

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER **AM:**

- SafdarJungs Tomb
- Central Mosque, Jammi Masjid
- Parliament buildings by Edwin Lutyens

**PM:**

- Dinner in Lodhi Garden Restaurant with Dominic Ziegler (students return from Chandigarh for dinner)

Stay night in Delhi

SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER **AM/PM:**

- Agrasen Ki Baoli Step well
- Sufi Shrine, evening prayers and music

Delhi is a vastly different city to both Mumbai and Ahmedabad, both climatically and geographically (it is an easier climate to exist in), but its history and staunchly colonial past provide it with an heir of grace and calmness; this is not to say that it doesn't contain the contrast and chaos of any other Indian metropolis.

Visiting some of the grandeur of the Mogul history and planned democracy brought by the British; Safdar Jung's tomb and the immense parliament complex designed by Edwin Lutyens at the beginning of the 20th century, providing the students with the chance to see one of the great English arts and crafts architects working in a radically different environment and scale.

Once more the step wells were key part of the city, although largely run-down and dried up because of modern construction (metro) they are beautiful oases in the city.

Lastly, and after visiting many religious centers throughout the trip, we visited a Sufi Shrine hidden down a long alley and snaking around another step well, for a Sunday evening service. Musicians provided a gentle background to the bustle of the shrine.

James O'Brien : Delhi, Street.



James O'Brien : Delhi, Street.



James O'Brien : Delhi, Sufi Shrine.



James O'Brien : Delhi, Sufi Shrine.





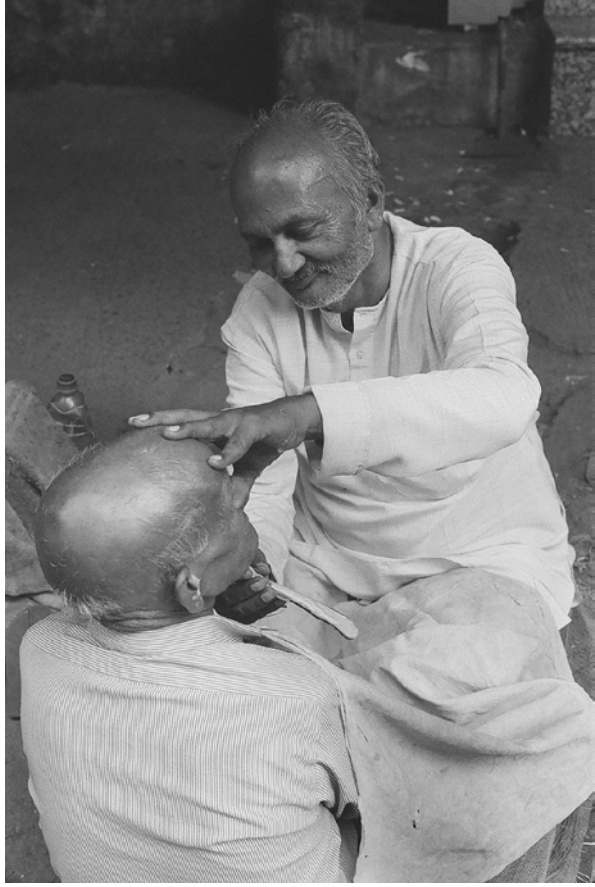
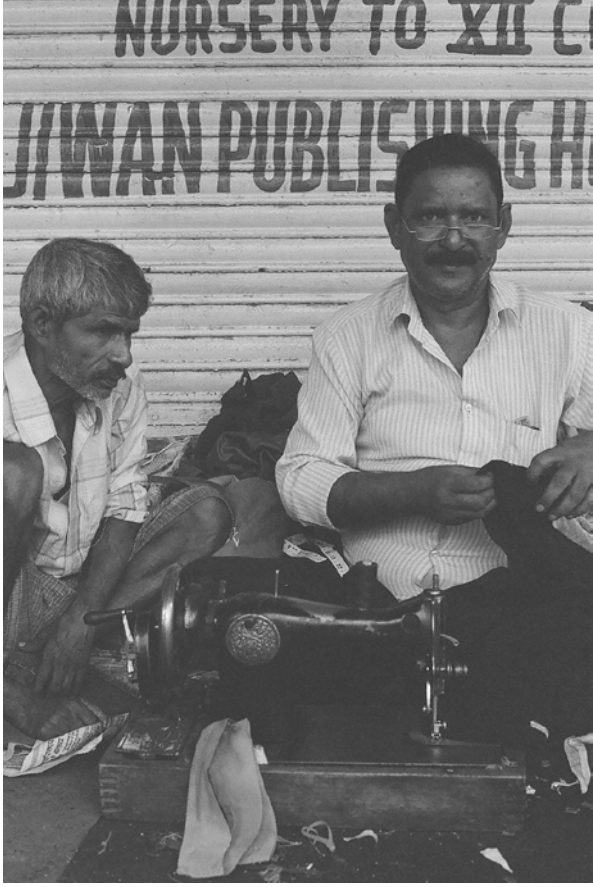
Delhi, Metro Station.



James O'Brien : Delhi, Agra Step Well.



Delhi, Street.







Delhi, Street.



Zhenya Kashimova : Delhi.



Old Delhi, Street Market.





Old Delhi, Street Market.



Old Delhi, Street Market.

*Ekaterina Aleynikova :*

**Mill Owners Association Building, Ahmedabad.**

India has seen robust economic growth lately and is still actively developing. Ahmedabad owes its economic boost to the development of textile industry driven by Mill Owners. Thus The Mill Owners Association had enough money to fund construction of a new headquarters' office and to invite a famous architect to develop the project for it. Erection of quality buildings by means of private financing is generally indicative for India, to my point of view. It is clear that the majority of India's people cannot afford building a house and government does not tend to spend a lot on construction or renovation of any buildings unless it is an issue of grave importance.

Mill Owners Association Building in Ahmedabad is a revealing example of a famous building's story in India. Built to symbolize innovativeness it faced the reality of expensive modern buildings abandoned to their fate as soon as their owners ran out of funds to care of them. During our visit to this famous Le Corbusier building CEO Abhinava Shukla told us about its history and restoration. The latter has been performed with an extremely restricted budget which could not but affected the quality of renovat-

ing. As Abhinava Shukla said they only replaced the missing parts like concrete rails' corners or part of the walls that fell apart with the materials available at the moment. It means, the restoration team did not get into the process of original making of the building but did their best to imitate the look of original elements. New materials cannot boast a good quality: yellow paint on the wall at the entrance falls off and the new concrete handrail corner springs cracks. Oddly looking nails sticking out of stair handrails appear to have been put there in order to hold huge posters for Le Corbusier exhibition opening. Rather than get rid of these nails it was decided to leave them there and use for the same purpose again for another exhibition.

If one ignores the minor fails or restoration and explores the building's interiors climbing up the stairs that look hanging in the air, they will be astonished by the volumes of light and shadow that form the interior. Massive sun breaker trellis on the other side of the house let in enough light to fill the huge lobby with a unique atmosphere of coolness and serenity. Although there is no glass in the wall openings, one feels comfortably hidden from the heat and buzzing of the world outside.

The genuinely thought through façade of The Mill Owners Building shines out at the streets of Ahmedabad. Sun breakers, or brise-soleils, that keep direct sun out do their job perfectly keeping harsh sun out and permitting good air circulation, but, surprisingly, are not known at all among the citizens. What could be successfully used in other local buildings remains foreign.

*Elizaveta Lartseva :*

I've travelled quite a lot during last few years, but India field trip was the most exciting one. We've visited three cities: Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Delhi. Each city has it's own character and architecture. Mumbai — the most atmospheric place, with shock by overloaded noisy streets and dirty captivating ocean. Ahmedabad – city which didn't leave indifferent such architect as Louis Kahn and Le Corbusier. And last but not least modern Delhi, where each European can feel India without leaving comfort zone.

For me the most remarkable were time in Mumbai, which began with smiling indian workman, who brought my bag to full of cockroaches hotel room and finished with 14 hour night in a sleeping bus to Ahmedabad. Mumbai dipped me into Indian atmosphere, showed the harsh life of Indian people from the lowest caste to the highest one and introduced to the contrasting architecture of slums and posh villas. Our study program there was very inspiring, first of all because we have attended building completed by Studio Mumbai and two of their workshops. Furthermore, we had a very informative visit to a timber marked, where our group was told how to work with different types of wood, and finally we went to the ruins of the Portuguese fortress.

Overall, each of our group left these country with lots of impression and even though they are good or bad, for me the trip to India left it's mark in my mind.

*Zhenya Khashimova :*

### **Studio Mumbai Office.**

Entering unremarkable gate on the one of the bustling streets of Mumbai you get into the territory of traditional Indian house. More precisely, you are into its heart – the inner courtyard surrounded by the wings of the building from every direction and with a crooked tree in the center of it. Such a structure is called naalukettu and very common for traditional domestic architecture of this country. There is no sign or billboard on the entrance so the first impression as if you find yourself in residential house, even the minimalistic but cozy interior initially seems domestic with its atmosphere of simultaneous isolation and intimacy.

Actually, in conditions of busy and noisy city the place in whole felt like a kind of shelter with different levels of seclusion which you can choose by yourself through adjusting screening elements, sliding wooden windows and folding doors or moving from ground floor which is more transparent to the first one which has separate zones. What is more, all the glass in the constriction of doors and windows are fluted what strengthens the feeling of privacy through diffusing the light, greenery, urban scenery and other details of the city creating the illusion the outer world doesn't exist at all.

Enjoying the atmosphere of privacy such unusual for dynamic Mumbai you don't immediately realize that the big amount of architectural models of different scale and quality arranged in the rooms are not decorative elements and this rooms are not living rooms and all the people

occupying the space – some of them reading and drawing, some working on the computers, some doing something in the yard – are not a family and, finally, you enter not a residential house. You are in Studio Mumbai office.

*Ulyana Khadarova :*

**General Attitude.**

It was the first time I've been to India and I was strongly impressed by this country. I expected to feel the wild and unfamiliar Indian atmosphere which used to be described in lots of narratives and artworks by large number of travelers through the centuries, but what I found by arriving there was very different from what I've already known: overpopulated Mumbai initially confused me with its dirty streets, people, incomplete buildings and shabby ragged decorations, pungent odors and lush vegetation. Due to my habit to think and to guess about the origin of different results (mean, what I see as a result, and why it is such), various questions about condition of Indian life didn't leave my thoughts for a minute, and the answers were laying in its history, environment and its natives mentality.

As well as huge trees are infected with lianas, plant parasite, India suffered from numerous attacks of the strong conquerors for centuries... I imagined an advanced ancient civilization India used to be for almost 5000 years ago, settled in one of the most prolific and richest places in the world with a climate allowing jungle forests to be thick and fruitful (though hot and hardly tolerable, especially

for northern people), desired by the nations who wasn't as lucky with the land to live in, or whose rulers always demanded more. Hardly ever any entrant had been truly interested in the culture of this exotic country, destroying and violating it. And now I turn the other side of the comparison with infected tree described above: no matter how hard was to save at least a grain of original culture, Indians always succeed in it anyhow, firmly defining their borders, but tolerantly retaining particles of various foreign specialties - as well as tree feeds its parasite, but still remains strong and healthy, leading such «relations» to a state of symbiosis.

*Anastasia Balykina :*

First we were in Mumbai, it was very unusual for the first couple of days, then after the trip to Alibag we felt more relaxed, we got used to everything. In Alibag I liked Studio Mumbai the most. Too bad we didn't spend much time there, but we drove to some villas they built and they were quite impressive.

We had a quite long bus trip from Mumbai to Ahmedabad. We departed around 8 or 9 in the evening and arrived around 8 in the morning. But it was like a small party in a bus. We took the half of it in the back, put the music on, played mafia...

Apart from the main route of three cities, there was one group of four people including me, who went to Chandi-



garh. It is the city built by Le Corbusier. In comparison to the other places it's far more impressive for me, because this city was built by the architects in the first place, it has an urbanist planning, in the shape of cells, for example the cells of a plant. They all built as a structure, so is the city, the same shape, the same cells. In every cell there is an architectural piece which was constructed by architects of XXth century. Including Le Corbusier. His works, sketches, all of these are collected in several museums. There is even a studio where he worked, a museum dedicated to his works and to other architects as well.

You can also visit a closed zone with an excursion which is organised three times a day. They show Palace of Assembly and the Secretariat. As a last impact it was very impressive. Because on the picture and in the reality it's very different. Very monumental, spectacular.

What is important is to pay attention to the details. There's a lack of it in Russia unfortunately. That relates even to the way the water flows. In one of the buildings in India I've noticed one amazing detail: on the stairs there's a small line, about 1,5 cm, which goes along and accurately follows the the shape of the stairs and it works as a recess where the water flows outside. A tiny element, but a very elegant one which goes through the whole building. When we visited the locations, Mumbai, Alibag, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh, we could see that everywhere exists this attention to the details. Very noticeable. In the old architecture they were just the normal elements, because the artistic figures are made based on those details. Studio Mumbai has constructed the building, where the connection between the walls and the floor was smooth. Somewhere the angle was straight, somewhere – not. The

thin neat railings, the way they connect to the wall, the way the fit with the floor. It was calculated carefully and perfectly.

I hope all these aspects will influence my work, because our projects are still in progress, however I already start to think about how my construction will fit with other materials. My old building is constructed on the edge of XIX–XX centuries and I think about how I will integrate the arcades there. That means I will add a new construction there. It is important to think about how they communicate with each other. It is a difficult question because you have to respect the building. Firstly I was quite ambitious, but then I was told that I didn't respect it, you have to regard it and consider every element many times before changing anything in the facade. Inside it doesn't make the difference that much as on the facade.

All the pictures, ornaments, frescos had more of the historic and ritual character. There were problems with books, the invention of printing was quite late in India. The whole history was carried by the pictures on the walls and other surfaces. It is informative, rather than architectural. Since it is still implemented in architecture they try to combine it. The well has a religious character. When we left I noticed one old lady who prayed there. She was on her knees, had aroma sticks and went along all the bas-reliefs where all the Gods are depicted. She put the sticks in front of each one. There are spikes there but she still went through.

People don't care much about saving resources as a general thing. People made it themselves for their own needs. Every balcony has its own character which reflects the lifestyle of the citizen. Here it's not so much about water since

there is plumbing everywhere. It's more about making their own house, expressing themselves while they don't know anything about architecture or design. Still it has created a type of design, this human so to say design.

If I had to give an advise, I would say to pay attention to the relationship between the materials, details, and respect towards the resources and form. If you work with already finished building, then you have to respect it and the master. You have to carefully integrate new things or change the old ones. It is a great responsibility.

This exact example is about the attention to the details. Here the benches aren't placed too close to the walls, there is a space between them. It shows that these are two separate objects even though they stay together and are made from the same material. For lot of old and new things usually architects make a small space even for 1 cm to show what they have added or isolated.

### *Ekaterina Shpak :*

Mumbai is more developed city in comparison to Ahmedabad. There is quite interesting architecture. Dehli, however, is even more developed. So if we imagine it like steps, then plainest and most boring architecture is in Ahmedabad, then goes Mumbai and then Dehli.

We also went to the city Alibag and then came back to Mumbai. Although it wasn't just a stop, we went there for

a reason and spent there the whole day. During the day we had a program. We went to the fortress and then in the evening, we rented a house and went to the beach. Next day we visited Studio Mumbai at their old location. After our arrival back to Mumbai we also visited its current location. Studio Mumbai has also impressed me a lot. The houses they built are constructed in different ways, but all the materials fit each other very well. Everything is very beautiful. It is quite difficult to say what impressed me the most. I can say that it for sure was The Sun Temple. There was also a well with water which went all the way down, down, down. The atmosphere is unbelievable. The lower you descend, the darker it gets, there are no lights, of course, just the natural light. And at the bottom there is a small well with water and a statue of God. Very impressive. In Dehli there is very interesting, peculiar architecture and amusing at the same time. Actually, facades are very interesting in Dehli as well.

When I planned to go to India, I had this feeling that there is a total chaos, filth, it is impossible to stay there, that there are cockroaches everywhere and just a nightmare. When we arrived I did see dirt, and ruins. In Old Dehli, one of the districts, there are slums and plenty of wires, and my camera was nearly stolen. However, even though all of these exist there, it's way better, that I've expected. Nicer. The only thing which was quite surprising is that people there always beep on the roads. Night and day, non-stop. Although in a little time you just merge with this "music" and it doesn't bother you a lot.

In Mumbai there are cars on the roads, guys with carts, motorbikes, something else. All in all, there is an absolute chaos, nevertheless, that's their own peculiar atmosphere.

I can't say, that they mostly ride motorbikes, there are pretty much everything. It makes it very scary to cross the roads, especially the big ones.

I can't highlight something special but the models in Studio Mumbai impressed me a lot. They are very detailed. Joseph used to work there and it's really impressive when they make these tiny bricks and put each one on top of another. The trees, and everything else. Very realistic, beautiful and sophisticated. That's probably impressed me the most and left a trace in my memory, in the sense of what I can actually learn. Now I want my models to be the same, or at least similar.

Any trip becomes inspiration. It's hard to highlight something special especially when you travel every day and see new impressive things, so it's hard to emphasise something in particular. I can surely say that the trip was wonderful and I think it was useful, even though we were there just around 10 days and other guys were studying. We haven't payed much attention to our own projects during the trip, but all these impressions influence us now.

I think you should give more attention to the materials you use for construction or design. And again, more attention to details. You think it doesn't matter, this tiny thing, but in the result it can finish or add something to the whole design.

*Ylia Kharina :*

If you compare all three waypoints, it's remarkable how the nature is different. In Mumbai, including Alibak, it was more comfortable, with all this greenery. While we were in Mumbai, we visited all the sights.

Delhi was really crowded and dirty. When we were taken to the sights, it felt more harmonic there. Everything is done in a harmonic way there and, frankly speaking, when you get to such place from a city, you don't want to leave. You just sit on a bench and relax and you attain moral repose. I think this might have been the main concept in making this building out of different materials. When you go further, you can see a campus for students and you get the feeling that you live in jungle. Monkeys are there too, great!

As for expectations, when we have just arrived in our hotel, to tell the truth, we were shocked. Sanitary norms, to be exact. At first it was scary, unusual, but we got used to it with time. After visiting all those place, you take this as part of this experience.

Almost everything I have seen in India was very inspiring. At first we visited Mymbai Studio's old headquarters in Alibak, then finally we made it to their current office. I was really amazed by how they make it all with their hands, pay such attention to details, using natural materials. If you compare it how we make prototypes out of foam board, theirs look more decorated. Lots of buildings are made of brick, which played an important role for us, as our project at that time involved bricks; they use interesting patterns.

Unfortunately, the quality of life in India is really low, but people got used to that. I wanted to see how they live there, I know many people who want to move to India and work there for a month or even a year. After seeing all that, I started appreciating what I have. I wouldn't say this trip has changed the way I see world, but I definitely got inspiration. I had a small project, where I was creating working space for a florist, so after I got back, after seeing such rich flora, I was pumped to explore it more.

To sum it up, it was all strange and unusual at first, then we got used to this way life, despite not spending there that much time. Nevertheless, it was interesting how different people live, see architecture. I learnt to value what I have.

*Ulyana Khadarova :*

#### **Additional article.**

It seemed to me, considering what I already knew about India, that the Northern part, where Delhi was located is inhabited more heavily by muslim families. Thus, the atmosphere there was quite different, different features could be seen in their clothing. While in Mumbai they either didn't cover their heads or used modern-looking hat, in Delhi they adapted their capital for tourists without losing authenticity.

What catches your eye in all 3 cities is prevalence of British architecture, maybe now – not so much, but buildings look more modern, I cannot tell the dates for sure. The build-

ings of past centuries are spread all around the cities. At the same time, British architecture adapted itself to local style. Strict shapes of buildings merged with decorations, it also adapted to the climate, buildings are more perforated.

I was astonished by the nature of Mumbai: there stood large trees, twined with lianas, which turned out to be a parasite. The general atmosphere, considering stuffiness, ponderous, it felt 'India'. Ghettos also left an impression on me. Here is an exit to some kind of a pool, where they take a bath, breed catfish, geese and ducks, so even these ghettos have some kind authenticity to them, which doesn't cease to impress. It's a common practice there.

Ahmedabad felt like a province: while Mumbai and Delhi felt like capitals of their regions, Ahmedabad felt like an ordinary town, just a big one. What is special about is that it's located on a river, so it's a different climate, drier, while Mumbai is closer to tropical/subtropical.

Delhi feels more polished, groomed, so they take a better care of buildings of national importance. More malls and tall buildings are present. In many regions the city resembles its European counterparts. Ghettos are present as well, but everything looks more decent than, say, in Mumbai. Influence of completely cultures can be felt. Since the climate is so hot in India and season of rains last for a bit less than half a year, typically houses have a gates and windows piercing them through. For example, university building of Le Corbusier has almost no glass and everything is based in long corridors with gates to the yard, which creates a specific circulation of the air, so you don't feel the heat inside that building. The building's structure lets only small amounts of sun rays in, but the bright shade

of concrete provides the light. It's amazing that the whole building is made just of concrete and only plants cover the view on the street, windows are strange. It's quite chilly inside, while it's around 30 degrees outside. I learnt that you don't need to think much about saving warmth, like in Russia, you don't need to pay that much attention to interior, so instead you invest more in exterior. And you can create gradual shift from interior to exterior. Those plants in windows create a cosy feeling inside, while it gives off impression that the building is abandoned from the outside. You feel comfortable.

I was amazed by how minimalistic and multifunctional hostels built by Scandinavian designers were. It's a great example how you can live comfortably with the minimum amount of furniture. It's spacious, everything is made of concrete too. It's either a living room or a conference hall, the wood is cut lengthwise. Despite dirty surroundings, Indians invest a lot in their work and make it aesthetically pleasing. The way they process wood, work with hands... Can't be compared to Russia. It feels that each product has its own soul. We were shown how the wood is processed, showed textures.

In Ahmedabad we visited architecture studio and we were astonished by change of atmosphere while going from the street into the yard. There were flowers, it was neat and quiet, while it was noisy and it stinked in the street. While the streets might be filthy, they keep it really clean inside their houses and inside important buildings. The studio was especially clean, no mess was present. This order creates the right mood which is a trait that would be good to acquire. They have some tricks, use some wood and create layers of hills and buildings of all sizes.

Delhi seemed dubious: with its seemingly friendly atmosphere, it feels like a lie. For example, a taxi driver was driving slowly to get more money, in restaurants we would be cheated on, you couldn't come up to people and ask for directions without getting into trouble. I even did get into trouble with a happy ending. I liked the architecture of the hotel, it had an amazing view from the roof. You could see Taj Mahal or something resembling it... There was a spot, you go up the spiral staircase and get to the highest point of the hotel. All those ghettos aren't really ghettos, they are superstructures, which are side effects of overpopulation. The climate is drier, which stimulates to keep everything cleaner. It can look dirty outside and be clean inside.

Learn to feel the place where you live. When you get to another country, you feel the contrast and you might feel it deeper than your own country, because you are used to the latter one. Also, you might know your country pretty well, but it's never too late to discover something new. After India, I felt the urge to feel Russia.

On the last day of the trip I decided to buy a souvenir. I asked a wrong person for advice, I asked riksha first and then he came up to me, pretending that riksha worked for him. He wanted me to sit to the riksha, tried to take my money. I didn't feel too worried, felt like it would end happily and it did another person from Sri Lanka got the situation. He shooed this type away, we drank tea together and helped me pick souvenirs, paid for them even! After that I had to help him get to his hotel, as he lost his way, I invited him to mine, where we drank masala, gave him directions and we separated. Girls had funny faces when I brought him and asked if we could join for tea.

*Elizaveta Lartseva :*

**Second article.**

First of all, in those places we visited, we could feel India as you represent it. You drive and think: dirty city, cockroaches everywhere and that's right. We came in the hotel and saw the insects, smiling guy who took our baggage... Then Ahmedabad is more modern, but we couldn't even find a place to drink a coffee. Nobody speaks English, nobody understands anything. A very vague impression, it's hard to say anything about it. Delhi is for tourists that want to see India but don't want to experience all the dirt. It's contemporary, cultured.

The first impression was in Mumbai, when we arrived at the hotel. We arrived late at night and we couldn't check in. We first communicated with Indians who looked quite strangely at us. With happiness but at the same time with interest. And when we came into the room, we saw the cockroaches on the floor and started to kill them. The main thing is that there was clean bright white bed but the room was dirty. Zhenya just came out of the shower and told me not to look up. I looked up and saw plenty of dust on the exhaust. It was the brightest impression there.

Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Dehli are absolutely three different cities. From the architectural point of view. Even when you're in the city, you see the slums here and then the luxurious hotel on the shore. And on the opposite side a dirty pier where people are forcing you to buy something. In Ahmedabad there was a quite peculiar architecture, because everything was very simple. There weren't Indian ornaments, there were simple shapes and volumes. There

are some really simple constructions and houses. Very plain. And Dehli is absolutely different. You think that India is dirty, but there's a street that looks like a street in Las Vegas. You drive and see contemporary architecture that really impresses you.

It's hard not to mention our visit to Studio Mumbai where we got an unbelievable impression of how this bureau works. Because they have their own style which is close to what I do, this materiality... and in general in India the materiality of the objects impressed me because in the first place they pay attention to the way weather affects the materials and how they change.

My advice is to go to India and experience everything that happens there.

*Zhenya Khashimova :*

**Second article.**

All three cities differ in terms of atmosphere. If you take Mumbai, it's an impossibly noisy, dynamic city, and you think that the rest of India is like that too. After that you go to Ahmedabad and you see an exact opposite: it's a quiet, calm place, streets aren't crowded with people. Then you go to Delhi, the capital, which is somewhere in the middle: it's still quite noisy, but not as much as Mumbai.

Mumbai was probably how I imagined India before coming there, what I expected to see. When you visit Studio

Mumbai, what strikes you is this strange furnishing. From the noisy street buzzing with life – cars together with cows, people – through the fence with no signs you escape into a neat and peaceful yard of the Studio Mumbai. Materials are obviously different, as well as overall atmosphere and architecture. You get an impression that you got into somebody's house for a visit, not into an office.

Caste system, which causes both problems and benefits, might be the reason to all those contrasts. If you take Studio Mumbai's clients, they are very wealthy people, but then there are families of people living out in the streets, this might be all because of caste.

Mumbai give me most powerful impressions. It's remarkable that those places that seem to be inhabited were originally abandoned and later people adapted them for living. At the same time these ones were built specially for people to live in.

Studio Mumbai's office, all these special objects are inaccessible to crowds of people, unless special arrangements were made in advance, like in our case. Also, many people simply have no idea that this place is there. In Management University we were asked to show passports, so this place was also restricted.

I could learn from Studio Mumbai to mind the context the building will be perceived in. I haven't paid attention to that before, but then this sudden realization came to me, I started seeing broadly. If we take private houses, in Russia people build tall fences, trying to seclude from the outer world, bad weather, people passing by. It's opposite in India: somewhere they wouldn't install glass, so that

the wind can circulate inside the house. If we take roofs, in Russia they would be built so that water doesn't get into the yard, in India they let nature merge with the building: all the water from the roof pours inside the yard. The nature, surroundings and building become one. This is partly due to cultural and historical context: traditional houses would have pools in the inner yards, people settled close to sources of water. Wells were built in order for people to organize their life around water. All this comes from ancient times and gets derived into modern architecture. You memorise some details and that influences the way you work. If we take, again, Studio Mumbai: they carry out the project going from general, building's purpose, for instance, to details. They go from general, to details and then to even more details. In Russia, it's a common practice that an architect works on the exterior, an interior designer works on interior, while Mumbai Studio carries out the project from the beginning till the very end.

Once we came across a mosque. The mess was in progress and it was obvious why muslims were there, but also there were us, tourists. It was prohibited to walk in there without covering your head, guys bought bandannas, it was interesting how friendly they were. You could see how hospitable they were, trying to share their culture. And it was everywhere like that, not a single person refused to help. There is something we could learn from them. While the quality of life of the majority is lower than ours, they seem to be much happier. Small things like good weather, some food to eat makes them happy. This approach to life makes you think a lot. This ability to be happy might be the most important trait that makes them different. They sleep in the streets with their families and wake up happy, because it's a brand new day.

Despite all these contrasts and some negative aspects, the general impression is very pleasant. All these negative sides, like cockroaches in your flat and in your bad, sticky tables in café – all this gets overshadowed by this big amount of all the good things.

After this trip, I would recommend architects to take surroundings into consideration, because right now it's being ignored. By merging building with surroundings, the designer can learn a lot as well, which might change his general attitude to life.



This book is dedicated to :

**Samuel Barclay** | *Case Design, Mumbai*

**Pranav Naik** | *Studio Pomegranate, Mumbai*

**Ramesh Suthar and family** | *Alibag*

**Mitul Desai** | *Studio mumbai Architects, Mumbai*

**Bijoy Jain** | *Studio Mumbai Architects, Mumbai*

**Dr. Abhinava Shukla** | *The Mill Owners Association, Ahmedabad*

**Rakesh Chauhan** | *Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad*

**Domonic Ziegler** | *The Economist Delhi Correspondant*

**Shreyas Baidur** | *CEPT, Ahmedabad*