

# COURTYARD

Issue 27 | Mysuru | 01 August 2023

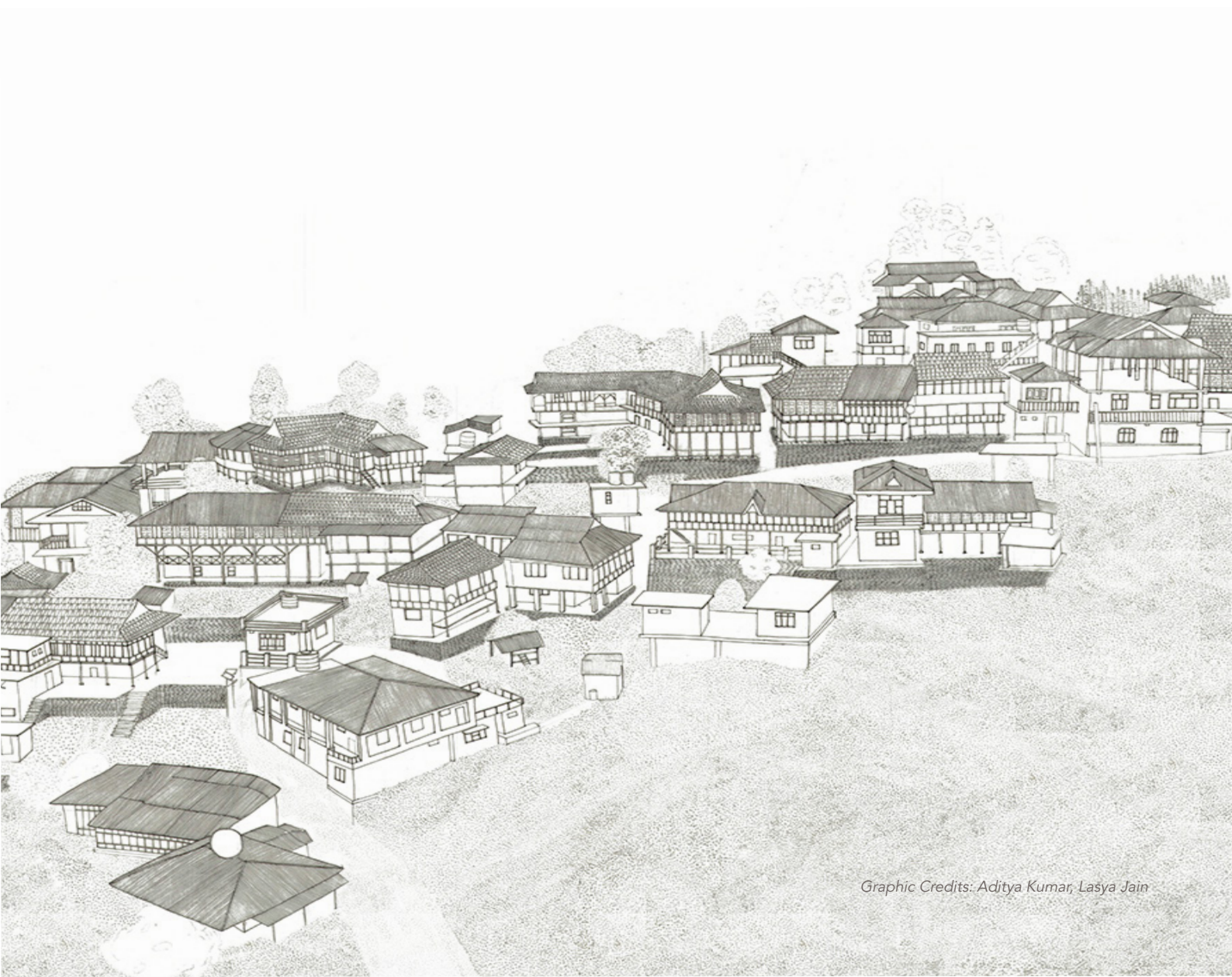
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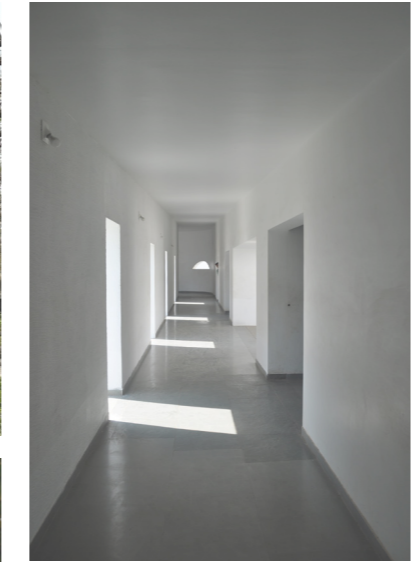
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Graphic Credits: Aditya Kumar, Lasya Jain



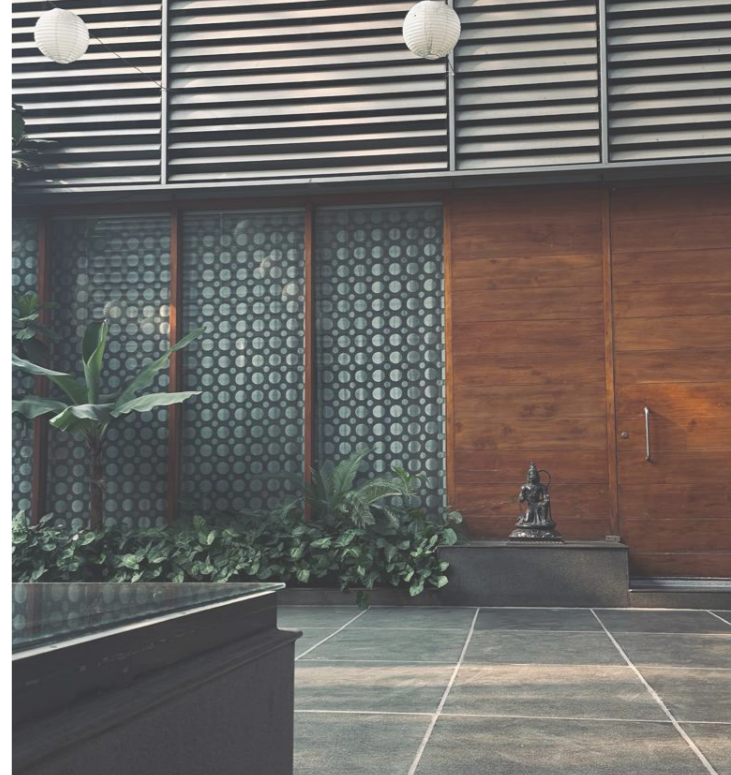
## FROM THE EDITOR

In the words of Trevor Noah - comedian, writer, political commentator and travel enthusiast, "Traveling is the antidote to ignorance" and we couldn't agree more. In a world where diversity is the only constant and "acceptable" systems of living are as subjective and plenty as the ever-changing geography of our planet, to travel is to unleash this world upon you. To get out of our little bubbles and savour what is real and what exists alongside ourselves.

As architects, travelling is our portal not just to see but to experience and immerse ourselves in the physical sculptures that emerge as manifestations of these varied systems of living. To see where it started, where it is, and the numerous places it can go. And this is where college trips come in! Propelling us in this direction and helping us develop an eye to see through and beyond what is shown. While this is the significant underlying outcome of travelling as an architect, it hardly ends there. On college trips, we learn to live together, work together, adjust to difficult situations, and end up bonding with our peers in a way that never happens anywhere else. Travelling offers us a multitude of such nuances and this is what we have attempted to capture in this issue.

Focused primarily on the study trips that the students of WCFA have been to, the issue brings together stories, experiences, sketches, photographs and opinions of various students, across all batches. Along with the diverse and insightful responses from specially curated polls regarding college trips, you will find poems and articles about the magical way in which travel becomes a very personal affair. Tying together all the places that the college has been to in the past year, a fun and informative graphic piece awaits. The issue ends with some fun quizzes and trivia.

- Disha Dilip



## SOMEWHERE; SOMEONE

I was 12 years old when this woman from Koppala, in our train back to Mysore taught me the easiest way to eat a watermelon. There was a guy in fifth grade who used to sit with us for lunch who, I heard, got shifted to Channapatna. There was this stranger in a video getting pranked by a youtuber and he had on, this really beautiful ring. I've eaten all kinds of Marwari dishes from my best friend's tiffin but this woman who runs a mess in Shravanabelagola taught me how to make the perfect Gatta kadhi during my RSP. There was this guy around my age in Namma Metro who saw my eyes were teary offered me his seat and asked if I was okay. Today a middle aged woman with whom we shared our berth told my grandmother that her saree looks great. She got down some time later. And I couldn't stop thinking about my grandmother, her love for sarees and how often she gets compliments for her collection.

I try to look cool when I teach people the 'cool' way of eating watermelons. Everytime I travel past Channapatna I think of how terrible M's math was. I don't think my mind will ever be off that ring. I think of that Jain aunty from the mess as I knead my besan. That guy in the beige college uniform in Namma Metro whose face I don't remember at all is someone I will never forget. And lastly, I will remember this woman in a pink saree who complimented my grandmother's saree with a soft smile.

The fact that your little existence in someone's life has this intangible yet subtle influence is what makes life "lively". We all leave a piece of us with every person we meet, talk and exchange glances with.

For all you know - Somebody, somewhere, might remember you for something you're definitely not. Somebody, somewhere, holds a fistful of your existence.

- Hemamshu S  
Batch 2020



Graphic Credits: Sivani Dirisala

## THROUGH MY EYES



Everyone has their own way of observing, reflecting and capturing. The same location, the same environment, the same moment - the beauty of which lies in your lens.

Photo Credits:  
Ananya Diggavi, Arnesh Ghosh, Sooraj R M



## TREACHERY TRAIN

This morning I rode treachery train to the last stop

He was not the first to make fast towards me  
On that chaotic crowded ground  
But he stood just a little too close  
And my legs alas were bound

He smelled like spirit and looked like everything  
You hate about a summer noon  
Almost unrecognizable, not clad in red  
His presence was yelling doom

He came to me, I knew the drill  
He demanded that he help  
Just as he would go for the kill  
I'd insist I'd do it myself

"Fifty"

I'd never taken such help before  
I didn't know the fare  
I had no yardstick for his asks  
Didn't know if it was fair  
My knee was crumbling under me  
My mind had to decide  
"It's only fifty" I said to myself  
And to him I said "Alright"

He swung each sack over his arms  
And sat the box down on his head  
Collected all the parts of himself in  
An instant, then I led

I'd walked this path, a hundred  
Times but never not alone  
Although he stayed two steps behind,  
The path was suddenly his own



We walked, he talked, his arms all stocked  
And asked me, "What's your town?"  
I swallowed my answer, bit my lip  
I knew he'd see me get down

He saw me get off, he saw where I was  
I think I should not tell a lie  
He holds all my things, he comfortably swings  
Waits patiently for my reply

"Mysore", I said. Good job, knucklehead  
Now this strange man knows too much  
"Me too!" he exclaims, grinning under bursting veins  
Did that one come in clutch?

We crossed each track, we reached the back  
His patience must have worn  
In a minute he doubled the number to which  
We'd both already sworn

I refused to comply, but perhaps too quiet  
He said that he wouldn't pick a fight  
"I'll stick" said I, "to ten times five"  
I saw disapproval flow from his eyes

"No damn way", he finally did say  
Think about how far we've come  
"I only ask for enough for a flask,  
This simply isn't done"

And in that instant I forgot all he'd told me  
Some church in our town and some faint little story  
About where he came from and how he was before me  
I couldn't give him any more, the thought simply tore me

But I stood my ground, all guts and glory

I hunted for change, gave him all I could spare  
And before he could count it, made hastily away  
But he turned me around and stopped me anyway  
And in his eyes I could see the dismay

For all our journey together, I left on the treachery train

- Ananya Diggavi  
Batch 2020

Graphic Credits: Ananya Diggavi



**Hariharapura Temple**  
 (Photo Credits: Thalluri Sriharsha Reddy)



**Section**  
 (Credits: RSP- Hariharapura group  
 Faculty - Kukke Subramanya and Kavana Kumar)



**Tunga River**  
 (Photo Credits: Thalluri Sriharsha Reddy)

## TRANQUILITY: A STORY OF HARIHARAPURA

Hariharapura is a small sanctified village near Sringeri in Karnataka. There is a main street running through the middle of the village which is busy with hotels, autos, buses and people, and a perpendicular street. The salient feature of Hariharapura is the river Tunga flowing parallel to the main street which can be sensed while walking down the streets.

There are many different typologies of buildings to perceive here. Most of the houses we see were built between 50 and 100 years ago. The primary activity in this village is farming, and some people also run a small printing press and a photo studio. Some families are also into cattle rearing. Here, it rains half of the year, and drizzles during the remainder.

There is a temple here that has been

under renovation for the past seven years, and a Vedic School on the other side of the river. 1km from village is a place called Jammattige Agrahara. It is one of the existing agraharas left of 64, situated on the banks of river Tunga.

There is a huge courtyard house, constructed over 350 years ago. There are six families living in it, related to each other. Farming is their main activity, as well as performing rituals in the temple at the centre of the courtyard house. Made of stone, with carvings from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita on its three sides, the temple is the central element. These carvings of mythological stories happened over a period of 12 years. Anyone can access the temple. Each and every house in the agrahara has a different entrance. But the main entrance is from the east, to the face of the temple.

The river is to the south, flowing towards the east. From the Agrahara, you will get a spectacular view towards the river. The steps that access the river are submerged

in the water, most of the time in the year. They experienced very less rain fall last year. The river water comes inside the houses when they have floods and so, we could see a stone "bathtub" during our visit.

From the village we can take an auto at the auto stand and go to Jammattige Agrahara. The moment we entered the Agrahara, we sensed a feeling of divinity, and felt like we were associated with the river that we could hear constantly. The major crops here are areca nut, jackfruit and pepper. You could see the harvesting process of areca nut, once the season starts.

For outsiders, there is no better experience of serenity than to visit Hariharapura. You can visit it any time of the year, but it is best during the monsoon.

- Thalluri Sriharsha Reddy  
 Batch 2018



“ *Verifiable reality does not exist for even one bat of an eye.* ”  
 -Fleix Scheinberger

Travel always overwhelms me. There's too much to take in, and never enough time. The lighting is never perfect, the phone camera quality is always trash, The more you look at it while editing, the stranger it looks. But painting loosens things, and by painting the place, meaning creeps onto paper. With watercolors, I can paint the sky changing, the blues turn into purples, the oranges bleed into reds, and "the happy accidents" I make while blending the colours, become artistic interpretations instead of errors

The painting makes space for my thoughts, and unlike the photograph, I revisit the moment with kinder eyes.

- Ameera Aboushar  
 Batch 2020



Paintings by Ameera Aboushar

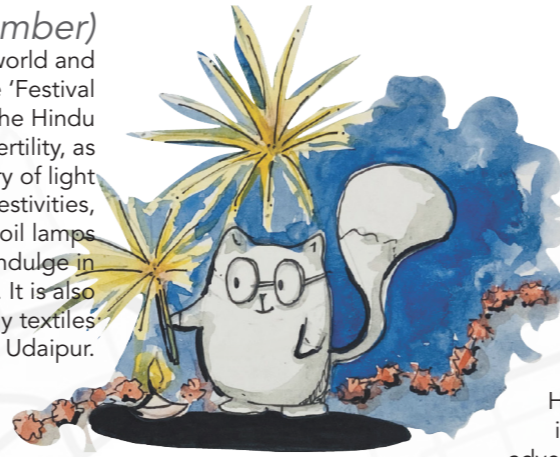
# NEW STATE- NEW YEARS- NEW BEGINNINGS

*Of all the states that have been visited by the WCFA family in the last year, one unique feature that simultaneously differentiates and ties each of them together is the idea of the New Year Festivities based on their own special calendars. They are celebrated on different dates and involve different customs, rituals, attires and food, but all signify the start of something new and the hope for a better year to look forward to.*

## Rajasthan

*(Diwali - 12-14th November)*

Diwali, known popularly across the world and celebrated in many parts of India as the 'Festival of Lights' is a post-harvest festival in the Hindu lunisolar calendar. Diwali symbolizes fertility, as in the arrival of monsoon, and the victory of light over darkness. During the three day festivities, people illuminate their homes with oil lamps called 'diyas', burst firecrackers and indulge in decadent mithais local to Rajasthan. It is also a great time to purchase the many textiles indigenous to Jodhpur and Udaipur.



## Himachal Pradesh

*(Losar festival - 21st March)*

As a consequence of the rich Tibetan influence, Himachal Pradesh celebrates the Losar festival which is a 15-day long, vibrant harvest festival marking the advent of a new year according to the Tibetan calendar. They make butter, brew chang (barley wine), and prepare pork and mutton dishes but the most special delicacy is the "Ghutuk" soup, symbolic of the cleansing of the past year. Having been overwhelmingly blessed by splendid vistas due to the snow-capped Himalayan peaks adorning its skyline, most aspects of the Himachal culture, beliefs, and practices, have evolved in relation to these mountains that they consider sacred.



## Gujarat

*(Bestu Varas- 26th October)*

A Gujarati version of the new year festival is Bestu Varas which is celebrated a day after Diwali. It is considered the first day of the year according to the Indian calendar in the lunar cycle. With magnificent fireworks, decorated homes, and sweets distributed everywhere, this day is especially important to Gujarati businessmen, who close old account books, open new ones, and worship them in hopes of a profitable financial year. Gujarat is among the most technologically advanced states in the country while also being culturally rich. It houses some of the most important Jain temple centers, wildlife sanctuaries, and has preserved ancient traditions of sculpting and crafting.



## Kerala

*(Vishu-15th April)*

Kerala celebrates its new year on the first day of the month of Metam - or Aries - around March every year. "Vishu" is derived from a Sanskrit word connoting equality, referring to the celebration of this festival on the spring equinox in the past. On this day, people prepare a spread of auspicious produce on a platter called "Vishukkani", the amplexness of which mirrors the bounty of 'God's own land', as the state is known. The Vishukkani is meant to be the first sight they behold that year and is believed to bless the rest of their year with fruition. The day is celebrated with fireworks and elaborate meals.



## Maharashtra

*(Gudi Padwa - 22nd March)*

Gudi Padwa is the Maharashtrian way of celebrating the beginning of a new harvest season, and thus, the new year. With exquisite rangoli work, bright colors, and decoration, it is quite a grand spectacle to witness. The most unique feature is the hoisting of a "gudi"- a yellow color cloth adorned with mango leaves, placed on a bamboo stick, and topped with a copper or silver pot. With its rich heritage on one end, Maharashtra is also known to be a leader in the sectors of trade, transport, education, and industrial production. It is a state always bustling with activity and shows great promise for growth and progress.



# The WCFA Travelogue:

## Travel experiences and opinions from the WCFA family

Some of the most exciting memories during the course of college life, are created while travelling and spending time in close quarters with friends. College study trips have always been great opportunities for unique experiences, learning, personality development and bonding. Every batch in WCFA has been on at least one such trip and this segment attempts to capture their opinions.

Questionnaires were uniquely curated for each batch, keeping in mind the number of trips they've been to and the places they've visited, and a few selected answers have been included within this segment.

On a personal level, what is your preferred method of documenting a trip?

I've always preferred photos. Unlike what a lot of us are told, photos are not superficial images of what we see. Pictures have the ability to showcase the widest of views to the most minute of details. I love the feeling of interchanging the lenses of my DSLR and seeing the difference in the quality of the image but most importantly, I prefer a camera because I can live in the moment to the fullest by capturing the moment relatively quickly.

- Arnesh Ghosh  
Batch 2019

This was your first trip as students of architecture. How was this trip different from the other times you've travelled, with family, friends or alone?

Although we don't arguably have the deepest understanding of architecture as first sem students, I can't deny that we did pay a lot more attention than usual to every building and space we walked into. It seemed, at least to me, like I was constantly looking to be inspired and thinking of all the ways I could use the various aspects/ideas presented by my surroundings in my own designing process. I was definitely way more receptive and reflective than I usually am while travelling.

-Lavanya T  
Batch 2022

Trips in lower semesters versus towards the end of the course: How are they different?

This trip has definitely been different in ways that we cannot say out loud! Jokes apart, it's been different than those we've taken in the former years because earlier, somebody would tell us what we were here for, but by the time we've got to 4th year, we know what we're looking for. We know how what we see has been done, and what we study about a building is so different than when you actually experience it.

-Shubhanshi Anand  
Batch 2019

Share with us an intriguing practice you've come across while travelling

I think one thing that intrigued me would be the fact that people come out of their houses post sundown just to roam around, eat or chat in Ahmedabad. And as a city, it feels safer because you're always surrounded by people at any point of time, be it noon or midnight. It's amazing how you can see a houseful at 1:00.a.m for a Marvel movie or a street full of vendors like in Law Garden. It's very rare to see in other cities.

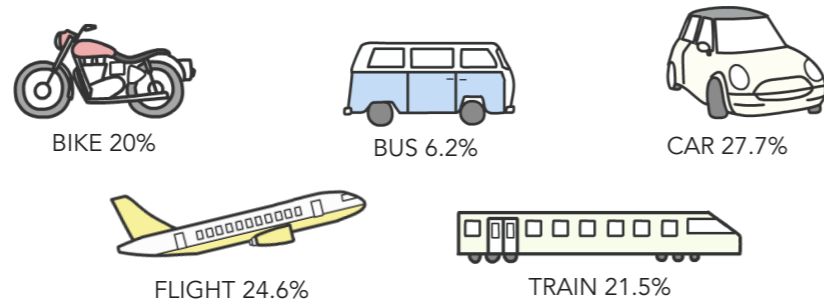
-Shubhanshi Anand  
Batch 2019

How did it alter your learning curve not to have been on study trips during the former half of your course?

There are spatial qualities of a building that you don't understand unless you have been in an architecturally designed space. Being on a study trip and experiencing such buildings in person has helped with this.

-Arnesh Ghosh  
Batch 2019

What mode of travelling do you prefer to get to your destination?



Graphic Credits: Aditya Kumar

From talking to your seniors, did you have any notions about a study trip or an RSP before you went on them?

Seniors definitely warned us about the workload during an RSP but also told us how we must cherish and learn as much as we can while we're on these trips. We were also told that these trips are going to be the most amazing experience in one's life as an architecture student.

-Anushka M  
Batch 2021

Settle the debate: Studying a building after visiting it, versus studying it beforehand.

Visiting a place before studying about it? Personally, I don't know what to focus on and the experience is often overwhelming. Studying about them offers a lens to view the building with. However, after studying about the buildings and their morphology, you actually get to realize how limiting the plans and sections are to understanding the entire experience of the place.

-Ameera Aboushar  
Batch 2020

What role do you think a faculty plays when they're on the trip with you?

They act as a catalyst for our brain to think about why something is the way it is. Their role is something that has always been taken for granted. We forget that the answers to most of our queries during the trip is with the faculties.

-Gopika Manigandan  
Batch 2021

What are the first few things you did, after you got back home from the trip?

The very first thing I did was catch up on sleep. After washing off all the grit from days of travelling, climbing into your own bed always feels heavenly. And of course the endless procrastination before finally unpacking your bags. And then comes the numerous retellings of every remotely interesting incident to anybody who cares to listen.

-Lavanya T  
Batch 2022

What were some of your expectations going on your first RSP after nearly a year of learning online?

After spending most of my first year online, the biggest expectation was to actually talk and interact with the people of the region on a first-hand basis. Hearing stories from people living the lives that we're studying about and building for, without 'assuming' what their lives could have been like was something that I was looking forward to.

-Ameera Aboushar  
Batch 2020

How do you like to capture memories on college trips?



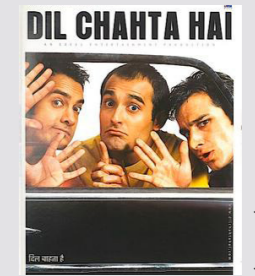
Graphic Credits: Sivani Dirisala

## MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



Into The Wild  
(2007)

Director: Sean Penn  
19 year old Christopher McCandless abandons his privileged life and sets out on an unplanned journey of exploring new places, meeting interesting people and finding truth and meaning in his own life.



Dil Chahta Hai  
(2001)

Director: Farhan Akhtar  
Three close friends with disparate outlooks on life and love pursue three separately different love interests.



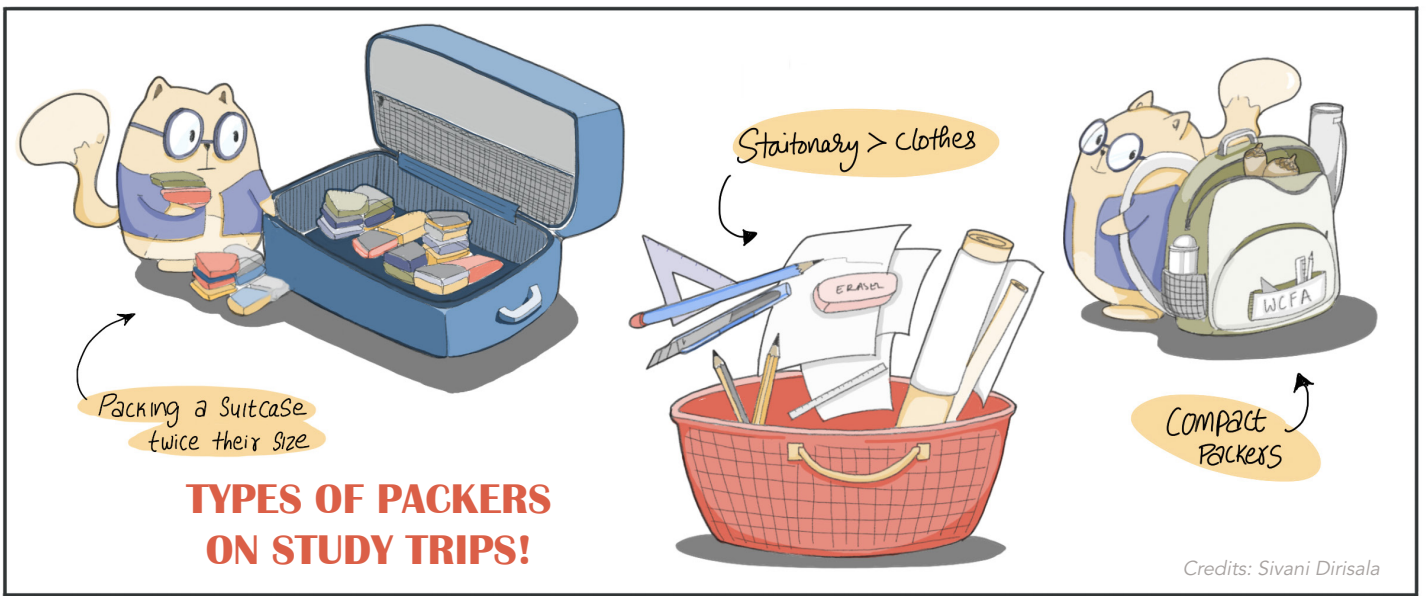
Letters to Juliet  
(2010)

Director: Gary Winick  
While on a pre-wedding vacation in Italy, aspiring writer Sophie Hall comes upon a chance to write the story of her dreams, and unite an old lady with a long-lost lover. Along the journey, Sophie's own story takes an unexpected turn.



The Bucket List  
(2007)

Director: Rob Reiner  
Terminally ill patients Carter Chamber and Edward Cole plan an escape from their cancer ward to embark on a series of adventures and experiences they wish to complete before they die.



## WORD SEARCH

Find the words given below in the grid.

F M S L A J H W C L W D I V K  
W A B H L A R H B G V N U A O  
G Y S P C E E R F J D S T Z N  
X W E F X T W Y N B Z H A G O  
I O Y F T T W P K D K N C V I  
Y I D I R L R T E U D F D Y T  
X Q N W Q X R E N T E P G S U  
W A S B X O I I R F S R D O T  
D Y R O F V V F O H I O E L I  
F U W F K U U P A D X A S O T  
V R Z P W G L N N B X K E C S  
E T A N A T L U S U F N R C N  
U Y Q N B V U R I P D X T N I  
A B K S A J K I U B F W P X F  
N O I T I B I H X E G U L F U

GULF  
KULLUVI  
GRID

EXHIBITION  
STEPWELL  
DESERT

CHETTINAD  
SULTANATE  
INSTITUTION

## DID YOU KNOW?

About 40% of Generation Y choose travel destinations based on how "instagrammable" the pictures will turn out

There are roughly 6.5K languages in the world today. Yet, nearly 97% of the population speaks just 4% of them.

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR WORLD?

1. Which is the most visited country in the world?
2. Guess the name of this lake from India:



3. Which is the largest human congregation in the world that India hosts every year?



Sources:  
<https://passport-photo.online/blog/80-fun-travel-facts-and-stats-to-know/#gref>  
<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/amazing-facts-about-travel>  
<https://www.tripoto.com/india/trips/interesting-facts-about-india>

Answers to Trivia from Issue 26:

### SCRAMBLE

LOUIS KAHN BRUTALISM TAGORE HALL IFFCO  
FINAL WORD: **FRUGALNESS**

**TWO TRUTHS ONE LIE:** (b) Doshi has collaborated with MF Husain to make a painting - **was the lie!**

**IDENTIFY THE PROJECT:** Aranya Housing

**GUESS WHO:** Rajeev Kathpalia

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