



ACHARYA'S NRV SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

(Acharya Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Road, Soladevanahalli, Bengaluru -560 107, India)

URBAN DESIGN OUTDOOR STUDIO REPORT 2023

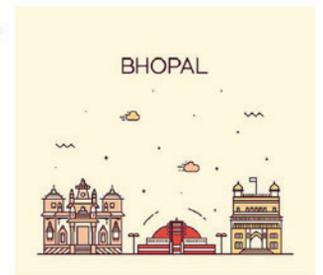
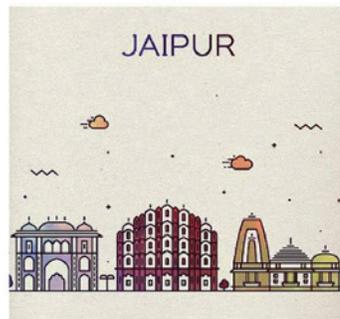
A study tour was conducted for the students of semester 8 (2019 batch) to the North Indian cities of Indore, Bhopal and Jaipur. 50 students participated in the outdoor urban design outdoor studio conducted in Bhopal and 45 students participated in the study tour to Indore and Jaipur to understand the culture, development of urban spaces, to study the public squares and to do a comparative study of the placemaking in a new and old city. The tour was conducted from 7th march to 19th march 2023.



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CONTENT



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INDORE

09th March

The team reached Indore on 9th march. We visited Gandhi Hall, Lal bagh palace, Rajwada chowk and then headed to Rajwada palace and Krishna Pura Chhatri. We then ended the day at Indore's famous Chappan Dukan.

GANDHI HALL

Gandhi Hall is a prime example of British influence on Indian architecture in Indore. Originally known as King Edward Hall when it was built in 1904, the monument was renamed to its present title by Yeshwant Rao Holkar (1926-1948) following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.

The Hall, which measures 112 feet in length, also features a stage and gallery surrounded by an open verandah, with the four corners of the building meeting at Rajput-style minarets topped with domes, while the entrance is from the south. The surrounding complex also features a children's park, a temple and a library. The Hall's high ceiling is remarkable, made of white plaster of paris and painstakingly adorned with gold, with palladian arches, a terraced roof and ornamental moldings adding to the grandeur of the building. However, perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the monument is its clock tower, at a height of ninety feet and capped by a large 15x15 feet dome housing the clock itself.

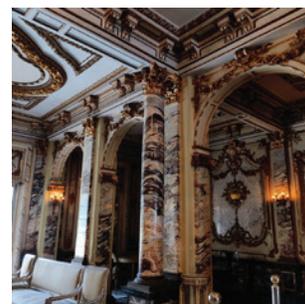


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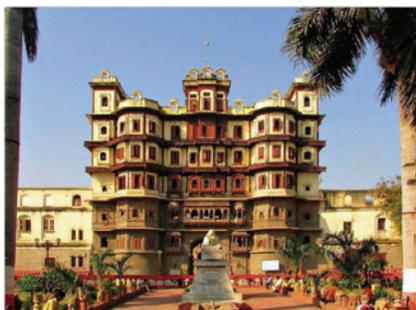
LAL BAGH PALACE

The construction of Lal Bagh Palace, or the Red Palace, began in the late nineteenth century and was completed in 1926 by the Holkar dynasty, whose leaders were some of the most powerful Maratha rulers of India. The architecture reflects Italian Renaissance Revival style, making it one of India's finest neoclassical buildings. It is renowned for its European-influenced interiors, among the finest surviving from this period in India. The garden can be reached through Lal Bagh's vast entrance gates bearing the Holkar coat of arms.



RAJWADA PALACE

Rajwada, also known as the Holkar Palace or Old Palace, is an important historical palace in Indore that was constructed by the Holkars of the Maratha empire, around 2 centuries ago. An example of the fine architectural skill and magnificence of those times, the palace is an impressive 7 storey structure that is placed near the Holkar Chhatris. The structure comprises two parts, the first one located at the heart of the city and the second one standing in the old part of the town. Rajwada palace exhibits a blend of Maratha styles, the palatial structure is sure to leave you shocked. The entrance itself is beautiful with a lofty archway and a giant wooden door covered with iron studs.

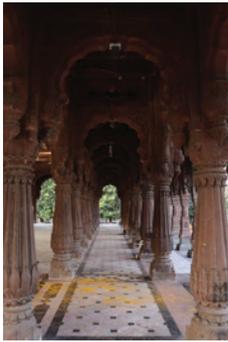


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KRISHNA PURA CHHATRI

The monument of Krishna Pura Chhatri, Indore is a symbol of courage and bravery of the Holkar Dynasty. It was built in the later years of the 1800s in the honor and memory of the Holkar rulers. The Chhatris are located on the bank of River Khan, and due to the brilliant view of the river and the surrounding places, this location is known for its brilliant architecture and heritage. It receives countless tourists throughout the year, and especially during the festive season.



CHAPPAN DUKAAN

At a distance of 3 km from Indore Junction, Chappan Dukan is a food street located in the bustling city of Indore. It is one of the best places to visit in Indore for food lovers. The famous food street Chappan Dukan is a heaven for people who love to eat or love to have a snack or two and spend their evenings with friends or family. Chappan Dukan is like a food treasure trunk with assorted dishes including North Indian, South Indian dishes. From thelas of pani puris to a bowl of Noodles you get every bit of taste along the lane of Chappan. One can have a chance to taste so many food delicacies, not just from various parts of India, but also some dishes from the cuisines around the Globe, like Chinese and Italian, at Chappan.



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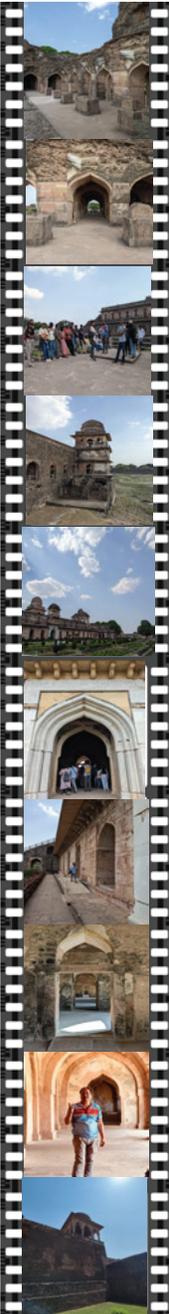
10th March

On the second day, the team went to a place located to the south of Indore known as mandu. Mandu is an ancient fort city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. It's surrounded by stone walls dotted with darwazas (gateways). It's also known for its Afghan architectural heritage. Landmark buildings include Hoshang Shah's Tomb, a domed marble mausoleum, and the vast Jami Masjid mosque, with courtyards framed by colonnades. The imposing, the centuries-old Jahaz Mahal palace stands between 2 lakes. After our visit to mandu we started our journey to bhopal.



BAZ BAHADUR PALACE

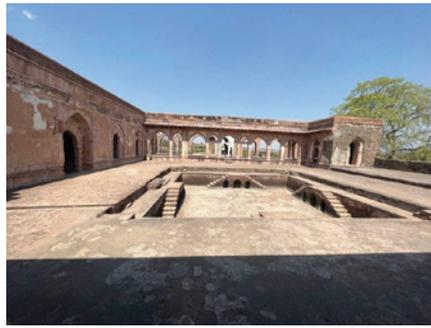
Baz Bahadur Palace is situated on the hill slope to the east of Rewa Kund and is set amid picturesque greenery. As per the Persian inscription on the entrance arch, it was built in 1508 by Nasir-ud-Din, the Sultan of Malwa. Incidentally, Nasir-ud-Din Shah Khilji is credited with designing this aesthetic structure which underwent repairs and renovations during the period of Baz Bahadur. The King became fond of this palace because of his eternal romance with the accomplished singer Ropmati who used to visit the nearby Rewa Kund. With the blend of Rajput and Mughal style of architecture, the main gateway to the palace is approached by 40 broad steps. Tall, sleek arches welcome the visitors at the entrance to this twin-storeyed palace.



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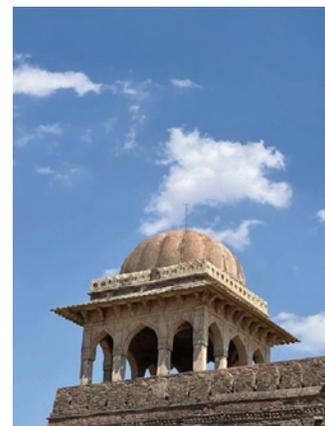
In its days of glory, an aqueduct ran on top of the arches, transporting water from Rewa Kund to the pool in the palace courtyard. Also, the palace consists of a spacious courtyard with halls and rooms on all four sides and a beautiful cistern in its middle. Baz Bahadur held court in these halls between 1555 and 1561. The palace terrace is further adorned with a couple of chhatris or elevated domed pavilions. One of the big rooms, that even today has astounding natural acoustics, served as the music and dance hall of the palace. The palace is an exemplary specimen of the art and architecture of the time.



ROOPMATI PAVILION

This vintage place bestows you with an unparalleled view of the river Narmada. The Pavilion has a backstory of a medieval romance that started between King Baz Bahadur and Rani Roopmati. Earlier this hilltop structure was used as an army ground to keep a watch around and guard the kingdom.

The pavilion has two watchtowers and beautiful courtyards as well, making it one of Mandu tourist places which are mandatory parts of every itinerary. It is said that Rani Roopmati was an accomplished classical singer and the pavilion was made acoustically so it served her better.

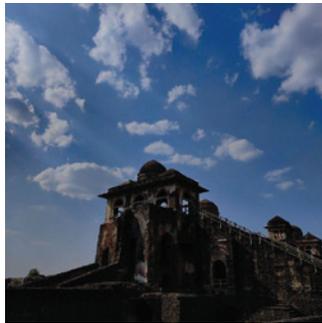


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JHAZ MAHAL

Jahaz Mahal, or a palace that looks like a ship, was built by Sultan Ghiyasuddin Khilji as a harem and it extends over a length of 110 m and a width of 15 m. The main entrance is situated on the eastern side of the palace and on each side of the entrance stands six arched openings, with a cornice supported by stone brackets. There are three large halls on the ground floor, which are connected by corridors with narrow rooms at either end. Apart from the enthralling architecture, Jahaz Mahal is also an important venue for the vibrant colors of the Mandu festival.



BHOPAL

11th March

The first day in Bhopal was dedicated to exploring the city and specifically our assigned wards. The team split into two groups to cover more ground.



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12th March

The team brought out questionnaires for day two as they went into the city to interact with the locals. They were received by warm faces who had a lot to tell about their dear city. It was an eventful day as we got an insight into the daily lives of the residents who come from various walks of life.



13th March

On the third day of the outdoor studio, the team mapped and documented the sectors provided to in groups of three. We filled out observational questionnaires and marked the details of the city's plan onto our maps. We then ended the day with a ferry ride on the upper lake of Bhopal.



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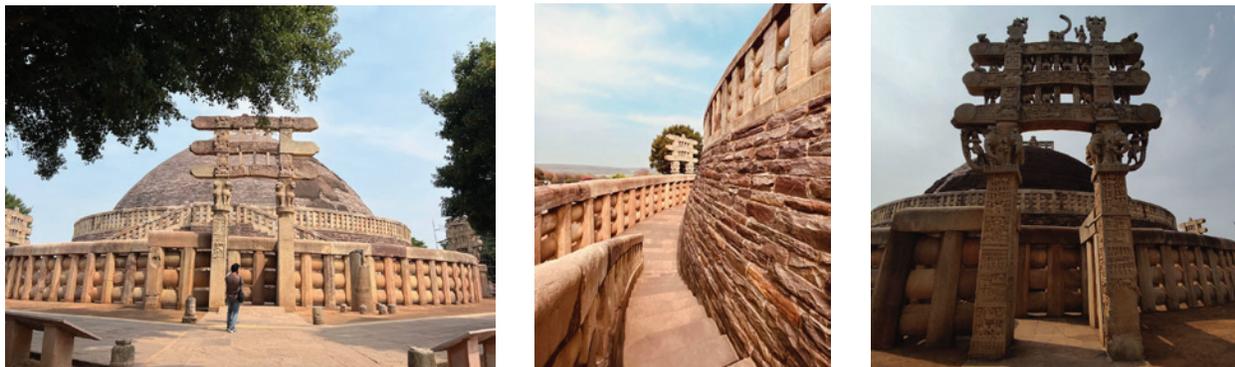
14th March

The last day of the outdoor studio was busy as we finished our work and provided finishing touches to our documentation. We ended the day in Qudsia Bagh and Iqbal Maidan where our students had interaction with Ar. Apoorv C, professor at SPA Bhopal. He took them through various hidden aspects and interesting stories about the city. Students also shared eagerly shared their first outdoor urban experience.



15th March

For the fifth day in Bhopal we left for Sanchi to witness the beautiful ancient Buddhist architecture. After spending a day amongst the peace and quiet of the Stupas we headed back to Bhopal to leave for our next destination - Jaipur.



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JAIPUR

16th March

First destination in Jaipur was Amer Fort. After a long hike to the palace we witnessed the beauty of Rajput architecture with influences of Mughal elements as the sun set behind the palace. Then we went to the city market of Jaipur to explore the culture and vibrant chaos in the city.



17th March

On our second day in the Pink city, we visited Jawahar Kala Kendra, built by Charles Correa where we saw the ideals and concepts of one of the most famous architects laid out in front of us. We then moved on to the old city of Jaipur where we visited the City Palace and Hawa Mahal. We then went on to shop for a few hours before we had to bid goodbye to Jaipur.



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MUMBAI:

18th March

We had 9 hours in Mumbai where students got to explore the city at their own pace and soak in what the city of dreams had to offer. They explored the designated heritage area in South Mumbai, informal street markets and Colaba market, famous eateries, gateway of India and then watched the sun set on the sea in marine drive. Enroute Bangalore.



CONCLUSION

The outdoor studio and extended study tour introduced students to a world they weren't accustomed to. New cultures, new people, new roads leading to unknown destinations. It brought them together, to question things and find the answers to all their entangled queries. We all saw the contrast within city plans and witnessed the stories the public spaces of these cities had to offer.

Development is a steady process that the cities we visited have seen, yet the pace and definition of progress differed in each context. We noticed the difference in the lifestyle between us and the spaces we studied in Bhopal. We discovered roads that weren't on maps and the people who have lived there for generations. This trip offered our students the knowledge and exposure to various dimensions that they couldn't have learnt within the classroom walls.

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