

What's up SPA!



Dear all,

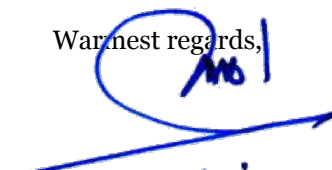
Two editions in, and What'SUP SPA! already feels like it has a life of its own.

What started as an experiment — could we actually capture the everyday energy of this studio in a newsletter? — has quietly become something our team looks forward to each month. People now stop by with photos before we even ask. Site engineers send us updates from the field. Interns want to know if their thesis presentation will "make the cut." Somewhere along the way, this newsletter stopped being something we make for the team, and became something the team makes with us.

That shift matters more than I can fully express. The first edition told you what SPA does. The second showed you how we work. And if these past two editions are any indication, this newsletter is becoming less a record of our projects and more a mirror of who we actually are as a studio — curious, a little chaotic, deeply committed, and not afraid to laugh at ourselves along the way.

We've also learned a lot in the process — about what stories resonate, what moments matter, and how much more there is to tell. There is no shortage of material at SPA, only a shortage of time to capture it all. So here's to Edition 3 — built, as always, on the stories, photos, and quiet hard work of all of you. Keep sending them our way.

Warmest regards,



Amol Prabhu,
Partner, SPA

Studio Spotlight



1 - Fun Friday

Caught on camera: the moment the entire studio decided to enjoy a “Fun Friday Housie Tournament.” Tickets appeared out of nowhere, the conference table switched into a negotiation platform, while random numbers were the loudest thing heard in the office that afternoon. Numbers were called and the MEP engineers aced it without load calculations and single line diagrams. — Yes Management, this happened on a Friday afternoon. And no, we're not sorry about it!

2- Kickoff Meeting for IIM



Every great construction project needs three things: a client with a clear vision, a contractor with a great plan, and as we like to say, an Architect who can control both of them at the click of their mouse. Pictured sitting at the table during the official kickoff meeting is our team comprising of **Ar. Jinay Sampat, Ar. Santosh Jadhav, and Ar. Enakshee Bhatia** appearing to convince the client and their contractor that work is going to be happening their way. In reality, we are nodding diplomatically to both sides while quietly making sure nobody's “minor clarification” turns into a claim and a six-month delay being blamed entirely on the architect. Jokes aside, this is the real milestone! After months of design and planning, **IIM Mumbai** officially moves from drawing stage to mud. A big one for the team, and the start of what promises to be a long, occasionally tense, mostly wonderful friendship between three parties who now share one very large WhatsApp group.

3- Chaitali's Birthday Wish!



Our Urban Designer **Ms. Chaitali Deshpande**, making her birthday wish with the same intense focus she brings to her masterplan designs. Somewhere between the candle and the cake, we hope she wished for “world peace” — but quite honestly, we suspect she wished she could go home sooner every day. Behind her, **Atul**



Kawtikwar's wisdom has perhaps guessed this already and is laughing at the sheer unlikelyhood of that happening.

And in the corner, doing absolutely nothing to hide, our Sr. Estimator **AP Raghesh** who is watching the ceremony with the visible patience of a man who has priced out exactly how many minutes stand between him and a slice of that yummy cake — and has decided it is, frankly, too many.

One of the underrated perks of working at a large office: with a headcount this size, there's practically a birthday celebration every single day of the year. Happy birthday, Chaitali. The cake, we're told, did not survive the afternoon.

4. The New Interns

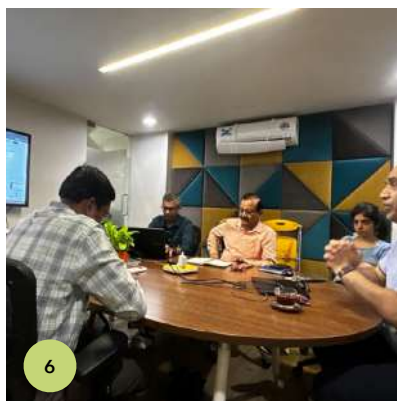
Day 1, **Five new interns**, fresh off the campus with strong opinions on 9-to-5s and a hard limit on work after 6pm — and what looks like a stern lecture from Amol on “The SPA way of doing things”, you can tell it's day 1 from the body language alone — spines straight, hands folded, eyes wide open, nodding with a practiced sincerity from people who haven't yet met their Team Leaders, and who still believe “work-life balance” is a real and thing at an architecture firm.

In reality, the photo captures Amol handing out tips on how to handle their Team Leaders like a Champ, and how, by the end of six months, to be designing world-class sports arenas like a pro. Notably absent from the conversation are words such as “deadlines”, “pressure” and and “marathon or a sprint”. The unofficial SPA induction speech, passed down like folklore. By week two, that posture relaxes, the nodding gets more genuine, the office coffee becomes a personal friend, and the phrase “work-life balance” quietly rescinds to their Instagram bios, where it remains, aspirational. Welcome to the studio, **Maithili, Vishwa, Ashwini, Sakshi and Anushka** — enjoy the calm before the first client pitch!



5- Our new digital home!

This month, we launched a brand-new website — a cleaner, sharper flexible digital front door for the studio, built around one line that says it all: "A Purpose to Every Design." The new site brings our full 360° practice into one umbrella — Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape, Interior and Support services (Engineering, Cost, Transactional Advisory) — alongside our project portfolio, media features, research and stories, and awards, all under a single, more intuitive experience. It opens with a heroic film of Wankhede Stadium, a fitting reminder of the kind of civic landmarks we build as well as a place we call our home! Kindly take a look, poke around, and let us know what you think. www.shashiprabhu.com Your suggestions will be a welcome contribution.



6- Monday Morning Blues!

Monday, 10:30 AM, one intense cup of coffee, and Team Leaders who would still wish it were a Sunday. Around the table are **Pradeep Nalge, Enakshee Bhatia, Amol Prabhu, Atul Kawtikwar and Santosh Jadhav** — laptops open, notebooks out, and the unmistakable energy of people mentally recalculating how many projects can possibly be "off track" at the same time.

This is the meeting where the week actually gets decided — who's short-staffed, whose site visit got pushed again, and whose "we're almost done with the drawings" needs a polite follow-up question. Somewhere between the agenda and the second cup of coffee, different departments somehow leave the room aligned, which, frankly, might be the most impressive feat of engineering SPA pulls off every single week.

7- We are published!

In our spare time, we did manage to get published! We're proud to share that Amol Prabhu was featured in the Expert Insights section of ACE Update's July 1



edition (Volume 16, Issue 06), in an interaction exploring how the next generation of metro stations are being shaped by sustainable infrastructure, smart engineering, and thoughtful design. The conversation dives into how Indian metro and railway environments are transforming into harbingers of sustainability — from daylight harvesting paired with efficient artificial lighting, to rainwater and solar energy capture, to wastewater treatment for reuse and groundwater recharge. Energy modelling and BIM-based analysis help optimise the balance between daylight and artificial lighting — improving efficiency across station spaces and lowering operational carbon emissions. It's a proud moment to see SPA's thinking on sustainable, civic-minded railway architecture reach a national platform — a reflection of five decades of work at the intersection of infrastructure and public life.

8- Yet one more fun Friday !

We briefly paused once again being an architectural studio and turned into a professional & delicious pop-up kiosk. It was an impromptu **Pani Puri Fun Fest**, operated and curated by our **Tanvi Badde, Sweta Singh, Enakshee Bhatia & Ayushi Paldiwal**. Some brought in their culinary skills while others just their appetite, stuffing puris with the focused precision usually reserved for detailing a facade sections. Some even brought what we're generously calling "peer review" — when translated means standing close to the food, offering unsolicited comments and occasionally intercepting a puri or two before it officially made it to a plate. By the end, empty steel containers, satisfied faces, and at least one heated debate about how much "meetha pani" is the correct amount.



Project is a direct, deliberate answer to that imbalance, and a genuine case study in what it looks like when a civic body chooses to invest in the people who serve it, not just the infrastructure and equipment they operate. A city's resilience, in the end, is only as strong as the housing security of the people running it.

How Ashray Yojana Came to Be

Ashray Yojana isn't a recent initiative — its roots go back to a public notice MCGM issued in 2013, proposing to amend Mumbai's Development Control Regulations by introducing a new provision, Regulation 33(26), specifically to enable the scheme [1]. The reasoning on record is stark: conservancy staff — the workers responsible for sweeping, transporting and disposing of the city's solid waste — were found to face disproportionately high rates of health problems and mortality due to the nature of their work, and the Corporation concluded that providing good-quality staff housing was a necessary public health intervention, not an optional welfare add-on [1]. MCGM's resolution sanctioning this change was formally cleared on 27th December 2013 paving the path for redevelopment of existing staff-quarter plots — funded entirely through the municipal exchequer, with base FSI enhanced to 4.0 making the redevelopment financially and spatially viable on land that was already built out [1].

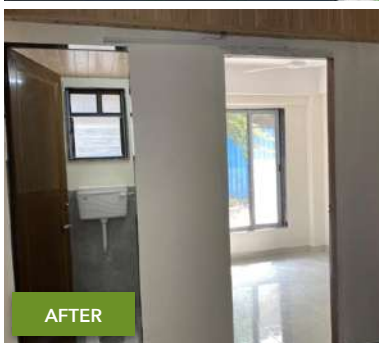
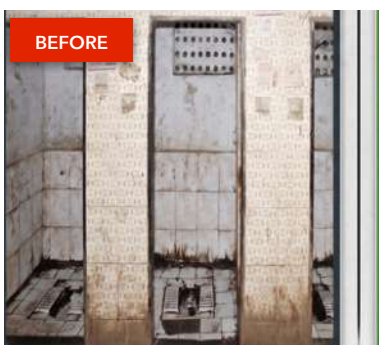
Because Mumbai had no available vacant land to build fresh housing at this scale, the scheme was structured from the outset as redevelopment of the plots already occupied by staff quarters, spread across 37 designated sites citywide and organised into 11 groups, each assigned to a different PMC. [2]. SPA's was assigned the project covering Group-I, spanning Rajwadekar Street, Walpakhadi and Palton Road. This housing initiative is designed to give its own workforce modern, safe, well-planned homes as a matter of policy, not charity or one-off welfare. For SPA, the scheme spans three sites across the island

Featured Project

The Workforce Behind the City

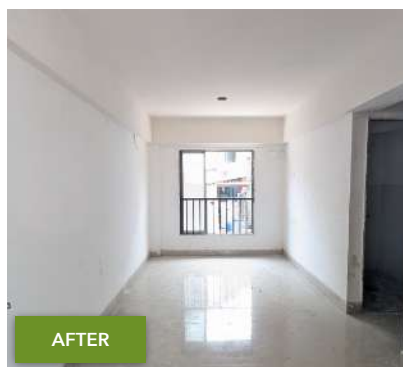
Every city runs on a workforce it rarely sees. The sweepers who clear yesterday's garbage before commuters wake up, the clerks who maintain billing records in the hospital, the drivers, the linesmen and ward-level staff who make sure water reaches our taps and the drains don't back up. None of it makes the news. All of it has to happen, without fail, every single day, for a city of over a crore people to function at all.

Mumbai's essential services depend on this workforce — its Class C and Class D municipal employees — and for decades, the people holding the city together have too often gone home to one of its most precarious housing: long commutes from the far edges of the metropolitan region, informal accommodation, or housing that never matched the responsibility of the job. **The MCGM Ashray**



city — Rajwadkar Street in Colaba, Walpakhadi near Sandhurst Road, and Palton Road — together delivering 1,221 residential tenements: 1,106 units of 300 sq. ft. and 115 larger units of 600 sq. ft. [3]. Spreading the scheme across three sites, rather than one mega-development, keeps the benefit close to where employees already live and work — embedding housing within the same wards these staff serve, rather than pushing them to the city's periphery.

SPA's Role: Turning Policy Into Livable Buildings



This is where SPA's Project Management Consultancy (PMC) team comes in — translating that civic intent into a buildable, deliverable reality on the ground. At Rajwadkar Street alone, our team is executing two G+3 residential buildings: Building 1 with 76 flats across three staircases and six passenger lifts, and Building 2 with 64 flats across two staircases and four lifts — 140 homes in total, at an estimated cost of roughly ₹43 crore, within a combined ₹443 crore outlay across all three Group-I sites [3].

The entire project runs on a Turnkey Design and Build basis, using prefabricated composite steel structural construction with deck slab technology — a deliberate departure from conventional RCC framing, chosen specifically to compress construction timelines [3]. Steel columns and beams arrive factory-fabricated to precise

tolerances and are erected on site, with profiled steel deck sheets acting as permanent shuttering for the composite floor slabs poured over them. That single change removes weeks of formwork, shuttering and curing time at every floor level, allows structural work to keep climbing even as finishing work begins on the floors below, and cuts down dramatically on the wet-trade congestion that conventional concrete framing brings to a tight urban site. For a scheme built on the premise that a documented public health need shouldn't wait years for construction to catch up with the policy behind it, this isn't a technical footnote — speed here is the point, and structural steel is how SPA is delivering on it without cutting a single corner on quality or safety.

Dignity, Engineered Into the Details

That standard shows up in the details that matter most to the people who'll actually live here, long after the ribbon-cutting is forgotten. Ventilation shafts are capped with polycarbonate sheet domes, engineered to draw in natural daylight while keeping monsoon rain out — a small, deliberate response to Mumbai's own climate, not a generic specification lifted from elsewhere. A statutory-compliant fire-fighting system, public address and emergency alarm system, and CCTV surveillance protect residents around the clock. False ceilings in common areas, barrier-free access for the elderly and differently-abled, and fully serviced water supply, drainage and sewerage complete a building designed with the rigour of any premium residential project — simply pointed, for once, at the people who keep the city's essential services running, rather than at those who can already afford to demand it [3].

Why This Matters

Housing security changes everything downstream of it:

attendance, health, retention, morale, and ultimately, the quality and continuity of the essential services Mumbai depends on. A workforce that no longer spends hours commuting from the city's periphery, or living in constant uncertainty about its next home, is a workforce better placed to show up, stay, and do its job well. This is, in effect, exactly what MCGM identified back in 2013 as a public health necessity [1] — and what SPA is now building, floor by steel floor.

The project is led by our Sr. Project Manager **Atul Kawtikwar**, along with Engineer **Vijay Chavan**, whose work on the ground over many months is this turning policy into 140 real homes at Rajwadkar Street alone, and eventually 1,221 across the city. It stands as a proud reminder that, at SPA, the projects that matter most aren't always the tallest or the most photographed. Some of them just quietly reinforce the people a city cannot function without.

References

- [1] Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Public Notice No. CHE/GEN-412/DP dtd. 28.01.2013 — proposed Regulation 33(26), Ashray Yojana, sanctioned via Resolution No. 1299 dtd. 27.12.2013. (mcgm.gov.in)
- [2] "REPL appointed as Consultant for Ashray Yojana in Mumbai," Suger Mint, 14 March 2023. (sugermint.com)
- [3] Project data and figures (unit counts, cost, construction method, amenities) provided directly by SPA.

What keeps us busy!

The proposed 150-metre residential high-rise on Mumbai's prestigious Peddar Road designed by our Sr. Architect Akshata Saudagar as a physical manifestation of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) enduring legacy. Engineered for a 100-year

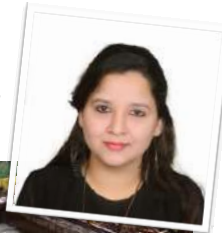


lifespan to mirror the stability and longevity of the nation's premier monetary institution, this landmark structure transcends temporary design trends to stand as a timeless monument of structural resilience. The architecture seamlessly integrates advanced passive principles, optimising Mumbai's wind patterns for natural ventilation while utilising climatology-centric Vastu geometry to maximise light and airflow.

Tailored to meet the exacting comfort and functional demands of the highest officials at RBI, the spatial planning maximises usable residential area, pairs panoramic sea views with the master bedrooms, and balances high-end living with professional governance. By incorporating dedicated spaces for executive amenities—including a wellness fitness

floor, private meeting offices, and a premium party hall for state functions—alongside state-of-the-art evacuation and firefighting systems, the residence stands as an elegant, permanent landmark that redefines the architectural fabric of Peddar Road.

Construction is progressing on the highly specialised Linear Accelerator (LINAC) bunker for the upcoming Tata Khalapur Hospital — one of the most technically demanding structures in any hospital's construction.



A LINAC is the machine that delivers targeted radiotherapy for cancer treatment, firing high-energy radiation beams with micro - millimetre precision at a tumour. Because that radiation must never escape the room it's generated in, the bunker that houses it isn't really a room at all — it's a radiation-proof vault, engineered to contain what the equipment inside produces, for the safety of every patient, technician, and clinician who will ever stand near it.

Designed by our team of **Ar. Akshata Saudagar** and **Ar. Gargi Jatar**, the bunker's architectural and structural framework is built for total radiation containment, achieved through massive reinforced concrete (RCC) shear walls measuring **2.6 metres** in thickness. Walls this thick don't just get poured and left to cure. Pouring that much concrete in one go generates enormous internal heat as the cement hydrates, and if the core and

surface cool at different rates, the wall can develop internal cracks that would compromise both its strength and its ability to contain radiation.

To prevent this, the team has deploying "Ice Concreting" — a highly specialised technique reserved for precisely this kind of demanding structure. Part of the standard mixing water is replaced with crushed ice, cooling the concrete mix from within to control the "heat of hydration" generated as the cement hardens. This keeps the internal core and external surface at a near-uniform temperature, preventing uneven expansion and eliminating the risk of internal thermal cracking altogether. The result is a flawless, ultra-dense, permanent vault built for decades of service, guaranteeing zero radiation leakage and absolute safety for patients and staff. It's a reminder that in projects like these, the most critical engineering decisions are often invisible, poured once, and never seen again — but relied upon for the life of the building.



Umbrellas up, boots muddy, and a revised masterplan board standing firm against the wind — our Sr. Engineer **Shashiranj Shrivastava** walking the Divisional Commissioner of Nashik and his team through the full scope of the Sports Complex being constructed in Jalgaon. The revised masterplan on display captures just how



comprehensive this complex is set to be: a multipurpose indoor facility, an athletic ground and running track, hockey facility, cricket ground and pavilion, basketball and tennis courts, a swimming pool pavilion, a shooting range, mud courts, hostel and canteen facilities, and a shopping complex — all masterplanned as one integrated civic sporting precinct, with future residential development on a PPP model reserved within the site. Briefing a Divisional Commissioner on this scale of infrastructure isn't a boardroom presentation — it happens standing in mud, under a shared umbrella, pointing at a rain-spattered board. But that's precisely the kind of on-ground

engagement that keeps a project of this scale moving: officials seeing exactly what's being built, on the site itself, from the engineer who knows every inch of it.

Work has officially broken ground on The Metro Bhavan, the administrative headquarters designed for MMRDA's Aqua Line, with contractor M/s. Nyati now on board to take the project from render to reality. The design is led by our Sr. Architect **Ms. Akshata Saudagar**, with **Mr. Pradeep Nalge** as the Resident Engineer overseeing execution on site, and **Mr. Nikhil Shelar** as Interface Engineer coordinating between design, contractor and client. Together, they present a confident, layered composition — a full-height glazed podium at street level, animated by a striking sculptural canopy that arcs from the ground into the building itself, welcoming commuters and staff alike into a bright, open double-height entrance. Above it rises a tower

wrapped in a rhythm of tall vertical fins, alternating solid and glazed bays that give the building a strong sense of verticality while controlling heat gain and glare across its office floors.

It's a building designed to represent civic infrastructure the way it should be represented — substantial, contemporary, and unmistakably public, sitting appropriately at the heart of Mumbai's expanding metro



network. As Metro Bhavan moves from foundation to superstructure over the coming months, this is a project we're proud to be shepherding from concept through construction.



Design Thinking

By Amol Prabhu

At SPA, we talk often about design and even more often about execution. What we talk about far less is the research — and that is a gap worth admitting out aloud.

Every hospital we plan draws on an understanding of patient flow that someone, somewhere, had to study first. Every stadium roof we detail rests on structural research most of us will never see credited anywhere. Research is the quiet layer beneath almost everything we design — and yet it rarely gets written about, rarely gets shared beyond the team that did it, and almost never gets the recognition it deserves. A brilliant piece of thinking on ventilation strategy for a hospital ward, or on load behaviour in a long-span roof, too often lives and dies inside one project file, helping exactly one project, when it could have helped the next ten.

We aspire to change that. On our newly launched website, we have created a dedicated section on "Research & Story" — a space built specifically to compile and house the thinking that goes into our work, not just the buildings that come out of it. Going forward, we are inviting every member of our team, across the two studios and every discipline, to contribute their research to our Team "Canvas", so it can be reviewed, refined, and published on our platform for the world to see and learn. Researched on sustainable material selection for hot, humid climates? Studied acoustics in performance spaces? Worked out a smarter way to sequence MEP coordination on a hospital retrofit? We want it! And whoever writes it will be credited for it, by name, publicly — because good research deserves the same recognition we give to a good design. This is, in many ways, an investment in ourselves. A studio that documents what it learns gets sharper with every project instead of relearning the same lessons quietly, project after project. Design gets the credit at SPA — and rightly so. But **design is only ever as good as the thinking that comes before it.** It's time research got its due too.

Industry News

The Bird's Nest, Beijing CN

The Beijing National Stadium — universally known as the "Bird's Nest", was practically grown in a lab. Designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron in design consortium with structural engineers Arup and China Architectural Design & Research Group, with Chinese artist Ai Weiwei as artistic advisor, it won an international competition in 2003 against 13 other final submissions, and remains one of the most structurally audacious buildings ever built for a single event: the 2008 Beijing Olympics. But the real education in this building isn't the icon everyone recognises — it's everything that had to go right, and later go wrong, to keep it standing and running for two decades.

The idea came from studying the random, woven irregularity of Chinese ceramics — "crazed



pottery," as Arup describes it — and then, remarkably, the architects decided the structure itself would be the building. There is no separate façade hiding the frame; the frame is the façade, the roof, and the space, all at once. Tellingly, the design process was inverted from how stadiums are normally built: Arup's sports architects designed the seating bowl first, optimising sight lines for spectators, and only then wrapped the now-famous lattice façade around it — so the "randomness" everyone notices

first was actually the last thing decided. That seemingly chaotic pattern in fact follows complex, rigorously defined geometric rules; nothing about it is



actually random.

That single decision turned what could have been a straightforward stadium brief into one of the most complicated steel-engineering problems of the decade. The lattice is built from 42,000 tonnes of steel — 110,000 tonnes of structural material in total — woven from 26 kilometres of unwrapped steel members, with no two structural joints alike. Much of it used custom Q460 high-strength steel, roughly twice the strength of ordinary structural steel, developed specifically to keep the members slim enough to preserve the design's woven, organic reading. The roof itself is a two-layer system — ETFE (a lightweight, highly durable transparent polymer) panels on the outer surface, with an acoustic membrane beneath — a lesson in how a single roof assembly can be made to do double duty as weatherproofing and acoustic control.

The Construction: Built Around a Disaster Elsewhere

The stadium's roof alone weighs 11,200 tonnes and was held up



by temporary columns until construction was complete. Twenty-four trussed columns, each weighing 1,000 tonnes, had to be assembled and welded in place on site, because no crane in existence was strong enough to lift and position them as single units. Midway through construction, the project was thrown into crisis by an event thousands of miles away: Terminal 2E at Paris **Charles de Gaulle** Airport, built with a similarly unsupported roof structure, collapsed without warning in 2004. Chinese officials halted work on the Bird's Nest, launched a full safety review, and ultimately scaled back the original roof design and seating count before construction could resume — a stark reminder that a single structural failure anywhere in the world can, and should, change how you build



everything after it.

The stadium's seismic strategy is one of its most elegant, least visible ideas. Beijing sits in one of the world's most seismically active regions, and Arup used advanced seismic analysis to test the design against a range of earthquake scenarios. Rather than fighting an earthquake as one rigid mass, the engineers deliberately separated the steel exoskeleton from the concrete seating bowl inside it, because steel and concrete vibrate at different frequencies — tying them together rigidly would have caused them to tear each other apart during a quake. The concrete bowl itself is further divided into six independent sections, each free to move slightly on its own, designed to withstand an event on the scale



of the 1976 Tangshan earthquake.

From the outset, the stadium was designed around natural ventilation — made possible by the choice not to enclose it behind a solid façade, which Herzog & de Meuron themselves call the most important aspect of its sustainable design — alongside maximised daylighting, solar photovoltaic generation, and a 24-hour rainwater collection system that purifies and reuses water across the site. But sustainability on paper and sustainability over decades are two different disciplines. Renovation work ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympics revealed that the original siphon rainwater drainage system, threaded through the roof's double-membrane structure, had degraded badly after 13 years of wind and sun exposure, forcing engineers to locate and repair leaks one by one across a nearly inaccessible cavity.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson here isn't structural at all, it's operational. The Bird's Nest costs roughly USD 480 million to build, and by some estimates costs around USD 11 million a year simply to

maintain, for a building that, in the years immediately after 2008, struggled to find a meaningful everyday use once the Olympic crowds went home. A landmark that dominates the skyline is not the same thing as a landmark that earns its keep.

It's a useful reminder for a studio like ours, currently deep in our own long-span structural work at places such as Sikkim, Latur, Ambernath or Balewadi. The Bird's Nest didn't achieve its complexity by accident; it achieved it by refusing to separate architectural ambition from structural engineering at any stage of the process, from seismic strategy down to the choice of steel grade. But its harder lesson is the one that shows up years later, not on opening day: a building's true test isn't the ceremony it's built for, but the decades of maintenance, drainage, and everyday use that follow. That's exactly why, on every public building we design — sports complex, hospital, or civic monument — we ask not only "how do we build this brilliantly," but "who maintains this in year fifteen, and have we made that possible?"

Credit:

- Herzog de Meuron
- Arup
- Ai Weiwei
- Wikipedia
- Re-Thinking the Future
- NRP - How to fill an empty Bird's Nest
- www.whmembrane.com

Team Corner

A studio is only as good as the people who fill it – and we are delighted to introduce these new talented individuals who have recently joined the SPA family.

We're delighted to welcome **Ar. Renu Kulkarni**, who

joined us as Architect in our Mumbai office. Renu brings five years of robust experience managing design teams, coordinating consultants, and streamlining

project delivery for high-profile residential and institutional projects. Skilled in both digital modelling and practical on-site resolution, her ability to bridge schematic design with execution-ready details will reinforce our project team. Beyond the studio, Renu is into art and craft and an avid reader. Welcome to the team, **Renu!**

We're delighted to welcome **Ar. Ayush Deo**, who joined our Urban Design

department in Mumbai. Ayush holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the Indira College of Architecture & Design in Pune and a Master of Urban Planning from CEPT

University. He brings robust professional experience, having previously worked with leading design firms alongside planning work with the CEPT Urban Planning and Design Foundation (CUPDF). Beyond working hours, Ayush loves playing basketball and cricket, keeps a keen eye on research in AI and infrastructure, and dabbles in trading and investments – clearly

someone who likes to stay sharp on more than one board. Welcome aboard, **Ayush!**

We're delighted to welcome **Ar. Nikita Punyarthi**, who joined our Architecture

department in Mumbai.

Nikita is a graduate of Pravara College of Architecture and brings over five years of

experience handling public work. She brings expertise in designing hospitals, coordinating public competitions and delivering detailed Good for Construction (GFC) drawings for international airport developments. Armed with strong digital modelling skills and an eye for sustainable, functional space design, she will be a great asset to our team. Outside the office, Nikita is an avid hiker with a love for art and craft. Welcome to the team, **Nikita!**

We are delighted to welcome **Shraddha Nehete** to our Pune office! Shraddha brings over 10 years of robust experience delivering architectural and interior design projects across the residential, commercial, and mixed-use sectors. A graduate of CEPT University (M.Plan) and B.K.P.S. College of Architecture (B.Arch), she has managed projects across multiple states from initial concept to site execution. Alongside her rich independent practice, she spent over 8 years as an Assistant Professor teaching advanced design and Revit modelling. Recently up-

skilled in corporate BIM workflows, her blend of execution knowledge and Revit-based coordination makes her a great addition to our team. Welcome aboard, **Shraddha!**

We are delighted to welcome **Ar. Janhavi Shinde**, joining us as in our Pune office as an Architect. Janhavi

has completed her B.Arch from Pravara College of Architecture, and brings 4 years of diverse experience delivering commercial and residential interior and architectural drawings. Highly proficient in AutoCAD, SketchUp, and V-Ray, she excels at translating project requirements into execution-ready construction details. Outside the office, Janhavi is an enthusiast trekker, loves photography and music. Her strong drafting capabilities and dedication to functional design will reinforce our execution team. Welcome to the team, **Janhavi!**

We're delighted to welcome **Ar. Mausum Das**, who joins us as a Senior Architect in Sikkim. Mausum

brings 16 years of robust architectural experience paired with BIM Certification. His extensive portfolio spans high-profile healthcare infrastructure, complex commercial developments, and large-scale railway station redevelopments. Proficient in Autodesk Revit, Navisworks, Dynamo, and multidisciplinary model coordination, he excels at integrating best practices in BIM to streamline construction documentation and clash detection. Beyond the office, Mausum is a badminton player and



keen trekker. His blend of design leadership and digital construction innovation is a tremendous asset to our senior team. Welcome aboard, **Mausum!**

Birthdays

Great structures begin with the people who build them. This month, we celebrate the birthdays of the people who draw our details, complete our deadlines, and eventually build the buildings that become the iconic structures that get posted on our websites. Stop by, say hello, and make them feel special!

Deepak Padalkar

10th August

Yogesh Patil

11th August

Sarpebahadur Vishwakarma

16th August

Siddesh Phodkar

27th August

Komal Bonde

29th August

Vinayak Sonawane

27 years

Ramesh Madgi

27 years

Tushar Sawant

21 years

Baliram Kisan Giri

7 years

Ritesh Ganesh Balpelwad

3 years

Renuka Anil Sampagao

2 years

Hitesh Vishnu Patil

2 years

Santosh Gulabrao Jadhav

2 years

Ranveer Pisal

1 year

Harshada Petkar

1 year

Shailesh Digambar Borkar

1 year

Amanulla Mahmad Chikte

1 year

Vivek Vigneshwar K

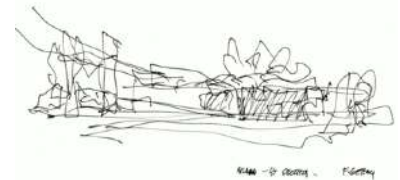
1 year



Humour

Who says doctors are the only ones with creative handwriting skill? Here is **Ar. Frank O. Gehry's** initial sketch of the much hailed Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain along with the render of the final building!

If your sketching skills match his, perhaps you too could have the potential of creating the next Guggenheim!



Anniversaries

At SPA, we have always believed in building lasting relationships – not just with our clients, but with our people too. Here are some of our members who have invested in the long-term vision of our firm, who grow with us, and who make SPA a bit better each year. Their **work anniversaries** this month are a reminder to us of that shared commitment.

The next time you see any of these colleagues, please stop and congratulate them in person. A simple acknowledgement goes a long way, and they deserve every bit of it!

Disclaimer

We've done our best to get every name, number and story in this edition right – but with a studio this large and this busy, we know something might slip through. If you spot anything we've missed, gotten wrong, or not quite done justice to, write to canvas@spaaec.com or reach out to Team "Canvas" directly. We'll make it right in the next edition.