

blab 20 20

IN THIS ISSUE

OH SNAP!

PHOTOGRAPHERS IN FOCUS

**MUSINGS POST
COVID-19**

A CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE

LIFE AT V-SPARC

FAREWELL LETTER

foreword

*I am pleased to share the efforts of students in the midst of the global pandemic crisis 2020 to publish **blab**. I am proud to say that faculty and students of V-SPARC have been both dynamic and diligent all through the last 2 ½ months of the global pandemic crisis, completing the curriculum alongside preparing for Virtual Design Reviews with External professionals and some insights in this issue surely point to students resilience to bounce back into full action when the new normal is unveiled after lockdown when the university reopens.*

*This issue's theme is **Recap/ Precap 2020**.*

We have not only entered a new decade, we are leaving behind the decade since 2010 and indeed a lot has happened. Significantly it is also the decade when V-SPARC was birthed and released its brand ambassadors, the graduates of the Batch of 2015 into the architectural profession, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As I look back over the decade that has been, what stands out to me in the architectural world are the countless new cultural institutions that have sprouted across the globe. Architect BV Doshi's Pritzker Prize in 2018 puts Indian Architecture firmly in the global scenario and Jaipur also gets listed as World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

*I trust each student and faculty will enjoy what has been put together by the selfless and talented students on board the **blab** team. My prayers for a wonderful future for **blab** and for the voices of the students represented here, who will be global achievers and leaders changing the destinies of people and nations soon. May God bless the students and faculty of V- SPARC who keep the banners of V- SPARC flying high both within VIT University and outside too.*

*It is also my pleasure to hand over charge of **blab** to Prof. Shreya Mukherjee as we move into the new decade.*

Shalom

Arlene Rajabooshanam

Associate Professor,

V-SPARC

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7

DISNEY THROUGH
THE DECADE

10

HEARST TOWER
Case Study

13

THE HUMAN PAUSE
Poetry

16

MUSINGS POST
COVID-19
A Change in Perspective

20

A LOCKED-DOWN
THESIS
Online Jury Experience

8

THE REFORMATION
OF VISUAL
REPRESENTATION
TO THE DIGITAL

12

SONGS OF THE
DECADE

14

OH SNAP!
Photographers in Focus

18

LIFE AT V-SPARC
Farewell Letter

“Were you
poisoned?
Cursed?
Kidnapped or
enslaved?”

A building
whose
cleaning
mechanism costs \$3
million, can be green
in many ways.

When
really is
the end
of this quaran-
time?

The most
relevant
forms of
digital art to the
architecture fraternity
are digital collage and
illustrations.

“On a whole,
our life at
V-SPARC was
quite a ride and
an adventure,
where we had
nice as well as
bumpy highs and
lows packed with
state of the art
experiences.”

RECAP PRECAP 2020

10 years is quite a long time. From 2010 - 2020, the world has seen both phenomenal and a few regrettable events. While setbacks are inevitable, it is safe to say that the decade has seen tremendous growth in various fields of expertise as well as the mindsets of human beings. The theme Recap/ Precap 2020 is an ode, or an attempt at one, to the decade that has passed. A reminder of where we started from and how far along we've come.

- from the editor's desk

DISNEY THROUGH THE DECADE

POOJAROSHINI P



Illustration by Poojaroshini P

WERE YOU POISONED?
CURSED? KIDNAPPED OR
ENSLAVED?

"Why is everyone singing?" a confused Flynn Rider asked, with which he set the decade off for more realistic male characters. The shift into the decade featured several stronger and more independent princesses, marking a break in tradition from the damsels-in-distress plots of Disney princess films. Transitioning from The Princess and the frog to Tangled, 2010 also marks the shift in technology from 2D to 3D animation. The form of animation replaced the 2D computer drawing by a combination of 3D modelling and a 2D background that was subtly merged to create the films. The relationship between the princess and their love interest, if any, have grown to be more realistic and egalitarian. Tangled, for instance, shows them bonding over their struggles and overcoming them through their quest while Frozen makes fun of the ones featured in older movies especially when young Anna and Hans decide to get married. The memorable "You can't marry a man you just met" line defeats the idea of 'love at first sight, to happily ever after'.

Many other movies of the 10's saw no romance at all. Instead of finding a prince charming, the heroines establish themselves as independent women. Merida from Brave fights for

her own future rather than falling into an unwanted marriage with someone she hardly knows. She defies the 'feminine' stereotype and her parents' notions to shoot a bulls-eye for her own hand in marriage to become the heir. This was a steep rise over the lessons of the older Disney movies. Vanellope von Schweetz, (also a princess) strives to reach her goals through her glitching. Conveying the idea of acceptance and friendship, Wreck-it Ralph portrays embracing one's weaknesses and turning them into strengths.

2013 had its critical step up with the release of Frozen. The celebrated film revolves around the bond between two sisters. The plot focuses on the queen and the princess fighting the factors that lodge in their relationship and shifts the villain to only a subplot. Moana followed next as a result of the evolution of 80 years of Disney princesses. The heroine shatters the conventional 'princess' body image and defies her father to save her village. The film, set apart from the previous ones, is based on the princess' mission for her people and her desire to not fight. The male counterpart, Maui acts as a guide as well as a friend

throughout the storyline and does not become a cliché love interest. Moana challenges Disney's storytelling by looking deeper into the antagonists and understanding them. For Disney that is highly influential on the younger generations, this film sets a benchmark in conveying progression.

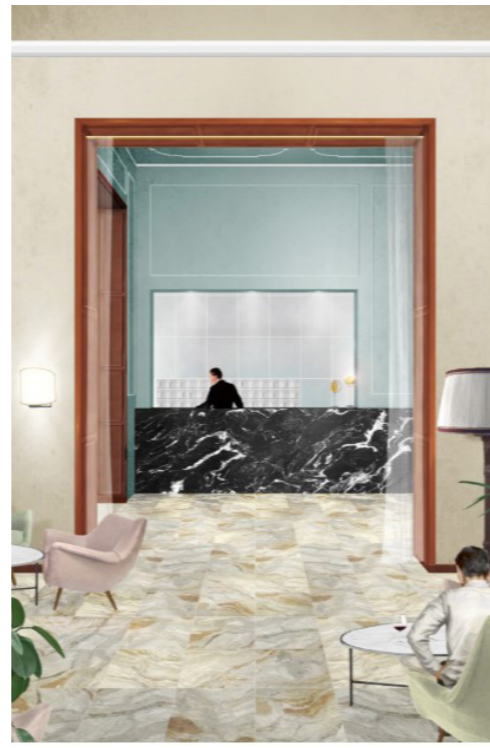
Towards the end of the decade, live-action brought back Aladdin in its remake. While revisiting childhood, Aladdin in 2019 works to be more progressive. The plot introduces a new character for Princess Jasmine's handmaiden and explores the importance of female friendships. The storyline also draws more attention to voicing the Princess' ideas and her ambition of succeeding her father.

From Snow White, 1937 to Frozen 2, 2019, Disney princesses have evolved. From submissive and delicate girls without flaws, they have transformed over the decades to become more relatable and gutsier characters. Though mostly unrealistically beautiful, they have grown to a more realistic representation of women.

Poojaroshini P
Batch of 2016

An introvert picking up after herself,
usually found wearing all shades of the
rainbow while watching food videos.





THE REFORMATION OF VISUAL REPRESENTATION INTO THE DIGITAL

The birth of architecture collage making and how it enables architects

BHARANI SRI GUJULUVA

The past ten years have taught us a lot, especially in terms of technological advancements. We have learnt about its potentials and how it can help stretch our abilities to perform more efficiently, in every field imaginable. Most of the changes that have impacted humanity in the last ten years were brought about due to this advancement in technology. It has become a theme for every decade since the industrial revolution. The most interesting set of changes that can be observed are in the world of art. It was the decade that art turned digital, an idea that would have been termed absolutely absurd 10 to 15 years ago. It is a field unlike any other, that captures the human imagination without paint and the limits of a canvas. Something we all call "digital art" made its way into the physical world.

The term digital art refers to the presentation of a creative process using the digital medium, not to be confused with computer art that utilizes computers and its algorithms as part of the process of creating artwork. Digital art has been divided into different types based on the methodology used to produce the artwork. Some of them are digital collages, gigapixel photography, pixel art, photo painting and data moshing.

The most relevant forms of digital art to the architecture fraternity are digital collage and illustrations. Some practising architects use these methods as means of digital representation for their projects, to communicate with the public as well as the clients.

*L: A collage by the firm Fala Atelier, depicting the interiors of a living space from the Gerald House located in Lisbon, featuring a cameo of a figure from Hockney's painting.
R: A collage by Fosbury Architecture depicting the Grand Hotel.*

The introduction of Creative Cloud, a set of applications, by the American software company called Adobe in 2011, enabled creative professionals of the coming years to envision design interventions in new ways. The use of digital tools to create collages lets architects reconceive spaces in a different light, and also helps them realize the potential of the spaces they have created. Collaging as an art form has been around for several years and this process is just another tweak in the evolution of collage making. The process helps one bring together elements that need not necessarily be relevant to each other to create a beautiful amalgamation of thoughts. The methodology is quite simple, but its impact deeply profound.

Many architecture firms around the world have gotten into the habit of creating collages to communicate their ideas. Portugal based firm Fala Atelier has become a name synonymous with architecture collage making. A collage which features figures from David Hockney's painting, which seems to be a recurring theme in their collages, was on display during the Chicago Architecture Biennale held in 2017. Some other participants were the firms' OMA, Fosbury Architecture and Point Supreme Architecture. Konstantinos Pantazis of Point Supreme, seemingly one of the first people who started the practice of collage making in architecture, makes his collages by hand, even today. He claims to be the originator of this process and has learnt to fine tune it over the years he was employed at OMA. This method is generally seen as a reaction to the multitude of computer rendered images being produced today but, Pantazis was working with this technique before V-ray was invented. Point Supreme Architecture had a three-dimensional collage of a residence on display. Fosbury uses the collages in a way subtler and stealthier manner, saying no to the abstraction of figures. Fala Atelier's work would be considered loud in comparison.

The characteristics observed in these kinds of collages are strikingly similar to that found in paintings from the Pop Art movement. The way this process is heading, it can be considered as a subset of the movement or can be seen as the birth of a new one, with its roots embedded in Pop Art. This kind of collage making might be a part of the post-production step in a project, but due to its nature of limits in terms of process, it can be considered a project in itself. KWY, 51N4E, BC architects and OFFICE Kresten Geers David Van Severen are a few other firms that have implemented the method of architecture collage making as a process in their studios.

As part of the architecture student community, we should feel motivated to take up this method as a tool of representation in our design studios. The most used digital tools for a collage are Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and occasionally V-ray. There are many social media presences who could help us out with this task. The YouTube channel OU Graphics does a wonderful job of imparting the skills required for architecture collage making. The voice behind the videos on the channel once even said: "the best way to get through architecture school is to collage your way out". Another channel going by the name of ShowItBetter has tutorials on collage making as well. Inspiration to make collages of such stature can come from digital artists too. Artists like Ben Lewis Giles, Matthew Grimes and Bri Lamkin make inspiring work.

*Bharani Sri Gujuluva
Batch of 2017*

Currently trying her hand at architectural journalism, which stemmed from a keen interest to devour books and magazines on history, art and architecture. Some of her published works can be found at Re-thinking The Future and To Scale Blog.



CASE STUDY
HEARST TOWER
 Manhattan, New York

K SRUTHI

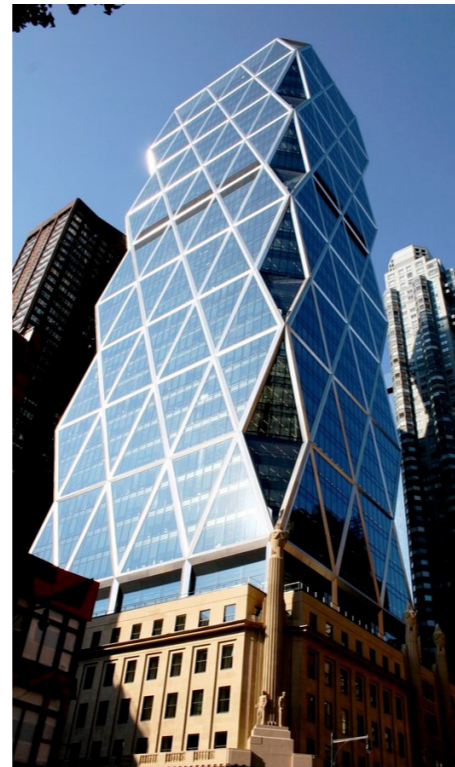
A building whose cleaning mechanism costs \$3 million, can be green in many ways. A testimony to this is the Hearst Tower, a massive 46 story building with an unusual combination of stone cast base building, 6 stories high and a 40 story high glass and steel framed diagrid giant on top. The building was designed by Sir Norman Foster and constructed by Turner constructions at a cost of \$500 million. The original base of the tower designed by Joseph Urban and George B post and sons has been preserved as a landmark and the new tower added on top has been built 80 years after it was put off due to the great depression. The building houses all the offices of Hearst Corporation like cosmopolitan, Marie Claire, Harper's Bazaar, Esquire, etc. making it the world headquarters of the conglomerate.

What makes this one special?

Apart from the jagged glass facade that makes it looks space aged and its renowned architect panel, the building is said to be one of the most green skyscrapers in the world. Its integration of user friendly design and low energy consumption rate is so seamless, that it makes the building's design a success both economically and statistically.

Green aspects of the building

To start with, the building's exoskeleton, the steel frame is 85% recycled material and the building as a whole uses 26% less energy than the minimum standards for New York. The building uses radiant cooling systems which uses polyethylene pipes running beneath the floors that use recycled rainwater (collected from the roof and sent to the basement). It is also used to water the plants and the staggering water sculpture in the atrium called the 'Icefall' with a backdrop of 'Riverlines', a 21m fresco painting by Richard Long. The water sculpture is another means to cool the temperature in and around the atrium creating a microclimate and helping in cutting down on the mechanical cooling systems. The fact that the building is LEED certified can be proven by another design aspect in the atrium. The heat conductive flooring material and the open plan of the atrium lets in enough light during the day, cutting off the requirement of any mechanical means and as night falls the light sensors on the ceiling activates the mechanical ones appropriately.



Hearst Tower
 en.wikipedia.org

Offices and other facilities

The internal plaza is a ten storey atrium space and café whose shell is the original masonry facade with its windows. The old Hearst employees have claimed to feel the same connection they had with the old base building because of these windows. Apart from the magazine and corporate offices the building also houses a modern broadcast studio, a lavish fitness centre, a 340 seater corporate café, an executive corporate and dining centre, a photography centre, a 168 seat theatre, a 'Good Housekeeping' research facility' and other exhibition spaces, all housed in the 856,000ft² office space.

Structural aspects

The tower rests on top of the 40,000 sq.ft plinth base of the old building. Then retro columns, balustrades and the other historic elements of the masonry base were preserved and worked on while improvising the new tower that represented a link between the old and the new.

As this transition from the base building happens through a glass skirt between the two pieces of a puzzle, light floods the lower part making it look like a glass balloon lifting the base effortlessly.

The cut edges of the jagged facade are named as 'bird mouth' pertaining to its resemblance to one. The building at its inception was intended to be of Art Deco style, but after the long haul of almost 80 years, the designers met their nemesis, Time, and all the retrofitting they had to do to the original design that was named as the Magazine Building. The transition between the masonry construction and the steel framed construction had to be delicately handled in order for it to look seamless and almost invisible.

Some struggles end up having becoming beautiful creations if the right amount of thought and creativity is put into it. Proving this, the escalator that traverses through the water sculpture was one such struggle. The escalator was the transition from the base building to the tower and there was not enough space between the entrance of the building and the tower's starting to place the escalator, hence its diagonal path which ended up being a unique design along with the icefall. Another challenge was the design of yet another tower in New York city. Any architect would dream of erecting a superstructure marking its place in the skyline, but Hearst Tower was smaller than its counterparts and wouldn't make the iconic new york skyline. Hence the Diagrid facade that made it visually distinctive and ended up burning a hole through corporations pockets a little less in saving the construction and material cost.

A structure of this scale, in an iconic city such as New York, had to be out there in terms of technological advancements, socially normative and must strive hard to not be an eyesore amongst the skyline. The Hearst Tower checks every mark on the list and extends the list by also being an environmentally responsible hybrid giant .



Hearst Tower
 flickr.com



Hearst Tower Icefall and café
 adamson-associates.com

K Sruthi
 Batch of 2017

An avid daydreamer who likes to have an easy take on things that others find frustrating, she always finds a way to escape reality, be it in books, movies or in creating something new. Her mind is always wandering over new possibilities of making the world a better place one step at time.



SONGS OF THE DECADE

The songs we grew up to, for better or for worse. It's rewind time!

MEERA SIVADASAN

2010



2020

Illustration by Priyani Pranab

2010'S **2011'S** **2012'S**

Rolling in the deep – Adele
Firework – Katy Perry
DJ Got us falling in love – Usher
Love the way you lie – Eminem
Just the way you are – Bruno Mars

Party Rock Anthem – LMFAO
Call me maybe – Carly Rae Jepsen
Stereo Hearts – Gym Class Heroes
Paradise – Coldplay
Titanium – David Guetta ft Sia

Gangnam Style – PSY
Payphone – Maroon 5
We are young – Fun
Somebody that I used to know – Gotye
Star ships – Nicki Minaj

2013'S **2014'S** **2015'S**

Wrecking Ball – Miley Cyrus
Wake me up - Avicii
Counting Stars – OneRepublic
Let it go – Idina Menzel
Get Lucky – Daft Punk

Stay With Me – Sam Smith
Shake it off – Taylor Swift
Thinking out loud – Ed Sheeran
Uptown Funk – Mark Ronson ft Bruno Mars
Chandelier – Sia

Hello – Adele
Can't feel my face – The Weeknd
See You Again – Wiz Khalifa ft Charlie Puth
Stitches – Shawn Mendes
7 Years – Lukas Graham

2016'S **2017'S** **2018'S**

Closer – The Chainsmokers
Cheap Thrills – Sia
Can't Stop the Feeling! – Justin Timberlake
Heathens – Twenty One Pilots
Hotline Bling – Drake

Shape of You – Ed Sheeran
Something Just Like This – Coldplay
Sign of the Times – Harry Styles
Thunder – Imagine Dragons
Girls like You – Maroon 5

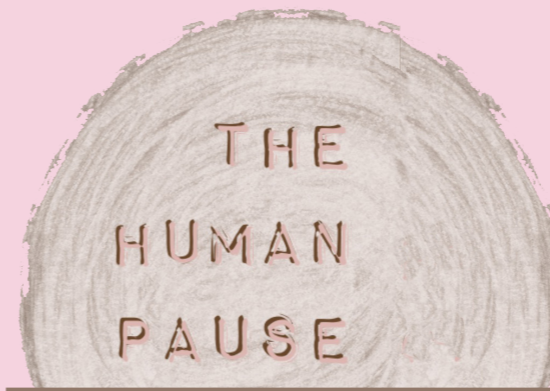
Shallow – Bradley Cooper & Lady Gaga
All the Stars – Kendrick Lamar & SZA
Sunflower – Post Malone
Happier – Marshmello & Bastille
I Like Me Better – Lauv

2019'S

bad guy – Billie Eilish
Old Town Road – Lil Nas X
Senorita - Shawn Mendis & Camilla Cabello
Sucker – Jonas Brothers
Watermelon Sugar – Harry Styles

Meera Sivadasan
Batch of 2016

An avid music enthusiast who also loves anime and barbeque pizza, preferably together. If you ever need to find her, follow the paw prints!



What it's like to live inside a comma,
Human kind learns leaving no choice
The uncertainty of the lines to follow
While trying to keep together the past few
Amidst all of which life keeps moving on
Something we have known well in these times

Days rolling into night too fast
And noon into dawn pretty soon
Have all the clocks got a glitch
Isn't there some kind of a switch?
Weeks running into months
Like ants falling into bottomless pits
When really is the end of this quaran-time?

Homes have become prison cells for a few
And for others it's their minds
It's time we see that people need
More than just clothes and feed
Although they are the bare necessities
People struggling to make ends meet
Make the ones who can feel guilty
For the ache they too feel deep inside

Let me be the first to tell you
Your feelings are valid too
No matter however better off than many you may be
It's okay to not feel so good
Because when you actually do
You'd appreciate it more

What is it like to be on the frontlines?
Is way beyond my comprehension
In this fight to keep us breathing well
Its too early to say if this pause
Has really taught us anything
If we did or not learn the right lessons or wrong

If you are fully able I'd like to invite you
To take a full deep breath
And feel the air leave as you exhale completely
Strangely enough today even that is a luxury



Vishrutha P
Batch of 2016

An aspiring storyteller, she has grown up listening to the great stories from our land leaving her in awe and wonder. She experimented with poetry after being greatly influenced by music and dance. Some of her other interests include travelling and culinary arts.



OH SNAP!

Photographers in Focus



Aswathi Malappilayi
Batch of 2017



What inspired you to get into photography?

I started taking photographs 2 years ago and I found the journey to be really unwinding. To capture an image or an object in different perspectives and in different angles where the meaning and purpose of the captured photo changes is what inspired me into photography

What do you like to photograph?

I am still exploring and I don't like to stick with a certain genre. So far I have played with landscape, portrait, fine art, architectural, travel, black and white, macro and fairy tale photography.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

I see myself completely occupied in the arts and media industry in the next 10 years, at least that's what I want. I believe there will be a huge advancement in the technology that we use for photography regarding the gadgets and accessories used in capturing a perfect photo. But apart from that, the method used is up to each and every photographer and it is unique. And I hope there is a great future for the upcoming photographers

Find more of Aswathi's work on
[instagram.com/kaalimayam](https://www.instagram.com/kaalimayam)
[instagram.com/aswathi_malappilayi](https://www.instagram.com/aswathi_malappilayi)



Pankaj S
Batch of 2017



What inspired you to get into photography?

Ever since I saw through the lens of a camera it opened up a new world for me. The perspective was so amazing that I wanted to experiment with it, every angle, every shade, every possible light and then there was no looking back. It doesn't matter if I click on a smartphone or a Canon, when I see a beautiful sunset my hands just go for it and I realize how amazing it is to save a second of our life. By being able to capture a special moment of an event we are able to carry forward the memory of it along with us for the rest of our life. It's a picture which speaks a thousand words.

What do you like to photograph?

Whatever I find beautiful I take a snap of it. From a tiny weed with morning dew on it to a mighty hill view, everything captures my interest. Of late as I'm pursuing Architecture I am more drawn towards clicking landscapes which helps me a lot to observe and understand perspectives.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

10 years down the line, I'd like to be seen as someone with deep expertise in landscape architecture and take lead in some very important projects while also continuing to pursue the passion of drawing with light. I am curious about the inclusion of 3D printing in Photography technology by which we are able to bring life into it.

Find more of Pankaj's work on
[instagram.com/_s.pankaj_](https://www.instagram.com/_s.pankaj_)

MUSINGS POST COVID-19

A Change in Perspective

The pandemic has restricted us to the comfort of our homes. We have begun to develop routines, both productive and unproductive, amidst all the uncertainty present in the world. We have begun introspecting, growing, making time for ourselves and strengthening ties. Musings post COVID 19 is a collection of thoughts and reflections on their day to day life by the Batch of 2016.

My life after Covid 19 - Mother Nature has yet again proved that we are an unworthy opponent . Eco warriors spent their lives fiercely trying to fight a phenomenon which literally just took days for mother nature to set things right. Wildlife population soars record high, Ozone layer recovers, almost 600 species of animals fought against all the odds and are not on the verge of extinction anymore, Pollution level decreases – all these good news in just 4 months shattered the odds and predictions of scientist, researchers who predicted that the world is heading towards its end. It is no doubt that the aftermath of this traumatic yet fruitful pandemic will result in a lot of life altering choices and decisions.



Fear of participating in group activities and events will still persist and as a result, we will begin to alter our social lifestyle and prefer solitude



Constant Sterilization of our surroundings will be our new normal and will be our top most priority.(Almost like an OCD)



More empathy towards animals and pets as we begin to understand how animals in captivity feel.



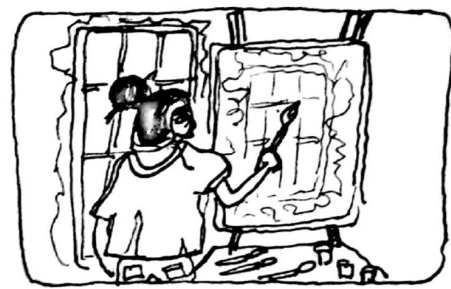
Dependency on digital media and E-commerce skyrocketed.



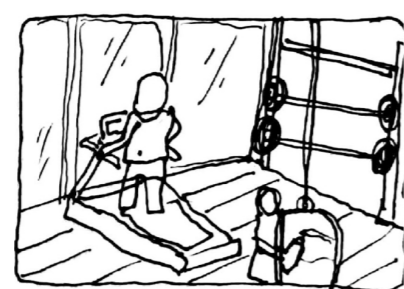
Friends and family will finally have the time to get to know each other and to know themselves too.



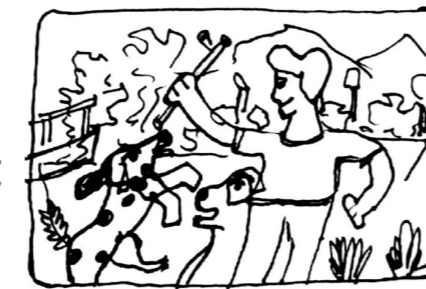
Work from home shall have become a Corporate Fashion.



Opportunity to rediscover,nature and heal our soul and energy through doing the things we love.

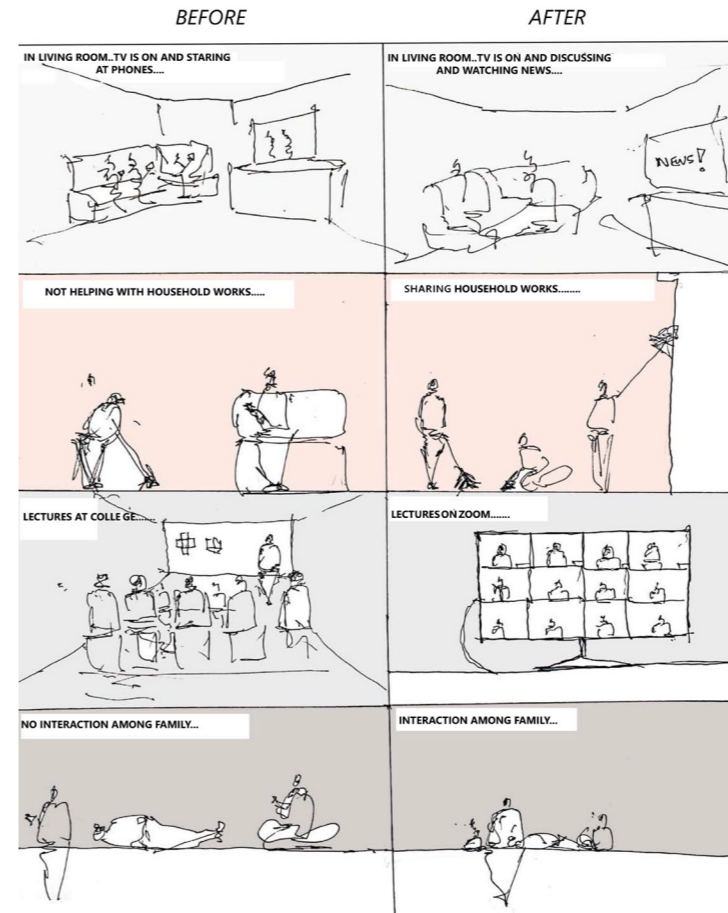


When we finally Bring out our "A" game in Fitness and in making healthier life choices.



Pets and animals will have the time of their lives

Thenmozhi K



When I was thinking of my life post- COVID-19 pandemic, I thought I'll make a quick comparison of life before and after COVID-19 lockdown in a comic.

Now the world has slowed down. Just think about how many days has it been since you all had a meal together with your family?

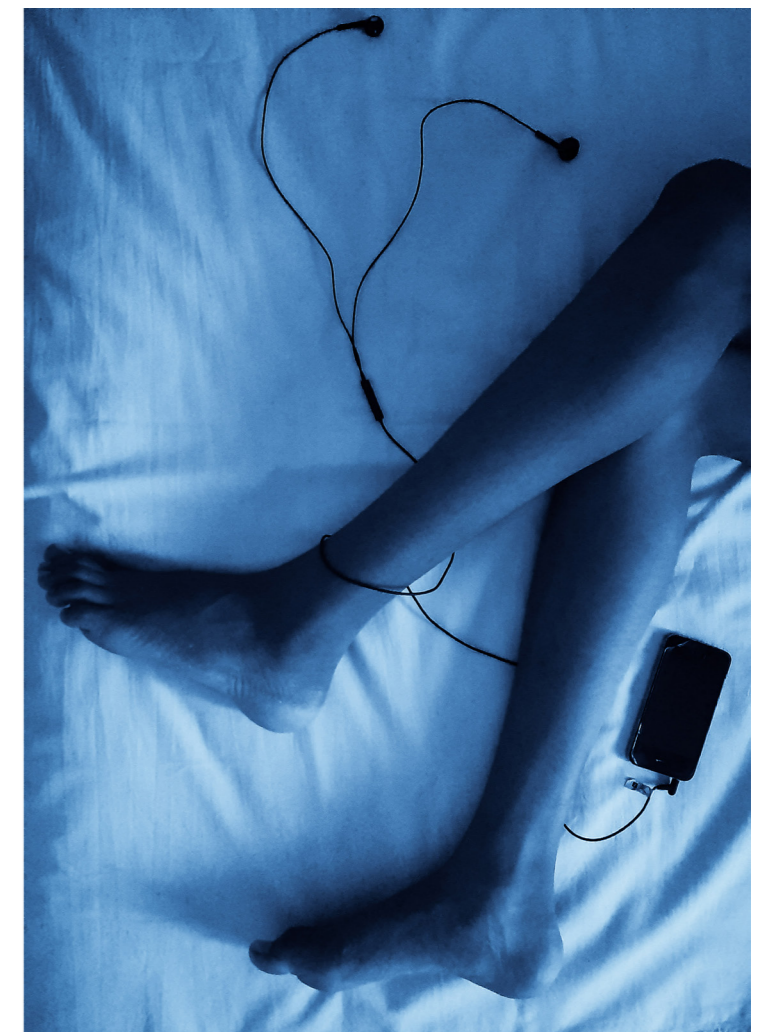
Earlier, all of us used to run and not have enough time to spend with family. Now its a second chance God has given us to spend time with family, share all the works, cook, eat together and talk and chat and work from home and finally tell your loved ones we are there for them!

Dhanush G

Dear eline,
Please stay with me this quarantine

As the clock paused this year,
With a mask to wear,
COVID-19 is all I hear.
I no more wake up to alarm sound
And here I am bed bound.
Even in summer it's very cold in here.
My body and machine just cohere
And I can't move anywhere.
Would someone be able to hear?
Amidst this fear, all we need is self-care.
Just RESPIRE...

Sushmitha A





LIFE AT V-SPARC

VEMANALAKSHMI SINDHURI

Photograph by Badrinath Rajasekaran

Every architecture student's life revolves around juxtapositioned time. Clearly, there are two phases in our semesters which are separated by submissions. The categorisation between absolutely free to absolutely packed happens on a daily basis. During the start of every semester, there is a high level of enthusiasm that peaks to prick our brains and all of a sudden we are least interested and back to reality. But quite the opposite happens for a very few of them, consider them the odd ones who are lucky as well. The transition is hilarious but these are the facts.

While students from other schools were busy entertaining their interests in various club works, we architecture students were doing something different. The reason for this was that architecture on a whole is a life sized club packed with much more than just a particular interest. We had our very own entertainment which replaced every other club, and it took place inside our Architecture Studio. The

'studio' is not as fancy as it sounds. It was more of a glass box on the fifth floor level with a great view of the campus entry on one side and the green cover of woodlands on the other, while also being a live sized glass oven in the summer where students had a hard time with ventilation. But on a whole, it was our place where we all started our journey into this field of creation, pleasure and trauma.

Our daily activities included subject lectures, half a day of design studio with a lot of Nescafe' coffee breaks with subway talkies which helped us connect more with the greener side of the campus. We also considered ourselves athletic, wandering about the campus in search of stationery. While art and drama skills were a born talent to most, some had the peculiar talent of either being numb or crazy at it. We were a range of Gen Z who were trying to understand the concepts and ideas of Gen X and Y, who were two decades older than us. We would not complain. Some of them were not

living in the present while on the contrary, some were futuristic in their approach. Well, all of this sounds like an episode of Black Mirror but we also had some episodes of Peaky Blinders which totally makes sense to us now.

Ever heard of sleepless memories? Ours were the times of deadlines, submissions and final reviews. Every weekend was a work from home session and weekdays were basically for on site works. Assignment questions were very simple and what we mostly did was make use of our literary skills to complicate and contemplate judgements of them. Examinations for architecture students are basically different articles and reports of their studies and conclusions of most of the lectures in the studio, which would have taken almost an hour of preparation before the exam. The reviews were exciting for some of us who were waiting for our turns to present, while others were starving and panicking for the not so scary reviews. Coming to the most interesting part of our life at V-SPARC, are the study tours which were basically filled with a lot of travel to historic and contemporary building sites of Architectural relevance, food, fun and well, studies. We all had our times where everyone became explorers of places and buildings of different typologies in a day and never left even a single food stall in each place unexplored.

Internships hit us with a different level of reality. Finding an internship to surviving it was a roller coaster ride filled with fun and fear but it is also where a great transition happened for most of us. We had practical experiences and were taught to design spaces which would be fit for

humanity. The reality check helped all of us change our perceptions about people, places and architecture as a whole. While we were away from our batchmates during the internship we learned to survive the struggles on our own and realised the major roles they played in our lives.

When we got back from our internship we were shifted to the humongous new block which was at an unknown part on campus. We had major expectations for our block but it ended up as eye candy with a lot of problems on the inside. To be honest, we had a hard time adjusting to it, and we faced difficulties in transport and environment which were later solved. We realised how our fifth floor glass box was way better than the new block but every place has its own character, and we learnt that from this situation.

On a whole, our life at V-SPARC was quite a ride and an adventure, where we had nice as well as bumpy highs and lows packed with state of the art experiences. Our conversations were usually filled with updates and rants on our daily lives and what was happening in the Indian Architecture professional scenario and ended with a pinch of gossip as a garnish. While it is not easy to survive an Architecture course and five years of study is a lot, it was worth it when we finally made it to the end. Be it hardships or cool memories, we at V-SPARC had a life experience. Every soul had a story and every story had a soul.

Vemanalakshmi Sindhuri
Batch of 2015

A creative person in all aspects who wants to do things differently.



A Locked-down Thesis

Online Jury Experience



July 2020- Behind the Scenes
Comic by Priyani Pranab

2020 has been a whirlwind of changes, but for the architecture student community, one of the biggest trials faced was the introduction of an online jury. It was the first of many experiences for the graduating batch of VSPARC. Lockdown thesis is a culmination of comments from the Batch of 2015 regarding their online jury experience.

The thesis reviews were a fun exercise in digital communication of design. The computer screen almost appears to be a portal to a fantasy-world with someone else commenting about your work through a tiny video and speaker - the intensity and fear that a juror displays was reduced. The online-mode of design is essential for the future, and if used wisely, softwares will aid design discussions not inhibit it. The typology of a crit can change, and I look forward to future digital presentations by VSPARC.

Aditi Ajay

The sudden shift from a conventional mode of presentation to an all virtual review had its opportunities and obstacles.

All the digital mid-reviews we had were preparing us for the definitive virtual counterpart we had ahead of us, this practice to some extent managed to break down the scepticism we were harbouring.

Having an unyielding narrative is crucial for any jury, hence the premise of the story is important. During an in-person viva, the pin-up wall morphs itself into giving an extensive showcase of your reasoning and work all through the semester, while in a virtual setting, your focus needs to be systematically expanded on each other as you move past the slides.

I personally had to battle some technical casualties during my review, which isn't an uncommon territory in the virtual domain. Nevertheless, the key to having an effective online jury is by incorporating strong imagery, accompanied with walkthroughs, animations etc particularly in a virtual setting, to enable a jury to cognize key parts of your narrative. Not to sound cliché, but in this kind of model, less is more.

Malavika Madhuraj

It was easy to connect everyone one from different places. But experience and learning was not same as a physical interaction.

Amurdha Sudharsen S

The virtual external review was very well planned. It was systematically done and at least for my panel the time limit was kept up really well. Doing a voice over personally helped me and other students who did to keep track of the entire presentation without exceeding the time limit.

Kavvy Selvakumar

The Virtual external review was a whole new experience. It gave us the opportunity to explore innovative ways of presentation. It made the process of connecting everyone from all over the world easy. But the atmosphere created for a final review still remains a question!!!

Kavvy R

Having a final thesis jury online was not a part of the architectural jury experience until Covid strikes in. We had to adapt to the challenging times and work with the resources that we had. Online mediums, while not as effective as offline, has its own set of advantages. One major advantage was the mode of presentation wherein I could explain my project sequentially without losing the flow while switching slides back and forth. My project (architecture museum) showcases the evolution of kerala architecture in chronological sequence. There was a subtle animation effect while presenting the slides that helps in understanding the chronological procession of my design project (kerala architecture museum).

Additionally online jury platform allowed more participation of people who were spectators for the review.

Saba Sulthana Shaji

The virtual thesis review was a challenging and an interesting task for our batch as we had to convey a new medium of presentation - legibility as a new scale for representation. We had to have a good control over our topic and present it to them in a condensed and yet in a manner that would be easy for them to quickly grasp as we move through the presentation. This online jury gave us an opportunity to understand how to prepare for a presentation in a workplace.

Aarthi Rajaram

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