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Triumph at NOSPlan's 25th Annual Convention

- Yokeshwari

SPA Bhopal achieved a remarkable milestone at the recent National Organization of Students of Planning (NOSPlan) 25th Annual Convention, securing the esteemed title of First Runner-Up. This victory is a testament to our dedication to urban planning excellence and reflects our commitment to fostering innovative ideas and developing future planning professionals.

The convention, held at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar from 29th - 31st December 2023, brought together renowned experts, passionate students, and dedicated faculty from across India. SPA Bhopal was represented by 54 students, including 45 undergraduates and 9 postgraduates from the URP, EP, and TP departments.

NOSPlan, a student organization for planning departments across India, organizes this annual convention to facilitate interactive activities for budding planners. Participants competed in various categories, including academics, publication, cultural, and sports events.

Our students excelled, securing first place in 'Zero Carbon' and 'Map It Out', and third place in Collage Making, Football, Chess, Dance, and Music. These achievements highlight the innovative approaches and problem-solving strategies of our students, as well as their dedication and perseverance.

The convention provided valuable exposure and opportunities for knowledge exchange within the planning community. Students benefited immensely from interacting with peers from various institutions, enhancing their ideas and shaping future opportunities. This achievement is thanks to the collective efforts of our students, faculty, and volunteers. Congratulations to everyone involved!



photo credits: GNDU

Innovative Seminar on Structural Steel

- Dwiti

The Department of Architecture at SPA, Bhopal hosted a seminar on "Structural Steel for Innovative Pursuits in Architecture" along with INSDAG and welcomed esteemed guests and experts including Architect Charanjeet Shah, Architect Nitin Killawala, Architect Habib Khan, and Architect Darius Choksi. The event was also guided by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Mishra, Director General of INSDAG, and Architect Akshay Selukar, Chairman of IIA Bhopal Center. The seminar aimed to encourage discussions and inspire advancements in architectural practice, and it was inaugurated with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony.

Dr. Kailasa Rao, Director of SPA Bhopal delivered the welcome address, emphasizing historical significance and modern steel innovations. Mr. PK Mishra, INSDAG Director General, highlighted the underutilized potential of steel in Indian construction despite its sustainability and cost-effectiveness. He identified a lack of R&D, skilled labor, and awareness as key obstacles. He also introduced INSDAG's activities, encouraging student participation in their initiatives to bridge the knowledge gap. Professor Charanjeet Shah, also known as the "Airport King," introduced various of his projects from airports to museums and specified various steel construction details throughout his talk.

Architect Nitin Killawala showcased steel's advantages for aesthetics and construction through his projects, while also critiquing its poor execution in some public spaces. This highlighted both the potential and challenges of steel in modern architecture. Architect Darius Choksi, architecture director of CCBA, discussed the evolution and versatility of steel in construction, emphasizing its historical impact, along with notable projects like the Crystal Palace, its strengths, and challenges in implementation.

Architect Habib Khan presented his diverse steel projects (masjids, resorts, schools) and championed its versatility, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness for contemporary architecture. He addressed challenges and innovations in steel use, urging young architects to embrace progress and sustainable design for India's future.

A panel discussion was held to further discuss the advancements in steel construction, followed by a Q&A session. The event concluded leaving attendees with a deep sense of understanding.

STRUCTURAL STEEL FOR INNOVATIVE PURSUITS IN ARCHITECTURE

Seminar for Students of Architecture on Enhancing use of Structural Steel in Architectural Innovations

11TH JAN 2024

Venue: New Academic Block
SPA Bhopal

12TH JAN 2024

Venue: New Academic Block
SPA Bhopal

GUEST SPEAKER



AR. CHARANJIT SHAH
Principal Architects
Creative Group,
New Delhi



AR. DARAIUS CHOKSI
Director Architecture
Christopher Charles
Benninger Associates, Pune



AR. HABIB KHAN
Principal Architect
Smita & Habib Khan
Architects, Nagpur



AR. NITIN KILLAWALA
Principal Architect
G7 Architects & Planners
Mumbai

Patrons

Prof. Kailasa Rao
Director SPA, Bhopal
Mr. PK Mishra
Director General, INSDAG

Convenor

Dr. Sanjeev Singh
SPA, Bhopal
Shiladitya Chanda
INSDAG

Co-ordinators, SPA Bhopal

Ar. Arvind Kumar Meel
Ar. Paritosh Kumar
Ar. Vikram Kohli

Embracing the Harvest Spirit

- Reet

On the auspicious day of January 13th, the SPA Bhopal community came together to celebrate the vibrant festival of Lohri. The spirit of celebration began the night before as students gathered for the final preparations.

The festivities officially commenced in the BH1 foyer, adorned with serene decorations featuring the prominent 'EK ONKAR' symbol. Imbued with a sense of peace and meditation, everyone present listened attentively as Pathi Singh led the devotional chanting of the Jabji Sahib paath, followed by soul-stirring Kirtan.

Honouring the tradition, five Pyaare (Khalsa Sikhs) were seated and offered Prasad. Following this, a delightful serving of sweet atte ka halwa (kada prasad) was distributed amongst everyone.

The heart of Lohri lies in its spirit of community and shared joy. This was truly embodied in the Langar, the communal feast, which offered a delectable spread of traditional dishes like roti, daal, mixed sabzi, rice, Gajar ka halwa, and kheer.

The festive spirit reached new heights with the gathering of the community around the Lohri ki Aag (bonfire). The tradition of circling the fire while tossing popcorn and sesame seeds into the flames was observed with reverence and accompanied by the joyful echoes of folk songs.

The evening blossomed into a vibrant display of cultural expression with energetic performances on a medley of Punjabi and folk tunes. The night concluded with a lively DJ session that kept the celebration pulsating for several hours.

SPA Bhopal's Lohri celebration transcended regional boundaries. Students had the opportunity to experience and appreciate the essence of Lohri, a harvest festival that celebrates new beginnings and shared prosperity.



photo credits: Krishanu Sharma

A Vibrant Sankranthi/Pongal

- Yokeshwari

The college campus came alive with the joyous spirit of Sankranthi/Pongal on 14th January 2024. The festivities were kicked off with a vibrant display of colorful rangolis created in front of BH-1. Students also showcased their artistic talents by painting beautiful Pongal-themed murals on a vertical fabric canvas.

Staying true to tradition, our hostels saw a transformation. BH1 hostel entrance was designed to resemble a traditional house entrance, adorned with dried grass thatch, adding a touch of authenticity. In the spirit of togetherness, students actively participated in the preparation of a grand feast. Late nights were spent cutting vegetables, cooking delicious dishes like rice, sambar, rasam, pongal, and vada, and the joy of shared labor filled the air.

Adding a touch of floral beauty, students collaborated to create flower garlands. The celebrations weren't limited to artistic expression and culinary delights. Traditional games like kite flying, matka phod, and musical chairs brought out the playful spirit in everyone.

Marking a departure from tradition, the festivities culminated in a lively DJ night. Dressed in their finest traditional attire, students danced the night away, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha

- Sachi

The grand consecration ceremony or "Pran Pratishtha" of the Ram Mandir took place in Ayodhya on 22 January, 2024. The SPA Bhopal family also commemorated the day and marked its significance by having a small celebration.

The celebration took place at BH-1 Foyer. The decorations and the captivating Rangoli embellished the BH1 Foyer, adding more devotion and enthusiasm.

The event commenced with Pooja and lighting of Diyas, followed by storytelling and some bhajans sung in local languages.

An impromptu poetry session, held by the students adding more light and joy to the ceremony.

The celebration of divine triumph, unity and the eternal bequest of Lord Rama's teachings concluded with sweet distribution and fireworks.



photo credits: Sajal Chauhan

Celebrating Talent and Achievement

- Reet

Kashiyatra is an annual cultural festival organised by the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi. Held in January, Kashiyatra spanned three days, featuring a plethora of events that included music, dance, drama, literature, fashion, and fine arts.

As an invitee college, SPAB also participated enthusiastically with success in many events.

In the Quiz competition, Rapid Fire had different rounds that tested your knowledge and quick thinking, and the team representing SPAB (Vedant, Krishna, Chinmay, and Manasi) bagged the first position.

Art competitions included live sketching, face painting and others.

In the Live sketching event, Abhram bagged 1st place showcasing the finesse of his pencil strokes. For face painting, Dhanushree Y. & Shreya Wathore got 3rd place.

In the cultural events, we participated in both group dance and solo dance, where the teams put their best foot forward. Team 'Riwayat' got placed 4th in group dance and in solo dance, Urshita was one of the top 8.

The singing events were truly melodious. The competitions included Group Singing and Solo Instrumental. In Group Singing, the SPAB team secured third place with Ronnie, Arijit, Shyla

(guitar), Wanmi (singer), Saniya (singer), and Garvit (guitar) delivering a captivating performance. In Solo Instrumental, Arijit Roy won third prize for his exceptional percussion skills.

Lastly, in the Miss. KY, a pageant-style competition, Navodita Goel secured 3rd place.

It was truly a remarkable showcase of talent and skills by the SPAB Team at Kashiyatra 2024.



photo credits: Kartikeya Mishra

Republic Day Celebration: Display of Unity and Culture

- Priy

The New Academic Building of SPA, Bhopal hosted its first and a vibrant Republic Day celebration on 26 January 2024. The fraternity of SPA, Bhopal including students and faculty gathered for the flag hoisting ceremony at 9 am and soon after, the national flag was unfurled by Prof(Dr.) Ajay Khare, with the singing of the National Anthem.

The ceremony commenced with an inspiring speech by Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Khare, setting the tone for the day's events. He shared intriguing stories and personal adventures, relating ancient tales to contemporary times. Emphasizing the difference between fact and truth, he urged designers, architects, and planners to seek out 'truth' in their work.

From G. Pawan, a master's student, highlighting the emergence of strength as a republic in stressful times, to Advait Bansal (a tiny tot) speaking about unity, encapsulated by his phrase, "aao hum sab hath milaye, dil se dil tak rah banaye" (let's join hands and create a path from one heart to another), the feeling of patriotism was shared by all ages.

Dr. Sandeep Sankat, HOD Architecture, added a musical touch to the collective patriotism. The cultural program that followed showcased a variety of performances, including traditional dances and recitation of folk songs by students from various batches of all departments.

A standout performance, orchestrated by the students of the Master's department, involved students dancing on a big sheet of paper, using their feet covered in ink to create live art. This artistic display concluded with other students joining in to add calligraphy in their regional languages, symbolizing unity in diversity.

The event concluded on a high note, leaving the attendees with a deep sense of pride, patriotism and a renewed commitment to the values that underpin the Republic.



photo credits: Perception

Saraswati Puja Celebration

- Tanvi

The SPA Bhopal community was filled with the spirit of celebration and learning as they observed Saraswati Puja on 24th February 2024, a festival honoring the Goddess of Knowledge, Music, and Art. This two-day event culminated in months of dedicated preparation by students. The hand crafted Murti (idol) perfectly embodied the Goddess's essence ; the Gh2-Bh2 Hostel Foyer transformed into a visual feast, adorned with intricate Alpanas and hand-painted fabrics depicting the Goddess's stories. Flowers and traditional elements further enriched the space.

The festivities commenced with the auspicious Alankar ceremony, where students adorned the Murti. The Puja itself, conducted entirely by students, resonated with devotion and love for the Goddess. The contagious spirit of celebration brought joy and happiness to all present. Following the Puja, fruits were distributed as Prasad, a sweet offering. This was followed by a Bhog Prasad of delectable dishes like Mishti Doi, Rasgulla, Mix Vegetables, and Khichadi.

The second day witnessed the emotional tradition of Visarjan, the immersion of the Murti. This act mirrored the farewell given to a daughter leaving for her marital home - the Goddess here resembling the Ghar ki Beti. Chanting hymns filled the air as the aarti was performed with tearful devotion and love. Finally, the Goddess was bid a heartfelt adieu at the Bairagarh Lake.

Saraswati Puja at SPA Bhopal transcended

religious boundaries, serving as a powerful reminder of the importance of knowledge, creativity, and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of life. The collaborative spirit and dedication of the students made this celebration a truly memorable one.



Photo credits: Priy Rajan Yadav

Uniting through Architecture: The 66th ANC

- Khyati

The 66th Annual Convention of NASA India was held between 29th February to 3rd March 2024; Amidst the hot and humid weather, the convention offered a plethora of enriching experiences for students of SPA Bhopal, that made it worthwhile.

Students had the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of workshops, panel discussions, and seminars on topics like 'gender and the built environment' to portfolio making workshops. The convention catered to everyone's interests, with multiple events happening simultaneously. This ensured that each attendee could find something to engage themselves in at any given time. Beyond the academic and professional development sessions, there were informal games and activities, such as paint by numbers, graffiti, musical chairs, etc. These activities provided a platform for students to connect with peers from across the country, forming new friendships and exchanging ideas. A significant highlight was the pin-up display of shortlisted entries from throughout the session, showcasing the creativity and hard work of students.

The convention also hosted the council meetings, where the upcoming session's plans were discussed, with all unit secretaries and designees in attendance. Elections for the next NASA committee were a part of these meetings as well.

SPA Bhopal was proudly shortlisted for the prestigious LIK and ANDC trophies, reflecting the high standards of our students' work. The award ceremony was a moment of pride for SPA Bhopal, as the 66th-year USEC, Prisha Aggarwal, received a silver medal for her exemplary tenure. This recognition added to the sense of accomplishment felt by the entire delegation from SPA Bhopal.

Overall, the 66th Annual NASA Convention was not just about acquiring knowledge but also about building connections and celebrating the collective achievements of architecture students from across India.

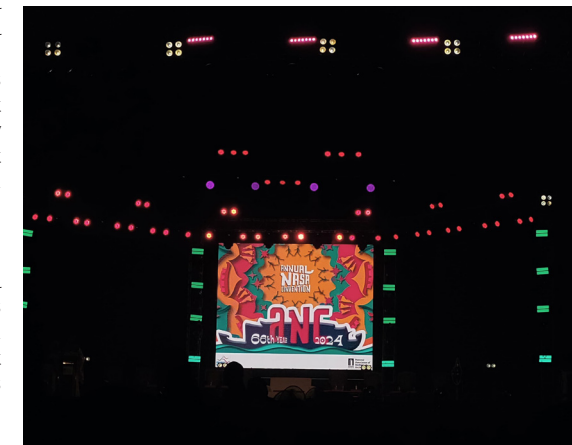


Photo Credits: Khushi Chaudhary

Urban Innovation Conference 2024 Sparks New Ideas

- Kunal

In a bid to promote sustainable urban development and improve the liveability of cities, the Urban Innovation Conference took place for 3 days, from March 1 to March 3, 2024 in the New academic block of SPA Bhopal. The highly anticipated event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including academicians, researchers, practitioners, and students to share ideas and collaborate on cutting-edge urban innovation theories and practices. The conference focused on Urban Innovation Theories and Practice, and the Data and Collaboration for Urban Innovations.

The Conference featured a comprehensive program, including technical sessions, expert panels and Hands on activities. These sessions delved into various aspects of urban innovation, such as smart mobility, automation in city systems, innovations in geo-spatial technologies.

Renowned experts shared their insights and experiences on urban innovation, highlighting best practices and challenges. Participants also had the opportunity to showcase their research and projects, facilitating knowledge sharing and networking. A city tour and hands-on citizen value co-creation session provided a unique opportunity for participants to experience innovative urban solutions firsthand.

Additionally, the conference highlighted Innovations in Environmental Practices, Mainstreaming Innovation, and Innovations to

Scalable Solutions. Emphasis was also placed on the role of Innovations from Civic Society, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to urban development and technological advancements.

The conference fostered a collaborative environment, encouraging participants to share their experiences, learn from each other, and develop new ideas and solutions to urban challenges. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the event encouraged a better future of urban development and improvement in the quality of life in cities.



photo credits: Perception



photo credits: Perception

An empowering Bamboo workshop

- Aqmar

The Design Department of SPA Bhopal, in collaboration with the MP State Bamboo Mission, conducted a five-day workshop on design with bamboo, from 11th to 15th March 2024. This workshop aimed to equip students, artisans, and academics with the knowledge and skills to leverage bamboo as a sustainable and versatile material in design and construction.

The workshop offered a unique collaborative learning environment. Participants engaged in expert lectures, hands-on sessions, and worked alongside local artisans. The workshop covered diverse areas of bamboo design, including product design, furniture making, and architectural applications.

The product design module, led by Architect and industrial designer Shashank Gautam, focused on understanding material selection based on factors like strength and flexibility, exploring design principles for functionality, ergonomics, and aesthetics specific to bamboo, and incorporating traditional techniques like weaving and joinery.

In the furniture design module, Architect and furniture designer Akash Bakshi helped participants gain understanding of methods like bending, laminating, and heat treatments for bamboo. They also learned about joineries specific to bamboo furniture for strength and durability.

Led by Architect Priyam Ballav Goswami, participants collaborated with artisans to construct a bamboo pavilion on campus and understand it as a material. This hands-on experience covered strengthening bamboo for beams and columns, intricate joinery techniques, and composite foundation construction, all guided by Ar. Priyam's expertise.

By the workshop's end, participants gained practical understanding of bamboo construction, design considerations for functionality, ergonomics and user comfort. It concluded with a final exhibition showcasing the various products and furniture pieces designed by the participants. This workshop demonstrated the potential of bamboo as a sustainable and innovative design material to the upcoming designers.



photo credits: Atharv Goyal

Synergy: A Celebration Of Talent

- Vansh

After four years of anticipation, SPAB finally conducted its annual sports-cultural fest, Synergy, along with its Inter-SPA Sports Fest from March 16th to 18th on campus. SPAB invited SPAs Delhi and Vijayawada to compete in Synergy and Inter-SPA respectively. Local colleges from Bhopal, including IISER, NIFT, NID, and MANIT, were also invited to participate in cultural events and set up stalls, adding to the cultural vibrancy of our prestigious annual college fest.

Synergy's theme for 2024 was "Interstellar Pop." As spring began, the campus buzzed with excitement and creativity, bursting into life like a supernova of talent and imagination. All cultural events, from fashion to drama to music, were inspired by this theme. The campus transformed into a galaxy adorned with intergalactic stars, planets, and moons, thanks to the efforts of the clubs 'Art fellas' and 'Depace,' which repurposed unused spaces and adorned walls with thematic graffiti.

Throughout the day, cultural events unfolded across the campus, while nights came alive with musical performances on a specially set stage. The first day featured a Sufi night by the Adhirohah band, followed by a Bollywood night showcasing singers Raj Thakur and Ayush Wanjari. The grand finale saw DJs Yashodhan and Aman setting the stage ablaze with pulsating beats and dazzling lights.

Food trucks orbited the festivities like satellites,

offering a fusion of global Flavors. Galactic-inspired treats such as brownies and shakes fuelled the exploration of sights and sounds. As the fest concluded, the campus collectively savored the satisfaction of a successful event. Memories of cosmic adventures and creative discoveries lingered like stardust in the minds of all who attended. The "Pop Stellar" theme had not only celebrated popular culture but also sparked new passions, forged friendships, and left an enduring constellation of inspiration behind.



photo credits: Perception

Inter–Spa: A Long Awaited Relay For Sportsmanship

- Vansh

In the middle of spring, when our campus at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Bhopal, looks its best, something amazing happened – our long-awaited sports festival finally kicked off! This year was extra special because after four whole years, we got to host SPA Delhi and SPA Vijayawada for some exciting sports competitions.

When the teams from SPA Delhi and SPA Vijayawada arrived, they were all decked out in their school colors, carrying banners with their team slogans. Our usually quiet campus suddenly turned into a buzzing sports arena. Even the peaceful lawns where we usually sketch and think were filled with excited crowds eagerly waiting for the games to begin.

We had so many different sports to watch – football, cricket, volleyball, badminton, basketball, chess, and table tennis. Each game was like a battleground, with players showing off their skills while fans cheered loudly and chanted to support their teams.

Football, cricket, volleyball and kabaddi matches were intense, with powerful shots and strategic moves echoing across the grounds. Badminton and table tennis were all about quick reflexes and precise control. Even the chess matches, although quieter, were full of strategy and excitement. And the basketball games were fast-paced, with sneakers squeaking on the court and the ball bouncing rhythmically.

Our professors, who we usually see in classrooms teaching us, were now on the sidelines as enthusiastic fans as well.

As the games went on, our campus started feeling like a bustling stadium. There were food stalls selling all kinds of snacks and drinks, adding to the festive atmosphere. The fans were really into it, clapping and chanting along with the beat of drums, creating a lively backdrop for the matches.

But more than just winning trophies, this sports fest brought the three sister schools together. It was a celebration of friendship, unity, and the thrill of competition. As the sun set on the final day, you could hear cheers and applause echoing through the air. It was a promise of more exciting times ahead and stronger bonds among all of us at the School of Planning and Architecture.

As the sports fest came to an end, the DJ night was the highlight after an amazing fashion show and an awards ceremony where winners proudly held their trophies. The DJ night brought the campus to life with lively music and colorful lights, marking the end of days filled with sports and friendship. As the night ended, students and guests slowly left, looking forward to the next year's fest at SPA Bhopal.



photo credits: Perception

Rang Barse – Holi 2024

- Sachi

The spirit of Holi, the festival of colors, was vibrant throughout the SPA Bhopal campus on March 25th, 2024. Students residing in the hostel during the festive break came together for a joyous celebration near BH1, creating lasting memories for all involved.

The SPA Bhopal family carried forward the tradition of Holika Dahan and vowed to keep all evil away. The atmosphere was filled with energy as the colorful hues of Gulal filled the air. Water guns and balloons added a playful touch to the festivities. The distribution of refreshing Thandai, a traditional Holi beverage, complemented the lively music, immersing everyone in the celebratory spirit.

The celebration also kept in mind the safety of students and the college property, without compromising on any fun.

Colorful Gudi Padwa Celebrations

- Kunal

The students of SPAB were abuzz with excitement and festivity as students and faculty members came together to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Gudi Padwa, marking the beginning of the new year of the Maharashtrian calendar.

The celebrations began with a traditional puja ceremony, performed by the faculty members Prof. Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar and Prof. Dr. Kshama Puntambekar at the PG Academic block foyer. Students and staff members raised the 'Gudi', offered prayers and sought blessings for a prosperous and successful year ahead.

The SPAB community made the event more vibrant and colorful with their traditional attires.

The atmosphere was electric, with students and faculty members mingling and exchanging greetings. The event concluded with a delicious spread of Sweets which was savored by all.

The Gudi Padwa celebration at SPAB was a resounding success, fostering a sense of community and cultural pride among the college family.



photo credits: Yashada Sonkhaskar



School of Planning
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Bhopal

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