

## THE MCGAN'S NEWSLETTER



Photo Courtesy: McGAN's Ooty School of Architecture

# Welcoming aspiring Architects to the McGan's family...

## ... Today McGan's inducts the future architects '2014

It marks the first day of the academic year where the student is introduced and becomes a part of the college. The induction is a vital step in the preparation for the student's future life in the college. It helps ease the concerns the students and their parents may have about leaving their homes entering into a world of new people with new challenges awaiting.

Today McGan's welcomes the aspiring architects of the incoming batch of 2014-2015 into the family. The induction day is specially designed to welcome and make the new batch of students comfortable in their new environment. The freshers will meet their tutors, fellow students and seniors and find out more about the college and the curriculum as they are about to start a new chapter in their lives. They are encouraged to take tours around the

campus with their parents and get a taste of the unique learning environment that McGan's offers through its integration with the outdoor setting. The main objective of the upcoming batch is to carry on the college's identity and bind together the new generation with the seniors.

The 3 main objectives of the induction day will be to welcome the students, acclimatize them to their new environment,

to create a platform for interaction. The induction programme will aim to create a lasting impression on the new students and their families. It will give the freshers a day to remember.

As Chinese professor Laotzu says "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." McGan's wishes their freshers good luck with their first step.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Christina Patricia; Final Year



IT'S THE TIME FOR WORKSHOP...  
McGan's News Bureau

The events at McGan's have always been carving a niche in the area of wider exposure. Architect D S Ramakrishna Rao, Desirazu Associates-Aws-Muscatt - Mysore, an eminent architect was here on 5th & 6th of August with a theme of 'Venturing trends in Residential development'. He ignited trendy ideas, by focusing on the Indian political and economical conditions to adopt it in reality.

He crated with a thought provoking and

self awakening session in influence on Urban Infrastructure, which revealed the present set of insufficiency & quality in infrastructure in all sectors' demands at large. The two day workshop was more relevant to gain all the necessary information enhancing the new community marvel for the future. McGan's hereby thank Ar. D S Ramakrishna Rao for his valuable time & input in helping students to pursue quality architectural education.



The Prize goes to...  
Srivardhan R; Second Year

The Zonal NASA Convention 2014 was organized by the Hindustan University, Chennai on the 27th, 28th and 29th of June. The convention encompassed inspiring seminars and interesting workshops. McGan's enthusiastic participation in the competitions fetched 3 trophies - HITS Trophy, Product design and Fashion show. Zonasa was a completely gifted platform for a creditable experience.

## LK in campus...

Suha Nazmeen; Second Year

After the hectic working hours in the studios, the week now ends with a new session - the most happening hours of the week, with activities like skill performances, puzzles, films and games. It kick-started with a movie projected for the students from all the batches. It was about the world famous architect, Louis I. Kahn. The movie was directed by his ambitious son Natane, on a mission to explore and unravel his father's life, lost secrets and ideologies - a dad whom he never got to know as a child. This was an opportunity to travel through his works as an elementary draftsman to his timeless masterpieces and a peek into his life beyond his drafting table. The movie not only helped his son but also the students in getting to know the architect's ideologies and visions in a different perspective. It was followed by an interactive session to share our thoughts.

## OOTY IN FOCUS... "Is she still the Queen of Hills?"



Ooty Lake View of Tourists doing boating. Photo: Hyda Davis

QUEEN OF HILLS, the Ootacamund or the simply acknowledged Ooty, became a popular getaway destination ever since its discovery by John Sullivan. Hill stations at countless elevations, rich cultural legacy, exciting adventures and a magnetizing range of tourism facilities make this a place a veritable fairyland. Cloud-kissing peaks, emerald forests, rushing streams, undulating dense green plains, breath-taking view of sudden drops, valleys and glades keeps the quarter poles apart from its vicinity in exquisiteness and grandeur. The scenic charms of its magnificence have never failed to bedazzle nature lovers throughout the world. But... is Ooty still the 'Queen of Hills' where commercialization and pollution haven't got their hands on?



Ooty Lake View showing the irresponsible act of waste dumping. Photo: Hyda Davis

according to the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) the Ooty Lake is testified as the most polluted water body in the state. Due to the untreated sewage being discarded into it, the lake now emits foul odor. The biochemical oxygen

demand (BOD) in Ooty Lake has surpassed the standards, 11mg/l against the tolerance limit of 3mg/l. 24 lakh visitors including 35,000 foreign tourists throng into Ooty annually bringing in an average of 5 lakhs of vehicles. The pollution from these incoming vehicles is alone immense. Despite that, the city is filled with hotels and cottages to entertain these tourists with nothing being done about the waste that is spilling over the whole city. Ooty portrays the heritage and culture of Nilgiris where 'lifelines can be spent'. To retain the legacy, local activists, residents and students along with the local authorities should enroll towards bringing back the original face of Ooty.

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Hyda Davis; Third Year & Nikitha John; Third Year



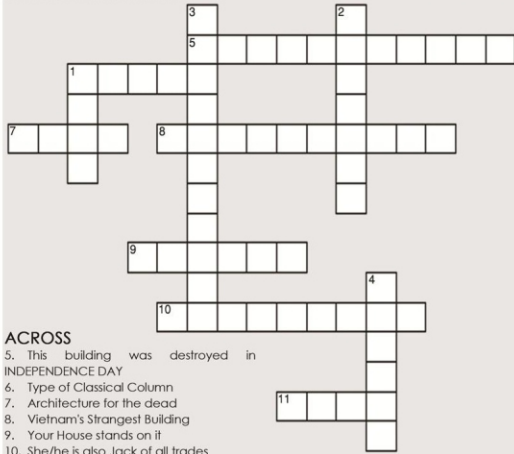
Invisible to the sight of the passerby the silhouetted souls against the morning street for whom breakfast in bed is just another dream.

Midhun R; Second Year

BRAIN TEASER

Patel Vrushank Sanjay Kumar; Final Year

Cross Word



ACROSS

- This building was destroyed in INDEPENDENCE DAY
- Type of Classical Column
- Architecture for the dead
- Vietnam's Strangest Building
- Your House stands on it
- She/he is also Jack of all trades
- A bird that lent its name to a cathedral

DOWN

- Hollow Hemispherical Roof
- Godzilla went wild in this city

- Wrote 5 principles of TOWARDS A NEW ARCHITECTURE
- India's 1st Architecture only College

BRAIN TEASER

Arun Venkat Ramaswamy; Third Year

ARCH QUIZ

- Who built the Pyramid of Giza?
- Name the one man made structure that can be seen from the moon.
- Which is the first civilization to have a sewer/drainage system?
- Name the tallest building in the world.
- Name the shadow-less temple built by Raja Raja Cholan.
- Walter Gropius was the founder of which school of Architecture?
- What is the name given to a Buddhist burial mound?
- What is the name given to a court inside a castle?
- What is the name given to a piece of decorated glass over a door?
- What is the name given to a column used to support a handrail?



Die Trying???

The answers for the BRAIN TEASER Cross Word & ARCH QUIZ are given in the last page.

Mc TOONS

Prasad Rao; Final Year



"I don't know why people hire architects and then tell them what to do."

Frank Gehry

SHORT STORIES/ POEMS

The Dream of Conscience

Neelthi Elizabeth Abraham; Final Year



I couldn't believe my eyes. Incredible skyscrapers, multi-lane roads, marine drive, Mumbai is unquestionably a marvelous city; definitely something a small town girl had always dreamt of. Being bestowed with such a prestigious and iconic project in this city, I was confident about establishing my architectural firm and being another Zaha Hadid.

Everything happened so quickly. I had all the freedom to use the latest technology and money; investors kept streaming in. All they wanted was a structure that would surpass all other buildings in Mumbai or maybe another Burj Khalifa in the city. I was lost in super luxurious life; was taken away by the new lifestyle, facilities and my profession.

As the days passed I couldn't fail to notice a little girl in her school uniform watching us from a distance outside the work site everyday. Few days later I started noticing that some of her friends had also joined her. My nosiness kept mounting and I finally decided to find out. I went over there and saw the children sitting under shade and learning from their textbooks. I called up a little one from the group and asked why they haven't gone to school. I was dumbfounded when she asked me : " Didi, when will our classes start again? Teacher said we all could get a long vacation. I want to study and be like you when I grow up. " That was when I realized how wrong I was in wiping out the small buildings for this massive structure. I felt mortified and didn't know how to tell them that their school isn't there anymore. I was speechless when I felt responsible for stealing their happiness. The thumping sounds of machines could still be heard from the site.

And it shook me awake. It wasn't the machines; but my morning alarm. I was relieved to be back in the real world; realized it was all a bad dream. I had never felt happier being in that hostel room. There was no Mumbai and no project. I just kept wondering what that dream was all about. I packed my bags and left for my class unable to keep those thoughts away. Sitting in the final year studio , for the first time in these five years I realized what Architecture is. Maybe the dream was to help me understand what our Professor taught that day, " *Architecture is not about just erecting tall structures. It is an art of conserving and maintaining the environment as well; bringing people and nature together.*"

30 years later looking out of my balcony, with a cup of coffee in my hand, the Mumbai skyline still seems to inspire me time and time again. The light reflected and refracted off each wall of the structures that I have built tells me that yesterday was not so many years ago when I was still a student and anything and everything had inspired me to nurture a new city , a new Mumbai, that is today!

ART OF THIS MONTH

'Man Dissolved in Nature..'



The abstract painting depicts the ideal life of man living along with nature. Man as a creation of nature should not be trying to isolate himself from the rest of natures creations. He takes from nature regardlessly, giving back nothing. Camouflaged, as depicted humans should learn to co-exist peacefully and productively.

Arjun S Kumar; Third Year



With the current exciting scenario, sustainable construction must move from being the specialist preserve of a relatively limited number of committed disciples firmly into the mainstream to become an integral component

Why do we need to embark on this journey? The reasons are all too evident. It is becoming ever more imperative that we live sustainable lifestyles. The world has lived beyond its environmental means for decades and is continuing to use up precious, non-renewable world resources at an unsustainable rate. Even though the world is going to be a more difficult place to live in, it is better to be doing something to improve the situation than burying our heads in the sand.



natural resources and inequitable distribution of wealth and opportunity. Developing nations must therefore focus on the use of appropriate technology in their building industry.

Traditionally, a considerable amount of importance was given to the choice of materials to ensure conservation of natural resources. It is the incorrect choice of materials that has resulted in the chaotic environmental problems that we have today. A closer look at brick and reinforced cement concrete, two of the most widely used materials of the industrial age, establishes the incorrect evaluation of the materials we choose to build with, reinforcing the efficacy of the mystical forms of establishing ecological balances. A lateral view opposing the mundane approach adopted for every component of a building is a revealing exercise.

Building materials produced in industrial processes are responsible for pollution and global warming. Present day Building Practices is where the problems originate and a good hard look at this area is vital. Traditional wisdom is considered a sign of backwardness and we are moving

at a frantic pace in an attempt to find the all-elusive "Sustainable Solutions" owing to our reluctance in "Looking back to the future"

Building activity and related industrial production in the developing nation's accounts for a large proportion of their Gross National Product (GNP). Within these societies, use of inappropriate building technologies and designs is the largest single contributor to environmental degradation, depletion of



### Solution

The Solution would therefore lie in evolving a system that bears the merits of the past and dovetail it with contemporary materials in a judicious manner. The analytical approach results in sustainable products that in turn reduce environmental impacts, integrate efficient use of resources, resist earthquakes, are locally responsive and promote greater equity. Minds should be opened to use a material, based on its intrinsic properties. Tackling issues from a bottom-up perspective, the disaster-resistant technological solutions used can be listed as follows:

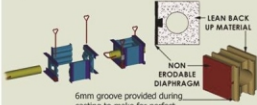
• Roofing System: Curved Funicular Shell & Flat Funicular Shell Roof

• Walling System: Hollow-Core Interlocking Blocks (flyash, papermache, mud & concrete) with Surface Engineering in varied sized and shapes



### Hollow-core interlocking block

A common misconception is that the life of a building depends on the strength of the building materials. This is incorrect. If the soil bearing capacity of earth is 2-3 kg/sq.cm. Then it would seem irrational to use building materials of 300-400 kg/sq.cm. The strength of the material required is the direct consequence of its surface requirements. Surface engineered building materials require serious consideration



Walling materials constitute approximately 30% of all construction and the largest mass and surface area of a building. The entire development has revolved around stronger walls to give more resilient surfaces whereas logically, the decisions should have been based around resilient surfaces with lean back up materials for the body of the wall



### Funicular shell

The funicular shell roof is one such compression structure, which ensures conservation of natural resources by utilizing waste materials effectively and optimizing the use of expensive steel and cement. The shell is the equivalent of a 3 dimensional catenary, developed on a recliner base. Even the weakest of materials when used in compression will surpass RCC used in the flat form. A flat arch rotated around the center results in a load bearing brick roof without the use of steel. A diagonal grid of funicular shell gives the illusion of a larger space.



The Interlocking Block, both the product as well as the way it is used in the building, is based on traditional wisdom. Diagonal interlocking resists lateral thrust and provides better load distribution in unpredictable soils such as black cotton soil, which has the tendency to swell and shrink. The diagonal bond has been developed to resist lateral thrust during an earthquake. These thrusts are transferred diagonally to the foundation.

### Intrinsic qualities of blocks

- Impermeable, non-erodable diaphragm with color and texture.
- Lean back up material for the body of the block with rationalized crushing strength.
- Appropriate, locally available materials such as fly ash, burnt rice husk, stabilized mud or exfoliated vermiculite may be used.
- Best produced by the use of hand moulds; thereby opening up of possibilities of permanent resilient finishes for the face of the block.
- Hollow-Cores of the block can be used or wiring purposes and also, when filled with plastic or paper it helps in thermal insulation.

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them" Albert Einstein

### Advantages

- A simple yet splendid low-cost roofing system using natural materials, colors, textures and technology as opposed to the monotonous and complex conventional system.
- Funicular shells can take any shape-square, rectangle, trapezium, triangular or any other shape. The knack lies in the casting of the mould.
- These shells do not require high-energy steel reinforcement.
- With their natural, earthy textures and colors they add a vivid personality and minimize on internal plastering costs.
- The upper half of the edge beam is required to hold the struts. It is cast along with the funicular shell; therefore, it can also be a triangular section.
- The funicular shell roof facilitates the installation of fixtures like-ceiling fans, light fixtures, etc.
- A skylight can be introduced in the roof. This can be achieved by leaving a hollow while casting, using the inherent strength of a ring in compression.
- The edge beam can be given a slight camber or lift in the center, about 1"-3". Thus the beam also act as an arch, comes under compression, further increasing its load bearing capacity. This also reduces the amount of steel and cement consumed in the beam.
- The shell allows ample flexibility in design. Since it acts as an arch, it takes load in compression and distributes it equally in all directions. Thus, on the first floor, the wall can be placed anywhere since it will always rest on the arch.



"The mind is like a parachute, it doesn't work until it's open" Frank Zappa

### Advantages

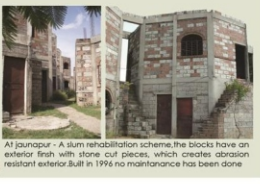


Sustainable communities require an integrated approach to design, taking account of microclimate and landscape, solar access, wind sheltering, infrastructure and transport. The quality of every built environment should reflect high quality, mixed use, durable, flexible and adaptable buildings. Negative environmental impacts of building materials should be minimized and buildings should be designed to promote health and well-being as well as giving people a sense of security. People have to live more in tune with the nature and with themselves. And in the end, they will grow stronger within themselves as they will become wiser and more empowered by the process.

For more information on appropriate technologies for humane sustainable designs, visit [www.anangpur.org](http://www.anangpur.org) Hands-on workshops on these technologies are also being conducted regularly by ASHRA (Academy of Sustainable Habitat Research and Action), Faridabad. Like and follow the page of Prof. Anil Lul on facebook to get more updates on the workshops and lectures.

### References:

[www.anangpur.org](http://www.anangpur.org)  
GREEN is RED, Anil Lul



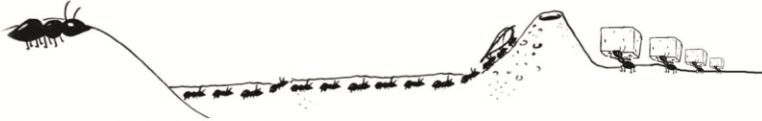
All purpur: A sun rehabilitation scheme, the blocks have an exterior finish with stone cut pieces, which creates abrasion resistant exterior. Built in 1996 no maintenance has been done

# Evolution from Ethos

Pavan Thomas: Final Year

"The dot has no dimensions but is essential for everything to begin."

Everything and everywhere begins from somewhere. The beginning of everything, like a thought, is a dot. When a thought catches momentum, like a dot, it forms a line. The dot has no dimensions but is essential for everything to begin. A line is the intermediate, one dimensional element that is the basis for evolution of a thought into an idea. An idea, infectious as it is, seems to attract more of them. These ideas become definite and form a decision. These decisions are like two dimensional figures. Not all aspects are analysed. These decisions mound up to materialise in the real world. These materialisations are three dimensional objects that first originated from a dot of a thought. This process of evolution and bringing into existence of an infinite collection of dots is called Architecture.



## Publsh Your Talents

As already mentioned, even the dot of an idea of yours could catch momentum and make a difference somewhere, someday. Do mail us your articles, photographs and conceptual representations at

archbridge.mcnewsletter@gmail.com

Photos will be displayed only if the original file of 300 resolution is followed with a description not exceeding 50 words.

The theme for the next publication will be "RED"  
We look forward to interesting interpretations with relevance to the subject.

## Direct Approach



The course of architecture takes five long years that includes a lot of sleepless nights, countless deadlines, empty stomachs and a shocking number of 'redoos'. But it is a lot more fun than it actually sounds. This is because apart from all the hard work, the course is peppered with practical activities called site visits, documentation visits, material purchase and the best of all - case studies. These studies happen every semester and is the most awaited part of the semester's project. This year's projects varied from a residence design for artist, dancer, or any other preferred professional for the second years to a hospital design for the third years. The fifth years were occupied with the urban study. The students segregated into smaller batches, were accompanied by faculties covering places from in and around Ooty, Coonoor, and Coimbatore to Thrissur and Palakkad. Case studies are highly essential as they help in creating an in-depth knowledge about the project on hand. The mere observations made during the case study and its analysis will be immensely helpful in deriving an understanding of the basic

requirements, user oriented circulation patterns, services provided, landscaping, and other such details. The case study on the whole is an interesting learning process, where one does not have to read or browse the internet, but can actually see and feel the spaces created.



Riya Rajesh: Third Year

## AVAILABLE COMPETITIONS

Mohammed Ali Kassim K: Final Year

### 'Transforming the Bus Experience in India' 2014-2015 University of Westminster international design competition.



Can good design help transform the 'BUS Experience' in Indian towns and cities. The elements range in scale and form and may include bus stations, bus stops, bus routes, bus systems, transit areas, pedestrian crossings in and around bus transport nodes as well as the vehicle itself. Other aspects

such as safety, comfort, reliability, user friendliness may also be considered. Participants should suggest design measures to transform the 'BUS Experience' by evaluating commuter needs, priority of issues, behavioral patterns, cultural preferences and current state of bus journeys in their respective towns and cities. Entrants should be undergraduate students of member colleges/ institutions of the National Association of Students of Architecture.

A maximum of 3 entries per college will be accepted. Participating teams may have up to 4 group members only.

15th of September-Deadline for registration.  
10th of November 10am IST- Deadline for submission of entries  
An exhibition of the shortlisted entries will be displayed at the University of Westminster campus in London in 2015. The University is delighted to sponsor the winning team to attend the exhibition and capture the BUS Experience in London in the summer of 2015.

## Transparence

India's largest Architectural Design Competition Brought to you by Saint-Gobain Glass, India. Supported by, Ethos.

### Theme:

#### Metro Station Complex

While metro stations are often designed an idea of relieving pressure on the already congested roads, they could also serve a vital role in the well being of its patrons and the city. The aim is to create life around an already busy metro station. How there can more to the station than just platforms. Open to- undergraduate students of architecture and design.

Team - to comprise a maximum of three members.  
Last date for registration: October 24th, 2014  
Last date for submission: October 31st, 2014  
Link: <http://www.ethosindia.in/events/transparence/>

## eVolo 2015

### Skyscraper Competition

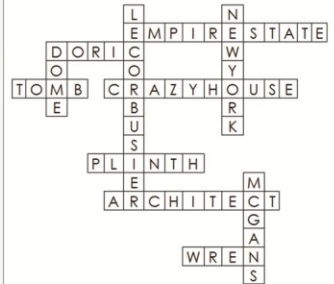
The participants should take into consideration the advances in technology, the exploration of sustainable systems, and the establishment of new urban and architectural methods to solve economic, social, and cultural problems of the contemporary city including the scarcity of natural resources. There are no restrictions in regards to site, program or size. The objective is to provide maximum freedom to the participants to engage the project without constraints in the most creative way to design a skyscraper of the 21st century.  
No limit as to the number of participants per team. Individual entries are accepted.  
November 18, 2014 - Early registration deadline  
January 13, 2015 - Last date of registration  
January 27, 2015 - Project submission deadline  
Link: <http://www.evolo.us/competition/>

### Answer for Quiz



- King Khufu
- The great wall of China
- Indus valley civilization
- Burj al Khalifa
- Tanjore temple (Brhadeseewara Temple)
- Bauhaus
- Stupa
- Bailey
- Fanlight
- Balustrade

### Answer for Cross words



## TEAM

### Co-ordinators

Prof. Shruti Mutalikdesai; Asst. Prof. Vijesh Kumar V; Asst. Prof.

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### MC ART

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### ARTICLE SPACE

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### STUDENT SPACE

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Riya Rajesh; Third Year  
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To publish your clicks, articles and ads mail us at [archbridge.mcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:archbridge.mcnewsletter@gmail.com)

## McGan's Soccer League

Introducing after class matches for all batches...

- Maximum of 2 teams from each batch
- Each team comprising of 5 members
- Match schedule will be informed soon

### TEAM REGISTRATION OPEN

Faculty and Staff are also cordially invited to form a team!

Contact: Collin Jose Thomas; Final Year; Mcg - +91890374357

