TUE NOV 24 2026

9:30 AM to 7:00 PM



TOWARDS A CRITICAL PROJECT AND A PROJECT OF CRITIQUE

MAHR SYMPOSIUM · PROGRAMME BROCHURE

THE DAY AT A GLANCE

9:30	**Exhibition opens** Cabinet of Citations	03
10:00	**Welcome note** Shubhra Raje, Sunaina Shah	04
10:15	**Session I** Riyaz Tayyibji, Madhuri S, Janhavi Rote, Riya Thakar, Bhavya Jain, Catherine Desai	05
12:30	**Lunch** Exhibition viewing	
13:30	**Session II** Sarover Zaidi, Anushree Thakur, Shubhayan Modak, Nidhi Chauhan, Aayushi Shukla, Sonal Mittal	11
15:45	**Tea break** Exhibition viewing	
16:15	**Session III** Sudipto Ghosh, Aditi Amaranath, Siddharth R, Geethanjali Prathap, Yamini Maqtedar, Smit Vyas	17
18:30	**Closing remarks** Shubhra Raje, Sunaina Shah	23

Venue: Lilavati Library, Reading Room, 1st Floor, CEPT University, Ahmedabad

CABINET OF CITATIONS

Exhibition opens

The exhibition opens with the symposium at 9:30, with viewing over lunch and the tea break.



9:30

time:9:30 – 10:00

duration:30 mins

ALL PARTICIPANTS

WELCOME NOTE

Introducing the studio and reflecting on the journey

WELCOME

10:00

time:10:00 – 10:15

duration:15 mins

SHUBHRA RAJE, SUNAINA SHAH

KEYNOTE I

Keynote address

THE MEANING OF USE AND THE MEANS OF MAKING

10:15

time:10:15 – 10:45

duration:30 mins

RIYAZ TAYYIBJI

HUNNARSHALA

Hunnarshala campus, Bhuj

What does it mean to build with the knowledge of a place? Taking the Hunnarshala campus in Bhuj as its focus, this study examines how traditional building practices are translated into contemporary architecture. Through an examination of its materials, buildings and masterplan, alongside comparisons with four Kachchhi settlements, it traces what is carried forward and what is lost in this process. It argues that architectural inheritance extends beyond materials and techniques to include cultures of ritual, extraction, replenishment, maintenance and care. The masterplan's role emerges as a hinge, raising questions about how inherited knowledge can shape collective inhabitation while remaining connected to its cultural and material conditions.



10:45

time:10:45 – 11:00

duration:15 mins

MADHURI S

SESSION I · 10:15 – 12:30

CEPT LIBRARY

Lilavati Lalbhai Library, Ahmedabad

This critique examines the Lilavati Lalbhai Library at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, to understand how architecture shapes the experience of discovering knowledge. Beginning with the conventional idea of a library as a place to find and access books, the inquiry moves beyond the catalogue to explore what makes discovery possible. Through the relationships between browsing, light and the social life of reading, it investigates how the library's spatial organisation brings readers, collections and shared spaces together or separates them. By examining these conditions, the study questions how a library can become more than a repository of books: a space where exploration, encounter and discovery unfold.



11:00

time:11:00 – 11:15

duration:15 mins

JANHAVI ROTE

ATMA

Le Corbusier, Ahmedabad

This paper examines how Le Corbusier's Mill Owners' Association Building (AMOA) uses its ramp and stair to create different experiences of approach, arrival, access, and outlook. Built in 1954 for Ahmedabad's textile magnates, the building's circulation paths shape how visitors and staff move through the space. By contrasting the grand ceremonial ramp with the prominent exterior service stair, the study explores how the architecture balances elite display with everyday utility. Ultimately, the research finds that everyday circulation receives distinct architectural prominence on the façade while retaining a clear and deliberate relationship with the building.



11:15

time:11:15 – 11:30

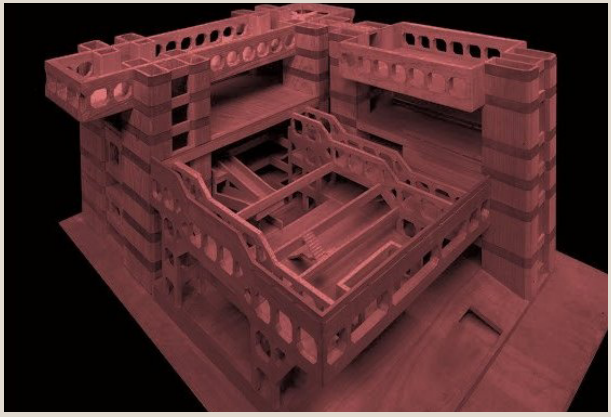
duration:15 mins

RIYA THAKAR

STATE TRADING CORPORATION BUILDING

Raj Rewal, New Delhi

How does architectural order shape the organization of spaces, activities and human relationships? This study reads Raj Rewal's State Trading Corporation Building through comparative analysis, using Kahn's served–servant framework and precedents in workplace organization and shared space, tested across office floors, podium and urban edge. It finds that STC's strong structural and geometric unity is not consistently matched by relational coherence: shared spaces, circulation and access do not consistently follow its form. The significance lies in distinguishing compositional from relational order, showing that architectural unity and experiential coherence are not the same, and that order matters in how it enables interaction.



11:30

time:11:30 – 11:45

duration:15 mins

BHAVYA JAIN

SESSION I · 10:15 – 12:30

RESPONSE & DISCUSSION

Discussant response, then open discussion

11:45 DISCUSSANT RESPONSE
12:00 OPEN DISCUSSION

11:45

time:11:45 – 12:30

duration:45 mins

CATHERINE DESAI

SESSION II · 13:30 – 15:45

KEYNOTE II

Keynote address

THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION AND INHERITANCE

13:30

time:13:30 – 14:00

duration:30 mins

SAROVER ZAIDI

BHARAT BHAVAN

Charles Correa, Bhopal

Often described as a “non-building”, Bharat Bhavan frames Charles Correa’s idea of the “ritualistic pathway”, through a reading of publications and lectures, alongside redrawn plans and sections, this essay examines how the concept relates landscape, movement and institutional activities. The architectural analysis identifies gaps between published representations and spatial organisation of the building itself, revealing an interrupted descent to the Upper Lake and distinct routes between landscape and exhibition. Compared with the Louisiana Museum, the study argues that Bharat Bhavan achieves formal continuity with terrain more fully than it integrates landscape and cultural activities into the organisation of the institution.



14:00

time:14:00 – 14:15

duration:15 mins

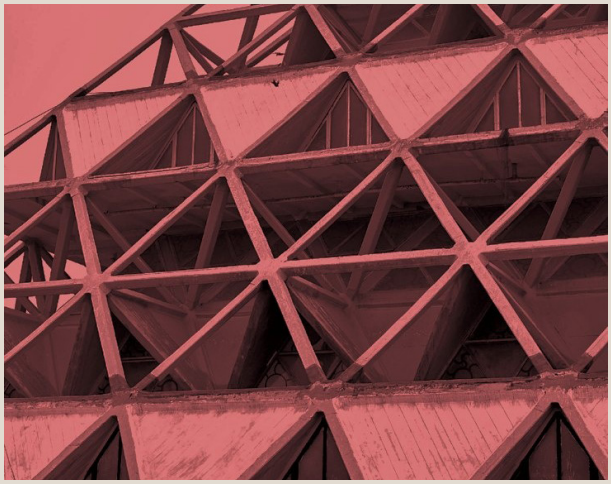
ANUSHREE THAKUR

SESSION II · 13:30 – 15:45

HALL OF NATIONS

Raj Rewal, New Delhi (demolished)

This essay reads the Hall of Nations as a representative vehicle for the national image of India. A critique of the narrative around it sets ‘as built’ (construction register), against ‘as meant’ (tradition register). Across journalism, exhibitions and publications, the account the public understands takes precedence over the harder one, and the building is known by what it resembles. Commissioned as an emblem and narrated like a metonym, the Hall now stands only as a fraction of what it could have been in the larger history of the national images that India has portrayed of itself through the decades.



14:15

time:14:15 – 14:30

duration:15 mins

SHUBHAYAN MODAK

RUSAKOV WORKERS' CLUB

Konstantin Melnikov, Moscow

When architecture announces a new social order, does it transform the relationships through which people participate? Examining Konstantin Melnikov's Rusakov Club in Moscow, this study compares plans and sections of converted churches and Soviet workers' clubs to distinguish iconographic change from typological transformation. Rusakov's movable partitions varied capacity without altering orientation toward the stage. Compared with Frunze, Svoboda and Zuev, Rusakov fragments its audience, restricts mutual visibility and locks assembly into a fixed relationship of address. Architectural transformation must therefore be judged through access, mutual visibility, orientation and association, not imagery alone.



14:30

time:14:30 – 14:45

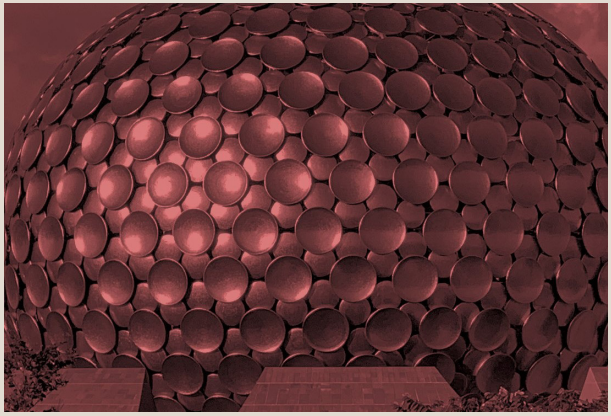
duration:15 mins

NIDHI CHAUHAN

MATRIMANDIR

Roger Anger, Auroville

Auroville's aspirations of human unity and the development of consciousness rest upon the possibility of discovery. This study examines how these aspirations are translated through architectural diagrams. It compares eight Galaxy masterplan iterations through centre, circulation and nodes, and reads the Matrimandir's colour-quality diagram alongside Monet's Impression, Sunrise and godhuli. While the Galaxy retains its spiral form, the spatial relationships within it undergo significant change. At the Matrimandir, colours are assigned fixed spiritual qualities, establishing meaning before the visitor's encounter. Together, these readings reveal how diagrams translate aspiration into architectural order, while delimiting the possibilities of discovery.



14:45

time:14:45 – 15:00

duration:15 mins

AAYUSHI SHUKLA

RESPONSE & DISCUSSION

Discussant response, then open discussion

15:00 DISCUSSANT RESPONSE
15:15 OPEN DISCUSSION

15:00

time:15:00 – 15:45

duration:45 mins

SONAL MITTAL

KEYNOTE III

Keynote address

INSPIRATIONS
AND TRANSLATIONS

16:15

time:16:15 – 16:45

duration:30 mins

SUDIPTO GHOSH

AMDAVAD NI GUFA

B. V. Doshi with M. F. Husain, Ahmedabad

How does architecture translate the primordial cave into an expressive form, and what responsibility does this translation carry towards the conditions it evokes? Through Amdavad ni Gufa, this enquiry examines the distinction between the spatial expression of a cave and the material and environmental conditions that produce subterranean refuge. Comparative sections of Bedsa Vihara, Kailasa Temple, Adalaj ni Vav, and Sangath establish different ways of engaging with the ground, while studies of light, gallery, and roof examine how these relationships are transformed in Gufa. The investigation argues that although Gufa evokes the cave through its sculptural enclosure and partial burial, its ferrocement construction and exposed roof complicate the refuge it represents. Architectural expression, therefore, must be considered alongside the material and environmental realities of inhabitation.



16:45

time:16:45 – 17:00

duration:15 mins

ADITI AMARANATH

SESSION III · 16:15 – 18:30

ASHWINIKUMAR CREMATORIUM

Matharoo Associates, Surat

When should architecture step back? In settings such as crematoria/ funerary grounds, where experience cannot be designed or directed, the question is put most sharply. The Ashwinikumar Crematorium in Surat shows restraint to be necessary wherever architecture cannot, or need not, dictate experience. Architecture can cater only to the collective obligations of ritual. When that framework begins to dissipate, the individual is released from what the architecture prescribes, and choice takes over. Here, the unplanned does what a prescribed choreography cannot. Restraint, in design, is knowing when to step back.



17:00

time:17:00 – 17:15

duration:15 mins

SIDDHARTH R

IIM BANGALORE

B. V. Doshi, Bangalore

This study examines how IIM Bangalore relates to ideas of streets, courtyards and historical architecture. The first comparison reads IIMB alongside Fatehpur Sikri and the Meenakshi Temple, examining how rooms, corridors, covered spaces and courtyards are arranged. The second comparison tests the campus's street analogy against Brahmanal in Varanasi, using its lanes and courtyard houses to examine how movement passes through changing degrees of enclosure. Drawing on Charles Correa's idea of a spatial continuum, the study considers how these relationships shape the experience of architecture and asks whether familiar forms retain their meaning when translated into a contemporary educational institution.



17:15

time:17:15 – 17:30

duration:15 mins

GEETHANJALI PRATHAP

SESSION III · 16:15 – 18:30

JAWAHAR KALA KENDRA

Charles Correa, Jaipur

Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK), Charles Correa's cultural centre in Jaipur, is widely read as proof that Indianness can be kept alive in contemporary work, largely because of what it recalls. Recognition, however, does not show what has been carried forward. Using Correa's distinction between transfer and transformation, comparative drawings ask what is retained, altered and lost in the kund, the courtyard edge and the block plan, and whether alteration amounts to reinvention or omission. The kund keeps its form but not its depth, the edge becomes a wall, and streets become walls. JKK operates predominantly through transfer.



17:30

time:17:30 – 17:45

duration:15 mins

YAMINI MAQTEDAR

RESPONSE & DISCUSSION

Discussant response, then open discussion



17:45

time:17:45 – 18:30

duration:45 mins

SMIT VYAS

CLOSING REMARKS

Close of the symposium



18:30

time:18:30 – 18:45

duration:15 mins

SHUBHRA RAJE, SUNAINA SHAH

VENUE & INFORMATION

VENUE:

Lilavati Library
Reading Room, 1st Floor
CEPT University, Ahmedabad

DATE:

Tuesday, 24 November 2026
9:30 AM to 7:00 PM

HOSTED BY:

Master's in Architectural History and Research (MAHR-C) CEPT University.
Tutors: Shubhra Raje and Sunaina Shah
Teaching Assistant: Suhana Shaikh

