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Ekam Singh

Ekam Singh is an architect and writer based in New York City, currently in the second year of the M.Arch program at Pratt Institute. With a B.Arch. (gold medal) from Sushant School of Art and Architecture, he is inspired by community-driven architectural strategies and research on novel ephemeral building. Currently serving as the Student Advisor to the Dean, he hopes to build a more equitable academic environment. His work has been published on platforms such as New York Review of Architecture, Koozarch and LiveWire, and he is one of the fellows of the AN New Voices in Architecture Journalism program.

education

Pratt Institute
M.Arch. 2021-23; 3.85/4

Sushant School of Art and Architecture
B.Arch. 2014-19; 3.43/4

honors/awards

honorable mention in architectural journalism
Architectural Affiliate Awards 2021

gold medal for academic excellence, **Sushant School of Art and Architecture**

national and north zone winner
Ethos archumen architecture quiz 2018

national finalist and north zone winner
Ethos archumen architecture quiz 2016

fellowships/courses

M-Pavilion Studio
MOS Studio with Venice Studio

New Voices in Architectural Journalism 2021-22
Architect's Newspaper

summer studio: the inventor's club; 2016
UCL Bartlett School of Architecture

skills-up workshop; 2016
UCL Bartlett School of Architecture

design-build for refugees at Refugio, Berlin
TU Berlin

design-build for school at Insel Schafenberg, Berlin
TU Berlin

bamboo and CSEB construction
Auroville Earth Institute

parametric design thinking
rat (LAB)

employment

Pratt School of Design
Graduate Assistant — sep 2021 - present

- writing and researching for a young architecture collective; organizing workshops and programs

New Affiliates
Intern — jun 2022 - aug 2022

- exhibition design for Model Behavior, a Graham Foundation funded exhibition for Log and Anyone Corporation
 - schematic design and preliminary studies for local residences and schemes

Rethinking the Future
Architectural Writer — jun 2020 - feb 2021

- working on a series of articles and stories based in and around architectural journalism and profiling architectural studios and projects

vir.mueller architects
Architect — 2020; Intern — 2018 - 19

- construction documents for healthy planet school, noida, a kindergarten school in the suburbs of delhi
 - schematic design and preliminary studies for healthy planet school, nh-24, a senior secondary school de- signed for 2400 students in the outskirts of delhi
 - design development, vendor co-ordination and construction documents for cogent e-services building, a 14 floor office building designed with a ramp connecting workspaces in a post-pandemic world
 - design, construction documents and construction administration for tej office, an interior refurbishment for a newspaper office in delhi
 - schematic design, interior design, construction documents and interior mock-ups for singhvi residence, a high- end residential project in delhi

Ensamble Studio
Architect — jun 2019 - feb 2020

- extensive site-work on prefabrication of doors and details of exterior site at the ensamble Fabrica, the laboratory and manufacturing space for WoHo
 - construction, site-work, landscaping and logistics at Ca'n terra, a subterranean mares quarry being converted into a residence and studio; scope of work included MEP work (electrical installation, plumbing work and lighting), facade installation, landscape design and execution, on-site construction with stone

publications

RSHP's first residential building in New York brings understated luxury to a high profile corner
architect's newspaper 1 aug 2022

Oddbird and Kitty Su / Queer Spaces
RIBA Books 1 jun 2022



certifications/affiliations

registered architect, issued 2020
Council of Architecture, India

severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)
treatment facility design, issued 2020
W.H.O.

languages

English
primary language, TOEFL iBT score: 115

Hindi
second language

Punjab
mother tongue

Spanish
conversational proficiency

French
CBSE secondary accreditation

software/skills

professional experience, advanced skill
Autodesk AutoCAD, Revit, Rhinoceres, Sketchup, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Indesign, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft Office, V-Ray

intermediate skill
Adobe Lightroom, Grasshopper,

functional skill
ARCHICAD, 3DSMax, Autodesk Maya, Dynamo

publications

Role and Relevance of Gurudwaras in Global Context – An Interview
asia samachar 29 jan 2022

Civic-dwara
kooza/rch 11 oct 2021

ad-hoc architecture: adopting ephemerality for permanent
infrastructural solutions
silk matters 8 jun 2021

the picture perfect plant in a millennial home
Rethinking the Future 16 nov 2020

15 architects who were inspired by gaudí, and their works
Rethinking the Future 8 nov 2020

what indian sitcoms teach us about domestic architecture?
Rethinking the Future 20 sep 2020

the development and implementation of gaudí's design philosophy
Rethinking the Future 17 sep 2020

gurudwara: a place of worship for the sikhs
kooza/rch 7 sep 2020

what office sitcoms can teach us about workplace architecture?
Rethinking the Future 29 aug 2020

10 sustainable materials every architect must know
Rethinking the Future 25 jul 2020

the 'future' architecture of westworld
Rethinking the Future 7 jul 2020

the enduring appeal of sarabhai vs sarabhai
Live wire 22 may 2020

how my kitchen saved me in quarantine
Live wire 27 apr 2020

civic-dwara: contemporary investigation of the sikh gurudwara I
architecture thesis (ansal university) 20 may 2019

letter of intent

Addressed to the Dean,

In writing this letter of intent for the title of Student Advisor to the Dean, I was reminded of the first time it was mentioned during an information session in April 2021 before I enrolled at Pratt. I thought to myself why I had never encountered such a proposition for student-led leadership and pedagogical collaboration. Over the last seven years in architectural academia and practice, I have experienced this sense of latency—wherein ideas and discourse exist in isolation, pedagogy, research and practice do not intermix and the professional is stuck in roles serving economic goals that benefit only a handful. The role of Student Advisor to the Dean, I believe is a necessary move to break this inertia.

As an undergraduate student, I spent a lot of my time trying to get a better sense of what the profession might be like—what it meant to be an architect. As an intern in offices, I realized the limited scope the conventional model offers architects and practitioners. The economics of simply supplying drawings and visualizations limits the understanding and scope of designing or even realizing an idea. Our school-level work and communication more often than not does not allow one to thrive in the professional environment as it exists today.

Out of curiosity and also a sense of abandoning what I did not believe I found myself attending more and more workshops or seminars. Whether it was building a stage for a school in Berlin or drawing a monument to the Wright Brother with Sir Peter Cook, the potential of what architects do and should do started expanding for me. This eventually led me to interning with Ensamble Studio in Spain. On an island in the Mediterranean, I found a quarry that was a home. I was reminded of Adolf Loos' observation on the mound and defining architecture. Intriguing and exciting as it was, I found this exploratory sensibility limiting as I did not see it around me in the cities, neighborhoods or houses I was in.

Soon, this middle ground between being disenchanted by the profession and being enthralled by what could be, I found writing, which helped me express these ideas and also discuss them with other professionals beyond architecture. In this in-between space is when I came to Pratt. In my short time here at Pratt and New York, I found myself questioning everything I had learnt but at the same time I found myself more sure of what I was hoping to do. In many ways, I hope to be in the common space in the Venn Diagram of pedagogy, practice and research.

At Pratt, I have made an effort to involve myself in as many co-curricular and interdisciplinary activities I can do. One, being Pratt Futures. Working with Jared on different events and co-ordinating an effort to involve as many students and faculty as possible, I realized a certain valley that exists within the different departments. During one of the events, it was evident how much planning or urban place-making students might benefit from a discussion titled 'Radical Approaches to Land'. Gladly, I was able to engage with a few students and encourage them to join Pratt Futures for the coming semester. Similarly, I had the opportunity of interacting with various other students as a volunteer for Institute for Public Architecture and New York Review of Architecture. The tragedy unfortunately was that I met them outside of Pratt discussing architectural education, sandwiches and books.

In interacting with Catherine with the New Voices in Architectural Journalism fellowship, I was able to understand some of the goals Pratt has in creating a more equitable and interactive environment with roles like these. While covering an event wherein she spoke in a panel discussing the Education of the Architect, I was intrigued to see how the school has enabled her to become a more informed student than I was at her age. Hopefully, interactions like these are not happy coincidences but part of the Pratt experience.

While the graduate students design housing in a NYCHA development, why can't students from the city planning department engage and explain the repercussions of such projects. Why can't we have interdepartmental studios and research projects that span years? Why is a Pratt SoA event be limited to 50-100 people that turn on Zoom? These questions to me are not just buzz words at this point. I hope to understand and challenge the status quo of architectural education—something I believe I can do in this role. I hope to allow and hear concerns that students have but also create a learning environment where we all thrive.

The pandemic has brought on a phase of languishing for a lot of us but I hope we can blow off the cobwebs and as my colleague at Pratt Futures suggested, "Just have pizza in the stairwell and talk architecture..." I see the potential we have as a school and as an institution to become stalwarts in not only producing worthy architects and academicians but socially and culturally conscious citizens. If I am allowed the privilege of holding this post, I would be glad to become a steward for improving our institution at large.

Yours sincerely

Ekam

selected works

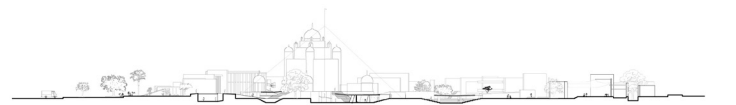
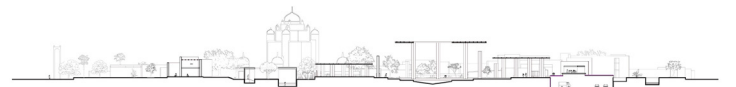
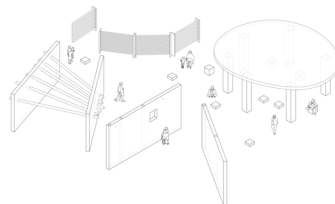
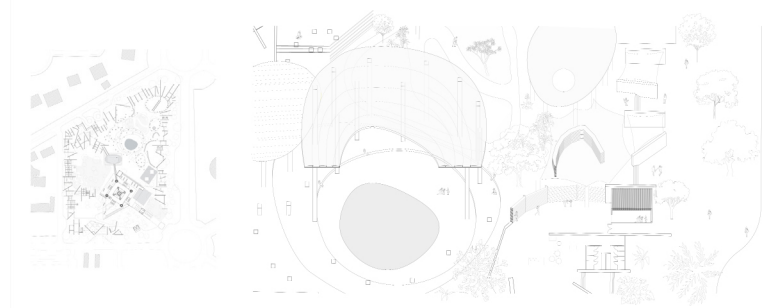
The following are a few projects showcasing my recent work, both academic and professional.

Civic-dwara

In treating the gurudwara, a place of worship for the Sikhs, as a civic space, this project strives to expand the typologies and topologies of gurudwaras and civic spaces in urban environments by allowing their phenomenological and programmatic structures to be perceived both as the content of their architecture and the architecture itself. The thesis is thus a contemporary investigation of the Sikh gurudwara, the gurudwara as a civic space.

The architectural intervention reimagines a Gurudwara complex in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi, next to the Parliament House, to build a new architecture for the people, one that is religious yet secular, lasting yet ephemeral, experiential yet functional.

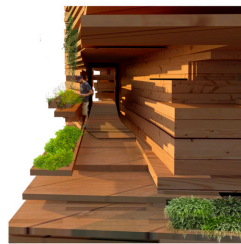
The civic-dwara proposes an architecture that is a vessel for our collective being and civic being — a typological and topological reimagining of the gurudwara as civic space, based on the learnings from the thesis, contemporary investigation of the Sikh gurudwara that proposes that the gurudwara as an urban entity can be transformed into civic spaces to be inhabited as a shared commons. The phenomenology of the Gurudwara and the civic space is abstracted into the architectonics of threshold, congregation and interface to generate a new programmatic system that enables a multiplicity of use, scale, function and people.



Namu Kethi



With the Farragut Housing, a food desert in a gentrifying Brooklyn, the project proposes an architecture of the material, in this case mass timber, becoming a biological habitat, much like trees themselves. The surface and the interior of the building becomes habitat for moss, grasses and vines with hydroponic and aeroponic farms integrated along external corridors and staircases and apartments. Encouraging habitants to become engaged in acts of farming and feeding with a farmers' market and even repelling on the building's facade for produce. The inhabitants dwell in vertical and horizontal apartments laid out around a central 'commons' core with external walkways connecting the neighbourhood vertically and on the ground. The result is housing, both integrated and disaggregated, both solid and void, much like trees or rock formations themselves.



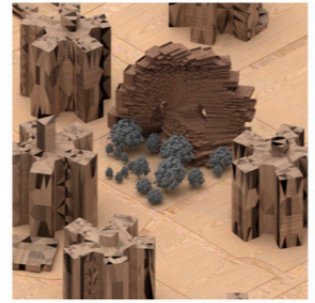
a resident's view picking out herbs



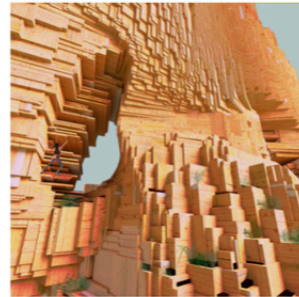
plan at level 4



a human's view from York St.



an architect's view flying over a model of Farragut



a bird's view flying off the farms



an ant's view up from the north garden



The 'Future' Architecture of Westworld

an excerpt from an article

...clearly not the first attempt in film/TV, the show comes with an arsenal of talent and prestige: HBO (which produced Game of Thrones), Jonathan Nolan (Memento, Interstellar), and world-renown architect Bjarke Ingles as an uncredited consultant of sorts on architecture. This results in the show being populated by many familiar architectural icons and a few unbuilt BIG projects.

A little background of this world. As philosopher Georg Hegel suggests architecture is the representation of the zeitgeist, a brief understanding of this

world is needed.

The show suggests presenting our own world in 2052, imagining a "grounded" future. Referencing research and philosophy like Yuval Noah Harari's Homo Deus, data-ism and biotechnology are the new "religions" of the land coupled with the usual flying vehicles and self-driven car/bike for a "future" effect. This "new" world brings a new architectural paradigm- an architecture ruled by data and biotechnology, an automatic architecture, one where design thinking is driven by data and not instinct. This is the

suggestion of future architecture.

The series showcases several locations across the globe from Spain to Singapore to showcase the future of architecture from the perspective of trends being seen in buildings today.