



## Divyang Purkayastha

Research Scholar (Prime Minister's Research Fellow)  
Department of Design | Laboratory of Inclusive Design (LID)  
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## Education And Academics

### PhD, Inclusive Public Sanitation in Indian Cities: A Universal Design Approach

9.741 CGPA (Coursework)

2022 - Present

Department of Design, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

### B. Arch., Architecture

8.241 CGPA

2016 - 2021

Department of Architecture and Planning, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

### Class XII (CBSE)

95%

2016

Delhi Public School, Vasant Kunj

### Class X (CBSE)

10 CGPA

2014

Mount St. Mary's School, Delhi Cantt.

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## Achievements

### National First Prize Winner in Archumen 2021

Archumen is India's Biggest Architecture Quiz competition. My team secured the position of Regional Winner for the Northern Interface and also stood as the overall National First Prize Winner.

### Second-highest Score in Undergraduate Thesis

My undergraduate thesis was awarded the second-highest total marks in 31 students.

### JEE Advanced Qualified: AIR 4778

Secured an AIR of 4778 in the General category in JEE Advanced 2016.

### NID DAT Qualified: Stage - 1 AIR 36

Qualified for NID DAT 2017 with a Stage 1 AIR of 36 and Stage 1 + 2 combined AIR of 380 in the General category.

### UCEED Qualified: AIR 177

Qualified for UCEED 2017 with an AIR of 177 in the General category.

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## Work Experience

### Academic Intern

May - August 2023

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Remote

NIUA is India's leading national think tank on urban planning and development under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

- Involved in conducting research for a project on inclusive public sanitation in the state of Uttarakhand.
- Undertook field data collection (surveys, interviews, accessibility audits) and analysis of public toilets of Dehradun.
- Outcomes were shared with officials representing the Government of Uttarakhand.

**Research Scholar (prev. Project Associate)**

April 2022 - Present

Laboratory of Inclusive Design (LID), IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India

Involved in multiple ongoing projects related to Universal Design and Inclusion, as listed below.

- CAID (Campus Accessibility and Inclusion of Diversity) for IIT Roorkee.
- Developing the Accessible Tourism Guidelines for India 2022 for the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India.
- Accessibility Assessment of New Parliament Building, Central Vista, New Delhi.
- Developing MOOC on 'ICTs for Accessible and Inclusive Urban Development' for UN India and NIUA.
- Member of the Core Organising Team for the International and Interdisciplinary Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS) Conference, 2023, held in IIT Roorkee.
- Improving Universal Accessibility of Mumbai Suburban Railway Stations for Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. (MRVC) and Indian Railways.

**Project Engineer - Virtual Design and Construction (VDC)**

July 2021 - February 2022

vConstruct Pvt. Ltd., Pune, Maharashtra, India

A subsidiary of DPR Construction, a USA-based builder, vConstruct specialises in delivering tech-based virtual design and construction services.

- Worked on projects of various scales which are located in South-East USA.
- Produced detailed 3D building information models and drawings for on-site implementation.
- Engaging and collaborating professionally with colleagues and stakeholders from different nationalities.

**Student-Architect Trainee**

Jan 2020 - June 2020

Habitat Technology Group, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Established in 1987 by Padma Shri (Dr.) G Shankar in Kerala, Habitat is committed to sustainable building solutions and humane design.

- Worked directly under the guidance of Padma Shri G Shankar on a wide range of projects including residential, commercial, institutional, healthcare, sanitation, eco-tourism and more.
- Involved in various aspects of the project process including site visits, documentation, client interactions, design development, 3D visualisation, working drawings, proposal presentations and research/writing

**Editorial Writer**

Jan 2020 - June 2020

Rethinking The Future, WFH

Rethinking The Future (RTF) is one of the fastest growing platforms for architecture &amp; design online.

- Wrote and Published 11 articles on varied topics on the online platform of Rethinking The Future.

**Volunteer**

Jan 2020 - June 2020

Sacred Groves, Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India

Learnt hands-on construction techniques e.g. adobe brick construction, arais &amp; mud plastering, cob construction, and bamboo joineries.

**Intern**

May 2018 - July 2018

Firki Studio, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

FIRKI studio, an award-winning practice, innovates in a range of areas including graphics, furniture, interior, architecture and landscape design.

- Involved in various aspects of the project process including interior design, 3D visualisation, and site supervision.
- Worked end-to-end on a kinetic installation design and fabrication for the 2018 Delhi chapter of DoA (Death of Architecture), a 'travelling exhibition assembled by 13 of India's thinking and concerned design practices'.

**Summer Intern**

June - July 2017

RAMTeCH Corporation

Involved in carrying out market research of the construction industry in Germany

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## Architectural Design Projects (Select)

### Shortlisted in the Top 60 Colleges out of 300 Colleges in Annual NASA Design Competition (ANDC)

#### Trophy

- NASA, India stands for 'National Association of Students of Architecture'
- Represented IIT Roorkee and secured a place in the Top 60 Colleges out of 300 Colleges.
- Designed a liminal space connecting Old Ganga Canal to the New Ganga Canal.
- Learnt concepts of user survey and human-centric design.

#### Redevelopment of Rajiv Bhawan (Hostel) Mess, IIT Roorkee

- Identified problems in the Hostel Mess after speaking to mess staff.
- Suggested interventions to Chief Warden which were accepted and implemented.
- Learnt practical implementation of design interventions.

#### Vernacular Architecture of North-East India with Govt. of Manipur

- Actively involved in physically documenting the Vernacular Architecture of Kalinamai Village in Manipur.
- Developed a Model Tribal Village Plan and shared with the village authorities for further action and implementation.
- Learned a participatory design approach to come up with interventions

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## Research Publications

### Socio-Spatial Relationships in Vertical Housing During COVID Times : A Study in an Indian Urban Neighbourhood

Purkayastha, D., & Raheja, G. (2021). *Socio-Spatial Relationships in Vertical Housing During COVID Times : A Study in an Indian Urban Neighbourhood* [Presentation]. 1st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference), Gaborone, Botswana.

[https://gcsmus.org/wp-content/uploads/SMUS-ConferenceBotswana2021Abstracts\\_1.pdf](https://gcsmus.org/wp-content/uploads/SMUS-ConferenceBotswana2021Abstracts_1.pdf)

### Interpreting Inclusion for Sanitation Perspectives from India: A Contextual Approach to Universal Design

Purkayastha, D., & Raheja, G. (2022). Interpreting Inclusion for Sanitation Perspectives from India: A Contextual Approach to Universal Design. In I. Garofolo, G. Bencini, & A. Arengi (Eds.), *Transforming our World through Universal Design for Human Development* (Vol. 297). IOS Press. <https://doi.org/10.3233/SHTI220855>

### Methodological Enquiry on Inclusivity in Public Sanitation in Indian Cities: An Interdisciplinary approach for Contextual Research

Purkayastha, D., & Raheja, G. (2022). *Methodological Enquiry on Inclusivity in Public Sanitation in Indian Cities: An Interdisciplinary Approach for Contextual Research* [Presentation]. 2nd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference), São Paulo, Brazil.

[https://gcsmus.org/wp-content/uploads/SMUSBrazil\\_AbstractsBooklet.pdf](https://gcsmus.org/wp-content/uploads/SMUSBrazil_AbstractsBooklet.pdf)

### From Accessibility to Inclusion in Public Toilets: A Technology Perspective

Purkayastha, D., & Raheja, G. (2022). From Accessibility to Inclusion in Public Toilets: A Technology Perspective. *TISS Journal of Disability Studies and Research* ISSN: 2583-603X (PRINT), 2(1), 92.

[https://tiss.edu/uploads/TISS\\_Journal\\_of\\_Disability\\_Studies\\_and\\_Research\\_June\\_2022\\_Vol-II\\_Issue-I\\_1.pdf](https://tiss.edu/uploads/TISS_Journal_of_Disability_Studies_and_Research_June_2022_Vol-II_Issue-I_1.pdf)

### Methods of Studying Inclusion in Public Toilets: A Contextual Review for Urban India

Purkayastha, D., & Raheja, G. (2023). *Methods of Studying Inclusion in Public Toilets: A Contextual Review for Urban India*. In J. Goodman-Deane, H. Dong, A. Heylighen, J. Lazar, & P. J. Clarkson (Eds.), *Methods of Studying Inclusion in Public Toilets: A Contextual Review for Urban India*. University of Cambridge. <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.95302>

## Soon to be published

Raheja, G., Purkayastha, D., Rahariya, S., & Malothu, S. (2023). *Issues and Challenges of Persons with Disabilities in the Suburban Rail Mobility Context of Mumbai*. 16th Urban Mobility India Conference, New Delhi, India

Raheja, G. & Purkayastha, D. (2024). *Sustaining Design Education: A Philosophical Enquiry*. National Conference on Futuring Design Education 2024, New Delhi, India.

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## Workshops, Seminars & Certificates

### **DRM Gurukooll (2023)**

Indian Summer School on Design Research Methodology (DRM) organised by IISc Bangalore.

### **Ethnographic Research for Young Researchers (2023)**

Participated in a one-week-long workshop on Ethnographic Research organised by Prof. Fraya Frehse from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, hosted by the Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee.

### **National Capacity Building Programme on Gender And Disability Inclusion in Indian Cities (2022)**

Participated in the National Conclave organised by United Nations India, NIUA, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and British High Commission.

### **Studying Cities: Social Science Methods for Urban Research (2021)**

Passed the online course 'Studying Cities: Social Science Methods for Urban Research' offered by Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

### **National Youth Forum - Changemakers for Climate Action (2021)**

Participated in the National Youth Forum organised by TERI - The Energy and Resources Institute.

### **Zero-Energy Design: an approach to making your building sustainable (2021)**

Passed the online course 'Zero-Energy Design: an approach to making your building sustainable' offered by Delft University of Technology, Netherlands.

### **Trans-Accessibility in Public Spaces (2020)**

Participated in a Webinar on Accessibility in Public Spaces for Transgenders, hosted by Make Spaces.

### **GEM Certified Professional**

Certified Sustainability Expert by ASSOCHAM.

### **Registered Architect**

Registered as an Architect with the Council of Architecture(CoA). Registration No.: CA/2021/134386.

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## References

### **Dr. Gaurav Raheja**

Professor and Head,  
Department of Architecture & Planning, IIT Roorkee  
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### **Padma Shri (Dr.) G Shankar**

Founder and Chief Architect,  
Habitat Technology Group, Kerala  
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