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## NOTICE BOARD

*Upcoming Events in  
December*

| Winter School 2021

## Highlights

| Urban Thinkers  
Campus- 6.0  
| Student Achievements-  
"Charmingly Changi  
ideas" Competition

## EDITORIAL TEAM

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## ACADEMICS



Figure 01: Online workshop on 'Urban Design Guidelines' by Ms. Sophiya Islam | P.C.- Rutuja Nivate

## Exploring Project Feasibilities with Professional Experts

As the semester paced towards its culmination, several lectures were arranged for the second-year PG students to impart technical knowledge on managing similar projects in practice. The lectures allowed the students to critically analyse their studio projects through the lens of feasibility for on-ground execution.

### Master's in Urban Design

Three online workshops focusing on varying subjects related to the on-ground execution of their township projects were conducted for the students of the second-year Master's in Urban Design. The first workshop in the series- 'Drawing Landscape in Urban Design', was conducted online on 10th November by Mr. Bala Nagendran. Whereas, the second workshop conducted on 12th November by Mr. Mehul Naik focused on 'Project Implementation & Phasing'. The series culminated with the workshop on 'Urban Design Guidelines' by Ms. Sophiya Islam, conducted on 13th November.

### Master's in Urban Planning

Prof. Tushar Bose conducted a lecture on 'Infrastructure Requirements and Costing' for the second-year Master's in Urban Planning students on 10th November. Through this lecture, students learned about the various infrastructural provisions essential for a Town Planning or Local Area Plan project. The lecture also focused on the finance and cost estimations for the studio projects.

### Master's in Urban Transport Systems

Mr. Samir Sharma, Vice President of Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) Ltd, delivered a session on 'Freight Modelling (Vissum software)' to the students of second-year Master's in Urban Transport Systems on November 27, 2021. Vissum is a complete software package for traffic analyses, forecasts and GIS-based data management on city, regional or national levels.

ACHIEVEMENTS

FP Students Excel at the “Charmingly Changi” Ideas Competition

The work of FP-PG students has been recognized in the “Charmingly Changi” ideas competition.

A team of FP-PG students, consisting of Arijit Dhar (FP-PG’ 20-22), Jay Bhanushali (FP-PG’ 16-18), Naveen Pahal (FP-PG’ 19-21), Snehal Patil (FP-PG’ 19-21) and Yash Siroliya (FP-PG’ 19-21), has received commendation prize for their proposal ‘Co-creating Changi: People First Approach’, in “Charmingly Changi” ideas

competition organized by Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority with Singapore Land Authority. They achieved a “People First Approach” by recognizing the diverse citizen groups as stakeholders who co-create the spaces in Changi Point. The “Dynamic Masterplan” illustrated various ways of activating these spaces by enhancing public involvement using a social media application to gather feedback and promote various programs.



In frame: Arijit Dhar | Source: CEPT News Website



In frame: Jay Bhanushali | Source: CEPT News Website



In frame: Naveen Pahal | Source: CEPT News Website



In frame: Snehal Patil | Source: CEPT News Website



In frame: Yash Siroliya | Source: CEPT News Website

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

CO-CURRICULAR

CEPT Urban Design Roundtable

Center for Research on Architecture and Urbanism (CAU) in collaboration with the Faculty of Planning organized a distinctive, in-person Urban Design Round Table on November 19 and 20, titled “Practicing Urban Design in India”.

CEPT Urban Design Roundtable held in the CEPT University campus showcased some of India’s significant urban design projects. Practitioners from all over the country conversed with the budding designers about the various opportunities in urban design practice. The panellists also discussed unique ways to strengthen the urban design discipline. The event had four segments - streets



Figure 07: Panellists for the Urban Design Round Table, titled “Practicing Urban Design in India” | P.C.- Sophiya Islam

initiative, precinct development, redevelopment projects in India and waterfronts and historic cores. Each day ended with a panel discussion, where the panellists answered the most pressing questions in

the practice. The panel included eminent speakers like Aswathy Dilip, Prasanna Desai, Alok Shetty, PK Das, Bimal Patel, Nishant Lall, Purvi Patel, Shobhit Tayal, Sourabh Gupta, and Qutub Mandviwala.

## EXTRA-CURRICULARS

## Faculty of Planning Organizes Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC 6.0) in Collaboration with TU Delft, The Netherlands

With "Planning and Placemaking for Resilient Recovery" as its central theme, the sixth edition of Urban Thinkers Campus 6.0 was conducted as a four-day virtual conference. The online conference consisted of five technical sessions bookended by two roundtable discussions, that facilitated a rich discourse on urban planning policies, practices, and pedagogies in climate change and resilient recovery.

Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) 6.0, an international online conference held on 11th-14th November 2021, was organized jointly by CEPT University, Ahmedabad and TU Delft, The Netherlands. The theme of the campus was Planning and Placemaking for Resilient Recovery. The four-day virtual conference, supported by the World Urban Campaign of UNHABITAT, provided the space for debate, learning, and 'unlearning'. Furthermore, it also broadened and strengthened the virtual engagement of urban researchers, professionals, and decision-makers who believe that urbanization is an opportunity that can lead to positive urban transformations which are resilient.

### DAY 1

#### Inaugural Session

The inaugural session started with a welcome address by Prof. Tridip Suhrod, Provost. In the address, he emphasized the importance of democracy in ensuring equitable resilience at all levels. This was followed by the special addresses by Taneha Kuzniecowa Bacchin, and other eminent speakers like Mr. Joe Phelan and Ms. Sarada G. Muraleedharan. Keynote address by Mr. Sanjeev Sanyal emphasized the need for planners and the planning process to continuously adapt so as to plan efficient cities in the constantly changing urban scenarios. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Saswat Bandhyopadhyay.

#### Round Table 1

#### Resilient Recovery through Planning and Placemaking: Role of Planning Education

The session discussed the role of planning education, its implementation in different nations, and its benefits. It was addressed by eminent speakers like Prof. Angeliq C. Rajan, Dr. Laxmi



Figure 08: Presentations by the panellists focused on strategies to achieve resilience | P.C.- Rutuja Nivate

Ramasubramanian, Prof. Machiel van Dorst and Prof. Daniel K. B. Inkoom who highly encouraged the idea of collaboration in the field of planning pedagogy, both globally and locally, to incorporate varying lines of thought.

### DAY 2

#### UT Session 1 Placemaking and Resilient Recovery through Urban Planning: Policies and Strategies

The session discussed various strategies in urban planning that could be implemented for resilient recovery. The session included speakers like Mr. B. R. Balachandran who discussed the case of risk, resilience and planning in coastal Louisiana and its strategic adaptations for future environments, and Ms. Mriganka Saxena who talked about restoring water-based ecosystems for long term urban water sustainability through the example of actions taken in Delhi for urban water sustainability.

#### UT Session 2 Placemaking and Resilient Recovery through Urban Design

The discourse proceeded as an interactive dialogue among the speakers. The panel included

eminent urbanists like Ms. Vidya Mohankumar, Mr. Mahesh Waghdhare and Luisa Maria Calabrese. The speakers addressed the presence of a regional scale to design, where the larger scales of planning did not leave much room to create resilient public spaces. Several contextual examples and experiences were discussed with emphasis on the vulnerabilities of our public spaces. The speakers also examined the role of technology in resilience planning taking the example of the smart cities program.

### DAY 3

#### UT Session 3 Urban Planning and Infrastructure Resilience: Role of Blue-Green Infrastructure Development

The session was conducted by speakers Ms. Sonia Chand Sandhu, Mr. Victor R. Shinde and Prof. Taneha Kuzniecowa Bacchin. It addressed various analytical tools and frameworks available for assessing the uncertainty of the climate action, highlighting the integration of not just environmental, but also economic and social elements. It ended with a keynote on the importance of public participation in infrastructure, paired with traditional knowledge and sensitivity that can create a systemic



difference.

**UT Session 4  
Role of Affordable Housing in Resilient Recovery**

The session began with a brief introduction of the speakers - Mr. Shubhagato Dasgupta, Mr. Apoorv Kaushik and Ms. Anukriti Pathak. The speakers addressed questions on the policies that facilitate access to affordable housing, further delving into how resilience could be integrated into the PMAY scheme to address climate change. It ended with the role that GRIHA and IGBC can play in the affordability and resilience of green buildings in India.

**UT Session 5  
Role of Sustainable Urban Mobility in Resilient Recovery**

Session 5 was a discussion with two distinguished speakers in the field of mobility - Ms. Anumita Roy Chowdhury and Mr. Ashish Verma. With transportation being a big contributor to climate change, strategies and emissions to reduce carbon emissions were discussed. This was followed by a review of the adaptation policies for urban transport in India.

**Quotes from the Speakers**

Throughout the four day long conference, the esteemed panel of speakers spoke about various relevant issues and suggestions to make our cities resilient.



**Prof. Angelique Chettiparambil Rajan**

Secretary-General, Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)

“ There is a scientific and specialized knowledge associated with climate change but there is also a set of generic skills that are required. And that is where planners do well! We are trained not to think about issues in isolation, but to focus on the gaps, trade-offs, complexities, uncertainties and create opportunities. ”



**Prof. Daniel K. B. Inkoom**

Chair, Association of African Planning Schools

“ It is not ‘us’ and ‘them’ when it comes to planners and politicians. The mindset that we need to change in our planning curriculum is that we need to constantly engage with our political decision-makers. We need to see them as allies right from the beginning of our planning education. ”

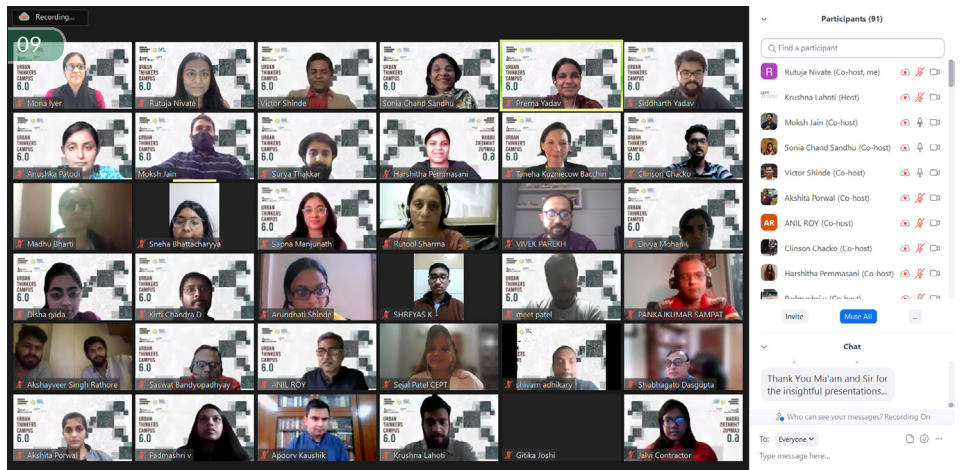


Figure 09: Students engaged in conversation with the panellists | P.C.- Rutuja Nivate

**DAY 4**

**Round Table 2  
Risk to Resilience: Perspectives from Global Stakeholders**

The final round table session saw a panel of distinguished CEPT FP alumni- Ms. Saswati G. Belliappa, Ms. Sakshi C. Dasgupta, Ms. Vibhu Jain and Mr. Harpreet Singh Arora-working with global organizations from across the world, discussing their perspectives and experiences on resilience building in their respective sectors. The session focussed on conversations around urban resilience and the importance

of adopting an integrated perspective of urban development of cities and towns, through case examples from Japan, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and other cities.

This panel discussion was later followed by a Valedictory Session by Prof. C.K. Koshy, who spoke about the importance of a citizen-centric approach to achieve resilience in planning for a safer and sustainable future. He also added that for resilience planning, a shift in planning approach from a firefighting approach to a mainstream planning approach is inevitable.



### **Prof. Machiel van Dorst**

Professor of Environmental Behaviour and Design, Department of Urbanism

“ It is difficult for the common public to understand and interpret the consequences of climate change. We as planners have the responsibility to visualize these consequences, threats and suggest possibilities of solutions through design attributes. ”



### **Bala Balachandran**

Urban Planner, Founder- Alchemy Urban Systems

“ If one wants to have an equitable approach while planning for resilience and adaptation, they need to focus on people and places together in connectivity to build resilience and help people adapt to the changing scenarios. ”



### **Mriganka Saxena**

Founding Partner of Habitat Tectonics Architecture & Urbanism, New Delhi

“ If we are aiming to build resilience that is tangible and visible to the common citizen, we need to bring about statutory and administrative reforms across various scales in the framework- national, state, regional and city level. ”



### **Dr. Diego Sapulveda-Carmona**

Assistant Professor, Spatial Planning and Strategy, TU Delft

“ In the studies of climate change vulnerabilities, particularly for the planning perspective, there is a very clear need to include all the related actors/factors particularly the local inhabitants in the change. This participation ensures that the adaptations needed to overcome the vulnerability initiates from the grassroots levels, where the actual risk is located. ”



### **Vidhya Mohankumar**

Architect and Urban Designer, Founder of Urban Design Collective (UDC)

“ In a systems approach, it is important to think of resilience across all levels of urban design, be it at the building, block or regional level. It also focuses on the aspect of social resilience, that further ensures holistic development. ”



### **Mahesh Wagdhare**

Designer and Founding Partner of StudioPOD, Mumbai

“ There are two parts to resilience. One is, how do we locate these public spaces at a masterplanning level. For example, in Chennai, development is happening across flood prone and low lying land. From the other perspective, once we have these spaces in the right kind of urban fabric, it has to be seen that they are well received socially and environmentally. The Indian context itself is crucial here to create opportunities and synergies. ”



### **Luisa Maria Calabrese**

Urban Design & Strategic Urban, Department of Urbanism, Delft University of Technology

“ The position of Urban design should be disentangled from the idea of scales. There is a continuous back and forth. We should carry out analysis and research on micro and macro scale to find preconditions to design the brief. This would also help to integrate other disciplines and to inform the higher order. Not to be told but to inform. ”



### **Saswati Ghosh Belliappa**

Consultant, Asian Development Bank

“ Inadequate consideration of social, economic and other cross-cutting issues in risk and vulnerability assessments, and a lack of emphasis on the potential impacts of developmental interventions which can exacerbate vulnerability, is often evident. The need for a more nuanced risk assessment that can also take into account the social and economic vulnerabilities, are the order of the day. ”



### **Sakshi Chadha Dasgupta**

Senior Thematic Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC)

“ You have to be involved in the projects for a longer duration, look at adaptation as a whole, something that is strongly built into the projects, while giving adaptation and mitigation equal importance that they deserve. You also need to have an intrinsic look at climate change, the environment - land, soil, water quality, and have clear data points through data collection for monitoring. And then, have an action plan so that cities have a go-to document or a plan. ”



### **Sonia Chand Sandhu**

Principal Evaluation Specialist, IED-Asian Development Bank

“ When we talk of blue-green elements lending to quality of life, then it's also natural assets that have cultural heritage, value, human resources, social assets in addition to built assets. And these need to be inventoried by city managers and planners to become part of the overall operation and management strategies of cities. This is one way to capture or give a matrix to blue and green infrastructure, making it part of the overall design and planning of a city. ”





### Dr. Victor R. Shinde

PhD, Team Leader Water and Environment, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi

“ A lot of uncertainty trickles down into the climatic adaptation interventions due to the numerous assumptions made during the climate modelling processes. As a result, we either tend to over design or under design. This makes it difficult for governments to take decisive actions and back it financially. Hence, it is important to look at the critical thresholds of a system instead. ”

## KNOW YOUR ALUMNI

Alumni and panellists of the the round table discussion- 'Perspectives from Global Stakeholders' interacted with the students, sharing their academic and professional experiences.

### Ms. Saswati Ghosh Belliappa | Consultant, Asian Development Bank

**AR:** Could you briefly describe your work profile?

**SB:** Currently, I am involved in the Operations Department at Asian Development Bank and work closely on project design and implementation. I am responsible for issues of social safeguards, inclusion, and gender mainstreaming. We are currently working on a first-generation housing project in Bhutan to improve access to adequate and affordable rental housing. I am also involved in preparing Gender Action Plans (GAPs) that identify strategies and mechanisms for addressing gender concerns.

**AR:** How has the transformation from your college life to your professional life been like?

**SB:** I graduated from the Urban & Regional Planning program at CEPT in 1992. My first job was as a research assistant at CEPT itself where I worked on compiling a dictionary of 100 planning keywords. The dictionary was published and placed in the library. I went on to work with many multi-laterals, government agencies, UN agencies, NGOs, and NIUA as well. Something I realized was that everywhere there is a role and demand for planners, and appreciation for the skills they bring to the table.

**AR:** Any message(s) for presently enrolled students, especially considering the current circumstances?

**SB:** There is no need to be worried about Covid and its impact on jobs



because even to plan for pandemic response, we need planners. But we do need to focus and specialize and build our skills in certain aspects so that we can be authoritative on those subjects. It is important to have some kind of niche or specialization.

### Ms. Sakshi Chadha Dasgupta, Senior Thematic Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC)

**SK:** What are the learnings that you took from CEPT to the professional world?

**SD:** What we learn at college is just the 'tip' of what we learn outside. It's not just about the subjects or the knowledge of various sectors of planning, but also the idea of working together, grasping and moving on quickly from one subject to the other. I, being a geographer, learned a lot about architecture and engineering that was not really what I had been taught. I worked on sanitation and had to quickly jump across genres like mobility, climate action plans, and water and sanitation. Besides the subject knowledge, working with people from varied backgrounds is

the most important thing you learn at CEPT. What each team member brings to the table is equally important.

**SK:** How was your experience at CEPT?

**SD:** CEPT was so much fun with the most beautiful-looking campus. The idea of being surrounded by free thinkers, and studying in an open environment where you can peep into other studios remain memorable to date.

**SK:** Would you like to give any message(s) to our readers?

**SD:** Start enjoying your life at CEPT, where you get to work and also grow together as individuals



and professionals. CEPTians are recognized for their diligent, rational thinking and knowledge. The students should maintain that legacy, take it forward.

## Mr. Harpreet Arora, Urban Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (New Delhi)

**KC:** *How has the transformation from your college life to your professional life been like?*

**HA:** A lot of new learnings and a lot of 'unlearning' as well. For the first 5-8 years, right after leaving the campus, I imagined my learning would not stop which helped a lot. The quality that I saw that really helped me very early on in my career, was to keep on reminding myself that adaptability, and being a team player are something that will certainly help you. And the sooner you have those built into your professional character, it's an advantage.

**KC:** *Any message(s) for presently enrolled students, especially considering the current circumstances?*

**HA:** What your career is going to be will be a lot different than what you have studied. You should not limit your beliefs. Keep on exploring and rethinking and once you keep doing that, you will start getting better at what you do want to do. Secondly, what you want to do is not always what you get to do. But do not give up the passion. And if you have to sacrifice some bit of your years on doing an unfavourable choice of work, do so, because that also



teaches you something.

## Dr. Vibhu Jain, Tokyo Development Learning Centre (TDLC), World Bank

**DM:** *What is the advice that you would give the current planning profession?*

**VJ:** As planners, I would tell young graduates to attempt working with the city governing body for a specific duration of time after graduation. It is relevant because the implementation of urban plans ultimately rests with the governing body of a particular city. As young planners, it is important to understand how the implementation process works on the ground so that you can eventually gain a better understanding of the system itself.

**DM:** *How has the transformation from your college life to your professional life been like?*

**VJ:** The greatest transformation I faced from college to profession is working with other disciplines that

go hand in hand with planning. In college, my perspective of planning was small, but once I started working at The World Bank, I learned to work with other interdisciplinary subjects that were extremely interesting. This kind of small to big thought process is something that we all as planners should be aware of.

**DM:** *Any message(s) for presently enrolled students, especially keeping in mind the current scenario?*

**VJ:** The planning world is broad and extensive. It is not limited to scoring good marks or absconding from any particular subject. Young students like yourselves need to take an active interest in pursuing interdisciplinary learning. One of the main issues in Indian colleges is that the syllabus is



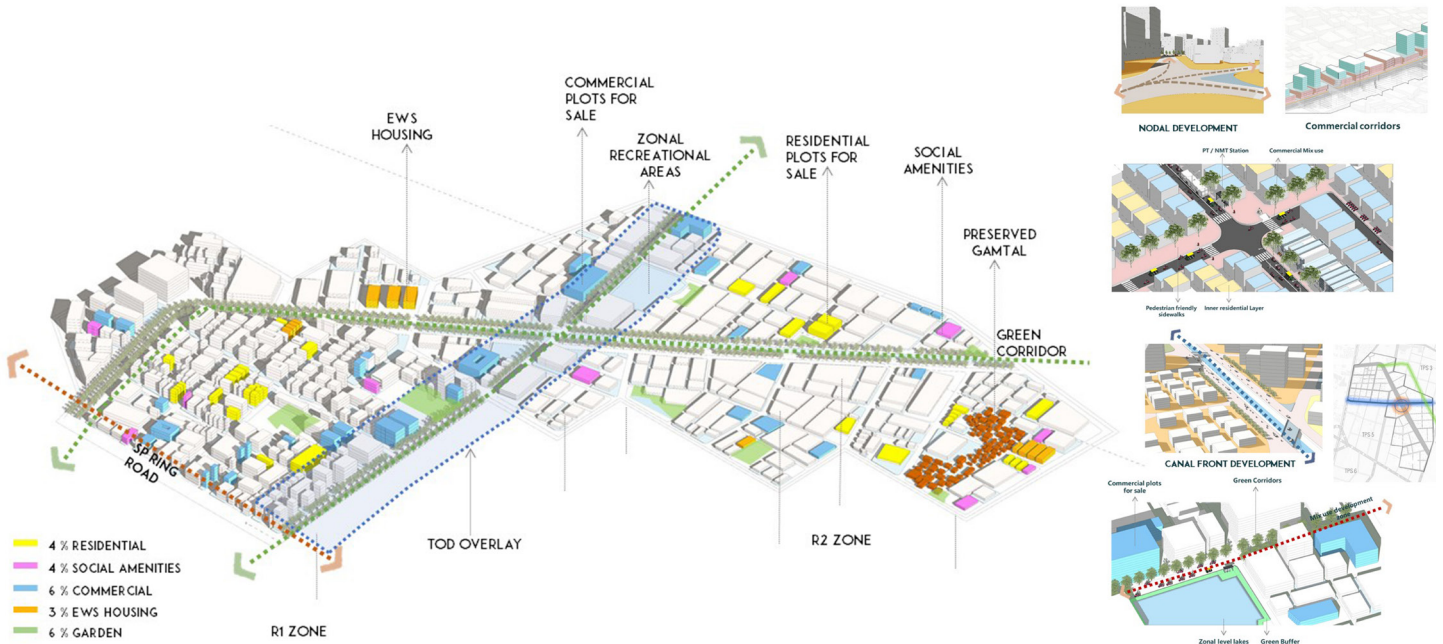
not adapted to the current time and changes, with the students learning outdated concepts. You should be proactive, taking the initiative to develop and diversify into other areas of interest, while getting the best out of college life.

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



CREATIVE SECTION

**'TP Scheme- 3D Visualization'** | By Kunj Belani, Nikita Sharma, Indraja Kokate, Yash Kotgirwar | 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, MUP



The envisioned urban character of the proposed T.P scheme at Vastral with nodal development across various zones.

**'LAP- Character Image'** | By Ankita Neswankar, Jainam Shah, Radhika Suresh, Shruti Garg | 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester, MUP



Envisioned view of the proposed primary road with green corridor and provision of spill over spaces along the walkway to enhance their publicness.