



SOURAV KUMAR BISWAS

**Landscape Architect |
Environmental Analyst |
Regional Planner**

Boston, USA | Kolkata, India

Sourav is trained as a landscape architect and architect with more than 10 years of experience in the most innovative urban and landscape planning practices. He has worked on award-winning projects in Afghanistan, China, Denmark, Mexico, and India.

Sourav Kumar Biswas is the Practice Area Leader for Urban and Landscape Planning at GeoAdaptive in Boston. At GeoAdaptive, he works on integrating environmental, hydrological, and urban development dynamics with economic development and sustainable infrastructure strategies.

His projects on sustainable urban development, landscape conservation, and regional water resilience have received awards from American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA), and American Institute of Architects (AIA).

He has been a visiting faculty at Mumbai University and Research Associate at Harvard. His research pursuits include building urban water resilience through integrated watershed management and nature-based solutions, as well as the urban-rural linkages between transitioning settlements in India.

He is the lead author of 'The Sponge Handbook: Chennai' for GIZ and 'PLAY! Tactics and Strategies for Public Spaces in Mumbai's Informal City' for ORF India. His research on India's urbanization has been presented at Harvard, MIT, and the Venice Biennale.

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Master in Landscape Architecture - MLA
University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture, Bachelor of Architecture - B. Arch

Jan 2016
May 2010

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING, LANDSCAPE AND ARCHITECTURE

GeoAdaptive
Practice Area Lead, Urban and Landscape Planning

Boston, MA
March 2020 - Present

- Spatial Economic Strategy for Inclusive Growth and Decarbonization of Costa Rica 2050: Comprehensive strategy for national economic development and landscape conservation informed by spatial analysis of value chains, socio-economic gaps, economic drivers, environmental factors, and identification of growth poles

Sasaki Associates
Landscape Planner and Spatial Analyst

Boston, MA
Sep 2017 - March 2020

- Strategic Development Framework for Five Provincial Capital Cities in Afghanistan (Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Khost, Mazar-i-Sharif): Defining strategic priorities, catalytic projects, and landscape framework to guide the medium and long-term growth of five city-regions
- Kabul City Urban Development Framework, Kabul: Regional environmental analysis, parks need analysis, landscape, infrastructure, and planning framework for the strategic growth of Kabul city for Ministry of Urban Development & Housing, Afghanistan
- Panda Capital, Chengdu: Suitability analysis, landscape framework and master plan concept for three sites (7000 ha in total) to expand Panda breeding and rewilding efforts and promote conservation tourism
- Longquanshan Forest Park, Chengdu: Development suitability analysis, landscape framework, management guidelines, and tourism development concept for 125,000 ha of forest lands between Chengdu's existing and planned developments
- South Saigon Satellite City, Ho Chi Minh City: Site analysis and landscape guidelines for urbanization in high flood-risk area of 2,600 ha
- Jialing River Waterfront, Chongqing: Site analysis, landscape and programming guidelines for 30 km of riverfront

Independent Consultant

Consultant to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
• *Sponge Handbook Chennai: A landscape framework for transforming Buckingham Canal*

Chennai, India
Jan 2018 - May 2019

Led a 5-member team to develop a landscape framework and catalog of landscape infrastructure toolkits that make Chennai more resilient to flooding and drought under the "Cities Fit for Climate Change" initiative

Consultant to Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and Pueblo County
• *Alternatives to Improve Agricultural and Ecological Outcomes on the Bessemer Ditch*

Pueblo, CO
Sep 2016 - Dec 2016

Landscape and suitability analysis for farmland protection and ecological restoration to inform the future of agricultural lands and water rights transfer between Pueblo municipality and the farmers.
Collaborated with Geoadaptive and Innovative Conservation Solutions

AECOM
Landscape Designer and Planner

San Francisco, CA
Jul 2016 - Aug 2017

- Ghaf Hills, Dubai: Site analysis, concept masterplan, and landscape guidelines for 284 ha of residential and mixed-use development adapted to arid ecosystems
- Greentown Metro Qibao, Hangzhou: Master plan framework, concept design, schematic design, and design development services for 46 ha transit-oriented, mixed-use project
- Marikana Waterfront, Manila: Landscape framework for 35 ha mixed-use riverfront development
- Taman Wahyu, Kuala Lumpur: Site analysis, landscape concept master plan framework and schematic design for 32.1 ha mixed-use lakefront development
- Greentown Changfeng, Shanghai: Landscape concept design, schematic design, and design development for 19 ha mixed-use project

Interboro Partners
Project Co-ordinator

Cambridge, MA
Jan 2016 - Jun 2016

- Headed the community outreach effort for the 'Envision Cambridge' citywide masterplan as editor of magazine to raise awareness and manager of mobile engagement team

SLA A/S**Landscape Architecture Intern**

Copenhagen, Denmark

Aug 2014 - Jan 2015

- Ringkøbing K Masterplan: Suitability analysis to determine setup of ecological zones within 82 ha of new eco-sensitive residential development
- SUND Nature Park, Copenhagen: Design development of public realm and landscape for 4 ha of urban campus
- European Spallation Source, Lund: Design development for 10 ha site of EU's largest facility for neutron research

BMW Guggenheim Lab, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation**Program Co-ordinator**

Mumbai, India

Aug 2012 – Apr 2013

- Curated agenda and speakers, moderated programming and managed the budget for a 10-panel series on Mumbai's urban issues (water, housing, transport) in collaboration with Naresh Fernandes, Neville Mars and David van der Leer

Corgan Associates Inc., Aviation Studio**Architectural Designer and BIM Specialist**

Dallas, TX ; Phoenix, AZ

July 2010 – Dec 2011

- DFW Terminal A/ B Redevelopment: Co-ordinated construction documentation in BIM for 90,000 m2 airport

Serie Architects**Architectural Intern**

Mumbai, India

June 2009 – Dec 2009

- Vornado Masterplan, Hinjewadi: Masterplan of residential development for 15,000 households in peri-urban Pune

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING**Urban Theory Lab****Research Associate for Neil Brenner and Matthew Desmond**

Harvard University

Jan 2016 - June 2016

- Mapping housing inequality for NSF-funded Global Urbanization Project comparing the cities of Delhi, Lagos, London, and New York

Urban India Research Group**Research Manager for Rahul Mehrotra**

Harvard University

Feb 2015 - June 2016

- Managing the research agenda for a forthcoming publication that utilizes spatial analysis and mapping to reveal transitioning economies across India and visualize the transformations in peri-urban and rural areas

Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure**Researcher for Spiro Pollalis | Andreas Georgoulas**

Harvard University

Jun 2015 - Aug 2015 | Oct 2013 – May 2014

- Headed research on landscape planning and landscape ecology frameworks for urban water management in Texas
- Worked on landscape assessment of croplands affected by ag-municipal water rights transfer in Colorado
- Worked on graphic design and research to support the development of Zofnass Economic Tool, an interactive online app that demonstrates the value of ecosystem services and project externalities based on the Envision System

Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai**Research Fellow**

Reliance Foundation

Apr 2013 - Aug 2013

- Worked on independent research project that observed patterns of play in informal settlements. The project culminated in a round-table and a publication on public spaces and the role of planning in self-built communities

KRV Institute of Architecture**Visiting Faculty**

University of Mumbai

Jan 2012 - Apr 2013

- Architectural Design VI 3rd Year: Instructor for studio focused on architectural language through the design of an Indian High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Architectural Design V, 3rd Year: Instructor on process-oriented studio with an emphasis on iterative modeling and site-driven transformations. Co-designed the course structure and set up readings & precedents to complement the process

University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture**Teaching Assistant for Elizabeth Alford**

University of Texas at Austin

Feb 2010 - May 2010

- Design IV 2nd year: Assisting students with desk crits, software tutorials and general guidance for an urban analysis and design studio based on San Antonio, TX

Auroville Earth Institute, Auroville**Mebane Traveling Fellow**

University of Texas at Austin

June 2008 – Aug 2008

- Researched the production and benefits of Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks and Stabilized Rammed Earth by building with UNESCO architect Satprem Maini to assess their viability as sustainable construction materials

Center for Sustainable Development**Research Assistant for Dr. Steven A. Moore**

University of Texas at Austin

Sept 2006 - May 2007

- Worked on topics related to philosophy of technology, nature and the role of 'expert' knowledge in planning

AWARDS

2020 | Award from American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Regional & Urban Design category for 'Kabul City Urban Development Framework'

2019 | Merit and Honor award from Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA) Award in Analysis & Planning category for 'Kabul City Urban Development Framework' and 'Chendgu Panda Reserve'

2018 | Winner of Reimagining Chennai's Buckingham Canal competition organized by GIZ

2016 | Honor recipient of Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA) Award in Student Work category

2015 | Honor recipient of American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Student Award in Analysis & Planning category

2014 | Recipient of South Asia Institute at Harvard University Summer Research Grant for research on East Kolkata Wetlands

2013 | 4th place in TATA TISCON - India Homes 2020 - a competition for flexible, cost-effective residential prototypes in tier-two cities

2008 | Recipient of Undergraduate Research Fellowship & Mike & Maxine K. Mebane Endowed Traveling Scholarship for research on earth architecture in Auroville

2007 | Runners-up in Design Build Challenge, New Orleans for Red Swing Project

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2020 | Selected to exhibit 'Becoming Urban' at Venice Biennale - How Will We Live Together

2019 | Presented 'Using the Landscape Approach to Build Urban Water Resilience' at National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi

2019 | Presented 'Sponge Handbook: Chennai' at International Conference for Climate Action, Heidelberg

2019 | Presented 'Defining a Landscape Approach for India' at Anna University – Chennai, CEPT University – Ahmadabad, and University of Mumbai - Mumbai

2019 | Co-editor of 'From the South: Global perspectives on landscape and territory' with Flavio Sciaraffia, Thomas Nideroest, and Hannes Zander published by Universidad del Desarrollo, Santiago

2019 | Author of 'Mapping a Landscape Planning Agenda for the East Kolkata Wetlands' and Co-author of 'Addressing Water Conflicts Between Agriculture and Cities: Designing a Landscape Framework to Avoid the Socioecological Impacts of Water Rights Transfers in Colorado' published by 'From the South: Global perspectives of landscape and territory' (Universidad del Desarrollo)

2018 | Author of 'The Mangroves of Mumbai: An asset for cultivating coastal resilience' published by My Livable City

2018 | Presented 'Becoming Urban: Emerging patterns of urbanization in India' with Rahul Mehrotra at Harvard Asia Center

2017 | Co-author of 'A Landscape Approach for Calama's Oasis: Negotiating Landscape Conservation, Agricultural Livelihoods and Mining' published in 'The Camp and the City: Territories of Extraction' (Laboratorio Internazionale Editoriale)

2017 | Presented 'A Landscape Approach for Navigating Municipal Purchase of Agricultural Water Rights' at The World Bank, D.C.

2016 | Selected to be part of 'Designing Justice' exhibit at 'Voices and Visions of St.Louis: Past, Present, Future' for the project 'Building the Ville's Main Street' at Harvard Graduate School of Design

2015 | Presented 'Mapping Patterns of Urbanization in India' at MIT Colloquium titled 'Kolkata and its Hinterland' with Neil Brenner

2014 | Projects from Landscape Core III and Core IV published and exhibited in PLATFORM 7 by Harvard Graduate School of Design

2013 | Author of 'PLAY! Tactics and Strategies for Public Spaces in Mumbai's Informal City' published by Observer Research Foundation

2012 | Selected to be part of U.S. Pavilion exhibit at Venice Biennale - Common Ground titled 'Spontaneous Interventions for the Common Good' for Red Swing Project

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REFERENCES

1. Michael Grove, Principal and Chair of Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Ecology, Sasaki Associates, Boston
2. Rahul Mehrotra, Professor and Chair, Department of Urban Design and Planning, Harvard University
3. Neil Brenner, Professor of Urban Theory and Director of Urban Theory Lab, Harvard University
4. Daniel D'Oca, Principal of Interboro Partners
5. James Wescoat, Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
6. Mette Skjold / Rasmus Astrup, Partner, SLA A/S, Copenhagen