

Dr. Vikramaditya Prakash

Professor of Architecture
University of Washington, Seattle

*Portfolio submitted in support of nomination for ACSA Distinguished Professor
September 2019*

I am an architect, an architectural historian and theorist. I work on issues of modernism, postcoloniality, global history and fashion & architecture. I teach large lecture courses to university-wide audiences and a diversity of studios and seminars to architecture and built environment majors, both graduate and undergraduate.

My published books include *Chandigarh's Le Corbusier: The Struggle for Modernity in Postcolonial India*, *A Global History of Architecture* (with Francis DK Ching & Mark Jarzombek), *Colonial Modernities: Building, Dwelling and Architecture in British India and Ceylon* (with Peter Scriver, co-eds), *The Architecture of Shivdatt Sharma* and *Chandigarh: An Architectural Guide*.

A Global History is an established textbook in the United States and is being translated into five non-English languages.

I am co-PI (with Mark M. Jarzombek, MIT) of \$3.5 million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grants to develop the teaching of global history in the academy. This has resulted in the creation of a Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative (GAHTC.org) dedicated to transforming the teaching of the architectural survey.

Currently, I am the Director of Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Programs in the Office of the Dean, College of Built Environments. I have also served as Associate Dean of the College and as Chair of Architecture. My administrative experience includes capital campaigning, strategic planning, institutional networking, and mentoring.

My public service includes terms on the Boards of the Seattle Center and the Seattle AIA. I have also directed the Chandigarh Urban Lab, a series of interdisciplinary studios designed to understand the modernist city in the age of globalization.

I am the founding host of ArchitectureTalk – a bi-weekly podcast with curated conversations on contemporary architecture and architectural thinking. In two years, ArchitectureTalk has had over 50,000 unique, verified downloads. (architecturetalk.org)

I have been invited to lecture worldwide, including most major US universities.

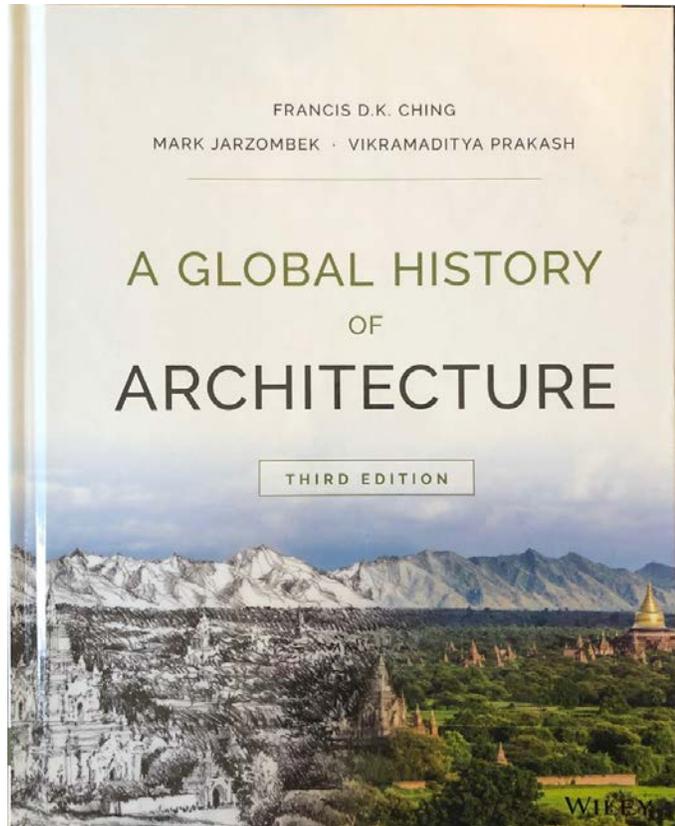
A Global History of Architecture, 3rd Ed.

(Co-authors: Mark Jarzombek, Francis Ching)

A Global History of Architecture was designed to transform the teaching of the architectural history survey from the traditional Euro+ model to a truly global model.

Rather than by categories such as regional or national style, the book is organized by time cuts.

- Over 35,000 copies sold
- Translated into five languages
- Illustrated by Frank Ching



“Not only does A Global History of Architecture own the territory [of world architecture], it pulls off this audacious task with panache, intelligence and—for the most part—grace. The slices of time in A Global History provide a richer learning experience for an introductory course.” - Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, 2008

A Global History
in Spanish translation.



Sample A *Global History* textbook adoption list:

- University of Colorado: Boulder, Denver
- University of Washington
- El Paso Community College
- Tennessee State University, Nashville
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Valencia College, West
- Orange Coast College
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Citrus College
- University of New Mexico, Albuquerque
- Utah Valley University
- San Diego Mesa College
- University of Missouri, Columbia
- Hampton University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Finger Lakes Community College
- Metropolitan State University, Denver
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- University of Florida, Gainesville
- Columbia College, Lemoore
- Northampton Community College
- University of Pennsylvania
- Catholic University of America
- City College of San Francisco
- Guilford Technology Community College
- University of Texas: Austin, El Paso, San Antonio
- Wake Technical Community College
- Bellevue College
- California State University: Chico, Sacramento
- Middlesex Community College
- New York Institute of Technology
- Northwestern University, Chicago
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of San Francisco
- Amherst College
- Anoka Ramsey Community College
- Austin Community College, Hays Campus
- Bergen Community College
- Colorado State University
- Columbia Basin Community College
- Columbia College, Columbia
- Columbia University, City of New York
- County College of Morris
- CUNY: City College, Queens College
- Diablo Valley College
- Eastern New Mexico University, Roswell Campus
- Foothill College
- Green River Community College, Auburn
- Harvard University
- Los Angeles Trade Technology College
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Massachusetts School of Law
- Miami Dade College
- Middlesex County College
- Morgan State University
- New York University
- North Carolina State University
- Norwich University
- Pacific Union College
- Portland Community College
- Prairie View A&M University
- Ramapo College of New Jersey
- Renton Technical College
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Rutgers State University New Jersey
- San Diego State University
- San Francisco State University
- Santa Monica College
- Springfield Technical Community College
- St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
- Stevenson University
- Temple University
- Texas A&M University College
- Tufts University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Kansas, Main Campus
- University of Maine, Augusta



Sample pages



A *Global History* is accompanied by a digital GoogleEarth™ map locating all key sites.

Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative (GAHTC.org)

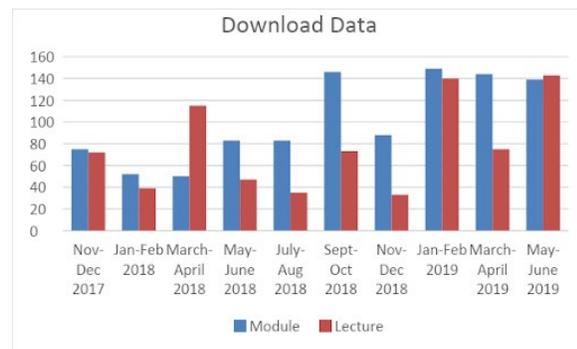
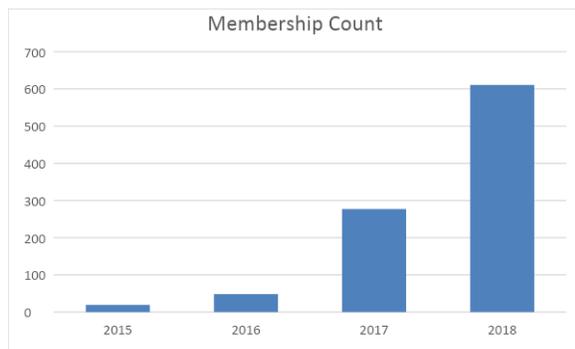
Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation by grants totaling \$3.5 million
Co-PIs: Mark Jarzombek and Vikramaditya Prakash



GAHTC is a community of over 200 educators, that supports architectural history teaching with an online library of 283 peer-reviewed lectures organized in 43 modules. GAHTC gives out grants to faculty to promote teaching workshops, production of lecture modules, and global ambassadorship. It also holds bi-annual member conferences.

The GAHTC’s mission is to provide cross-disciplinary, teacher-to-teacher exchanges of ideas and material, in order to energize and promote the teaching of all periods of global architectural history, especially at the survey level.

It is a unique resource dedicated solely to teaching.



"Becoming a GAHTC member definitively improved my teaching practice in many ways. Based on my experience on researching about relationships between Islamic world and Latin America, I teach Architectural History focusing on intercultural processes from a global perspective. Nevertheless, leaving the traditional Eurocentric syllabus implies an enormous obstacle: the lack of bibliographical sources and teaching material (even more in Spanish language). Before joining GAHTC I only counted with M. Jarzombek and V. Prakash book. GAHTC gave me the opportunity to use a giant library focused on the specific topics that I need for my teaching and also to contribute with it.

What it is more and fundamentally, GAHTC introduced me into a huge global network of colleagues working with the same perspective and it has opened infinite paths of mutual collaboration to grow as a community. Since I have joined GAHTC, I have worked in six specific projects –papers, sessions, workshops, conferences- with at least twenty colleagues from all over the world that I met via GAHTC."

--Fernando Martinez Nespral, University of Buenos Aires

"I think this project is an ambitious and generous idea that allows everyone to understand "local" architecture and urban phenomena in a global perspective. That is remarkable."

--Shariff S. Kahatt, Faculty of the School of Architecture and Urban-ism, Pontifical University of Peru, Lima, Peru



GAHTC's Fifth Members' Conference was hosted by the School of Architecture at the University of Miami, April 5-7, 2019. Alongside those from the US and Canada, we welcomed members from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Spain and South Africa.

Large Lecture Courses

BE 210, 211

The techniques and ideas developed in A Global History of Architecture and the GAHTC are embodied in my introductory university-wide lecture courses in the built environment including the two part BE210, 211A Global History of the Built Environment, ARCH251 World Architecture Non-Western Cultures, and BE200 Introduction to the Built Environment. Often taught to class sizes of more than 150 with students from nearly every major on campus, my lectures are met with relatively high student evaluations and full subscriptions!

Example Teaching Evaluations (1 low -5 high)

W'19 BE 210 4.3/4.3

S'18 BE 211 4.7/4.5

W'18 BE 210 4.4/4.2

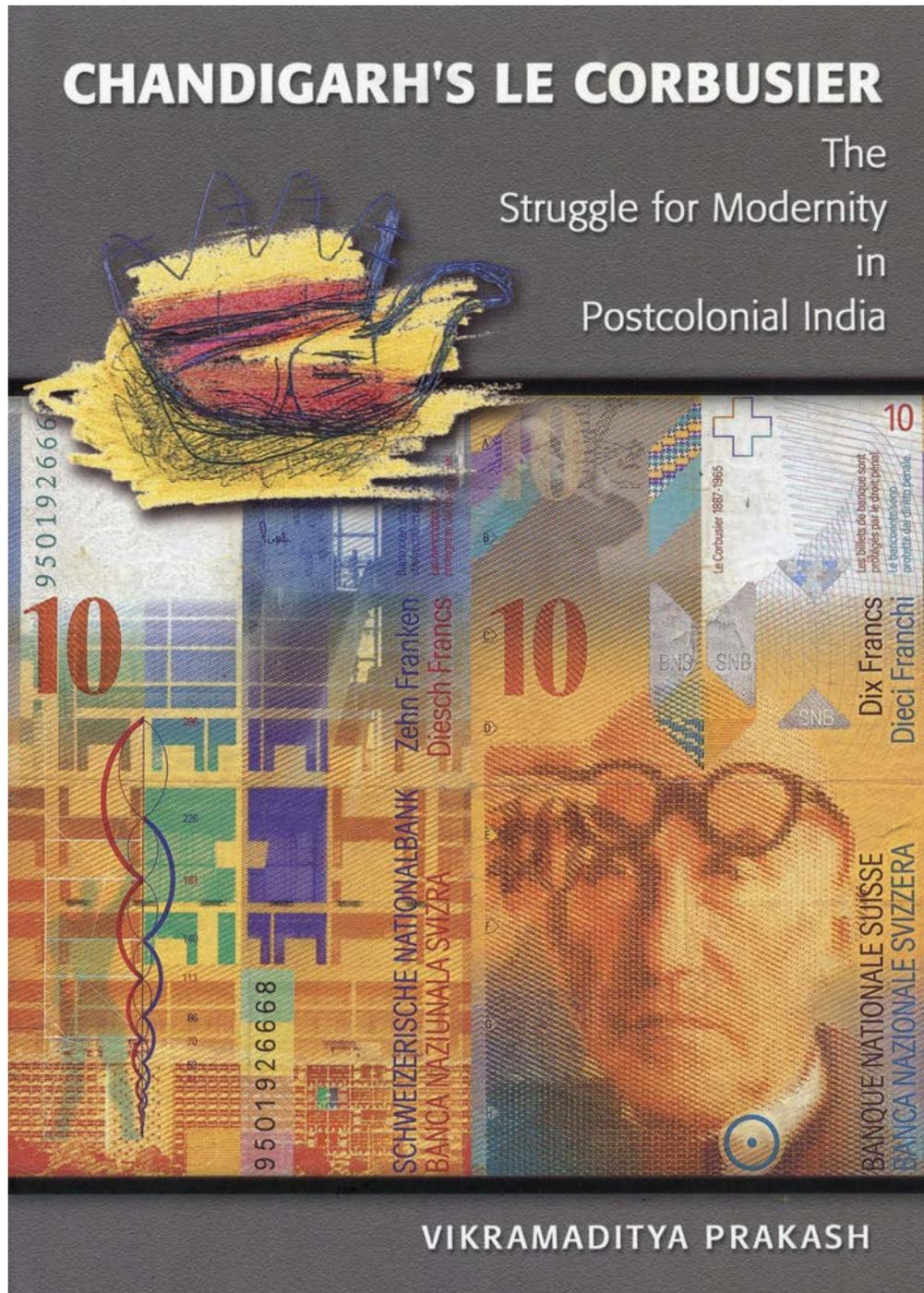
W'18 BE 210 4.4/4.2

	A Global History of the Built Environment I	A Global History of the Built Environment II
Wk.		
1	LECTURE Intro - Why global history, & the Social Package	Intro - What is Global History & the Story So Far
	PART I: FIRST SOCIETIES	PART IV: PERIPHERIES OF CONTACT IN MIDDLE ASIA
	LECTURE Gravettians and the Northern Hunting Tradition	Peripheries of Contact vs. Centers of Civilization
	Discussion	
2	LECTURE Magdalenian Culture; Ritual Centers and Cave Art	The Many Worlds of the Persianate World.
	LECTURE Holocene and the Emerging Riverine/Shore and Mound Cultures	The Indian Subcontinent and the Eurasian Islamic World
	Discussion	
3	LECTURE Pastoral Worlds	The Slavic Complexity
	LECTURE Agro-Pastoral Village World	Nomadic Eurasia and the Steppe
	Discussion	
4	EXAM	
	PART II: FIRST ECONOMIES	PART V: OLD WORLD, NEW WORLD
	LECTURE European Megalithic Tradition	1400 - The Beginning of the Anthropocene
	Discussion	
5	LECTURE The Beginnings of Architecture, Malta and Egypt	1400 - The Beginning of the Anthropocene
	LECTURE The Rice Revolution in Asia	1600 - The Eurasian Power Bloc
	Discussion	
6	LECTURE Mesopotamia and the First Risk Economy	1600 - The Eurasian Power Bloc
	LECTURE The Meluhhan City States	1700 - Imperial Addictions and European Urban Culture
	Discussion	
7	LECTURE The Atmos of the Aryas and the Greeks	1700 - Imperial Addictions and European Urban Culture
	EXAM	
	PART III: SOUTH ASIA IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT	PART VI: NATION-STATES
	Discussion	
8	LECTURE The Buddhist World and the Exigencies of Trade	1800 - Industrialization and the Shifting World Order
	LECTURE The Nalanda Mahauniverse	1800 - Industrialization and the Shifting World Order
	Discussion	
9	LECTURE The Guptas and the Invention of the Hindu Temple	1900 - Modernism and the Colonial World
	LECTURE Hindu Temple Design Development and Experimentation	1900 - Modernism and the Colonial World
	Discussion	
10	LECTURE Cholamandalam, The Idea of Divine Kingship	1950 From the Postcolonial to the Post-modern World
	LECTURE Global Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism vs the Gothic Cathedral	1950 From the Postcolonial to the Post-modern World
	Discussion	
	EXAM	

Graphic outline of two quarter syllabi showing diversity of sourced materials.

Chandigarh's Le Corbusier

(University of Washington Press, Seattle and Mapin Publishing, India; 2002)



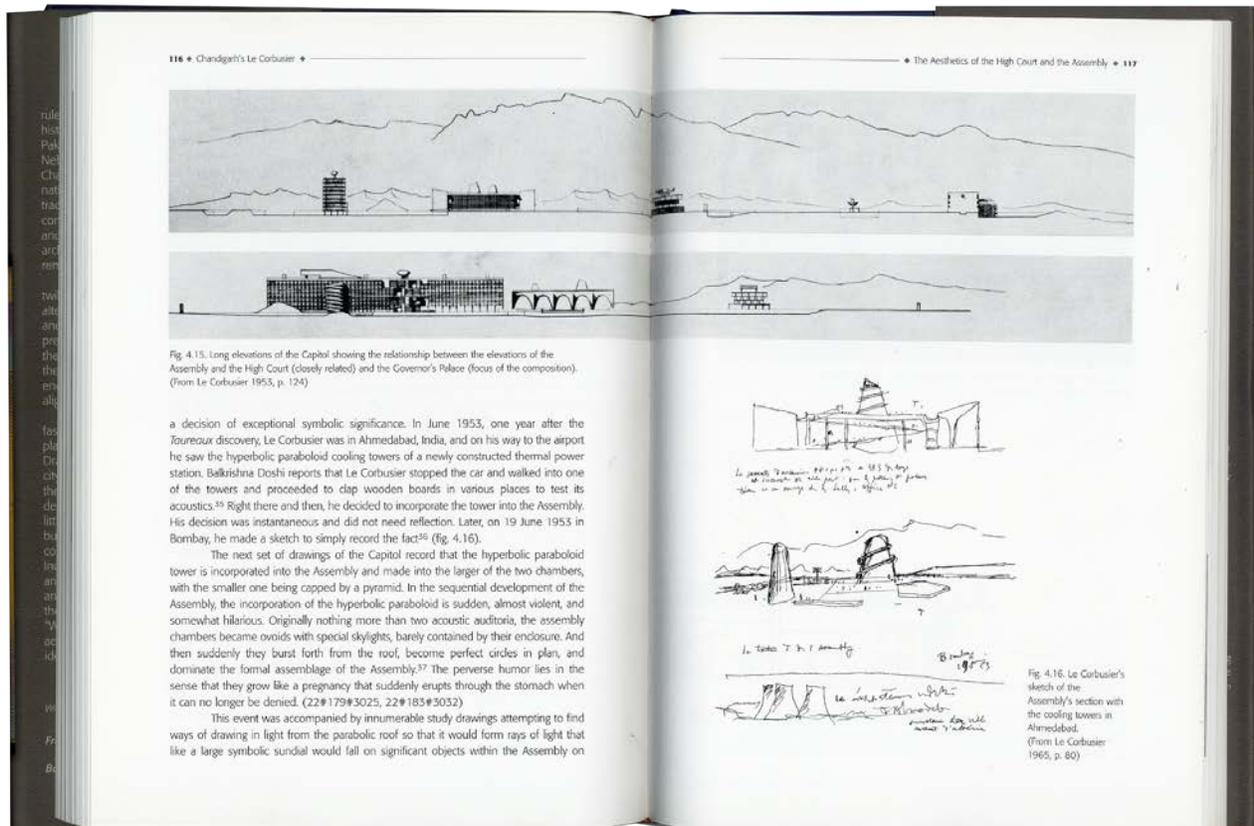


Fig. 4.15. Long elevations of the Capitol showing the relationship between the elevations of the Assembly and the High Court (closely related) and the Governor's Palace (focus of the composition). (From Le Corbusier 1953, p. 124)

a decision of exceptional symbolic significance. In June 1953, one year after the *Toureaux* discovery, Le Corbusier was in Ahmedabad, India, and on his way to the airport he saw the hyperbolic paraboloid cooling towers of a newly constructed thermal power station. Balkrishna Doshi reports that Le Corbusier stopped the car and walked into one of the towers and proceeded to clap wooden boards in various places to test its acoustics.³⁵ Right there and then, he decided to incorporate the tower into the Assembly. His decision was instantaneous and did not need reflection. Later, on 19 June 1953 in Bombay, he made a sketch to simply record the fact³⁶ (fig. 4.16).

The next set of drawings of the Capitol record that the hyperbolic paraboloid tower is incorporated into the Assembly and made into the larger of the two chambers, with the smaller one being capped by a pyramid. In the sequential development of the Assembly, the incorporation of the hyperbolic paraboloid is sudden, almost violent, and somewhat hilarious. Originally nothing more than two acoustic auditoria, the assembly chambers became ovoids with special skylights, barely contained by their enclosure. And then suddenly they burst forth from the roof, become perfect circles in plan, and dominate the formal assemblage of the Assembly;³⁷ the perverse humor lies in the sense that they grow like a pregnancy that suddenly erupts through the stomach when it can no longer be denied. (22#179#3025, 22#183#3032)

This event was accompanied by innumerable study drawings attempting to find ways of drawing in light from the parabolic roof so that it would form rays of light that like a large symbolic sundial would fall on significant objects within the Assembly on

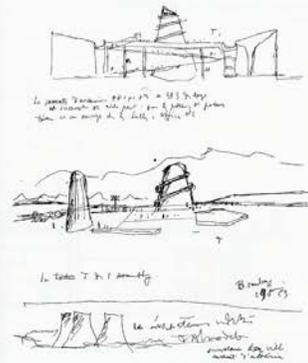


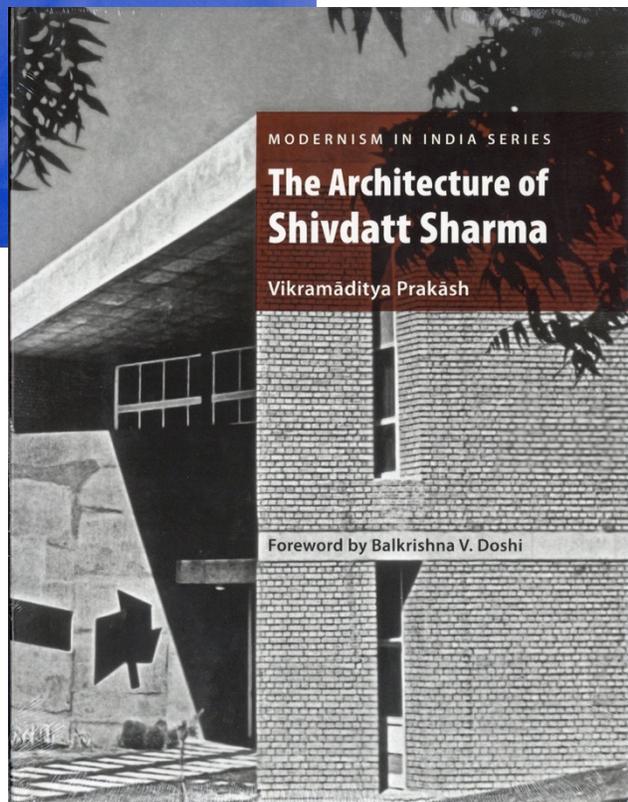
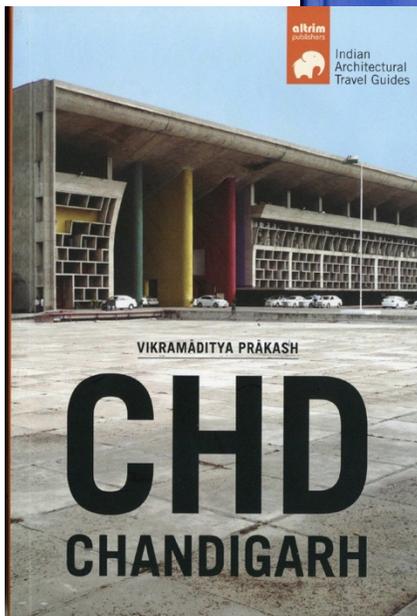
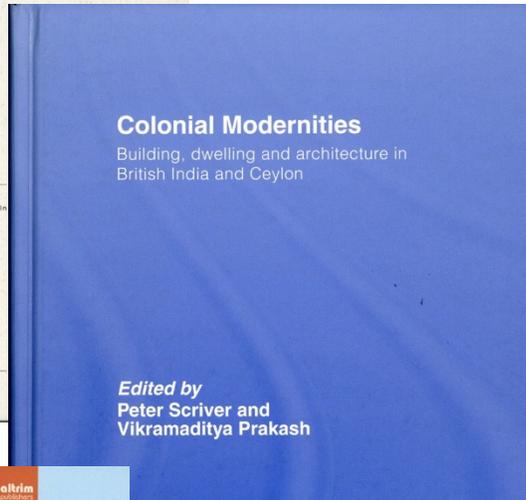
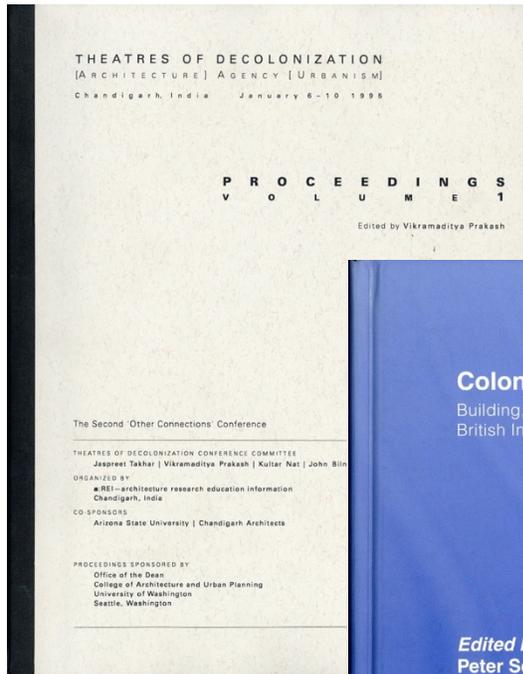
Fig. 4.16. Le Corbusier's sketch of the Assembly's section with the cooling towers in Ahmedabad. (From Le Corbusier 1965, p. 80)

"...Vikramaditya Prakash tells the fascinating story that lies behind the planning and architecture of Chandigarh. Drawing on his intimate knowledge of the city, where he grew up as the son of one of the nine Indian architects who assisted in designing Chandigarh, Prakash brings to light stories of town planners, bureaucrats, and architects vying over the colonial past and the symbolic future of India. In one such story he talks about how Le Corbusier taught his father to design the School of Art sitting on a stool and his father was drawing on the blackboard." – archinomy.com

"Chandigarh's Le Corbusier offers a welcome introduction to the complexities of the intersections between Modern art and architecture and the non-Western world." -Architectural Record

"This book is a brilliant and masterful study of Chandigarh, one of Le Corbusier's most impressive architectural accomplishments. In particular, it gives us a fresh new look at the complex political and cultural context of the design. The themes that Prakash develops in this book, especially those having to do with the East/West problem, will have broad implications for the study of modernity." - Mark M. Jarzombek, MIT

Some other publications:



Chandigarh Urban Lab

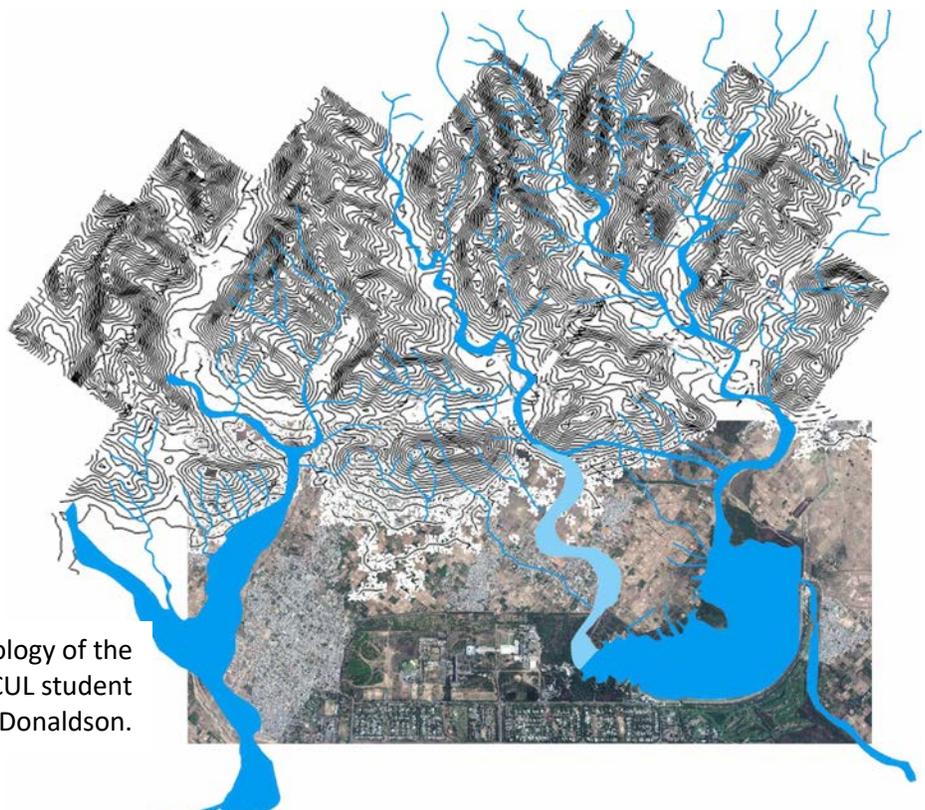
Chandigarhurbanlab.org

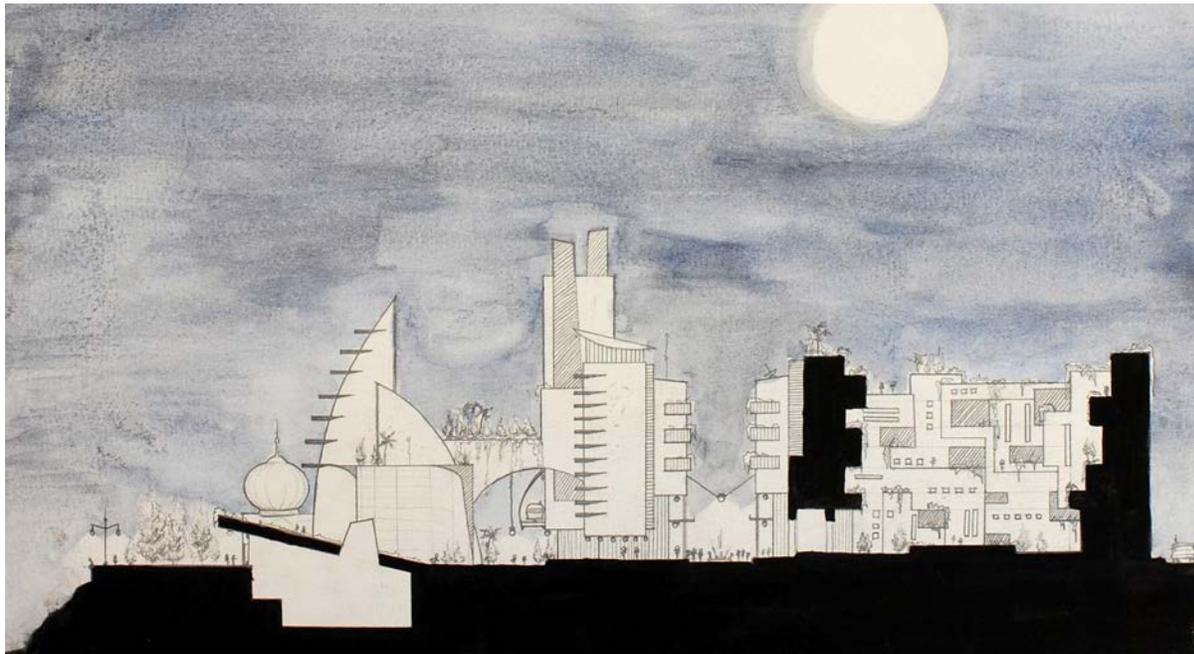
This Lab investigates the issues of globalization, urbanization and preservation that are at play in Chandigarh today. India's exceptional economic growth has sparked an urban boom which will affect global architecture and urbanism. What is to be preserved and what not? Should Chandigarh apply for world heritage status? These are key questions both in the local press as also in the new master-plan document that is being prepared in Chandigarh today.

The Chandigarh Urban Lab is dedicated to creating a forum to understanding the contemporary Indian city in transformation. It is designed to support Indian and international students and scholars of architecture and urbanism interested in studying Chandigarh as a case-study in the above context. Besides infrastructural and logistical support, the Lab offers linkages with local and national architects, academics, activists and citizens.

Many mid-size Indian cities face similar uncertainty today. But what makes Chandigarh unique and more interesting to a student of architecture, is that Chandigarh's distinctive architecture and urbanism functions as a template against which one can measure the new. This is what makes Chandigarh a great urban laboratory in the 'age of globalization.' This is why we are here. What follows is our field report: our readings of a city struggling to invent its future, organized in six registers – the master plan, the periphery, the capitol complex, frame control, theatres and furniture.

Study of the Hydrology of the
Capitol Complex by CUL student
James Donaldson.





Vignette by CUL student Kevin Howard.

The Chandigarh Urban Lab is a multi-year interdisciplinary initiative, conducted on site in Chandigarh in active collaboration with Chandigarh College of Architecture, Panjab University. Acting as both founder and director of the program, I aim to immerse students in a context that is ripe with the possibilities and consequences of emerging conditions of globalization and commercialization. Set against the back drop of Le Corbusier's Utopian Modernist urban plan, investigating these conditions in this particular city is fertile ground for exploring ideas of preservation. de-ruralization. urban design. planning and architecture.



Plan by CCA students, Mahavir Singh & Divya Kumar mapping de-ruralization along the Patiala-Ki-Rao River

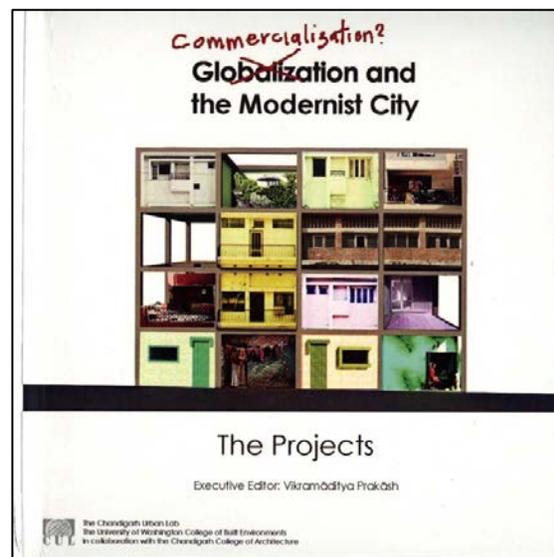
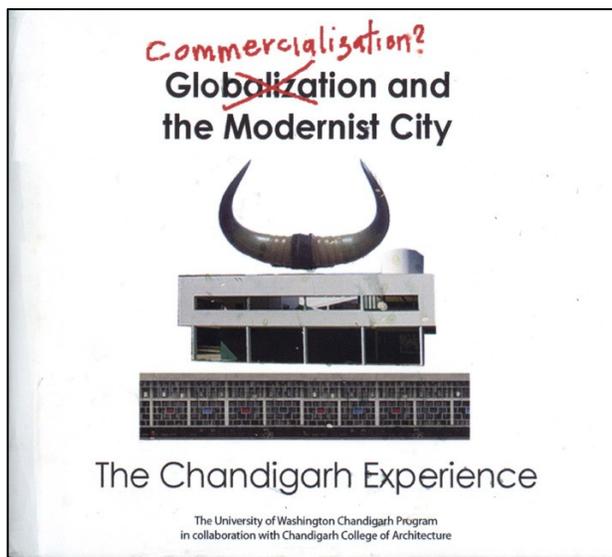
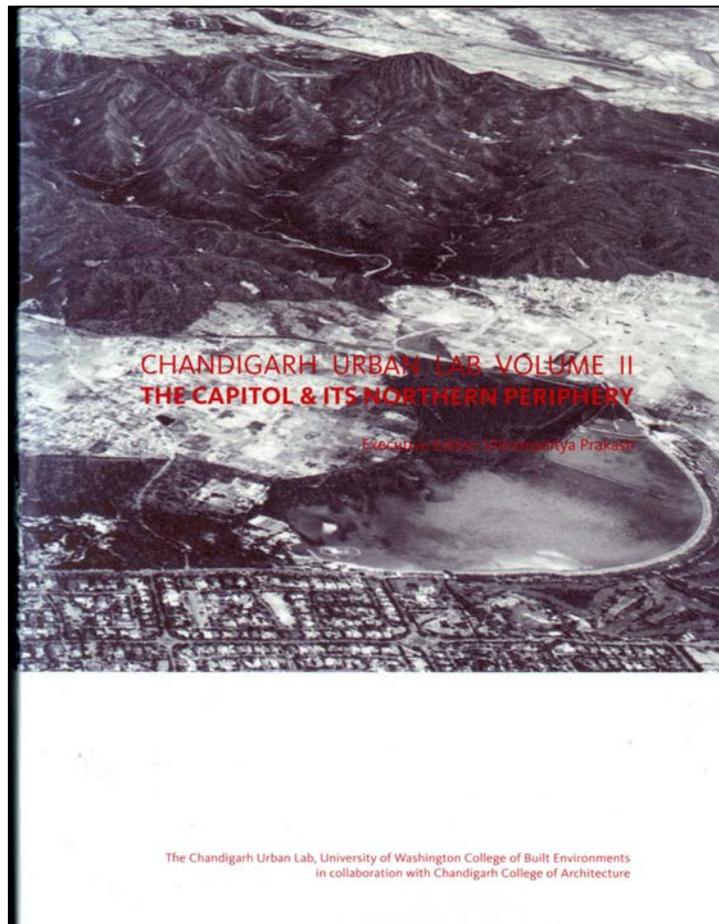


Students pose with fellow instructor, Manish Chalana, during the Chandigarh Urban Lab 2014 trip.

Pedagogically, the Chandigarh Urban Lab is an excellent representation of my ambitions to educate outside of the rigidity of disciplines. Though this lab is still largely dedicated to issues of the built environment, the lab included students from both undergraduate and graduate programs, across the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and planning. The lab welcomes collaboration with local academics, researchers and professionals, making sure the knowledge accumulated by the participating students is engaged. My relationship to Chandigarh one I cherish. Having grown up in the city, my father, Aditya Prakash was an architect intimately involved in its construction. Chandigarh is also the subject of my book, *Chandigarh's Le Corbusier* (See pervious section). Like much of my work, personal and emotional interests are critical to the project



Students, faculty and visiting reviewers from India, Holland and the United States enjoy closing comments at the final review for CUL-12



The Chandigarh Urban Lab Publications

ArchitectureTalk Podcast

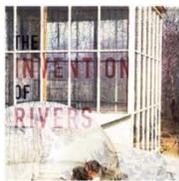
So much of my work has been initiated by casual conversations with friends and colleagues. It is often during these conversations that some of our best ideas are cultivated and described. In a hope to document and catalog some of these conversations, ArchitectureTalk was born.

- 47 original episodes.
- 43 guests from 14 universities, 12 disciplines and 8 countries
- 50,000+ unique downloads across 42 countries.



“...the show leaves us looking at the everyday space around us with greater curiosity, piqued by the weirdest and most beautiful of stuff.”

-- James McWilliams, *The American Scholar*, 2019



Sep 11 51. Editor's Choice Edition: New Ontologies for Our Changing Climate

entanglement, existential risk



Aug 28 50. Editor's Choice Edition: Designing The Indescribable

entanglement, desire, existential risk



Aug 14 49. Editor's Choice Edition: On Storytelling

entanglement, anti-episteme, desire



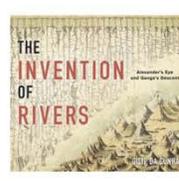
Jul 31 48. Editor's Choice Edition: What Makes a Vibrant City?

choreography, entanglement



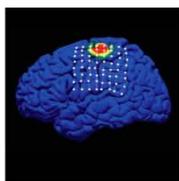
Jul 3 47. Special Edition Conversation with Vikram Prakash

choreography, desire, entanglement



Jun 19 46. Rethinking Rivers as Witness with Dilip Da Cunha

choreography, anti-episteme, entanglement



Jun 5 45. Augmenting the Mind with Rajesh P.N. Rao

choreography, desire



May 22 44. Worldly Affiliations and Indian Modernism with Sonal Khullar

choreography, anti-episteme



May 8 43. Intercultural Dialogue and Practice with Kunté Adeyemi

choreography, anti-episteme



Apr 24 42. Interspecies Relatedness with Radhika Govindrajana

entanglement, desire, anti-



Apr 17 41. Psychedelics and Design Thinking with Sean Lally

choreography, desire,



Mar 27 40. Drawing as the Adoration of Landscape with Frits Palmboom

existential risk, entanglement,

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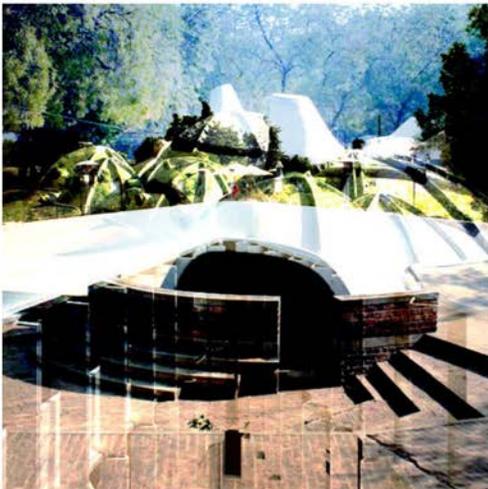


ArCHiTectUre TaLk

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Aug 28 50. Editor's Choice Edition: Designing The Indescribable

entanglement, desire, existential risk



“... But then the whole question is, where is that source which came up from the earth, deep from the earth? And where is the connection when you merge with the ocean? And what is that link, what have you done?”

▶ 50. Designing The Indescribable
00:00:00

Subscribe

This week, in honor of our 50th episode, we will be hearing from two incredible architects as they describe their pursuits of the indescribable. This special editors choice edition combines our conversation with Javier Sánchez as well as our conversation with Pritzker Prize winning architect, B.V. Doshi.

Timestamp Outline

- 1:45 In the shadows of masters: the complexity of being in and performing in the world
- 4:24 “Time has to prove that you have done something good, or maybe not. But it’s only time. Architecture is, I think, about time.”
- 5:06 Teaching at [Kansas State University](#), a transformative time
- 7:23 A paradox of [developer-architect](#)
- 8:22 “We are a species grappling with what is best for humans and what is best for capital.”
- 10:07 The transformative power of running
- 13:16 Nature and landscape from the perspective of Peruvian [Chasqui](#), Mexican [Tarahumara](#) runners, and 100k Andes marathon in Peru
- 17:00 Roman saying: [mens sana in corpore sano](#)
- 18:59 Tears and [Japanese temples](#)
- 20:14 Ways of knowing the world: modernism, meditation, extreme running...
- 20:55 [Mexican modernism](#), [Le Corbusier](#), [Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon](#), influences from the North and West, and [Pre-Columbian indigenous aesthetics](#) and ways of being
- 22:17 Digital vs hand work
- 24:08 Storytelling as a design tool: architect friend [Sebastian Mariscal](#)
- 25:03 “Architectures of not thinking?”; [Ginkaku-ji](#) pavilion in Japan
- 27:48 What is architectural teaching for you? What is pedagogy in a studio?

- 31:52 The origin of the river [Nerbudda](#) in [Madhya Pradesh](#): stones, a small spring
- 33:00 On inner force and the river of life: “So you are touching the ground and flowing at the same time - it’s very much like us, human beings.”
- 35:48 “So practice goes on, work goes on. But then the whole question is, where is that source which came up from the earth, deep from the earth? And where is the connection when you merge with the ocean? And what is that link, what have you done?”
- 39:31 What is the real essence of architecture today?

Each episode of Architecture Talk comes with a timestamp outline, complete with references, making the series an archive of resources. Episodes are organized by tags , bringing episodes together across discipline and publication date.

UW Guests and Topics

- Jeff Hou, Manish Chalana: *Messy Urbanism*
- Gundula Proksch: *Urban Agriculture Systems*
- Ken Oshima: *Japanese Architecture*
- Afroditi Psarra: *Fashion and Our Digital Future*
- Anand Yang: *Global History and Architecture*
- Yomi Braester: *Cinema, New Media and Architecture*
- Rob Hutchison: *On Conceptual Practice*
- Nicole Huber: *Architecture as Unfinished Storytelling*
- Shima Mohajeri: *Transversality in Persian Art*
- Elizabeth Golden: *Rethinking Vernacular*
- Radhika Govindrajan: *Interspecies Relatedness*
- Sonal Khullar: *Indian Modernism*
- Rajesh P.N. Rao: *Augmenting the Mind*

Local Guests and Topics

- Cassie Blair, JoAnn Wilcox: *Architecture of Seattle*
- Anna Telcs: *Architecture and Fashion*
- Catharina Manchanda: *Art Curation and Architecture*
- Craig Curtis: *Technology Innovation*
- Warren Etheredge: *Film and Storytelling*
- John Boylan: *Rigorous Inquiry*

National Guests and Topics

- Mark Jarzombek: *Global History*
- Jorge Otero-Pailos: *Rethinking Historic Preservation*
- Carla Keyvanian: *Medieval Mediterranean*
- Dominick LaCapra: *Transference in Architecture*

- Ayad Rahmani: *Exceptional Architects*
- Maristella Casciato: *Pierre Jeanneret*
- Rahul Mehrotra: *Ephemeral Urbanism*
- Shundana Yusuf: *Global Communication*
- Christian Hendrik: *Islamic Architecture*
- Daniel Barber: *Climate Change and Global History*
- Sergio Palleroni: *Public Interest Design*
- Sean Lally: *Psychedelics and Design Thinking*
- Dilip Da Cunha: *Rethinking Rivers as Wetness*

International Guests and Topics

- Mariam Kamara, Yasaman Esmaili: *Architecture and The Islamic World Today*
- Tom Avermaete: *Global Modernism*
- BV Doshi: *Life is a River*
- Manu P. Solt: *Medieval Central Asia*
- Javier Sanchez: *Rethinking a Life in Architecture*
- Aniket Bhagwat, Riyaz Tayyibji: *The Death of Architecture*
- Richard Williams: *Sex and Architecture*
- Lene Tranberg: *Intuition and Uncertainty*
- Amit Srivastava: *Modern Indian Architecture*
- Frits Palboom: *Drawing Landscape*
- Kunle Adeyemi: *Intercultural Dialogue and Practice*

Press

- "Storytelling in the Podcast Age" – The American Scholar: James McWilliams, April 2, 2019 (digital)
- "Vikram Prakash's ArchitectureTalk podcast explores topics 'at the edge of the known'" – UW News: Peter Kelly, April 19, 2018 (digital)

BE200: Seattle By Foot

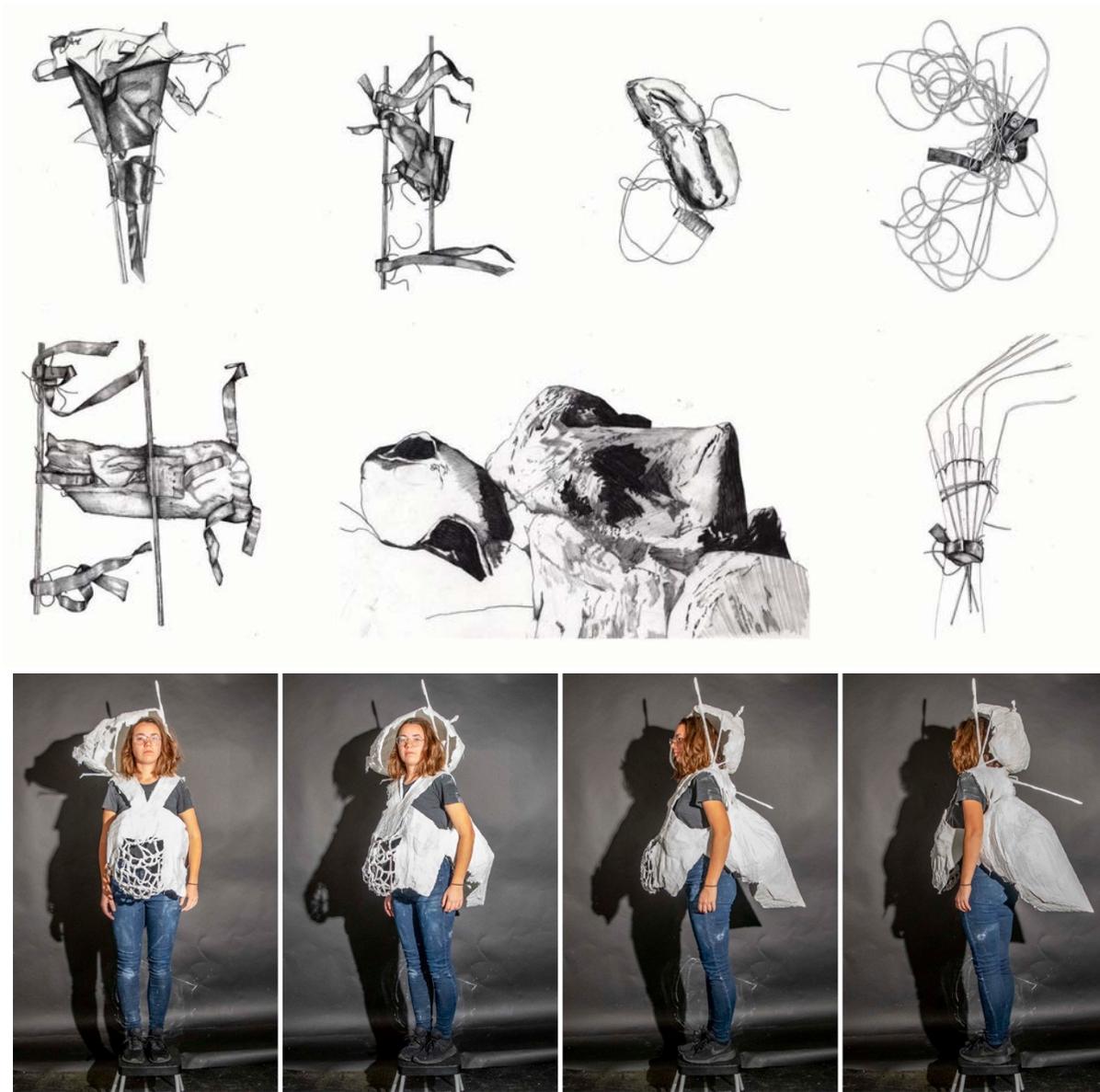
Introduction to the Built Environment

This course acts as an introduction to the planning, design, construction, and use of our built environments. Open to the entire undergraduate student population, it is organized around a set of self-conducted guided walks, each on a unique theme, preceded by a lecture and followed up by discussion sections and readings.



Fashion and Architecture

Interdisciplinary Studios and Seminars



Work by graduate student Amelia Jarvinen

Fashion, the act of dressing and draping the human body, has much in common with architecture. They both cater to a basic requirement of life which is also one of its most expressive gestures. i.e. to house the human body. In this sense, fashion can be said to be a, '*near-body-architecture*', in that fashion does everything that architecture does, only close to the body. And, conversely, by implication, architecture can be said to be, '*far-body- fashion*', in that architecture has the potential to be as expressive of the body as fashion is.



Collages by graduate student Solomon Cohen

