for research, reflection, or innovation

When academic survival depends on renewals and evaluations, autonomy becomes rhetorical rather than real (Shareef et al., 2024).

Precarious appointments silence academic risk-taking; autonomy cannot survive without stability.

This contradiction erodes not only faculty morale but also the intellectual vibrancy of architectural education (Ahila & Venkataraman, 2022)

Research Integration: NEP 2020 and NIRF

"Research metrics cannot be demanded where research ecosystems are absent; equity must precede evaluation."

The emphasis placed by the National Education Policy 2020 and NIRF on research output, citations, funded projects, and innovation is both necessary and timely.

problem-solving (Sachdeva & Latesh, 2023). Over time, pedagogy risks becoming Research-led teaching enriches curriculum relevance, nurtures critical inquiry, and positions higher education institutions as contributors to national development. However, the manner in which research expectations are operationalised has inadvertently produced a structurally unequal academic landscape (Sachdeva & Latesh, 2023; Kar, 2021). In practice, the research ecosystem in India has evolved into a two-tier academic system. Premier and centrally funded institutions benefit from established research cultures, dedicated funding offices, reduced teaching loads, doctoral programmes, and sustained institutional mentorship (Chakrabarty & Singh, 2023). These advantages enable them to consistently secure grants, publish in high-impact journals, guide doctoral scholars, and meet NIRF benchmarks with relative ease. In contrast, a large segment of architecture educators; particularly in private and emerging institutions (though there are a few notable institutions, but they are employing a minuscule percentage of faculty as compared to total), operate in environments where research infrastructure is minimal or absent. Faculty members often carry heavy teaching and administrative loads, have limited access to laboratories, databases, software, or research assistance, and receive little institutional encouragement for scholarly work. Research, under such conditions, becomes an individual struggle rather than an institutional pursuit.

Despite possessing doctoral qualifications, strong theoretical grounding, and deep engagement with students, these academicians remain peripheral to national knowledge production. Their inability to meet NIRF-style metrics is not a reflection of intellectual deficit, but of structural deprivation. When evaluation frameworks prioritise output without accounting for ecosystem disparities, they inadvertently reward privilege and penalise effort. This imbalance has deeper implications for architectural education. It narrows the range of voices contributing to research discourse, marginalises regionally rooted and practice-based inquiries, and reinforces a homogenised academic narrative dominated by elite institutions. Over time, it also affects faculty morale, professional identity, and academic continuity, pushing capable educators into survival-oriented teaching rather than inquiry-driven scholarship.

For NEP 2020's vision of inclusive and decentralised research ecosystems to materialise, evaluation frameworks such as NIRF must be complemented by enabling mechanisms. Tiered research funding, recognition of practice-based research, workload rationalisation, and mentorship-driven capacity building are essential to ensure that research integration is not merely aspirational but achievable across institution types. Without such corrective measures, research metrics risk becoming instruments of exclusion rather than indicators of excellence' undermining the very goals of quality and innovation.

Table 1: The two-tier academic system

Tier One : Premier Institutions	Tier Two : Non-premier, self-funded private institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Established research offices ● Regular access to grants ● Reduced teaching loads ● Doctoral programmes and PhD scholars ● Institutional mentorship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heavy teaching and compliance burdens ● Minimal research infrastructure ● Limited access to funding, databases, or labs ● No doctoral programmes and PhD scholars ● Research pursued individually, often self-funded

As a result, many capable architecture educators, despite doctoral qualifications and intellectual commitment remain peripheral to national research visibility. Their inability to meet NIRF-style metrics reflects structural deprivation, not academic inadequacy. This imbalance narrows research discourse, marginalises regionally rooted and practice-based inquiry, and consolidates academic visibility within a small institutional elite.

Institutional Bias and High Thresholds

“Knowledge democratisation fails when national platforms privilege institutional branding over academic merit.”

Despite the inclusive intent of the National Education Policy 2020, the operational structures governing research funding, digital platforms, and doctoral supervision continue to impose disproportionately high thresholds that systematically disadvantage academicians in small and private architecture institutions. These barriers do not merely limit opportunity; they actively shape academic precarity and professional stagnation.

Research funding and grant eligibility criteria are often calibrated to suit large, government-funded, or long-established institutions. Requirements such as prior funded projects, high-impact publications, established research centres, and

ongoing PhD programmes create a closed loop of privilege. For academicians in smaller institutions, this results in a persistent paradox: they are deemed ineligible for grants because they lack research credentials, yet denied the very funding mechanisms necessary to build those credentials. Research thus becomes an unpaid, self-funded, and often invisible labour, undertaken alongside heavy teaching and administrative workloads. This precarity is compounded by restricted access to PhD supervision and doctoral guidance opportunities, which remain largely limited to faculty from government or centrally funded institutions. Even when academicians in private architecture colleges hold doctoral degrees, demonstrate research competence, and publish consistently, institutional classification, not individual merit often determines eligibility to guide research scholars. This exclusion curtails academic growth, diminishes professional recognition, and severs a vital pathway through which educators contribute to national knowledge production.

Simultaneously, national digital platforms such as Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) and AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy, envisioned as democratising tools, continue to be dominated by elite institutions. Faculty from private colleges rarely gain visibility or leadership roles, reinforcing a hierarchy where academic legitimacy is institution-driven rather than competence-driven. The cumulative effect is a sense of professional marginalisation, where academicians teach large cohorts, meet accreditation demands, and sustain institutions, yet remain excluded from the very platforms that define academic excellence.

The human cost of these structural biases is significant. Academicians experience stalled careers, diminished research confidence, limited mobility, and erosion of academic identity. Young faculty members, in particular, navigate a system that demands output without offering opportunity, compliance without capacity, and excellence without enablement.

Such conditions stand in direct contradiction to NEP 2020's emphasis on inclusivity, decentralisation, and research expansion. If architectural academia is to move toward genuine excellence, policy frameworks must shift from institution-centric gatekeeping to competence-centric enablement. Lowered entry thresholds, tiered funding mechanisms, inclusive doctoral supervision norms, and equitable digital representation are not concessions, they are prerequisites for sustaining academic morale, integrity, and innovation. This reinforces a subtle but persistent hierarchy where legitimacy is institution-driven rather than competence-driven, undermining the very idea of inclusive knowledge production.

Only when academicians are supported rather than constrained can architectural education fulfil its responsibility to students, society, and the discipline itself.

**Table2: Policy-Practice Mismatch in Architectural Academia :
A Comparative Reading**

Policy Intent (NEP / NAAC / NIRF)	Ground Reality in Architecture Colleges
Experiential, practice-integrated learning emphasising site exposure, professional engagement, and applied knowledge	Graduate faculty with minimal field exposure, often teaching practice-oriented subjects without sustained industry or site experience
Faculty autonomy and continuous professional development as indicators of academic quality and institutional culture	Contractual appointments and job insecurity, leading to compliance-driven teaching and limited pedagogic innovation
Research-led teaching ecosystems supported through funding, mentorship, and institutional encouragement	Limited or no access to research funding, forcing faculty to pursue research individually and often self-funded
Inclusive national academic platforms (SWAYAM, ATAL) aimed at democratising knowledge	Dominated by premier institutions, marginalising competent faculty from private colleges

Bridging this gap requires enabling mechanisms, not merely evaluative frameworks.

Re-centering Academic Experience

“When young academicians are hired without mentorship and placed under contractual pressure, competence becomes an expectation rather than a nurtured outcome.”

Competence in academia cannot be manufactured through compliance alone. It evolves through mentorship, exposure, institutional trust, and time. If architectural education is to align meaningfully with NEP 2020 and NAAC/NIRF expectations,

Supporting academicians, particularly those navigating early-career vulnerabilities is not an act of concession; it is an investment in educational quality itself. institutions must shift from appointment-driven survival models to capacity-driven academic cultures.

Supporting academicians, particularly those navigating early-career vulnerabilities is not an act of concession; it is an investment in educational quality itself.

What Should Change?

Quality in architectural education begins with how we support those who teach it.

From hiring to nurturing: Faculty competence must be developed, not assumed.

From contracts to continuity: Stability enables academic autonomy and innovation.

From metrics to ecosystems: Research quality needs funding, time, and \ mentorship.

From elite access to equity: National platforms must recognise merit across institutions.

Enabling Academic Competence in Architectural Education

To align architectural education meaningfully with NEP 2020, NAAC, and NIRF, policy frameworks must shift from institution-centric evaluation to competence-centric enablement. The following interventions are critical:

- **Tiered Research Funding Models:** Introduce entry-level and mid-level research grants for small and private institutions to help build research culture incrementally.
 - **Universal PhD Supervision Eligibility:** Allow doctoral supervision based on individual faculty merit and research credentials, rather than institutional classification alone.
 - **Structured Faculty Mentorship:** Mandate induction, mentoring, and practice-immersion pathways for early-career architecture faculty.
-

- Recognition of Practice-Based Scholarship: Formally acknowledge design practice, consultancy, and applied research within NAAC and NIRF evaluation metrics.
- Decentralised Research Seed Funding: Small-scale, accessible grants to help private institutions build research culture incrementally.
- Practice Immersion Pathways: Recognised field exposure, sabbaticals, or industry partnerships for academicians.
- Recognition of Practice-Based Outputs: Design work, consultancy, and applied research to be formally acknowledged.
- Inclusive National Digital Platforms: Ensure transparent, merit-based representation of faculty from diverse institutions in SWAYAM, ATAL, and other national MOOCs.

Quality assurance must move beyond ranking, evaluation and accreditation toward sustained academic enablement.

Why This Matters?

When educators are unsupported, education suffers.

Closing Note

From hiring to nurturing: Faculty competence must be developed, not assumed.

From contracts to continuity: Stability enables academic autonomy and innovation.

From metrics to ecosystems: Research quality needs funding, time, and mentorship.

From elite access to equity: National platforms must recognise merit across institutions.

Academic experience is collective. It shapes how architecture is taught, researched, and imagined. When we strengthen the academic lives of educators, we strengthen the discipline itself. The future of architectural education lies not only in policy vision, but in the everyday realities of those entrusted with its practice. As National Education Policy 2020 calls for experiential learning and NAAC and NIRF emphasise quality and outcomes, this conversation urges a shift from measuring performance to enabling competence. Supporting architecture educators is not an institutional burden; it is a prerequisite for meaningful, equitable, and future-ready architectural education.

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Architecture and the Sustainable Development Goals: An Analytical Overview

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Abstract

This analytical overview examines the critical integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into contemporary architectural practice, demonstrating architecture's transformative potential in operationalizing global sustainability commitments (United Nations, 2015). Architecture stands at the intersection of societal need and environmental responsibility, translating SDG ambitions into tangible-built solutions through sustainable materials, resource-efficient construction, inclusive design, and climate resilience. The paper systematically analyzes architecture's inter-relationship with all seventeen SDGs, exploring how spatial interventions address poverty alleviation, food security, health promotion, quality education, gender equality, clean energy access, and economic growth. Particular emphasis is placed on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), highlighting architecture's foundational role in balancing urban development with environmental stewardship and heritage conservation. Through case studies including the Friendship Hospital in Bangladesh, Copenhagen's CopenHill, and Singapore's Gardens by the Bay, the analysis illustrates how innovative design strategies—from passive solar orientation to biophilic urban planning—directly contribute to climate action, biodiversity protection, and responsible resource consumption. The study concludes that interdisciplinary collaboration and participatory design processes are essential for architects to mediate between global policy objectives and local realities, positioning the profession at the forefront of sustainable development.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, Architecture, Sustainability, Urban Design, Inclusive Design

1 Introduction

The incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into architectural practice marks a profound evolution in the built environment's potential to drive sustainable progress (United Nations, 2015). Architecture, by its very nature, stands at the intersection of societal need and environmental responsibility. As cities grow and populations shift, architects are uniquely positioned to translate the broad ambitions of the SDGs into tangible-built solutions across both urban and

rural landscapes. This translation is not merely symbolic—buildings and public spaces operationalize sustainability by connecting policy with physical reality, improving daily life while fulfilling global commitments (Hawkes, 2008). Central to this integration is the use of sustainable materials, resource-efficient construction, inclusive space making, and design for resilience. For instance, low-impact materials such as rammed earth or recycled steel minimize environmental impact and support the circular economy (Addington & Schodek, 2005). Passive design strategies, like those observed in projects such as the Friendship Hospital in Bangladesh (Kashef, 2014) and the Bullitt Center in Seattle (Pivo, 2014), optimize natural daylight, harness renewable energy, and reduce operational emissions. Such innovations directly link architectural choices to SDG targets for clean energy, health, and climate action.

Furthermore, architecture's capacity for inclusivity and adaptability transforms policy imperatives—like equitable access to housing or education—into lived reality. Examples such as the Floating School in Lagos (Heatherwick, 2016) and social housing initiatives worldwide illustrate how thoughtful design can foster dignity, safety, and community resilience (UN-Habitat, 2015). By designing schools to encourage accessibility and engagement, or public spaces that accommodate diverse groups equally, architects help actualize goals related to equality, quality education, and poverty reduction.

At a broader scale, architects collaborate with planners, engineers, and local communities to build infrastructure that supports sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, and social interaction. Projects like Copenhagen's CopenHill (Bjarke Ingels Group, 2019) or Singapore's Gardens by the Bay show how technical innovation and public engagement can coexist, creating spaces that are not only sustainable but also culturally vibrant and economically viable (Tan & Ng, 2007).

Adopting the SDGs as a guiding framework empowers architects to make design decisions with far-reaching impact, advancing climate responsibility, social equity, and community well-being. By bridging local needs and global policy through built form, architecture demonstrates the transformative power of design to operationalize sustainable development in practical, inclusive, and innovative ways (Wolfram et al., 2016).

2 Inter-relationship of Architecture and Sustainable Development Goals

2.1 SDG 1: No Poverty

Architectural interventions directly address poverty by facilitating access to secure, affordable, and dignified housing while improving the delivery of essential services (United Nations, 2015). Designing social housing, upgrading slums, and ensuring proximity to economic and social infrastructure help prevent marginalization and

vulnerability (UN-Habitat, 2016). Architectural approaches, such as participatory planning and resilient construction, promote not only shelter but also economic opportunity through job creation in the building sector and local skills development (Salama & Courtney, 2015). Community-focused architecture amplifies social capital by integrating public amenities—like markets and health centers—into the spatial fabric of disadvantaged areas. By embedding inclusivity and adaptability in design, architecture can enable both immediate relief and long-term escape from the poverty cycle, demonstrating a pivotal role in sustainable development strategies.

2.2 SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Architecture's contribution to food security manifests in innovations such as urban agriculture, resilient distribution networks, and multi-use community spaces that support local food systems (Thomaier et al., 2015). Integration of rooftop gardens, vertical farms, and community allotments within residential complexes or public institutions enables food cultivation in dense urban settings, reducing dependence on external supply chains (Eigenbrod & Gruda, 2015). Purposeful spatial planning for markets, cold storage, and distribution hubs ensures that nutritious food reaches vulnerable populations efficiently. Well-designed food infrastructure diminishes loss, supports local producers, and creates education opportunities around urban farming and nutrition. By embedding food production and distribution as spatial and social priorities, architects play an active part in advancing the SDG target of zero hunger and enhanced nutritional health for all.

2.3 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

The role of architecture in promoting health is fundamentally linked to spatial quality, environmental control, and access to restorative public spaces (Wilkinson et al., 2007). Buildings that maximize natural light, ventilation, and toxin-free materials significantly boost physical and mental health, while the careful design of hospitals, clinics, and recreational areas prioritizes user safety and comfort (Ulrich, 1984). Urban planning that incorporates green buffers, walkable street grids, and easy access to social infrastructure mitigates public health risks such as pollution, noise, and overcrowding (Srinivasan et al., 2012). Post-pandemic design protocols—like flexible layouts and touchless technologies—further future-proof spaces against health threats (Cheng & Karau, 2021). Thus, architecture translates SDG 3 into spatial interventions that support well-being as both a private benefit and a collective public good.

2.4 SDG 4: Quality Education

Architectural design is central to creating learning environments that are accessible, adaptable, and conducive to lifelong education (Cleveland & Fisher, 2014). Classrooms optimized for daylight, ventilation, and acoustic

vulnerability (UN-Habitat, 2016). Architectural approaches, such as participatory planning and resilient construction, promote not only shelter but also economic opportunity through job creation in the building sector and local skills development (Salama & Courtney, 2015). Community-focused architecture amplifies social capital by integrating public amenities—like markets and health centers—into the spatial fabric of disadvantaged areas. By embedding inclusivity and adaptability in design, architecture can enable both immediate relief and long-term escape from the poverty cycle, demonstrating a pivotal role in sustainable development strategies. Comfort enhance student focus and reduce absenteeism (Haverinen-Shaughnessy et al., 2011). Inclusive layouts guarantee access for people of all abilities, while flexible zones accommodate a variety of pedagogical methods, from group collaboration to quiet study. The integration of libraries, maker spaces, and communal areas fosters creativity and informal learning. Beyond form, architecture can model sustainable practices for students, embedding awareness and responsibility from an early age (Orr, 2002). By providing both equitable and innovative settings, architectural contributions to education fulfill the SDG 4 targets and empower future generations.

2.5 SDG 5: Gender Equality

Promoting gender equality through architecture involves accessible, secure, and dignified spaces that respect the needs of all genders (Schmitz et al., 2016). Inclusive design translates to gender-neutral sanitation, protected pathways, and well-lit public facilities, addressing safety concerns and supporting unrestricted participation in public life. Architectural processes that involve women and gender-diverse stakeholders in planning and leadership roles amplify perspectives often underrepresented in spatial decision-making (Beebeejaun, 2017). The result is built environments where amenities such as childcare rooms, breastfeeding areas, and private sanitation empower gender parity. Through these integrated strategies, architecture becomes a tool for challenging stereotypes and institutional biases, actively advancing the SDG 5 commitment to universal dignity and opportunity.

2.6 SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Effective architectural and urban design ensures equitable access to safe water and sanitation through integrated, context-sensitive solutions (United Nations, 2015). Buildings with rainwater harvesting systems, greywater recycling, and water-efficient fixtures exemplify responsible resource management (Novo et al., 2002). Site planning that incorporates permeable surfaces, green roofs, and stormwater gardens reduces flood risk while supporting groundwater recharge (Erickson et al., 2013). Decentralized, on-site sanitation facilities further improve hygiene for communities lacking infrastructure networks (Mara et al., 2010). Material transparency and maintenance-friendly layouts preserve long-term water quality. By embedding these strategies into both buildings and public spaces, architects

directly contribute to the SDG 6 targets of reducing water stress, improving health, and fostering environmental stewardship at every project scale.

2.7 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Architects influence both the demand for and the supply of renewable energy through passive and active design choices (Roaf et al., 2005). Orientation, insulation, and daylighting minimize energy consumption, while on-site renewable technologies—such as solar photovoltaic panels and solar water heaters - stabilize operational energy needs (Reijenga et al., 2016). Community-level infrastructure like district heating or microgrid systems extends clean energy access beyond singular buildings (Sorensen, 2012). Energy modeling during design phases enables performance optimization and net-zero-energy targets, reducing costs and emissions (U.S. Department of Energy, 2015). By normalizing these strategies across new and retrofitted projects, architectural intervention not only achieves SDG 7's call for universal energy access but also empowers communities to participate in the global shift toward low-carbon living.

2.8 SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

The architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) sector drives economic growth through job creation, support of local industries, and the development of vibrant public spaces (World Bank, 2018). Sustainable project delivery practices—such as modular construction, local sourcing, and the adoption of green technologies—generate employment and foster skills advancement (Offsite Innovation, 2018). Well-designed workplaces, co-working hubs, and artisan centers enhance productivity, creativity, and well-being (Kwan & Yip, 2016). Furthermore, context-sensitive adaptive reuse of heritage buildings stimulates cultural tourism and small business opportunities (de la Maza, 2019). Through thoughtful urban regeneration and inclusive design, architecture translates SDG 8 into living environments that nurture equitable, long-term economic prosperity within communities.

2.9 SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Resilient infrastructure is at the heart of SDG 9, with architecture fostering innovation through smart materials, prefabrication, and new digital tools (Verschueren, 2019). The adaptive reuse of outdated industrial spaces for mixed-use developments conserves resources, revitalizes urban areas, and fuels fresh economic activity (Hay et al., 2018). Integrating high-performance building systems, IoT technologies, and bioclimatic responsiveness into infrastructure supports operational efficiency and adaptability (Leite et al., 2016). Well-planned transport hubs, logistics nodes, and utility corridors, designed by architects in collaboration with engineers, extend connectivity and resilience. In this light, the built environment becomes a living

laboratory for sustainable industry and infrastructure, accelerating the implementation of SDG 9 targets.

2.10 SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Equitable design ensures accessibility and inclusiveness by removing physical, social, and economic barriers in the built environment (Imrie & Hall, 2001). Universal design features - such as accessible ramps, tactile signage, and adaptable spaces- enable participation regardless of age, ability, or background (Story, 2011). Participatory planning methods solicit input from marginalized groups, ensuring that public and private spaces reflect a diversity of needs (Sanoff, 2000). Affordable housing, culturally sensitive public amenities, and open spatial networks combat segregation and exclusion (Marcuse, 2009). Through these interventions, architecture serves as a vehicle for reducing inequalities, aligning with SDG 10's focus on fostering integration, opportunity, and respect for human dignity within every community.

2.11 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 11 is foundational for architecture, as it compels professionals to balance urban growth with environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, and social inclusion (UN-Habitat, 2016). Well-designed urban neighborhoods optimize density, integrate green spaces, and facilitate transit-oriented development, lowering both ecological footprints and living costs (Cervero & Sullivan, 2011). Mixed-use districts and affordable dwellings improve vibrancy and accessibility, while the sensitive renewal of cultural heritage sites maintains local identity (Smith, 2006). Resilient infrastructure—such as robust drainage, flexible open spaces, and disaster-adaptive layouts—reduces vulnerability to climate or health emergencies (Bosher & Dainty, 2011). These comprehensive strategies show architecture's capacity to shoulder the ambition of SDG 11: ensuring cities remain safe, sustainable, and livable for all.

2.12 SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

The architectural profession advances responsible resource use through material selection, circular design, and life-cycle assessment (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2015). Designing for disassembly, adaptive reuse, and upcycling fosters a circular economy in the construction sector, where waste is minimized and materials retain value across multiple uses (Baumann et al., 2002). Transparency in supply chains and the prioritization of local, renewable materials reduce environmental impact and bolster community economies (Pomponi & Moncaster, 2017). Building performance monitoring ensures ongoing efficiency in resource consumption throughout the building's lifespan (De Wilde & Coley, 2012). By embedding these principles, architecture leads in the implementation of SDG 12, enabling productive,

low-impact built environments that honor the limits and capacities of our natural ecosystems.

2.13 SDG 13: Climate Action

Climate-responsive architecture integrates mitigation and adaptation strategies into spatial practice, targeting emissions reduction and resilience building (de Wilde, 2014). Passive solar orientation, high-performance building envelopes, green infrastructure, and efficient energy systems lower carbon footprints (Roaf et al., 2005). At the urban scale, strategies such as tree-lined streets, permeable pavements, and water-sensitive landscapes buffer against heat, stormwater, and climate disasters (Gill et al., 2007). Risk-sensitive planning considers future climate projections, ensuring communities can recover swiftly from extreme events (Revi et al., 2014). By mainstreaming these measures in everyday design, architects fulfill SDG 13's requirements, positioning the built environment as both shield and catalyst for climate action.

2.14 SDG 14: Life Below Water

Architectural interventions in coastal and waterfront development must protect aquatic environments while supporting urban and recreational needs (Liquete et al., 2013). Techniques such as bioengineered shorelines, filtration wetlands, and permeable public spaces intercept urban runoff, minimizing pollution into rivers, lakes, and seas (Spalding et al., 2014). Sensitive design ensures waterfront projects avoid habitat destruction, enabling biodiversity corridors and community engagement with blue spaces (Brown & Grant, 2005). Adaptive, restorative practices can rehabilitate degraded sites and promote sustainable aquaculture in urban contexts (Klausmeyer & Sandi, 2011). In sum, architecture plays a pivotal role in advancing SDG 14, mediating the interface between city and water to sustain both human and ecological health.

2.15 SDG 15: Life on Land

Biophilic and nature-inclusive design strategies embed biodiversity within the urban matrix, mitigating habitat fragmentation and supporting ecosystem services (Beatley & Newman, 2013). Green roofs, living walls, street trees, and urban wildlife corridors create microhabitats, while the adaptive restoration of brownfield sites reflects ecological recovery (Nagendra & Gopal, 2011). Strategic site planning preserves mature trees, integrates stormwater capture landscapes, and encourages community-led stewardship of local ecology (Forman, 2008). Architectural interventions that promote nature connectivity, pollinator support, and environmental education contribute positively to both human well-being and broader landscape health, aligning with SDG 15 by advancing the urban ecosystem as a living, regenerative system.

2.16 SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Spatial design can foster social trust, transparency, and equitable civic engagement through the thoughtful placement and use of public buildings (Evans, 2008). Architectural openness in courthouses, community centers, and government facilities encourages dialogue and accountability (Till, 2009). Designs emphasizing clear sightlines, access to information, and shared communal spaces build a sense of safety and inclusion. Participatory design processes integrate citizen voices, legitimizing new developments and strengthening public trust in institutions (Wilcox, 2006). In these ways, architecture becomes a framework for fostering SDG 16—embedding the principles of justice and social resilience within the foundations of the built environment.

2.17 SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Advancing the SDGs through architecture necessitates collaboration among a wide spectrum of stakeholders, from planners and engineers to end-users and policymakers (United Nations, 2015). Interdisciplinary design processes leverage diverse expertise and integrate local knowledge, enabling tailored solutions and greater project resilience (Thacker et al., 2019). Networks among academic institutions, professional bodies, government agencies, and community organizations expand the reach and impact of SDG-aligned building practice. Rich feedback loops foster continuous learning, standardization of best practices, and mainstream adoption of sustainability. Thus, architecture's role in SDG 17 is as a practice and a process—building partnerships that drive systematic, scalable change for sustainable development globally.

3 Conclusion

The integration of SDGs within architecture demonstrates the profession's far-reaching potential to influence sustainable development at all scales (United Nations, 2015). Each SDG presents unique design challenges and opportunities, from climate-resilient infrastructure to inclusive public spaces and innovative resource management. By translating policy objectives into built form, architects mediate between global aims and local realities, contributing actively toward a sustainable, equitable future (Salama & Courtney, 2015). Continued research, cross-disciplinary dialogue, and an ethic of stewardship will ensure that architecture remains at the forefront of transformative change, helping communities worldwide to achieve the SDGs and thrive in balance with their environment, culture, and economy.

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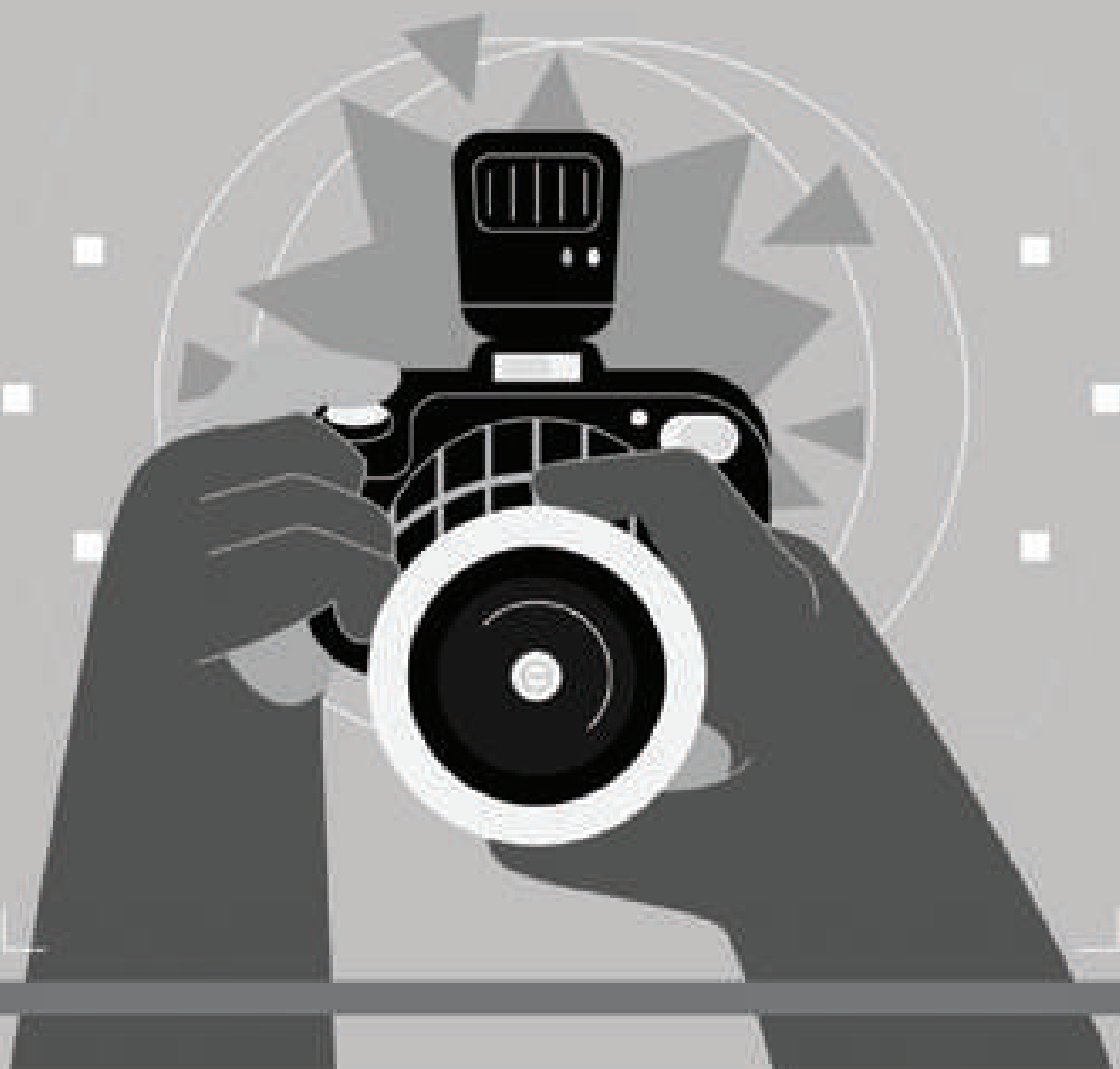
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***I Walk
I Look
I See
I Stop
I Photograph***

- Leon Levinstein

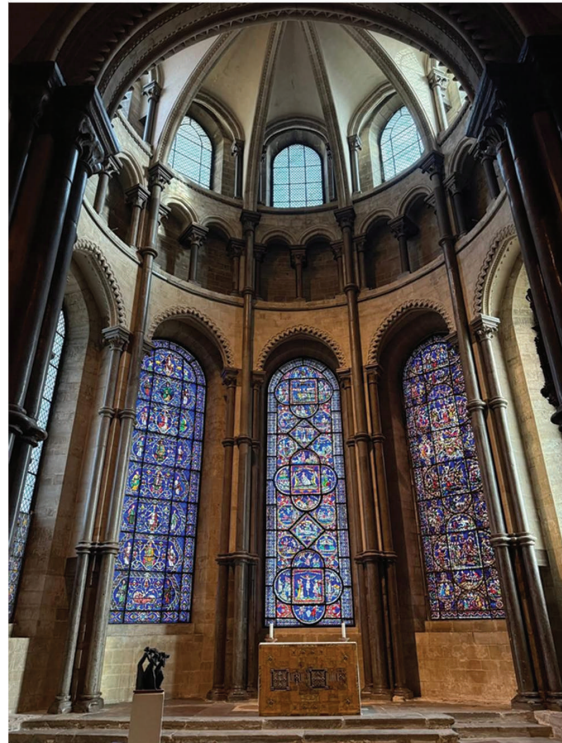


London Diaries

Photo Contributed by
Ar. Swopnadutta Mohanty



Canterbury Cathedral



Interior of the Trinity Chapel and Becket's Crown, one of the oldest UNESCO World Heritage site and most famous Christian structures in England



Tomb of King John, located in Worcester Cathedral



Prime example of Gothic architecture, featuring distinct pointed arches and ribbed vaults



The White Cliffs of Dover - nature's mighty wall guarding the gateway between Britain and France.



Architect's Work



NOMINATION FOR DESIGN CARNIVAL AWARD 2025

CATEGORY 2 - ARCHITECTURE (INSTITUTIONAL/COMMERCIAL)

As an architect, I believe that architecture goes beyond creating visually striking buildings — it is about shaping spaces that are functional, sustainable, and emotionally responsive. Every line, form, and material is chosen with intent, to strengthen the connection between people, place, and purpose, and to create environments that enhance well-being and inspire daily life



PROJECT : 125 BEDDED SUM ULTIMATE ANNEX CORPORATE HOSPITAL, BHUBANESWAR
CLIENT- SIKSHA 'O'ANUSANDHAN UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR
ARCHITECT - SOUMYAJIT MISHRA, IIA NO - A-18426
FIRM - KONCEPT ARCHIDESIGN CONSULTANTS, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PHONE - +91 9040090185
PROJECT COMPLETION YEAR - 2025

KONCEPT ARCHIDESIGN CONSULTANTS

Koncept Archidesign Consultants is a multidisciplinary architectural firm founded in 2012, recognized for delivering thoughtful and innovative design solutions across **healthcare**, commercial, and hospitality sectors. With a strong focus on healthcare architecture, the firm is committed to creating healing environments that embody sustainability, functionality, and design excellence. Koncept's diverse portfolio spans projects within and beyond Odisha, reflecting its growing impact in shaping built environments that inspire and care

Introduction

The **SUM Ultimate Annex hospital**, a **125 bedded corporate hospital** at Bhubaneswar, represents a new benchmark in healthcare architecture in Eastern India. Conceived as an **extension of 400 bedded SUM Ultimate Medicare**, the project integrates cutting-edge medical infrastructure with hospitality-inspired design. With patient-centered planning, sustainability measures, and future-ready technological systems, the facility positions itself as a model for healthcare design that enhances clinical efficiency, patient comfort, and international medical tourism.

The Client (SOA university, Odisha)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' grade (3rd Cycle)	Swachh Campus - Ranked 3rd Nationally	Granted with Category-I Graded Autonomy Status by UGC, Govt. of India
MHRD NIRF India Rankings 2024 21st in the Medical Category and 9th in the Dental Category.	MHRD NIRF India Rankings 2024 14th in the University Category and 26th in the Engineering Category.	MHRD NIRF India Rankings 2024 9th in the Law Category, 50th in the Research Category and 62nd in the Management Category.
Outcome Based Education (OBE) NBA and ICAR accredited programs.	Ranked Internationally by QS and THE World University Rankings SOA among only four Universities in India listed in THE World Reputation Rankings 2025 . The list also includes Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology-Madras.	NABH accredited SUM Hospital and NABL accredited Diagnostics Laboratory

SUM Annex (SOWAKA) is a landmark in healthcare architecture—an example of how design heals, technology empowers, and hospitality comforts. With sustainability, inclusivity, and global standards, it sets a benchmark for the future of healthcare facilities in India

USP OF THE PROJECT

- # Individual ICU rooms with isolation facility
- # Medical tourism ready infrastructure
- # Modern set-up Modular OT (robotic)
- # Patient friendly cabins and washrooms
- # Use of Anti bacterial material
- # Integrated BMS system
- # Modern central laundry, blood bank
- # All HDU Units with natural lights
- # Sufficient circulation space for attendants, patients and staff
- # Modern interior to complement the infrastructure
- # As a strong support for the main infrastructure - SUM Ultimate medicare hospital.



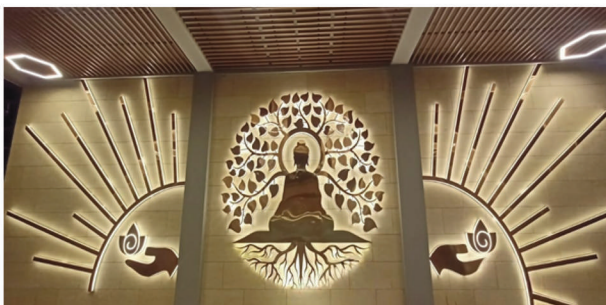
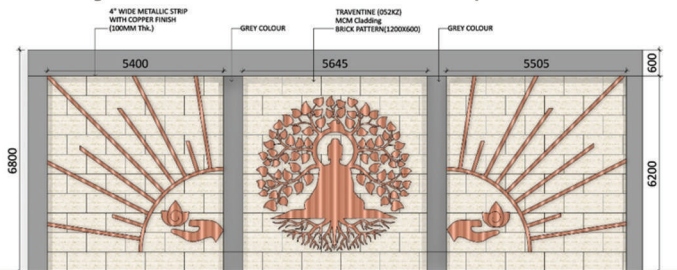
SNAPSHOT

1	Floors	B+G+5
2	Built up area	1,33,000 sqft
3	Bed strength	125
4	Start / Completion	2023-2025

Evolution



Symbol of calmness and patience



The Vision

A healthcare facility merging clinical precision with hospitality-driven comfort, making Bhubaneswar a hub for international medical tourism.

The Innovation
- Interactive courtyards and skylights. - Pandemic-resilient wards and isolation rooms. - **Digitally integrated operations: BMS, AI diagnostics, robotic OTs.**

The Impact

- Increased healthcare capacity - Energy consumption reduced - Enhanced patient well-being and satisfaction.

The Future

Designed for adaptability, SUM Ultimate Annex anticipates **telehealth**, rehabilitation, and geriatric wellness expansion

The SUM Ultimate Annex is designed as a leading destination for advanced and patient centric healthcare, combining excellence in medical treatment with the highest standards of patient experience. As an extension of SUM Ultimate Medicare, one of Eastern India's premier institutions, the project expands healthcare capacity while reinforcing the city's role in **global medical tourism**. This building has an unique feature – all ICUs are of single room setup and are termed as isolation ICU. Post Covid, this requirement has grown up.

Key Features: - Comprehensive multi-specialty services: Cardiology, Oncology, Neurology, Orthopaedics, Gastroenterology, etc. - State-of-the-art facilities: **Robotic surgery**, modular OTs, advanced diagnostics, ICU clusters, and critical care units. - Healing-centered design: Natural light, courtyards, acoustic optimization, and greenery for faster recovery. - Patient-centric spaces: Private and semi-private rooms, **negative pressure isolation wards**, and touch-free technology. - Accessibility: Universal design with ramps, and smart elevators. - Technological integration: **Integrated BMS**, robotic OTs, telemedicine hubs, and AI-assisted diagnostics. - Medical tourism focus: International patient lounges, recovery zones, multilingual concierge services, and spa-style suites.

The Spaces



OPD, Corridors, lounge

Lobby spreading 'positivity'



Suite rooms / Medical tourism GH



Patient cabin

Highlights :

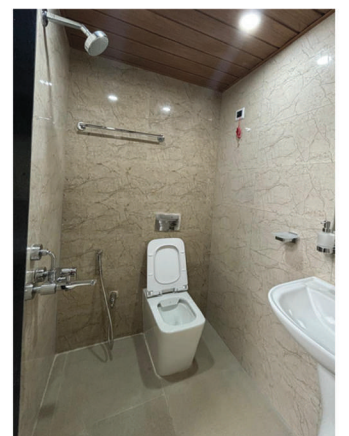
Dedicated international lounges, concierge services, preventive check-up suites, and luxury recovery areas. Future ready Infrastructure clubbed with SUM ultimate & new Annex , provide ample opportunities for medical tourism



HDU/ ICU Cluster



Isolation ICU





Spacious public washrooms

Hospitality-Inspired Interiors to help in better healing
Modern ambience with natural textures, calming lights, and ergonomic furniture. VIP rooms with private lounges, dining, and smart technologies.



Nurse station with ample circulation



Lounge & OPD area



Creche for children of doctors & staff



Perfect perspective : The corridor /nurse station



The Integrated OT

DRIEMS UNIVERSITY

AT TANGI, CUTTACK - ODISHA

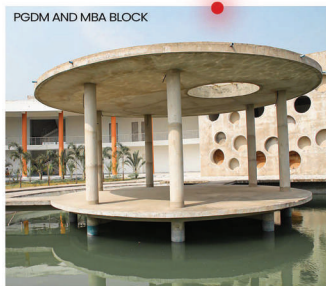
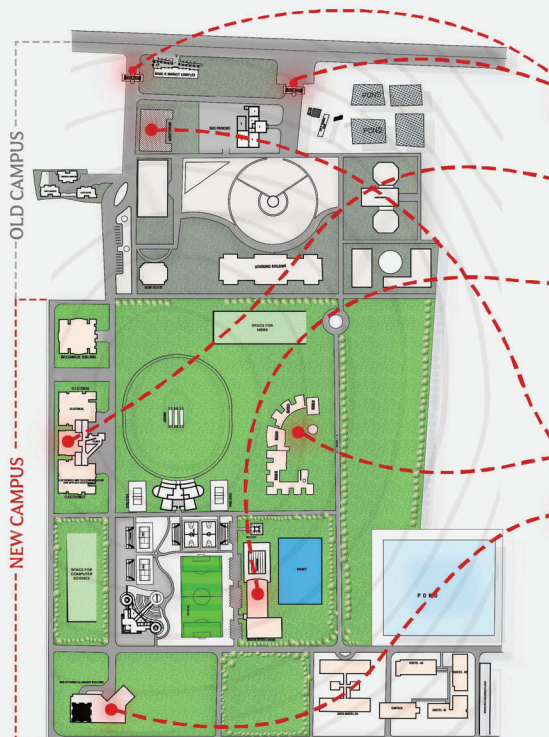


01

AR. SRINIBASH PATRA
IIA REG. A16671



MASTER PLAN



We envisioned a dynamic and cohesive site plan entered around the Sports Complex, a multifunctional facility dedicated to physical fitness and well-being as the nucleus, with all other buildings strategically positioned around it. The guiding principle of our design is to promote fitness, health, and well-being, fostering a holistic lifestyle for the community.

02

DRIEMS UNIVERSITY-NEW CAMPUS
CUTTACK

AR. SRINIBASH PATRA
IIA REG. A16671



LIBRARY AND ADMIN BUILDING

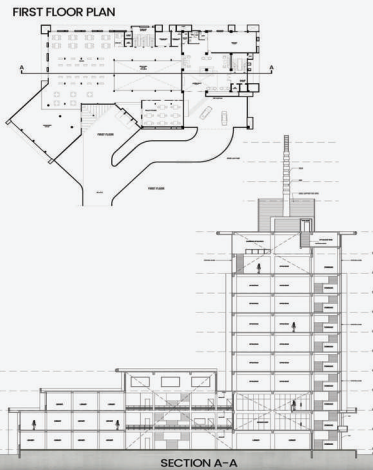
The design of the Central Library and Administrative Building is inspired by the concept of a beacon of knowledge. The structure's sleek, modern lines and glass facade symbolizes transparency and openness, inviting the community to engage with its resources.



CENTRAL LIBRARY ENTRANCE



ADMIN BLOCK ENTRANCE



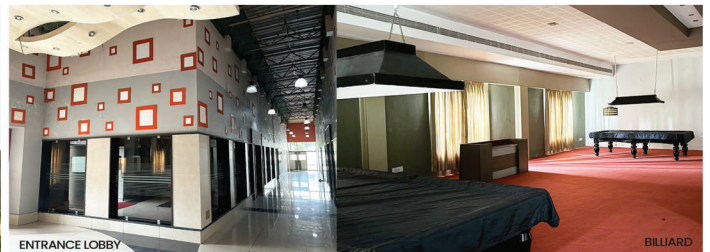
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECTION A-A



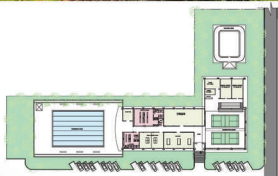
RAMP TO ADMIN BLOCK
Its innovative design and state-of-the-art facilities make it a vital resource for education and cultural engagement, reflecting our commitment to fostering intellectual growth and community development. This project stands as a testament to the transformative power of architecture in creating spaces that inspire, connect, and enrich lives.

INDOOR SPORTS ARENA



ENTRANCE LOBBY

BILLIARD



The Indoor Sports Arena, strategically located at the heart of the university campus, serves as the nucleus of our vision to promote fitness, health, and well-being. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to be more than just a venue for sports; it is a vibrant hub for physical activity, community engagement, and holistic development. The arena embodies the university's commitment to fostering a healthy and active lifestyle among students, faculty, and the surrounding community.



GYMNASIUM

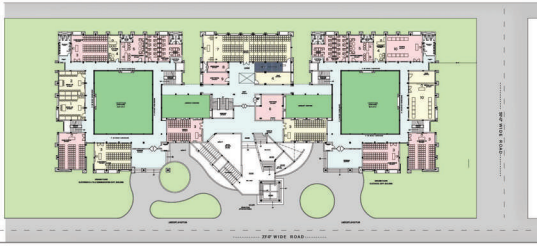
SWIMMING POOL



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

LEGENDS

- 1. Image Processing Lab
- 2. Audio Visual Lab
- 3. Classroom
- 4. HOD Room
- 5. Professor Chamber
- 6. Staff Room
- 7. Gallery
- 8. Server Room
- 9. Guest Waiting
- 10. Machine Lab



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY



05 DRIEMS UNIVERSITY-NEW CAMPUS CUTTACK

AR. SRINIBASH PATRA
IIA REG. A16671

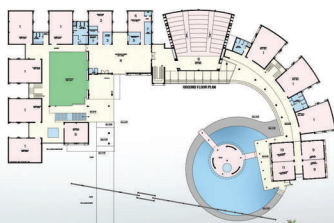


PGDM & MBA BLOCK

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

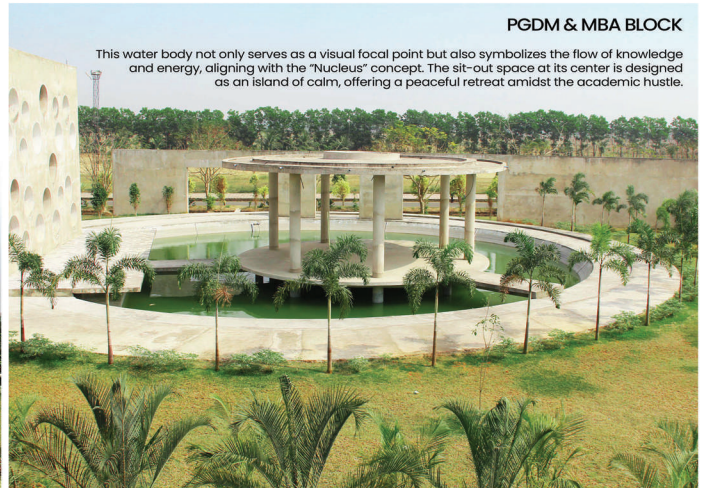
LEGENDS

- 1. Classroom
- 2. Placement Room
- 3. Sick Room
- 4. Entrance Lobby
- 5. Reprography Room
- 6. Library & Guest Room
- 7. Store & House Keeping
- 8. Seminar Room
- 9. Tutorial Room
- 10. Boys Common Room
- 11. Girls Common Room



PGDM & MBA BLOCK

This water body not only serves as a visual focal point but also symbolizes the flow of knowledge and energy, aligning with the "Nucleus" concept. The sit-out space at its center is designed as an island of calm, offering a peaceful retreat amidst the academic hustle.



06 DRIEMS UNIVERSITY-NEW CAMPUS CUTTACK

AR. SRINIBASH PATRA
IIA REG. A16671





About The Project

The newly renovated board and executive area on the 3rd floor of RBI Bhubaneswar stands as a testament to modern design and efficiency, seamlessly integrating formal and -informal spaces for distinguished decision makers and guests. Featuring a spacious boardroom, executive cabins, multiple lounges, and an exclusive executive lounge, the environment ensures both comfort and privacy essential for important meetings and collaborative work. With supporting spaces such as the governor's room, centrally located pantry, and purpose-built accessible toilets, the design reinforces convenience and a welcoming atmosphere for all users

This project carved a unique chapter in RBI's history, having been completed in just 40 days covering design, tendering, and execution. "This achievement reflects the RBI's commitment to excellence and adaptability," remarked Governor Shaktikanta Das, who emphasized: "We sought only the best for our team and stakeholders, procuring select materials to ensure unparalleled comfort, and installing state-of-the-art video conferencing technologies that keep us at the forefront of innovation." The quality of finishes and attention to detail exhibited here have set a new standard, now inspiring renovations in RBI regional offices across the country. Governor Das further noted: "Today, the Bhubaneswar office leads the way as a benchmark in functional elegance and project delivery

MASTER PLAN

RENOVATION OF INTERIORS FOR THE BOARD / EXECUTIVE AREA
AT RBI, BHUBANESWAR

design square
AR. ROHIT SHARMA

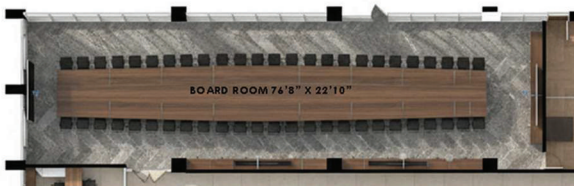
A HARMONIOUS BLEND OF TEXTURES, ACCENTS, AND ART CREATE A
REFINED CONTEMPORARY BOARDROOM AMBIENCE



BOARD
ROOM
MATERIAL
PALLET



RENDERED
IMAGE



PLAN

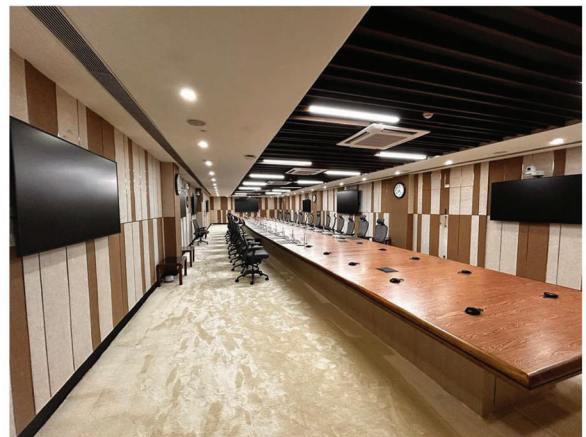


IMAGE AFTER EXECUTION



RENOVATION OF INTERIORS FOR THE BOARD / EXECUTIVE AREA
AT RBI, BHUBANESWAR

design square
AR. ROHIT SHARMA



RENDERED VIEW

CUSTOM-SELECTED MATERIALS ENSURE BOTH COMFORT AND TIMELESS SOPHISTICATION FOR DECISION-MAKING



IMAGE AFTER EXECUTION



PLAN



RENOVATION OF INTERIORS FOR THE BOARD / EXECUTIVE AREA AT RBI, BHUBANESWAR

design square
AR. ROHIT SHARMA



RBI GOVERNOR

RENDERED VIEW



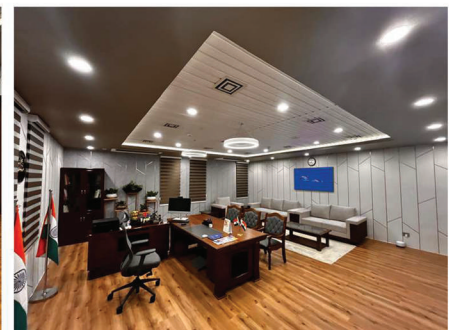
WE SOUGHT ONLY THE BEST FOR OUR TEAM AND STAKEHOLDERS SAID GOVERNOR S.K. DAS



PLAN



IMAGES AFTER EXECUTION



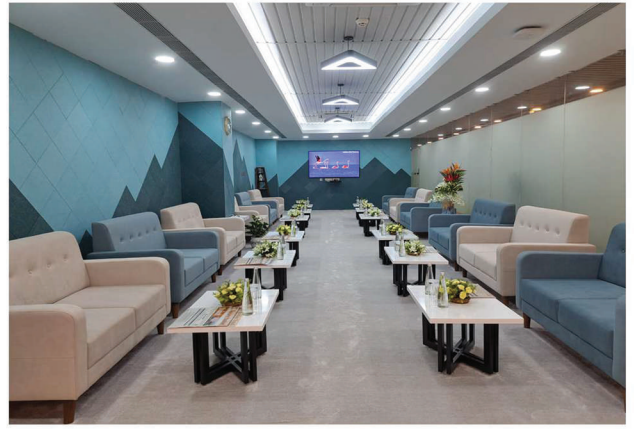
RENOVATION OF INTERIORS FOR THE BOARD / EXECUTIVE AREA AT RBI, BHUBANESWAR

design square
AR. ROHIT SHARMA

INTEGRATED STATE-OF-THE-ART VIDEO CONFERENCING KEEPS RBI
CONNECTED NATIONWIDE



PLAN



IMAGES AFTER EXECUTION

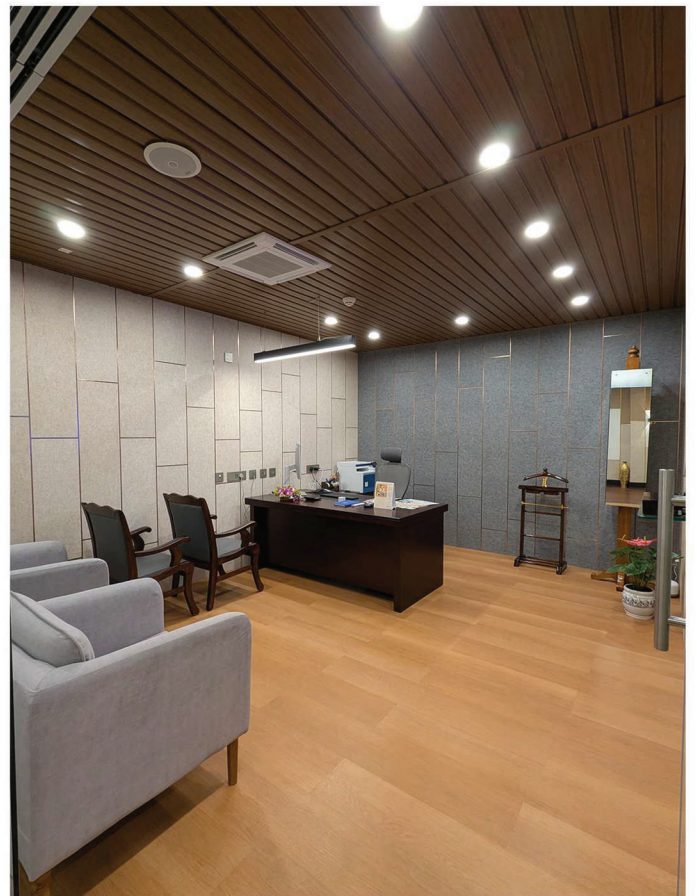
RENOVATION OF INTERIORS FOR THE BOARD / EXECUTIVE AREA
AT RBI, BHUBANESWAR

design square
AR. ROHIT SHARMA

BENCHMARK FINISHES AND AMENITIES SET NEW STANDARDS FOR
RBI REGIONAL OFFICES



PLAN



IMAGES AFTER EXECUTION

RENOVATION OF INTERIORS FOR THE BOARD / EXECUTIVE AREA
AT RBI, BHUBANESWAR

design square
AR. ROHIT SHARMA

MOHANTY'S RESIDENCE

AT BHUBANESWAR- ODISHA



rhythm architects

AR. SRINIBASH PATRA
IIA REG. A16671

01



PARKING

ENTRANCE LOBBY

EXTERIOR VIEW

The design vision for this residence revolves around creating a harmonious balance between openness and privacy. The use of louvers, strategically placed on the terrace and balconies, serves multiple purposes: enhancing privacy for the residents, adding a distinctive character to the building's exterior, and offering practical benefits such as shading and ventilation.



ENTRANCE LOBBY

rhythm architects

AR. SRINIBASH PATRA
IIA REG. A16671

MOHANTY'S RESIDENCE
BHUBANESWAR

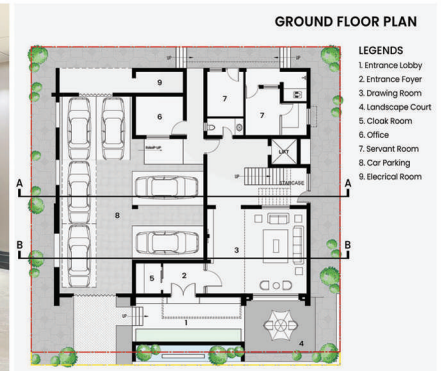
02



LIFT LOBBY



ENTRANCE FOYER

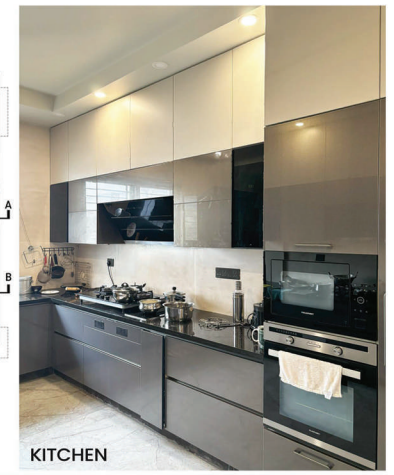
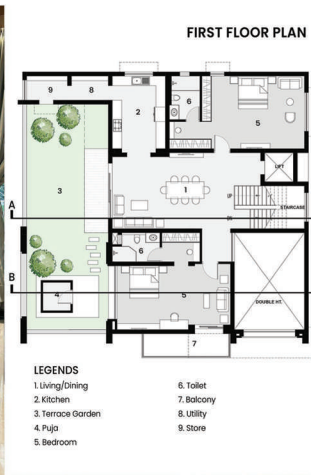


DOUBLE HEIGHTED DRAWING ROOM

The double-heighted drawing room is the centerpiece of the residence, exuding elegance and grandeur.



DINING



KITCHEN



PUJA

MATERIAL PALETTE



LIFT LOBBY



STAIRCASE



LOUNGE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

- LEGENDS
- 1. Lounge
 - 2. Bedroom
 - 3. Toilet
 - 4. Balcony
 - 5. Terrace

The second floor of the residence is designed as a private zone, offering a serene and exclusive retreat for the residents. This floor features a lounge area with a pantry unit, complemented by bedrooms with private balcony and terrace, creating a comfortable and intimate living space.



LOUNGE

The lounge area is designed for seamless integration, offering a harmonious space for both relaxation and entertaining, featuring the finest materials and furnishings. The decor includes tasteful artworks, decorative lighting fixtures and bespoke accessories that complement the space. A mix of ambient and accent lighting, including ceiling lights and sconces.



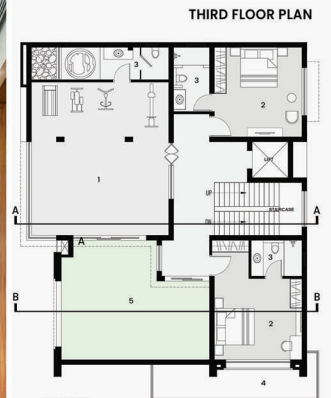
BEDROOM



MULTIPURPOSE HALL

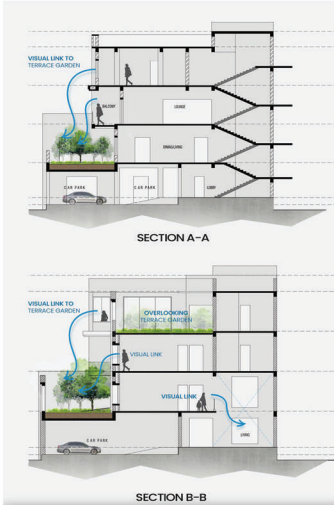


BAR



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

- LEGENDS
- 1. Multi-purpose Hall
 - 2. Bedroom
 - 3. Toilet
 - 4. Balcony
 - 5. Terrace Garden

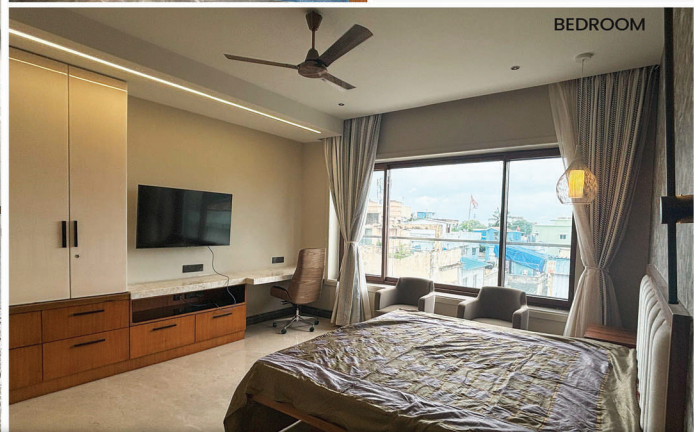


SECTION A-A

SECTION B-B



TOILET



BEDROOM



Rear cover page Artwork by **Diasha Baruah**, Student PMCA