

LAUNCHING EDITION

re:verb
THE literature and journalism club for MSAP

beginning

between hello and goodbye



MANIPAL SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MANIPAL

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE beginning

between hello and goodbye

re:verb

This is the launching edition of MSAP's student club for literature and journalism. Views and opinions expressed here are solely of the authors and not the organization. They are not meant to hurt anyone's sentiments, religious or otherwise. This is a launching edition comprising of contributions by the current members and core team of reverb. This copy is meant for internal circulation only.



welcome note

FROM THE FACULTY COORDINATOR

nikhil s kohale

re:verb

In music, a 'reverb' is created when a sound reflects from different surfaces at different speeds, adding more layers of meaning to the original sound. In literature, the act of writing and reading holds a similar experience within its field to create possibilities for such reflections and engagements.

re:verb is a space for thinkers, readers, and speakers. This is a club for people who love literature and Journalism, who wish to share their experiences, readings and thoughts with others who would love to receive them and enrich this dialogue further. It aims to foster the literary interest among the students, to cultivate a passion for creative writing & serve as a medium for celebrating literary expressions in an exploratory environment. This is a space for expressing and learning.

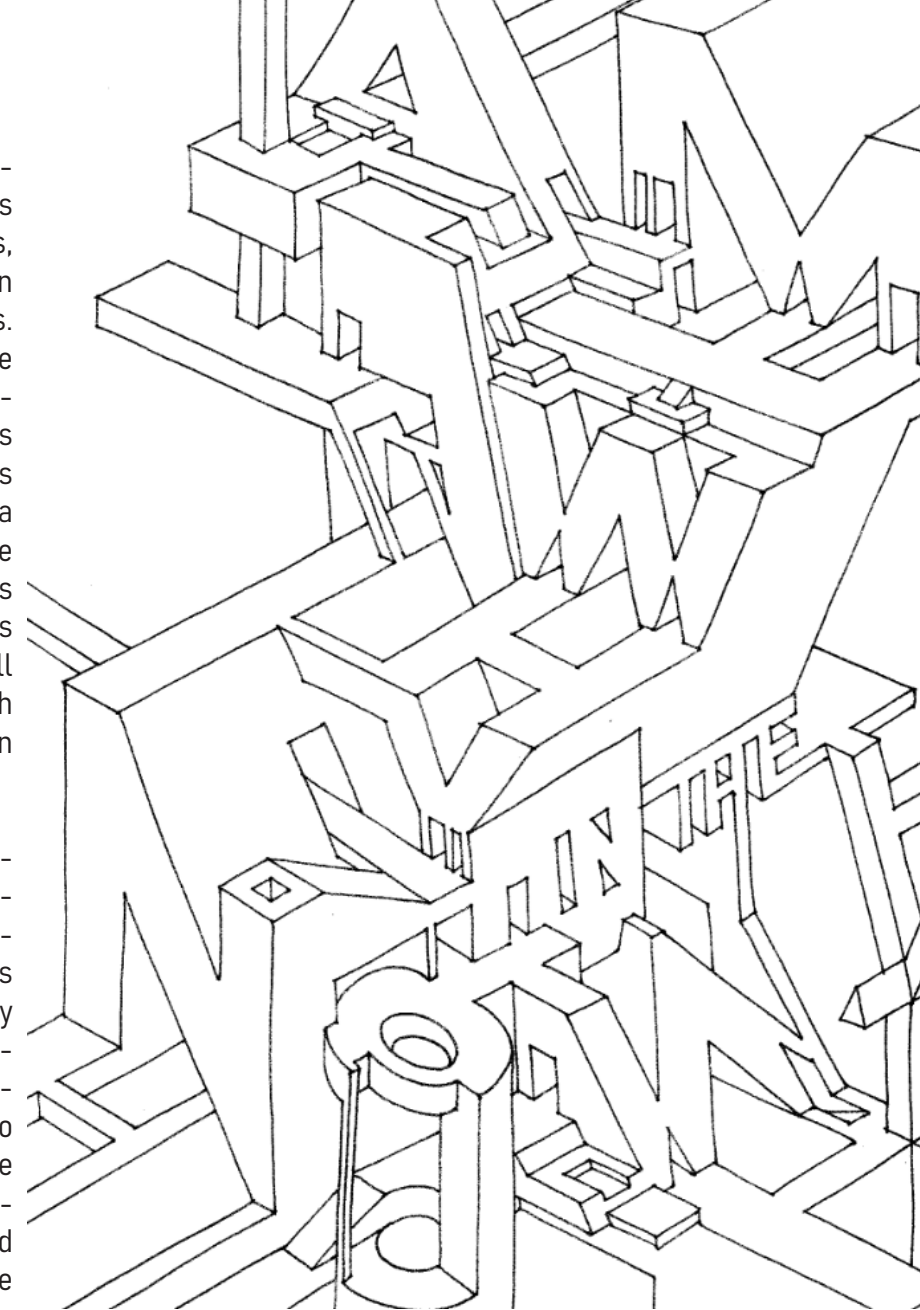
This inaugural edition is an ensemble of random thoughts between notions of a hello and a goodbye. As a way to begin, the narratives included here are primarily by the core team and the members who had expressed their interest to be a part of this writing club for students. This edition does not follow a specific theme, while it hopes to launch a course of its own tapping into imaginations and expressions of as many readers and writers. This edition does not follow the bounds of titles of designations, not it is limited by the presuppositions of age.

This edition was made possible by the sheer enthusiasm and dedicated attention of the core members. Aryan Raghuvanshi, Sharada Shetty, Siddhi Manocha, Shubhangi Sharma, Ishika Bhansali, Parnika Nagrani. We look forward to welcome new members, fresh narratives and thought-provoking contributions all the time through our future activities.

This dynamic team of student coordinators will expand and develop its own internal leadership structures, as the club is intended to be run and operated entirely by students. They will strive to accept a wide range and genre of reasonable content, and also develop mechanisms to avoid irresponsible inclusions without stifling the need to hear a hopeful voice, which has to be the prime awareness of this club. As they all navigate through their ways of demanding academics, they will do their best to appropriately reach out to all in MSAP in their expansion drives.

For this new segment of their journey in expression and learning, I request all to wish them well and support them in every possible way. As your faculty co-ordinator, I will try to facilitate this transition of organization and monitor effective operations of this club. Looking forward to your participation as writers in the course of future editions as decided by the student coordinators, and hopefully as new members of the student club. We hope you enjoy this initial offering.

Cheers!!!



THE 'WHY NOT' IN THE 'WHY'

an illustration; by nikhil s kohale 02



message

FROM THE DIRECTOR

DR. NANDENI RAMADEVI

I take immense pleasure and profound pride to present “re:verb” the literary collection created and driven by the talented and passionate students and faculty members of re:verb, the journalism and literary club of MSAP. As the Director, I am delighted to witness the blossoming of this remarkable initiative, which exemplifies the intellectual vigour and creative spirit that thrive within our student community.

This exhilarating collection serves as a testament to the power of words to inform, inspire, provoke, and unite the creativity, dedication, and innovative spirit of MSAP students. It is a source of inspiration and reflection of the collective literary and journalistic aspirations of budding architects and designers, who excel not only in their academic pursuits but also in their creative endeavours. “re:verb” goes beyond the confines of our classrooms and studios; it explores the intersections between architecture, design and culture, sustainability and innovation, and tradition and modernity. It is a testimony to the holistic education that we strive to provide at MSAP, MAHE. As we celebrate the launch of “re:verb” I encourage all members of our academic community, as well as our wider readership, to delve into its pages, engage with the ideas presented, and be inspired to explore the world through the lens of literature and journalism. I sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude and congratulate everyone for the commendable contribution to this edition and wish for its success.

May re:verb continue to echo with the voices and ideas that enrich our intellectual landscape and inspire generations to come. Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to the world of literature and journalism in the domain of Architecture and Design.



FROM THE JOINT DIRECTOR

DR. PRADEEP G KINI

The Literary and journalism club at MSAP seeks to provide a base for all the architecture and design professions engaging in the creative literary process. The club plans to offer live and virtual events towards professional development in the form of writing workshops, skill development seminars, webinars and book clubs. The club supports the academic and professional development of MSAP students towards Creative Writing and Literature excellence. It also acts as a platform for collaboration with students, faculty, and professionals having similar interests towards creative excellence and joint publications.

I would like to congratulate and give my best wishes to the faculty coordinator Prof. Nikhil Kohale and the student coordinators Mr. Aryan Raghuvanshi and Ms. Sharada Shetty for this initiative at MSAP.

image courtesy: adil nazar



**MANIPAL SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING**
MANIPAL
(A constituent unit of MAHE, Manipal)



welcome note

FROM THE STUDENT COORDINATORS

aryan raghuvanshi, sharada shetty

re:verb

Welcome to the world of words, where the power of literature and journalism lies! Hardly able to endure the wait, we, the student coordinators, are exhilarated to introduce you to RE: VERB – a literature and journalism club, where we celebrate the profound enthusiasm for writing and recognize its immense importance in our lives. The written word has the ability to inspire, educate, entertain, and provoke thought, serving as a gateway to understanding the world around us. Through the exploration of these written expressions, we cultivate a deeper appreciation for diverse cultures, ideas, and perspectives. This forms the fundamental ideology of our club.

Join us for a transformative experience during your college journey. As we embark on this adventure together, we aim to provide you with a platform for creative expression, intellectual growth, and personal development, to foster an environment that nurtures your imagination and enhances your writing skills. Be it poetry, prose, fiction, non-fiction, photography captions, or investigative journalism, we welcome it all, delve into different genres, and explore the depths of your literary talents hoping to enrich and enjoy a holistic student life in college.

Trailing this thought we, the core team decided to have a relatable theme for our inaugural edition “hello and goodbye” as the new academic year started with fresh new young faces on the campus for the very first time and our very own final years returning to a new home for MSAP after their internship break. Centering around the first and final years, we hope this edition of Reverb takes the rest on a journey where you can see your reflections in the first years and wait and hope, anticipating something similar to our seniors, ahead.

Hoping everyone enjoys this edition, we urge all students and faculty with a passion for writing, literature, or journalism to join us and share your love for words. Come and be a part of our community that cherishes the power of words.

We can't wait to embark on this exciting chapter with you. Once again welcome to our club, where words come alive!

Warmest Regards,

sharada shetty

aryan raghuvanshi



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about...

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BEGINNING re:verb

Working on the first edition of reverb was honestly a rollercoaster.

It's cliché but as there is in everything to life, there were numerous ups and downs. One thing that I think we'll hold on to is our conversations with different people during the process. Hello & Goodbye, we thought would be an apt theme relating to a new start and beginning for Reverb, also in perfect time with the new juniors and the last year of our 5th year seniors.

Being in third year it also seemed like the perfect place to understand all of these perspectives, 2 years down and 2 fresh years ahead, being right in the center of it all felt like a way to look back at it while envisioning the process of who we might become. And ironically we met with a lot of new hellos and new goodbyes through it all. Not only through people but through ourselves. We were forced to immerse ourselves in our own qualities and work through everything we wanted to do as we watched ourselves exceed our expectations and grow as a fresh new reverb community. In our interview with our seniors, we felt a gap had been covered, a gap that everyone in college feels, a connection to our seniors. I remember some of us, coming out of that interview feeling so touched by the way we were interacted with, by the way we felt comfort in to be ourselves. Welcoming and feeling seen is what I would use to describe the entire process.

With the first years, it was a whole another experience. It's a different kind of feeling when our juniors come to us and ask us doubts, and are keen to know and learn about college and Manipal. It's tough, approaching your seniors just hoping that you'll have a meaningful interaction with them and create a bond that's different than one with your peers. But trust me, as keen as you are, we are too. It was refreshing to see these new faces struggling with the same things we did, almost like we'd forgotten parts of our story in between.

And just like that we're excited to see what every edition of reverb has to offer because we are sure that just like this one, every one that comes after will have something new to say.

Cheers!!!



image by sharada shetty



between hello and goodbye

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A JOURNEY WORTH EVERY “HELLO” AND “GOODBYE”

01

ishika bhansali

Hello and goodbye are two terms that are very contradicting to each other as they represent opposite phases of interaction or departure in human communication, and they can be seen as contradicting terms in the context of a single interaction or relationship. When we say “hello,” it is often the first salutation in a discussion or the first greeting in an engagement. It denotes the commencement or beginning of something—a connection, a discourse, or an encounter. “Hello” is frequently connected with friendliness, welcome, and the expectation of good involvement. Goodbye is the ending or farewell phrase. It denotes the end of an interaction, a meeting, or a connection. It is frequently accompanied with a sensation of separating or separation, and it can elicit emotions such as grief or nostalgia, particularly when saying farewell to someone or something important. When we say “hello,” we are beginning or initiating a connection, but “goodbye” marks the termination or end of that relationship.

The terms represent the ephemeral and changing character of relationships and interactions. Life is a sequence of beginnings and endings, with “hello” and “goodbye” acting as bookends. These phrases remind us that change is a constant in life, and while farewells can be painful, they frequently lead to new beginnings and new chances. The contrast between “hello” and “goodbye” is a reminder of life’s cyclical nature, in which every ending holds the possibility of a new and exciting beginning.

College life is an incredible adventure filled with a variety of events that mould us into the people we are intended to be. As I sit down to write this article, I am overcome with emotion, torn between the thrill of the future and the melancholy of the past.

Hello: A World of Opportunities that we face every single day of your life . . .

College is a realm of possibilities, where every goal may be realised, and any ambition pursued. The “Hello” to college was an invitation to investigate, grow, and embrace a world of possibilities. When I was a first-year student, I was welcomed into a community of various minds, each with their own set of opinions and interests. These first meetings, the first “hellos” to my new friends and lecturers, opened doors to a world of information I had never dreamt existed. Every lecture was a revelation, and every debate was an adventure into unexplored intellectual territory. College life provided a profusion of extracurricular activities in addition to academics. Clubs, sports teams, and volunteer opportunities were the places where I found new interests and made lifelong connections. The “hellos” to various activities extended my horizons, allowing me to discover new abilities and hobbies.

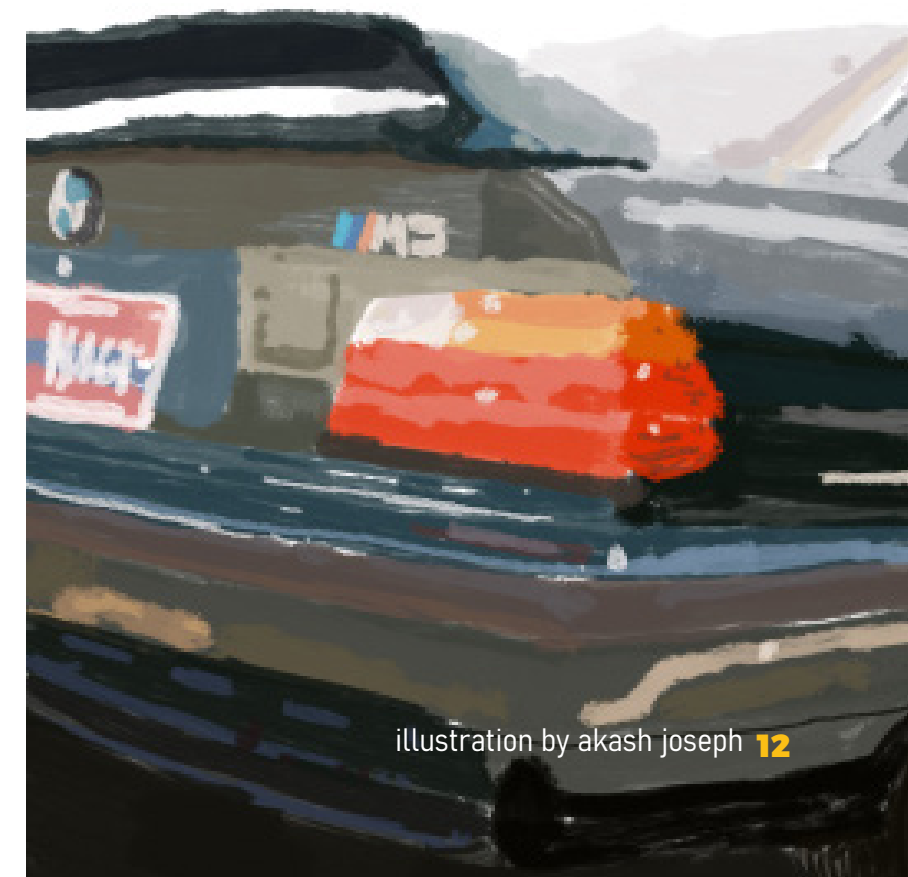


illustration by akash joseph 12



Goodbye: Bittersweet Endings . . .

It's difficult to say goodbye to our new home, away from home, where we have laughed, grieved, and grown. Friendships formed through late-night study sessions and unplanned escapades have become an important part of our identity. "goodbye" to our college buddies is not the end of a relationship, but rather the beginning of a new one. Furthermore, saying goodbye to the mentors and instructors who have supported my intellectual development is a sad occasion. Their advice and support have been essential, and I can only hope to bring their knowledge into the next stage of my life.

College life, with all of its "hellos" and "goodbyes," has been a life-changing experience. It's taught me that life is a succession of interactions, each of which leads to fresh beginnings and, at times, essential ends. As I prepare to leave this world, I bring with me the lessons I've learned, the memories I've loved, and the friendships I've treasured.

So, while all the seniors say goodbye to college, they say "hello" to the future with hope and thankfulness. A student's path is one of development, investigation, and self-discovery—a journey worth every "hello" and "goodbye." College has prepared each of us not just for a job but also for life, something we will be eternally thankful for that.

In the end, education is about more than simply the degree; it is about the person we become. And as they begin their new journey either by entering into college or by getting a job and starting their next phase of life, I realize that the best is yet to come.

ALL NIGHTERS AND COFFEE CUPS

02

parnika nagrani

Alright, let's peel back the curtain and dive into the rollercoaster that is our life at Manipal School of Architecture. Picture this: a bunch of 12 girls, all living under one roof in our hostel-turned-haven. We're not just roomies; we're a crew that's tighter than the screws in our model kits.

If one of us is down with the flu or just feeling under the weather, you can bet your bottom dollar that the rest of us are on nurse duty. Khichdi, Chicken soup, blankets, and endless cups of tea – we've got the sick one covered. Jury day? It's like our Super Bowl. The nerves and the sleepless nights leading up to it – it's a cocktail of emotions that gets us all hyped up. The whole campus feels different; it's like the air is charged with a mix of tension and determination.

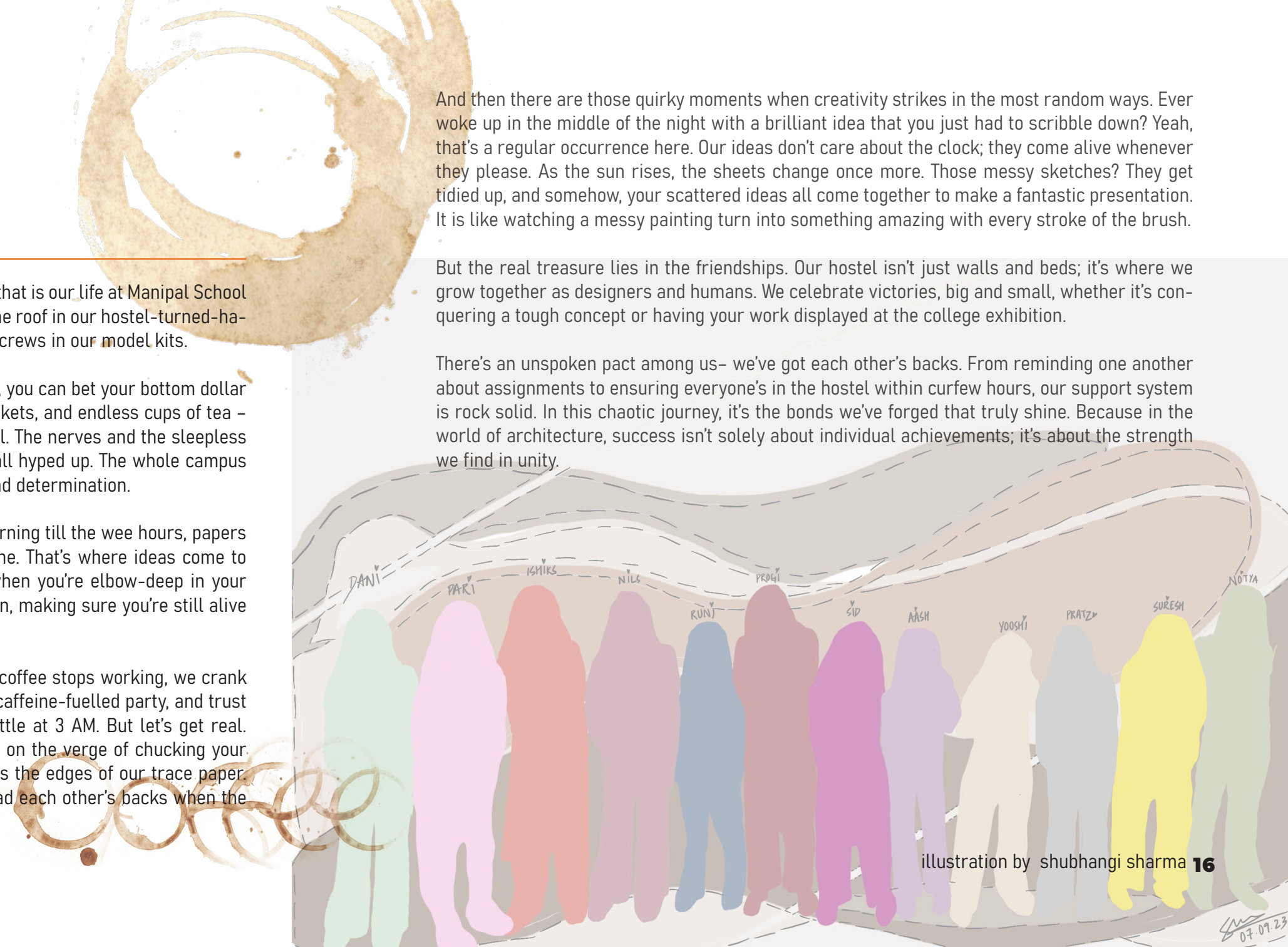
Now, let's talk about those legendary late nights. Hostel lights burning till the wee hours, papers scattered around like confetti – it's our playground, our war zone. That's where ideas come to life, and designs take shape with each brushstroke. And just when you're elbow-deep in your project, there's a knock on your door – it's your buddy checking in, making sure you're still alive and kicking.

Oh, did I mention the dance-offs? Yeah, those happen. When the coffee stops working, we crank up the music and turn the corridors into dance floors. It's like a caffeine-fuelled party, and trust me, you haven't lived until you've seen an impromptu dance battle at 3 AM. But let's get real. It's not all rainbows and unicorns. There are nights when you're on the verge of chucking your sketches out the window, and everyone's nerves are as frayed as the edges of our trace paper. We have had our fair share of mini meltdowns, but we've also had each other's backs when the going gets tough.

And then there are those quirky moments when creativity strikes in the most random ways. Ever woke up in the middle of the night with a brilliant idea that you just had to scribble down? Yeah, that's a regular occurrence here. Our ideas don't care about the clock; they come alive whenever they please. As the sun rises, the sheets change once more. Those messy sketches? They get tidied up, and somehow, your scattered ideas all come together to make a fantastic presentation. It is like watching a messy painting turn into something amazing with every stroke of the brush.

But the real treasure lies in the friendships. Our hostel isn't just walls and beds; it's where we grow together as designers and humans. We celebrate victories, big and small, whether it's conquering a tough concept or having your work displayed at the college exhibition.

There's an unspoken pact among us – we've got each other's backs. From reminding one another about assignments to ensuring everyone's in the hostel within curfew hours, our support system is rock solid. In this chaotic journey, it's the bonds we've forged that truly shine. Because in the world of architecture, success isn't solely about individual achievements; it's about the strength we find in unity.



Bright new faces with excited smiles and curiosity in their eyes, beaming in anticipation of what lies ahead. Let's rekindle the enthusiasm as they arrive.

Welcome freshers!!!

Let's peek into the insights of our very talented bunch of freshers ...

“Our first time being in Manipal, living away from home, a brand-new place; a brand-new experience all together indeed, a whirlpool of emotions. Relishing the newfound freedom is both awkwardly sudden and truly surreal. But the worst of all is the long walks from hostel to college in the scorching sun of Manipal.”

For many of us over the years Manipal has become our Home away from home. From the Samosas in the Canteen to our professors asking us to change our floor plans for the 100th time. It's been a rollercoaster.

I'm sure we all remember how strung out and nervous we were when we tried to imagine how our college lives would unfold here at MSAP. However, behind those same anxious faces, excitement of meeting new people and living ecstatic experiences lingered.

Moving on to the campus, our first years had a unique perspective to things. “The MSAP campus stands out amongst most colleges with their touch on Brutalist Architecture and Spectacular Views and of course our little puppies running around snatching food from our plates fits in our one-of-a-kind lifestyle in Manipal - a truly wholesome one.

“One month in, and just flabbergasted with MSAP, its aesthetics, students and mainly its culture. In one fell swoop we learn about the forums, the different sport facilities and teams, the opportunities, that are so intriguing; making it hard to choose. We cannot be a part of everything but are indeed keen to know about everything.”

Coming to the most crucial question, thoughts about this course and has it changed after one month?

“Always thought architecture, interior and fashion design to lean more towards art, didn't expect such technicality in it. But in a way, our insights have expanded and the more you learn about these subjects the more invested you become. It's still new and exciting, hoping for this interest to continue for the 5 years ahead.”

This journey has just begun for many of you, but I can say that it's a classic case of “the more you know the more you want to know”. However, the Enthusiasm to pursue this fields is Crucial.

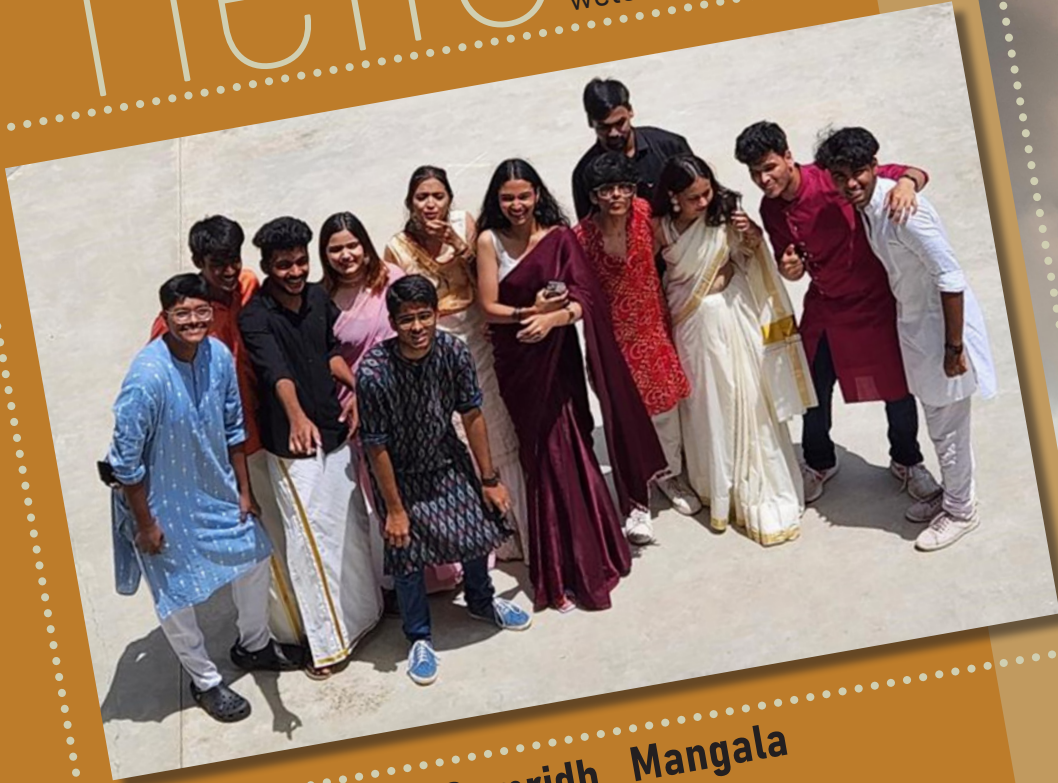
Exchange programme, SDI and alike reputed competitions, are something that piqued their interests. This topic has sparked animated discussions between our newcomers, and it has ignited a sense of adventure in them.

At the end of the day, the highlight is to keep those drowsy eyes open, carrying those oversized t-scales and portfolio bags, running after autos to reach class by 9 am hoping to achieve the 75% attendance criteria.

We're excited to see the new faces at MSAP and see how the new journey unfolds. They bring a fresh new perspective and have an unwavering passion and we can't wait to see what they have in store for us!

hello

welcoming first year at the Onam celebrations in MSAP



Samridh Mangala
Kiaan Anvay
Ananya Chourasia Yashovardhan
Faizan Guna
Hridi Kevin
Vaibhavi Ananya Narayan
Tahmeem Asmitha
Prashant Rida



“PARASITE”: ARCHITECTURE IN MOVIES

04

peddireddy pranaya reddy

Architecture is everywhere.

By textbook definition, it is the physical world around us. Wherever we look, there is an element of architecture noticeable. Not just in the real world, but even in the virtual world, the impact of architecture is just as strong – if not, stronger. It acts as a backdrop for every scene. In this blog, we will be talking about how architecture is used in movies as a language to communicate the storyline.

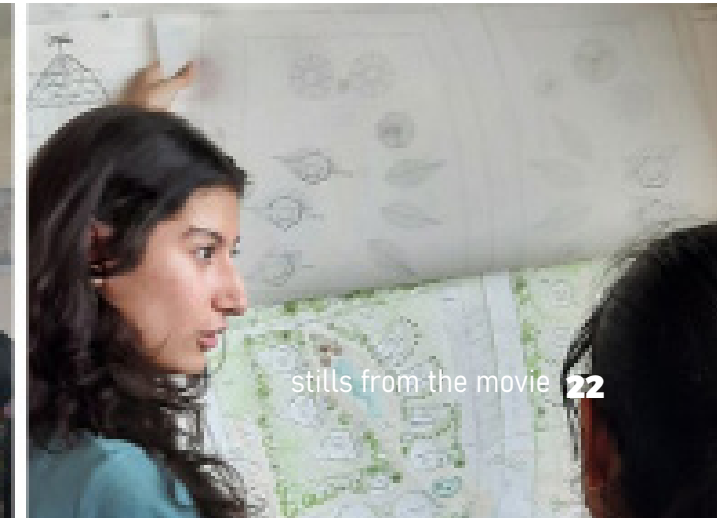
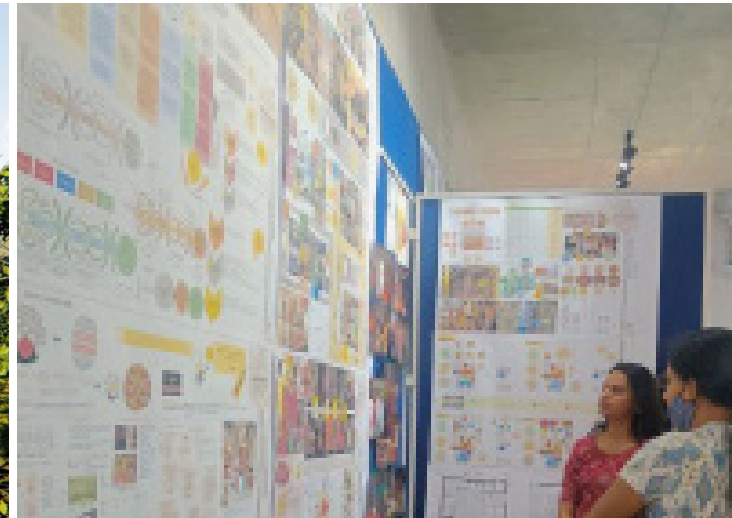


The 2020 Academy award winner for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Production Design (to name a few) – Parasite does exactly the same. Bong Joon Ho, the director, captures the essence of the movie through built spaces through set design. How he has managed to achieve this through architecture will be explored further. Read on and dig deep into the architecture of this cinematic masterpiece!

Bong Joon Ho, along with production designer Lee Ha-Jun have created a world for their characters right from scratch. Both the residences and the surroundings of the protagonists were all built on set! This is a marvellous feat to achieve in production design, something which Lee Ha-Jun has done to perfection. Parasite is an Oscar winning South- Korean dark comedy thriller film. The theme of this movie is social and economic disparity, seen between the wealthy Parks family and the Kim family, who struggle night and day to make ends meet. This class divide is shown in the film through architecture. Bong Joon and his team use various details of architecture to achieve this, all of which we will be diving into. Don't worry, no spoilers here!

Modernism vs semi-basements

The Parks residence is large, an elevated villa with an open plan layout with large windows and vast indoor spaces reflecting the extent of their wealth. The Kim family, however, lived in a dingy semi-basement in the dark, cramped underbelly of Seoul. In this way, it showcased how the built environment indicated the characters' rung on the ladder of social hierarchy. Architecture is seen to be playing an important role in the social class aspect of their lives.



Spacious rooms, an open plan, large garage space, high-end technology is some of the many features of the Parks residence. The house had a minimalist approach with an extensive use of glass. An example of this is the large window in the living room which looked out onto their large lawn. This focal point in the house is important to the plot of the movie.



Location matters

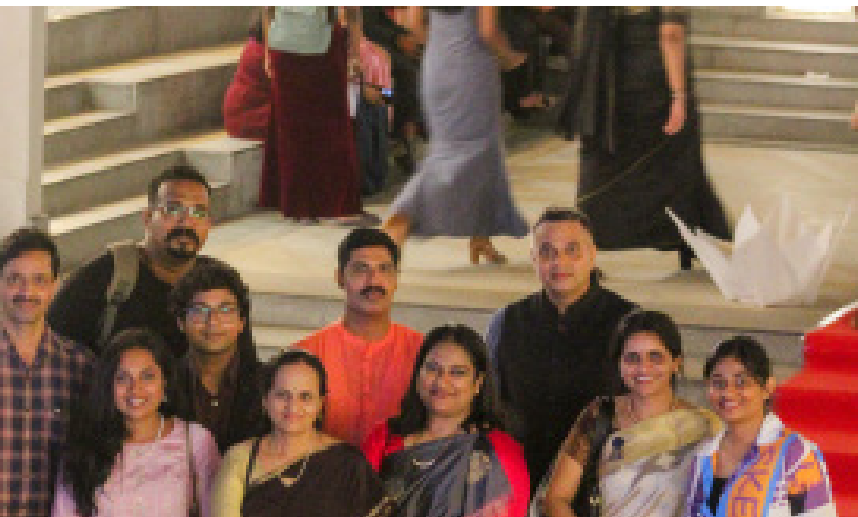
The Parks residence was seen to be set in a high-end residential neighbourhood. Their surroundings were calm and serene with ample greenery, bordered with concrete boundary walls so high, that outsiders were unable to look in. They act as one of the many metaphors in the film, a depiction of how a normal pedestrian would be unable to even take a glance into the abundance that is the Parks villa. The house was secure and private, with no disruptions from the neighbourhood.

On the other hand, there was a stark difference in the location of the Kims residence. They lived in a dingy semi-basement in the underbelly of Seoul. The neighbourhood reeked of disorderly mess. There was garbage thrown out onto the street with dysfunctional drainage systems. The cramped basement the Kims lived in clearly showcases their financial condition. The crowded semi-basement, not completely underground, shows the viewer that the Kims still yearn for hope and believe they have a chance to escape their current situation. Production designer Lee Ha Jun made sure these streets were represented accurately, visiting similar towns and villages in Korea to produce an exact replica.



Do only the rich deserve sunlight?

Lighting plays an important but very different role in both the households. The Parks residence has ample sunlight streaming in through the huge glass wall in their living room, providing sufficient lighting. The Parks enjoy a beautiful scenery-like view from the window while the view from the Kims clerestory window is a whole different story. The semi-basement is dingy, with barely any sunlight streaming in through the clerestory. This leaves their house dark and gloomy, much like their lives compared to the rich. Through the window, the Kims looked out onto dirt and trash, a disappointing view. Their house was almost always filled with stink bugs – proving how dilapidated their living condition was.



Interiors and details

The extravagant Parks residence used dark wood interiors with tones of grey through concrete to provide a contrast with the exterior. A warm atmosphere was created with the use of yellow-toned lights. Natural lighting played a big part in shooting of the film, for which the large living room window was perfect. Lee Ha Jun says that the staircase is one of the key visual elements in the film. He showcased the gradual change of class difference between elevated and low-rising areas. The appearance of the neighbourhoods also was seen through how the Kim family travelled to-and-fro their poor neighbourhood on the bottom to the rich neighbourhood at the top, both metaphorically and literally.



stills from the movie

All in all . . .

The Parasite, aside from being one of the most critically acclaimed movies of all time – is also an architectural masterpiece. Its outstanding production design is one of the best in recent times. The most impressive aspect of the film was its myriad of metaphors, dictated through architecture. Both Bong Joon Ho and Lee Ha Jun had to think like architects apart from being a director and production designer, respectively. This was what resulted in the creation of the modernist marvel, and the rundown semi-basement.

Next time you see a sleek, modern, glass, wood and stone creation, always remember – there might be more to it than what meets the eye. Also, never underestimate a semi-basement, after all – only half of it is underground, the other hope is open to a land of opportunity and ... deceit! With a twist so dark and unexpected, along with light-hearted comedy entangled with deep metaphors, Parasite is one movie, architecture fanatic or not, you need to watch!

INDIVIDUALITY AMIDST PEER PRESSURE

05

Sharada Shetty

Peer pressure and peer standards; are they exaggerated or underplayed by society? Trust me, I never understood what being overwhelmed or what peer pressure felt like until I entered college and swam through the peer standards that float about. The college lifestyle is notorious for moulding people to a certain unattainable standard and forcing them to constantly try to conform to a certain way of dressing, speaking and behaving. During this process, many students feel compelled to change themselves to fit in, even if it means sacrificing their identity. Acknowledging these struggles and realizing that it's okay to be different is essential to maintaining your individuality in the face of societal pressures.

Students, especially in their early years, yearn to be part of a group they admire with a pre-conceived notion that this is how college life should be, and this feeling is so colossal, almost monstrous, that some can never get past it. One can force themselves into certain social circles, believing that being accepted by a certain group will lead to happiness and fulfilment. But seeking acceptance at the expense of losing your true self leads to a general lack of authenticity. It is a testament that being honest is always the best way to be. Pretending or forcing oneself to be someone you are not, forcing such a personality or lifestyle that isn't you, is you creating a façade, deceiving not just peers but more so themselves. And trust me this façade won't hold on for long. So instead of being labelled as dishonest or fake as all the pretence crumbles down, wouldn't it have been more ethical and maybe even easier to hold on to ones essential and then go about into the peer crowd?

True happiness lies in embracing ones' distinctness and surrounding ourselves with friends who appreciate us for our authentic selves. Instead of striving for an ideal, we should focus on finding people who accept us as we are. Embracing quirks, interests, and genuine personalities can lead to meaningful connections and personal fulfilment that go far beyond a temporary acquaintance.

"Individuality is important, and diversity has value." By surrounding ourselves with a diverse group of friends, we ensure that we are exposed to different perspectives, experiences and interests. With friends who truly appreciate our unique qualities and temperament, one can thrive and feel comfortable in our own skin.

It is perfectly acceptable that we are surrounded by different interests, dreams and goals. In fact, embracing our differences can lead to a richer college experience and allow us to shine. It took time to understand the importance of maintaining individuality amid social pressure. While it is natural to hope for acceptance, sacrificing your true self in this process is not the way to go. Instead, embracing eccentricities and creating a college experience that is authentic, rewarding and reflective of your unique journey is probably The Dream. Individuality surviving amidst peer standards is the quintessential key to finding your place in this maze of college life.

All of us tend to go down this path, and honestly most of us need to experience it to learn from it. So, this is a heads up for the new faces I see, and as for the rest, I hope you can relate or embrace this message.

A LETTER

06

snehal srivastava

Hello readers,

First, I am glad the college has approved this nonchalant take on everything Manipal and, most importantly, everything MSAP. Prominent disclaimer this article in no way teaches you the right or the wrong way to get through 5 years of your not-so-Karan Johar-styled college life. This one is instead an attempt to be neutral, and I, Former Student Council President Snehal Srivastava (yes, I totally planned that flex), take this opportunity to get you ready for your first number- **Ye Kahan aagaye hum ...**

Of course, most of what you learned in 12th grade makes no sense here. And your drawing skills may or may not help you through. The ocean is deep, and your dire wish to reach the ocean bed for treasure draped in good grades might make you sink like Ocean Gate's Titanic. Remember, you are 17, and this is a 5-year course for a reason. Nothing in life is easy, and you must be proud of yourself when you get through those 100s of redoes. No, you aren't a failure, and no, you might not have chosen the wrong field; it's just tough love sometimes. And if it wasn't hard, wouldn't it have been boring? Give yourself credit and enjoy it a bit harder; these 5 years won't wait. Also, if it's out of your hands, try to keep it out of your mind. This brings us to your second number- **Pehla Nasha ...**

It's college, your new-found freedom awaits, and so does the idea of dating. No need to explain GenZ, but dating is hard. Irrespective of gender, there are many problematic people out there who, deep down, strongly believe that they know it all. I won't tell stay away because it is a canon event that cannot stop that from happening, but love comes in every form; never let anyone let you down. Remember, the cute puppies in the cafeteria give it for free; humans can do much more.

Try not to lose yourself in something which may not last; your 20s are for people to walk in and out; I suggest best out of waste. Now for the next track- **Ajeeb Dastan hai ye ...**

We all are clueless; need I say, I AM STILL CLUELESS. Nobody knows what to do or how to be, so go and explore yourself. Join 'Ailaan' and be trash at acting; join 'Aroha' and embarrass yourself; participate in every competition the college throws at you and collect certificates. Meet new people, join the MIT clubs, and grow your circle. Your INTP-type personality will go down the drain if you do not know how to function in social constructs. As harsh as it may be, get out of your shell and be unapologetically you. That brings us to our final track- **Ye shaam mastani ...**

If the first thing you did when you got here was take a picture of the sky or go out to the beach, congratulations, you have figured out how to spend your time in Manipal in the most efficient way. Go to every beach and catch as many sunsets as possible; take pictures of the sky and the light of the Royal Embassy reflecting on every cloud, turning its sunset yellow. No amount is too little. Have too many momos and some chai with baarish and skip mess food. But always remember to take care of your health, and be responsible. My advice is rather sentimental. All fun and studies but 75 per cent attendance and good grades are still the goal. But remember to soak it all in cause these 5 years will fly past, and this town of around 30,000 students in 5 km radii will surprise you every time. Now forgive me for not giving you my guide to the best spots, but lucky for all the MSAP Macchas, you will always find the best views for every mood.

So, with lots of love and hope for your bright future, I shall now end this article; for further advice, reach out to your favourite professors and, hopefully, some seniors; trust me, we are sweet, just a little too GenZ.

Hope to catch you around as you chase your dreams; all the best and Welcome to the Manipal School of Architecture and Planning.

PS. Line up; your Redoes are awaiting. :-)

Snehal Srivastava
(The 5ft something 5th-year student with silver headphones)

MINECRAFT: SIMPLICITY AT ITS BEST

07

advaith gurunath

Minecraft is a sandbox video game developed by Mojang Studios. Created by Markus “Notch” Personn, Minecraft quickly rose to the top of Youtube’s trending page and promptly returned to reclaim its throne after a short-lived downfall. Minecraft has effectively shaped how we think about games and develop them. The game has become a juggernaut, with many copycats trying to pick up on the game’s success.

At its core, the game is very straightforward. So simple that the game’s most essential elements are in the name “Mining” and “Crafting.” Minecraft is a game that rewards exploration. Very few rules and restrictions are in place, and the intuitive design lets everybody pick up on the game’s mechanics immediately. At first glance, most people shy away from it because of its blocky look; even though the graphics may seem like a limitation, it’s the game’s biggest strength. The simple graphics have made the game accessible across all platforms, increasing its reach tenfold. The simple graphics have also optimised the game to run on many devices, from phones and tablets to even the oldest computers.

Control

The game has also perfected the art of control. Sandbox experiences are notorious for needing to be more precise and more restrictive. Even though giving your players maximum power seems like a great idea, it makes things difficult because the target audience is restricted. Similarly, making the game too restrictive can take away from the experience and water it down to a dull, linear game. Minecraft has a perfect balance; the building blocks restricted to cubes may seem lacklustre at first, but combining those cubes to make structures accentuates it to another level. Another great example would be access to files. Modern video games only allow a little customisation, restricting how much you can change. With Minecraft, everything can be customised,



including textures, lighting, and even adding or removing features. It also helps that changing things has been made simple for convenience. Adding or Removing textures can be done on Microsoft Paint if desired. The game is written in Java, which makes it easy to mod. Combined, the developers have given the players the perfect amount of accessible control, which provides them with a sense of accomplishment without any irreversible consequences.

Community

The sprawling and active community has done nothing but support the game for the last decade. The legion of fans is hell-bent on keeping the game alive. Since the game was released, the modding community has been thriving, releasing mods that add newer and newer content. The art community has also kept the game alive by posting new artwork and texture packs that alter the game’s look and aesthetic. Such levels of accessibility have been achieved by other games, such

as Garry's Mod, but the simplicity with which Minecraft executes them makes it unique. The files required to create a server to play with your friends are available for download on their website, and it is as easy as two clicks to get it up and running. Moreover, if you own the "bedrock" edition of the game, you can add your friends and play using their Gamertag. The ability to seamlessly integrate the design with multiplayer mode and simultaneously allows players to make their ways of playing made the game explode in popularity.



Gameplay

What's the point of having a great design if the gameplay could be more fun? The game perfects its elements without making anything seem entirely overwhelming. The crafting system is intuitive and straightforward, allowing users to deduce the recipes by following the shape of the desired object; for example, by arranging the iron ingots in the form of a pair of pants in the 3x3 grid, we can make iron leggings. The combat system is also not far-fetched; attacks are based on cooldowns, allowing the character to "rest" before swinging their weapon for maximum damage. Food is included in the game, which the player can grow or hunt for, consuming, which is essential to the survival of your character (much like real life).

The world

Minecraft takes place in a blocky, uninhabited counterpart of our earth. The world is infinite and procedurally generated, so there's always room for exploration without completely throwing familiarity out the window. The game has more than 60 biomes, all with unique features like mobs and structures. Even with the large number, it never feels overwhelming or complex. Each biome is straightforward and gives the player complete freedom over their actions. You can choose any biome to set up a home base (or not), each having pros and cons depending on your playstyle. Each biome has enough variety to keep things engaging and make exploring fun. The procedurally generated terrain features a lot of interesting shapes and structures to explore and see. There are also simple structures such as the village and some temples with loots and traps to lure unsuspecting players. All elements complement each other, and the infinite terrain adds to a lot of replay ability and never feels redundant.

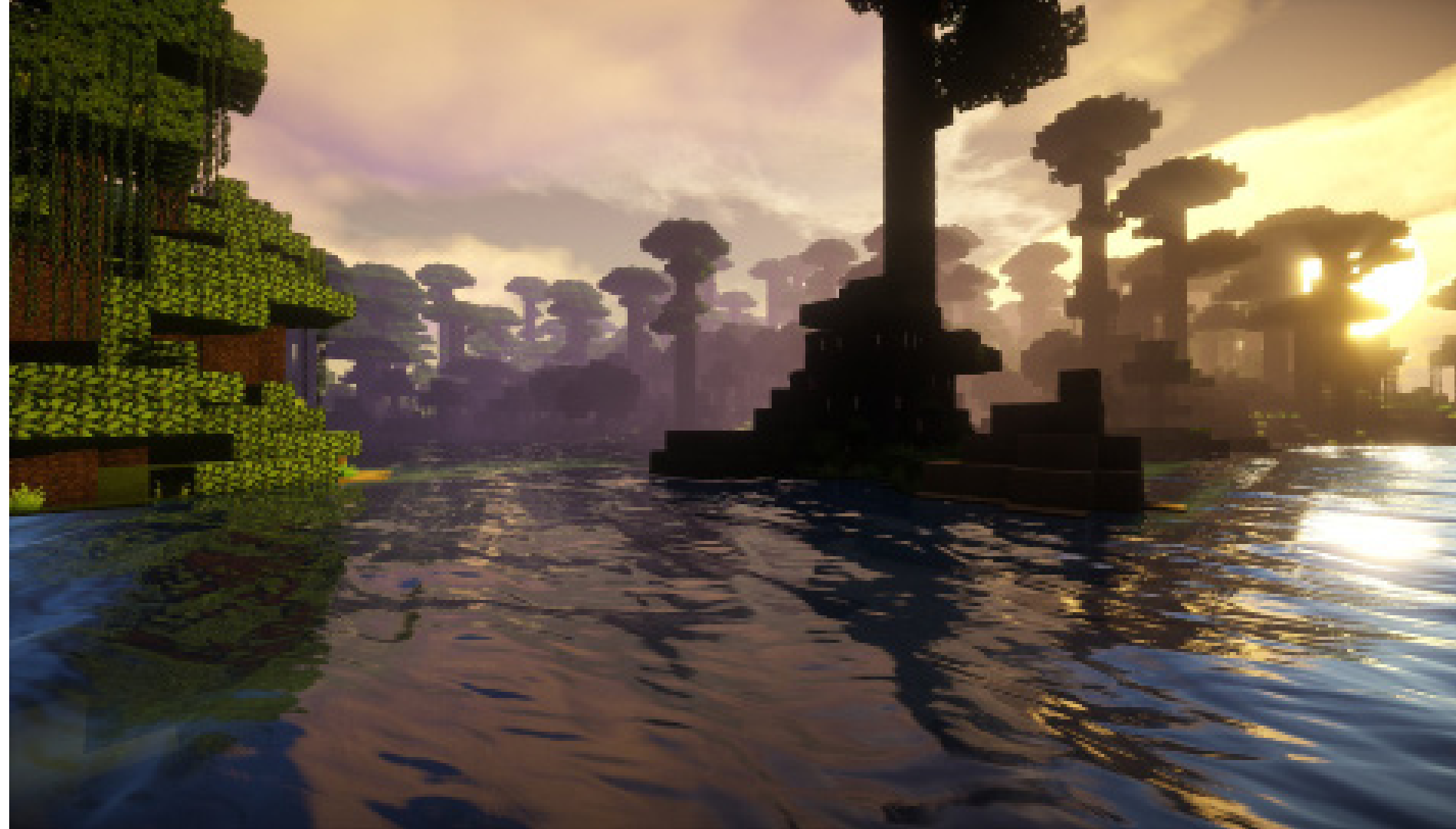
The dimensions

Minecraft does have an ending or a goal that is entirely optional and up to the player. The bosses, the wither, and the ender dragon are influential mob players who can be beat at their own sweet time. The player can reach the dimensions through different structures as a reward for their

exploration (with the nether portal being the only one they can build). The system to enter and exit dimensions are simple, with the only buffer being a loading time between the two. The dimensions themselves include a variety of biomes and structures to explore, which add more value to the game. They also feature different mobs and creatures than the overworld—the dimensions don't act as a hurdle but as an extension to the game's already vast size. However, it is essential to visit them if your end goal is beating the game. The game wholly rewards exploration and doesn't force the player out of their comfort zone, allowing you complete freedom over how you progress.

Music

Following the tradition of keeping things simple, German musician Daniel Rosenfeld (C418) created an iconic soundtrack that resonates with gamers worldwide. The tunes and elements used for the songs are simplistic; however, this was not a design choice but a forced decision due to the limitations of the Java sound engine. This shift caused Rosenfeld to be creative in making a simple, non-intrusive soundtrack that fits the game's innovative theme. Rosenfeld's sounds are simple but perfect for building ambience. Players can easily recognise his unique style anywhere. The Minecraft soundtrack features no percussion, strings, or synthesisers, giving it some lift, and then a simple instrument carries the melody. Some effects lengthen and loop the track throughout the game, adding variations in reverberations and distortion to make it sound less monotonous. Primarily, music is used to emphasise something in film or any media. For example, a game like "Mario" features a friendly, childish tune that matches the game's theme and complements the finished product. In a game like Minecraft, the soundtrack creates an atmosphere of creativity and relaxation. If the player is in a deep, dark, mysterious cave, they will hear a stinger sound or something sharp and jarring to create an atmosphere of tension; in the overworld, which is a familiar place, the game resorts to using a mix of different relaxing songs to build the ambience of relaxation.



The combined efforts of the talented team behind the game have created this universally accessible masterpiece that all audiences can enjoy. Even though the game's success is not only due to great marketing and trends, but also to the simplistic and accessible design. Mojang Studios have perfected the art of sandbox games and set the bar for what other games in the same genre should strive to be and what the audiences should expect.

ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK

08

irene joseph chiramel

Warning: Reading this article can lead to a wider knowledge of movie palettes and critically analysing every poster that comes along your way.

The foremost reason for using colour in a film might be obvious: to make the images colourful, dynamic, and beautiful. But there exists a secondary reason that enables visual storytelling – to convey a story. Colours help us and intense meaning and make deeper connections with a movie. Every scene has a palette that instills a sense of life into it.

Recently, one of the colours that has taken the front seat is orange. From the electrifying car chases in *Mad Max: Fury Road* to making threatening appearances in *Breaking Bad*, orange sets the tone for the mood everywhere.

The way that our sense of sight perceives orange in our environment contributes to how we feel about the colour. Though often associated with warmth, energy, and humor, the colour orange can also register a sense of warning and caution. This is exactly why filmmakers tend to manipulate the audience's emotions while creating movie colour palettes.

Some observations point out why recent movies and posters predominantly follow the orange colour palette. One of the prime reasons is that a film almost always has people. Human skin runs from pale, pinkish yellow to dark brown, all of which are shades of orange. Hence, following the colour wheel theory, colourists and filmmakers tend to mimic the analogous colour palette – as we see here in the psychological drama, *Babel* (2006) in the scene between Chieko Wataya (Rinko Kikuchi) and her father Yasujiro Wataya (Kōji Yakusho). The judicious use of analogous colour schemes is used to accentuate the fatherly moments in different geographical locations.



Image 01_Babel (2006)
©Paramount Pictures



Image 02_Marriage Story (2019)
©Noah Baumbach

The orange colour palette in Noah Baumbach's *Marriage Story* highlights the warmth and affection shared by the main characters amidst the custodial battle, while in *Little Women*, the warmer oranges represent the girls' jovial and lively adolescence. Another observation is the usage of complementary colours. You might have heard that pairs of opposite colours complement each other, which means that they create a good colour contrast – greater than with any other colour. Therefore, the theory of the origin of the trend suggests the following: if you make the background colours as blue as possible, and the colours of the actors as warm and orange as possible, you will have a very contrasting picture and complementary colours. Since orange creates a contrast with the blue background, it creates a sense of depth to the scenes and visuals.



Image 03_Little Women 2019_©Sony Pictures Entertainment

Unlike other pairs of complementary colours, orange and blue are associated with opposing concepts: land and sky, land and sea, day and night, fire and ice, humanism and indifference, explosions and futuristic views. This is why most action, sci-fi, and adventure movies appear orange teal too! Take a look at the scenes from the 'Transformers' Series & Mad Max: Fury Road.

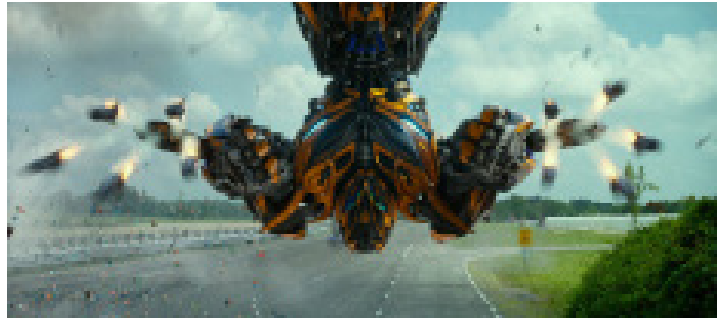


Image 04_Transformers_@Paramount Pictures

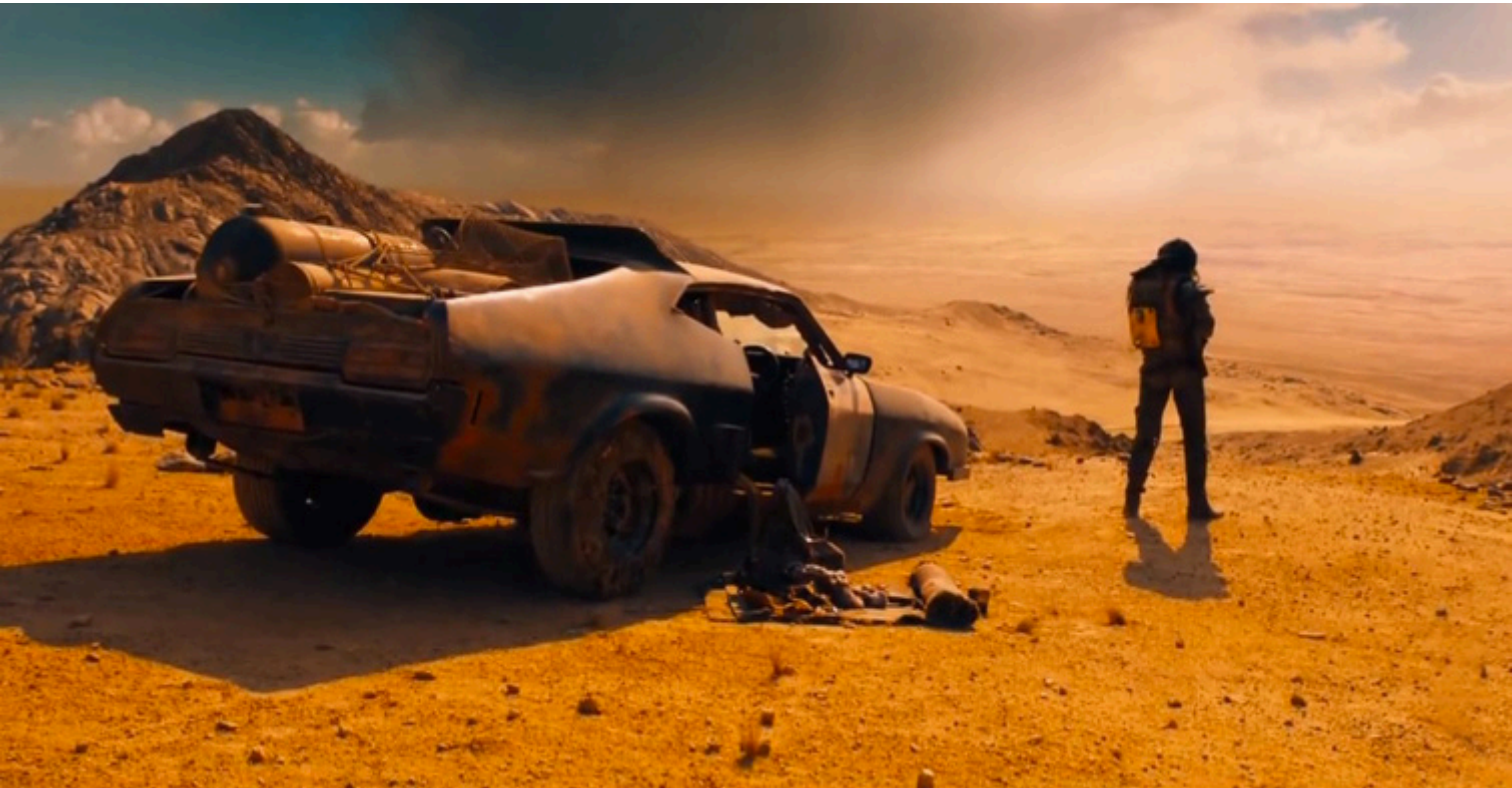


Image 05_Mad Max: Fury of the Road_@Warner Bros



Image 06_Before Sunrise_@Columbia Pictures

The colour orange also represents our all-time favorite golden hour! This is considered the most beautiful time of day, with the warm, honey-like sunlight making it the most apt time for cinematographers to create the perfect shots, as we see in Before Sunrise, when Jesse and Celine gradually realise the fact that they might have been made for each other.

Orange has been a prominent colour in art and films for centuries, but it has proven to be the new black in the movie industry recently. Whether it's in bringing a sense of warmth, love and affection or in conveying the unavoidable claws of death, one thing is clear: Orange visually stimulates us and captivates our search for the next movie. We continue to come back, to be in awe.

DESIGNING PEOPLE-CENTRIC CITIES: A NECESSITY

09

r s aruna

In the 1961 book 'The Death and Life of Great American Cities' by Jane Jacobs, she criticizes how lifeless cities, devoid of warmth or character, rose with modernisation and the growth of the human population. It has since been over six decades since 1961 and the global population has only been on a steady incline. Earth is home to over 8 billion people, and the need to question and restructure city and urban plans is now greater than ever.

In the race to accommodate the rapid influx of people moving into major cities, in search of jobs, education and a better life, the human dimension of city planning has lost precedence. Cities are an immense laboratory of trial and error and every move made affects the lives of entire neighbourhoods. Jane Jacobs brought up the example of Morningside Heights in New York City to illustrate her point, but I would like to state a more recent example in an Indian context.

I have been born and brought up in Chennai all my life, and both my parents spent their lives in this city too. Unlike cities like Mumbai where the division between the rich and poor, the posh areas and the slums are apparent, Chennai's slums were more sporadic in nature. They were scattered around the city, taking up small spaces in each neighbourhood, lining up from Adyar to Teynampet. During the period of Jayalalitha's government, these slums were considered an eyesore to the city and a Slum Clearance board was initiated to provide these residents with more opportunities and better housing. This a classic example of a great idea, but catastrophic execution.

The residents of these slums were allotted a space near Old Mahabalipuram Road, and boxed apartments were built for everyone. From a distance, everything seemed 'completely okay', but what the government failed to consider was how this would entirely isolate these residents and

the lives they were used to in the city. Chennai is a conservative city to a fault- many residents of this new 'Kannagi Nagar' could not find employment anywhere when they mentioned their locality. They were branded as thieves, and alcoholics and soon the entire neighbourhood was known for its crime rates. Since this space was on the outskirts of the city, transport to and from their earlier places of work would also put a significant dent in these dwellers' living expenses. With no employment and constant scrutiny from law enforcement just because of the place they lived in, many of the citizens of Kannagi Nagar turned to a life of crime- a live example of a self-fulfilling prophecy. And so, improper city planning has destroyed the lives of over 200 families.

The above example was a dinner table conversation that echoed throughout my childhood- and it had stuck with me ever since. Because of no mistake of their own, what was meant to be a resettlement area became a crime-filled, deserted part of the city. So many lives were ruined. It brings into perspective how the residents must be the focal point in any city planning initiative. If practicality and aesthetics take precedence over actual human lives, it can lead to tragedy on such large scales. What is the point of a visually pleasing design when it has no use to the people utilising the space?



This is what Jan Gehl suggests in his book too - Documenting the lives of people is an essential part of city planning. When even a simple product is being marketed, its target demographic is thoroughly researched. When cities of such massive scales are being designed and when this affects the lives of thousands, the study should begin at the human level.

He separates city spaces into essential, optional and social spaces- all of these integrated into the city. No space in the city should be purposeless, even as we walk through the streets we are in contact with other people and the world around us.

The psychological concept of proxemics coined by Edward Hall also plays into this aspect. Any space that we utilize, from our own bedrooms to the street we cross to get our lunch, we encounter other people. This is what Jan Gehl once again mentions as 'life between buildings'- making the city a meeting place. When planners aim for more than just ensuring that people can walk and bike in cities, the focus expands from merely providing sufficient space for movement to the much more significant challenge of enabling people to have direct contact with the society around them. In turn, this means that public space must be alive, with many different groups of people using it.

There are positives and negatives in every city in the world, but when people are put at the forefront of city planning instead of practicality or profits, it will result in happier citizens, livelier cities and better lives for all.



LIGHTS, image source - johaanswilson

DECLINE OF A HERITAGE METAL CRAFT PRACTICE

A Case of 120-year-old 'Hookahwalas' of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

10
rutuja sunil ulhe

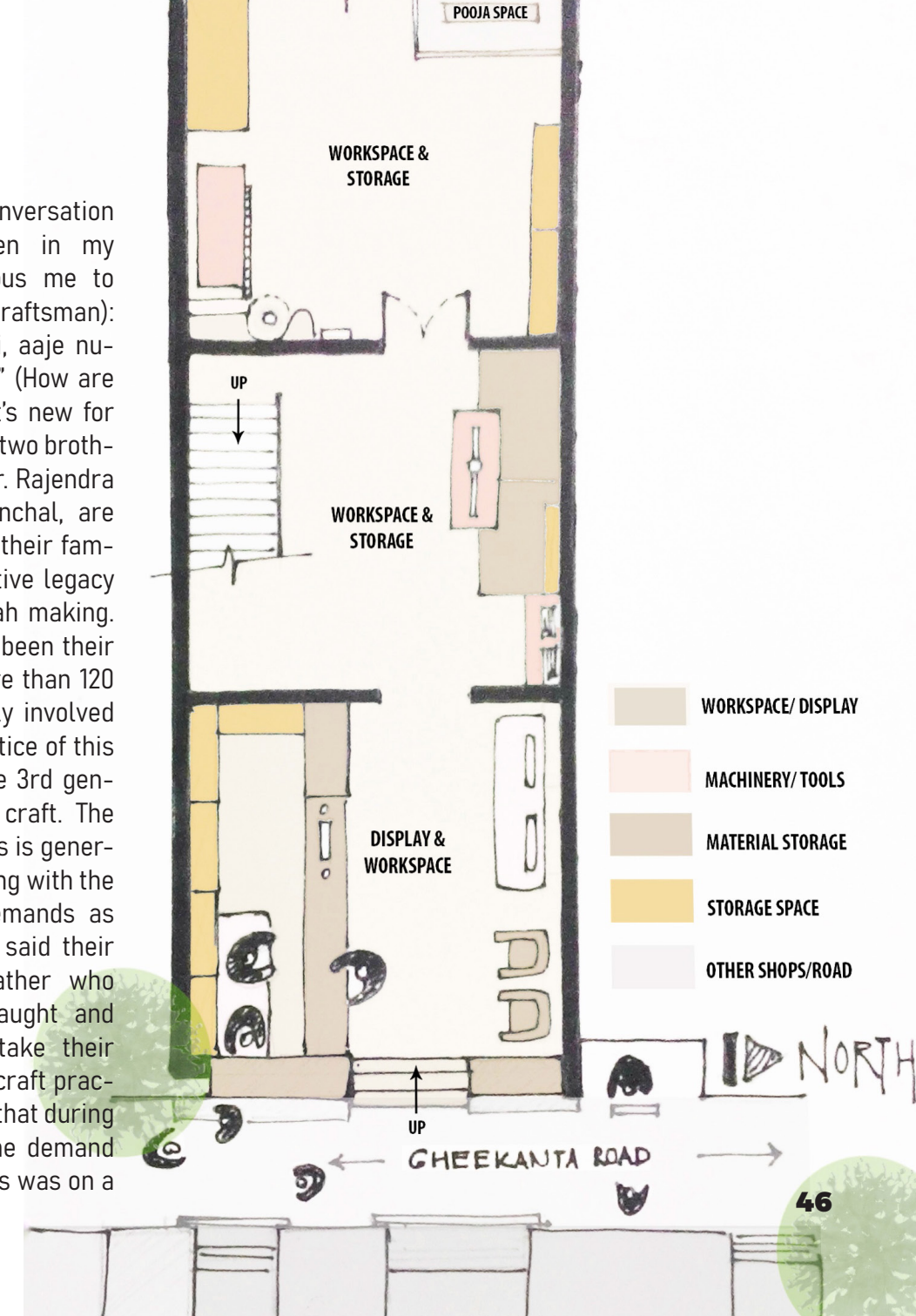
India has a rich and myriad history of traditional art and crafts. The evidence from the literature state that the origin of metal crafts in Gujarat dates back from the Chalcolithic Period / Copper-Stone Age. The Persian and Mughal miniatures also illustrate the dexterity of the metal craftsmen in Gujarat, thanks to the rich contribution of the Mughal Empire and later the British Empire in the craft sector. Various Craft communities have been spread across the state working in metal crafts like the Kansara community (Brass, Copper metal), Lohar community (Brass, Copper, Iron, and Bronze), Soni/Sonar Community (exclusively in Gold/silver), etc.

The Case

The old city felt so surreal and different every time I visited, either for buying the traditional jhumkas/clothes or for work. Teen Darwaza (the entrance gateway to the old city) was indeed a gateway to the creative avenues of Ahmedabad showcasing the best of craft, culture, and traditions. During my course of research in the creative chaotic streets of the old city, of Ahmedabad, an elusive Metal craft practice was identified on a busy commercial street named Gheekanta Road in the old city of Ahmedabad. The practitioners were colloquially known as the "Hookahwalas" (Family name: Panchal). Their specialization was in making exquisite Hookahs (Sheesha/smoking pipes with metal stands) and Chillams (Smoking pipes) exclusively in silver and gold. The process of Hookah making involved two major processes; Engraving and Embossing on metal, in which these Hookahwalas had mastery. The creative bug in me couldn't stop admiring the delicate hookah stands, so intricately carved!

History & Practice

Oh! I do miss the conversation with Master craftsmen in my broken Gujarati. Curious me to Hemant Bhai (Master craftsman): "Kem cho Hemant bhai, aaje nu-vam su sikhavum che?" (How are you Hemant bhai, what's new for me to learn today?) The two brothers in their mid-50s, Mr. Rajendra and Mr. Hemendra Panchal, are the third generation of their family continuing the creative legacy of Metal Craft in Hookah making. This craft practice had been their family heritage for more than 120 years and were actively involved in the commercial practice of this metal craft and are the 3rd generation practicing the craft. The knowledge they possess is generational, rich, and evolving with the current trends and demands as the owners said. They said their late father & Grandfather who mastered the craft, taught and encouraged them to take their legacy and heritage of craft practice ahead. They stated that during British rule in India, the demand for Hookah and Chillams was on a



and since then they started designing the Hookah/Chillams exclusively, which eventually became their specialization. They are also trying to be inclusive by being adaptive to modern technology in combination with their indigenous approach to enhance their skill set and business.

Concern

The major concern identified with this craft practice was that these Master craftsmen do not consider this as a respectable job anymore. The master craftsmen felt that this craft practice has no future with respect to economic benefit and value. Unfortunately, they are slowly



diverting the next generation to other generic streams of science & commerce. The future of this 120 y/o craft practice in Hookah making and metal works looks bleak and needs to survive, thrive and grow.

The Big question is....

**Is this elusive craft practice going to thrive?
Is it going to survive and serve future generations?**

P.S.

Looking for suggestions, dialogues, and creative solutions from my fellow Architects and designers.



Note:
This is an ongoing craft research by the author.
images by rutuja s ulhe 48

SAFE HAVEN

11

antarlina

late hours of midnight
The sky painted a deep Prussian hue
The moon and stars glistening like jewels
Weaved a blanket of a protection
Withdrawn from the harsh reality of the world.

Soft wind gusting through the night
Swishing the dry 'ol leaves with it
A sense of peace and tranquillity
Enveloped me as I lay there
In the lap of the wild abandoned meadow.

The wolf howling
Somewhere in the distant terrain
The soft twittering
Of the birds housed in the trees
Filled my mind like a melody
From a long forgotten past.

The serenity and peace wrapped my mind
Like water covering fire
Extinguishing all my thoughts and worries
Freeing me from the demons within
From whom I have fought
For long and desired to escape.

As I lay there
Safe and sound amidst the wild
Away from judgement of society
Or mockery and criticism from peers
I knew that here I could be me
Be myself truly
With no restraints or pretences.

And at that moment I knew,
I knew I had found amidst the nature
Something I had yearned for so long;
At that moment I knew
I had found my safe haven.



THE ROAD TO OLYMPUS

12

aryan raghuvanshi

Socrates, the ancient Greek philosopher, left us with profound wisdom when he emphasized the importance of beauty, strength, and the development of one's physique. His words serve as a timeless reminder of the significance of aesthetics not just in the realm of clothing or accessories, but within our own bodies. In today's world, where design and aesthetics play an integral role in various aspects of our lives, it is imperative to understand how one's perception of themselves and their surroundings plays a role in their design process. The purpose of this article is to dwell into the importance of aesthetics in a designer's life, focusing not only on external appearances but also on the development of one's body to achieve one's potential.

The Fusion of Aesthetics and Creativity

Designers, in their various forms, are creators. Whether we work in fashion, architecture, product design, or any other field that involves creating a refined form of art, we are constantly moulding and shaping the world around us. To create something beautiful and inspiring, designers need to have a keen sense of aesthetics. This sense goes beyond just picking the right colours or shapes; it extends to how they perceive and carry themselves.

Aesthetics in Appearance

The external appearance of a designer can be seen as a canvas on which their creative potential is displayed. Just as a piece of art reflects the artist's thoughts and emotions, their soul one could say. A designer's appearance can reflect their personal style and creativity. Dressing thoughtfully and expressing oneself through clothing and accessories, perhaps even body art is a way of communicating one's creative identity. A piece of one's soul being displayed to the world.

Moreover, maintaining a well-groomed and healthy appearance not only enhances one's confidence but also leaves a lasting impression on others. It is a testament to the care and attention to detail that a designer puts into their work. People tend to trust and admire those who project a polished and aesthetically pleasing image.

Aesthetics of the Body

Socrates' words remind us that our bodies possess incredible potential for beauty and strength. Just as a sculptor chisels away at a block of marble to reveal a masterpiece, individuals can mould their bodies to achieve their finest potential. This pursuit is not solely for vanity; it's about pushing the boundaries of physical and mental capabilities. Having a physical regimen is not just essential for overall well-being but also for creative productivity. Regular exercise increases energy levels, reduces stress, and enhances mental clarity. When a designer's body is in peak condition, their creative abilities are amplified. Physical fitness nur-



the olympian

tures the mind, it is almost a form of prayer. It fosters diligence and faith in oneself. Seneca says “The body must be treated rigorously, so it is not disobedient to the mind.”

Conclusion

In the realm of design and creativity, aesthetics is paramount. This encompasses not only the artistry that designers create but also their own appearances and physical well-being. Cultivating aesthetics in one’s body and appearance is not a superficial pursuit but a means to unlock one’s full creative potential.

Just as Socrates believed it a shame to grow old without realizing one’s physical potential, it is equally important for designers to recognize the value of aesthetics in their lives. By nurturing both their external appearance and their physical well-being, designers can enhance their creative prowess and, in Socratic fashion, strive to create something better and more beautiful with each endeavour.



IN CONVERSATION WITH “GOODBYE”

13

an interaction with final year students

THE STORIES THAT LEAD TO THE GOODBYE.

The fond memories of coming to college for the very first time, making friends all over again, messing around in the hostel finally moving out, the first realizations of what college life really is and so much more; come join in and read through the stories of what MSAP really is and what it holds for you with a bunch of our 5th years.

PS: It might give you a reality check.

“Our grievances really brought our entire batch together; this college brought us all together.”

From not even communicating at all to sticking up for each other through thick and thin their batch seems to have seen it all. From what our seniors have to say Manipal makes you realize that in these five years, you're going to see yourself peak at some aspects but at the same time be at the lowest and that's alright because that is what college is going to be. It's going to be a roller coaster of ups and downs but in the end, it's all going to be worth the ride.

“What is the one piece of advice you'd give to your first years?”

“Just have fun enjoy, don't forget to learn but at the same time remember to enjoy it all”

“What about us third years, do you have anything you would like to advise us about?”

“College is where you figure yourself out. Design is like that, it has various disciplines, and there are so many things you can do, don't just stick to what you think works for you, try and explore as much as you can. Learn as many things as you possibly could!”

Internships are something that are anticipated for from your first year In college, here's what they had to say about their recent and first ever internship .

“ You can choose what type of company you want to work for, It can be a smaller one which gives you a more hands on experience or a larger one which gives you an Insight on every nook and corner of the corporate side”

“ Also, choose a country or state which offers you a different experience than manipal, manipal often seems like a bubble so put yourself out there and Immerse yourself In It.”

I bet all of us think that by the end of these five years, we might finally know where our lives our headed or what exactly we wish to look forward to but from what we got to know from our seniors that's not the general case” I really thought by the end of my degree I'd have it all figured out but most of us still don't know what's next, where do we go after this and that's alright, all we can do is set goals and try our best to execute them out.”

We always say that time flies by when you're enjoying life and that is just how our fifth years feel about their college life” We still can't believe it's our last year. We have just a semester left.”” If I think of my memories from back 2nd semester today it still feels like it just happened yesterday, it's like a movie or a dream for me”.

From what we've taken back from this conversation, if we're directed towards our goals, if we remember to enjoy the process of it all and give it all our best college life just may not be as difficult as we thought it would be. When you see people go through an experience that you must cross through too it gets easier to know there are other people who faced the same challenges as you and at the end of the day got through it all and that was what we hope this conversation with our seniors got for you too.

there's no such thing as 'goodbye'



an interaction with final year students :

Janavi
Prerna
Akash
Rajat
Syed

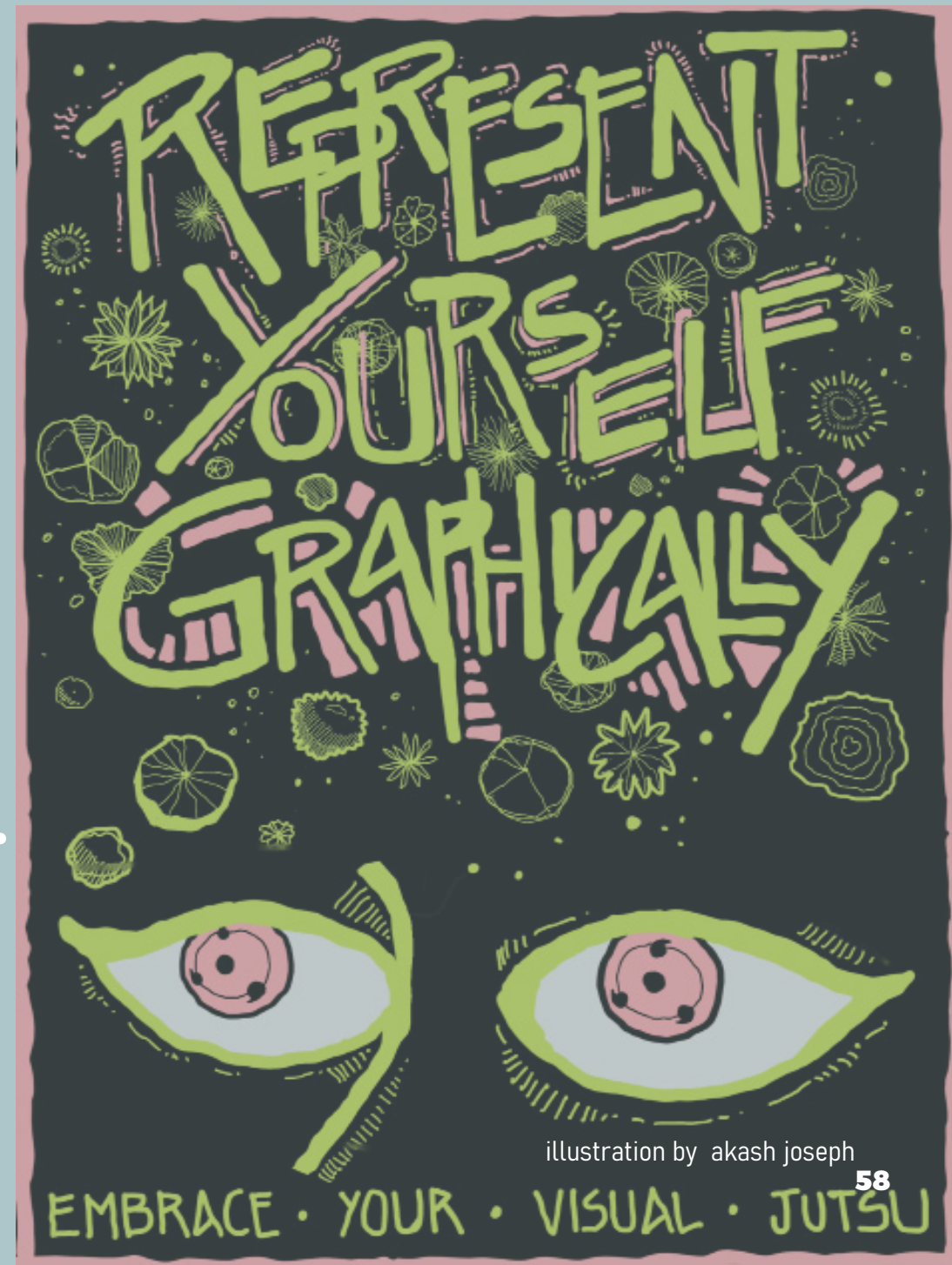


illustration by akash joseph

THE STORY IN-BETWEEN

14

shubhangi sharma

In many ways things are interconnected, even though they may seem opposing. Every beginning has an ending ... and vice versa. Every hello has a goodbye and vice versa.

However, every conversation has a story in between the hello and the goodbye. My hello to Manipal was a very quiet and shy hello, I was just a small part of who I am now. Slowly my story in between began and not only have I come out of my little bubble that I was in but I've expanded that bubble, and made space for myself in other people's bubble.

Over the time you spend here, you will say a million hellos and a thousand goodbyes, but take it from me the first few hellos that really stand out to you will be your hardest goodbyes. But grab every hello that comes your way because it will be a part of your story in between.

Manipal over the two years has slowly crept into the inner part of my story and my life without me even realizing it and trust me, it will for you too.

And to be completely honest, I am dreading my goodbye to this place and these people who have now become my family and my everything in this small town. However, I still have half of my story in between here left and I'm sure Manipal has its plans for me, so I wait in anticipation for what is to come.

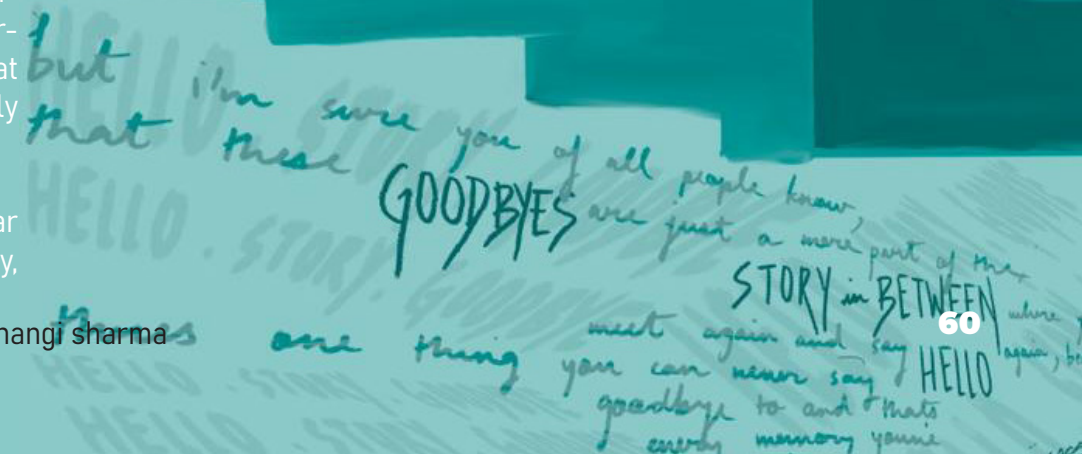
To all you first years who have just come to this place which seems smaller than everything you've seen with people who are more diverse than where you're from, with different thoughts, opinions and ways, this article is to tell you that this might be exactly what you need.

And to every final year I just wanted to say,

illustration by shubhangi sharma

you all are the reason we have a culture in Manipal, a culture with memories that are dear to you and cherished by you. We will always remember that every corridor we walk, and every step we take has a story, your story, a story of how this place has changed you and who you have become. So, thank you for giving us the chance to say hello to everything that you are saying goodbye to.

But I'm sure you of all people know, that these goodbyes are a just a mere part of the story in between where you meet again and say hello again, because there's one thing you can never say goodbye to, and that's every memory you've made here.



THE SMOOTHIE

15

kailas mallaiah

In life's gentle grasp, we find our own ways,
A clement reminder, as the night follows a day,
Life and death, truths profound and vast,
Gotta merge in their dance, man, our moments are a cast.

Ensure not to stumble, not to cause a blunder,
Holding onto this journey, let your heart jump and ponder,
Mix up the happiness, freely, with care and grace,
Add a pinch of sadness to this precious mind space.

Turn on the blender, of them emotions so deep,
Where laughter and tears are in harmony's keep,
Shake up the moments, both bitter and then sweet,
Take a sip of life's elixir, fill your mind till it's complete.

In the blend of these experiences, so true,
Lie the hues of joy and sorrow, too,
Sip by sip enjoy it real slow, with gratitude in each endeavour,
For these are the memories, we shall treasure forever.

Lessons from the life are hard, but take them gentle and wise,
In this tapestry of existence, you ought to beautifully rise,
With each day that passes, and each night's tender,
We remember only the truths, in this life's grandest blender.



“TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY”

16

sonali walimbe

Hello everyone,

I take this opportunity to share my thoughts on the journey of achieving our dreams. Life rarely hands us what we desire on a silver platter; it requires effort and hard work. Along my own path, I've come to embrace certain principles that have guided me towards my aspirations. These thoughts serve as my compass in the pursuit of my dreams, and I hope they resonate with you too.

Thank you for allowing me to share these reflections. May they inspire you to press on and work diligently in your own pursuit of happiness and fulfilment.

Best regards,

Sonali Walimbe

Life is a journey full of both triumphs and setbacks, and encountering failures is an inevitable part of it. How we respond to these failures and challenges shapes our path to success. A person who loses heart after failure is a lost soul, but a person who takes failure in his own stride and continues his efforts for success does succeed in the long run. It is rightly said “don't give up, try, try, and try again.”

Practicing the two mantras can guide us on our journey through life, setting a positive example for others to follow:

1. Embracing Challenges
2. Believing in Oneself

Embracing Challenges

Life's journey is enriched by the presence of challenges, as they add depth, meaning, and opportunities for growth. Without oppositions, life would lack the spark that propels us forward and inspires us to overcome hurdles. We are compelled to tap into our talents and skills, finding solutions and ways to navigate through difficulties. These obstacles ignite our creativity, forcing us to think outside the box and discover new perspectives. Just like a dam on a river, challenges obstruct our path, but in doing so, they force us to rise above adversity and gather strength from within. Thus, our life's journey is defined not by the absence of challenges but by how we rise to meet them.

Believing in yourself.

If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think you dare not, you don't.

If you did like to win, but think you won't it's almost a cinch you won't.

Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man but soon or later the man who wins is the man who thinks he can.

Indeed, believing in oneself and having strong self-confidence are crucial factors that shape our journey of life. When we believe in our abilities and potential, we empower ourselves to pursue our aspirations with determination and enthusiasm. This self-assurance becomes our driving force during challenging times, propelling us forward.

Let's understand this from Tim's story. Once upon a time, in a serene village nestled between lush hills and a gentle stream, lived a young boy named Tim. Tim had always been captivated by the sight of the shimmering fish in the crystal-clear waters beneath the old wooden bridge. One sunny morning, as Tim sat on the bridge, he couldn't help but voice his heart's desire to catch one of those graceful fish. "I wish I could have one," he mused, his eyes gleaming with wonder.

As if by magic, a wise passer-by, who overheard Tim's longing, stopped beside him. With a warm smile, the passer-by said, "My dear boy, if you truly desire to catch a fish, then stop wishing and start fishing." Tim looked at the passer-by with wide-eyes, "But I don't know how to fish," he confessed. "Fear not," the passer-by said. "Let me show you the way." With patience and kindness, the wise passer-by taught Tim the art of fishing – from assembling the fishing rod to choosing the perfect bait.

Encouraged by the passer-by's guidance, Tim eagerly cast his line into the glistening waters below. Minutes turned into moments, and just as Tim was about to give up, he felt a sudden tug on his fishing line. His heart raced with excitement as he reeled in his catch, and to his astonishment, he had caught a dazzling, silvery fish. Overwhelmed with joy, Tim marvelled at the beauty of his prized catch. "I did it!" he exclaimed, his eyes glowing with triumph.

The wise passer-by nodded approvingly. "You see, dear Tim, when you believe in yourself and take the necessary steps, anything is possible. The will to win and the refusal to accept defeat are the factors that lead to success." From that day on, Tim's life took a transformative turn. He embraced the lesson he learned by the bridge wholeheartedly – to believe in himself and act to make his dreams a reality.

Thus, in the face of failure, some may lose heart, while others rise stronger. The refusal to accept defeat, and a steadfast faith in oneself are the driving forces behind success. Remember, "they can conquer who believe they can." To achieve our goals, we must take proactive steps and never lose sight of our determination.

Life's journey may be filled with uncertainties, but by embracing challenges and believing in ourselves, we unleash our true potential. Our will to win and the refusal to give up lay the foundation for success. As we navigate the trials and triumphs, let us be guided by the words, "don't give up, try, try, and try again." By integrating these principles into our lives, we become the architects of our destiny, and success becomes an achievable reality.



WE OPEN AT THE CLOSE

17

rutwik nanal

I know the heading makes no sense. Like literally. But, as J.K Rowling explained in the final part of Harry Potter's series, the snitch doesn't open until Harry confides that he is ready for death, metaphorically (rolls eyes) gives way to a different line of thought. I personally see that moment as my book's favourite stich, and believe me, I've seen moments that relate with the phrase throughout my life. At least after I read the series.

Coming down to the main topic, I think when we look at the prospect of going to college, it doesn't hit us until we've left home, travelled thousands of kilometres alone, and landed in a city where no one's knows you. And then comes the moving in part. Last year was no fun though- our semester started early, and we just had 2 days to get settled in. Sorting out basic needs, food, water, and obviously the weather-change-place-change-illness that follows.

But see, that's the thing. We eventually change. "We open at the close" has transcended its literary beginnings to become a statement that resonates with those confronting changes, hardships, and life-altering decisions outside of the limits of the "Harry Potter" series. This is the ultimate and literal meaning of the above phrase. Also, honestly, I found the phrase to be cool for a transitional change so tried to correlate with everything here. "We open at the close" also serves to be a considering myriad towards changes that affect our lives, decisions that set us on our destiny. For the newcomers, this would be a life changing opportunity for many things. Learning new skills. Exploring different forms of design (obviously design, duh). Perhaps character development. Or who knows, wardrobe upgrade or something. Choices are limitless to be honest. And yeah, I speak from experience to give some closure to the above statements said.

Let us talk about the more location-based part of this new opportunity. Manipal offers so many things across different aspects of life. I would suggest stop browsing the internet about this place and just visit as many places as you can. Go rent out scooters and visit the beaches, eat as much food as you can. Pro tip: the fish at Malpe beach is inhumanely delicious. Don't forget. Go to the clubs (bruh), visit restaurants, spend minimum 50rs on rickshaws (I still don't get why they are so expensive) and what not. If you're able to handle all these things at once, you've finally passed the topic on how-to-kill-your-time-when-assignments-aren't-bothering-you. Or the sunsets. Please don't miss out on them. Literally. As you all are design students, I'm pretty sure I don't need to start on managing your time and pulling all-nighters. Come on, you guys are 17-19 years old. You must be aware of your *freedom* that exists. Also wait till you experience submission nights. In 5 years, we're gonna miss those moments.

Game nights in the hostels, ice cream outings, random movie plans, pestering the CR of the class on assignment doubts, tracing your sheets (psst I am not supposed to write this) and many more memories await you. Keep exploring and network as much as you can. Be free. Be YOU (rolls eyes again). Get wasted. And, welcome to MSAP.

Finally, correlating to the phrase above, you open a new opportunity when you give closure to a specific part of your life. These are the new beginnings that arise from our chapters of the past. A new place and a new identity. I guess that's more to look forward for. Let us pave our way throughout college into a new life, with black coffee and a couple of A2 sheets in our hands!

PS.

Don't leave your alcohol markers and Sakura microtips lying around! (hehe)

Rutwik Nanal

The guy with the wave tattoo (new identity!?)

HIGH HOPES: IMAGINATION OF A FAMILIAR UTOPIA

18

nikhil kohale

Conceptualizing creative endeavors are always the new beginnings. They often call upon drawing inspirations from certain imaginations which borders around themes of an abstract familiarity and the hopeful utopia. The bridging of two diverse and implicit motifs, as a way to realize seemingly complex, yet relatable constructions. While contemplating the ideal and attempting to manifest the soulful, the markers of its characters can be found in a wide range of diverse artistic expressions. Music is one such avenue, which is forever traversing such experiences of the unknown, through a lucid interplay between mediums like language, sound and the theatrics. Like Pink Floyd ...

Pink Floyd are an English rock band formed in London in 1965. Followed for their psychedelic composition, they are distinguished by their sonic experimentation, philosophical lyrics and surreal live shows. The 'Pulse' tour, for instance, illustrates the nuances of stage design that embody the deeper connotations of the power of a sensorial experience.

High Hopes is David Gilmore 's favorite song too. It features on the album 'The Division Bell' which came out in 1994. Every line has a story to tell and each frame of visuals has layers of meaning. Despite the name of the album, this project saw Pink Floyd united, in some ways, long after Roger Waters had already left. Polly Samson (with Gilmore) composed the lyrics of this song which in their own admission, had held the album together in its own way.

High Hopes is essentially about the early days of Pink Floyd's members and their memories. The video begins with a man reminiscing about the early years of his life, about the subdued exhilaration, about the beating of a covenant, about the innocuous innocence, and the memory of buoyant possibilities. It is about losing a friend who has descended into mental illness. The song is about

69 a founding member of Pink Floyd, Syd Barrett. It is also about hope.



Pink Floyd has riveted and fueled creative imaginations across ages. The philosophical underpinnings of its core compositions, not only appeal to the evocative imaginations, but also the uninhibited worlds. Quintessentially the very fundamental nature of creation, and the urge to create. How the band in its evolution echoes memory and meaning while assigning significance to 'things', is a testimony to the power of association and fragility of our conditions, something we are forever chasing and are in negotiation with.

The complexity and the contradiction, the duality of life itself is a recurring theme on display in the sounds and the visuals of the sensorial experience called Pink Floyd. As David Gilmore once said about their work, "This is a wonderful artistic endeavor we've spent all our adult lives working on, but reality comes into it as well". Dangling between the dualities of real and the unreal, the polarities of hope and despair, the realities of the built and the unbuilt is a processual space of agency, a.k.a. the human condition. As Oscar Wilde says, "Progress is the realization of Utopias".

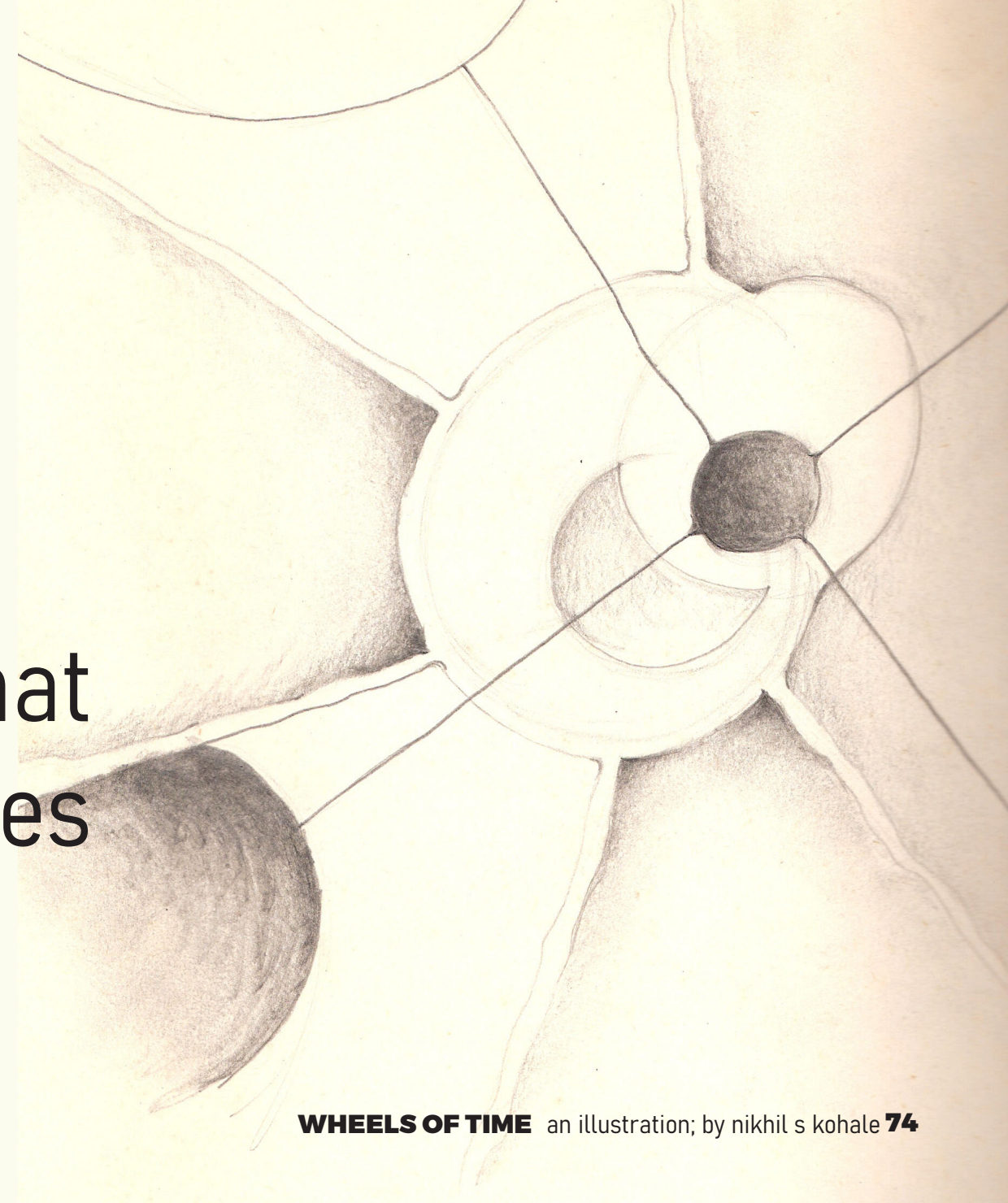


Video director Storm Elvin Thorgerson (28 February 1944 – 18 April 2013) created the moving imagery for the nostalgia of a reverberating sound. The tapestry of the spatial representations skillfully encompasses a range of myriad recollective emotions through inanimate objects. The music video uses circular shapes, to accentuate the mesmerizing sounds, like the bell. They represent time, the endless cycle of life and death, the repetitive loop we are all stuck in, while also being in the ever-present nature of the 'now'.

Telling superficial stories can only get one so far. The historical and religious references add more relevance to the storytelling as a relatable memory, lending a form of connection. After all, cinema, like all other artforms, is much more than mere entertainment. It is a vessel for associative memory, and an unending inspiration to curiosity. As they say, an artist's job is to raise questions and not necessarily answer them. It's a perennial desire of humane narrative, that leap towards consciousness through the trials, through that unknown.

Architecture, and design in general, certainly seeks such virtues through its expressive language, guiding sounds and the optics of the theatrics. As learners and practitioners of design, no matter which stage of life one finds themselves in, the ethereal nature of implicit expectations and the explorations in explicit possibilities, one undertakes such roller coaster journeys in endeavor to create artifacts that respond to certain sides of human imagination, that span across time and ages. Perhaps timelessness is a virtue, which is as much about interpretation, as much it is about recognizing the elements that can evoke those emotions.

High Hopes, in its intention,
in its words, in its depiction,
in its symbolism, is a learning that
offers so much more to those eyes
which are willing to stray
beyond the horizons.





“ i started again . . .
this time i didn't write
about real things and i
didn't write about imagi-
nary things. i wrote about
the only thing i knew . . .
the pages piled up . . .

NICOLE KRAUSS

re:verb

literature and journalism club for MSAP

lets take a look at the team who has put together this launching edition ...

the team

LAUNCHING EDITION
2023

CURATED BY NIKHIL S KOHALE



let's talk about how we said goodbye to google as we have our own walking encyclopedia, sharada shetty. You may get a side eye from her if you ask her to go to the beach.

aryan raghuvanshi From lineage to music taste one-of-a-kind peculiar guy. Wanna have a conversation with him, make sure to clear your schedule.

be always ready to catch our very own clumsy shubhangi aka runjun. This goofy little smile is everywhere so good luck catching up to her. Warning: 5 feet or not don't get into an argument with her.

our very own social butterfly, ishika bhansali lights up any room that she walks into. You better hope there's no noise complaint as she is also our designated loudspeaker.

known as pari and always looking like a pari, she is the life of the party. her coping mechanism is laughing and if you ever need any food recommendation, she's your girl.

a sunny sunflower from Lucknow who is all about romanticising life until that minor inconvenience. But fret not a solo burger King date is all that she needs.

sharada



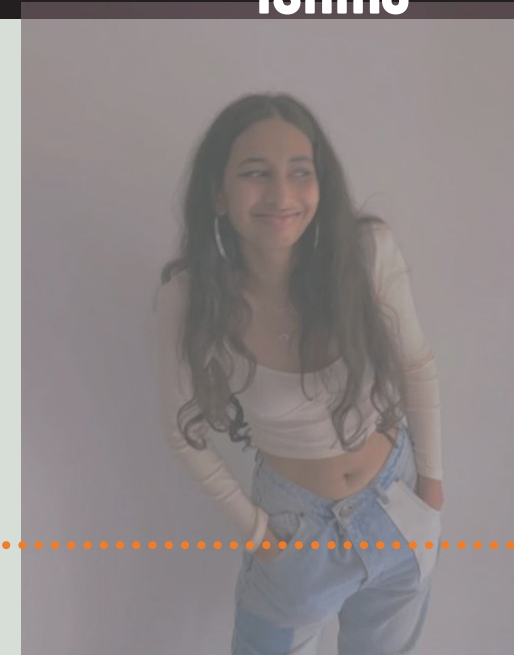
aryan



shubhangi



ishika



parnika



siddhi



CREDITS

re:verb
LAUNCHING EDITION

lead & edited by
aryan raghuvanshi
sharada shetty

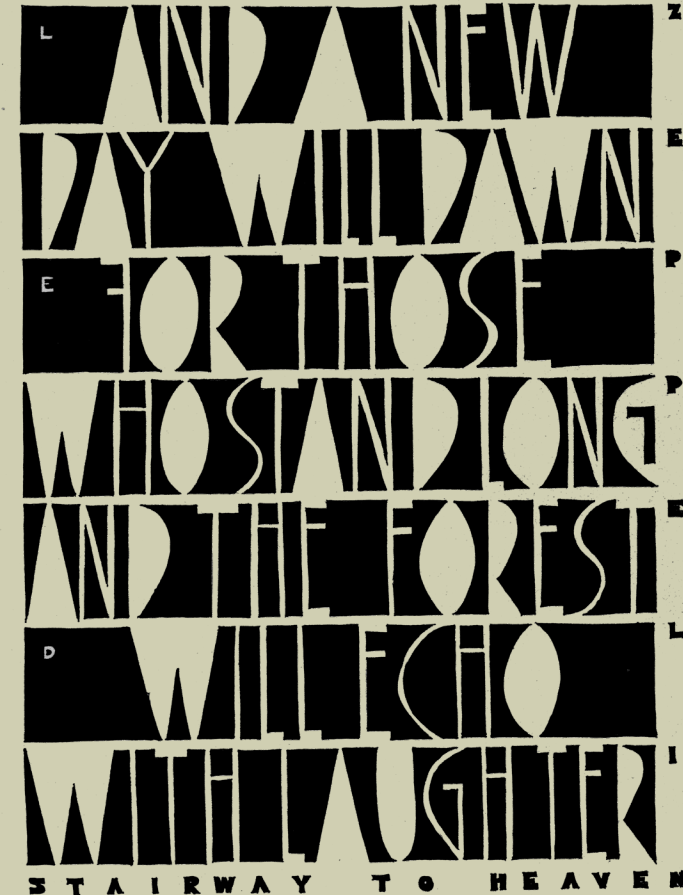
core team
ishika bhansali
parnika nagrani
shubhangi sharma
siddhi manocha

contributions
muhammed minhas
mohammed sahal mujeeb
aadil nazar
akash joseph
prerna shenoy
janavi kotian
rajat bhat
syed urooj

designed & curated by
nikhil s kohale



between hello and goodbye



THE FOREST an illustration; by nikhil s kohale

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