

## PEDAGOGY

**CEPT Open Lecture Series - Alain Bertaud**

It was a full house at the BNB Hall, when CEPT University hosted Prof. Alain Bertaud, for a masterclass on 'Planning for Indian Cities' for the students and faculty (FP & FM) on 28th August 2024. Prof. Bertaud is a distinguished planner respected globally for his understanding of how markets shape cities and is a proponent of market responsive planning practices. He has worked on numerous planning projects in cities like Bangkok, San Salvador, New York, etc.

Mr. Bertaud offered valuable insights into the importance of cities. He spoke about how they are magnets that attract people because of the excellence they offer in education and research, their lively environment and the dynamism of enterprises. Cities, therefore, function as a platform to integrate the skills of the people. He underscored that the role of urban planners is to facilitate this integration of the migrants into the city economy quickly and effectively. Prof. Bertaud also mentioned the importance of blinking indicators to monitor progress and achieve measurable outcomes. The session concluded with a Q&A round inviting pertinent questions from faculty members and students alike.



Figure 1- Urbanist Alain Bertaud's insightful masterclass on 'Planning for Indian Cities'

Source- FP Jaynir Desai

**Guest Lecture by Mr Anil Jangid on Railway Operation Planning and Timetabling**

On 30th August, 2024, students attended an insightful lecture by Mr. Anil Jangid, a railway industry expert. The session covered railway signaling, operations planning, and electrical traction systems. Key topics included Interlocking Systems, Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC), and the importance of certifications like CMRS. Students engaged in a hands-on exercise on timetabling and applying theoretical concepts. The session concluded with presentations and a Q&A session, enriching students' understanding of modern urban transit systems for their future careers.



Figure 2 - MUTS Batch of 2023-2025 with Mr. Anil Jangid.

Source: MUTS Outreach Team

**MUH Workshop by Prof. Mercy Samuel**

On 31st August, 2024, Prof. Mercy Samuel led a lecture on Real Estate Marketing, focusing on the STP (Segmentation, Targeting, and Positioning) model. Students learned to tailor marketing strategies based on audience preferences, enhancing their competitive edge.



Figure3 - MUH Batch of 2023-2025 with Prof. Mercy Samuel after an engaging workshop.

Source: MUH Outreach Team



Figure4 - MUH Batch of 2023-2025 with Mr. Jigar Pandya after an engaging workshop.

Source: MUH Outreach Team

**MUH Workshop by Anushrav Bhatt**

On 31st August, 2024, Anushrav Bhatt delivered a lecture on Arbitration and Litigation, covering dispute resolution methods in real estate. Students gained negotiation skills and learned about key contract clauses, boosting their ability to manage real estate disputes.

**MUH Workshop by Mr. Jigar Pandya**

On 29th August, 2024, Jigar Pandya conducted a workshop on real estate valuation, focusing on Profitability, Highest & Best Use, and Location Analysis. Using a case study on affordable housing, students explored factors influencing land values and ROI.

**MUP Site visits**

As part of the studio focusing on Urban Expansion and Urban Regeneration, students delved into the intricacies of Local Area Planning (LAP) and Town Planning (TP) schemes by visiting various sites in Ahmedabad, including the Central Business District (CBD) area, Bhopal and Prahlad Nagar. These visits provided an in-depth understanding of how the government acquires land and the meticulous process of micro-planning that takes place on-site. Students were able to observe firsthand the planning strategies that shape the city's growth, ensuring a balanced and sustainable development approach.

The learning experience extended beyond Ahmedabad, as smaller groups of students embarked on visits to various cities across India, including Delhi, Udaipur, Bharuch, Surat, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Through consultations with authorities, developers and other relevant parties, students gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities involved in urban planning and development in different contexts. These interactions highlighted the importance of collaboration between government bodies and private developers in shaping urban spaces that are both functional and livable.



Figure5 - Prof. Jignesh Mehta guiding MUP students through a session on Local Area Planning in Ahmedabad.

Source: MUP Outreach Team

**MUI Presentation to Rajkot’s Municipal Commissioner**

On Friday, 2nd August, students from the Masters of Urban Infrastructure Planning, 2023-24 batch, presented sector plans on Stormwater Management, Water Supply, Used Water and Sanitation, and Solid Waste Management to the Commissioner of Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC). These plans aimed to offer innovative, sustainable, and climate-resilient solutions to address Rajkot’s pressing urban infrastructure challenges.

The presentation, part of the infrastructure project studio in collaboration with RMC, provided students with valuable practical, on-ground experience. The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Smart City Mission Director, and representatives from UNICEF and USAID gave insightful feedback, addressing Rajkot’s infrastructure needs and challenges, ensuring students’ proposals aligned with practical requirements.

The interactive session offered students real-world insights, expert guidance, and practical perspectives, enhancing the relevance and impact of their academic work for urban development.



Figure6 - The MUI batch 2023-25 met with the Municipal Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Rajkot, along with officials from USAID and UNICEF, to discuss the infrastructure plan for the city.

Source- Rachit Devashryee

**MUI Presentation to UNICEF**

Postgraduate students of the master’s in urban infrastructure (MUI) program at Faculty of Planning, CEPT University presented their studio work to UNICEF as part of a knowledge partnership with MUI, Faculty of Planning. This semester, the focus was on Rajkot City, Gujarat, with 23 students divided into four groups: Water Supply, Used Water and Sanitation, Solid Waste Management, and Stormwater Management.

Each group conducted a sector assessment and proposed interventions. The Water Supply team proposed WISER (Water Infrastructure for Sustainability, Equity, and Resilience) Rajkot. The Used Water and Sanitation team addressed the full chain from capture to treatment. The Solid Waste Management team proposed ECO-Rajkot, focused on Environmental Safeguards, Collaboration, and Optimization. The Stormwater Management group presented C3 Rajkot, aiming to capture, conserve, and manage water efficiently.

UNICEF’s feedback helped the students integrate equity, resilience, and efficiency into their proposals, emphasizing inclusive access to services, especially for the vulnerable groups.

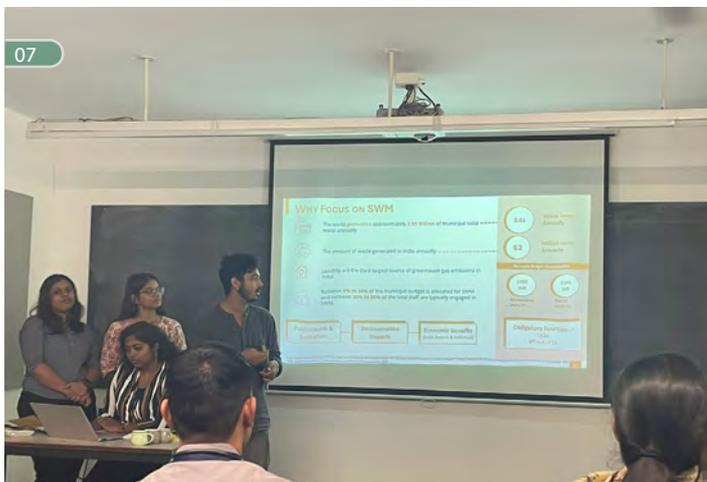


Figure7.1 - The MUI batch 2023-25 presented the Infrastructure Plan for Rajkot to officials from UNICEF  
Source- MUI outreach team



Figure7.2 - The MUI batch 2023-25 with officials from UNICEF  
Source- MUI outreach team

### FP Internship Insights

A first-ever event and a valuable experience was conducted for the newly enrolled First Year post-graduation students in the FP program. The event, organized by the FP PG Council, took place at Sagara basement on Monday, 12th August. An informal informative experience, with a limited time allotted to each 2nd year student to explain their 2-months internship experience (with bonus narrative presentations from certain individuals) at their respective firms.

The event was well-received by the first year students as it provided precious insights for the future planners-to-be. It showcased various options and opportunities that are available to them.



Figure8 - Rahul Das sharing insights from his internship experience.

Source: FP Outreach Team, Prabh Seerat Kaur

## EVENTS

### The new dean - Shalini ma'am

On 30th September, 2024, the Student Council of the Faculty of Planning organized an event to welcome the new dean. Dr. Shalini Sinha has been appointed to succeed Dr. Mona Iyer, signifying a new chapter in the leadership of the department. Dr. Sinha's appointment is met with enthusiasm, as she brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to the role.

The event brought together the entire planning department, including faculty members and students and served as an opportunity to celebrate the community spirit within the department and to honor the contributions of its members. A highlight of the event was a video prepared by the outreach team, which beautifully captured the essence and achievements of the planning department. The event marked a notable transition within the faculty.



Dr. Shalini appointed Dean of Faculty of Planning



Figure9 - The new Dean Dr. Shalini Sinha with the former Dean Prof. Mona Iyer. Prof. Nikita Bhakuni, Prof. Anil Kumar Roy, Prof. Ravi Sannabhadti, other faculties and the FP Council.

Source: FP Outreach Team, Prabh Seerat Kaur

### Music. Dance. Movie.

The semester kicked off with some much-needed fun! On 2nd August, Bhawesh from the Music Club organized a jamming session for the batch to take a break from their busy schedules. Bhawesh played the guitar while the group joined in humming the songs, making it a relaxed and musical evening.

The following Friday, on 9th August, things got livelier with a Garba Night at Sagara Basement. Hosted by dance convenors Gauree and Manav, the night started with fun games and quickly turned into a garba night. The irresistible dhol beats made sure everyone was on their feet!

On 2nd September, Monisha and Pratik Dabhade hosted a movie night featuring 'Ford v Ferrari' at the BNB hall. It was a great way to unwind from the stress of submissions, giving everyone a relaxed, enjoyable break with an exciting film.



Figure10. - Bhawesh Pandey strumming his guitar.

Source: Surabhi Verma



Figure10.2 - The FP senior batch showing appreciation for the junior batch's dance jugalbandi.

Source: FP Outreach Team, Prabh Seerat Kaur

### CR Elections

The 2024 CR elections got off to a slow start but quickly gained momentum, with 2 candidates for the male representative and 3 candidates for the female representative. The candidate introductions took place in the MUI Studios on Thursday, 29th August. Each candidate providing a strong oration on what they will deliver if appointed. The elections were off to a promising start!

The results of the election were published on Friday, 30th August, in BNB Hall. The much-awaited results revealed the elected representatives Simran Deo and Dhananjay Kavhale. A hearty congratulations to both Class Representatives!



Figure11 -Former CRs Vidhi Goyal and Tanay Chaudhari with the new CRs Simran Deo and Dhananjay Kavhale

Source- FP Outreach Team, Prabh Seerat Kaur

Creative section

Guruprasad’s poster highlights citizen participation in Ahmedabad’s local governance, showcasing initiatives like public consultations and contributions to sustainability, heritage conservation, and smart city solutions.



Figure12 -Poster for Prajatantra

Source- Guruprasad, MUP

Vijay Padmanabhan

Vijay Padmanabhan, a CEPT alum from batch 1994, has led multi-sector teams in designing and delivering large and complex projects on urban development, water and sanitation in Asia-Pacific Region. He is currently the Deputy Director General at ADB's Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department leading strategic work for the Bank. His experience also includes work on enterprise resource planning for urban local bodies; structuring and financially closing private sector projects and infrastructure bonds in the water and sanitation sector; and structuring and implementing emergency and disaster assistance projects.

**Gauree Ghawalkar:** *How are you currently associated with the profession?*

**Vijay Padmanabhan:** Well, not that much. I've been working on the corporate side for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the last four years. My focus has been more on strategizing for the bank's vision and creating more lending headroom for the bank. So right now, I'm not too connected with the sector itself, like my earlier work in urban planning, but yes, it's been different.



Fig.13 – Vijay Padmanabhan

**Gauree Ghawalkar:** *Could you briefly tell us about your current work profile?*

**Vijay Padmanabhan:** Sure. Right now, I'm the Deputy Director General for the Strategy, Policy, and Partnerships Department (SPD) at ADB. SPD is like the President's back office, where we handle the strategy work for the Bank. We oversee the corporate results framework, and we also work on creating more financing opportunities for various countries, which means increasing the lending amounts. So, I work across both the corporate and non-corporate sides of the bank.

**Gauree Ghawalkar:** *Is there any specific project that you find intriguing and would like to share with us?*

**Vijay Padmanabhan:** A project that I have fond memories of is one I worked on in the Kyrgyz Republic. After an internal conflict, we had to reconstruct 2,000 houses for people who had lost their homes. We had to complete this before the winter season, which was a huge challenge. It was a high-stress project but very satisfying because we were able to rebuild homes and restore some stability for the affected communities. That was one of the best projects I've worked on in my 28-year career.

**Gauree Ghawalkar:** *How has your journey evolved from your college days to your current profession?*

**Vijay Padmanabhan:** Well, my background is in civil engineering. I studied at NIT Surat (formerly REC Surat). When I came into the urban planning space, it was a completely new experience for me. It opened my eyes to how much could be done in the urban sector. Moving into my current role has been a long but very fulfilling journey. In my earlier years, I worked in consulting, handling projects across multiple cities and countries, including emergency projects. I got a feel for the history, art, culture, and heritage of many places, which made the experience even more satisfying. It's been a rewarding few decades.

**Gauree Ghawalkar:** *Apart from academics, are there any experiences you'd like to share with the upcoming or current batches?*

**Vijay Padmanabhan:** One of the most important things you'll take from your academic life is the teamwork you experience. When you step into the external world, you'll work with people of different temperaments and intellect levels, and the group work you do now is great preparation for that. The second piece of advice is to take care of your health. We live in a fast-changing world with increasing stress, so it's important to make your health a priority. Ensuring that you maintain a good balance will be critical for your long-term success.

**Gauree Ghawalkar:** *Do you have any advice for the current second-year batch, especially for those preparing for placements?*

**Vijay Padmanabhan:** I started working even before I graduated, I was recruited by a company, started working, and then submitted my thesis. My advice is that no matter what kind of job you start with, you'll need to climb gradually. The more experience you gain in the field, the better it turns out in the long run. When I started, I worked across Karnataka and Maharashtra, traveling a lot. That early fieldwork helped me immensely because it gave me confidence in understanding what's happening on the ground. Field experience is critical and will help you in the long run.

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

The CEPT University FP Newsletter is a dynamic student led initiative dedicated to capturing the vibrant spectrum of events at the Faculty of Planning, CEPT University. From academic endeavors to extracurricular activities, the newsletter serves as a comprehensive chronicle of the university's bustling landscape. With a keen eye for detail, the team curates content that not only highlights noteworthy events but also showcases the diverse and innovative work of the students. Through engaging narratives and insightful features, the newsletter celebrates the achievements of the Faculty of Planning.



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