

Singapore  
January  
2026



# THE ARCHITECTURE EXPERIENCE

Gardens by the Bay

AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COURSE  
ON URBAN HOUSING, DEVELOPMENT,  
AND SUSTAINABILITY IN SINGAPORE



Kampong Glam

# URBAN HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

Seeing a confluence of various cultures and ethnicities, the architecture in this city-state is shaping its own identity through advancements in urban housing, development and innovation. The participants will get to study agencies and their holistic approach (policies and implementation) towards a focus on providing housing for all, the evolution of public housing, the transformation of urban areas, and planning models used to create a sustainable environment with a high quality of life. The change in the course towards biophilic and regenerative design, be it through the incorporation of vertical gardens or vegetative landscapes or innovation in urban planning.

## Why Singapore?

Young architects could benefit exponentially from observing architecture in a country which has a colonial past including starting points for nation-building post-independence with an intent to provide housing for all. Also observed is Singapore's rapid success in overcoming its spatial and resource constraints and transforming itself from a third-world to a highly liveable first-world city-state today. Participants also get to observe newly rejuvenated housing districts (HDBs) in Singapore which retain the distinctive qualities of local identity areas through setting design guidelines for existing and new developments and retaining key elements.



The  
Pinnacle@Duxton

# THE ARCHITECTURE EXPERIENCE

The best approach to growing as an architect is to learn from experiencing and observing. **The Architecture Experience** aims to do just that. Participants get to observe the evolution of urban housing and innovations in the field through site visits and interactions with agencies, and document the learning in a themed narrative for later referencing.

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**7 DAYS,  
20 PARTICIPANTS**

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These visits will focus on evolution of public housing through the years and the current focus based on current needs of creating a sustainable environment with a high quality of life, involving the community as stakeholders. All the while looking at sustainability as an underlying theme from the macro to the micro level. The visits also include observations of local-identity areas that are also being rejuvenated with new public spaces, upgraded streetscapes, or sensitive injection of new homes and amenities.

# IMPORTANT PLACES VISITED



**GARDENS BY THE BAY**

Gardens by the Bay in Singapore is renowned for its innovative architectural features blending nature and technology. The park spans 101 hectares and includes three waterfront gardens. The Supertree Grove comprises vertical gardens up to 50 meters tall, with canopies that provide shade and collect rainwater. These structures also house solar panels to generate energy. The Flower Dome and Cloud Forest are massive conservatories showcasing plants from around the world.

The park's design integrates sustainable practices, such as rainwater collection and recycling, and its architecture symbolizes Singapore's commitment to environmental conservation and urban greenery.



**URA MUSEUM (SINGAPORE CITY GALLERY)**

Spread across 2,400 square meters and three floors, the gallery explores Singapore's remarkable transformation over the past 50 years through 10 thematic areas and 50 interactive exhibitions. The first floor focuses on urban planning and architecture, aligning with the Urban Redevelopment Authority's objectives.

The second floor showcases a replica of central Singapore, while the third floor features permanent exhibits on historic preservation, sustainable development, and urban design. It's a comprehensive exploration of Singapore's development story.

# IMPORTANT PLACES VISITED



The Pinnacle@Duxton is an HDB, home to almost 8000 residents, thrice the density of a normal housing estate precinct. At a density of around 320,000 persons per square kilometre, this Superdensity project is an important demonstration of the liveability of high-rise high-density housing.

By transforming the ground into a social dynamo, both receiving and generating social activities for the residents as well as for the city, the design has turned what might have been a congested space of car parks and services into a meaningful landscape full of potential for social interaction and bonding.



The Marina Barrage is an iconic landmark amalgamating engineering and architecture. The five-acre site is designed to house seven massive pumps as part of a comprehensive water management system to prevent flooding and transform the Marina Basin into a freshwater reservoir. The project is a showpiece of environmental sustainability and has won the Green Mark Platinum Infrastructure Award.

Sustainable principles are applied in all aspects of the design, construction and operation of the barrage to utilise energy and water efficiently and minimise waste generated.



# CAPSTONE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project work by the  
October 2019 batch - A pop  
up pavilion design

The experience is designed with the intent of enhancing architectural understanding, by creating a hands on and interactive learning layer on top of a curated travel plan. Throughout the trip, participants will visit architecturally relevant sites, both historic and modern.

**“ ON TOUR  
DISCUSSIONS,  
ON SITE  
OBSERVATIONS,  
ASSIGNMENTS AND  
FEEDBACK ”**

They will explore methods of observation and documentation while focusing on urban housing and its development. Participants will be given an existing project in which they will have to conduct a basic SWOT analysis and identify areas that could be enhanced by ideologies of urban housing, development, and sustainability. Participants will engage with the curator in daily sessions and discussions. Participants will also get to engage in dialogue with professionals from local agencies and draw parallels with their design approach back home in India.

For the participants who desire to, there would be an option to extend the project where they get to work on a concept plan to develop and rejuvenate an existing housing area by addressing specific urban challenges they face in their home cities.



Clarke Quay

## WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

Participants get to understand urban housing as a concept, and how to draw parallels with the Indian geographic. Participants will document and consolidate their observations, engage in critical thinking and design exercises, and build a repository of knowledge created over the experience.

Post the trip, this work may be published and exhibited with collaborating organisations and media outlets.

From a learning perspective, participants get to understand how their domain of interest approaches sustainability, and how they can work towards Sustainable Development Goals in their projects.

At the end of the Experience, participants will have an improved practical understanding of what they study in college and learn how to implement these strategies into their own project, enhancing their portfolios.

Participants may also get internship opportunities from our partners.

**“ RELEVANT PROJECTS,  
INTERNSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES,  
UNDERSTANDING OF  
VERNACULAR  
SUSTAINABILITY**

**”**

# EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

## DAY 1

Arrival in Singapore.

**Orientation** on the structure of the tour visits and project. Finalisation of teams and the participants' individual roles and responsibilities within the team will be defined.

**Cultural visit:** Chinatown neighborhood walk and exploration.

## DAY 2

**Topics of discussion:** Understanding the historical context, heritage, and urban planning of Singapore.

**Places to visit:** URA City Gallery, Maxwell Hawker Centre, National Gallery of Singapore (grounds visit), Sustainable Singapore Gallery, Marina Barrage.

**Cultural visit:** Clarke Quay / Boat Quay.

## DAY 3

**Topics of discussion:** HDB's approach to urban planning and public housing. Protected landscapes of the city.

**Places to visit:** HDB Gallery and Model Flats, Henderson Wave, The Interlace (outside visit), The Pinnacle@Duxton.

**Cultural visit:** Little India.

## DAY 4

Free Day

## DAY 5

**Topics of discussion:** Energy-efficient design strategies in public spaces.

**Places to visit:** Park Royal @ Pickering, La Salle College of Arts, National Library of Singapore.

**Cultural visit:** Kampong Glam.

## DAY 6

**Topics of discussion:** Building around natural resources and understanding land reclamation.

**Places to visit:** Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, Helix Bridge, Esplanade + Art Science Museum + Marina Bay Sands (outside visit), Gardens by the Bay (dome visits not included).

**Cultural visit:** Garden Rhapsody at Gardens by the Bay.

## DAY 7

**Topics of discussion:** Understanding the role of public transportation and connectivity in urban planning.

**Places to visit:** The Jewel at Changi airport.

Culmination of the tour, brief on submission of Capstone project.

Departure to India or home country.



**Curator -**  
**Ar. Rachita Bhonsle**  
**(B.Arch)**

## **CURATOR & TOUR LEADER**

The Architecture Experience Singapore is curated by Rachita Bhonsle, who will also be accompanying the participants on the tour. Rachita is a senior architect at a private firm which specialises in high-rise buildings and high-density residential communities. She has a background in environmental policy management, sustainable design, and energy-efficient planning.

Rachita has worked mainly in the residential, hospitality and educational sectors. She is passionate about climatology-based design, the environmental impact of built spaces and sustainable site planning. These principles have driven her work for the last decade.

### **Timeline**

- 2007-2012 B.Arch, MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore
- 2012-2014 Vishwannath Associates, Bangalore
- 2015 Graduate Certificate Program in Environmental Policy and Management – Major in Energy and Sustainability, University of Denver, Colorado, USA
- 2016 Rogue Architecture, Wheatridge, Colorado
- 2017-2023 Poornakriti Architects, Bangalore
- 2021 - Sustainable Site Planning, MITx
- 2024 - How to use Biomimicry in Architecture, Eduwik
- 2024 - Sustainable Building Design, MITx



**Curator -**  
**Ar. Atul Saraff**  
**(B.Arch)**

## **CURATOR & TOUR LEADER**

The Architecture Experience Singapore is co-curated by Atul Saraff, who will also be accompanying the participants on the tour. Atul is a practising architect based in Bangalore and also currently teaches at CMR School of Architecture. He has 12+ years of experience in the field, working with firms such as Mistry Architects - Bangalore, Mozaic - Goa, and Total Environment - Bangalore. Atul is an IGBC-accredited professional and focuses most of his effort on creating and teaching about environmentally conscious designs. Most of his experience is focused on the Residential and Hospitality sector.

Atul is an Alumnus of MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore.

### **Timeline**

- 2007-2012 B.Arch. MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore
- 2012-2014 Mistry Architects, Bangalore
- 2014 IGBC Green accreditation
- 2014-2015 Mozaic, Goa
- 2015-2021 Total Environment, Bangalore
- 2021-Present - Design Principal at Saraff and Sharalaya Design House
- 2021-Present - Assistant Professor at CMR School of Architecture

# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



**TANUSHREE  
MURKIBHAVI**

3rd Year, BNCA, Pune

**Participant - The Architecture Experience Singapore (Feb 2024)**

We learned a lot about urban planning, city-scale development, and how planning and sustainability go hand in hand. We visited exhibitions that reinforced those ideas and later got time to explore our ideas in the form of projects. The trip was a balance of both fun and academics. Rachita made the entire learning process more fun and carefree, which allowed us to explore more around the core concepts. Overall, I had an amazing time with her and am glad that she was our mentor. An Amazing experience, I understood new ideas and concepts from a new perspective. Site visits were the best, I got to learn a lot and also saw real-life applications of concepts related to urban planning.



**KRASHANG GOSWAMI**

4th Year, DIT Dehradun

**Participant - The Architecture Experience Singapore (Dec 2019)**

The overall experience was excellent. In all the places we visited, the learning experience was highly intuitive. The credits for that could be given to the technological advancements in Singapore, and also to the amazing people who accompanied us on this trip. We got to dive into the Urban development and housing aspects of Singapore. My experience with Reena was amazing. She helped and guided us about everything, and helped us in understanding all the aspects. All the experiences were actually very well integrated, and they complimented each other. So personally, I liked the entire experience. Definitely a 10 on 10!



**PRANESH R U**

3rd Year, Hindustan  
Institute of Technology  
and Science, Chennai

**Participant - The Architecture Experience Singapore (Feb 2024)**

Overall the experience was good and extremely fun. My takeaways especially were from the URA and HDB museums and it really broadened my perspective on urban planning as well as group housing. Rachita was extremely passionate about explaining the various aspects that we could take away from the tour. She led the tour in a well-planned manner and it was a very good experience having such interesting conversations with her.



**RITHIKA RAGUNATH**  
4th year, CARE school  
of Architecture,  
Trichy

**Participant - The Architecture Experience Singapore (Feb 2024)**

10 out of 10! The Galleries we visited were really innovative with excellent technology and the neighbourhood with its unique character and vibrancy. I loved the lecture with Ar. Neo Sei Hwa. It gave me an insight into the evolution of Singapore as a city as well as the master's programme and practice opportunities there. Having learnt a lot about Singapore's energy-efficient buildings, organised human settlement patterns, comfortable climate and rich culture in the previous semesters of our UG, it was really insightful to be able to see and experience them in person. Ar. Rachita was an excellent guide and mentor and guided us perfectly throughout the trip so that we didn't miss out on the major architecture-rich hotspots, every typology ranging from heritage to contemporary structures, as well as the major tourist attractions in Singapore. Overall it was an amazing experience with lots of learning and fun that got me so attached to Singapore's culture, architecture, diversity and improvised automation.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

All our Experiences are aimed at implementing and solving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN.

Goal no. 17, Partnerships for the Goals, is key to our Experiences, since we work with a global team of experts to be able to add value to the learning of the participants.

The Architecture Experience focuses on 3 of the Goals primarily -



**Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

- Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being



**Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement
- By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters



**Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

- By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production



# THE HAPPY LLAMAS

At **The Happy Llamas**, we curate Experiences for participants to show them how their domains work in the real world, and how they approach sustainability. Why?

We believe that the world has a lot to offer, and only on going out and engaging with different cultures in different corners of the world can one get a holistic view of life, and evolve personally and professionally. We also feel strongly about the need to make this planet, the only one that we have, more sustainable.

Keeping these two thoughts in mind, we work with domain and subject matter experts to co-curate Experiences where we inspire today's youth on how to make this world a better place to live for themselves and their peers, and creating positive global impact in their domains of interest.

We invite you to join us in this journey, and be a part of an inclusive and global community of changemakers!

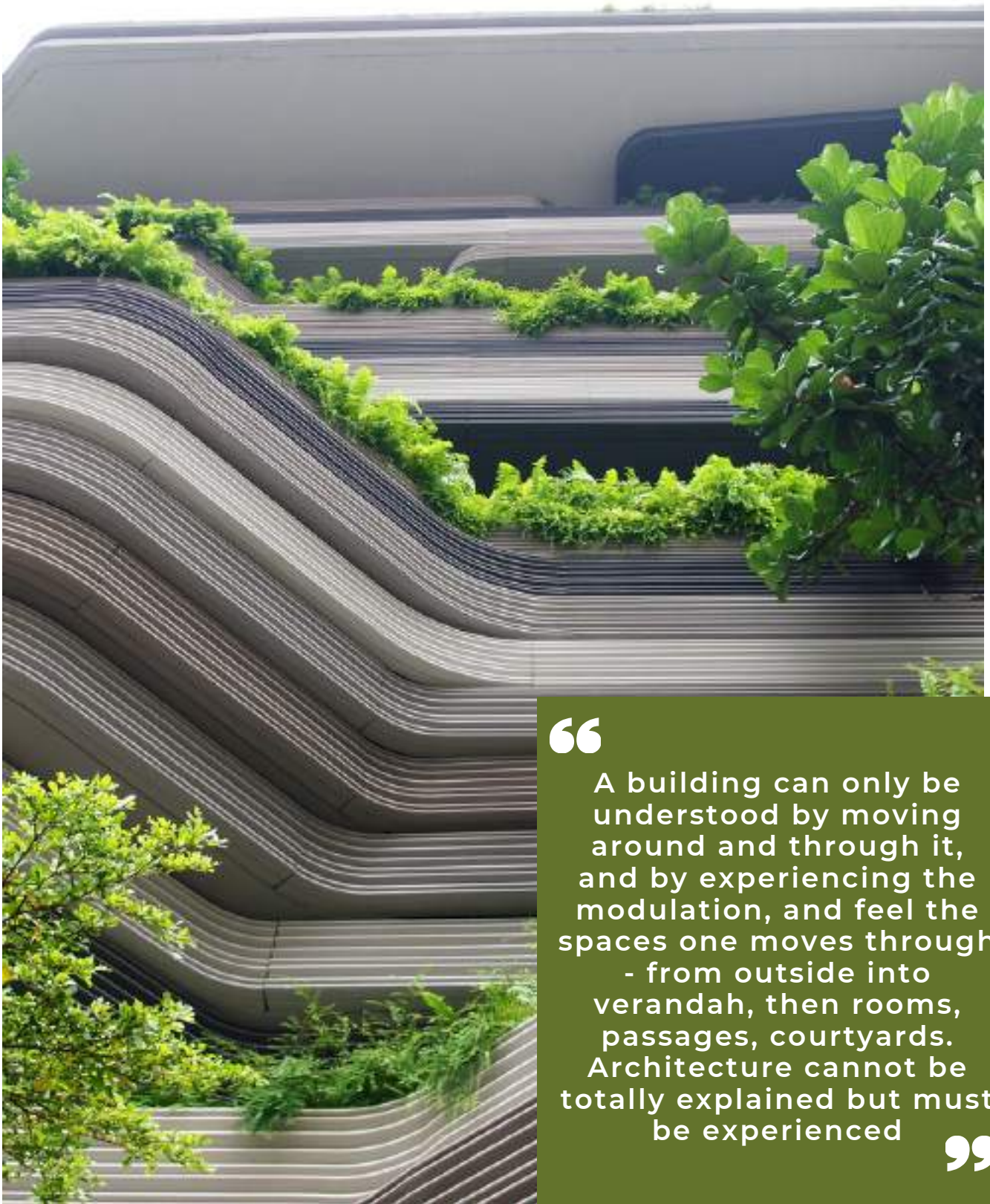
## Contact Us

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WE ADHERE TO WORK TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



“

A building can only be understood by moving around and through it, and by experiencing the modulation, and feel the spaces one moves through - from outside into verandah, then rooms, passages, courtyards. Architecture cannot be totally explained but must be experienced

”

**GEOFFREY BAWA**

ParkROYAL Hotel on Pickering by WOHA architects. Photo by William