**Paper / Proposal Title:**
Reinstating the Delight of Architecture

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**Abstract (300 words):**

This paper will examine the primary and essential function of architecture as an experiential and sensory form of art, through theories of industrialisation and intuition, as well as practice-based research we have conducted with students of architecture at Padmabhushan Dr. Vasantdada Patil College of Architecture, Pune in Design Studio since 2015. Our research has shown that the relationship between the fundamentals of architecture is interdependent, leading to a necessary synthesis, privileging an intuitive understanding over a purely analytical one.

In the post-industrialisation era, the function of architecture has shifted from a sensory and emotional art form, engendering a sense of delight in its perceiver, to utilitarian and consumer-based. We attribute this to a reconfiguration of the interactions between the three essential players - the Space (Site), the Perceiver (User) and the Creator (Architect). This takes the form of an increasing gap in the tangible and intellectual space between the architect, the client and the site of creation, reflected in the reduction of space as the place to consume/a mere physical entity/a set of data; the perceiver to the client/stakeholder/user and the creator to problem solver. These
reductions have not only shaped the practice of architecture but also the pedagogical discourses reflected through teaching methods.

In-studio, our practice takes the form of sensory-led exercises that rely on and nurture a multidisciplinary skill set, encouraging students to respond to prompts (ex: seasons and not climate/weather), both tangibly (temperature, humidity, etc.) and intangibly, by creating a piece of non-architectural art in relation to their emotional response (a piece of writing, a painting, murals etc.). The art produced in the studio serves as an idea-model, as a way for the Creator to learn to provoke their own emotional responses in the Perceiver.

We contend that this will impact and fundamentally change the modes of discourse and methodology of research surrounding architecture. Beyond treating it as a mere tool of problem-solving (and the architect as problem-solver), this method will bring with it a new vocabulary, associated with experience and delight, and restore the creativity of the architect as an essential cornerstone of architectural practice.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Vijaya Srinivasan

Over 20 years of experience using effective and efficient teaching methodologies to enhance students' outlook and approach to architecture, teaching subjects varying from Design and Building Technology to Building Services. Vijaya trains students from their first year in the basics of design, guiding them through the years till their thesis and dissertation. She has taught in Mumbai and Pune and is currently a professor at Padmabhushan Vasantdada Patil College of Architecture in Pune.

An Architect and Interior Designer with a proven professional track record as in delivering customized space design solutions to retail customers across cities around India, in a career spanning three decades. Most recently, she was able to realize a long cherished dream for restoration, by conserving the Brother Deshpande Memorial Church in Pune.

A popular invitee to various forums, Vijaya has presented papers on "Teaching of Building Technology and Service in Architecture", "Healthy Cities: Perspective of Asian Concerns", "Emerging Trends in Architecture and Allied Fields" and, most recently, "Smart Cities: Approaches, Opportunities & Challenges".

Popular among her students and clients alike, Vijaya continues to seek avenues to continually learn, improve and dissipate the knowledge among tomorrow's architects.

Minal Sagare
She is an architect and urban designer with over 16 years of professional experience and has done Post-Graduate Diploma in Natural Resources Management, Sustainable Development and Ecological Restoration. Before joining the academics she has worked in Pune, New Delhi and Dubai. Currently she is the program coordinator of post-graduate course in Urban Design at VIT's P.V.P. College of Architecture, Pune (India).

She has a keen interest in the core questions of Architecture and Urban Design and the nature of their interface with other disciplines of arts, history, philosophy, sociology, ecology, science and technology. This interest has been shaping her academic inquiries as well as her professional work. She has presented papers at international conferences like ‘Public Spaces – Key to Socio-Cultural Sustainability’, ‘Architectural Expression as the Reflection of the Self’, ‘Imagination, Representation and physical manifestation of Sangams in India’. She has been a recipient of MASA Research fellowship titled ‘Documenting Local History’. She has co-curated exhibitions on behalf of her institute at Pune Biennale – A Visual Art Festival in 2015 and 2017 and also had co-conceptualized teachers training program ‘Feelings and Spaces – A Multidisciplinary Explorations’ in collaboration with NIASA and COA, India. Currently she is a part of four-member team working on a project of writing a book titled ‘Architecture of Maharashtra – Tradition and Journey’ for Marathi Sahitya Sanskruti Mandal, Government of Maharashtra.