



# NEWSLETTER

World School of Planning & Architecture (WSPA)



## Courses at WSPA

### **M.Arch in Digital Architecture (2 years) starting from 2021**

Masters in Digital Architecture programme, will help professionals in designing the concept, simulate the design, and create functional details. This is augmented through open-ended learning and the core focus of the programme is to impart state-of-the-art digital skills to support collaborative innovation, creative flexibility and imply future relevance by reimagining architectural design and representation.

### **M.Arch in Sustainable Architecture (2 years) starting from 2021**

Our existence is synonymous with the environment we live in. Hence, our sustenance is directly dependent on the well-being of our environment. Masters in Sustainable Architecture will expound concerns regarding environment and sustainability with reference to (apropos) both built and un-built. This course aims at sensitizing the professionals to the environmental issues, that may be site specific in application but have a global repercussion.

### **Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Resilient Planning & Design (1 year) started in 2020**

### **BA(H) in Built Environment & Habitat Studies (3 years) in collaboration with Oxford Brookes University started in 2019**

### **Bachelor in Architecture (5 years) started in 2016**

## DEAN'S NOTE

The outbreak of the pandemic indicated an epoch in the field of architectural education. It underwent a philosophical shift as to how we approach the process of delivering it to the students.

At WUD, we started the preparation for online education much before the country went into the lockdown. The result of this preparedness allowed our out-station students to reach their respective places, safely and conveniently. The pandemic time did offer some unique opportunities that we explored and employed in order to make the pedagogy more effective in the absence of face to face (now termed "offline") teaching.

I am very glad to share the approach and the results through this newsletter.

We can broadly categorize our approach into three headings Introspection, Collaboration and Renewal.

**1. Introspection:** Like in any time of crisis, one is required to look within- to gauge the potential of going further; in our case, it became eminent, as our philosophy is to build our own intellectual base or content that becomes the basis of our pedagogy.

This was the right time to re-visit our Urban Morphology Studies.

**2. Collaboration:** A unique opportunity was presented where access to eminent scholarship was made available for sharing ideas and knowledge. The curriculum was strengthened with the exponents not only from India but from abroad too.

**3. Renewal:** With a year of teaching-learning from home, we at the department have focused on building up of a curriculum rather than the completion of it. Renewed results of this are in the offing.

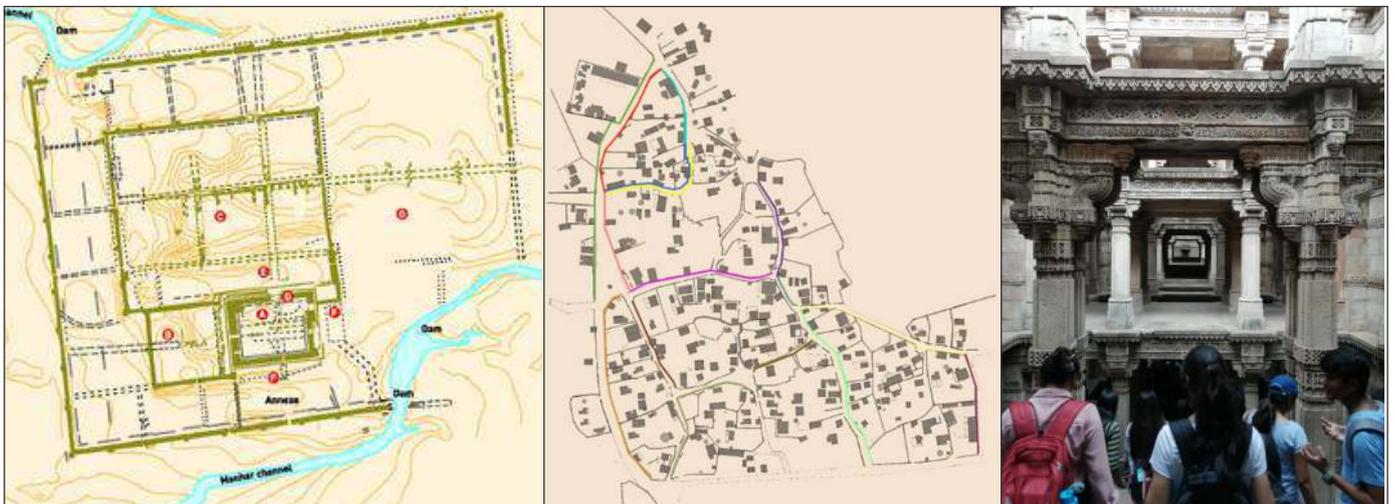
## Part I : Introspection

### Revisiting Urban Morphology

Urban morphology is the study of the form of human settlements and the process of their formation and transformation. For architecture students, it helps to understand the spatial structure and character of a metropolitan area, city, town or village by examining the patterns of its component parts and buildings and co-relate with the context.

### Ancient Settlement at Dholavira, Gujarat

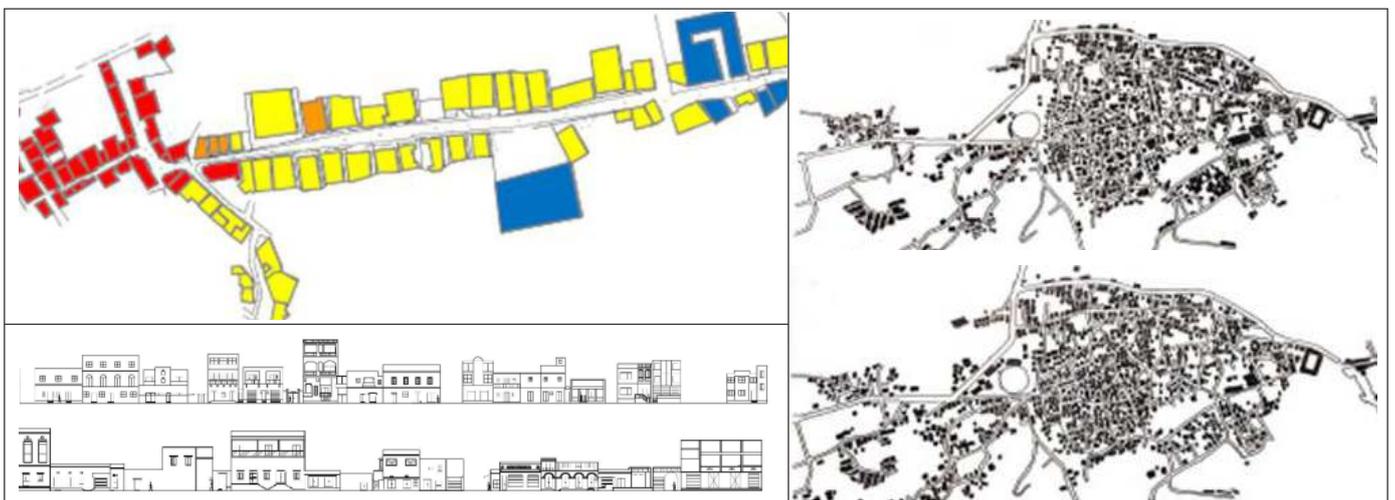
It is known to be the largest Planned Harappan Urban Settlement. The site was discovered in 1967-68 by ASI. It has been under excavation since 1990 by the ASI, which opined that "Dholavira" has indeed added new dimensions to personality of Indus Valley Civilization. A wonderful and sophisticated town planned 4000 years ago is not only pride for India, but is an asset for the whole world. It is a milestone in the human civilization and an important heritage site.



### Coastal Settlement at Diu

Diu district is a small island of 40 sq.km situated at the entrance of the Gulf of Cambay Near Veraval Port. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Saurashtra Peninsula by an arrow channel running through a swamp.

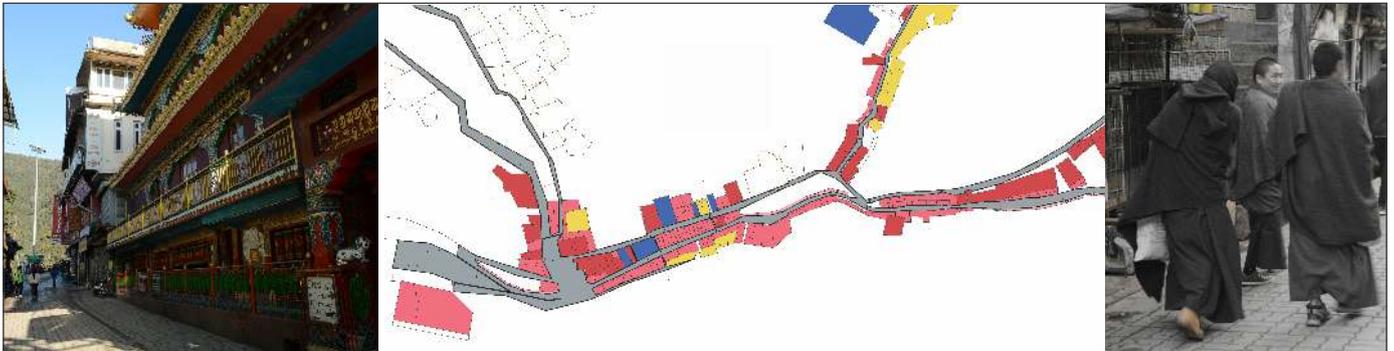
Due to the vast history of different rulers, Diu portrays a mixed culture and a unique architectural style, which became the focus of our study.



## Historic Village at Mehrauli, Delhi



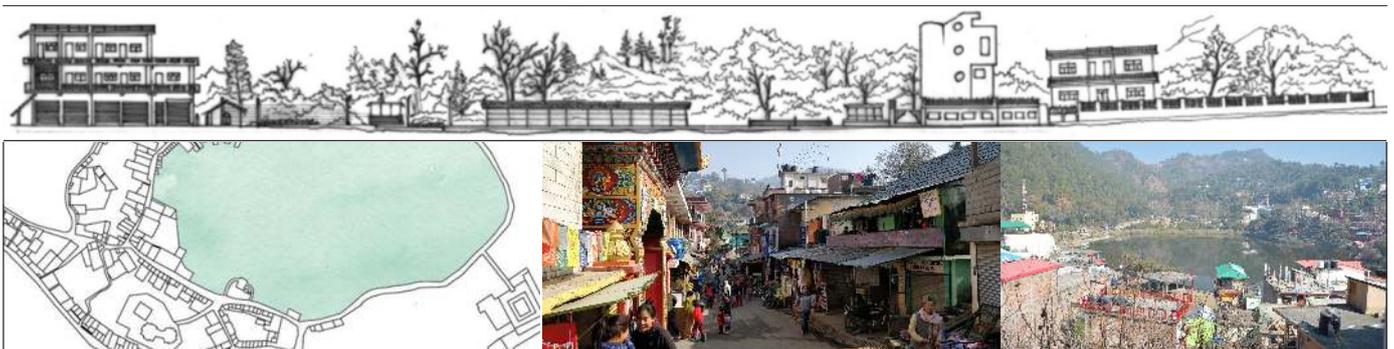
## Linear Settlement at Mcleodganj, Himachal Pradesh



## Weaver's Cluster Settlement at Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh



## Radial Hill Settlement at Rewalsar, Himachal Pradesh





## Part 2 : Collaboration

### Designed Discussions (DeDi)

We at School of Planning & Architecture at WUD are trying to identify various issues that are being faced by architecture education in its effort to continue to stay relevant with changing dynamics of the trade. We designed an activity 'Designed Discussions' consisting of curated webinars on such issues.

**DeDi# 1: From Theory to Practice:** The first issue we have identified is about bridging the burgeoning gap between Architectural Education and Practice. The issue has been highlighted by many architectural firms in touch with us and we thought it'll be a good idea to have a public discussion on the topic where representatives of both, the architectural firms and academia are present.

The agenda for the discussion was:

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Ar. Habib Ahmed Khan (President, Council of Architecture)

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Expected outcomes of the training/internship: Gap between Industry & Academia

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: Bridging the Gap: the expected skill-set from the Intern/ Fresh Architect

**DeDi#2: 'Talking Architecture':** A Series of Nine Lectures that talk about different aspects of design, relevant at different scales of practice. Like 'Architecture of Modernism', 'Identity in Design', 'Architecture in the Age of the Pandemic - Scaling Up or Down'.

This series of talks were carried on by two of our eminent Expert Lecturers Ar. Snehanshu Mukherjee & Ar. Anisha Shekhar Mukherjee. These talks helped the students understand the different aspects of the professional Architectural World.

**DeDi#3: 'Interpreting Architecture: A case of Padmanabhapuram Palace':** A Series of Two Lectures that talk about the Architecture of transforming what already exists, through successive interventions and adaptations. The Padmanabhapuram Palace in South Kerala, which has acquired a status of timeless architectural significance, was also formed gradually by successive adaptations, in different stages. The complex grew incrementally, over two hundred years, to its present form. This creation of the space through time, in a step-by-step process, is fundamentally different from spaces which are created statically by 'design', conceived all at once. The talks focused on Spatial Analysis & Adaptive reuse of the Palace. This series of talks were carried on by two of our young and dynamic Expert Lecturers Ar. Eldo Alias & Ar. Ajay K. Jacob. These talks were instrumental in shaping the Design Exercise of Batch- 2019, where the students are aiming at proposing an Adaptive Resuse of Padmanabhapuram Palace.

## Industry Experts/ Visiting Faculty



**Ar. Sidhartha Talwar**  
**Architect, Founder- Studio Lotus**  
BOS Member, Theory to Practice

He is the design principal at Studio Lotus founded in 2002. Across a span of two decades, he has headed and worked on diverse projects including Exhibitions, Retail and Corporate Interiors, and Thematic events; taking them from concept to execution. He is an Architect from TVB School of Habitat Studies, Delhi.



**Ar. Amit Sharma**  
**Principal Architect- Axiom India**  
Living Design- Life of a Designer

An alumni of TVB & SPA, he has an experience of more than 20 years and is the Principal Architect & Designer at Axiom India which has done a wide range of work that includes urban design projects, housing, public infrastructure, private houses, offices, factories and product design.



**Ar. Mohit Verma**  
**Professor, Director- ARCHADE**

A research oriented professional, exploring a sustainable & ecological design approach in his practice for the last 15 years. He has a Bachelors in Architecture from the TVB and Masters in Ekistics from Jamia Millia Islamia. He is the founder Director of ARCHADE Foundation - an NGO.



**Ar. Ridhima Sehgal**  
**Architect, Planner**  
Types of Housing with Context to India

She is a creative, Communicative and a dynamic architect with an overall experience of 10 years. A bachelors in Architecture from Vastu Kala Academy and Gold Medalist in Masters of Planning (Housing) from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.



**Ar. Sulekha Nayak**  
**Landscape Architect- Prakriti**  
Application of Landscape Design Principles

A practising Landscape Architect and Founder/ Principal Landscape Architect at Prakriti Design Studio. She holds a Masters in Landscape Architecture and Bachelor in Architecture from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.



**Ar. Raman Vig**  
**Architect, Building Biologist, Researcher**  
BOS Member, Architecture & Well-Being

He has over 23 years of domain experience of designing and executing architectural and master-planning projects. He has founded 'Bioenergetic Architecture', an initiative to integrate the knowledge of subtle energies of space as a 'layer of architectural design'.



**Ar. Subhadeep Gupta**  
**Architect, Real Estate Manager**  
Professional Practices in Architecture

An Architect from TVB- School of Habitat Studies, Delhi and Master in Business Administration (MBA) in Real Estate Management from GGSIP University, Delhi. Further he believes that for any development to be initiated one should adopt a sustainable and project oriented approach.



**Er. Pranjul Pandey**  
**Visiting Faculty**

A civil engineer by profession and a freelance faculty for GATE and IES examinations. He completed his Bachelor's in civil engineering from RGPV University, Bhopal and Masters in structures from IIT Patna. He qualified gate 5 times consecutively and has one international publication.



**Ar. Amarjeet Singh**  
**Architect, Researcher**  
Architectural Writing as a Career

An Architect and Researcher, with education in India and Germany. He focuses his practice on design and art's response to various social and ecological problems. Co-formed an artist collective. In 2019, he enrolled at Bauhaus to complete his postgraduate studies in Design Research.



**Ar. Ankita Choudhary**  
**Architect, Planner**  
Understanding History of a Place

She is a Gold Medalist from DCRUST, Murthal and holds a masters degree in Urban and Rural Planning from IIT Roorkee. With more than 4 years experience, she has keen interest in research with various national and international publications.



## Experts/ Visiting Faculty



**Ar. Mansi Kataria**  
**Principal Architect- IE Design**  
Lecture: Urban Design- Building Typology & Urban Form



**Ar. Vishakha Kawathekar**  
**Architect, Educator**  
Lecture: Architectural Language of Pre- and Post Independent India



**Ar. Tapan K Chakravarty**  
**Architect, Educator**  
Lecture: Urban Design- Intercity and Intracity Circulation Patterns



**Ar. Chitrarekha Kabre**  
**Architect, Professor**  
Lecture: Sustainable Systems, Energy and Materials



**Ar. Sandeep B. Menon**  
**Design Director- Integral Designs**  
Lecture: Landscape Design and Its Evolution



**Ar. Thomson C Samuel**  
**Sustainable Architect**  
Lecture: Solar Energy and Its Physical Manifestation in Built Environment



**Ar. Deepanjan Saha**  
**Architect, Educator**  
Lecture: Townscape Analysis and Urban Visual Studies



**Er. Kishan Khatri**  
**Manager- Design2Occupancy**  
Lecture: Simulation with the Help of Hands-on Simulation Software



**Er. Rahul Sarkar**  
**Manager- Cushman & Wakefield**  
Lecture: Contracts & Estimates & Impact of COVID



**Er. Ankit Bhalla**  
**Manager- GRIHA**  
Lecture: Exemplar Studies and Green Building Certification



**Ar. Deena Gandhi**  
**Architect- Arkitekts Adessein**  
Lecture: Building Materials for Interior Finishes



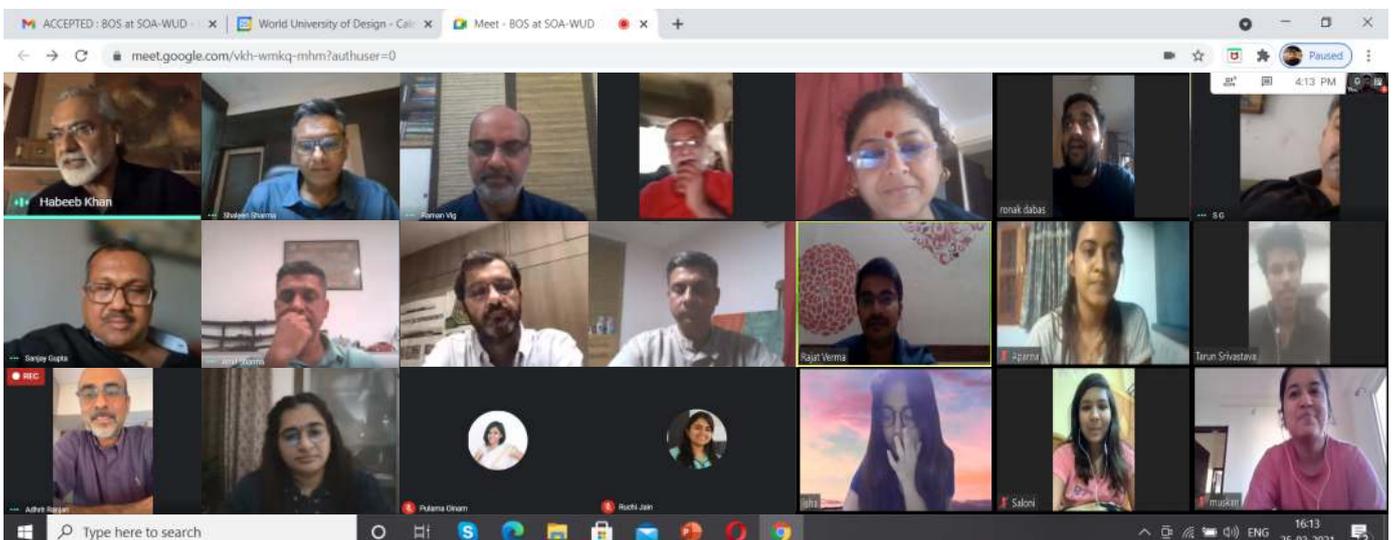
**Ar. Eldo Alias**  
**Architect, Conversationalist**  
Lecture: The Need of Adaptive Reuse of a Building



**Ar. Mayank Manchanda**  
**Principal Architect- Centroid Plus**  
Lecture: Challenges of Construction on Site



**Ar. Ajay Jacob**  
**Architect, Researcher, Educator**  
Lecture: Spatial Analysis of Padmanabhapuram Palace, Kerala



## Core Faculty

### **Ar. Shaleen Sharma- Professor (Dean)**



A practicing Architect for over 22 years and actively involved in academics. His formal education includes a Bachelors in Architecture from the TVB School of Habitat Studies and Masters in PRASADA from De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. He explores the medium of film in the context of Architecture. Garden of the Heart: A Film on Architect Joseph Allen Stein is one of his well acclaimed documentaries.

### **Ar. Gaurav Sharma- Professor**



He is an architect and furniture designer from NID, Ahmedabad by training, has a rich experience of over 16 years in the field of architecture, its environment and elements. He is passionate about using design as a tool for bringing change. He has directed focus on propagating sustainable built-up environment using bamboo for construction of habitable units and he's regarded as a first few practitioners and innovators of the field.

### **Ar. Aditi Parikh- Associate Professor**



She possesses vast experience in the field of Architecture and Design. Her formal education includes Bachelors in Architecture from SVIT, Vasad, Gujarat University and Masters in Industrial Design from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Aditi started her own consultancy firm, focusing on Space Design, Product Design and Graphic Design.

### **Ar. Ruchi Jain- Assistant Professor**



She has a Bachelors in Architecture from GGSIP University and an alumni of Vastukala Academy School of Architecture. She has a vast field experience as a project architect and coordinator with expertise in Group Housing and Institutional design. Besides this she was heading a design team of architects in her previous assignment.

### **Ar. Rajat Verma- Assistant Professor**



A graduate of Aayojan School of Architecture, Jaipur and a Master's degree holder from GJUST, Hisar. His long working experience includes a tenure with leading media group Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd. (The Times Group), Chisel Fitness (A Virat Kohli's Venture) and a teaching experience of 3 years with Jagannath University.

### **Ar. Pulama Oinam- Assistant Professor**



She is a Architect and Urban Planner (M. Plan) from School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi. She has worked at Delhi Development Authority, being a part of the prestigious Yamuna Riverfront Development Project and Integral Designs, New Delhi. She has also headed the design teams of DLF township projects.

### **Ar. Amisha Jangra- Assistant Professor**



A landscape architect graduated from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi and did her under graduation in architecture from DCRUST, Murthal. She possesses good knowledge of nature, sustainability and integrated designing activities. Her focus areas are landscaping and Planting design.

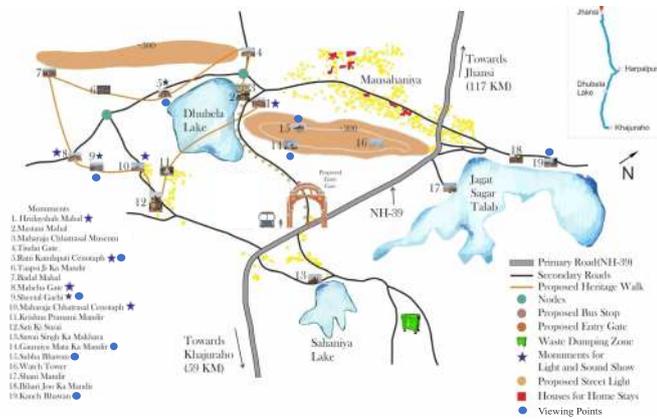


## Students at WSPA

### A study grant by INTACH

A study grant was awarded to WSPA by INTACH to study the town of Dhubela in M.P. for Heritage and Development potential. A team comprising of students & faculty of World School of Planning and Architecture, WUD undertook the study.

WSPA envisages a broad-based regional growth through heritage conservation and tourism by generating higher economic gains and balancing socio-cultural and physical environment. The report has been published by INTACH and is currently being studied for implementation by MP Government.



### INTACH invites WSPA to share their Chanderi Study findings



The urban morphology study of Chanderi cluster by WSPA students caught the attention of INTACH, and WSPA was invited to share their findings and research report as a participant in a conservation Exhibition on Handloom Sari Weavers of Chanderi held in INTACH Delhi on March 28th, 2019. The Urban Morphology study was shared in the form of eight sheets showing the layouts and details of traditional Weaver's houses in Chanderi.

