



PRAVEEN RAJ

**Urban Designer | Planner |
Housing Expert | Architect**

Bengaluru, India | Chennai, India

Praveen is an Urban Designer, Planner, Housing expert and Architect. Since 2012, he has worked across disciplines on a wide range of award winning projects in India, Argentina, Afghanistan, Mexico, Egypt and the United States.

With a Masters in Urban Design (MUD) from the College of Environmental Design at University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor's in Architecture from Anna university at Chennai, his expertise bridges the gap between Urban Design, Planning, Housing, Environmental Planning and Real Estate. His projects on Resilience planning, sustainable urban development, Slum upgrading and social housing have received several International awards including the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA), The Plan and others.

His areas of expertise and research include: Climate adaptation of cities and Resilience planning, Affordable Housing and Informal settlements in the developing world and the role of Community participation in urban housing. His expertise particularly in the field of housing is broad, spanning from planning level strategies to completely built projects. His project on Slum Rehabilitation in Buenos Aires, focusing on 'Incremental and Social Housing typologies' won several international awards including the Congress of New Urbanism (CNU) Charter award and The American Architecture Prize. At UC Berkeley, his works are a part of Professor Peter Bosselmann's book "Adaptations of the Metropolitan Landscape in Delta Regions". He has developed Resilient Urban Development strategies for the precursor to the "Bay Area: Resilient by Design Challenge", conducted by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission in 2017.

EDUCATION

University of California - Berkeley, College of Environmental Design - Master of Urban Design (MUD)
School of Architecture and Planning - Chennai, Bachelor of Architecture - (B. Arch)

Aug 2017
May 2014

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Resilience Planning, Climate sensitive-Strategic Urban Design, Slum/Neighborhood Upgrading, Social & Public Housing, Affordable & Incremental Housing, Geo-spatial Analysis, Sustainable Architecture.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN URBAN DESIGN, PLANNING, ARCHITECTURE & HOUSING

Sponge Collaborative
Co-Lead, Urban Designer, Planner and Architect

Chennai, India
Jan 2018 - 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 landscape based resilient-planning frameworks, concept master plans along with implementation focused DPR's for the Mullassery Canal Region in Kochi, India.

Consultant to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Chennai. Jan 2018 - May 2019

- *Sponge Handbook Chennai*: Co-led a 5-member team to develop a landscape based resilient-planning framework and housing strategies for the Buckingham canal area in Chennai, under the "Cities Fit for Climate Change" initiative. Developed climate sensitive strategies and recommendations for redevelopment of canal edge, neighbourhoods; in-situ resettlement housing typologies and design scheme for a pilot housing/redevelopment project.

Sasaki Associates
Associate Urban Designer, Planner and Architect

Boston, MA
Oct 2017 - March 2021

- Kabul City Urban Design Framework: Developed resilient planning and urban design visions to guide the strategic growth of Kabul city for the Ministry of Urban Development & Housing, and the Office of the President, Afghanistan. Developed planning and design strategies for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient vision, corridor redevelopment plans with focus on informal neighborhood upgrading and in-situ resettlement housing typologies for hillside communities.
- Strategic Development Framework for Five Provincial Capital Cities in Afghanistan (Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Khost, Mazar-i-Sharif): Developed geo-spatial analyses of urban & natural systems, development framework to guide resilient urban growth, strategic urban design vision, catalytic projects, strategies for climate adaptation, housing, mobility, economic development and informal neighbourhood upgrading for the Ministry of Urban Development & Housing, Afghanistan and the World Bank.
- Ho Chi Minh City Innovation District | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam: Developed mixed-use master plans, urban design visions and sustainable development and housing strategies for the winning competition proposal 'Establishment and Development of a Highly Interactive Innovative District in Ho Chi Minh City.'
- Kallang-Kolam Ayer INNOPARK district, Singapore: Developed mixed-use master plans, urban design visions and sustainable strategies for a 21st century tech and manufacturing district in the Kallang planning area of Singapore.
- Capital Gardens Master Plan and Framework: Developed masterplan, urban design guidelines and cluster typologies for the 5000 acres mixed-use development for the developers 'Talaat Moustafa Group' in Cairo, Egypt.
- Las Lomas Development Guadalajara: Developed master plans, urban development guidelines and housing typologies for the 48 acres mixed-use development for the developers 'Grupo Varo' in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- Emory University Planning Framework Study: Developing architecture, urban design and campus planning frameworks for the multiple campuses owned by Emory University in Atlanta, USA.
- Penn Connects 3.0: Developed urban design and architectural schemes for the redevelopment of Wharton School in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA.

Independent Consultant
Researcher with Ministry of Social and Urban Integration

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Aug 2016 - Aug 2017

- *A Framework for Empowerment - Slum Upgrading and Incremental Housing*: Developed an urban design framework to upgrade the slums 'Villa 31' in Buenos Aires, through strategic intervention of infrastructures, programs and new modules of housing. Developed a participatory framework to instigate a community-driven rebuilding process, through a toolkit of construction materials and techniques achieved by upscaling the local circular economy.

Collage Architecture Studio**Architect****Bengaluru, India****Dec 2014 - Jun 2016**

- Mr. Krishnan Residence, Bengaluru: Developed architecture and interior design schemes, construction drawings and coordinated till project completion for the 6,400 sq. Ft residence in Bengaluru, India
- Shreyas Apartments, Bengaluru: Developed architecture and interior design schemes, construction drawings and coordinated till project completion for the 55,645 sq. Ft Apartment project in Bengaluru, India
- Green Cascade, Bengaluru: Developed architecture and interior design schemes, construction drawings and coordinated till project completion for the 12,765 sq. Ft club house in Bengaluru, India
- Mr. Selvarasu Residence, Bengaluru: Developed interior design schemes, construction drawings and coordinated project execution for the 4,800 sq. Ft residence in Bengaluru, India
- Zonasha Waves Housing, Bengaluru: Developed architecture and masterplan schemes for the 2,95,034 sq. Ft community housing development in Bengaluru, India.
- Anekal Convention Center, Bengaluru: Developed architecture schemes for the 45,800 sq. Ft convention center in Bengaluru, India.
- Bengaluru Science Gallery Competition: Developed architecture schemes for the 45,000 sq. Ft science gallery and exhibition space in Bengaluru, India.
- Collage Studio Renovation, Bengaluru: Developed architecture schemes and construction drawings for the renovation of office space in Bengaluru, India.

Mindspace Architects**Architect Intern****Bengaluru, India****Jan 2013 - May 2013**

- Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru: Developed architecture schemes, construction drawings and coordinated execution of the ICMS block in JNC-Bengaluru, India
- Legend Ocarina, Hyderabad: Developed architecture schemes and visualizations for the row houses by the private developer 'Legend' in Hyderabad, India.
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM-B), Bengaluru: Developed architecture schemes, construction drawings and coordinated execution of the New classroom block in IIM-Bengaluru, India.
- Chemizol Global Technology Center and Labs, Bengaluru: Developed architecture schemes, construction drawings and coordinated execution of Chemizol research labs in Bengaluru, India.

CnT Architects**Architect Intern****Bengaluru, India****Jun 2012 - Oct 2012**

- Mindtree Kalinga Campus Housing, Bhubaneswar: Developed architecture schemes, construction drawings and coordinated execution of the Transit Housing block in the Mindtree campus-Bhubaneswar, India.
- Spectra Row Housing, Bengaluru: Developed architecture schemes and visualizations for the row houses by the private developer Spectra Constructions in Bengaluru, India
- Indian Institute of Management Campus and Student Housing, Tiruchirappalli: Developed architecture schemes, visualizations and physical models for the winning competition entry of IIM - Tiruchirappalli, India
- Otaniemi Central Campus and Housing for Aalto University, Finland: Developed architecture schemes and visualizations for competition entry for the central campus of Aalto University, Finland

AWARDS

- 2020** | Winner of the Ente Kochi Urban Design Competition for Kochi city, organized by GIZ
- 2020** | Award from American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Regional & Urban Design category for 'Kabul City Urban Development Framework'
- 2019** | Honourable Mention from THE PLAN awards in Urban Planning category for 'Kabul City Urban Development Framework'
- 2019** | Merit and Honour award from Boston Society of Landscape Architectures (BSLA) Award in Analysis & Planning category for 'Kabul City Urban Development Framework'
- 2018** | Winner of Re-imagining Chennai's Buckingham Canal competition organized by GIZ
- 2018** | Recipient of Congress for The New Urbanism (CNU) Charter Award for the project 'A Framework for Empowerment'
- 2018** | Finalist at the International symposium Confronting Informality 2018 – TU Delft for the project 'A Framework for Empowerment'
- 2017** | Recipient of the American Architecture Prize (AAP) 2017 in the categories 'Social Housing' and 'Urban Design' for the project 'A Framework for Empowerment'
- 2017** | Recipient of the Berkeley Circus 2017 Award for the studio project 'Port of San Francisco'
- 2017** | Nominated to the Berkeley Circus 2017 for the ULI Hines competition proposal
- 2016** | Recipient of the UC Berkeley - Graduate University Fellowship for MUD 2016-2017

- 2015** | Shortlisted for the Chandigarh Unbuilt International Competition in the 'Top 10 Honourable Mentions'
- 2014** | National Runner-up in the National Award for Excellence in Architectural Thesis 2014 conducted by the COA in India
- 2014** | South Zone Winner in the National Award for Excellence in Architectural Thesis 2014 conducted by the COA in India
- 2014** | Recipient of the Best Architectural Thesis Award from the Governor of Tamil Nadu as part of the Construction Industry awards
- 2014** | Jury Commendation at the NDTV Design and Architecture awards 2014 in the student award category
- 2013** | Jury Commendation at Transparence 2013 for the student level, architecture school design competition
- 2012** | Winner of the Product Design Trophy at the National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA) convention
- 2012** | National Winner at Cognizance 2012 symposium held at Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee for the paper 'Housing for Construction Workers'

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2020** | Presented 'Sponge Handbook: Chennai' at the Boston Society of Architects - Boston
- 2019** | Presented 'Sponge Handbook: Chennai' at Anna University – Chennai
- 2018** | Design works published as a part of the book Adaptations of Metropolitan Landscapes in Delta Regions by Professor Peter Bosselmann
- 2018** | The project 'A Framework for Empowerment' featured in the publication of Confronting Informality 2018 symposium – TU Delft
- 2017** | Presented the Urban design studio project 'Port of San Francisco' at the Berkeley Circus 2017
- 2017** | Presented the Urban design competition project 'Industry Re-imagined' at the Berkeley Circus 2017
- 2015** | Thesis project 'Deciphering Dhanushkodi' published in Kattumana Thozhil Magazine 2015
- 2015** | Presented the thesis project 'Deciphering Dhanushkodi' in the architecture symposium held at Dayananda Sagar College of Architecture, Bangalore
- 2015** | Presented the thesis project 'Deciphering Dhanushkodi' at Care College of Architecture, Trichy
- 2015** | Presented the thesis project 'Deciphering Dhanushkodi' at BMS School of Architecture, Bangalore
- 2014** | Thesis project 'Deciphering Dhanushkodi' published in the National Award for Excellence in Architectural Thesis (NIASA) 2014 Journal
- 2014** | Presented the thesis project 'Deciphering Dhanushkodi' at Sathyabama University, Chennai
- 2014** | Presented the thesis project at Renugambal College of Architecture, Vellore
- 2012** | Paper on 'Housing for construction workers' published in the Indian Institute of Technology Journal.

REFERENCES

1. Dennis Pieprz, Honorary ASLA, Urban Design Principal and Chair of Design, Sasaki Associates, Boston
2. Peter C. Bosselmann, Professor of the Graduate School in Architecture, City & Regional Planning, and Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, UC Berkeley
3. John G. Ellis, Partner, Mithun, San Francisco
4. Swapnil Valvatkar, Principal, Collage Architecture Studio, Bengaluru
5. Naresh Medappa, Partner, Mindspace Architects, Bengaluru