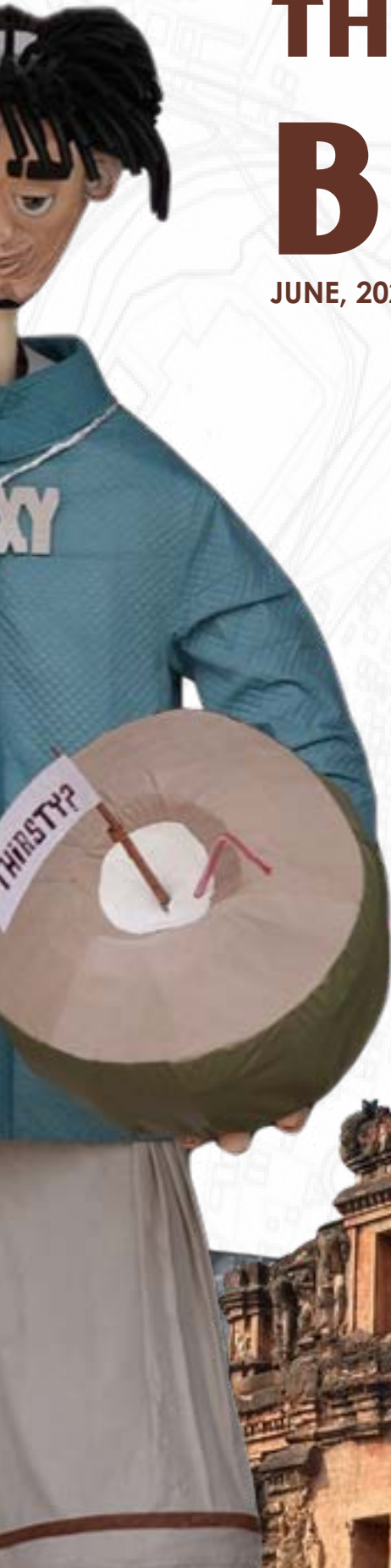


THE BLUEPRINT

Spaces. Stories. Souls.

JUNE, 2026



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dr. Komagal Anupama | June' 26

Some journeys begin quietly. Mine at Woxsen University began with the energy of nearly 4,000 architecture students.

As I stepped into the role of Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, I was still learning the campus, meeting colleagues, and understanding the culture of the University. Before I could settle into my office, Woxsen had the privilege of hosting the Annual NASA Convention 2026. What I expected to be an event soon became one of the defining moments of my career.

Standing before thousands of aspiring architects from every corner of the country was both humbling and emotional. NASA became more than a convention—it was my introduction not only to the Woxsen family but also to the larger architectural fraternity. Everywhere I turned, I saw passion in conversations, creativity in every installation, confidence in student leadership, and an extraordinary sense of belonging. Watching our own students welcome their peers with such warmth and professionalism filled me with immense pride.

As the excitement of NASA gracefully transitioned into the commencement of the new semester and, soon after, the Council of Architecture inspection, I realised that my first month as Dean had been unlike any beginning I had ever imagined. It was a month that demanded resilience, celebrated teamwork, and reinforced one belief—that architecture is ultimately about people, relationships, and shared aspirations.

Looking back, I do not remember only the events. I remember the faces, the conversations, the smiles, and the collective spirit that made Woxsen feel like home from the very beginning.



SETTING THE TONE

Ar. Sheetal Shyam Tiwari | June' 26

Dear Readers, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of our School of Architecture and Planning Newsletter! This past month has been filled with a high-spirited aspiration of the School taking shape – successfully hosting an international event, design explorations, and impactful initiatives which were socially responsive, and attuned to the needs of the global architectural community. In this issue, we kick off with the inspiring tale of our students and faculty hosting the Annual National Convention of the National Association of Student Architects (NASA) at Woxsen University, bringing fresh ideas and spirited conversations to the national stage.

In the edition, our contributors demonstrate the chronicles of preparing & attending the annual thesis jury and semester-wise design juries. Within this issue, a student shares a photo-essay that expresses her exploratory visit to Hampi. This newsletter also extends glimpses into our attempt at ecological restoration, wherein students engaged in hands-on activity that led to the planting of 500+ nos. of seed balls of indigenous trees across Woxsen University's Forest Area. Many articles in this newsletter offer insights into studio culture and student life, encompassing their day-to-day experiences, challenges and comebacks.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this issue – our students, faculty, alumni, and partners. Their ideas, dedication, and hard work are what make each issue of our newsletter possible. I am particularly grateful to our exceptionally creative editorial team for their diligence and commitment to producing this edition.

As we move forward, I encourage readers to engage with the material contained within, share their own insights for future editions, and become participants in the dynamic conversations that emerge from our work. Together, we can continue to push the boundaries of architecture education to make it ever more innovative, equitable, and impactful.





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Dear readers, we are always looking to collaborate. Whether you want to write about your studio experience or an RSP travel diary, we would love to hear from you! If you are interested in joining our team as an editor or a writer, please contact the editorial team. See you on the pages!

Experiencing

HAMPI

Ar. Shivani Kolli | June' 26

For every architecture student, Hampi is a place we know long before we actually visit it. We study its temples, streets, planning, and the grandeur of the Vijayanagara Empire through books and lectures. But no amount of reading prepared me for what it actually felt like to experience the place.

As someone who connects more through experiences than words, I always felt that something was missing while learning about Hampi. It was only during my week-long thesis site visit that those missing pieces came together.

My thesis site lies within the Sacred Centre of Hampi, and for an entire week, this became my everyday landscape. Every morning began with the same route through the Sacred Centre. Even though I walked the same stretch each day, it never felt repetitive. The changing light, the weather, and the people I met made every walk feel different.

The first day was exhausting. The summer heat, long distances, and excitement of trying to see everything made the experience overwhelming. I found myself moving quickly from one monument to another, admiring each structure individually but still seeing them as separate destinations.

As the days passed, I slowed down. Familiar paths became easier to navigate, allowing me to notice details I had missed before. Conversations with local auto drivers and guides became some of the most memorable parts of the trip. Their stories, local knowledge, and personal connection to the place revealed layers of Hampi that no textbook could fully capture.

During the week, I explored Virupaksha Temple, Hampi Bazaar, Hemakuta Hill, Kadalekalu Ganesha, Sasivekalu Ganesha, Krishna Temple, Lakshmi Narasimha, Badavilinga, the monolithic Nandi, and several smaller shrines, mandapas, and connecting streets. Walking through these spaces helped me understand that the Sacred Centre is experienced as one continuous cultural landscape rather than as isolated monuments.

The Blueprint

Hampi is experienced as one continuous cultural landscape



I also visited Hampi Art Labs and Kaladham-JSW as part of my case studies. The exhibition on natural indigo at Hampi Art Labs, showcasing its application across textiles, pottery, metal, cement, and other materials, offered a thoughtful dialogue between traditional craft and contemporary design.

A major part of this journey was the guidance of my thesis guide Dr. Rajdeep Routh, who helped me understand how to approach the site at every step. He encouraged me to observe, question, and experience the landscape beyond what was immediately visible, making the visit far more meaningful.

By the end of the week, Hampi was no longer just a collection of ruins. It became a place where architecture, history, landscape, art, and everyday life are deeply connected. That understanding became the most valuable takeaway from my journey.

Hampi was no longer just a collection of ruins

మన ANCO

Aakansha Ramakrishnan | June'26

There's a particular kind of quiet before something enormous begins. I remember standing there at 5 in the morning on the 10th of June, the campus still half-asleep, and feeling that quiet settle over me like a held breath. Months of late nights, half-finished renders, and imaginations scribbled on notebooks were about to become real. Woxsen University was about to hold four thousand strangers who weren't strangers at all. The 68th Annual NASA Convention had arrived.

Day Zero moved fast, registrations pouring in, the food court thick with the smell of biryani and waffles, sheets being pinned up for the Reuben's Trophy before anyone had even caught their breath. Then Day 1 broke in colour, traditional attire turning every pathway into a runway. I remember sharing a meal with Ar. Kevin Mark Low, our keynote speaker, was listening to him compare buildings to human anatomy and barely touching my food. That evening, looking out from the amphitheatre stage at four thousand faces during the inaugural ceremony was a sight I will never forget. Likhit Jain, welcomed us, Dr V J Byra Reddy and Dr Komagal Anupama K addressed the gathering, and we heard from Ar. Gajanand Ram and Ar. Abhay V Purohit. Indian Arch was launched, the thesis grant winners were announced, and Shikha Kamad closed with a note of thanks. The quietest, most powerful moment came when Ar. Sathya Prakash Varanasi was felicitated with a portrait by Arth Sanghvi, in gratitude for a man who has anchored NASA India for years. Ar. Kevin Mark Low's keynote left me questioning why I wanted to become an architect at all. Day 1 ended in the chaos of Sunburn Campus DJ Night, the loudest, craziest night of my life.



Day 2 was juries and workshops by day, nerves and sound checks by evening. Ar. Nuru Karim's keynote on architecture that is harvested, not built, stayed with me for days. Battle of Bands held the crowd like a concert, and the Dance Trophy, themed Resonate, left everyone with goosebumps. Day 3 brought Mr. Sonam Wangchuk's talk on life and climate in Ladakh, and then Amaal Malik took the stage that evening and undid us completely, heartbreak songs, party anthems, and rain pouring halfway through the concert. We didn't leave. We danced harder. Day 4 arrived bittersweet. Final juries closed quietly, the valedictory honoured winners and unit secretaries, and the new council stepped forward as the curtain finally came down on four days that had felt like four years. Even now, I'm pulled back, the lights, the REXY statue, the pinned sheets too beautiful to critique, friends laughing over food court plates, the #manaang sign glowing at the roundabout, and standing soaked in the rain, screaming every word back at Amaal Malik. The 68th ANC wasn't just an event I helped run. It asked something of me, gave something back, and left a piece of me still standing in that amphitheatre.



It Was Never Just TOILETS

Ar. Dindi Priya | June'26

My thesis jury was everything I had feared.

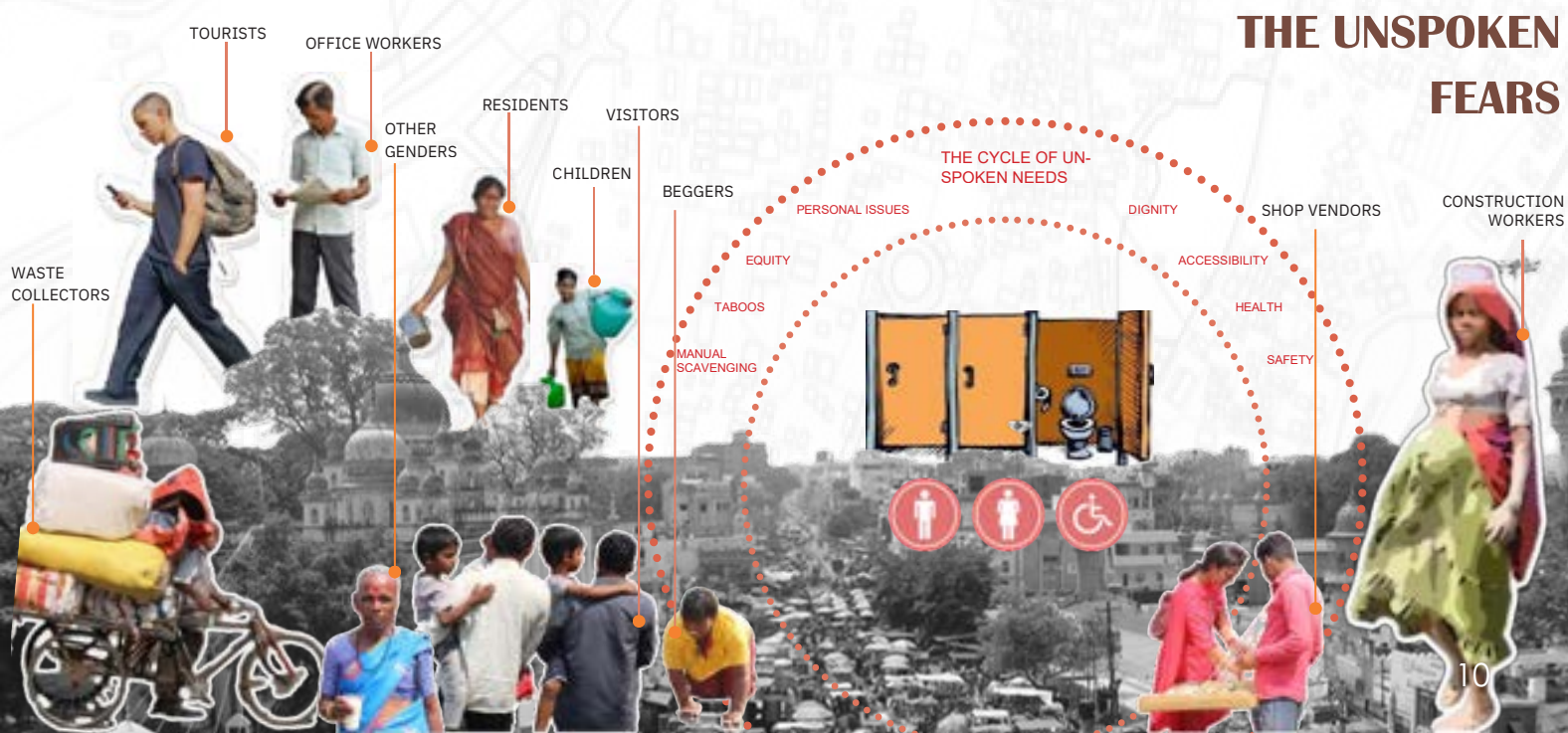
Being the first person to present, which had not happened to me in all five years of architecture school, felt like walking into my worst nightmare. The room was overwhelming; my heart would not stop racing. Every possible doubt filled my mind.

What made it harder was the journey to the thesis jury.

When I chose public toilets as my thesis topic, I heard jokes and saw people laughing. Many of my peers could not understand why I would spend my thesis on public toilets. There were moments when I questioned myself. I asked myself if I was really doing my thesis on public toilets... Public toilets were never just public toilets to me. They were about dignity, accessibility, public health, safety and a basic human need that society often ignores until it becomes a problem.

Every night, every redesign, every deadline, every discussion with my mentors Ar. Dhuma Bhavsar and Ar. Sai Puneeth, and every moment of self-doubt came rushing through my mind as I stood there presenting my thesis.

Then it was over.





500 ROOTS

Ananya Raghavendra | June'26

Some experiences leave a mark not because of their grandeur, but because of the quiet change they inspire within us. Participating in the ERS seed-ball activity at Woxsen University was one such experience, an initiative curated by Prof. Sheetal Tiwari at Woxsen University that transformed a barren patch of land behind the library into a canvas of hope for a future forest. The activity brought together students from both the fifth and seventh semesters, fostering collaboration beyond classrooms and academic boundaries. Once assembled outdoors, we were provided with trays, soil, humus, seeds, water, and gloves to begin the process. Working side by side, we carefully blended the soil and humus into a nutrient-rich mixture before shaping it into compact seed balls. Each seed ball symbolised a promise of life, resilience, and ecological restoration. Every participant was encouraged to prepare and disperse enough seed balls to contribute at least ten future trees. Walking across the open ground and scattering these humble spheres was far more meaningful than it initially appeared.





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As future architects and designers, this initiative encouraged us to think beyond constructing buildings and towards nurturing ecosystems that sustain life. It was an enriching experience that instilled a renewed appreciation for greenery, collaboration, and the enduring impact of small actions in shaping a more sustainable world. This activity helped me understand that the smallest action today can bring a greater change to our future!



A CHAPTER I'LL ALWAYS CHERISH

Ar. Murari Unnam | June' 26



Being a **School Representative** for my school was a great honour. It was never just a job or a title. It was a responsibility I wore proudly every day. My biggest concern was for the well-being of my fellow students, be they my friends, seniors or juniors. I kept asking myself, Am I really doing something different? Am I working for them? Can I make the school that we have better? There were many meetings, many challenges, and many hard decisions along the way.

But I never experienced them as a burden. Every challenge was a chance to grow, and every hurdle taught me something valuable. There were times along the road when I felt appreciation that carried me forward, and there were failures that humbled me. Oddly, those failures were my best teachers, making me more resilient, patient and determined.

This experience taught me to lead with empathy, handle responsibilities, work with students and faculty, and make decisions that were in the best interests of the whole school community. Every day was an opportunity to learn, to improve, and to contribute in any way I could. I don't just cherish the achievements looking back – I cherish the journey, the people I met, the lessons I learned and the memories we made together.

It has been one of the most meaningful chapters of my school life, and I will always be grateful for the trust, support, and opportunities I was given.

Always proud to be a rep. Thanks to all who believed in me and made this journey unforgettable.



"What could a residence, a pottery workshop and an architecture studio possibly have in common?" This was the question that puzzled the first-years as they skimmed through their second jury brief. Confusion quickly turned into curiosity, and after many discussions with the faculty, Ar. Abhishek Kawale, Ar. Ajay Simha, Ar. Shweta Prasad, Ar. Haritha Ponapalli, the pieces began to fall into place, and so did the ideas. What began as bubble diagrams soon unfolded into case studies, site visits, discussion with architects and potters. Ideas flowed from everywhere— seashell anatomy, tortoise shells, yin yang, nature's elements, even origami – slowly shaping into form.

Just as things began to settle, the brief took a twist: the plot size was reduced, and the focus shifted to designing only the pottery workshop and the residence. Back to rethinking, reworking and redesigning. After days of technical drawings, site analysis, landscaping and constant discussions and revisions, it all led to jury day. Concepts were presented, ideas were challenged, and new perspectives emerged. With valuable feedback emphasising empathy mapping, site understanding and data, students walked out inspired to think deeper and probably come up with crazier ideas.

Aakansha Ramakrishnan | June' 26



WHEN CLASSROOMS BECAME Construction Sites



Jerreddy Jashwitha Reddy | June'26

Our 4th semester started on November 12, 2025, and honestly, it didn't feel like a semester. It felt like 4 months of living, making, and surviving architecture.

Day 1 hit us with a time-problem redesign of the very block we were staying in. No textbook classrooms for us. As architects, we had to imagine spaces that breathe differently. Then the real work began. For our major, we did case studies first. Online, we studied a school in China and built a model to understand climate and materials. Offline, with our Ar. AD faculty, we visited 3 schools, one on a tight site, one around a boulder, and one where classrooms merged with nature.

The actual design work kicked in during RSP in February 2026. We travelled to Rajasthan to visit the actual site where we had to design a primary school. Walking the terrain, observing the context, sun path, wind, and how kids interacted with the space made the brief come alive. It wasn't just drawing on paper anymore; it was about people, place, and climate. Measuring, sketching, talking to locals, and understanding ground constraints taught us what no studio lecture could.

Schools

Nostalgia

stresseddd

RSP

colour

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11

After RSP, it was countless rounds of redesigning the school. Model after model, critique after critique. Finally, I found the right design – a school where children experience playful light. Light that moves, shifts, and makes the corridors feel alive. A school that isn't just functional, but playful.

The semester ended with our Jury. After sleepless nights, presenting models, drawings, and the RSP project to the panel was exhausting, but proud

What I learned: to design with context, work under pressure, collaborate, and present ideas to real industry people. 4th sem taught me architecture isn't just drawing - it's problem-solving.

MY JOURNEY with Aesthetrix

Venkatram Dikshit Reddy | June '26

When I first came across the recruitment for Aesthetrix, I wasn't even sure if I should apply. As a child, I always wanted to become an architect. I loved drawing, planning spaces, and admiring India's heritage architecture. Even though I chose B.Tech, joining Aesthetrix felt like a chance to experience the life of an architecture student, something I had always been curious about.

After getting selected, I still had a lot of doubts. Most of the club members were from B.Arch, while I was one of the very few from B.Tech. I honestly felt like an odd one out. On top of that, our class schedules were completely different, so attending meetings and balancing them with my academics wasn't always easy.

But as days passed, those doubts slowly disappeared. Our President Urmila Choudary, Vice President Jahnavi V, and fellow club members never made me feel like an outsider. They guided me, valued my feedback, and encouraged me to participate in every activity. Even though attending meetings wasn't always easy because of my schedule, I never wanted to miss them, as every meeting gave me something new to learn, whether it was planning events or sharing ideas. Slowly, I became comfortable around everyone, and the club started feeling like a place where I truly belonged.



One of my favourite memories was organising the Stranger Things-themed watch party, where we transformed a classroom with themed decorations. Another unforgettable experience was visiting a government school, where we painted educational murals on the walls, interacted with the children, and introduced them to architecture as a career. What I loved most about Aesthetrix was how different it felt from my everyday routine. Instead of spending most of my time in front of a screen, I got to paint, create, and work with my hands. It brought out my inner child. Being a part of Aesthetrix gave me the chance to experience an architect's way of thinking and working. It was completely different from my B. Tech life, and that's what made it special.

Receiving the Best Executive Award at the end of my tenure was a moment I'll always cherish. Looking back, I'm really glad I didn't let those doubts stop me from joining. It gave me some of the best experiences of my first year, introduced me to amazing people, and helped me become more confident.



The blueprint

June 2026

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
WOXSEN UNIVERSITY**

