

INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE OF A STUDENT AT THE CITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE THAT IS NOT INKED OR
PRINTED ON BOARD.

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE MOST NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION OF ALL THE FUN
FILLED NEWS AND HAPPENINGS AROUND THE SCHOOL
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



HAPPENINGS

IN A NUTSHELL...

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THEY CAME...THEY SAW...THEY RE-VALIDATED!

The Royal Institute of British Architects validation Team visited the City School of Architecture on Monday the 7th and 8th March 2016 and awarded unconditional accreditation for the next 5 years; followed by a team of representatives from the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, who also re-validated the course in March 2016. The exhibition of the students work put up by the school was highly commended by both foreign and local visitors.

DESIGNING THE DESIGN STUDIO

Member of the CSA Faculty, Archt. Nandaka Jayasinghe attended the workshop; Designing the Design Studio in Karachi, Pakistan. The 5 day workshop was jointly organized by the "Board of Architectural Education" of the Institute of Architects Pakistan, the Architect's Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) and the Centre for Architecture and Urbanism (CURB) of Macau. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Thomas Daniel and Prof. Nuno Soares of the University of St. Joseph, Macau; and was well attended by young architects from various regions of Pakistan, engaged in architectural education.

TO TAKE PLACE...

Deputy Head of the school, Archt. Surangi Gunawardena, together with Faculty member, Archt. Dimantha Welinge and Visiting Tutor Archt. Dilini Wijeweera represented CSA and presented a paper at the International Conference on 'To Take Place: Culture, Religion and Home-making in and beyond South Asia', held at the University of Madras, India. The conference was jointly organized by the Centre for the Study of Religion, Culture & Society, Elon University, USA and Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras. The paper was titled; Contextualizing Place in Sri Lanka through Popular Literature.

THE GARDEN PAVILION

JONATHAN EDWARD



The Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) held its Annual sessions 2016 from 16th to the 21st February at the BMICH along with the annual Members' Work & Trade Exhibition which included a Student Pavilion by our very own Studio 2.

Filtered light through trees and subtle glimpses through screens are not what one would expect at a student pavilion. Reused and repurposed pallets were used to create levels, one for each year of study. Repurposed vegetable boxes became stools and pedestals and were scattered around the stall. A small stepped amphitheater which was centrally placed became a space for relaxation and fellowship and was even used as a classroom.

The highlight of the entire project was the use of trees and ground cover, which created a totally unique and unified space. A skylight that ran the entire length of the stall allowed for sunlight to flood in during the day and seemed to emanate light at night bringing both the stall and its surroundings to life.

The open plan of this stall allowed for freedom of movement. Kids ran around and played while the adults viewed the exhibits. The use of timber screens allowed for breezes to flow through the stall, keeping it cool and habitable. The project was truly a test of endurance, with weeks of deliberation and design coupled with the building of prototypes and samples. At the end of the day, the public loved it as much as Studio 2 loved building it.

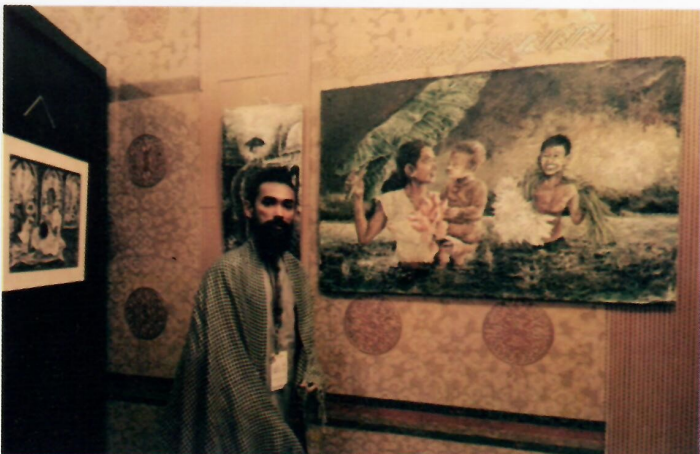
BHUTAN TRAILS

MICHELLE JAMES

One of our very own students, Sandeepa Vithanage of Studio 3, was chosen to represent the country in the annual SAARC Paintings and Art exhibition. He was one of 6 young artists to represent Sri Lanka this year. He was readily selected with this prestigious honor to represent the nation due to his receipt of the state award for Fine Art in 2010.

He reached the capital city of Bhutan, Thimphu on the 24th of April. And met up to 50 representatives from all SAARC countries. On the first four days of the trip all the representatives were kept busy at a workshop held to develop their conceptual ideas and later put down on two 5'x3' canvases. They were provided with two themes, 'Nature At It's Best' and 'Ancient Landscape'. During the workshop hours, a colorful exchange of ideas, concepts and knowledge took place between all the participants. This seemed to be one of the highlights of Sandeepa's trip as he obtained first hand insight into the different styles of painting and drawing from all over South Asia. He was able to brainstorm and analyze ideas at an intellectual level among all these budding young artists. They were given a total of 20 hours to work on these canvases which were then exhibited on the final day of the trip to which all the dignitaries of the SAARC, the general public and tourists were invited.

Another highlight of his trip was when the painting he produced after 20 hours of work was bought by the Thai- Bhutan Ambassador to be gifted to the Queen of Thailand. This once in a life time event will be a treasured moment out of all his achievements, as he brought pride to his country and people.



THE BIG DAY OUT

KHADIJA ZOEB



Sitting on the banks of the famed Bolgoda Lake, just an hours drive from Colombo; the Thotupola Lakeside provided an ideal getaway for the staff and students of CSA.

The much awaited BIG DAY OUT (that really was what it said on the poster!) began as we departed from CSA at about 9am on 22nd March (Sad to say that quite a few students missed out on)

Following a welcome drink and a quick look around, students took turns on the not-so-high high wall climb, with Dum Dum striking up an almost Wonder Woman-like pose. While most were just relaxing (a.k.a gossipping), playing cricket or singing along with Dinesh and the band, some went off to experience the zip-lining activity - which ended up entertaining everyone as Khadija screamed her lungs out all the way down.

Having enjoyed a hearty lunch (which involved the breeze causing papadams to fly all over), everyone took to the pool. While most of us thought this would be the most-awaited part of the day, I think we can all now agree that half-asleep Eddie (senior) being dumped (literally!) into the pool was the highlight of the outing. After a cup of coffee, butter cake, some badminton and more cake; it was time to say goodbye to the gorgeous setting sun.

All in all, the getaway was a relaxing experience for all, and we hope to be a part of many more BIG DAYS OUT; to come.



INKED

SHAHDIA JAMALDEEN

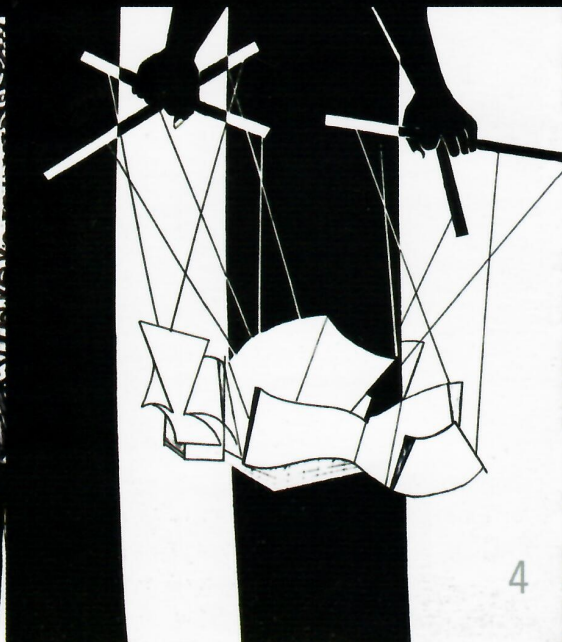
The art wall of CSA encompasses the very definition of "impulse", where the winding white wall of the school corridor provided a blank canvas for the expression of purely impulsive artwork. Spanning between architectural, cultural, superheroes to the abstract surreal the art wall provided an unwitting platform for all batches of the school to work as one. Friendships were forged, markers were emptied and lunch packets were ravaged through. But weekends spent at school for this objective resulted in a multitude of artwork including: the skyline, where utopia was portrayed through famous buildings and futuristic designs intermingled with fantastic additions pertaining to global pop culture. The warrior wall showcased a row of intimidating titans, each personifying an architectural era. The Chrysler building rose in battle against the Greek Parthenon while the Samurai, Viking and Red Indian looked on. The abstract wall depicted a deeper idea of Man playing God within the realm of architecture, which led to the Cultural wall showcasing detailed murals related to Sri Lankan heritage. This included a plethora of traditional masks and decorations tweaked to satirical proportions, all tied together with symbols of locality. The final wall mural was located within the administrative section and included a mish-mash of architectural rendering interspersed with comical millennial characters such as a cheeky Deadpool and a magnificent braying unicorn.

The art wall stands as a representation of ad-hoc creativity and collective artistic skill, but more importantly as the result of a school coming together regardless of batch, age or upcoming crits.





THE ART WALL



FRAMING LIGHTS

RAVEENA WEERABAHU

Each year it is an annual tradition that the youngest crop of CSA take up the challenge of creating a Vesak installation, and the National Film Corporation on Baudhdhaloka Mawatha was presented as the new location. This was significant as it was the first time the installation would be displayed at an alternate location to the SLIA premises. This year the intention of the design nurtured from conception to visualization featured an illuminated pathway created by a structure of individual frames that led to the final form of a seated Buddha.

This symbolized the journey of an individual passing through to embrace the teachings and wisdom shared by Lord Buddha to emerge symbolically on the other side as a beacon of light to share that same knowledge and understanding among others. This was undoubtedly a memorable addition to the displays on that night of light and festivity.



AN EVENING STUDDED WITH FIREFLIES

LADHEEKA KRISHNAN



The Annual Social held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo on Sunday 20th December 2015, organized by Studio 2 was a day that disrupted the monotony of routine, and had the pupils, alumni and staff connect over dinner and dancing rather than in the usual studio. Upon arrival, the students received complimentary glow-in-the dark sticks that could be worn as bracelets, chokers, and headbands. A buffet was available while The DJ played throughout the evening ranging from Calvin Harris to the Macarena which gave the students an opportunity to bust a move on the dance floor. It was truly a memorable evening, one that we would relish for many years to come.

OPEN MIC

MILINDRI PANDITHA

The latest activity introduced at CSA is the Open Mic sessions. The first of which, organized by Dum Dum and Dimitri of Studio 6, had students of every batch with their instruments out and game faces on for an evening of song and laughter. Putting up the stage was an effortless one; a platform was made using the remaining timber pallets from the Students Stall at the 2016 Architects Exhibition. That, along with a few strands of fairy lights created the perfect atmosphere for the evening. The performances started with the masters of guitar from Studio 1, Yathindra and Dayan and Sonya's (Studio 2) acoustic rendition of 'Hotline Bling' were definitely crowd pleasers. Milindri's (Studio 3) performance of Gloria Gaynor's 'I will Survive' helped kick start the evening. Hats were thrown while the crowd cheered on and Dimitri's beat boxing skills left the audience bewildered and in awe. As the night slowly closed in on the evening, the rest of the students took to the stage with their guitars and sang their hearts' out as the day ended on a jolly Baila number.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

RITCHELL MARCELLINE



The devastation caused by the recent flooding over the Vesak weekend brought the greater city of Colombo to nearly a stand still before attention was brought to it. It also presented an opportunity for the city to stand tall and unite to help those in need.

The Board of Directors, Staff and students of CSA also joined in on the efforts to help the needy with much needed supplies and rations amounting over 500,000 LKR donated by the school and also collected by the students.



A busy year of planning and preparation towards a memorable trip to Spain culminated in 10 ecstatic days of adventure, unveiling its culture, lifestyle, art and architecture seamlessly radiating its vibrancy even during early winter:

It started in Madrid, the capital city of Spain where the old and the new harmoniously complemented each other. The new city is filled with works of star architects of the modern world, while the old stands majestically with works of master builders. The city also houses Pablo Picasso's Guernica in its Reina Sofia Museum. Moving on to Cordoba in the southern Spanish province of Andalucía is a city that survived many invasions, and its architecture testifies its evolution. Mesquita de Cordoba is the greatest statement of all times still standing high with its Roman and Moorish influences that stand out distinctively side by side. Further south lies Granada, a medieval treasure land of architecture dating to the Moorish occupation of Spain, where we were able to witness Alhambra from the neighborhoods and its own articulated courtyards. Our next stop transported us from yesteryear to tomorrow land in a few hours; Valencia, a perfect harmony between old and new. The city's vision of being the city of arts and sciences have given birth to a sculptural architectural form that still entertains and reflects the bubbly social lifestyle of the old city. Our last stop was the coastal city of Barcelona, a wonderland created by Antonio Gaudi; with works like Park Guell, Casa Mila, Casa Baltio and his most celebrated unfinished work, Sagrada Familia, a cathedral of timeless beauty, a soaring structure and a staggering feat of architecture that leaves you utterly breathless by its sheer originality.

Spain may have left us speechless, but it inspired the story teller within.



KINDLED SPIRITS

NADIA FIRDOUS



Being perhaps one of the most awaited events of the year, the "Spark" Talent show 2016, held on the 3rd of May was more than just a little spark of talent. Endless applause, supportive ovation and heart-felt laughter accentuated this truly colorful evening, adding to the depth of tantalizing music, discovery of amazing voices, the exhibition of incredible choreography and the astoundingly dramatic skills of a few play-actors, those of which usually remain hidden under piles of design projects, crits and CDPs!

The evening began with a flicker and ended with a FLARE! - with the most awaited event – the highly anticipated (*drumroll please*) coronation of the Avurudu Kumaraya and Kumariya, with Ahamed Shums and Shahdia Jamaldeen of Studio 7 crowned respectively. The seventh years were definitely the stars of the show having won the Best Group Performance for their rendition of Synchronized swimming while Studio 2 and 6 were the Runners up. Best Dancers were Dinesh, Dinithi, Dilini & Pradeepan of Studio 3 and the Best Solo Skit was also awarded to Dinesh. Sonya of Studio 2 once again won the award for the Best Solo Singer with Shahdia, Dasini (Studio 5) and Vilukshi (Studio 6) coming second and tied for third respectively.

Organized by Studio 1, this evening of excitement definitely ignited a flame of talent hidden within each one of us and was a day to remember in this long journey towards reaching our goals of becoming more than a mere 'spark' lighting up the darkness!





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