

## Course to build a dream up

FOR AN EDUCATION THAT GOES BEYOND LECTURES AND SEMINARS TO INCULCATE A LEARNING BY DOING, THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD WOULD SEEM TO HAVE GOT THE FORMAT RIGHT, WRITES DEBAMEETA BHATTACHARYA

Should you be of a mind to be innovative and influential into the bargain, the University of Sheffield has an M Arch Architecture course that promises to get you more than halfway there. It prepares students to be enterprising, employable and to use their skills to benefit people at large and involves a range of specialist design studios and an innovative "Live Projects" programme that offers excellent opportunities to develop graduate-level research by design.

The education goes beyond lectures and seminars, the aim being to learn by doing, with students working with real clients on real projects and discovering the benefits of socially engaged design and collaborative enterprise.

Live Works is a new initiative from the university's School of Architecture and comprises an Enterprise Teaching Centre and Social Enterprise with a window that opens up avenues for local people and organisations to learn about its civic engagement activities, suggest and collaborate.

With urban design professionals being very much in demand, the university helps develop design skills relate to a broader social, environmental and economic context, linking individual architectural projects and overall planning strategies. From the outset, you'll work with communities on real design projects and in the studio you'll be encouraged to experiment and develop ideas with support from expert tutors. You will learn how to manage urban design projects, write a brief and evaluate it.

Architect and educator Satwinder Samra's career began at Urban Splash, at innovative developers and urban regenerators outfit where he worked on several award-winning projects in Manchester and Liverpool. He later moved to Proctor Matthews Architects to focus on social housing and in 1998 co-founded Sauced Architecture with Daniel Jary in Sheffield. Their projects included the Chesterfield City Centre masterplan.

Currently, he is director of a future practice programme and senior university teacher at Sheffield. He has lectured at and reviewed a number of schools of architecture and was a judge for the Royal Institute of British Architects President's Medals. Excerpts from an interview:

**How is the M Arch course at Sheffield University different from the same in other institutions and what are the advantages offered students?**

Our course is based on developing social awareness, civic engagement and sustainable material production. We do this by encouraging our students to actively reflect on their role as engaged, insightful and purposeful designers and researchers.

It is vital that they be able to develop personal interests through the variety of design, research and technological and theoretical modules on offer. We also promote cross-fertilisation of ideas and approaches between staff and students - which means there is a collective spirit of endeavour.

We motivate students to be astute, flexible, responsive and socially enterprising. This enables them to face the challenges of our times



and also opens the door to what "Future Practice" might be - a practice that can listen, evolve and advocate clients' and users' needs from the project while at the same time produce meritorious design.

**Elaborate on the "Live Project" programme component...**

The Sheffield School of Architecture developed this pioneering initiative to deliver live projects as part of the architectural curriculum in 1999. We've produced over 160 projects in 14 countries involving over 1,500 students.

They work in teams with real clients and real briefs that produce tangible yet architecturally sophisticated proposals. The projects vary from

strategic master planning on an urban scale, designing community facilities through to realising on-site design. This experience at the start of the course is a great way for them to get to know each other, develop ideas and test prototypes in real-life situations.

**What about the projects undertaken by your students thus far?**

In 2012, the Live Project Toolkit for the Doncaster Civic Trust encouraged young people to engage with the built environment and the final output was awarded the BDP Live Project Prize. I'm sure the diverse make-up of the team - nine nationalities in total - was a significant factor.

A particularly exemplary project during 2014 was the Civic School produced by Neil Michels. This explored how to develop a 24-hour urban facility that could be used by all Sheffield citizens. Neil was selected by the Design Council as part of their "Ones to watch" competition and also won top spot at the Royal Institute of British Architects Yorkshire Medal Awards. We also encourage our students to develop high-

Courtesy: ZAK NICOLL

It's also vital that students carefully contextualise and visualise complexity, from understanding how spaces are used right through to how they are constructed and will be occupied. Society faces many challenging problems, from fluctuating and instable markets, limited energy supplies, expanding populations and unpredictable weather patterns, this combination in the global context provides the backdrop for all our investigations.

**You currently head "Collaborative Practice", a new M Arch programme. Elaborate on about this module that focuses on ageing and intergenerational architecture hopes to make a difference**

This practice programme blends practice-based experience with academic research and learning. We believe the route will increase student employability and offer them a more holistic and integrated experience of architectural education, which can only be a good thing for the profession. I am currently a role model for the Royal Institute of British Architects, which is all about promoting diversity in the profession - something the new course encourages and supports.

**You're an experienced architect, so what should students of design and architecture focus on to be successful?**

To succeed, you have to be passionate about the subject at all levels. Also, take an interest in the people you're working for. The ability to communicate is important and one needs to be able to truly listen and ask the right questions. I would say patience, emotional intelligence, the ability to listen and stay calm under pressure are essential.

**Could you elaborate on the funding details, like tuition fees, scholarships, etc, for overseas students?**

The University of Sheffield is pleased to offer a range of scholarships to students from India who show exceptional academic potential (current tuition fees are set at £16,500 per year). At the undergraduate level there are five Indian merit scholarships that give students 50 per cent off their tuition fees. Also, there are 400 scholarships available through the British Council's Great Scholarship programme.

This year there was a £2,000 fee reduction for all Indian students studying a Postgraduate Taught course, making the fees £14,500. There are 10 Indian Merit scholarships that give students 50 per cent off their tuition fees. There is also a Commonwealth scholarship that covers the full fee.

For more information, visit: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture)  
[www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/enquiry/money/tuitionfees](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/enquiry/money/tuitionfees)

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### PLUS POINTS

#### Computing skills

The computer science department of KIIT College of Engineering, Gurgaon conducted a workshop on "Developing Computer Skills and Problem Solving Skills using C Programming" for B Tech students. The first session of the workshop on developing computer skills was conducted by Sudhoo Kumar (ethical expert) and Jaideep Bist (Alumni of KIIT), which aimed to provide knowledge



about the list of tricks to handle viruses, how to run android apps on windows, various shortcuts and virus coding in notepad. Moreover the workshop enlightened participants on some latest android codes and hacking experiences.

The second session of the workshop on developing problem solving skills using C programming was conducted by Sudhir Kumar Sharma. He explained the importance of algorithms for solving computational problems and the concept of structured C programming. Sharma demonstrated how to draw the basic building blocks of computer graphics like line, circle, rectangle, ellipse, arch and sector. 36 B Tech first-students participated in the workshop.

#### Biotech workshop

Mangalmay Institute organised a five-day workshop on "Recent Advances in Biotechnology" in collaboration with Allele Life Sciences, Noida. 110 students



participated in the workshop along with their respective faculty members.

The workshop's aim was to provide comprehensive hands-on knowledge to aspiring biotechnologists in thrust areas, which are required for seeking job opportunities as per recent market trends. Each day was designated for different activities so that it could encompass the basic concept of the workshop. KB Sing, director, Allele Life Sciences, Noida said, "We strove to provide exposure to various analytical equipments, their handling and applications, drug and water analysis as well as various techniques of chromatography."

#### Exam alert

COMEDK, the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka, will be conducting an exam for admission to member institutions of Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation and Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges



Association. COMEDK will be conducting a post graduate entrance test on 17

January for about 600 "institutional seats". It will be done for admission to post graduate programmes during the 2016-17 academic year. 12 medical and 20 dental colleges who are members of the association will admit students for post-graduate programmes through PGET-2016. To be conducted in over 60 cities across the country, it will be an online test of three hours duration. The fee for COMEDK PGET is Rs 3,000. Registration starts from today and the last date for submission of completed online application forms is 2 January.

#### Masters in UK

UK-based University of Lincoln's School of Computer Science is offering students a chance to shape a career in today's rapidly advancing computing industry with its one-year full-time Master's programme in computer science



programme. The course curriculum includes a range of modules in innovative areas such as advanced artificial intelligence, computer vision, advanced programming, machine learning as well as mobile and connected devices. Students interested in applying would require a minimum 2:2 in a relevant degree (or international equivalent). International students will require English Language at IELTS 6.0 with no less than 5.5 in each element, or equivalent. The programme will commence from 18 January. The total fee for the course is £15,602 but with the global postgraduate scholarship worth £2,000, the total fee is £13,602. The scholarship is only applicable for all self-funding international students. For further information on admissions, visit <http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/course/cmcpmpms/>

## BEYOND MERE GRADES

KRISHNASISH DASGUPTA HAS THE LOWDOWN ON A FEW CREATIVE YOUNGSTERS FROM KOLKATA WHO ARE MAKING A MARK IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE THEIR CAMPUSES

While political pundits might be given to weeping buckets over the lack of industry in Bengal, there is certainly no lack of industriousness on the part of youth in its capital city. They're quite a creative lot, managing studies or work while actively pursuing their interests. Here's a look at a few of them.

A self-taught vocalist, greatly inspired by Joan Baez, Carmel High School student, Shubhangi Chakravarty is into a lot of musical genres, ranging from trip hop to pop rock, blues rock to jazz. Currently not associated with any band, Chakravarty has done a cover of the famous song by Evanescence, *Good Enough*, which is available on YouTube and her SoundCloud account. *Motionless* is already a hit. On the other hand, a student of the National Institute of Fashion and Technology, Chennai, Colleen Drummond is a songwriter, vocalist and former member of the Kolkata based outfit, Pxy. Once done with her fashion studies, Drummond intends to take up music as a career.

Abir Roy, a photographer with the theatre group Lok trained under renowned wildlife photographer, Saksham Singh. The 23-year-old feels clicking pictures is an art and his group, Colourman Photography cover events like band gigs and weddings. When asked if one could work with the group, Roy says, "We're undergoing the process of developing our own web page but we'll be hiring once that's done."

A creative writer in Pune-based website Storypick, Shuvro Ghoshal is a youngster from Kolkata and

strives to impact society with his works that mainly encompasses news. An asked whether he intends to publish a book, Ghoshal bluntly says that his priority lies in contributing to the nation's growth through the power of his pen. Anuvab Dasgupta, one of the founding members and an actor-writer-director of Kolkata-based theatre group, Hypokrites, says that his differs from other groups because they focus on disparate genres in English, Hindi and Bengali like pro-urban commercial theatre, absurd, sitcom, slapstick and silent plays. With an objective to provide the youth a platform to exercise their love for theatre and also introduce emerging theatre-groups, Hypokrites organise their annual festival, *Porjash*, every February.

Debanjan Chatterjee, a Master's student of English at Calcutta University is an avid theatre enthusiast and an intern at city-based group, Mad About Drama. Chatterjee made his debut on stage in the first phase of his internship at MAD in a play titled *Codename: SRK*. Another active member at the theatre outfit is Aditi Vasanjee, a student of JD Birla Institute. She indulges her passion for theatre at MAD and feels blessed to be learning something every day.

Since her childhood, Rupashree Roy was pretty interested in art and craft. Fashion to her, was a mode of self-expression and above all, a subtle extension of art. While studying at the Indian College of Arts and Draftmanship, the Kolkata girl gained knowledge in art direction. With time and her growing interest in fashion, she enrolled for a course at NIFT, New Delhi. A fashion stylist at Gurgaon-based [www.fashionandy.com](http://www.fashionandy.com)



Abir Roy, Aditi Vasanjee, Anuvab Dasgupta, Debanjan Chatterjee, Rupashree Roy, Shubhangi Chakravarty and Shuvro Ghoshal.

is of the opinion that a career in the fashion industry is no longer regarded a taboo today. And Roy derives immense satisfaction in meeting people from all over.

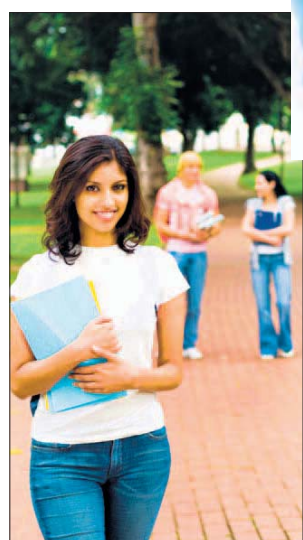
These youngsters prove that one's passion can be followed in the real world even while studying in school or college.

THE WRITER IS A STUDENT OF THE STATESMAN PRINT JOURNALISM SCHOOL

## Protection is of the essence

AWARENESS ON THE PART OF STUDENTS AND STRICT MEASURES FROM AUTHORITIES WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN ENSURING WOMEN SAFETY IN COLLEGE CAMPUSES, WRITES SUPRIYA SEHGAL

Ensuring the safety of girl students is a top priority in every college. These days, a safe and supportive campus community is both an obligation and challenge for administrators and students alike. Institutes should provide a comprehensive range of security amenities for girls within the premises preferably through a team of dedicated security personnel. It is common knowledge that



people makes one feel uneasy, they must be immediately reported to the college's women's cell. In addition to that, the emergency complaint number should be kept in mind and when moving round the campus, one must be assertive - staying alert at all times is of the essence.

Administrators must ensure a few integral steps like banning the consumption of alcohol in the campus including the hostel areas. Over 70,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 have been victims of sexual assault under the influence of alcohol. Safety measures should be taken by counsellors and over-night supervisors - they should closely watch students at night, followed by conducting room checks every 15 minutes. Also, CCTV cameras should be strategically placed in every corner of the building to ensure the safety and well-being of both the students and staff.

Carrying a pepper spray is another great option. The duration of its effect depends on the strength of the spray but on average it lasts from 30 to 45 minutes with diminished effects lasting for hours. One spray for three seconds will leave a person disoriented and will buy one time to either escape or call for help. That said, personal safety is all about attitude, awareness, avoidance and action. If one is aware of their surroundings and is ready to act in face of a threat, then half the battle is won. All institutes must be committed in providing services and programmes that enhance safety for girl students.

intrinsic potential to grab attention not only among students but also off the campus.

When it comes to feeling safer within the premises, girls should trust their instincts and if a person or a group of



most outstation students come out of their homes or cities for the first time in their lives. Therefore it is of vital importance that institutions provide them a comfortable and safe ambience within the campus.

According to a poll, 86 per cent parents believe that campus safety is one of the most important factors when choosing an institution over another. Reports of sexual assault are hogging headlines and the growing problem can be addressed through awareness programmes, dialogue and action. Students should be given regular lessons from the school level itself so that they become more aware and do not hesitate when it comes to taking preventive actions. Moreover, things like a "Women's Campus Safety Programme" must be integrated with the existing curriculum. Such programmes have an

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