RICHA NARVEKAR

URBANIST. ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER. EDUCATOR

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# Education

**M. Arch Urban Design,** The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UCL)

London, UK Sept 2014

**B. Arch,** Center for Environment and Planning University (CEPT)

Ahmedabad, India Mar 2011

# Honors and Awards

**British Council GET Scholar** Sept 2013

Awarded 75% of tuition fees to study at The Bartlett through a merit-based scholarship designed for students of Goan origin

**UDRI Charles Correa Gold Medal Nominee** Jan 2009

Nominated by Dean of CEPT University to represent the architecture school at the prestigious Charles Correa Urban Design Research Initiative annual competition for design theses (for undergraduate students of architecture) I was one of two students chosen to represent the School of Architecture, CEPT in 2009.

# Research Experience

**Dissertation: Territory, Security, Urbanization: The Role of Apparatuses of Control**

The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK Sep 2014

Advisor: Beth Hughes, Dr. Ross Exo Adams, Dr. Davide Sacconi

**Dissertation**: **The impact of the Colonial Era on the Architectural Character of Goan Residential Streets**

CEPT University Dec 2010

Advisor: Professor Ravi Hazra

**Design Thesis: Sensorial Intervention into a Sensorially Impoverished Environment**

CEPT University Jun 2008

Advisor: Professor Neelkanth Chhaya

**Professional Research**: The History of Theatre in Bombay—Research for Professional Project: Converted into Exhibit Panels

The Busride Interior Design firm Nov 2007

Commissioned for the Interior Renovation of the historic Prithvi Cafe

# FACILITATION Experience

Conceived of, organized and hosted a weekly virtual ‘Art and Art History Club’ for members of the Centre for Social Innovation, Toronto, over Zoom Apr 2020 - Present

‘The Art and Art History club’ evolved as a ‘stay at home activity’ for members of CSI. Session leaders research and curate art and media content around a particular theme and make presentations, showing relevant art/ media to open the session. Presentations are made via Zoom online, are interactive with discussions on art history and the relevance/ significance of pieces being shown.

At the end of the 30 minute presentation, a ‘sketch theme’ for the day is revealed and attendees are asked to interpret it through media of their choice, within a loose 20 minute window. Attendees draw their interpretation of the theme on personal sketchbooks.

Once the 20minute window is closed, attendees share their works with all at the session on their screens and talk about why they chose to draw/ create what they did. Discussions and lively, interactive and entertaining with a lot of time and space given to attendees to share thoughts, feelings and personal history via the sketches made.

These sessions have now run for 24 weeks, online on Zoom. I have high-level managed the event and all sessions and have been a ‘session leader’ curating themes for many weeks. See ‘Course List’ for themes that were researched and presented.

# Teaching Experience

**Assistant Professor,** Goa College of Architecture, Goa University

Goa, India Dec 2015 - Aug 2016

**Visual Arts: Studio III**

An undergraduate course averaging 40 students per semester. Syllabus prescribes exposure to visual art history and skill building in visual representation.

Designed the structure of 18-week course, lectures and exercises, led classes, gave presentations and assessed assignments turned in by students.

**Course Synopsis:**

A particular reference frame is developed for the duration of the course which, for the sake of argument sees the evolution art as a linear progression, dividing it into 3 major phases:

 1. Art as Narrative 2. Art as Expression and 3. Art as Critique

Each module is approximately five weeks long and is composed of slideshows lectures, seminar presentations, in class exercises, field trips and final assignments.

**Studio VIII: Living Environments**

The studio of 40 students is divided into 3 clusters. Designed the structure of 18-week course and set up research parameters and questions through which students were to develop architectural/ urban design projects.

**Course Synopsis:**

This Studio aimed to expand the outlook of the 3rd year architectural student: from the focus on interior and architectural scale to role of built form in the making of the city at large. Through exercises that involve site visits, mapping, research and analysis, the student will be made to see the deeper underlying social, economic, territorial and historical forces that shape and bind the spaces of the city.

In preliminary studio exercises, the 'urbs' or city was read as a spatialization of the circuits of different user groups, of social and essential functions, of permissions and territorial intent, of economy, mobility and time.

For the final studio project, the students will be divided into smaller project groups that explore urban issues arising in smaller localised parts of Panjim city and its satellites.

These explorations will then be encouraged into the development of an urban design project with an architectural focus. In each case, the groups will typify the urban issue at site to understand it in the global context, define ‘an urban problem’ and then will explore the solutions that architecture can provide

**Space v/s Place**

An undergraduate elective workshop (40 hours) for 18 Semester 8 students.

Developed course structure, led presentations, set up parameters to develop final assignment, gave students a masterclass on basic use of Adobe Premiere pro and coached them on the development of their final films.

**Course Synopsis:**

In the increasingly globalised economy and hyper-connected spaces of the planet today, building grows like an urban infection, covering all available land for development at a rapid, feverish pace. In this rush to claim and construct on land, architecture is reduced to a mere act of ‘occupation’, to a functional ‘filling in’ of plot boundaries demarcated by state and capitalists. Spaces grow, agglomerate and become cities, without ever becoming distinct, distinguishable places that have their own unique character.

In the span of this workshop, it is sought to have the student *think* about what goes into the making of a *place*. The elective will explore (at a basic, preliminary level) different scales, natures and physicalities of place making elements through photography, film and map making. Each group of students will study and seek to capture an assigned ‘place’ on video through a representation of its un-built, sensorial and ephemeral realities.

At the end of the elective, the student should have been introduced to the critical debate on space v/s place and should have moved a step further in being equipped to conceive of ‘places’ as not only 3d projections of top down masterplans or as functional spaces, but as total environments, composed from a milieu of many different sights, sounds, textures, smells and memories.

Students are asked to make an experiential document: a film, 5 minutes long, on an assigned ‘place’ with unique history, geography, demographic, commerce and vibe .They are not to represent the place in its exhaustive entirety, but to focus on illustrating its 'sense of place’. Each group is asked to capture their respective places as 'time', as 'texture’, as 'fast moving urban scenery' and as 'memories'

# Publications

## Journal Publications:

## “[Physical Roads and Virtual Nodes as bio-political apparatuses of state control,](http://www.the-essayist.org/2015/04/bio-political-apparatuses-state-control/)”

## The Essayist

## Published Articles:

[“The Rising Slums of Goa”](https://goastreets.com/rising-slums-goa2/)

*Goa Streets*

[“Goa for Goans, or Goa for the Rich?”](https://goastreets.com/goa-goans-goa-rich-2/)

*Goa Streets*

# WEBSITE/ PORTFOLIO

<https://www.richanarvekar.com/>

# Invited Exhibitions

**Assemblage Exhibition**, **“Built Form,” Exhibit at Vaughan City Hall,**

Curated by Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Senior Art Curator and Planner, City of Vaughan

To be Exhibited January, 2021

**Artist Statement:**

**“What kind of Place is Vaughan?”**

At first sight, Vaughan may seem an inert, opaque mass of similar looking Spaces. The interiors of these Spaces are also similar in the sense that they are all Images, of Places that the residents hold dear- Places that are nostalgia for their immigrant past.

Yet, the residents have made many memories within the geography that is now called Vaughan, an intersection, that creates ‘Authentic Place’. Through interviews with Vaughan residents, the artist records images of these Authentic Places. The new downtown core hopes to catalyse a transformation for the growing city; from inert spatial containers of nostalgia and Image, to interactive, Authentic Places-thereby becoming itself, an important, Authentic Place.

# Professional Experience

**Freelance Architect, Designer,Educator**

Toronto, CanadaFEB 2020-PRESENT

* Architectural Design for a sustainable residence, Goa, India
* Architectural Design for a housing development in Orillia, Ontario, Canada
* Designed and taught a Sketchup Basics course to Interior Designers online
* Freelance Video Editing and Graphic Design Projects for clients in Toronto
* Designed and Facilitated a [weekly Art+ Art History Session](https://socialinnovation.org/2020/05/20/stayathome-activity-enjoying-csis-art-art-history-club/) for members of the Centre for Social Innovation, Toronto
* Research and Design for Art Assemblage Project to be displayed at Vaughan City Hall

**Intermediate Designer,** TheDesignAgency

Toronto, CanadaJUN 2019-DEC2019

* Design Development, developing drawing sets in ACad
* Sketchup Models+ VRay renders for projects
* Sourcing products, finishes etc. and maintaining schedules for the same.

**Senior Designer,** One X One Design

Toronto, Canada JAN 2017-JUN 2019

* Lead Project design, design detailing, material sourcing, quote sourcing, trade scheduling on large luxury residences, Custom Poolside Bar, Luxury Office.
* Complete sets of working drawings and co ordinating with Project Manager and Trades to execute
* Hiring interns and junior designers for the company
* Mentoring junior designers, leading teams of designers to tight deadlines
* Setting drawing and project cost management standards for the office
* Solving site-based design issues with a hands-on problem-solving approach, in collaboration with firm Principals.

**Temp. Interior Design Assistant,** Lux Design

Toronto, CanadaNov 2016-JaN 2017

* Took charge of completing a tender package for a multi-storeyed residential condo complex in Toronto.
* Checked millwork details, verified with FF&E, sourced material for the same.

**Architectural/Interior Designer,** Associate at Architecture T and RAS Design

Goa, India Aug 2015-Oct 2016

* Defined project objectives and set team goals
* Mentored junior architects, draftspeople and 3d modelers to develop design, moodboards, details, 3d visuals and walkthroughs to project schedule in a deadline driven environment

**Founder, Partner & Design Lead:** RASAA STUDIO

Goa, IndiaAug 2015-OCT 2016

* Designed and co-ordinated wayfinding and signage details for a large urban design project.
* Designed custom furniture, curtains, lamps, and had them executed at site with appropriate working drawings.

**Assistant Professor of Architecture,** GOA COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, Goa University, India Dec 2015-Oct 2016

* Mentored Semester VIII undergraduate students of architecture on all aspects of design studio project.
* Taught Visual Art, Art History and Architectural Criticism lecture-based courses

**Urban Design Consultant (Contract),** EMBARQ INDIA (World Resources Institute, Washington D.C.)

Banglore, India Feb 2015-Aug 2015

**Design Director,** INSIDE OUT DESIGN,

Goa, IndiaFeb 2013-Aug 2013

**Architect and Projects Manager** KERNEL INFOSOFT/C SHELL,

Goa, India Apr 2012-Apr 2013

**Junior Architect/Interior Designer,** THE ORIGIN

Goa, IndiaJan 2011-Apr 2012

# SOFTWARE EXPERTISE

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| * AutoCAD 2d and 3d
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| * Sketch up
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| * Adobe Photoshop
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| * Adobe InDesign
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| * Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Word, Excel)
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| * Adobe Illustrator
 |
| * Adobe Premiere Pro
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| * 3ds Max (basic)
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# Professional Affiliations

Council of Architecture, India, 2015-Present

# Volunteer Positions

**Librarian,** Toronto Tool Library

Toronto, Canada Feb 2020- Present

**DeskExchangeCommunityAnimator**,Centre for Social Innovation

Toronto, Canada Mar 2020- Present

# Languages

**English**: Native Language. CLB 9.

**French**: Novice Listener, Novice Speaker, Novice Reading and Writing (Completed A2 level)

**Hindi**: Advanced Listener, Advanced Speaker, Advanced Reading and Writing

**Konkani**: Advanced Listener, Advanced Speaker, Advanced Reading and Writing

# Other

**Other Professional Interests:**

Graphic Design, Editorial Design, Photography, Sculpture, Filmmaking

# References

*(Contact details of References provided upon request)*

**Hanieh Kavehei**

Intermediate Designer, Watt International

Toronto, Canada

**Dr. Ashish Rege**

Principal, Goa College of Architecture

Goa, India

**Tallulah D’Silva**

Principal Architect, Architecture t

Goa, India

**Tallulah D’Silva**

Principal Architect, Architecture t

Goa, India