

# PiCAGRAM

25 YEARS OF PILLAI COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

## FOREWORD

Welcome to the renewed edition of Picagram. To celebrate 25 years of PiCA's existence, we reintroduce this bi-annual newsletter in both digital and print form. This newsletter is not only about sharing news regarding the school and students but also about their works. The topics covered by the newsletter are very diverse.

This issue focuses on various samples of projects completed by our students of B.Arch and M.Arch (Urban Design). We share the academic tasks of our classrooms in the public space. This wider scrutiny and sharing outside the classroom will encourage higher quality work and facilitate broader perspectives to be shared.

The articles in this Picagram are written with the support from participating students and faculty members. We hope you find them interesting and useful. We welcome your suggestions on both the form and contents of this newsletter. Please send your comments and feedback to me ([merchant@mes.ac.in](mailto:merchant@mes.ac.in)) or to Kavita Sawant ([ksawant@mes.ac.in](mailto:ksawant@mes.ac.in)), editor of this newsletter.

**Dr. Arif Merchant**  
Principal

## MINDSCAPE

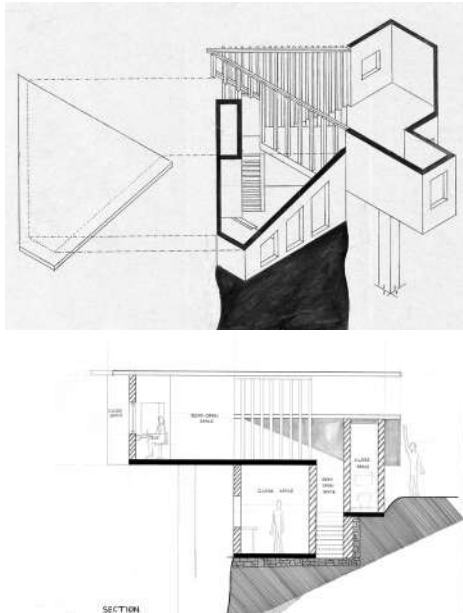
**Mindscape : The Festival of Ideas** was conceptualized by our alumni association as a 'learning' platform built on the cross-disciplinary structure of architecture. The festival expands its focus beyond architecture & design; unravels the making of valuable ideas & personalities. The 5th edition of Mindscape was organized between January 13th & 15th, 2017 at Urban Haat, Navi Mumbai. The festival opened with the Tekton Talk by URBZ titled 'Design Comes as we Build'. It featured performances by Giovanna Joglekar (Ballet) & Sambhaji Bhagat (Protest Music & Poetry). Besides this, there were talks titled 'The Future of Currency' by the science historian, Rohit Gupta & 'Secrets from a Sports Diary' by the eminent sports journalist, Sharda Ugra. Paromita Vohra, Saurav Jha & Devapriya Roy, Vaibhav Chabra presented their projects Agents of Ishq, The Heat & Dust Project & Maker's Asylum respectively. The festival closed with the screening of Faiza Khan's acclaimed film, Supermen of Malegaon.

The 6th edition of Mindscape will be in January 2018, we are looking forward to see you all at the festival.

**Jinu Kurien**

B.A.R.C.H. & URBAN DESIGN  
Mahatma Education Society's Pillai College of Architecture, New Panvel  
2017

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO - Semester II



Architectural Design response of Dheeraj kale, First year B.Arch

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO - Semester VI.

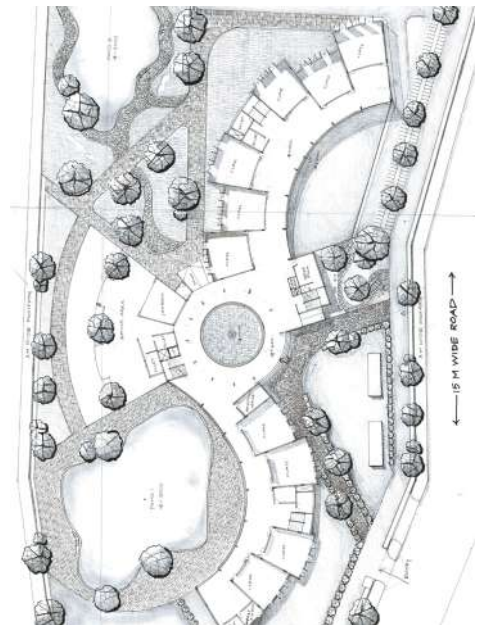
### Places for Learning

This semester design studios objective was to reflect upon the idea of education and various modes of learning and teaching. From these studies students had to formulate their own models for imparting education and design a school. The project was to create a place for habitual learning for people in the neighbourhood. The site was located within a housing neighbourhood. The two existing water bodies on site became informal learning and leisure spaces within the school. The designs could also respond to the adjacent water retention ponds. Resultant built forms created interesting interfaces between existing context and programme of the school.

**Abhijit Sahasrabudhe**

In the second semester, the students were asked to design a living space for themselves by understanding their own personality, interests, hobbies, likes and dislikes. These characteristics along with the site characteristics should influence their concept development and reflect in the spatial development. The selected site was located near Pillai College of Architecture adjacent to Gadhi River. The students have developed concepts, site analysis, initial sketch drawings, final plans, elevations, sections, building views, construction details, conceptual model with site, and a model of the building in 1:50 scale. This exercise helped the students to understand themselves and taught how to respond to client's requirements on first hand basis.

**Dr. Aruna Reddi**

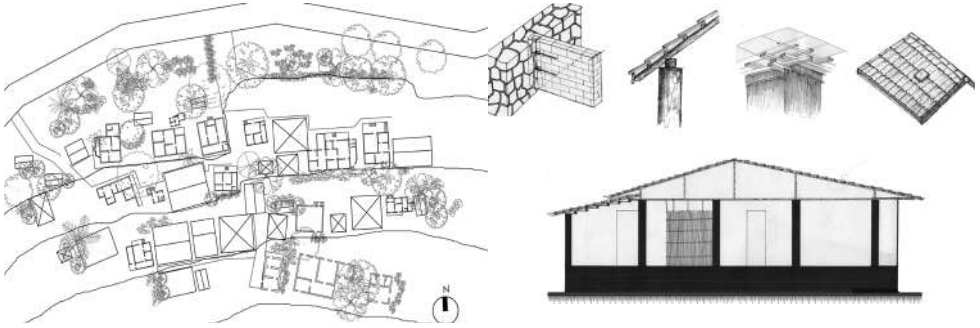


Architectural Design response of Janhavi Korade, Third year B.Arch

## ARCHITECTURAL STUDIO -Semester IV Rural Studio Part I- Research

The rural studio aims at understanding the rural context by studying physical character of a community cluster and its socio-cultural aspects. This semester we identified eight tribal villages. Multiple visits to these villages created an awareness about the life of people residing within these villages.

We collected primary and secondary data regarding the villages and presented it through various graphical representations. The final exhibition of the work and the feedback of visitors, refined the understanding of the students and helped them to formulate needs for the community, which can have architectural solutions. This data post analysis was used for design brief formulation of the same semester.



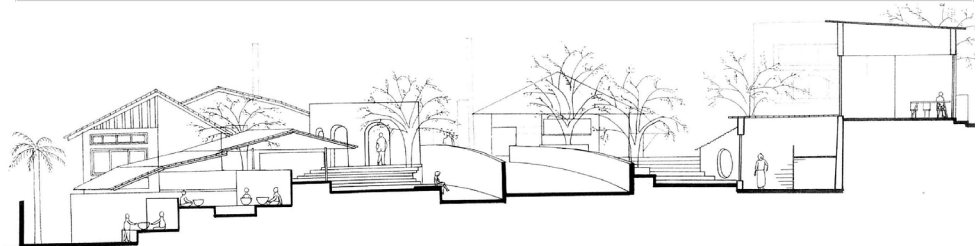
Village mapping and documentation along with construction details by second year students

## RURAL STUDIO Part II - Design Response

The fourth semester design studio focuses on studying community dynamics within cluster, local construction technologies and regional materials. Based on the rural study in the tribal villages the students formulated a design brief responding to the needs. They also chose an appropriate location of site through rigorous discussions.

They also did extensive case studies to understand existing scenario of the proposals. We adopted a design process where complicated space relationships can be resolved efficiently. In the end students responded quite well to the existing site conditions and propose interesting solutions to the needs.

**Neha Sayed**



Architectural Design response of Poornima Panjwani, Second year B.Arch

## STUDY TOURS & DOCUMENTATION

This year vertical tour collaboration between senior and junior students was introduced. The vertical tour offered three days of documentation of heritage building to first, second and third year students in addition to sightseeing to broaden the experience. This system where senior junior students can work together continued in the college project studio encouraging interaction among the students. Three locations selected from south India were Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, Belur and Mysore in Karnataka, and Pondicherry in Tamil Nadu.

Hyderabad tour commenced with a talk by Co-convenor INTACH Telangana, P. Anuradha Reddy narrating the history, culture, city evolution and importance of heritage conservation for development of rural and urban environments. The documentation was conducted of a palace Khurshheed Jah Devdi. With a plethora of places depicting unique heritage monuments with amazing food and culture.

Tour to Belur included documentation of temple complex. Students also explored Mysore city and Nrityagram, a dance school with gurukul tradition designed by architect Genard Da Cunha emphasizes the use of natural techniques and environment friendly architecture.

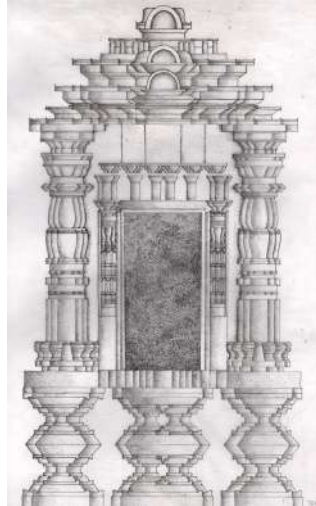
The third most popular tour to Pondicherry created an opportunity to students to visit contemporary buildings as well as French and vernacular architecture. Documentation was focused on Immaculate Conception Cathedral church, a magnificent structure with beautifully constructed interior and exterior designs. Students studied different styles of architecture and construction techniques by exploring three different places. This will surely help them to mould their thought process in the right direction.

**Hema Mulchandani**

### Bellur, Karnataka

The study tour to Belur in Hassan district of Karnataka aimed at understanding architecture and temporal organization details through the act of measured drawings. The documentation focussed three large temples in one compound dedicated to Adinatha, Parsvanatha and Santhanatha, which are remarkable examples of the non-ornate Hoysala architectural style. Soapstone used as construction material enhances the elevation of the temple. The huge temple complex enclosed by high walls has a Garbha Griha (sanctum sanctorum), a Sukhanasi (vestibule), and a Navaranga mandapa. A gateway, crowned by a gopuram marks the entrance to the temple complex. This temple stands unique with ornate entrances, decorated lintel relief and number of lathe turned pillars in the mandapas. The rigorous three days of site documentation was followed by developing accurate drawings in the studio.

### Hema Mulchandani



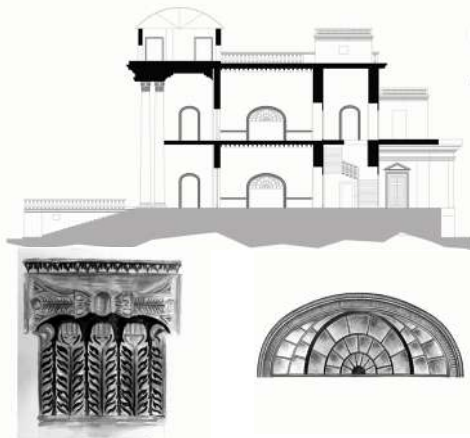
Elevation of Adinath temple

## Hyderabad

The Aim of the study tour was to understand architectural history and culture of the town. The criteria for selecting the structure was to identify a building with rich cultural and architectural history, but in state of disrepair and neglect in present context. This helped in sensitizing the student toward protection of historic building through mode of documentation. "Khursheed Jah Devdi" built in European style which lies in complete state of neglect was chosen for documentation purpose. The ground plus one storied structure is called as 'devdi' or the 'lord's house' which was built in 19th century. The documentation exercise spanned over five days where student rigorously measured, sketched and photo documented the structure and its premises. The exercise was continued in the college project studio to prepare final set of drawings and model.

During the tour, special lectures were organized on "History and development of Hyderabad" by Co-convenor INTACH Telangana, P.Anuradha Reddy and "Historical overview of Khursheed Jah Devdi" by local architect Rohit Mirdoddi.

## Sasmit Acharekar



Section and Details of Khursheed Jah Devdi

## Pondicherry

The ten-day tour was broadly subdivided into three parts viz. Puducherry, Auroville & Mamallapuram. Puducherry has seen its fair share of Social, cultural & architectural influences. As a part of a French colony, during the course of history, Christianity became one of the practiced religion in this region, which gave birth to whorship places such as "Immaculate Conception cathedral" located in Mission street in 1966. This cathedral was rebuilt thrice, which itself became a very interesting ground for documenting the same. The Object of the study was to document and analyze the built.



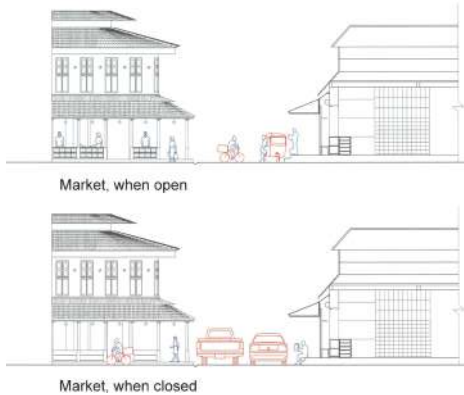
Entrance of After school, Auroville, visited by students

Auroville visit offered a glimpse of most Fascinating, progressive & free spirited architectural practices and influences in the region in the form of The After School, Tibetan Centre, Kala Kendra , Bharat Nivas, Savitri Bhavan. The Tour concluded at Mamallapuram. This region hosts numerous rock Sculpted monuments dating all the way back to the 630 A.D as a part of the Palava Dynasty. The students witnessed intrinsic rock relief work at the shore temple, the marvelous 'Butter Ball'.

## Ashish Sengupta

## ELECTIVE 1: EXPERIENTIAL MAPPING

We are constantly experiencing our environment. Built or unbuilt, we interact with it and create varied experiences, which can be described or portrayed through varied mediums. Architecture is a discipline where we are constantly exploring the paradigm of experience.



This elective, followed a research and design process, where experience was at the centerpoint. It did not have a goal of creating built form at the end, it rather was focused on generating a media that can trigger an experience. This perspective drives the research process, which aims at understanding the user interaction. We did that in a locality in Old Panvel and after analysis of activities and defining their character, the students proposed an altered experience, through small interventions, that ranged from digital interfaces to planning considerations. Because of its open ended approach, the elective helps in widening the scope of design thinking. It also helps the students in becoming more familiar with user centered design .

**Neha Sayed**

## ELECTIVE 4: EARTHQUAKE RESISTANT STRUCTURES

Earthquake and its disastrous effects have established the urgent need of evolving a coordinated design to provide earthquake resistant structures in our country. The earthquake of 26 January 2001 has highlighted the neglect of safety standards by all those involved in the construction industry. As a result we realise that 'Earthquakes do not kill people but buildings do.'

So, the efforts were to create an awareness amongst the students towards these problems and channelise their interest towards better construction practices which requires understanding of better seismic considerations at all stages: from architectural planning to structural design to actual construction and quality control.

Students were introduced to the role of architect in seismic design of an architectural building which is functional, safe and economical with safe foundation design, symmetrical planning, referring to the ratio of height to width and length to width, selection of material and construction technique, uniform section, elevation, floor height, short spans, maximum torsional resistance, balanced lateral resistance etc. Finally it was concluded that:- Simplicity leads to best solutions. So, the emphasis must be on simplicity, symmetry and large torsional rigidity. An integrated effort to achieve these aims should not be lost sight of.

Ultimately, the earthquake resistant construction has to be carried out by the professionals and it is important to take the earthquake engineering to the practice and its knowledge needs to spread to a broad spectrum of professionals within the country.

**Shubhangi Bhide**



Map showing identified heritage structures on Lokmanya Tilak Street, Old panvel, Navi Mumbai

## ELECTIVE 6: ARCHITECTURE AND CINEMA

In the elective on 'Architecture and Cinema', the objective is to extend the disciplinary boundaries of architecture and seek interesting connections with other arts and media, particularly cinema. We discussed film architecture and the role of set design in films like *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *The Shining* among others. The students then experimented with film-making using phone camera and editing software.

Each participant in the elective made a short film of approximate 3-5 minutes on subjects ranging from public places, life in a chawl or slum-dwelling to how we use streets or even focusing on the elements of architecture such as fenestration. We learnt that film is an exciting medium to communicate ideas about architecture and city.

## ELECTIVE 7: URBAN CONSERVATION

The elective course focused on developing a holistic approach towards historical areas and their physical/social and environmental systems which to be identified as an asset for sensitive development of urban cities.

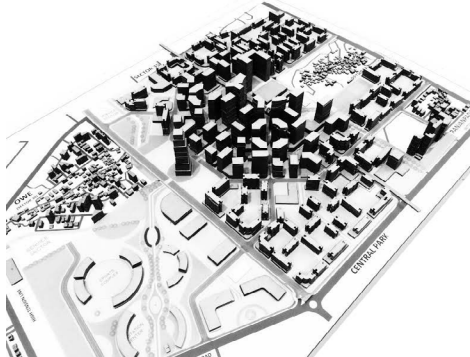
The case of Ballaleshwar precinct, Old Panvel helped students understand and analyze the intense relationship between the build heritage and natural features which traditionally involved local people as their real conservators. The Detailed study of 'Tilak' street through basic parameters of Urban Conservation and the background research on Indian heritage legacy eventually made students devise a framework to resolve the current issues that the delineated area is facing.

**Tejashree Lakras**

## M.ARCH. URBAN DESIGN STUDIO

### Urban Extention

Conferring to the conceptual plan of Navi Mumbai, Kharghar Node was envisaged as a part of CBD. The close proximity to upcoming international Airport and the Metro Rail connectivity to Kharghar have presented a chance for Kharghar to be now developed as a CBD. With reference to the CIDCO's proposal of Corporate Park in Phase II of Kharghar, the Urban Extension studio aims at ensuring an orderly expansion and densification of existing and planned neighbourhoods, needed in order to provide the city with a spatial structure that can support socioeconomic and environmental sustainability. To create this structure, expansions and densification plans are needed for phase II of Kharghar node to enable cities to accommodate the expected growth in the next decades in a sustainable way.



Proposed model of urban design studio by first year M.Arch students

Urban extension and densification of Kharghar Phase II shall provide for a rational urban structure to minimize transport, optimize the use of land, and support the organization of urban open spaces. The densification initiatives include layout of new areas with higher densities, eco-friendly development and transit-oriented developments.

**Anupam Vincent**

## COMPETITION NEWS

3rd year students Aditya Bhat, Chaitali Chaudhari, Janhavi Korde and Siddhesh Bhandari won first prize in Architecture and Paper Academic Competition 2017 organised by Pravara College of Architecture in Second year category

## OFF-SITE ENCOUNTER

A group of 40 students were given an opportunity to visit Folds Design Studio, located at Nerul, Navi Mumbai and founded by Ar.Krishna Murthy. Students experienced the methods and techniques of material testing along with various construction experiment. The process of computer aided 3D visualization and actual construction was explained on field. Various labour related knowledge was also shared during the visit.

## EVENTS

### Tekton Talks 2016

**Gurjit Singh Matharoo**, Ahemdabad based architect shared his experience of practice through 'Eat Love Play Discourse'.

**Sameep Padora**, Principal architect of sP+a, presented various projects in his talk named 'Itinerant Practice'.

'Projective Histories'- An Exhibition by sP+a was held at PiCA campus alongside Tekton Talk.

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