

PERISCOPE : CAREER ORIENTATION CELL

Year of establishment: 2017

Members of the cell:

1. Principal of the school
2. Academic coordinator of the school
3. A senior associate faculty
4. Cell coordinator
5. Portfolio and internship coordinator

Aim of the cell:

Periscope is a cell at the Brick School that works towards guiding students for the career prospects after B.Arch. We believe that right exposure at the right time can help our students choose the best career path for them. Before the child gets exposed to the world outside, we try to prepare him/her for the upcoming challenges and help them in taking the right decisions. The Alumni of the institute are also encouraged to be a part of the events planned under the cell. The Alumni not only get benefitted themselves by attending these sessions but at times they also guide their juniors in making the correct decision.

As Architecture graduate, there is much confusion in the mind of the students, whether to go for post graduation or a job or start your own practice etc. In the planned sessions of this cell, we along with the field experts, give exposure to students about various possibilities and also allied career options after Graduation. The cell conducts various activities throughout the year including, awareness sessions, workshops and crash courses for competitive exams, interaction opportunities with professionals etc. The cell also plans to make a data base of institutions conducting post graduate courses in India and abroad for the students.

One of the important steps in the career of an Architecture student is the internship that comes in the final year. This is the opportunity where a student can choose a firm that interests them and get a practical experience of the field of their choice. The school has a separate cell and a faculty coordinator working on the same. The details of the cell are mentioned below:

INTERNSHIP FACILITATION CELL

Aim of the Cell:

To facilitate the process of applying for internship, we make sure that the students have well-presented portfolios and necessary documents for the same. We guide them through the process of selecting and applying to the right firm.

The program is divided into 4 parts:

1. **Workshop on internship**
2. **Portfolio making workshop**
3. **Creating a data bank of Architecture firms**
4. **Creating an Internship program document**

The workshop takes care of following things:

- How to choose the place of internship?
- How to apply and how to accept, in case more than one office is willing to accept your application?
- Taking recommendations / suggestions from the students about various offices they are aware of.
- Discuss in detail, the scope of work of an intern in any architecture firm.
- Discuss in detail the basic etiquettes to be followed while applying to any office.
- Discuss the code of conduct for an intern.
- To make them aware of the responsibility they all carry, as they represent Brick school outside the college.
- To make them aware of common practices followed while remunerating an intern.

Creating a data bank for the architectural firm:

- The college has its own data bank of various architecture firms, in and out of India, for the students to choose from.
 - The data bank has been created by the college faculty, where each person has made a list of Architecture firms known to them and where they can make a recommendation on behalf of the students.
 - In case a person knows a good firm but does not know any concerned person to recommend personally, he/she can put forth the name in the data bank and ask for help with the recommendation.
- The data bank has been created in the following format:
- ✓ Name of the Architect:
 - ✓ Name of the firm:
 - ✓ Place/ Location:
 - ✓ Subject of specialization/ type of projects:
 - ✓ Any awards or publications:
 - ✓ Website + email:
 - ✓ Scale of the firm:
 - ✓ Recommended by:

Internship program document

The internship program document comprises of the following things:

- Data Bank of list of Architecture firms
- Good portfolios bank for reference
- Bibliography of good books related to the same
- FAQs related to the internship and application to offices.
- Code of conduct document.

FAQS – We guide the students throughout the entire process solving all their doubts along the way.

- How do I shortlist the firm I want to do my internship at? What are the correct steps to apply?

- How soon can I apply?
- Do I need to call up the firm or email or letter is sufficient? OR Do I need to email, even if I have spoken to the concerned person over phone?
- What and how do I need to write the application or letter?
- Do I need to make a separate portfolio just for applying?
- Can I ask for recommendation from a faculty?
- What do I do if I apply to more than 1 firm, and more than 1 firm approves?
- What would be the best way to convey the same?
- What should I do if none of the firms I applied to, get back with an affirmation?
- What do I do, if after joining the office, I realize that the kind of work happening in office is very different from what I expected?
- What do I do if due to unavoidable circumstance I am unable to join on the given joining date or unable to join at all?
- Can I apply for leave within the time period of internship?
- What do I do if I realize that the remuneration I am getting during the internship is very less or I am not going to get any remuneration?

Methodology

- ✓ The class is an informal discussion classes clubbed with few lectures by faculty and guests and one workshop on portfolio making.
- ✓ The students are guided through the process of internship application in every class, discussing different aspects.
- ✓ The students are made aware of all the deadlines and the faculty in charge shall make sure they are followed.
- ✓ The students are made available the data bank created by the faculty for their reference.
- ✓ A record is kept of each student as to which places he/ she has applied and eventually gotten a positive response.
- ✓ The faculty is available to the student throughout the time period of internship for any professional or personal help, for guidance.

YEARLY CALENDER OF THE PERISCOPE CELL:

The cell is active throughout the year with some or the other activity planned for the students.

- 1. Awareness Session:** Every batch entering in the third and fourth year of the course is given a brief introduction about the intent and activities under the cell. This helps them understand where to go while planning the future aspects of their career.
- 2. Portfolio and Internship class:** This is an initiative that goes on for a year. As soon as the students enter the fourth year of the course, the concerned faculty coordinator starts interacting with them on the internship and portfolio. Separate classes and workshops are held from the first semester of the fourth year, to get the portfolio in place at the right time. The school also makes sure that the students are placed in the best firms.
- 3. Interaction with the experts:** This event is held every semester to expose students to various fields that can be explored after graduation. Professionals from fields allied to architecture and apart from architecture are invited to campus to share their stories with students. The students get a good exposure of the industry by interacting with the experts.
- 4. Other:** Apart from the above mentioned activities, as and when the opportunities come, the school keeps the doors open to guide the students for future. These activities include, a guidance from an expert visiting the campus or an online lecture, sharing information about a career guidance session or information about an academic course etc.

YEAR 2019-2020 REPORT

1. Awareness Session

The session was conducted on **Tuesday 17th September 2019** in the school campus. This was the very first event of the year hence the agenda was to introduce this initiative to students and give them an overall idea of the events planned under the cell.

The session was conducted by Ar. Shraddha Gurjar, Assistant Professor at the school and was attended mainly by the third and fourth year students. The talk focused on the following four pointers:

- Opportunities post B.Arch
- Different fields to explore
- How to prepare for the same?
- When and where to prepare?

The talk triggered the right spot in students mind as they started giving a thought about the various possibilities to explore.

Such session would be planned every year for the new batches to know about the cell.

2. Interaction with the experts

The second session of the cell happened with the field experts on **Friday, February 7th 2020** post college hours. Three professionals from various fields of Architecture were invited on the campus for an interaction session with the students. Students formulated questions as per the expertise of the professionals which were then answered by the guests. Following were the guests invited for the session:

- i. **Ar. Madhav Hundekar-** He is one of the directors at Mitimitra consultants, Pune with 20+ years experience in the field of Architecture. The firm specializes in design ranging from interior design to campus planning. He has built his practice all by himself as he did not have any background in the field. He shared his story of starting with scale projects to reaching up to the level of designing a campus like IIT, Gandhinagar.
- ii. **Ar. Rohit Gadiya-** Rohit is a young practicing Architect, Urban Designer, passionate about working in the public domain. Following his passion, Rohit is appearing for the centre's UPSC exam to acquire an opportunity to engage himself in building the country's infrastructure and built environment. He made students aware about the various opportunities and also responsibilities of Architects to work in the public domain. His talk inspired students to take up the less discovered side of the profession.
- iii. **Ar. Raviteja-** Raviteja is a young Architect working in one of the most prestigious government organisations, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He was not able to be present for the event physically but he was kind enough to connect with the students through a video. He answered all the queries in student's minds regarding the work profile, the process of getting into the organisation, available positions in the organisation etc.

The interaction with the field experts was enriching for the students as they got three different perspectives of looking at the profession. Students would be exposed to such interactions on a regular basis with professionals from various fields.



Figure 1: Poster for the event



Figure 2: Madhav Sir and Rohit Sir interacting with the students

3. Internship Facilitation cell

The year 2020 came with the never before challenges. The process of guiding students for making portfolios had started in the campus as it happens every year.

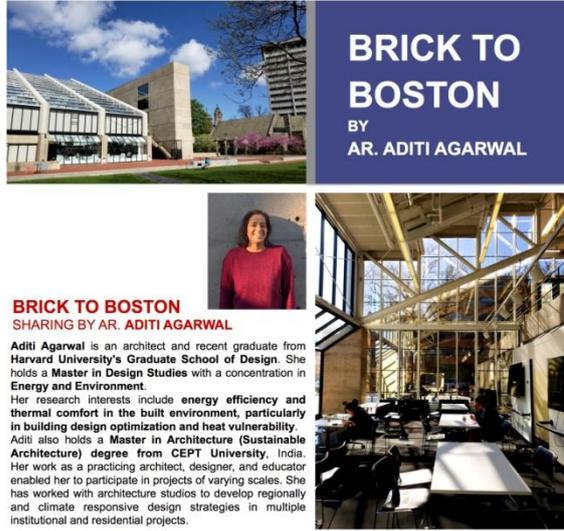
The real difficulty was faced at the time of getting internship confirmation in the global pandemic time. This whole process was followed in detail, with constant contact with the students through phone calls, Whatsapp messages and Mails. There were a few senior faculties assigned to every 10 students to ensure every student gets a confirmed internship. The faculties personally contacted the known firms and guided the students to confirm their internship.

4. Brick Conversations 07_Brick to Boston by Ar. Aditi Agarwal

Ar. Aditi Agarwal was associated with SMEF's Brick School of Architecture as a Faculty. She has recently graduated from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. She holds a Master in Design Studies with a concentration in Energy and Environment. Aditi also holds a Master in Architecture (Sustainable Architecture) degree from CEPT University, India. In the difficult time of the global corona virus pandemic, she interacted with the students on digital platform about her journey to the Harvard University. Her previous association with the school made it easier for the students to connect with her and clear their doubts about how to select the correct University, appropriate course, how to prepare the application, portfolio etc. The school plans to hold more such interactions making the most of the digital platforms.

Satish Misal Educational Foundation's
BRICK
GROUP OF INSTITUTES

BRICK CONVERSATIONS 07



BRICK TO BOSTON
BY
AR. ADITI AGARWAL

BRICK TO BOSTON
SHARING BY AR. ADITI AGARWAL

Aditi Agarwal is an architect and recent graduate from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. She holds a Master in Design Studies with a concentration in Energy and Environment. Her research interests include energy efficiency and thermal comfort in the built environment, particularly in building design optimization and heat vulnerability. Aditi also holds a Master in Architecture (Sustainable Architecture) degree from CEPT University, India. Her work as a practicing architect, designer, and educator enabled her to participate in projects of varying scales. She has worked with architecture studios to develop regionally and climate responsive design strategies in multiple institutional and residential projects.

Date: 24TH JUNE '20 Wednesday | Time: 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm Venue: Google meet
Register Online using Google form link to attend the program
IQAC Initiative by SMEF'S Brick School Of Architecture, Undri Pune

Figure 3: Poster for the event

Figure 4: Poster for the event