

PiCAGRAM

PILLAI COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, NEW PANVEL

FOREWORD

With a sincere pleasure, I welcome you once again to PiCagram, our College newsletter, which has taken off after a small pause. Being biannual newsletter, PiCagram also aims at reporting various college events, academic or otherwise every semester.

Incidentally, this issue is being published in a golden jubilee year of our parent organization, Mahatma Education Society. PiCA has completed 28 years since its establishment and proved its talent through our alumni performing their best in architecture and allied fields across the globe. This issue presents PiCA's footprints at various platforms in form of workshops, talk series, exhibitions as well as participating and winning eminent competitions.

PiCagram is open to all having different degree of ability, the aim being inclusive and incorporating everyone who wishes to publish his/her good quality work and achievements. It is a milestone that marks our growth, unfolds our imagination and gives life to our thoughts and aspirations. I congratulate and appreciate efforts of the entire PiCagram team who were instrumental in rejuvenating the college newsletter for their hard work and dedication, invested a lot of time and energy and made it happen.

With Warm Wishes
Dr. Sudnya Mahimkar
Principal

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Alegria Competition Winners

- Sharvari Lad (2nd Year) - 2nd Prize *Badminton Singles*
- Sakshi Thakur (1st Year) - 2nd Prize *Sketching*
- Faisal Shah (1st Year) - 1st Prize *Mr. Alegria*
- Swarnim V (2nd Year) - 1st Prize *Poetry Writing*
- Ganesh (1st Year) - 2nd Prize *Rangoli Making*

Inter-College Competitions Winners

Assa Tournament – First Prize In Table Tennis Men's Doubles.

- Harsh Valanju (1st Year.)
- Rajas Patwardhan (1st Year.)

Second Prize in Badminton Women's Single.

- Sharvari Lad (2nd Year.)

Archidium – Honourable Special Mention

- Chilekar Namrata
- Angchekar Bhagyashree.

Second Prize in AIKTC - Kamu Iyer Design Competition

- Ritwik Rathi (3rd year)

IIT KANPUR WORKSHOP

National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering, at IIT Kanpur organized a competition cum Workshop for third year undergraduate students of Architecture. About 60 students from all over India participated in this week long workshop in which five students participated from our college. The workshop was purely an academic episode of exchange of ideas, a platform to learn and explore.

The workshop began with the first two days of lectures by eminent professors from the field of Earthquake Engineering. While the rest four days were scheduled for the competition, wherein students were made to work in pairs on a design problem, which demanded the application of the so far learnt techniques and principles of Earthquake Engineering. During the design challenge sessions, Ar. Vikram Hundekar was present to guide the students with their design ideas.

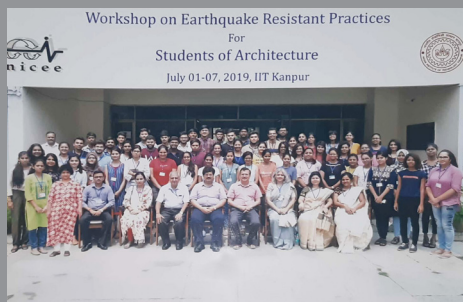


IIT Kanpur campus photograph by Dhiraj Kale

The students were also given tours to the Wind tunnels, Structural Labs and Earthquake Engineering Department of IIT Kanpur. Being in monsoon season one would encounter peacocks and other varieties of birds in courtyards of the campus. The common areas like the library and canteens were at service till midnight, allowed students to work late in the night.

Each team had to then present their work to the jury panel. Out of which 3 winner teams were declared winners, followed by felicitation of all students and a group picture. In spite of the challenging schedule, it was a great platform to interact with likeminded people of our age. An exposure to the present wave of thoughts across the country.

Jahnvi Joshi



Kanpur IIT workshop 2019 group photo

He was an active part of the execution team for the IIT Gandhinagar hostel and staff residence blocks, it is the first standing building of Confined masonry in India.



IIT Kanpur campus photograph by Dhiraj Kale

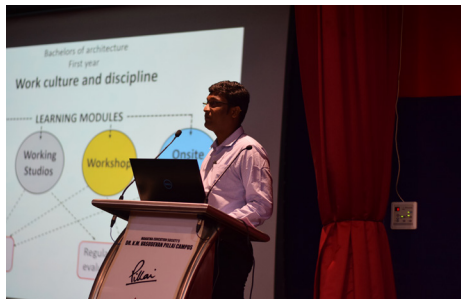


Principal Sudnya Mahimkar explaining the Architecture curriculum to first year students and their parents.

The 'Induction Day' was conducted on 30 July 2019 at 10:30 am in the college auditorium. Aditya Shukla and Nikunj Deshpande (3rd year) welcomed the faculty, students and their parents. A video was displayed about Pillai College of Architecture and the studio culture in the course. The Principal, Dr. Sudnya Mahimkar came up on stage and had an interaction with the students and their parents about the course. She explained the infrastructure of the college - studios, classrooms, library, conclave, etc and introduced the entire faculty - teaching and non-teaching, and informed them about the initiatives taken to improve the teaching environment. At the end, she talked about the academic requirements and the curriculum of the course - syllabus and exam format, challenges faced in architecture and the need to always be on their toes as an Architecture student.



Faculty members and students attending the Induction day.



Professor Sasmit Achrekar addressing first year students and their parents.

Then, Professor Sasmit Acharekar discussed the work culture and discipline in the studio. He explained the difference between studio culture and classroom culture that the students were familiar with earlier. He also discussed the requirements of the orientation week.

Professor Kavita Sawant highlighted various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities held in the college. She talked about TEKTON, MINDSCAPE, TRANSPARENCY, VOX, PiCAgram and the exhibitions as well as workshops. Later, Community Service Secretary Anugraha Nair discussed 'Anubhuti' initiative and listed all the events conducted till now and the upcoming events in PiCA.

Head of Student Council Kiran Patel introduced the Student Council to the students and explained its working. At the culmination of the induction day, Professor Shubhangi Bhide gave a word of thanks to all the attendees. Both the hosts concluded the event by giving a few advice to the freshers and wishing them luck. Finally, the students and their parents attended the exhibitions in the studios on their way out.

Omsrushti Garge

TEKTON TALKS

The Tekton Talk was open to all events held in the auditorium, in the presence of students from first to the fifth year of Pillai College of Architecture. The Tekton 2019-20 arranged talks by two of the CEPT University's most influential alumni and architects, Prof. Snehal Shah and Prof. Kulbhushan Jain. Prof. Smita Dalvi introduced the Tekton magazine and provided a brief insight on it.

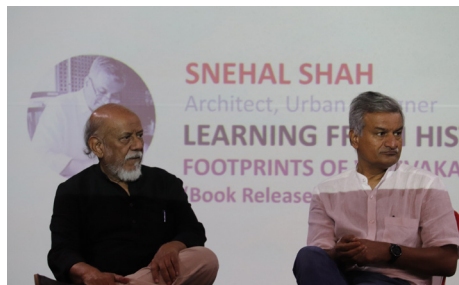
The Tekton event started first with the release of Ar. Snehal Shah's book, titled 'The Footprints of Vishwakarma'. The talk then escalated with the brief description of highlights from the book, and later on to the presentation of his works from around the country. The talk was focused on 'Temple architecture' and how the ideologies are relevant and can be implemented in a contemporary era. Later, the book 'Footprints of Visvakarma', was also made available for students in the evening.



Tekton Magazine being released by Prof.Smita Dalvi.



Release of the book 'Footprints of Vishwakarma'.



Architects, Prof. Kulbhushan Jain and Prof. Snehal Shah during the question and answer session.



Prof. Kulbhushan Jain being felicitated by Principal Dr. Sudnya Mahimkar.

The second half of the event included a talk by Ar. Kulbhushan Jain, where the students observed and analyzed historical buildings from around the world from his book 'History infused with life'. The talk was focused on the conservation of heritage architecture around the world.

The audience, which included students and faculties from architecture as well as all allied fraternities of architecture had a question and answer session with the two architects. Both the architects were felicitated by our respected Principal Dr. Sudnya Mahimkar at the end of the session.

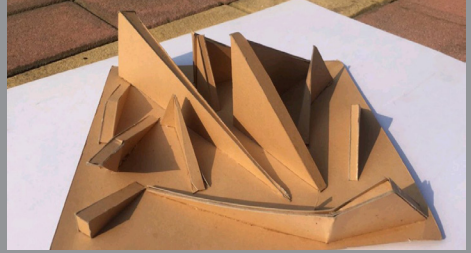
Purva Rane

Architectural Design Studio - 1

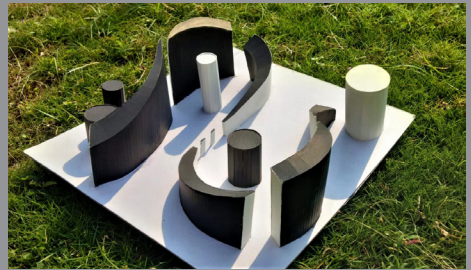
The most vital part of the architecture course is AD Studio. In semester one, the students were inspired to analyse and observe the types of spaces and to classify them as an open space, semi-open space or a closed space.

We were introduced to the topic of 'Artist Lane' (exhibition area) as the topic in this semester. We studied attributes like scale, proportion, the orientation of space, fenestration and the use of colour. These attributes were made applicable in our models to achieve perfect, elegant, aesthetic and practical designs on the given topic. Intensive refinements and guidance under the expertise of faculties was the step towards the completion of design in the course which also helped us form a dedicated mindset towards a vital subject of the course.

Shreya Thakur



Exhibition lane model by Mudra Duri.



Exhibition lane model by Honey Patel.

Architectural Design Studio - 3

The home is supposed to be a getaway from daily life and routine while also adopting the feeling of home to itself at the same time. A weekend home is basically a second home or vacation home that we visit with the sole intent of relaxation. This project was about understanding the true sense of the site and its context with the requirements along with a wide range of user profiles. The site is located near Wakdi village in Panvel. The region is covered with lush green vegetation, hills and water bodies around. A perfect natural context which fits the requirements of a soothing, peaceful weekend home. The pleasant sound of a river and fresh breeze flowing through the trees invoke a natural feeling.

The idea was experiencing vernacularism of Wakdi village through Modern Architecture to create a space to experience the neighbouring rural areas.

Additionally, one of the primary goals was to create a modern form for rural people, because the user is not only the one who experiences the space from inside but also who experiences the space from outside visually.



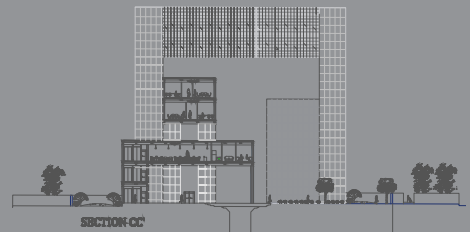
Weekend home plan by Dhiraj Jadhav.

Dhiraj Jadhav

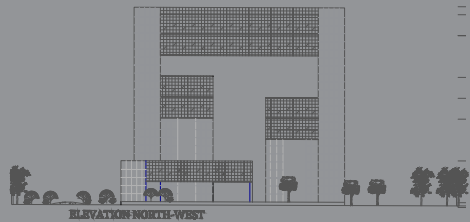
Architectural Design Studio - 5

Semester 5 AD studio focused on building in the urban context. The site was located at Khandeshwar, Navi Mumbai. The class was divided into two groups for the design projects - A Hostel for Working professionals and a co-working space. The site features included a canal and a water body. The aim of the project was to develop a public space integrating these features. Case study criteria was given for the same. Students came up with different concepts, keeping these site features in mind. Form of the building was mainly focused on. Resulting designs were dynamic and unique with an urban context. Overall, the Semester 5 AD Studio was successful in terms of analyzing the site and designing respectively in the given site context.

Shivani Parkhi



Section of Co-working spaces by Shreya Bandekar.



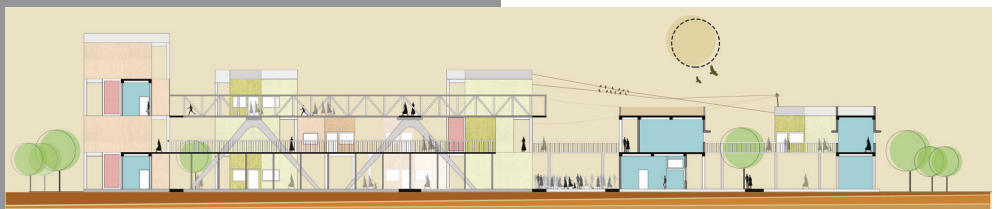
Elevation of Co-working spaces by Shreya Bandekar.

Architectural Design Studio - 7

The aim of this studio was to come up with a design solution of a Housing neighbourhood for the Fishing Community. It was to accommodate residents with different skill sets and socio-cultural backgrounds. The studio intended to allow smart technology interventions into this neighbourhood setup. To begin with, the students studied the various occupation-based housing typologies or settlements that already exist within Mumbai. These were namely - Mahalaxmi and Banganga Dhobighat (Laundry), Kalyan and Dharavi Kumbharwada (Pottery), Dharavi Chambharwada (Tannery), Dharavi and Cuff parade/Versova Koliwada.

Studying these, the students came up with analysis of the interrelation of occupations and their respective housing typologies. The kind of occupation largely governed the nature of construction, type of adaptations in terms of sizes, spaces and the overall character of the built form. The next stage was focusing on case studies of fishermen communities, waterfront development, smart community housing, etc. these set of keywords helped the students to develop sensitivity towards its context.

Jahn timer Joshi



Mixed-use Smart Housing for Fishing community elevation and section by Jahn timer Joshi.

M.ARCH. EXHIBITION - 'MUTATION 2019'

'Mutations' is an annual public exhibition of M. Arch. studio and thesis work as a part of the Master's Program in Urban Design, PiCA - Pillai College of Architecture.

The course objectives of the program, especially those of the studio are synthesized to address real ground situations through the inclusion of stakeholder partnerships, agency/institutional collaborations and community participation. The exhibition event is a continued endeavour in this respect that intends to reach out to its relevant audience.

'Mutations 2019' was hosted in the college campus at Panvel. It was a 4-day public event comprising of the exhibition, lectures and workshop.



Students going through the exhibition.



Dr. Vasudevan Pillai, Principal Sudnya Mahimkar and the faculty of architecture viewing the exhibition.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Shri. Ramesh Dengle, Chief Architect and Planner, CIDCO who shared his experience of being in the profession of Urban Design.

Following this, the Publication of the Thesis and Studio Compendiums of the M. Arch. Urban Design Program was released at the hand of all the guests, publication team and alumni.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. Ramesh Dengle and Dr. Vasudevan Pillai, Founder and CEO Patron of Pillai Group of Institutions and Mahatma Education Society with other members of the management who also joined in to view the exhibition.



Chief Guest Shri. Ramesh Dengle sharing his personal experiences.

Urban Sociologist and Theorist, Dr. Binti Singh delivered a talk on 'Investigating and Theorising the Urban - I'. Professor and Dean of Master's Program at KRVA, Prof. Manoj Parmar concluded the talk on 'Investigating and Theorising the Urban - II' on Day 1. The exhibition witnessed viewers from the professional fraternity as well as members of the management on the second day of the event.

The third day had a day-long workshop conducted by Dr. Akshay Patil and Dr. Amit Deshmukh, faculty members from VNIT, Nagpur on 'Urban Complexities - Concepts and Methods'.



Prof. Richa Sharma felicitating Ar. Harshad Bhatiya

The workshop was attended by students, alumni and professionals. The workshop was concluded on the fourth day with hands-on training. Urban Designer and Architect, Creative Writer and Educator, Ar. Harshad Bhatia delivered the closing talk on 'It's Time for Urban Design'.

Prof. Kavita Sawant

M.ARCH. COMPETITION - MMRCL

The Urban Design students from PiCA, Pillai College of Architecture are proud winners of the 'First Runner up' and 'Transformative Ideas' Awards for the Mumbai Metro student competition. These awards were announced at the competition's grand finale on 22 November 2019.

The competition was a collaboration between ORF and MMRC to invite ideas related to the station area designs of the ongoing metro line 3 in Mumbai from students across the MMR. A total of 51 teams participated in it, which went through workshops and interactions with the organisers and a total of 16 teams made it through the concept stage reaching the finals. All the 3 teams from the M. Arch. in Urban Design program at PiCA qualified to the final stage of the competition, bagging 2 out of the total 8 awards.

A rigorous jury evaluated the proposals from various perspectives. The winning teams from PiCA focused on last-mile connectivity, multi-modal integration, priority to pedestrian and non-motorised transport modes and the creation of public spaces while incorporating sustainable practices. This competition is the culmination of almost six months of a process leading up to the design intervention.

The teams were mentored by Prof. Richa Sharma who is a faculty and the program coordinator for Urban Design at PiCA along with faculty members Madhavi Patil, Sanghamitra Barthakur and Kavita Sawant. The competition was one of its kind, that allowed students to work on a live project. The learnings and exposure gained through this endeavour have been immense.

Prof. Richa Sharma



First Runner-up Awardees of MMRCCL from M.Arch.



Transformative award winners

GUEST LECTURES

Guest Lecture on “Architecture, Site and Society”

The lecture commenced with the introduction of a set of questions including, what is a project, who makes the brief, who are users, what is architecture etc. This acted as a brainstorming session for the Semester 3 students and it kick started their thinking towards signifying the users and site equally for the success of an architecture project.

The lecture further opened up the practice dimension of architecture profession by showing the two projects that the architect is leading, one in Binka village of Orissa and another one in Nagaland. Each project was discussed with an intention to streamline the students' thoughts towards the design project and their approach in general, with respect to their weekend home AD studio project.



Guest Lecturer Ar. Jayesh Ganesh

Guest Lecture on “ACOUSTIC”

The objectives of this lecture is to help students understand the importance of acoustics in Architecture. The goal was to understand properties of sound such as velocity, frequency, intensity, reflection, reverberation, absorption, and the transmission of sound. Physiological and Psychological impact of noise on human beings were discussed along with the ‘noise criteria’ for various spaces viz: Living areas, Educational areas, Offices etc.

Behaviour of sound in open and enclosed spaces with reference to the form of enclosures and various surface finishes was made to understand & experience by the students through videos and listening to sound. Measures to control noise nuisance (Air borne and Structure borne) in different spaces was explained through photographs of ongoing sites.



Guest Lecturer Ar. Jayesh Ganesh

DD Orientation Workshop

The workshop conducted on the 12th & 13th of July, 2019, commenced with the interactive discussion on what is thesis, research, design and design dissertation and the differences between all these. It proceeded to the understanding of how practical but research based approach is effective for the successful operation of any design dissertation.

The second and the last day of the workshop aimed at the individual discussions for resolving the thesis related doubts at personal level.



Architect Mandar Dhuri in session with 4th year students

STUDENT EVENTS

Orientation Week

In the orientation workshop of Pillai College of Architecture, New Panvel, first year students of B.Arch were introduced to conceptualization on 31st July to 9th August, 2019 in co-ordination with Principal Dr. Sudnya Mahimkar and the rest of the faculty associated. The sessions were aimed to be conducted by the means of workshop / hands-on work / lectures / screening, city walks etc. It included different tasks such as Cognitive Mapping, Architecture as a Discipline, Theater, City walk, Postcard Making, Map making, Landmark Appreciation and Criticism, understanding structures, Music and painting, Film Screening, etc. and culminated in the Class Exhibition.



Students engaging in to constructing structures using a unit of construction (Candy Stick), they built structures having span, height, loading and surface



Performances by students depicting various facets of an artist life

Love Feast and Open Mic

The Love Feast and Open mic was held in the Ground floor studio and was participated by the students from all years. The theme of this year's love feast was Snacks. The team members from each house were expected to participate and make snacks that could be easily made. Snacks like bhel, shevpuri, etc. were made by the participating team. Among the faculties present, Professor Sarvesh participated in the love feast and helped the students in making snacks. The snacks made were savoured and relished by the faculty and students alike.



Students participating in Love Feast



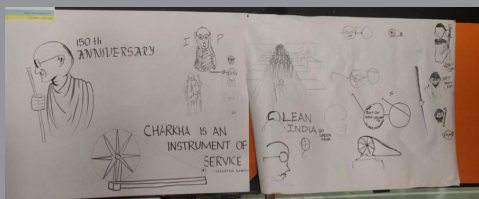
Open-Mic performed by the students

In open mic, the participants from each of the five houses were expected to perform minimum 3 and maximum 5 performances. The participants of the open mic sang, danced, recited poems and performed duets, beatboxing and rapping. The events were enjoyed by all – faculties as well as students. In the end, Professor Tejashree also sang a song, thereby concluding the Open mic.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Doodle with Gandhi

Celebrated every year on 2nd October, 2019, the aim of the session was to let students express their idea of Gandhi. Exploring ideas such as self-reliance, cleanliness and Ahimsa that define Gandhi. This doodle event is an effort to bring in focus to those ideas and concepts and understand their relevance in today's time. The event was attended by about 200 students of first year, third year and fourth year. Students from other branches also visited the venue PiCA stilts, to participate in the event.



Doodles drawn by the students of Pillai College

Chai with Khaki

The students visited the Panvel Police station on 15th August. The purpose of the session was to acknowledge their efforts and let them know that the society cares for them. The student volunteers served tea to the Railway Police. Many social issues such as gender related and age related were discussed. About 20 students from PiCA Anubhuti participated in this event and spent the day with Railway Police.



Anubhuti members with Panvel Police

Jumble Sale 2019-20

The faculty members of MES and PiCA in association with SIBC (Sorooptimist International Bombay Chembur) organized a Jumble Sale on 16th October, 2019. The members collected usable clothes, bedsheets, shoes, bags, toys and other household items and put it up for sale at marginal prices. The funds raised from the event are to be used for various social welfare activities of MES and SIBC. Around 500 people from nearby slums and shanties visited the sale. The unsold items at the end of the day were donated to the SEAL Ashram in Navi Mumbai. Student members of Anubhuti, the social service wing of PiCA participated in collecting, sorting of material and managing the sale counters. Prof. Smita Dalvi helped in co-ordination on the day of the event.



Jumble Sale - Items for sale from prices 100 to 500 rupees

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