



Europe
December
2026

THE ARCHITECTURE EXPERIENCE

Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy

AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COURSE
TO UNDERSTAND CONTEXTUALISING
ARCHITECTURE IN EUROPE



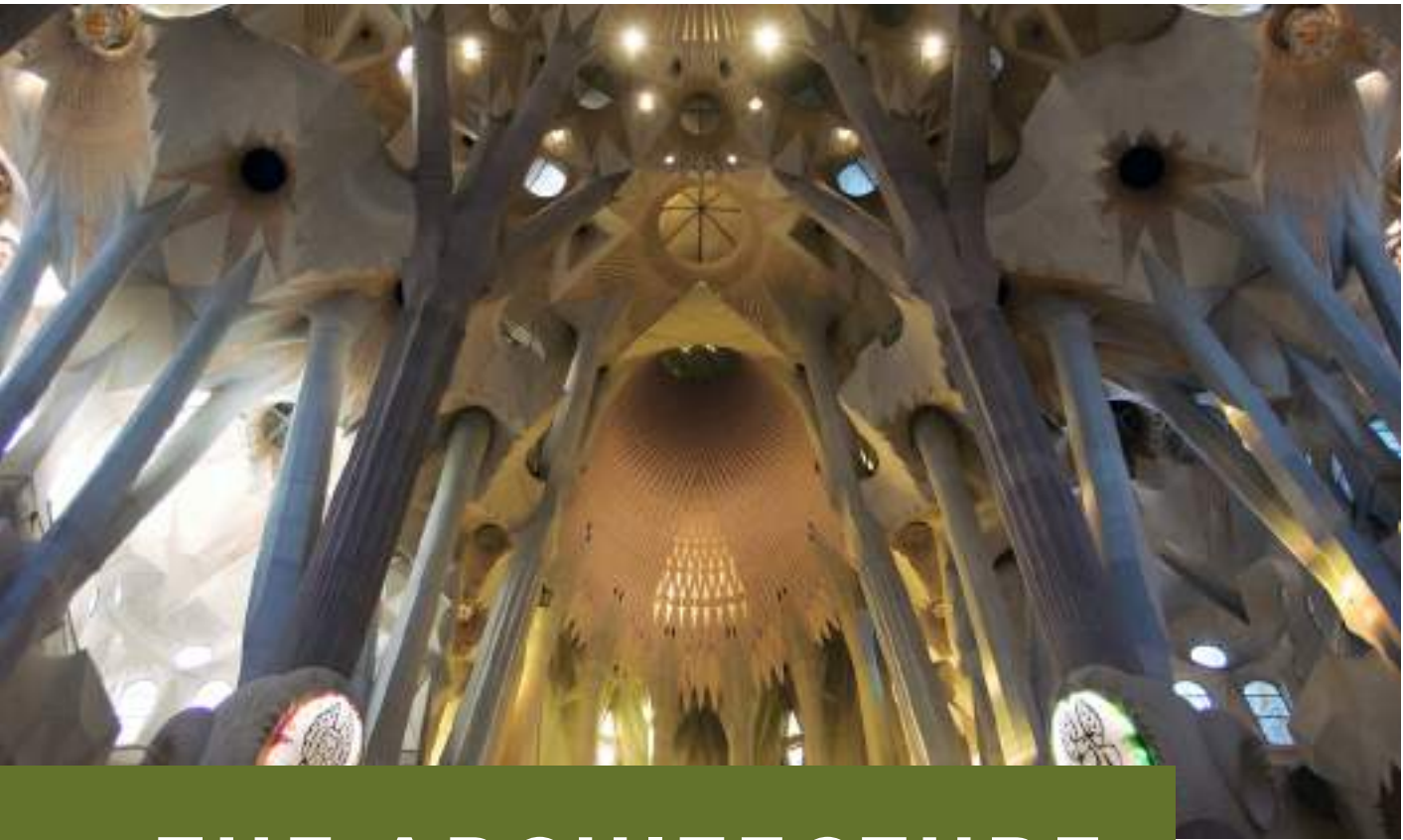
Casa Mila by Antoni Gaudi

CONTEXTUALISING ARCHITECTURE

European architecture is an amalgamation of art, architecture, history and design. Over the centuries, there have been many different influences and architectural styles developed across Europe. From the Renaissance, Gothic and Baroque to the Art-Deco, Modernism and Futurism movements, Europe is a fine example to understand the history and development of architecture in a global, contemporary context. Participants will get to visit sites showcasing different architectural styles. This will help in understanding the incorporation of aesthetics and form along with the function, context and surroundings of each site.



Antoni Gaudi



THE ARCHITECTURE EXPERIENCE

Sagrada Família
by Antoni Gaudí

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 contextual architecture through site visits and interactions, and document the learning in a themed narrative for later referencing.

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**14 DAYS,
20 PARTICIPANTS,
3 CITIES**

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These visits will focus on observing and learning about the importance of contextualising architecture, the history of different architectural styles and techniques, importance of design, its influence on architecture around the world, sustainability and other aspects which draw scores of visitors to European architecture. The visits will foster a deep understanding of city planning, old architecture and its conversion to new, mobility driven infrastructure, while working on a documentation project across different themes.



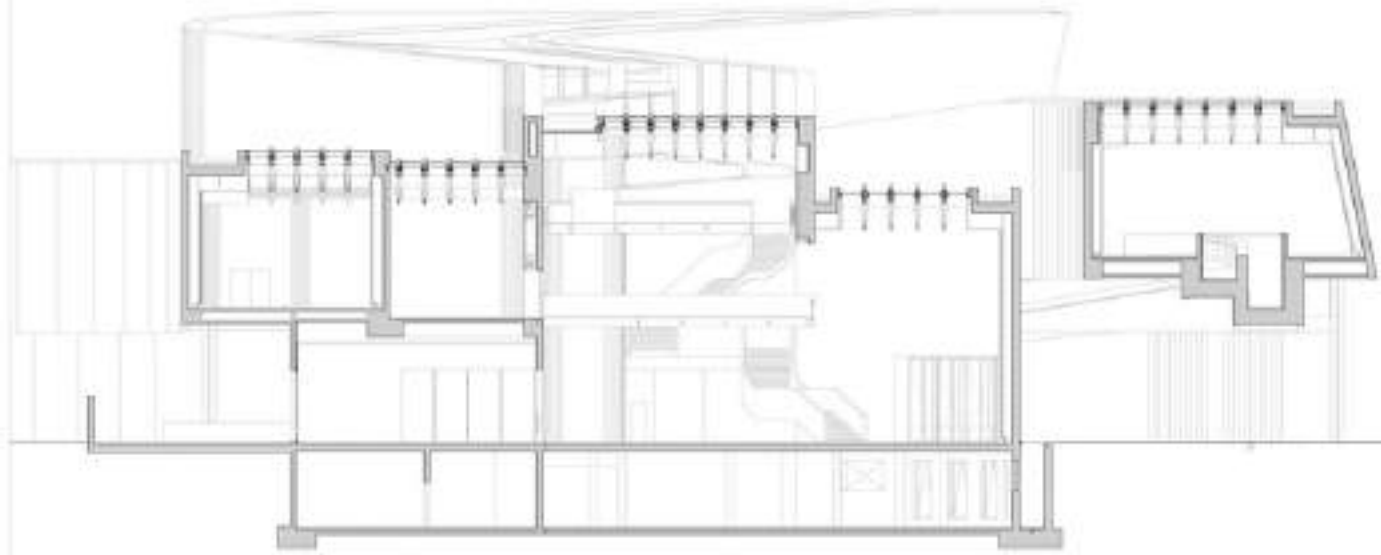
CAPSTONE PROJECT OVERVIEW

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

The Architecture Experience is designed with the intent of enhancing architectural understanding. To this end, a short project is included as part of the experience. The idea of the project is to refine an existing project with the ideologies of integrating traditional methodology in contemporary architecture.

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**PRE-TOUR
ASSIGNMENT,
ON SITE
OBSERVATIONS,
PROJECT REVIEW**
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This project will include a pre-tour assignment. 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 how to contextualise architecture. When on the tour, participants will review their on-site notes and observations and highlight important aspects that could be relevant to adapting and improving their own projects. At the end of the tour, participants will prepare and present a conceptual revision of the projects which will then be discussed and reviewed by the curator. The discussion will cover the feasibility and impact of their design modifications and how to proceed post-trip.



WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

Section Design of MAXXI - National Museum of 21st Century Art by Zaha Hadid Architects.

Participants get to understand the influence of history, art and design in architecture across different periods, and observe how sites are adapted for today's use. Participants also get to understand how sustainability is approached in the projects visited, and the solutions devised.

From a learning perspective, participants get to understand how their domain of interest approaches sustainability in the urban context, 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 projects, enhancing their portfolios.

Participants also get internship opportunities from our partners, and the more innovative their design proposal is, the better the chances of getting the internship.

**“RELEVANT
PROJECTS,
INTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES,
UNDERSTANDING OF
CONTEXTUALISING
ARCHITECTURE”**

EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

DAY 1

Arrival in Rome, Italy.

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.

Places to visit: Neighbourhood exploratory walk.

DAY 2

Topic of Discussion: Romanesque architecture, due to the rise of monasticism and the blend of Renaissance, Baroque, and Neoclassical architecture.

Places to visit: Vatican City - St. Peter's Basilica and Square, Bernini's Colonnade, Necropolis, Sistine Chapel.

Cultural visit: Apostolic Palace, Pauline Chapel.

DAY 3

Topic of Discussion: Contemporary architecture and the global context

Places to visit: Maxxi Museum, Ponte della Musica, Auditorium Parco della Musica (outside visit), Church of 2000 (Jubilee Church), Museo Condominiale di Tor Marancia.

Cultural Visit: Mercato di Porta Portese, Corte Suprema di Cassazione.

DAY 4

Topic of Discussion: Understanding material usage in the architecture of Rome.

Places to visit: Pantheon, Chiesa di Santa Susanna, Fontana di Trevi, Piazza del Campidoglio.

Cultural Visit: San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane, Palazzo Farnese, Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti (Spanish Steps), Chiesa di Sant'Andrea al Quirinale.

DAY 5

Day trip to Florence

Topic of Discussion: Influence of the Renaissance on architecture, art, urbanism, and public space.

Places to visit: Piazza del Duomo, Florence Cathedral, Giotto's Campanile (outside visit), Piazza della Signoria, Loggia dei Lanzi, Ponte Vecchio, Piazzale Michelangelo.

Cultural Visit: Oltrarno neighbourhood, Uffizi Gallery, Piazza della Repubblica.

DAY 6

Topic of Discussion: Understanding ancient Roman architecture, infrastructure and the development of the Roman city centre.

Places to visit: Colosseum, Roman Forum (view from Via dei Fori Imperiali), Via Sacra, Piazza Venezia, Trajan's Column, Imperial Forums, Circus Maximus.

Cultural Visit: Capitoline Hill, Piazza del Campidoglio and the surrounding streets.

DAY 7

Free Day

EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

DAY 8

Morning arrival in Barcelona.

Topic of Discussion: Historic evolution of Catalan and Spanish architecture.

Places to visit: Barcelona Cathedral and Gothic Quarter, MACBA.

Cultural visit: Parc Güell, Portal de l'Àngel, Carrer d'Avinyó.

DAY 9

Topic of Discussion: Urban planning, Barcelona city grid and the concept of superblocks.

Places to visit: Sagrada Família, Torre Glòries (outside visit), Casa Batlló, Casa Milà (outside visit), Eixample grid (mapping project).

Cultural visit: Passeig de Gracia.

DAY 10

Topic of discussion: External global influences in Barcelona's architecture.

Places to visit: El Pabellón de Barcelona, CaixaForum (outside visit), Santa Catarina Market, Forum Building & Museu Blau.

Cultural visit: Las Ramblas, Mercat dels Encants, Botanical Gardens, Bac de Roda bridge.

DAY 11

Topic of discussion: The varying degrees of modernism in present-day Barcelona.

Places to visit: Walden 7 (outside visit), Palace of Catalan Music, Bunkers del Carmel.

Cultural visit: El Born, Plaça de Sant Josep Oriol.

DAY 12

Topic of Discussion: Understanding contemporary urban regeneration and adaptive reuse in Barcelona.

Places to visit: 22@ Poblenou Innovation District, Parc del Centre del Poblenou, Poblenou industrial heritage buildings, Rambla del Poblenou.

Cultural visit: Bogatell Beach.

DAY 13/14

Culmination of project work / Free Day.

Departure to India or home country.



Curator -
Ar. Rachita Bhonsle
(B.Arch)

CURATOR & TOUR LEADER

The Architecture Experience Europe 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 Energy and Sustainability – Major in Environmental Policy and Management, University of Denver, Colorado, USA
- 2016 Rogue Architecture, Wheatridge, Colorado
- 2017-2023 Poornakriti Architects, Bangalore



Curator -
Ar. Atul Saraff
(B.Arch)

CURATOR & TOUR LEADER

The Architecture Experience Europe 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



AYUSHI MADAN
4th Year, Wadiyar
Centre For
Architecture, Mysore

Participant - The Architecture Experience Vietnam

The trip allowed me a very holistic experience of the cities, which is a first for me, despite having been on quite a few "study" trips. It encompassed everything from contemporary and historically relevant site visits to vibrant day and night markets, offering insights into various aspects beyond architecture- food, culture, history, and so on. To our surprise and joy, the lively local New Year celebrations added a dynamic dimension, revealing various facets of the city's essence. It was encouraging to see studios and practices using sustainability and adaptive reuse as forefront agendas in a relatable urban context. I enjoyed seeing the variety in the typologies and languages of architecture within the same city. Would definitely want to explore more into the observations and learnings from Vietnam. There were a lot of spontaneous discussions encouraged and initiated by Atul Sir, which made me look a few more steps beyond just the surface and helped me catch onto certain aspects in a much more simplified way. He was really a great mentor to have on this trip!



SARAH SULEKHA
Architect

Participant - The Architecture Experience Japan

The learning experience was not only with regard to architecture, but also included learning about the social and cultural environment. I loved how I got to experience both contemporary and traditional cultures in parallel, and also got the opportunity to interact with architects like Florian Busch as well as with the locals. Hats off to Rachita for being so patient and positive in every situation. She made me feel very comfortable. The team was very enthusiastic and comfortable to work with. The accommodation, transportation and every other basic need were very comfortably organised with the cost in consideration.. The team was very enthusiastic and comfortable to work with. The accommodation, transportation and every other basic need were very comfortably organised with the cost in consideration.



**TANUSHREE
MURKIBHAVI**
3rd Year, BNCA, Pune

Participant - The Architecture Experience Singapore

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.



SHHRRUTI JAIN
Architect

Participant - The Architecture Experience Sri Lanka

Studio and site visits were very well organised, but what I loved the most were the interactive sessions that we had with various artists and architects in Sri Lanka. Conversations with them were an extremely enriching experience. I got a better understanding of material selection, and the integration of nature in the landscape was eye-opening. Prithy and Kshitija curated the experience extremely well, and I got to learn a lot from them. About the places as well as the field in general. It was a great experience altogether! Very well planned, especially keeping in mind the fact that we were here for a decent number of days and have almost covered everything, ranging from the historic places to the modern ones. This trip was worth the money and will definitely influence my design in the future.



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!

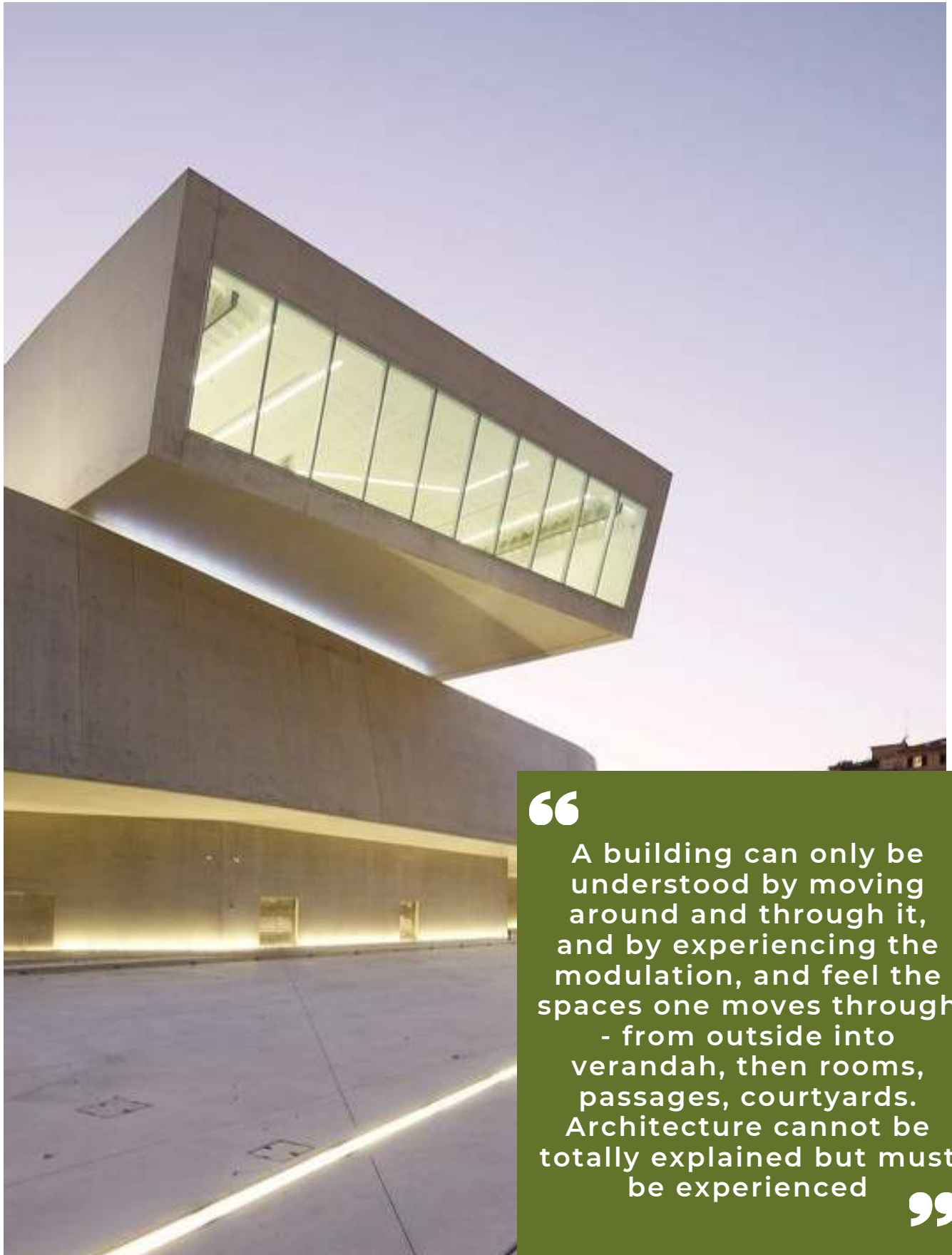
Contact Us

ankit@thehappyllamas.com
+91 8431196035 (WhatsApp)
www.thehappyllamas.com





WE ADHERE TO WORK TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



MAXXI Museum by Zaha Hadid Architects
Photo by Iwan Baan

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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

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GEOFFREY BAWA