



BETWEEN THE LINES

STUDENT NEWSLETTER OF
THE CITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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HAPPENINGS

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CONSTRUE & CONSTRUCT

CSA Faculty member Archt. Gayan Herath visited the School of Design and Environment of the National University of Singapore and attended the Construe and Construct Guest lectures and Exhibition on 8th March and also spent two extra days observing the design studios at NUS

EXCHANGE CONNECTION

A student group, with two professors, from Université Laval School of Architecture, Quebec, Canada visited CSA on Friday 8th March 2019

BE THE SUPPORT

A guest lecture on staff development was delivered By Professor of Clinical Psychology, Dr Priangali de Zoysa to the CSA faculty on Thursday, 13th June 2019 on the topic of "Being Supportive to students"

ROAD TO RESILIENCE

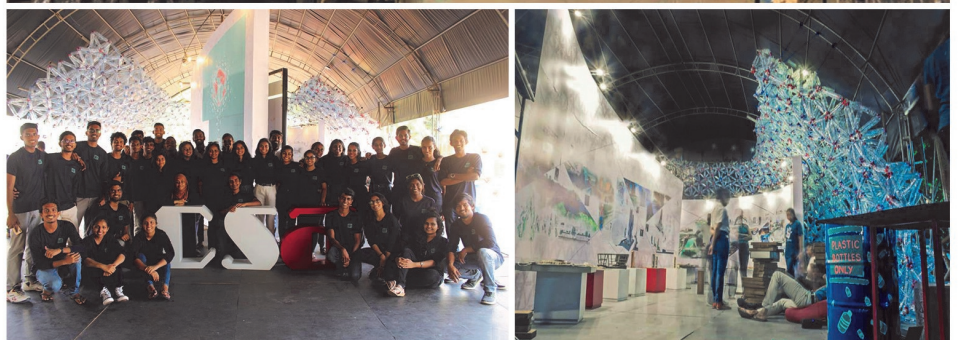
A fun and interactive workshop by Psychologist Nivendra Uduman and Drama Therapist Tehani Chetty was conducted on the 19th June 2019 for the first year students on the topic of: "University Life and the Road to Resilience"

ARCASIA ACAE

CSA Faculty member Archt. Chamila Bambaradeniya attended the ARCASIA ACAE teacher training program in Jaipur from 22 to 26 July 2019

CRICKET 6'CESS

The CSA cricket team has been making waves this year year emerging victorious over APIIT and Royal Institute and qualifying for the quarterfinals at the APIIT Leather Cricket 6's Tournament. The knockout matches are still to be played and the team is looking in good form to progress to the next rounds. Also a few players from the CSA team represented the SLIA at the Professionals Cricket Tournament in 2018 & 2019 as well as the Annual Architect vs Doctors cricket encounter. The team comprises of Manik Goonewardene (Captain), Akbar Deen, Damien Fernando, Sharon David, Meshari Fahim, Sachiththa Sooriyabandara, Tharindu Perera, Vinul Gunawardena, Ragu Gallearachchi, Anuda Heenatigala, Dhaham Panditharathne, Thameesha Rathnayake



BY LASNI WELIKALA, NAWANJANA SOORIYAARACHCHI

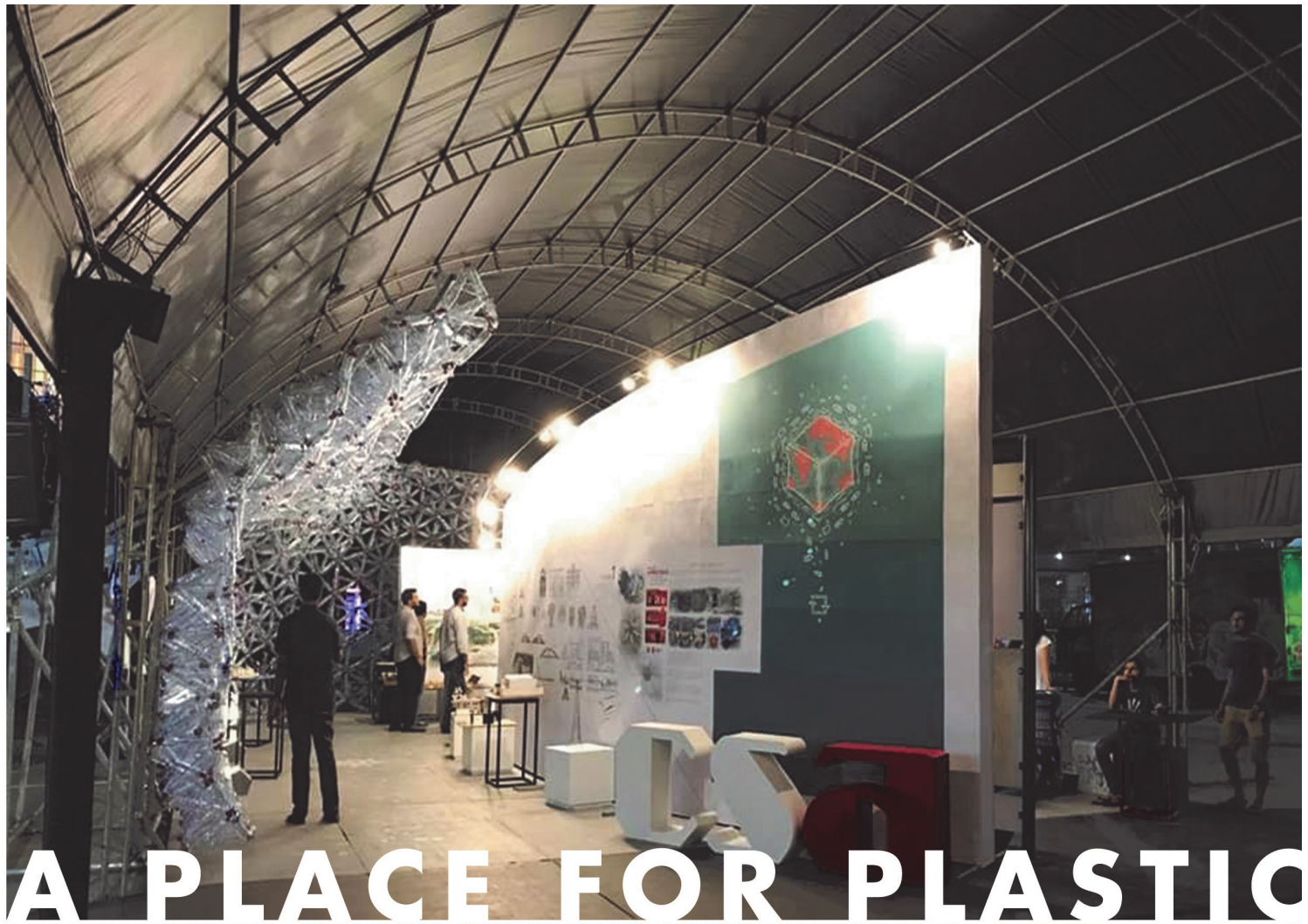
Plastic waste has become a growing issue in today's world and our country plays a major contributing role in plastic pollution on a global scale. Plastic objects, in its different forms, are used extensively in our daily lives. Sri Lanka annually imports 9600 tons of raw plastic, out of which only 70% is being made use of and only 40% gets recycled.

The lack of awareness among the citizens proves to be the main point of concern in the destructive usage, disposal, and collection of non-perishable materials. Large amounts of plastic end up on roadsides, water bodies and other landscapes causing damage to not only the environment but to the health of humans and other life forms.

As concerned individuals, the Year 2 students of City School of Architecture have decided to address this issue on a public platform by designing an upcycled pavilion at the SLIA Annual Architects Exhibition held at BMICH. The finalized pavilion was presented to the public from the 21st to the 24th February 2019 in hopes of creating awareness and a more positive public approach to the usage and disposal of plastic.

The pavilion was constructed using 30,000 discarded plastic bottles obtained through the support of leading hotels and beverage companies. The unconventional initiative, to use plastic bottles as a structural element gained wide public appraisal and was a successful display of the sustainable recycling possibilities in the field of architecture.

Upon dismantling the structure, all the bottles used were taken to the recycling plant run by the "GIVE BACK LIFE" organization in partnership with the popular beverage and recycling company. The ultimate goal of the students with this project was to encourage the responsible use and disposal of plastic waste and to highlight the scope of such materials in order to reduce the negative impact created on the environment.



BENGALI CHRONICLES

BY TAMEEZ BOHORAN

Water, light earth and air are the fundamental elements of nature that are essential for the existence of life on earth. The interplay of these elements has also governed the design of spaces and places in order to create climatically responsive architecture. As an architecture student, the best way to learn the outcomes and generators of good design is through hands on experience: travel.

The Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary (RATB), sponsored by the prestigious Architecture firm in Bangladesh, 'Shatotto Architecture for Green Living' by renowned Archt. Rafiq Azam, provides architecture students the opportunity to travel through Bangladesh for a period of 7-15 days and is awarded in India, Australia and Sri Lanka. This year was the 2nd time RATB was awarded to a student in Sri Lanka, and I, a student of City School of Architecture was given the honor of experiencing the dynamic fabric of Dhaka, Bangladesh for 10 days; an experience I will hold close for the rest of my life.

My journey started in Old Dhaka along the banks of Buriganga River, a place that resembled the streets of Pettah in Colombo. Being the first time I've travelled alone, the vibrant scapes of 'Chawk Bazaar' filled with vendors, shop houses, colorful rickshaws and the bustling crowds gave me a sense of familiarity that diminished the feeling of homesickness. I experienced the streetscapes and social fabrics and monumental legacies of the Mughal Period; the captivating Lalbagh Fort with its unprecedented symmetry and water bodies and the Colonial influences in the Ahsan Manzil; a backdrop to the river bank. Contemporary architecture in Dhaka failed to disappoint.

One of the most memorable buildings for me was The Museum of Independence by URBANA. This building was a portrayal of poetic use of architecture and a journey of sensory perception. This underground museum draws in water, light and sounds in order to tell the story of Bangladesh's struggle for Independence.



The Liberation War Museum on the other hand used the play of light and volumes to take its user through a visual experience and reflection. Similar languages of architecture are also evident in the design of monuments and memorials that go beyond the purpose of its symbolic nature. These monuments act as breathing spaces within the dense urban fabrics as well as create public pockets. One of my favorites was the National Martyr's Monument in Savar. Its dynamic layered design creates a unique illusion from each angle creating a play of light and shadows.

I had the privilege of visiting some of Archt. Rafiq Azam's public, religious and residential projects throughout Dhaka that elevated my learning experience of tropical architecture in a land beyond my country. His attempts to make Dhaka a breathable city through the numerous public park and playground projects such as the Rasulbagh Park and Abdul Alim Playground, gave me an insight into how architects could play a role in making the world a better place through design and engaging communities. The Ashraf Kaiser Vacation house in Savar did justice to climatic responsiveness in almost every way. The use of the natural light and ventilation within this 3 storied residence was carefully executed through open courtyards, lush green terraces, screens and volumes that enabled successful thermal and visual comfort without active measures. Similar principles were adopted in the numerous apartment buildings designed by the architect himself, where intricate details of water, light and landscape were integrated in all common spaces to create a sense of home to all the tenants.

The highlights of my trip were on the last two days, where I visited the Aga Khan Award winning Baitur Rauf Jame Mosque by Archt. Marina Tabassum and the National Parliament Building by world famous Archt. Louis Kahn, two buildings on an architecture students bucket list. The exposed brick mosque tucked inside an urban village, was an epitome of spiritual architecture of human scale. The perforated ceiling drew in light that reflected on the floor creating a starlit illusion. The use of natural light within the mosque was surreal enough to evoke a sense of divinity within the user.

This interplay of light through perforations was also visible in Louis Kahn's Bengali masterpiece in a magnified scale. This building humbles its user with its size, form and spatial attributes. The chamber was one of the best spaces within the building, where the volume of the space ran through its entire height, lit by an umbrella-like roof during the day. The vast garden space and mote around this structure contributes to its monumentality leaving any passerby in awe.

My travel experience in Bangladesh undoubtedly helped me grow as an architecture student as well as a person. I am truly grateful that Architect's like Rafiq Azam have opened doors to aspiring architects to experience the world outside their comfort zones. I would also like to extend my gratitude to CSA for enabling students like me to receive such opportunities that help us learn beyond the classroom.



BY LASNI WELIKALA

Phone rings:

"Hey dude! How many suitcases are you bringing for the flight tonight?"

"I don't know men, I'm just stuffing a suitcase into another suitcase!"

And that's how the 5 top ranking students of the Dulux Colour competition: Lasni, Duvithri, Ayesha, Christopher and Nawanjana hurried to CSA at 9 pm for our 1 am flight to Singapore.

The moment we arrived at the Changi Airport we were greeted by the oh-so-talkative and delightful tour guide Francis who accompanied us throughout the whole trip. From the airport we were straight away taken to the hotel where unfortunately only 1 room was ready at that moment. So there we were....5 people packed into 1 room. Our hard luck doubled when the key cards to the elevator stopped working. So Ayesha, Christopher and I being the geniuses that we were, decided to take the service staircase to our floor, only to get stuck on the stairwell since the doors wouldn't open without a service keycard. Somehow we managed to get the door open and come back to our room only for Duvithri and Nawanjana to do the EXACT. SAME. THING! *sigh* It was quite a fun experience though, which later gained a lot of laughs and facepalms.

Day 2 included the visit to the Akzo Nobel regional head office where we were provided with a very fascinating and informative session on the use of colour and their unique applications in the field.

Following that, we were taken on a tour around the city to see other attractions such as the Marina Bay Sands and the absolutely breathtaking light show at the Gardens by the bay.

Next came the day that all of us were looking forward to since the moment we landed; the visit to Universal studios. We arrived at universal studios with one single mission in mind: to take the lecturer in charge (absolutely terrified) Archt Chamila on a rollercoaster ride. Our mission succeeded when we tricked him into going on the Jurassic park water ride with us which ended up being a hilarious experience. But the highlight of the day happened during breakfast when Christopher ate a pancake with "chocolate sauce." Only it wasn't "chocolate sauce" but soy sauce accidentally served by Duvithri! The whole trip was a truly wonderful experience. Our heartfelt gratitude is given to Akzo Nobel for providing us with this this amazing opportunity.

COLOUR & LIGHT

BY ANJALI MOHAN

Incredible would be an understatement to describe the talent show which took place on the 10th of April 2019, as many hidden talents were awoken and left the audience stunned and speechless. This amazing night filled with joy and laughter was the result of hard work and dedication as students from different batches stood strong and worked together to make sure it was a success, which it was indeed.

The vibrant backdrop was the concept of Ramidu Delwala of Studio 1 which was later developed and executed by his fellow students as they all collectively poured in their ideas to make this masterpiece. So many sleepless nights and countless hours were spent filling plastic tubes with water and dye, to produce the spectrum of colours which wowed everyone, and could be easily called the highlight of the evening. Although the making of it sounds exhausting, trust me when I say it was not. Those long nights left us with many ecstatic memories and experiences which we all enjoyed together till the very end.

The array of events from traditional dances to comedy skits simply awed everyone present. Studio 1 students had a number of items lined up and to our surprise, were all top prize winners, with the dance number being awarded the best group dance. The endless hours of dance practices, pushed by Afra and Vaishni sure did pay off. Not one, but three amazing Vocal ensembles were showcased which again, received many applauses.

I think it is fair to say that studio 1 did a wonderful job organizing an unforgettable Talent show for the year 2019. The young spirits of City School of Architecture sure did bring out their inner super stars.



UNTITLED MASTERS OF THE ARTS

BY AHMED ISMAIL

While skills may be an inherited gift of competency, talents are a self-generated trait of proficiency. Far more difficult to hone, yet exception to behold once harnessed, Talents give individuals their unique identity and the world celebrates them for it. Such Masters were celebrated at the City School of Architecture on the 10th of April 2019.

The Exhibition titled [Untitled] featured many works of Art including Paintings, Sketches, Sculptures and Photographs presented by skilled Artists of CSA, displayed with due prominence.

The Art works spoke volumes of the depths of creativity of the Artists and showed the lengths taken by the Artists in expressing themselves through their works in their own individual and unique way.

Prominent Personalities such as Archt. Shayan Kumaradas and Archt. Chamika De Alwis were invited to judge the works along with renowned Artists Poornima and Chinthaka Thenuwara.

Pulasthi, Ironi and Charith were recognized as the winners in the Category of Art, while Milindri, Ashwini and Ramitha the winners in the Category of Photography. Special Awards were presented to Jeevana and Macksha (Tharindu) for their competent skills shown through their Sculptures.

To Professionals in the fields of Art and Architecture, the event was more of an Auction House rather than an Exhibition as most of the Artworks were purchased, even by the judges themselves.



Murugan by Pulasthi Handunge



BY AYESHA NIZAMUDEEN
NETHMINI WARNAKULASURIYA

An hour into the early morning on January the 18th, the whole flight is surging with our excitement, as we; Ayesha, Duvithri, Buddhimal, Abu, Vinul, Anuda and Nethmini of studio 2,CSA, travel to Bangalore, India.

The excitement was shortly cut down by a very grumpy immigrations officer in the Kempe Gowda airport of Bengaluru. I mean who could blame the poor man, it was 2 in the morning and yet it's every architect's life. Fast forward to the SJBIT campus where the 61st Annual NASA convention is being held.

NASA standing for National Associations for Students of Architecture, primarily a convention for all architecture students in India, but every 4 years they would invite students from the SAARC nations. The event comprises a series of fun competitions, intuitive workshops and cultural shows, all spanning within 5 days.

This is why you'll find all 7 of us standing at the doorstep of the SJBIT campus, in the freezing cold as we got ourselves registered for the convention 4 am in the morning . Day 1 in Bengaluru...not off to a bad start.

Surviving only on an unsavory potato bun from our 1 hour flight, we decided to head for the Manthri Square mall 45 minutes into the city and get a glimpse of Bengaluru. We debated on KFC and McDonalds; obviously the majority voted for McDonalds and how right we were! If you are hungry and in India, go for anything and I mean anything but McDonald's.

Proceeding to the day of the Convention, amongst 3000 students, our group splits up and head for the workshop or competition we registered for. You might be thinking why travel across seas for some workshop? No they don't teach you the right ratio for a concrete mixture or how to effectively carry out a survey.

In some of the workshops we learnt how to create organic roof structures out of liquid soap, we learnt how to bring a few musical notes to life through creative illustrations, play around with Popsicle sticks and build stable frame structures and even journey into the wetlands and figure out a solution for shrinking inland water bodies.



TO NASA AND BACK

Architecture is a very diverse subject and most of it is not covered in universities, at NASA we learnt some of the practical things that might be effective in our future careers that included honing our minds to think out of the box. It also gave us the chance to share or in other words, boast the knowledge we learnt to our batch mates (smirk).

As interesting as every workshop was, the highlight of each day was getting to eat tasty south Indian food, most of us would even opt for a second serving. The flavorful curries infused with spices, served with warm rice and the famous chapatti, washed down with a delicious filter kaafi or lemon tea. Each day it would be something new; fresh parathas, savory biryanis, crunchy poories and not to forget barbeque chicken night.

In the mornings after every hearty breakfast, we had to hike up a sloping road to get to our workshops situated in a particular building in the campus. All our calories burnt then and there.

The campus was huge, with an entire building for a particular field. It was easy to get lost in, especially with 3000 other students and occasionally herd of cows, but luckily for us there were helpful student volunteers around every corner.

Although we came to India for the convention, we were interested to explore the streets of Bengaluru and do some shopping and sightseeing. On the final day of the convention, we bid farewell to our newly formed friends and took off to the bustling city of Bangalore. First stop, Commercial street, a classier version of the well-known Pettah. We split into groups and scavenged for Indian goodies, to take home to our families and friends. The day after we headed to the famous Bangalore Fort and Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace located in the heart of the city, and finally the Bangalore palace, where we walked in imitating our Indian selves, thanks to Duvithri's language skills (Duvithri: "Shurkiya Star Plus!") India was an experience we thought we would never have; we got to explore the sketchiest streets of Bengaluru in search of a cheap chocolate shop, hail an ordinary passing tuk on the middle of a high way at 11pm in the night; the devil's hour and drink masala infused 7up .

With that comes the end of our journey, as we hurdle back to our Mother Lanka to our Malu Meeris and Kiribath, with heavy baggage filled with treats and brushed off Indian accents.



UWE + CSA

BY MICHELLE JAMES

The first ever UWE and CSA exchange program took place this year. One could even call it the Genesis Project as it would be the first of many such exchange programs to happen between the two institutions. The crux of this is not just to build a stronger bond between the two schools, but to share insight on how Architecture is taught in a global scale.

The two groups of students both in the Masters segment of their Architectural education were brought together to team up on one project. This allowed the students to not only form a relationship, but also to share knowledge. The students of CSA were introduced to a new and unconventional way of learning. The area of study was Chilaw, and this was something so foreign to the UWE students, some of who had never travelled to a third world country before. The site and context impacted them in such a way that they carried it on as their final year project, the equivalent of CSA's seventh year CDP. The two groups played to their strengths and shared all their knowledge with each other.

Part two of this exchange program took ten lucky students from CSA across the oceans to UWE campus. Here a more hands on approach to design was introduced. The entire project was held in the wood workshop, the project was an urban installation for a travelling circus, a pop up bake sale and a pop up theatre. While we were crafting the plug ins, moveable seating, a collapsible stage and innovative display shelving the tutors would walk in and a spontaneous crit of sorts would take place. The Final crit was a performance of sorts which was not only a lot of fun it really showcased the project as everyone could see how it would function in-situ.

To sum up, the program was a huge success and the students and staff benefited immensely from this.

ALL THE GHOULS & BOYS

BY LASNI WELIKALA

Residents of the area has reported a spike in paranormal sightings surrounding the lions club Battaramulla on the 21st of December 2018, which occurred when the 2nd year students of the City School of Architecture summoned creatures from the abyss to attend the horror themed annual social to enjoy an evening of nightmarish fun.

The exterior of the hall was decorated to resemble an abandoned haunted house and its interior was also made to match the mysterious and mystical ambiance of the whole evening. Upon entering the guests were met with a dimly illuminated space which proved to be the perfect environment for stressed out students to let off steam and dance the night away.

The caterer of the event had done an exceptional job in providing a delicious spread that left everyone completely satisfied. In addition to that, the eye ball cake pops which were prepared by our very own 2nd year students were also a fan favorite.

But the highlight of the whole event were the extremely creative and unforgettable costumes worn by the guests. Everyone from students to lecturers and alumni were clad in amazing costumes which were greatly appreciated by the crowd. Zombies, killer clowns, ghost nuns and demons are just a few of the nightmare fueling characters that were embodied that evening.

The selection of the best costume proved to be quite a difficult task due to the incredible effort everyone had put into creating their costumes yet ultimately it was awarded to Poorni.

All in all the event was enjoyed greatly by everyone and the unique theme helped to create some unforgettable memories that will be etched into our hearts forever.



My first year at CSA was a long, long, LONG year. Now, don't go assuming that it was all terrible. We'll get to the good stuff, too. However, to sum it up to the best of my ability, the year consisted mainly of countless gut-wrenching assignments that lead to sleepless nights, that lead to dark circles and back ache. Not to mention oversleeping and missing lectures, which lead to poor attendance, which lead to anxiety about the poor attendance...you get the idea. In case you don't already know, attendance is taken VERY seriously at CSA. More about that later. Below is a basic outline of how to manoeuvre around these obstacles to get through the first year in one (somewhat rugged) piece.

01 Make Friends!

If you're an introvert like me, you're probably dreading the fact that this is your first instruction. Relax. Making friends in architecture school is easy breezy due to the following reasons:

Firstly, there's an average of about 40 students in a class. That's an overwhelming amount of personalities and it's highly unlikely that you won't vibe with a single one of them. Secondly, you get thrown into groups for assignments. You'll be in groups with different people for different projects, all happening at the same time. That's a LOT of teamwork, i.e opportunities for like-minded people to connect and bond. It's not even about that, really. It's about realizing that everyone is going through the same thing as you. Trust me. That person who seems to somehow have it all under control which you find intimidating? They most likely had a meltdown just before turning up at uni. So, lend that helping hand. Besides, you need someone to cry with after bad crits.

And to compete over who had the least amount of sleep the night before. And to go to Royal Burger and eat chicken nuggets with. Basically, the friends you make are going to make all the tough times more tolerable. A little brighter. Worth it, even. There is just something comforting about everyone suffering together, going through the same excruciating pain of staying awake night after night to meet deadlines only to be slammed with another truck load of deadlines. Phew. Sorry. I'm really trying to keep this positive, which brings us to the next point.

02 Eyes on the Prize • • • • •

If I received candy for every time that I lost the will to live this past year, I'd be Willy Wonka. Being way behind schedule. Being sleep deprived for days on end. Being told that a design you poured your heart and soul into, is not quite up to scratch.

All these things can contribute to a negative mindset. The key is to remind yourself of your goal. Remembering what you are working towards takes the power away from things that would normally deter you. The truth is that while one juror may dislike your design, someone else may absolutely love it. Simply sift through the criticism, absorbing any ideas that would help you to grow as a designer. Contemplate what you've just been told, even if you don't agree with it; you might actually benefit from stepping out of your comfort zone a little.

HOW TO SURVIVE THE FIRST YEAR

• • • • •
BY SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE

• • • • • Stay Organized!

03

If you aren't a planner, it's time to change. Sure, being spontaneous is fun and all, but I could barely keep track of all the assignments that were due, let alone make time to do them. Make lists of what you plan to accomplish during the week and cross them out as you go. Reward yourself with pizza, or something. Staying on top of things is the best way to avoid drowning in assignments. It's also going to reduce the amount of lectures you will have to skip in order to meet deadlines. This is especially important because an average attendance of 75% for both design and theory lectures are compulsory at CSA. To keep your sanity in check, TRY to make time in your calendar to relax. Getting too stressed out can block inspiration from flowing, which can hinder the quality and creativity of the designs you come up with.

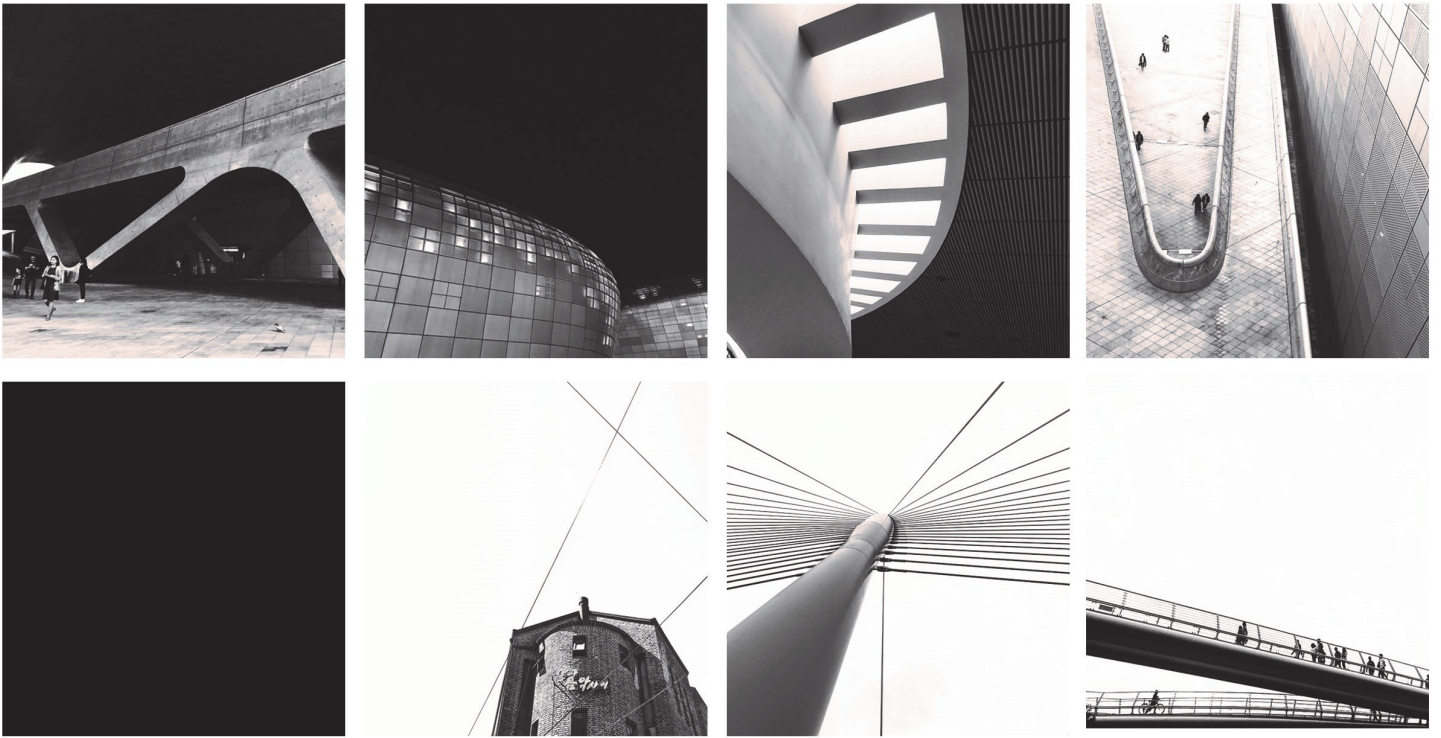
• • • • • Enjoy what you Do

04

What you should aim to achieve in your first year of architecture school is to broaden your imagination. When handed an assignment, steer clear of any derivative, obvious solutions. It's important to be brave in the way you tackle each project in order to make the most of it. At the same time, having a great idea is only the first step. It should come as no surprise that hard work is crucial to succeeding as an architect. I've been super lazy, pretty much my whole life and I really had to turn things around once I joined CSA. Putting in that extra bit of effort can feel so rewarding after you've just had a good crit. Pushing yourself to work harder and finding out that you actually do have some potential is an incredible feeling. Finally, I guess what I'm trying to say is that, if you are someone who can find the freedom and satisfaction in coming up with creative design solutions, you're going to be just fine.

The End

Or is it....?



SEOUL SEARCHING



BY MILINDRI PANDITHA

One missed flight and a few complaints and rants later, the crew of Studio 5 embarked on a 9 day escapade through the streets of Seoul in search of food, fun and some fantastic views.

The city was a fusion between the old and new. The Gyeongbokgung Palace (had to re-refer google for correct spellings) stood majestically on the palace grounds with its intricate details shining brightly in the reflected light while the Lotte World Tower hovered over the city beyond the Han river. With these exquisite views surrounding the city, one could not possibly miss the marvel that was the Dongdaemun Design Plaza. To be able to visit a Zaha Hadid building in the flesh (or rather façade) was definitely one of the climaxes of our trip. And also the endless shopping. And the street food. And the Soju. The list goes on...

9 days and a couple pounds over, it was time to part ways with the city that had taken our breath away. Hearts racing and James (our tour guide of course!) overlooking our final departure, we were finally on our way back to Colombo.

The soul searching still continues. This time, a thousand miles away from Seoul...



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