



# IIA TIMES

AUGUST 2025

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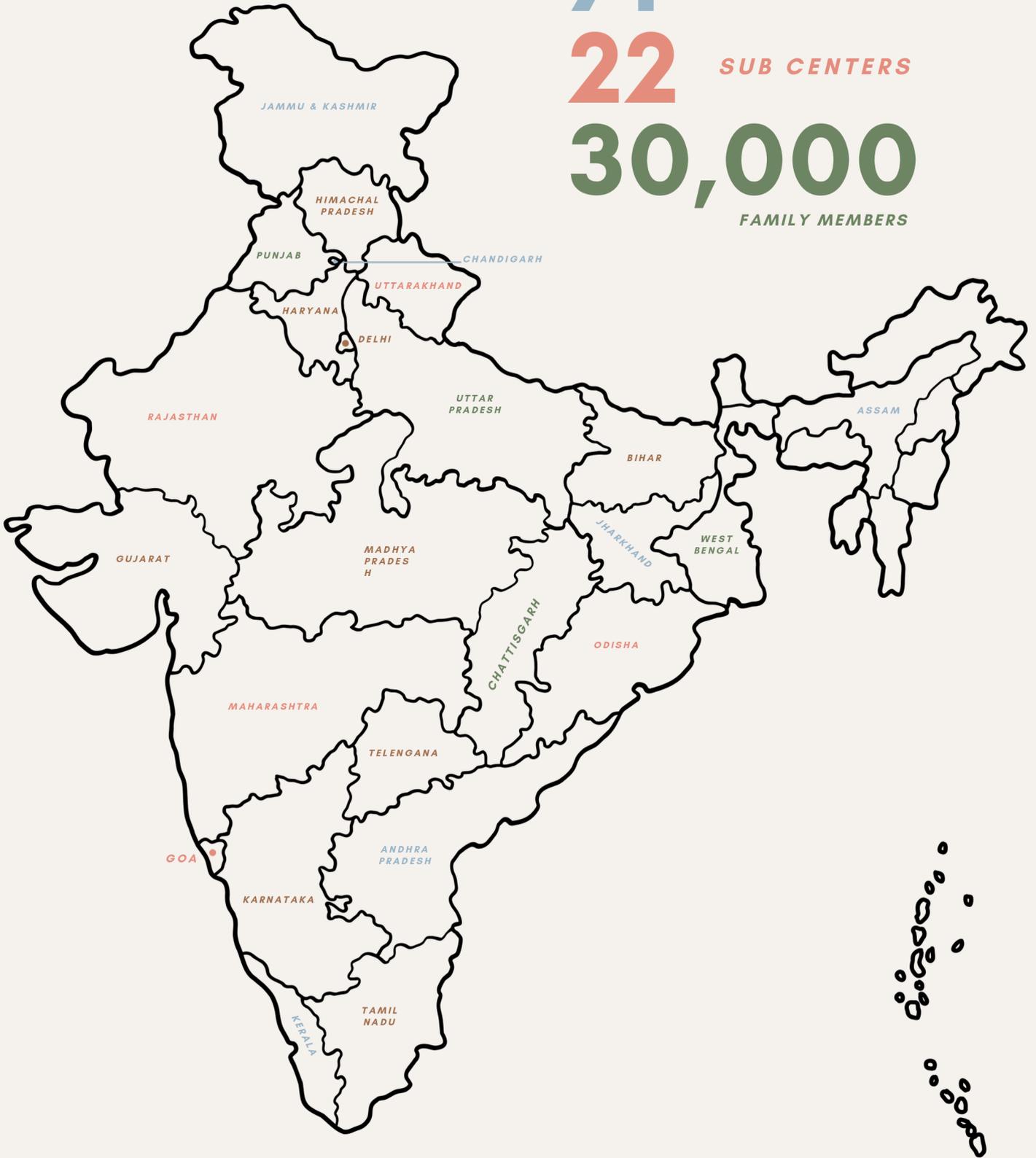
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# FOREWORD NOTE

## **Welcome to the IIA Times!**

The IIA Times isn't just a newsletter - it's our shadow on paper, catching the outlines of what we build, what we celebrate, and what we dare to say.

Some months slip by quietly. These came at us in a rush - like fresh coffee on a sleepy site visit. From Mumbai's Mahacon & Western Regional Conference (24-25 Jan), where the air was thick with ideas (and maybe a little sea salt), to Delhi's Northern Regional Conference (31 Jan-2 Feb), where even the cold couldn't cool the room - we've been everywhere. February tossed us into the creative whirlwind of the Young Architects Festival (7-9 Feb) - reminding us that the future doesn't ask for permission before redesigning the rules.

March rolled out applause for the IIA Awards 2023 (21-22 Mar), celebrating spaces that speak when architects are silent. April was the big stage - the IIA National Convention (11-13 Apr). But here's what's new - a section I've been itching to bring to life: *UNMUTED*. This is where the polished voices step aside for the raw, the real, and the gloriously unfiltered. Stories that have been politely holding their breath can finally exhale here.

This issue is both a record and a reminder: architecture isn't just about what we draw; it's about what we dare to say.



**BABIKA  
GOEL**

**THE  
BLUEPRINT  
OF THE  
JAN - AUG  
2025**

## **UNMUTED**

Where the architect's pen drops its filter, and the stories stop waiting for permission.

Here, blueprints meet bare truths, and conversations spill past the edge of the drafting table.

If you've been holding back -this is your cue to speak up.

# FROM THE EDITOR

*Welcome to this edition of The IIA Times, your backstage pass to the in-between moments.*



AR. TUSHAR  
SOGANI

Because the best stories happen off the record. From the sea breeze at Mahacon to Delhi's winter at NRC, the fearless ideas at YAF, the applause at the IIA Awards, and the big stage of the National Convention -we've packed it all in.

And now, a new twist - **UNMUTED**. The space where the polite nods take a break and the raw, real voices step up.

Settle in, take a slow read. These are pages worth lingering over.

*Warm regards,  
Tushar Sogani  
Editor*



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SHARMA



AR. ARUNA  
BHARDWAJ



AR. BABIKA  
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MEET YOUR 2025 IIA OFFICE BEARERS

2025 EVENTS

MAHACON & WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

YOUNG ARCHITECTS FESTIVAL

IIA AWARDS 2023

IIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

# THE MAHACON

Western Region Conference



MAHACON '25 brought together architects, academicians, and industry to explore Adaptive reuse and Parametric Design as parallel responses to heritage preservation and future-ready innovation.

## Objectives

- Bridge heritage and modernity in design.
- Showcase innovative materials and technologies.
- Enable knowledge exchange across disciplines.

## Methodology

- Expo & Cultural Showcase - materials and "Deulkathan: Temples of Konkan."
- Talks & Panels - conservation, parametric strategies, sustainability.
- Workshops & Engagements - sketching, photography, poetry, drum jam.

## Key Learnings

- Adaptive reuse reduces waste and preserves embodied energy.
- Parametric design enables performance-driven, innovative forms.
- Heritage demands sensitivity, technology brings efficiency.

## Outcomes

- 416+ delegates and student strong participation.
- Souvenir publication as a knowledge resource.
- Strengthened industry-practice linkages.



## NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SAANJH 2025 passed all checks for structural stability, design harmony, and future readiness –a model for regional unity in Indian architecture.



### STRUCTURAL STABILITY ANALYSIS: SAANJH 2025

| Section   | Description   |
|---|---|
| Foundation Check – Leadership & Vision          | The event was structurally grounded by Ar. Vilas Vasant, President IIA, and key office bearers. Their vision anchored the conference, with updates from UIA, ARCASIA, COA, and IIA setting a strong base for discourse. |
| Load-Bearing Members – Eight Chapters in Action | With active participation from all eight Northern Chapters, the structural system achieved balance and regional cohesion. Convenors and coordinators ensured smooth execution without buckling under pressure.          |
| Facade & Form – Architecture Meets Emotion      | A creative fashion show by architecture students added expressive cladding to the event—merging design, emotion, and youthful energy.   |
| Structural Upliftment – Technical Sessions      | Keynotes by Ar. Biju Kuriakose, Ar. Ashish Sompura, and others strengthened intellectual frameworks—touching on building biology, aura science, sustainability, and spirituality.                                       |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Stress Test – Quiz Competition</p>               | <p>The inter-chapter quiz tested regional tensile strength. IIA Haryana took the lead, proving its resilience under timed pressure.</p>   |
| <p>Quality Assurance – Awards &amp; Recognition</p> | <p>Excellence was certified through a well-structured awards system coordinated by Ar. Indu Arora, celebrating outstanding architects across chapters.</p>                                |
| <p>Construction Logs – Launch of ‘NorthPoint’</p>   | <p>The debut of NorthPoint, a regional design journal, archived both student research and architectural practice—ensuring long-term structural memory.</p>                                |
| <p>Site Services &amp; Handover</p>                 | <p>With over 100 architects hosted, hospitality was efficiently managed. The symbolic baton was passed to IIA J&amp;K, signaling continuity of the Northern Region Conference series.</p> |

## YOUNG ARCHITECTS FESTIVAL 2025

The Young Architects Festival (YAF) 2025 was truly a landmark event, seamlessly blending intellectual discourse, cultural heritage and architectural innovation.



**BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ)**

| Section   | Item No. | Description                            | Quantity  | Unit                 | Remarks   |
|---|----------|--|-----------|----------------------|---|
| A: Foundation Works                                 | A1       | Theme Setting: SYNERGY                 | 1         | LS                   | Theme with 3 sub-themes: Transcend, Transform, Together |
|   | A2       | Inaugural Fusion Dance                 | 1         | Act                  | Interpreting theme at Mamallapuram backdrop             |
|   | A3       | Souvenir Booklet                       | 1         | Book                 | Glossy souvenir with event highlights                   |
| B: Keynotes & Talk<br>C: Competitions & Exhibitions | B1       | Keynote by Ar. Joao Albuquerque        | 1         | Talk                 | Hedonistic Sustainability from BIG, Barcelona           |
|   | B2       | Panel: Reinventing the Mainstream      | 3         | Architects           | Murali, Malli & Raghuveer                               |
|   | B3       | Panel: Social Stewardship              | 3         | Architects           | Nimal, Anand & Nishitha                                 |
|   | B4       | Panel: (Re)Making Context              | 3         | Architects           | Siddharth, Madhushitha & Avinash                        |
|   | B5       | Panel: Practice as Enquiry             | 3         | Architects           | Mona, Ujjayant & Naomy                                  |
|   | B6       | Parallel: New Avenues                  | 4         | Architects           | Sriram, Vignesh, Sujatha & Varuna                       |
|   | B7       | Parallel: Symbiosis                    | 4         | Architects + Friends | Aditi, Smriti, Apurva & Bharat                          |
|   | B8       | Keynote by Ar. Martha Tsigkari         | 1         | Tech Talk            | Digitalisation & Creativity - Foster+Partners           |
| C: Competitions & Exhibitions                       | C1       | Design Competitions: SHILP + ENABLERS  | ₹3,00,000 | Prize Pool           | Design rooted in Mamallapuram context                   |
|   | C2       | Expo Booths                            | 50        | Brands               | Latest materials & tech on display                      |
|   | C3       | Heritage + Centre Exhibits             | 5         | Decades of Work      | Celebrating legacy & future                             |
| D: Services & Experiences                           | D1       | Yuva Unplugged                         | 1         | Mic Circle           | Dialogue between IIA & young architects                 |
|   | D2       | Heritage Trail with Ar. Ramanan        | 1         | Slow Walk            | Guided monument tour                                    |
|   | D3       | Sketching Trail with Ar. Sanjeev Joshi | 1         | Sketchbook           | Heritage documentation via sketching                    |
|   | D4       | Cultural Nights                        | ∞         | Good Vibes           | Kite flying, beach volleyball, DJs                      |
|   | D5       | Food Service                           | Unlimited | Thali Units          | Regional delicacies & hygiene                           |
| E: Recognitions & Wrap-up                           | E1       | Awards & Recognition                   | Many      | Trophies             | Committee, winners, service providers                   |
|   | E2       | Festival Documentation                 | 1         | Archive              | Preserved for future editions                           |
|   | E3       | Gala Night & Light Show                | 1         | Dance Floor          | Music, DJs, networking & celebration                    |
| F: Miscellaneous                                    | F1       | Weather Control                        | 0         | N/A                  | February = Moderately hot, yet tolerable                |
|   | F2       | Delegate Energy                        | 800+      | Brains               | Fueled by chai & architectural ambition                 |

# IIA AWARDS 2023



## CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT OF ABSURDLY EXCELLENT DESIGN

**Client:** Planet Earth – representing those who believe design shapes the way we live, breathe, and belong.

**Consultant:** The Award-Winning Architects – trusted custodians of built beauty and spatial intelligence.

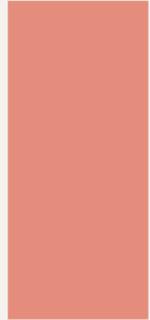
**Scope:** To transform everyday spaces into enduring experiences – thoughtful, intentional, and alive.

**Duration:** Until design stops mattering. (Unlikely.)

**Deliverables:** Architecture that elevates. Interiors that resonate. Ideas that endure.

| Category                         | Name  | Project Name   | Result                                   |              |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------|
| <b>(A) ARCHITECTURE</b>          |   |  |  |              |
| A1                               | ArchitectureA1.1-RESIDENTIAL                                    | Ar. Vishal Kirankumar Desai, Ar. Vishal Shrikrishna Shah | Chitrakut, Surat.                        | WINNER       |
|                                  |   | Ar. Manickavel G K                                       | Brigade Parkside North, Bangalore.       | WINNER       |
| A2                               | ArchitectureA1.2-RESIDENTIAL BUDGET HOUSE (Upto 1500 sft)       | Ar. Thomas Jose Karimpanal                               | Bhavati, Kerala.                         | WINNER       |
|                                  |   | Ar. Darshan Dhananjay Medhi                              | Gite Weekend Home, Pune.                 | COMMENDATION |
| A3                               | ArchitectureA1.4-RESIDENTIAL LUXURY HOUSE (3000sft to 10000sft) | Ar. Rupesh Chamanbhai Patel                              | Sahastrar, Rajkot.                       | WINNER       |
| A4                               | ArchitectureA1.5-RESIDENTIAL LUXURY HOUSE ( More than 10000sft) | Ar. Hardik Bhadreshkumar Shah                            | House of Memories, Valsad.               | WINNER       |
| A5                               | ArchitectureA1.6-RESIDENTIAL RECREATIONAL HOUSE                 | Ar. Anand K R  | House of Earth & Stone, Bangalore.       | COMMENDATION |
| A6                               | ArchitectureA2-COMMERCIAL                                       | Ar. Monolita Chatterjee, Ar. Ramesh John Tharakan        | Edacheril Square, Kerala.                | COMMENDATION |
| A7                               | ArchitectureA3-MERCANTILE RETAIL                                | Ar. Sachin Krishnarao Patil                              | Pritam Steel Syndicate Office, Kolhapur. | WINNER       |
| A8                               | ArchitectureA4-HOSPITALITY                                      | Ar. Nilanjan Bhowal                                      | Camp Forktail Creek, Uttarakhand.        | COMMENDATION |
| A9                               | ArchitectureA5-INSTITUTIONAL (SMALL)                            | Ar. Pooja Jyotirao Khairnar                              | Community Canvas, Nashik.                | WINNER       |
| A10                              | ArchitectureA7-PUBLIC AND SEMI PUBLIC                           | Ar. Mueen Haris  | Zeenath-UI-Islam Madrassa, Bengaluru.    | COMMENDATION |
|                                  |   | Ar. Vikram Vishwanath Desai                              | Nirbhaya Centre, Bengaluru.              | COMMENDATION |
| A11                              | ArchitectureA8-MIXED USE  | Ar. Ronak Mukeshbhai Patel                               | Z Square, Gandhinagar.                   | WINNER       |
| A12                              | ArchitectureA5-INSTITUTIONAL (LARGE)                            | Ar. Pankaj Bhagwatkar                                    | Maher Ashram, Satara                     | WINNER       |
|                                  |   | Ar. Kishore Narmadashankar Trivedi                       | Engineering College, Rajkot.             | WINNER       |
| <b>(B) INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE</b> |   |  |  |              |
| B1                               | Interior ArchitectureA1.1-RESIDENTIAL-BUDGET HOUSE              | Ar. Yogalakshmi A  | Vaazh, Vedanthangal                      | WINNER       |
| B2                               | Interior ArchitectureA1.2-RESIDENTIAL-LUXURY HOUSE              | Ar. Monolita Chatterjee, Ar. Ramesh John Tharakan        | Inside Outside, Cochin.                  | COMMENDATION |

|                                   |   |   |  |              |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--------------|
| B3                                | Interior ArchitectureIA1.3-RESIDENTIAL-RECREATIONAL HOUSE                 | Ar. Keta Varun Shah                                       | The Pavilion, Ahmedabad.   | WINNER       |
| B4                                | Interior ArchitectureIA2-COMMERCIAL                                       | Ar. Keta Varun Shah                                       | Tranquility, Ahmedabad.  | COMMENDATION |
|                                   |   | Ar. Ronak Mukeshbhai Patel                                | The Fluted Cuboid, Chattral.   | COMMENDATION |
| B5                                | Interior ArchitectureIA3-MERCANTILE RETAIL                                | Ar. Snehal Pravinbhai Shah, Ar. Jigar Dipeshkumar Dalal   | Jaipur Rugs, Surat.  | WINNER       |
|                                   |   | Ar. Ranjit Avinash Wagh                                   | House of Porcelain, Pune.  | COMMENDATION |
| <b>(C) LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</b> |   |   |  |              |
| C1                                | Landscape ArchitectureLA1-SMALL (SITE UPTO 1 ACRE)                        | Ar. Varna S Dhar  | Ruinscape, Bengaluru.  | WINNER       |
| C2                                | Landscape ArchitectureLA2-LARGE (SITE MORE THAN 1 ACRE)                   | Ar. Prachi Umesh Wakaley, Ar. Umesh Sharadchandra Wakaley | G- Corp Linears, Thane.  | COMMENDATION |
| <b>(D) CONSERVATION</b>           |   |   |  |              |
| D1                                | ConservationCI-CONSERVATION & RESTORATION & PRESERVATION & ADAPTIVE REUSE | Ar. Ritu Sara Thomas, Ar. Swathy V.S. & Ar. Savita Rajan  | Restoration of Karnikara Mandapam, Calicut.  | COMMENDATION |
|                                   |   | Ar. Chandroth Shyamraj, Ar. Aziya H. Mondal               | Variyath, Thrissur.  | COMMENDATION |
| <b>(E) URBAN INTERVENTIONS</b>    |   |   |  |              |
| E1                                | Urban Interventions - U1  | Ar. Rituraj Falgoon Parikh                                | Produce Market, Bihar.   | WINNER       |
| <b>(F) SPECIAL CATEGORY</b>       |   |   |  |              |
| F1                                | Research Paper - S1   | Ar. ANJALI C  | Lessons Of Sustainability: The Folk Reading Of A Ritualistic Landscape                         | COMMENDATION |
| F2                                | Book - S2   | Ar. Jyoti Pandey Sharma                                   | Colonialism, Uprising And The Urban Transformation Of Nineteenth - Century, Delhi              | WINNER       |
| F3                                | Women Architects in the Forefront - S3                                    | Ar. Kripa K Baby  | Vendome, Kozhikode; Wind Charmers Court, Malappuram; Lucid Home Garden, Malappuram             | WINNER       |
| F4                                | Emerging Practice - S4  | Ar. Gita Balakrishnan                                     | Making Social Responsibility A Habit, Clubs At Architectural Institutes, Grants & Scholarships | WINNER       |
|                                   |   | Ar. Pooja Jyotirao Khairnar                               | Community Canvas, Nashik; House 20x22, Nashik; House of Overlaps, Nashik                       | COMMENDATION |
| F5                                | Special CategoryS5-UNBUILT  | Ar. Pinkish Jagdish Shah                                  | Urban Connector, Nandurbar.  | WINNER       |

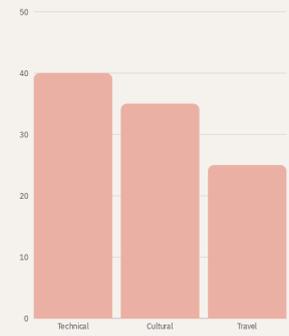
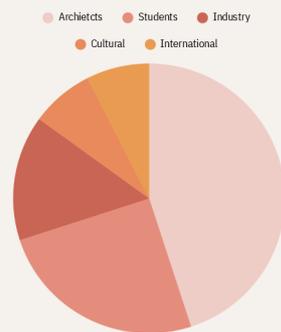


## IIA NATIONAL CONVENTION, BHOPAL&INDORE

Where tradition met Innovation

Hosted across Bhopal & Indore from 10-13 April 2025, TRANSOM marked IIA MP Chapter's 50th year. Theme: Bridging Makes Sense - merging vernacular wisdom with modern tech for Viksit Bharat 2047. 800+ delegates participated.

| City   | Role in Event             | Key Venues   |
|--------|---------------------------|--|
| Bhopal | Heritage & Admin Hub      | Minto Hall, Jehan Numa Retreat, VIT Campus, Aarany Village |
| Indore | Commercial & Cultural Hub | Brilliant Convention Centre, Mahakaleswar Temple           |



Tree Plantation @ VIT Campus - 300+ species  
 Heritage Walk - Bhopal old city Malwa Architecture  
 Festival - Aarany Village Waste-to-Wonder Student  
 Competition MoUs for Sustainable Urbanism.

TRANSOM 2025 was a successful blend of heritage, sustainability, and futuristic vision across two cities - an architectural journey in context, culture, and collaboration.



# UNMUTED

A Space for Honest Reflections

This edition of UNMUTED is a chorus of voices—funny, fierce, tender, and unfiltered.

Thank you to every architect who trusted us with your lived moments. The entries poured in, each a reminder that our profession is shaped as much by the conversations in corridors as by the blueprints on our tables.

The number of entries we received for this issue was overwhelming, overflowing beyond the space of this newsletter. To honor every voice, we had to condense each author's note while keeping its essence. The rest of the entries will be featured in the next edition. Keep sending them in.

Whispered or shouted, polished or raw - they belong here.  
Because this space? It's yours.

*"Believes every good story needs coffee, chaos, and a little concrete dust."*

## The Silent Celebration

Born in a small town where daughters were blessings only if they stayed quiet, I was one of the lucky few. I studied, married, raised a son, and put my career aside for twenty years. In 2013, I returned to work—one step at a time. Divorce came, but so did pride: my son stood tall, my travels took me far, and I realised life's real odyssey isn't the milestones. It's the resilience built along the way.

### Ar. Sarika Jain Agarwal, Delhi,

Architect/Planner/Researcher/Academician, ASC Consulting

#### *Why does this happen?*

Because women are often told to pause their dreams. Sometimes, we return not just to our careers, but to ourselves.

## The Unseen Architect

Same exams. Same knowledge. But because my degree was through an "alternate" route, I was always sidelined—teaching posts, PhDs, opportunities. My work was judged by the name on my certificate, not by what I could do. I've stopped waiting for the table to welcome me. I'm building my own.

### Ar. Manish Manikrao Gode, Nagpur

AIIA/AITP/M.Tech/Urban Planning

#### *Why does this happen?*

Because we confuse prestige with competence. Talent needs no pedigree—but the system still hasn't caught up.

## When Interior Designers Become Marriage Counselors

Walk into a client meeting with swatches in hand, walk out having mediated World War III over a sofa. Husband wants sleek, wife wants cozy—both want me to agree with them. Once, the wife thundered mid-meeting: "DON'T CUT ME OFF IN FRONT OF HER!". We didn't pick the wallpaper that day.

### Ar. Sheily Shrivastav, Noida

Associate Professor, Vastu Kala Academy, New Delhi & Regional Mentor of Change, Atal Innovation Mission

#### *Why does this happen?*

Because design decisions aren't just about style. They're about power, pride, and who gets the final word at home.

## The Student Who Said Nothing

Final-year intern. No thrill in his tenure, no story to tell. Just... nothing. His eyes spoke of helplessness. When I asked what he wanted after graduation, he said, "I've left it to God." The whole class went quiet.

### Ar. Dhiraj Chawla, Delhi

Senior Architect & CEO, DA+; Govt. Approved Valuer; Pan-India Advisor to PSUs, MNCs & Institutions; On Panel IGNOU, I.P. University, External Jury S.P.A., Jamia Millia; Contributor to Skill India Mission.

#### *Why does this happen?*

Because sometimes the system dulls bright sparks before they can burn. The question isn't "Can we teach?" but "Can we unmute them?"

## The Prototype

A door design that took months of iterations, failed starts, and two carpentry teams finally stood complete. To most, it was just a door. To us, it was the proof that design isn't an idea—it's persistence made tangible.

**Supriti,**

Architect, Ovoid Atelier Pondicherry

*Why does this happen?*

Because the things we sweat over become invisible to the passerby. That's okay. The reward is knowing we set a new "default."

---

## The Overlooked Pillars of Architectural Design

Architectural educators shape tomorrow's cities, yet their role is persistently undermined. They carry the responsibility to innovate, inspire, and guide—but are too often dismissed.

**Esther Clifford**

Assistant Professor, Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai

*Why does this happen?*

Because when we underestimate educators, we weaken the very foundation of the future.

## The Right to Education

Half the class was engaged, half just wanted the canteen. I set a rule: no submissions, no entry to the "fun part" of class. One girl stood at the door, defiant: "You can't deny me my right to education." She was right. I let them in—and never had missing submissions again.

**Ar. Navneet Malhotra**

AA Design Consultants, Delhi,  
B.Arch [SPA-d], M.Tech [IIT-d]

*Why does this happen?*

Because authority can draw lines, but listening erases the wrong ones.

---

## The Shift & The Choice -A Woman's Perspective

She was ambitious, cheerful, and unstoppable—until expectations, obedience, and invisible labour dimmed the spark. After years of compromises and guilt, she chose to pause, unlearn, and reclaim herself—as academician, scholar, architect, and golfer.

**Ar. Swetha K.**

*Why does this happen?*

Because women are taught to sacrifice for comfort and conformity—until one day, they remember they can choose themselves.

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*Rajpath Ruler*



**AR. TUSHAR  
SOGANI**

*Fortress Firebrand*



**AR.  
CHANDRANESAN P**

*Chola Champion*



**AR. SANDEE  
KUMAR  
SARASWAT**

*Awadh Warrior*



# IIA TIMES

Architectural Imprints | AUG 2025 EDITION 2

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