



**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE**

Course: **Urban Design Studio**                      Class: **B.Arch, Vyr IX sem, AY 2025-26**                      Sec: **A & B**  
Contact Slots: **12 hrs**  
Studio Faculty: **Dr. Prashanti Rao, Ar. Vijesh Kumar V, Ar. Somaina Islary, Ar. Kapil Natwadkar, Ar Madhav Rao, Ar Sayantan Das, Ar Gokul Kailash, and Ar Srinivas**

Internal Marks: **50**                                      External Jury: **50**                                      Total Marks: **100**

Attendance: 75% Min.

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**DESIGN STUDIO PROGRAMME**

**Course Objectives:** *The objectives of this studio are three-fold. First objective is to expose the students to the complexities of large-scale architectural interventions in specific urban settings, having multiple stakeholders. The second objective is to let the students explore how to harmonise and contextualise the architectural design with the immediate built environs and the larger urban fabric. The third objective is to sensitise the students about the interface between public and private domain.*

**Content:**

*Issues related to the growing problems of urban areas in third world countries and their future development shall be explored. Emphasis shall be on the design with relation to the contextual environment, heritage, traffic, planning controls and impact analysis.*

*An understanding of the architectural implications of such development scheme should lead to insights in the formulation of urban design controls and urban planning policy. The studio exercise could involve the design of a group of buildings in the urban context. This could be a greenfield/ brownfield development, redevelopment or revitalization project in the context of the city under study.*

**Studio Theme: “Reviving the Commons: Inclusive Urbanism for Heritage and Commercial Cores”**

**Study Area:** New Delhi, India

**Proposed Dates for Site Visit:** 23<sup>rd</sup> August - 6th September 2025

**Context**

Two of Delhi’s most compelling precincts - Nehru Place and Nizamuddin Basti - represent contrasting yet complementary urban fabrics. Each offers an opportunity to understand the layers of planning, informality, heritage, commerce, and mobility within the evolving urban metabolism of the city.

**1. Nehru Place: Modern Commercial Core at Crossroads**

Developed in the 1980s as part of Delhi’s Master Plan vision for decentralizing commercial activity, Nehru Place emerged as a thriving centre for IT hardware and software markets. Despite its strategic location near the Outer Ring Road, multiple metro lines, and institutional zones, Nehru Place suffers from:

- Public realm degradation due to encroachments, haphazard parking, and poorly maintained infrastructure.
- Lack of inclusive access, with limited provisions for the differently abled and elderly. Poor.
- integration of mobility networks, making pedestrian movement difficult despite high footfall.
- Absence of vibrant community spaces within a high-density commercial core.

This offers a ground for exploring urban retrofitting and rejuvenation to transform it into a safe, accessible, and vibrant business district through design that foregrounds people over vehicles.

## **2. Nizamuddin Basti: Heritage, Community, and Informality**

Nestled beside the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site, the Nizamuddin Basti precinct is a living heritage settlement dating back to the 13th century. It is home to the Dargah of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, bustling bazaars, and tightly-knit residential clusters. The area reflects:

- Intense socio-cultural activity, deeply rooted in Sufi traditions and everyday community practices.
- Coexistence of formal and informal systems, including housing, retail, and religious institutions.
- Challenges of infrastructure, waste management, congestion, and spatial inequality.
- Potential for adaptive reuse of historical structures and revival of community-centric spaces.

While distinct in typology and socio-economic profiles, both sites face shared urban issues—deteriorating public spaces, mobility gaps, and safety concerns, particularly for vulnerable user groups. These sites are also highly symbolic of Delhi's past and present, representing two forms of urban intensity: the economic and the cultural.

## **Strategy and Scope of Work**

The studio will adopt a **phased, multi-scalar, and people-centric approach**, focusing on inclusive, safe, and context-sensitive urban design interventions.

### **Phase 1: Site Immersion & Analysis**

- Spatial mapping of land use, built form, and mobility.
- Stakeholder engagement and user behavior observation.
- Safety, accessibility, and inclusivity audits.

### **Phase 2: Visioning & Conceptual Framework**

- Identify key urban challenges and opportunities.
- Develop a precinct-level vision plan integrating:
  - Inclusive public realm strategies
  - Adaptive reuse of underused/heritage structures
  - Integrated urban mobility
  - Green-blue infrastructure and placemaking

### **Phase 3: Detailed Design Interventions**

- Select focus areas (plazas, streets, alleys, heritage nodes).
- Propose human-scaled, safe, and accessible designs (1:500/1:200).
- Introduce tactical urbanism and phased implementation ideas.

#### **Phase 4: Guidelines & Implementation Roadmap**

- Prepare urban design toolkits and policy recommendations.
- Simulate user experience and evaluate design impact.
- Present final vision, detailed proposals, and strategies.

#### **Studio Objective**

- To **critically analyze** the socio-cultural, spatial, economic, and environmental characteristics of the two precincts.
- To propose **inclusive and equitable design interventions** that address safety, gender inclusivity, and accessibility for all.
- To integrate **adaptive reuse** strategies for heritage and underutilized structures.
- To design **vibrant, people-centric public spaces** using placemaking tools.
- To develop proposals that **integrate non-motorized and public transport** systems to improve last-mile connectivity and enhance urban mobility.
- To address **urban resilience** by proposing sustainable and context-sensitive urban strategies.
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#### **Parameters to be Studied**

City Level Study components

*SITE SURVEY: INTRODUCTORY CHECKLIST* (to be done by students in group at both city, area and site level)

1. Relationship to the city  
Evolution and historic growth  
Location Setting and connectivity  
Functional Role  
Demographic Characteristics
2. Ecology and Landscape  
Major ecological systems and features at city and area levels  
Ecological precincts and components in and around the area  
Land profile, topography and characteristics  
Open space systems and types  
Predominant flora and fauna  
MPD references to Ecology and landscape
3. Transportation and Infrastructure  
Movement network – pedestrian and vehicular  
Public transportation systems and networks  
Parking characteristics and para transit operations  
Transport nodes and terminals  
Water supply, drainage, power, telecommunication systems and networks  
Sewerage and solid waste disposal systems, waste management  
Reference to parking norms, transport network, Infrastructure etc.
4. Morphology (Group 1)  
Major imageable elements, markers and place of reference  
Entry points, movement, corridor and street character  
Building types, spatial types

- MPD references to Urban form, redevelopment, renewal, conservation etc.
5. Morphology (Group 2)
    - Character zones and precincts, transition areas
    - Distribution of Built form & open spaces
    - Structure of public spaces and streets
    - Architectural expression
  6. Functional structure
    - Functional districts and activity areas
    - Industries and Work places
    - Wholesale, retail markets and networks
    - Institutions- educational, religious, social, cultural, etc.
    - 24 Hour activity cycle- distribution, nature and intensity
    - MPD references to Land use and zoning
  7. Society and culture
    - Population characteristics- number, composition, nature of occupation, age, etc.
    - Social groups, economic & ethnic configuration
    - Religious affiliation and connected spaces, processional routes and significance
    - Socio- cultural attributes, communal spaces, festivals & rituals
  8. Planned interventions, regulations and new growth areas with reference to Puducherry
    - Statutory bodies, jurisdiction and roles
    - Master plan, ZDP and major proposals/schemes under MPLAD etc.
    - Planning norms, development and heritage regulations
    - Major land ownership
    - Development trends, private and public.& Future housing and infrastructure requirements

### **Stage Wise Distribution**

Stage I: City level study (to be completed before site visit)

Stage II: Area level study

Stage III: Identifying issues and possible sites for inventions

Stage IV:

- Overall Vision and Agenda
- Structure Plan proposals
- Final Structure Plan
- Conceptual Design scheme
- Detailed Design scheme

<b>Week</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Type of Submission</b>	<b>Mode</b>
1	Introduction to the Problem	-	Discussion
2	Documentation of Existing Situation	Printed A1 sheets	Discussion
3	Progress Review	Printed A1 sheets	Discussion
4	Progress Review	Printed A1 sheets	Discussion
5	Review	Printed A1 sheets	Submission and Review
6	Study Tour	As instructed.	
7	Analysis (SWOT and Guidelines for development), and Model	Printed A1 sheets	Discussion

9	Progress Review	Printed A1 sheets	Discussion
10	Review	Printed A1 sheets	Submission and Mid Semester Review
11	Identification of area for intervention	Printed A1 sheets	Submission and Review
12	Conceptual Proposal	Printed A1 sheets, Models	Submission and Review
13	Review of Scheme 1	Printed A1 sheets, Models	Discussion, Submission and Review
14	Review of Scheme 2	Printed A1 sheets, Models	Submission and Review
15	Prefinal	Printed A1 sheets, Models	Discussion
16	Final jury with model	Printed A1 sheets, Models	Submission and Review
17	Submission for External jury	Printed A1 sheets, Models	Submission

## **References**

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