



SHREYA KRISHNAN

**Sustainable Urban Development
Researcher | Social
Development | Architect**

Delhi, India | Chennai, India

Shreya is trained as an architect and social science researcher, with more than 9 years experience in a diverse array of practices and organisations within India and beyond. She has worked on research and policy in urban development, award-winning urban planning and urban design projects, as well as commercial architectural and interior design projects in India, UK, and USA.

Shreya is the Principal Designer and sole proprietor of Shreya Krishnan Design Office [SKDO.] based in Chennai and New Delhi. Her work on the built environment focuses on sustainability in general, and integrates a social purpose and environmental stewardship in particular. Her projects have been featured several times in peer-led design publications. The urban design projects she has been involved with have received awards from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, featured in the Global Street Design Guide by C40 cities, and have been adopted as the national model for best practices by the Government of India under its Smart Cities programme.

As a result of her diverse academic qualifications, which includes a social science masters degree in Sustainable Urban Development, a dual degree in Plan II Honors, a liberal arts and sciences honors programme at the University of Texas at Austin, and architecture, she has simultaneously honed her research and design thinking skills in her various roles. Her research and advocacy experience includes working directly with local government in New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore on urban development as well as regional and spatial planning for state governments in Rajasthan and Orissa. She has written reports on affordable housing for organisations such as the UNDP and Asha Impact, a Mumbai-based impact fund. Her research and advocacy pursuits include affordable housing policy and low-cost building, community mapping and public art processes, and social cohesion in relation to public transport infrastructure, and education.

EDUCATION

University of Oxford, Kellogg College, Master of Science, Sustainable Urban Development - MSc Jan 2020
The University of Texas at Austin, College of Liberal Arts, Bachelor of Arts Plan II Honors – B.A. Dec 2011
The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture, Bachelor of Architecture – B.Arch Dec 2011

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN URBAN RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND ARCHITECTURE

Shreya Krishnan Design Office Chennai, India
Sole proprietor and Principal Designer Jun 2016 - Present

Lead a team of architects providing architectural design, interior design, landscaping consultancy services. Our scope of work includes conceptual design, design development, overall project coordination and site supervision. We have executed 10+ projects and our projects have been featured multiple times on peer-led online platforms.

Sponge Collaborative Chennai, India
Co-Lead, Urban Designer, Social Specialist and Architect Aug 2020 - Present

Consultant to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Kochi, 2020-2021

• *Rejuvenation of Mullassery Canal Region*: As winners of 'Ente Kochi Urban Design Competition', co-leading a 9-member team in developing community toolkits, implementation timelines and integrated decentralized waste management policies by overlaying existing government policies into the spatial programming of open spaces along the canal. Engaged with stakeholders through workshops on different forms of collaboration to create buy in for design interventions.

Independent Consultant

Affordable Housing Consultant to Asha Impact Trust New Delhi, India | Aug 2018 - Apr 2019

- Research and advocacy on streamlining building approvals in Maharashtra; prepared a detailed report evaluating the existing online building approvals system and presented to the Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai and Department of Building Approvals;
- Researched and translated key insights on feasibility of precast technologies in the construction industry in the Indian context to the investment team
- Led and translated market insights to investment team on potentialities for impact investing in transport-linked development
- Thought leadership on areas of research and advocacy focus that could impact and strengthen the ecosystem for the affordable housing sector as a whole

Consultant to Oxfordshire Neighbourhoods Partnership (ONP) Oxford, UK | October 2017

• *Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan Draft Review*: prepared a review document on behalf of the ONP and other voluntary sector organisations active in Oxfordshire; conducted research on key aspects of neighbourhood planning as implemented in the UK under the Localism Act of 2011.

Consultant to Jaaga DNA Bangaluru, India | June 2014 - June 2017

- *OurSbaala (2016)*: Developing and documenting a community art project through partnerships between private schools and low-income government schools
- *Wheeler Road UFO Flyover Placemaking Initiative (2016-2017)*: Member of the core design team at Jaaga DNA in partnership with Gensler, Bangalore, to design community participation surveys and visioning exercises, undertake data synthesis and pursue funding opportunities with the goal of improving public spaces under the flyover in a densely populated mixed-income neighbourhood in Bangalore.
- *Investment Zone (2014)*: Designed a public feedback tool for under flyover Bangalore-based public art project in partnership with designers and architects in Bangalore, India and Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Consultant to United Nations Development Programme India (UNDP India) New Delhi, India | June 2016-Nov 2016

• *Innovative practices in Low-Cost Rural Housing*: Report as part of UNDP's Governance and Accelerated Livelihoods (GOALS) initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India; Conducted interviews with practitioners, entrepreneurs and researchers in regions across India to document the most innovative low-cost housing practices; focus of research was on context-specific solutions ranging across materials, technology, delivery mechanisms and housing finance.

Consultant to Micro Homes Solutions (mHS) New Delhi, India | June 2013-August 2013

- Led key elements of design development of 3 affordable housing unit types and site planning for a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in East Delhi developed by UTTIPEC, the planning department of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for the National Capital Region

- Evaluated key elements of DDA TOD policy for the World Bank
- Developed interactive training tools, co-led and documented pilot mason training workshop with a focus on earthquake and structural safety in a dense informal settlement in Ahmedabad in partnership with SAATH;
- Led social media coordination for students for the conference “Paradigm Shifts in Housing”

Total Environment Building Systems Architect

**Bengaluru, India
June 2015 – June 2016**

- Led master planning for 100-acre township housing 10 million square feet of residential and commercial floor area
- Managed product development of luxury high-rise representing 3M square feet and \$400M of saleable area
- Coordinated across Structures, Services, Project Management and Cost Estimation silos (~ 50 people) to automate Indian Green Building Council Gold Certification process across software platform and all firm processes

Jana Urban Space Foundation Advanced Associate, Urban Planning

**Bengaluru, India
April 2015-May 2015**

- Promoted to position after 1.5 year, 2x faster than average; earned highest rating (top 5%) on all reviews
- Identified heritage redevelopment pilot projects in Bhubaneswar (state capital in Eastern India) to boost tourism potential for Tata Group and Government of Odisha, potentially improving living standards and opportunity for 800K residents
- Drove Jaipur-focused planning exercise to update building bylaws and development control regulations based on the National Urban Spatial Development Plan framework developed for Indian cities by JanaUSP and inspired by New Urbanist transect-based zoning and form-based code.

Associate, Urban Design

August 2013-April 2015

- Coordinated with municipal engineers and project managers to develop overall detail design and development of \$1.6M Cunningham Road model street and last-mile public utilities design under the award-winning Tender S.U.R.E. execution framework, with potential for application of lessons learned to streets across India; currently the model for street design adopted by the Government of India Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs across Indian cities
- Drove and developed placemaking and conceptual design for “Mumbai Mile” for the transformation of a major commercial and retail thoroughfare in Mumbai; design presented to key stakeholders
- Led rollout of 2 pilot community centres (<\$10/sq ft) for Janalakshmi Financial Services (microfinance firm) as a means of creating shared value for the community, leading to plans to roll out 200+ centres over the next year, enhancing opportunities for 2.3M microfinance beneficiaries India-wide
- Developed co-creative business model to source Jana Centre furniture from microfinance beneficiaries working with recycled material

Brend Renovation Corporation Designer

**New York City, USA
October 2012 - February 2013**

Secured 60+ building permits and handled construction update documentation for 10 projects for this Manhattan-focused construction and development firm

Architeriors Project Designer

**Austin, USA
February 2012 - August 2012**

- Managed 5 construction projects worth up to \$200K, handling all detail design and execution dimensions; built in-house presentation and 3D-modeling capabilities.

RMA Architects Architect Trainee

**Mumbai, India
June 2010 - December 2010**

- Merit-based 6 month Professional Residency Programme; Detail design, presentation and design development for up to 10 projects within India and abroad; design development for modular community toilets in informal settlements; introduced presentation software driving 10x efficiency improvement

Benny Kuriakose Architecture Architectural Intern

**Chennai, India
April 2007-June 2007**

- Design research and placemaking concept incorporating creation of public spaces and sustainable water management presented to an institutional client for a campus design; documentation and conceptual design for a heritage hotel in Ooty

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2020** | Best of Houzz 2020 India for Design – based on the most popular projects on the platform
- 2018** | ‘Commendable Initiative’ Award from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for the best non-motorised transport project for the BBMP Tender S.U.R.E. pilot project at the Urban Mobility India Conference
- 2018** | HUDCO award to Tender SURE Phase 01 for best practices to improve the living environment
- 2016** | Indian Green Building Council Accredited Professional
- 2011** | Special Honors for Plan II Undergraduate Thesis
- 2011** | Nominee for the Architype Review Travel Prize on the basis of design excellence
- 2006** | Five year recipient of the Renee Wolfe Zelman and Norman Zelman Endowed Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2020** | Author of master’s dissertation on display at Rewley Library, University of Oxford: “The impact of rail-based public transportation infrastructure on neighbourhood social cohesion: an exploratory case study of the neighbourhood of Mylapore, Chennai”
- 2018** | Architectural project featured on website by World Architecture Community
- 2018** | Architectural project featured in editorial ideabook by Houzz
- 2016** | Author of “On location: Praca de Lisboa” in City Observer Journal, December 2016 issue published by the Urban Design Collective, Chennai
- 2011** | Presented my undergraduate thesis “Creating an iconic narrative: the role of history textbooks in shaping identity in Tamil Nadu” at the Plan II Thesis Symposium
- 2011** | Author of undergraduate thesis accessible at the Plan II Thesis Database titled “Creating an iconic narrative: the role of history textbooks in shaping identity in Tamil Nadu”

REFERENCES

1. Dr Idalina Baptista, Kellogg College Fellow and Associate Professor in Sustainable Urban Development at the University of Oxford
2. Dr Nihan Akyelken, Research Fellow at the Transport Studies Unit and Associate Professor in Sustainable Urban Development at the University of Oxford
3. Dr. Kamala Visweswaran, Professor of Anthropology and T.T. and W.F. Chao Professor of Transnational South Asian Studies at Rice University
4. Swati Ramanathan, Chairperson of the Jana Urban Space Foundation, Co-founder Janaagraha Bangalore
5. Nithya Ramesh, Team Lead - Urban Design at the Jana Urban Space Foundation
6. Aparna Dua, Senior Manager – Asha Impact
7. Kamy Ramachandran, Co-Founder of Bengaluru Fantastic – A Tech Art Festival, Faculty: Public Space Design at Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Director at Jaaga DNA
8. Elangovan Govindan, Associate Urban Designer/Planner at Sasaki Associates