Studio Pedagogy

The foundation studio at Faculty of Planning is structured through a series of exercises, each spanning over a week's time.

The Faculty of Planning introduces a new pedagogy for foundation studio in the academic session 2018-19. The studio titled ‘Understanding the City’ looks at an amalgamation of planning and design through a series of exercises. All first year students enrolled at the faculty of planning are organised in groups of 15 or 16 each. Each group has a faculty-in-charge and an academic associate, ensuring a good 1:15 ratio with students. One-to-one reviews are the essence of this pedagogy, which ensures dedicated discussions over each individual's work.

The studio is structured such that each group works on a different precinct, and each student within that group works on a different square kilometer of area. It aims to analyse the urban fabric through a series of parameters that are assigned for each exercise through the semester. The studio also introduces students to an analytical software, ArcGIS, which is prevalent in the profession.

Each thematic exercise spans over a week's time, and is initiated through a lecture. This introduces methodology for analysis of the precinct, through its history, evolution, land use, morphology, travel behaviour and many more. Data collection for each exercise, therefore, requires a field visit, followed by its documentation. The submitted outputs are reviewed and evaluated on a comparative basis within each group. The foundation studio inculcates time management, organisation of work and analytical skills. Towards the end of semester, the studio intends to summarise documentation for each precinct and further develop a comparative analysis, thereby generating a qualitative inference of urban precincts.

Second Year Studio

The semester of the Faculty of Planning has kicked off in full swing for the 2nd year batch. The students are studying the cities of Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat. The first month comprised of conducting a perception study and collecting primary data for analysis.

Urban Expansion studio visited the planning authorities- SUDA & AUDA and municipal corporations- SMC & AMC as part of their study to avail their opinion on the vision, key strategies and interventions proposed in the region. They also interviewed developers and locals in the areas for their take on the proposed interventions and their aspirations.

Water Sanitation studio visited Vadodara to evaluate the water, storm water, sanitation and Solid Waste Management sectors to
arrive at areas of interventions. They also visited urban local bodies and institutions like VMC, GPCB, GIDCs and VUDA.

Transport studio visited City Link Office for data collection and to understand ground conditions to recommend an alternative analysis of all mass rapid transit systems for Surat focusing on a High Mobility Corridor. Housing studio executed a micro market analysis in various locations in Ahmedabad to understand the demand and supply to formulate an optimal product mix for development. Environment studio studied the water, air and socio-economic characteristics of Bodakdev to assess the environmental impact of cluster developments. Metropolitan studio is probing into the metropolitan regions of Chennai and Bangalore to understand the planning methodology & governance structure.

Insights from the various organisations enrich the students’ perspective as well as acquaint them to the realities of the profession.

FP Lecture Series

The FP lecture series breaks the barriers of learnings limited to studios and provides an interaction opportunity with professionals across various sectors.

A lecture was held on 24 August 2018, by Dr. Douglas Hill, Senior Lecturer, Development studies, Department of Geography, Otago University. He shared his views on the cultural nationalism and regional politics associated with transboundary rivers, in context to River Brahmaputra. The lecture highlighted some intangible aspects of rivers to resolve the problems they face. Reflections on settlements associated with transboundary course of the Brahmaputra from China to India were also made.

Another lecture by Dr. Hemish Rennie, Associate professor from Faculty of Environment, Society and Design at Lincoln University had quoted ‘personification of river is an evolution and not revolution’. He talked about rivers and mountains that were awarded the status of a legal person and the legal mechanisms constituted to act as guardians to restore these “people”. His talk made a lot of reference to the culture of Maori tribe.

The faculty and students at Faculty of Planning are constantly engaged in research on urban issues. This month, there were three stellar presentations.

A research paper titled “Using Image Classification with Space Syntax Model to Predict Pedestrian Volumes and Vehicular Trip Lengths” co-authored by Vidit Kundu, a 2nd year student of MURP, was presented at IGARSS 2018 in Valencia, Spain. It predicted pedestrian and vehicular volumes utilizing satellite imagery and classification techniques to extract features using machine learning models. The reviewers lauded the original and pragmatic approach of the research.

Sai Vandana Sreepada and Sreenandini Banerjee (FP 2016-18 batch) presented papers titled “Achievements of National Missions in Developing Urban Infrastructure: Introspection through responses of cities towards Smart Cities Mission” and “Redefining Access to Water - Case of Slum Dwellers of Hyderabad” respectively, co-authored by Prof. Subhrangsu Goswami, at the 12th World Congress of Regional Science Association International at BITS Pilani Campus, Goa. Vandana’s paper focussed on the Government’s approach to National Missions on Urban Infrastructure over the last decade, while exploring the response pattern of cities. Sreenandini’s paper examined the Indian definition and interpretation of water accessibility. It suggested that apart from distance to source, reliability, efficiency & affordability of drinking water also define ‘access to water’.
MONSOON SEMESTER IS USUALLY CHOC-A- Bloc WITH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES. THIS TIME, IT STARTED WITH ELECTIONS FOR FP STUDENT COUNCIL. MANIFESTO READING AND CAMPAINING WERE FOLLOWED BY A BALLOT. RESULTS WERE DECLARED ON 10 AUGUST 2018 WHERE ANUJ SINGH WAS DECLARED AS DEPUTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER, VAIBHAV GUPTA AS CULTURAL SECRETARY AND SUDIPTO BARUA AS SPORTS SECRETARY.

LATER IN THE MONTH, INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS BEGAN WITH DR BIMAL PATEL HOISTING THE FLAG FOLLOWED BY A LINE OF ENERGETIC CULTURAL PROGRAMMES FROM FA AND FT DEPARTMENTS.


THE START OF THE SEMESTER WAS SURELY A POWER- PACKED ONE WITH ACADEMICS AND CO-CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES.

EXTRA CURRICULARS @ CEPT

Monsoon semester is usually choc-a-bloc with various activities. This time, it started with elections for FP Student Council. Manifesto readings and campaigning were followed by a ballot. Results were declared on 10 August 2018 where Anuj Singh was declared as Deputy Election Commissioner, Vaibhav Gupta as Cultural Secretary and Sudipto Barua as Sports Secretary.

Later in the month, Independence Day celebrations began with Dr Bimal Patel hoisting the flag followed by a line of energetic cultural programmes from FA and FT departments.

24 August 2018 saw students from CEPT University dressed in traditional sarees and mundus celebrating Onam festival. The event was independently organized by students and success of it could be heard in the cheers of the crowd enjoying the performances. The Sagara Basement came alive with the fragrance of flowers arranged as “Pookalam”.

The start of the semester was surely a power-packed one with academics and co-curriculum activities.

Mr. Anirban Choudhury

Every month, we endeavor to reach out to our alumni members and get to know their experiences in the field of planning. Unfortunately this month, we lost one member of our alumni family as Mr. Anirban Choudhury left us for his heavenly abode. We dedicate this issue’s Know Your Alumni section to him.

Late Mr. Anirban Choudhury completed his post-graduation in Planning (Housing) from School of Planning in 1995. A civil engineer through his graduation and a planner further on, Mr. Choudhury’s professional career was a highly meritorious one.

He started off as a research associate at IIM Ahmedabad. Later he moved on to work at West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Company Ltd for three years. Post that, he served at a Grade 1 Consultant at WEBCON for almost ten years. Post a couple of more experiences, he was lastly working as the Vice President (Infrastructure) at Andhra Pradesh Aerospace Defence Electronics Park Pvt. Ltd.

He held keen interest in integration of renewable energy systems into urban development projects and founded a start-up named ATUT with a similar objective. Faculty of Planning deeply mourns this loss.

This newsletter is a student body initiative. For any suggestions, feedback and queries write to us at - fp.newsletter@cept.ac.in