

## TAPAS MITRA

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Dr. Tapas Mitra, an architect and urbanist is presently Professor in Urban Design at the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, India. Tapas has held the positions of Head of Architecture and Urban Design at the institute among other administrative and academic positions. His research interest focuses at the intersections of architecture, urban Design and Urban Planning. He has presented his research on the inner core of Indian cities, specifically Kolkata, at prestigious international conferences (CNU, RSA, ISOCARP, to name a few). Dr. Mitra is also an artist and has been featured multiple times on the international site of the Urban Sketchers and other online platforms. He has also been an international faculty at the world symposium of Urban Sketchers in Chicago in 2017. He has written about various aspects of the urban and brings his knowledge of art and urbanism into his talks and writings.

Tapas has been with the School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal for more than one and half decades now. He has taught at Architecture/Planning and Design schools in a long academic career since 1996 including a short stint at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kolkata from 2006 to 2008.

He studied Architecture at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. His subsequent degrees in Architecture/Urban Design are from the same university.

Tapas has practiced architecture/Interiors/Urban Design since the early 90's and has worked on projects of diverse nature and scale.

### Specialization and Expertise:

Architecture, Urban Design and Housing Studies.

### Selected Publications:

Journals				
Sl.no	Title	Author/s	Publisher and other details	Year
1.	Sacred Heritage and the Spiritual landscape of Vrindavan: A study of Urban Transformation	Charlie Gupta, Tapas Mitra, Ridhu Dhan Gahlot	Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2025, ISSN-2365-757X, ISBN-978-3-031-97137-2, Pg. – 419-438 (Book Chapter)	2025
2.	Analysing the spatial organization of Indian temple towns through a classification framework	Charlie Gupta, Tapas Mitra	Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, Vol 24(5) Pgs. 1-11	2025
3.	Urban Refugee Self Settlement	Shreyasi Pal, Tapas	Journal of Lifestyle and SDG's review, Florida, USA, Vol. 5. Pgs. 1-21	2025

	and Ecological Blame: Insights from Kolkata's Jabar-Dakhal Colonies	Mitra		
4.	Revisiting Ritwik Ghatak's Komal Gandhar – Orion and the Polestar. (Pp 97-98)	Tapas Mitra	Economic and Political weekly, ISSN:0012-9976 (print), ISSN: 2349-8846 (online). Vol- LIX 50, Pg. – 97-98	2024
5.	Memories of Football; a reverie	Tapas Mitra	Economic and Political weekly, ISSN:0012-9976 (print), ISSN: 2349-8846 (online). Vol- LVIII 8, Pg. – 71-72	2023
6.	The urban non-narrative and an independent language of cinema	Tapas Mitra	Economic and Political weekly, ISSN:0012-9976 (print), ISSN: 2349-8846 (online). Vol- LVII 35, Pg. – 73-74	2022
7.	Meeting Lautrec in Chicago	Tapas Mitra	Economic and Political weekly, ISSN:0012-9976 (print), ISSN: 2349-8846 (online). Vol- LVII 6, Pg. – 72-73	2022
8.	Green infrastructure as a tool for improving livability of Area based Development projects under Smart City	Rama Pandey, Tapas Mitra, M. Wadwekar, Jyotika Nigam, kriti Trivedi	Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2021, ISSN-2765-757X, ISBN-978-3-030-71944-9, Pg. – 447-468 (Book Chapter)	2021
9.	On reading	Tapas Mitra	Economic and Political weekly, ISSN:0012-9976 (print), ISSN: 2349-8846 (online). Vol- LV 39, Pg. – 64-65	2020
10	Films in the urban context	Tapas Mitra	My Liveable City, ISSN-2455-2380, Vol- 6, Pg. – 31-33	2019
11	On the aesthetics of Public Spaces	Tapas Mitra	Economic and Political weekly, ISSN:0012-9976 (print), ISSN: 2349-8846 (online). Vol- LIV 22, Pg. – 69-70	2019
12	Vignettes on the go	Tapas Mitra	Economic and Political weekly, ISSN:0012-9976 (print), ISSN: 2349-8846 (online). Vol- LIII 37, Pg. – 80	
13	The changing urban structure: the dilemmas and conflicts of land and housing in urban India – case of Kolkata	Sheuli Mitra, Tapas Mitra	Spaces and Flows, ISSN:2154-8676 (print), ISSN: 2154-8684 (online).	2014
14	Urban identities and emerging city forms (Issue theme)	Issue editors: Tapas Mitra, Karna Sengupta	SPANDREL, Journal of the School of planning and Architecture, Bhopal. Issue 8, Spring 2014, ISSN 2231	2014
15	Understanding and	Tapas Mitra,	Architecture Time Space & people, Journal	2011

	maintaining neighbourhoods; how important it is to evaluate delineation – a study in Kolkata	Monideep Chattopadhyay, Suchandra Bardhan	of the Council of Architecture	
16	: ‘Rasa’ in Architecture; book review of Talking Architecture	Tapas Mitra	, SPANDREL, Journal of the School of planning and Architecture, Bhopal. Monsoon issue, ISSN 2231	2010
<b>Other publications</b>				
1.	Welcome to a world on fire	Tapas Mitra	Opinion piece in The Telegraph, India	2020
2.	Barely time to draw on a rushed European trip	Tapas Mitra	Guest post on the international website of Urban Sketchers.	2018
3.	The spires, towers and kites of Lucknow	Tapas Mitra	Guest post on the international website of Urban Sketchers.	2018
4.	Street vendors the powerhouse of Bhopal	Tapas Mitra	Guest post on the international website of Urban Sketchers.	2017
5.	Scenes from the departure lounge	Tapas Mitra	Guest post on the international website of Urban Sketchers.	2016
<b>Conference publications</b>				
1.	Networks and patterns of Technology, Culture and Society- The Case of Lucknow old City, India	Sheuli Mitra, Tapas Mitra	AMPS Proceedings Series 15. Tangible – Intangible Heritage(s) – Design, social and cultural critiques on the past, the present and the future, ISSN 2398-9467 (online)	2018
2.	Commodification of place and the decline of patchwork cosmopolitanism: case of urban patch at the cantonment edge of Pune, India	Sae Pawar, Tapas Mitra	AMPS Proceedings Series 15. Tangible – Intangible Heritage(s) – Design, social and cultural critiques on the past, the present and the future, ISSN 2398-9467 (online)	2018
3.	Region, Periphery and the City Core: Transformations in Morphology and Growth Symbiosis: A Case of Kolkata City and Region	Tapas Mitra, Sheuli Mitra	Regional Studies Association (RSA), Piacenza, Italy ISBN: 978-1-897721-50-6.	2015
4.	An Alternative Framework for a Socially Equitable Urban Metropolitan Structure: Integrating Policy,	Sheuli Mitra, Tapas Mitra,	Regional Studies Association (RSA), Piacenza, Italy ISBN: 978-1-897721-50-6.	2015

	Technology & Research- Lessons from Kolkata, India			
5.	Delineation, transformation assessment and intervention initiatives for 'Grey zones' of Kolkata, India	Tapas Mitra, Sheuli Mitra	ISOCARP Congress, Brisbane, 2013, ISBN: 978-94-90354-25-1 (in CD format and online).	2013
6.	Imageability continuum and discreteness: older residential neighborhood areas of Kolkata	Tapas Mitra, Monideep Chattopadhyay, Sheuli Mitra and Suchandra Bardhan	20th Congress of CNU (Congress of New Urbanism) at West Palm Beach, Florida.	2012
7.	Neighbourhoods and the city – imageries, morphology and livability: a study of Kolkata	Tapas Mitra	"Healthy Cities 2011", BNCA, Pune, ISBN: 978-81-920642-2-2 (in CD format)	2011
8.	The 'hill house' scenario in Tripura: typologies and technopgradation initiatives	Tapas Mitra	Technical journal of the Military Engineering Services, Siliguri zone, (Conference on the theme of indigenous habitats)	2011
9.	Kolkata in films: mythic space and urban structure, 2010, "Mapping, memory and the city"	Tapas Mitra, Sheuli Mitra	School of Architecture, University of Liverpool	2011
10	Integrated 'grey zones' in the city fabric: a study of transformation dynamics in Kolkata, India, 2004, "Adequate and affordable housing for all"	Tapas Mitra, Sheuli Mitra	CUCS, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. ISBN 0-7727-1434-7.	2004
11	An integrated approach to addressing issues in urban dynamics in the transforming city structure – the case of Kolkata, 2004	Tapas Mitra, Sheuli Mitra	"International Workshop on Urban Renewal", HSMI-HUDCO, New Delhi.	2004

**List of projects undertaken in SPA Bhopal from 2011 onwards:**

Sl. No.	Project Name	Year and Duration	Funded By and Amount	Role in project	Project Fees/Funding	Any patent/publication from the project
1.	“Shelter for all’ theme for the Design Innovation Centre (DIC) Project	2016 (Initially for 5 years, but now extended till 2026)	Ministry of Education, (then MHRD), Government of India.	Team member	INR 50 lakhs (For <i>Shelter for All</i> sub-theme)	Patent awarded in 2023.
2.	Study of transformation and rejuvenation of delineated residential areas in the Lutyens Bungalow Zone: An integrative approach (PI)	June onward 2025	MoHUA, AMRUT 2.0 CUPCB at SPA Bhopal	PI	INR 14 lakhs	Work in progress.
3.	Evaluating the implementation of PMAY: A comparative study of Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra (Team Member)	2025-ongoing	MoHUA, AMRUT 2.0 CUPCB at SPA Bhopal	Team Member	INR 15.5 lakhs	Work in progress.
4.	Research Advisory Wing in PMU of PMAY Gramin (Team Member)	2025-ongoing	PMAY-Gramin Mission Directorate, Department of Panchayat and Rural development, GoMP	Team Member	INR 5.8 crore	Work in progress.
5.	Climate resilient planning for 5 smart cities in MP	December 2016- November 2019	M.P. Clean Development Mechanism Agency, Department of Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh	Team member as Urban Transformation Expert.	INR 32.85 Lakhs	Book Chapter Publication.  (As an author)
6.	‘A Study to Develop Appropriate Housing	March 2016 – 2018 (Project	Then Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty	Team member	INR 19 Lakhs (partially received)	An international paper published in 2021, draws some parts from

	Design Alternatives for the Geo-Climatic Region covering the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Inland Maharashtra'	terminated by Client)	Alleviation, Government of India, under Technology Sub-Mission of Housing for All Mission.			this study. (Not an author)
7.	'History of Architecture from an Indigenous Perspective' project and workshop	August-December 2015	SPA Bhopal inhouse project	Team member	INR 6.5 lakhs	Workshop proceedings published as ISSN publication

**Major workshops and symposiums: (attended/ conducted/ hosted):**

A study of FBC in transforming residential cores: the case of Kolkata, in 5 day workshop titled Form Based Codes in Historic cities and Heritage districts, EDP MoHUA, AMRUT 2.0 CUPCB at SPA Bhopal.

Expert for KRVA Research Fellowship workshop, March 2022.

Expert for "Urban Dialogue" at KRVA, February, 2022.

Expert lecture on Research methods in "Advanced research methods and techniques in planning and design" in Short Term Training Programme at MANIT, Bhopal, December 2020.

Conducted 3 days workshop in Urban Design Reading the city through narratives: texts and images, at KRVA, Mumbai. January, 2020.

Hosted Webinar titled "Urban Sketchers: how community and storytelling live on". May, 2020.

Urban Sketchers workshop titled "In search of urban characters" in New York City, 2019.

Organizer and Panelist in International conference in Bhopal titled From Nawabs to Neo-Liberalism hosted by SPA Bhopal. Panel theme: Bhopal, Tradition and Modernity. 2018.

Invited international faculty and lecture leader at the 8th International symposium of Urban Sketchers in Chicago in 2017 titled Urban sketching ground rules in art.

Sheuli Mitra, Tapas Mitra: An Alternative Approach to Addressing Core City Housing through Design Interventions: Case of Kolkata, India, 2016, ETH Zurich, 2016. Was part of the team drafting the Oerlikon Declaration at ETH Zurich which was presented at HABITAT III.

Hosted IUDI symposium, 2013 at SPA, Bhopal. Presented lecture titled "Urban Design tools' representing SPA, Bhopal.

Hosted Urban Design colloquium, 2012 at SPA Bhopal.

Presented lecture titled "Urban Design Pedagogy" at the IUDI symposium at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, representing SPA, Bhopal in 2011.

Participated in a 6 days NPCBAERM workshop for Training of Trainers on Earthquake Resistant as Institute Coordinator, SIT, Tumkur at MIT, Manipal, 2005.

Participated in a 6 days workshop titled Towards sustainable habitats, at Auroville, 2002.

**Awards/Distinctions:**

Awarded 250 USD for one lecture in the lecture series at the 8th World symposium of the Urban Sketchers in Chicago, 2017.

Awarded travel grant of Euro 500 to speak at the No Cost Housing conference at the ETH, Zurich, 2015, which fed into HABITAT III at Quito, Ecuador in 2016.

Winner of one out of the eight best papers worldwide at the CNU 20 at the Congress for New Urbanism, USA, 2012 for Research paper titled Imageability continuum and discreteness: older residential neighborhood areas of Kolkata (Co-author).

GATE Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies in Architecture and Planning (93 percentile).

National scholarship at the Secondary level awarded by the Department of Education, Government of West Bengal, 1983 for academic excellence.

**Academic and administrative positions held:**

Local Institute Co-ordinator, GIAN SPA, Bhopal, 2016. (6 proposals approved out of which 4 experts hosted under the GIAN initiative in 2016).

Chief Vigilance Officer, SPA Bhopal.

Head, Department of Design, SPA Bhopal, June 2023 to June 2025

Programme coordinator, Urban Design, SPA, Bhopal, January, 2015 to January, 2017.

Head, Department of Architecture, SPA, Bhopal, January, 2017 to June, 2018.

Head, Department of Urban Design, SPA, Bhopal, January, 2018 to June, 2020.

Chair, DRC and advisory, Department of Design, SPA, Bhopal, June, 2023 to June, 2025.

Chair, DRC and advisory, Department of Architecture, SPA, Bhopal, January, 2017 to June, 2018.

Chair, DRC and advisory, Department of Urban Design SPA, Bhopal, January, 2018 to June, 2020.

Chairman, Institute Purchase Committee, SPA Bhopal since June, 2020 to March, 2023.

Chairperson, web committee, 2017-2019.

Professor-in charge, Library SPA, Bhopal, April, 2015 to December, 2016.

Controller of examination SPA, Bhopal, July 2011 to January 2015.

Member, Senate and earlier Academic Council SPA, Bhopal.

Member of Interview, Admission and Evaluation committees of the institute (PG admission, Doctoral Admission), SPA, Bhopal 2010 onwards.

Chairperson and Member of CoA Inspection committees.

Member of inspection committee, AICTE.

**Academic engagements:**

Completed PhD guidance of two candidates, registered in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design:

Smt. Supriya Kukreja, Thesis titled "Transformation in imageability of Public Building in India; an inquiry through the Town halls from 1900 to 1950". Degree awarded in September, 2022.

Smt. Shreyasi Pal, Thesis titled "Spatial History of East Bengali Refugees in Post-partition Kolkata: Mapping Spatial Relationships in a jabar-Dakhal Refugee Colony". Degree awarded in November, 2025.

Currently supervising 1 Doctoral scholar in the Department of Urban Design.

Guided approximately 45 Theses of post graduate students of Urban Design.

Guided approximately 40 Theses of undergraduate students of Architecture.

Ideated Integrated Studio titled Cities within Cities at SPA, Bhopal in January, 2020 as Head, Urban Design.

Ideated and hosted Global Studio at SPA, Bhopal in September, 2018, as Head, Urban Design. Participating institutes were from India, Norway and China.

Guided U.G. Architecture Thesis on Weavers Colony in Varanasi, which won the Blue Award International Students Competition for Sustainable Architecture 2014, in Vienna, Austria.