



# COURTYARD

WCFA NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

18<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2018

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## EDITORS' NOTE

As an attempt to create a platform to express ideas and showcase talents at Wadiyar Centre for Architecture, the newsletter came into being. It is a stage for reporting and spreading knowledge, shared by students and teachers alike.

Starting off as an assignment, the process was intriguing and the result fruitful. To give the newsletter a certain direction and guideline, a theme that was neither too open-ended nor too restrictive was necessary; something relatable yet informative. After due confusion and discussion, we arrived at 'Transition'. It seemed to fit the requirement well as everyone would've undergone change in some part of their lives, college related or not.

A nascent student enters college from a school-like atmosphere, a senior student begins moving from a confused state from a sane one (or not), a new faculty starts getting used to the new environment, a senior faculty adjusts to the new additions in the college, a trustee transcends further into 'guru state' from a practitioner. Like this, each person has their own views on the subject, college, the profession and life.

'Courtyard' should be used as a space to express and share them.

With all of you, we too experienced transition first hand. From being contributors to now becoming curators was a big step. The entire process was tedious and unforgiving towards the editorial team, yet it feels incredible to have put out this collection of ideas and our sincere hope is that the following batches take it forward with equal or more enthusiasm.

- SOUJANYA SHIVRAM, ALIPTHA GOVINDU

## THE RAT RACE

Our world is a mess,  
What was once Black and White,  
Is just confusing hues of Grey,  
What was once straight,  
Is now completely veered.

*Our world is indeed a mess  
and we are tangled in it. We are  
running completely ignorant toward  
this new world we are creating.  
But if we just stop we would realise  
that we are actually just running in  
circles, struggling to the balance  
the voice of the old and vision of the  
new.*

-VAISHNAVI KASIBHATLA

## NOW AND THEN

*[On the passage of time, influencing me and my brother]*

Someone wise once said and I quote,  
"The first impression is the most false impression."  
Experience makes people wise,  
Such insights on life say enough,  
Yet just this does not suffice...

Let's dig a little deep..

..I say I have known someone for a long time,  
Someone I loved yet hated, because that is no crime.  
From long before I came to a stable frame of mind,  
I did find this person weirdly intriguing, yet kind.

So as this person grew, I grew with him.  
He was innocent and sweet natured,  
Listening and heeding to my every whim.  
Never did he complain as he stayed by me.

Always thinking about what I would like,  
For no consequence or fee..  
The years rushed by, and so did his ways,  
As he grew to be something alien, which was not okay...

My dear caring brother, all grown up,  
And my days of pampering, all gone, gone was my luck.  
As I see him reach for great heights in life,  
With no time for each other, something I would constantly deny.

His meek and shy, yet tender and agreeable demeanour,  
Now turned into an amicable, bold and strong exterior.  
Gone are those days of acceptable silly pet names,  
And all those times we fooled around or made up silly games!

All that he was, still within him, it stays,  
Lingering on, even with these strong winds of change.  
As he inspired me through these days,  
I still wonder; What happened? Where is my playmate?...

Time changes people so drastically,  
With no time to think about everything practically,  
From what we thought to stark reality,  
Changed come no matter what.

Welcome or not so much, from what we saw to what really is,  
So finally, impressions don't matter.  
As we dwell on the later, people change,  
And onlookers should move on, into this new age...

..just like how I stand by and look at my brother,  
The one who I loved to bother,  
All grown up and serious,  
Buckled up to take down the world,  
No matter how tedious...

-MADHAVI S NAIR



## DEW

Illuminating the edge of the leaf,  
The drop of dew glides down,  
Glissading through the air,  
Until it falls.  
Falls onto the sea of pebbles below.  
The grains of dust surround it,  
Identical to a serene orbit.  
Then it stays.  
Where the eye strains to see,  
Where only the foot abuts,  
Where the roots break through,  
That is where it stays.  
Until the sky reverberates,  
And the downpour echoes.  
With that the drop transitions  
Into a silvery puddle.  
With the touch of a leaf,  
The edge of the puddle,  
Trickles down through the green.,  
Through the vast openness,  
Through the silent shrieks of the wind,  
Through the peace of the land of wood.  
Until it descends into the colossal ocean.  
That is when it realises that it is more.  
More than it knows.  
More than the sum of its parts.  
More than the grief faced,  
Through the sublime eons of transition.

-BINDU MARINGANTI

## TRANSITION OF THOUGHT

*Pioneering the era of the  
revolutionary architecture in France,  
Etienne Louis Boullée (1728 - 1799)  
brought the transition in the thought  
of building. From the inconsiderate  
rococo mansions, he moved his ideas and  
designs towards a very modern notion  
of construction mixed with a tinge of  
romanticism.*

*He believed buildings to be  
poetry in some sense, following is a poem  
dedicated to the 'Cenotaph for Newton'.*

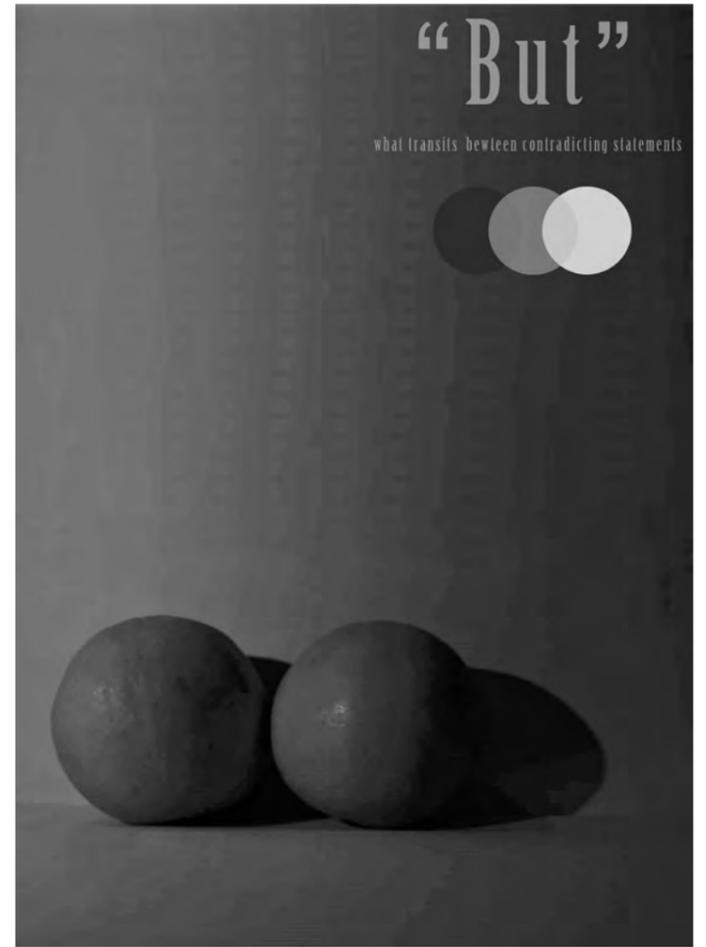
An expanded thought,  
Pure and unbounded within a circumference  
Exuberant yet logical  
Exaggerated maybe  
But inconsiderate, not  
Monumentally scaled  
To get you lost in light  
And found in the dark  
An ode to the human mind  
Finally, reverence to one's own kind  
If this is the magic  
Of a walk under a moonlit sky  
I'll sleep all day and wander all night.

-SAYEMA SYED

SHIFT



-ROHAN DAYANIDHI



-VISMAYA N MURTHY

KEEP UP WITH THE TRANSITION

I remember being asked on my first day of Architecture school, ‘What is Architecture?’ to which the rephrased question would always be ‘What do you think Architecture is?’ Initially I would attempt to form an answer sounding as intellectual as possible, always to be asked ‘is that all?’ Over time, I have noticed that when people ask me now, they don’t necessarily expect an answer.

For those of you have just started, this question requires your answer to be found. Something that senior architects and professors still say they don’t have an answer to. The important thing here, is not the answer, but the journey that you have just begun. This journey has a new set of roads, and if you really look at them, these are only for you, there aren’t any that are less taken or more.

Over the next few years, what you learn, experience and explore is what is going to help you structure this answer. You will come across various styles of work, fields of thought and will eventually come to position yourself and develop your own view points. There shall be certain things that interest you and it is necessary to explore those areas further. The spectrum of knowledge that architecture offers is vast and that should be taken advantage of to its fullest.

By the end of your time here at WCFA, you would have generated certain view points and ideas about ‘what architecture is to you’. This journey is never ending and will keep changing with time, however it will help you chose the path you wish to take, not forgetting your role as an architect and more importantly an individual in society.

-VARUN PAIS

HEALTH TIPS FOR AN ARCHITECTURE STUDENT

- Architecture is an intense course which takes a toll on your health. Here are some few tips to help you lead a healthier life.
- It is absolutely okay to sleep at night, regardless the submission the next morning(especially if you have been up the whole last week working).
- Food is very important for sustenance. Eat fresh fruits and vegetables. Drink plenty of water. Design discussions at lunch times gift you with stomach ulcers.
- Avoid eating junk food, even though it has a faster service.

Best places in Mysore to grab a bite: Sambhrama

- Mahesh Prasad
- Mangalore canteen
- Kerala mess
- United café
- Fruitwala
- Subway
- Depth and green
- Santhosha café
- NTS

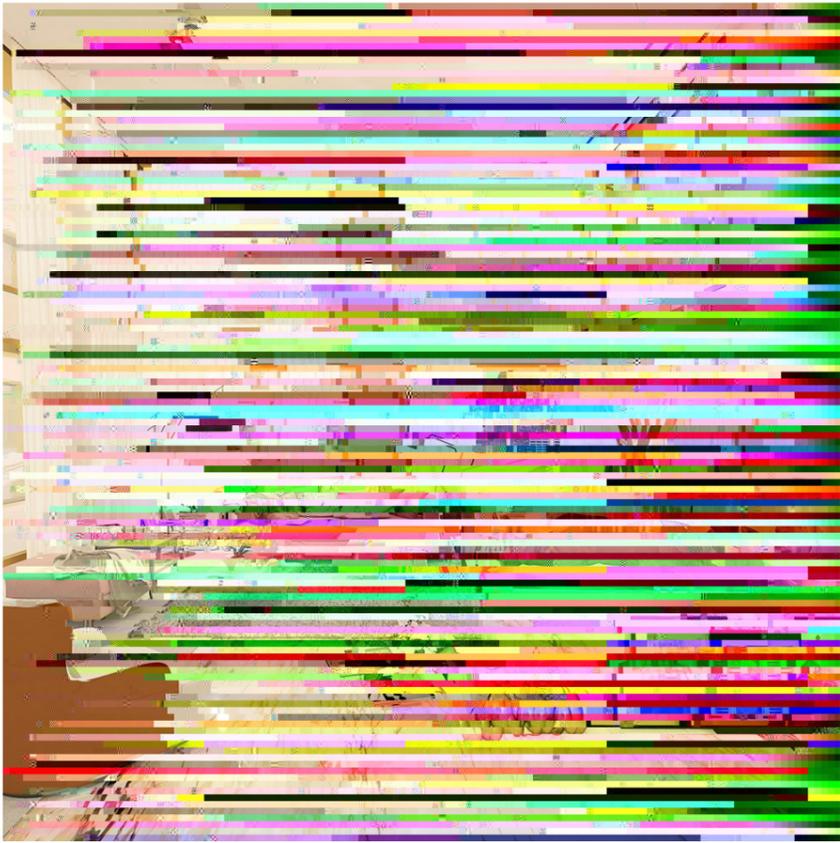
- Personal hygiene is mandatory. The all nighters please note to carry at least a toothbrush to college.
- Keeping your workplace and bed clean is as important as personal hygiene. Take some time off your busy Sundays to clean up your room and surroundings.
- DOLCI FAR NIENTE- Italian for “sweetness of doing nothing”. Zone out and just chill for a while before getting back into the rat race of submissions.
- Physical activities to keep a sane mind: Jogging  
Yoga  
Meditation  
Martial arts  
Dance and theatre  
Music

-ANAMIKA MATHEW



SPOORTHI P. JAIN

-SPOORTHI P JAIN



## ARCHITECTURE IN TRANSITION IN ARCHITECTURE:

From the Neolithic revolution to present day, the core purpose of architecture has always been to develop shelter with matter that would withstand the forces of nature, but the process of developing a shelter had its own inherent complexity. In the quest to find solutions, we have explored the fields of science and mathematics. But it was not until the 17th century when the advancements in mathematics and science started to change the beliefs that were prevalent at that time. It was then, nature was viewed as a subject that could be investigated to find solutions to complex problems that are facing us than the earlier view of nature as a celestial or godly figure worthy of worship. We now transcended into a new path of exploration and research to understand the nature for all its complexity and underlying systems that generates a nonlinear complex order, dynamically interacting with micro and macro level, creating an efficient emergent system to studying the evolution of form in terms of dynamics of living organism. This motive to understand nature and its governing principles have resulted in many explorations and thesis by scientists.

In the recent years, rapid growth and urbanization have shifted the focus from understanding nature to solve the problems of the contemporary world like global warming by proposing a sustainable form of construction synthesized from logic and principles that are found in nature. The concepts of emergent technologies – which uses latest technologies in the field of design computation and material manufacturing to generate and develop artificial systems and materials by understanding how natural systems have evolved and maintained themselves to perform in more sustainable manner. It is often being

stated that biology was the leading scientific discipline in the 20th century and is set to continue at the center of scientific discourse in the 21st century. Biological studies have set new paradigms in all the creative practices, new research, new modes of analysis and development of new ways of working have emerged from the cross-fertilization of what were once separated and discrete professions and academic disciplines. Some of the researches (like Racheal Armstrong, Neri Oxman, Jenny Sabin, Michael Weinstock and Achim Menges) working at the junction of architecture and biology have developed new processes and methods to develop material and systems that perform beyond the scope of the individual discipline. Like the Silk Pavilion built by MIT Media Labs or the Poly Brick Wall developed by Sabin Studio are some of the examples of how cross-disciplinary studies can develop results that can create a paradigm shift in the profession. It's imperative to focus on cross disciplinary studies especially architecture and biology form an interesting combination to open new avenues and frontier as they both deal with life, environment and human beings.

On the other hand an interesting argument by Mario Carpo, in his article "Art of drawing" published in Architectural Design Magazine mainly focused on the evolution of drawing in architecture and transition of the profession of architecture from a mechanical craft to a maker of drawings to the evolution of the concept of intellectual property or authorship rose to prominence in the mid-15th century. The arguments continue towards retrospection about using technology to develop architectural drawings which at today's time I would feel its obsequious as the use of technology is intrinsic to the concept of progression.

By contemplating this argument by Mario Carpo, it becomes clear about the advent of Computer aided design or CAD as we know it, has created a paradigm shift in the field of architecture, this ineluctable has its own intrinsic complexity, which brings us to the most interesting question with regards to the ambiguity of the architect's role, delineation of Architect's authorship towards contemporary architecture. The key protagonist, The Architect, as described by Giancarlo di Carlo in his article "Architecture's Public", held many meanings throughout history form being head brick layer to be a God, even today the connotation is synonymous with the creator than with the profession of building, never has a human craft had such an ambiguous connotation.

As the transition from manual design to digital design progressed, designers understood the potentials of these new tools, their geometric become more complex as it was no longer limited to the calculations of human mind but to the limitations of human imaginations. More we stretched the boundaries, we encounter new problems with solutions to these new problems we encounter new paradigm. But the most interesting facet to this development is unveiled when we step back and view the whole development in perspective, that the major advancement in the field of architecture didn't happen because of the Architect, or the Architect wasn't the driving force behind these advancements – it was the software developer – the software developer had to envisage the future and speculate the possible ways the architect would use these tools to develop architecture, he had to understand and produce all the codes, instructions and tools the architect would use and feed it into the software for the architect to exploit it. For the first time the architect is no longer the protagonist or tool maker but a spectators or tool user with in the meta-system and the software developer is a meta-system designer.

In simple words if you capture the image using your digital camera and share it on Instagram, who is the author of the image? You, the one who just clicked the shutter or the creator of the camera who devised all the complex system and codes to allow you to capture the image, provided you with tools to edit the images, apply filters to make it look beautiful and allow you to share it with the world? This brings us to the bigger ontological question, is the architect responsible for the designs developed by these digital tools or the software developer? What is the significance of architect in the present contemporary world? is the current architectural education capable of producing the architects of the future?

-MOHAMMAD MANSOOR

### GJ-5-CK-2872

1. The Pen, the pimp, the paper and the mask...the wine, the wimp, the whiner and the cask,  
Inebriated pages on a verge to sink while schizophrenic nibs yet again immersed itself in the ink,  
Alchemic sins broke the mythical cast and silhouettes of passe grieving the loitering past,  
Begging morons siting self-propelled norms and deserted Theseus waiting for a guide to be born,  
Dreams chasing relentlessly has become such a nightmare that insomnia's company is all I dare.....

2. Ashes ashes in the air...not a butt to smoke,  
Hammers hammers everywhere... not a nail to poke,  
Fresh dollar bills rolled with envy...not a gram of coke,  
Paddy fields submerged knee deep...not a frog to croak,  
Rains burning death's pyre.... not a flame to soak.....  
This is the story of Ashtray, Walls, Richs, Monsoon and Death....

Amen.

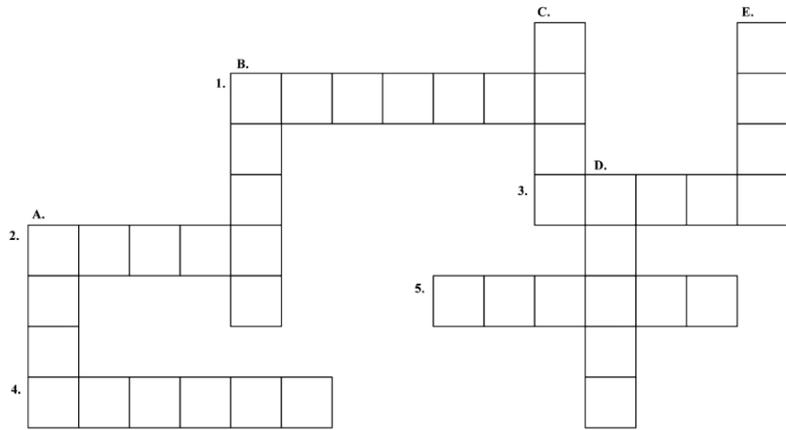
-AR. GIRISH DARIYAV KARNAWAT



Ganesha, the God of intelligence is worshipped on Ganesha Chaturthi as a means to transit from having mere thoughts to being truly concious.

-NEHA MISHRA

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS:

1. Pritzker prize laureate of 2018.
2. The simplest of the Greek orders.
3. A mound like structure containing relics.
4. Initially intended as a gateway, now a famous tower of Paris.
5. Vertical load bearing structure.

### UP TO DOWN:

- A. An architectural element which resembles the hollow upper half of a sphere.
- B. Louis I Kahn said, 'Even a \_\_\_\_\_ wants to be something!'
- C. Who said 'less is more'?
- D. A network of triangles.
- E. A soft, porous limestone used by Etruscans and Romans in their early temples and tombs.

## TRANSIT



KARTHIK KRISHNA

## CHANGEOVER



RAHUL KUSTAGI

## GRADATION



SANJITH RAAJU

## TELEPORT



ATHIQ UR RAHMAN

## ORIENTATION DAY

On 25th August, 2018 Wadiyar Center for Architecture, welcomed it's 4th batch. The new batch of 80 was energetic and enthusiastic to start their journey.

The orientation day started off with the Mysuru anthem followed by an invocation dance by the students. Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya gave a talk about the field of architecture ensuring that he addressed all the age groups present. The energy with which he rendered his talk and his love for the profession that was so obvious, was inspiring to the new batch. After the talk, lunch was served in the courtyard.

Post lunch we divided ourselves into four groups and played games as a part of the Onam festival celebration. The games ended in an intense tug of war, creating a spirited and highly contagious atmosphere. After refreshing session of high tea and everybody gathered back in the courtyard for a soulful duo performance under the trees. The crowd enjoyed the soothing music and the courtyard being such a special place, was a host to yet another memorable event.

-ROHAN DAYANIDHI

## WHAT ARE THE CLUBS UP TO?

### BOOK CLUB

So far they've read through:

Citizens of No Place by Jiminez Lai, Jaya by Devdutt Pattanaik, Sophie's Choice by William Styron, The Naked Ape by Desmond Morris, How To Sit by Thich Nhat Hanh, The Adulterous Woman by Albert Camus, Other Colours by Orhan Pamuk, My Name Is Red by Orhan Pamuk, Lost Walls by El Seed, Siteless by Francois Blanciak, The Afgan by Frederick Forsyth, Owning It- A Bullsh\*t Free Guide To Living With Anxiety By Caroline Foran, and The Museum of Innocence by Orhan Pamuk.

Next on their reading list:

The Hunger Games by Suzzane Collins, A Field Guide To Getting Lost by Rebecca Solnit, Start With Why by Simon Sinek, Marxism A Graphic Guide by Rupert Woodfin and Oscar Zarate, Cooked by Michael Pollin, Sita's Ramayana by Samhita Arni and Moyna Chitrakar, NW by Zadie Smith, The Remains of The Day by Kazuo Ishiguro, The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand and Sea Prayer by Khaled Hosseini.

### CLUB EXPEDIT

After having successful treks in the previous semesters, this month the club plans to conduct another half day trek to Kunthi Betta amongst other locations through the semester.

### MUSIC CLUB

Congratulations to the WCFA band for scoring second place in the Christ Battle of Bands. Students should look forward to the launch of another band including only the first- and second-year students. Music groups are to be created and compete in the WCFA Inter House Battle of Bands. Apart from helping with any sound arrangements and compositions required for programs in college, the music club also plans to have musical evenings in the courtyard.

### MOVIE CLUB

Following the screening of Amelie directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet on 29 August, the movie club is showing Ready Player 01 directed by Steven Spielberg on 20

## TRANSITION

The word **transition** reminds me of the seminal research by **Dr. Padma Subramanyam**, the accomplished *Bharatanatyam* dancer, who studied the temple sculptures to understand the transitions from one dance posture to another. Without these transitions, called as '*Karnas*', dance would lack grace. With her work, Bharatanatyam is today a long sequence of mesmerising transformations.

Drawing a parallel with dance, **transition in architecture** is a space that connects two wholesome spatial experiences that are not only different from each other but may also be contrasting to each other. For example: A Portico/Verandah/Jagali/Otla between indoor and outdoor space. The transitional space can very well be a complete experience in itself. Transitions are links, best created on the path of a defined circulation. Avenues, pathways, corridors, porticos, courtyards, quadrangles, arcades, colonnades, lobbies, gateways, etc. are traditional transitions. Transitions also pre-empt the spatial experience of the following space.

At the **Brihadewasara temple**, the Gopuram stands as a transition between the undefined open space on the outside and the, defined, inner courtyard or *prakara*. The raised platform with *Nandi Mantapa*, separates itself from the rest of the courtyard defining the entry to the temple. The flight of steps leads to the sheltered portico or the *Ardhamantapa*. Next, a large enclosed *Mukhamantapa* with rows of pillars lead to *Mahamantapa* followed by relatively small *Antarala*. The size of space and the intensity of light sequentially reduce ending in front of the Garbhagriha with 8.7 M tall idol of Shiva. Every space is not only a complete experience, but also a sequence of transition to each other. The most significant aspect of this journey is that the culmination of the journey is also a transition. **"The transition is from one dimension of being to another... from physical to transcendental"**.

There are many architectural wonders in the world which transcend the physical attributes and leave us with a profound and lingering experience that transcend architecture. Next time you are at **IIM Bangalore** or **Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya**, Ahmedabad, remember to observe. These masterpieces are transitions...

-AR. ANAND PRAKASH