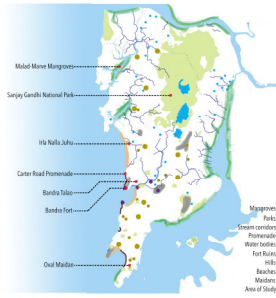


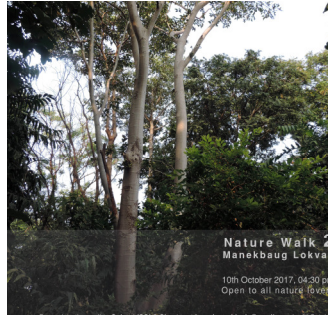
Top stories in this newsletter



ISOLA Event
Fragile Landscapes



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Projects at a glance

ISOLA Mumbai MMR Event: Fragile Landscapes, 6th January, 2018



As a part of the fifth cycle of SD memorial lecture series the ISOLA Mumbai chapter has organized a series of guest lectures to shed light on the topic of Fragile Landscapes "Metamorphosis of our green mosaics." Dr. Aparna Watve, Prof. Ketaki ghathe and Mr. Hemant Karkhanis would be sharing their knowledge about the ecologically rich but fragile landscape of Western Ghats, Sacred groves a fragile ecosystem and mangrove conservation respectively. Each of the speakers have shared their experiences on how to deal with fragile landscapes in form of a short interview.



Dr. Aparna Watve
PhD (Botany)
Areas of Specialization:
Vegetation ecology & Adaptive strategies of plants



Prof. Ketaki Ghathe
B.Sc (Chem) & B.Sc (Botany)
Areas of Specialization:
Urban Ecological Conservation

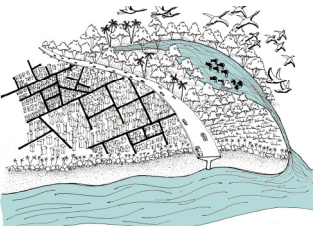


Prof. Hemant Karkhanis
B.Sc (Zoo) & B.Sc (Entomology & Biotechnology)
Areas of Specialization:
Mangrove conservation and

EDITORIAL :
We, the ISOLA Mumbai MMR Chapter, are happy to present to you the 8th Newsletter of ISOLA! Based on the theme of FRAGILE LANDSCAPES, the newsletter is a short compilation of updates from the happenings at the ISOLA Centre and Chapters along with some students works and event reports pertaining to the fragile ecosystems of our own city of Mumbai. We hope it makes for an interesting read and we eagerly await your feedback on the same!

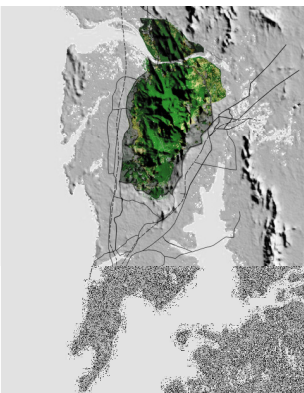
Student: Thesis Works

Assessment of Coastal Road through Versova, Sandesh Parab, CEPT University



Mumbai, a conglomeration of seven islands is surrounded by waters on its three sides. The foot of the city and its two sides surrounded by Arabian Sea. This water surrounding the city along with topography of the land has given rise to distinctive features of landscapes. Starting from the streams of rivers originating from the mountains, to its freshwater lakes. The rivers that end to form estuaries or creeks that acts as buffer for the island city. Hence, the entire coast of Mumbai has a diverse landscape character from shores of sandy beaches to creeks with dense mangroves. It is these diverse creeks that act as barriers for the ferocious sea water and help protect the city. It is these creeks that aid the once well known fishing community of Mumbai. The need for a road network from the west coast of Mumbai, which holds these natural mangroves is raising a concern of losing such diverse forms of the coast. Vegetation loss and loss of ecology is evident and this needs immediate attention before we plan to build such a greater scale of network. The idea is to have an understanding of the area and its various layers, also understanding the contributions it has to pay for the city of Mumbai. The planning of road network needs more strategies and has to be concerned for nature or for the already less natural areas of Mumbai. This will not only decide the existence of diverse coast of Mumbai but also the existence of 'Nature in Mumbai'.

Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Prachee Velankar, CEPT University



Beleaguered by the urban sprawl, the Sanjay Gandhi National Park is undergoing the impacts of urbanization. The park is an Urban Protected Area which beholds natural and cultural values also having a unique status in the urban ecology of Mumbai and provides opportunities for urban residents to enjoy natural environments. In recent years, changes in surrounding land use and conversion of cultivated lands to urban areas has affected the landscapes structure. Additionally, forests are being fragmented into smaller patches that are surrounded by non forest land uses. It is likely that these forested habitats will continue to be permanently altered and the amount of available wildlife habitat will decrease tremendously. The Park presents a unique case of a struggle to survive as an ecologically sensitive area against the human pressure. The study focuses on understanding the relationship between an urban protected area and the spatial ecological dynamics. It takes an analytical approach that looks at concepts of habitat fragmentation, edge effect, landscape processes to put together 'ecologically informed' strategies for this 'Urban Forest' situated in the heart of a dense metropolis.

[Read more](#)

ISOLA Updates

The new Executive Council of ISOLA was elected and commenced its new term from May 23, 2017. This team shall continue to hold office till May 22,



Ms. Sujata Kohli
Honorary President
Email: isolapresident@gmail.com
City: New Delhi



Dr. Sreedevi Rao
Honorary Vice-President
Email: isolavicepresident@gmail.com
City: Hyderabad



Ms. Nidhi Madan
Honorary Secretary
Email: isolasecretary@gmail.com
City: New Delhi



Ms. Jitendra Pawgi
Honorary Treasurer
Email: isolatreasurer@gmail.com
City: Pune

Other members of the EC include Avadhoot Kumthekar, Swati Sahasrabudhe, Shravana Reddy, Asok Kumar, Dwaipayan Bhattacharya, Maithily Velangi and immediate Past President Rohit Marol.

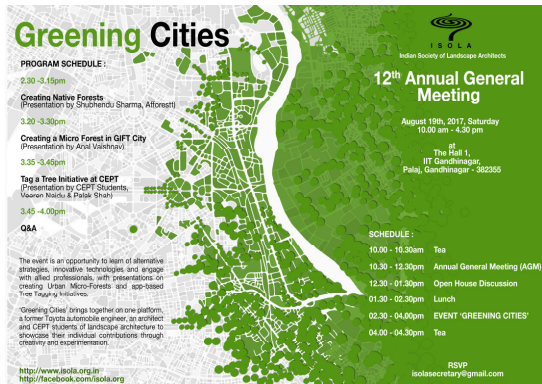
ISOLA AGM



The 12th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Society of Landscape Architects was held in Ahmedabad (at the IIT Gandhinagar Palaj campus) on the 19th of August 2017.

The new Executive Council members were introduced to the General Body. The Honorary President Sujata Kohli spoke of the objectives set by the new EC which included spreading the reach of ISOLA among students and institutions, working towards creating more regional chapters and student chapters and engaging with the industry and vendors at a more meaningful level.

The audited accounts of the Society for the financial year ended March 2017 were presented by the auditor Rajnikant Trivedi and approved by the General Body. The members were briefed about the forthcoming ISOLA activities which included the seventh cycle of ISOLA Awards and the announcement of the 13th annual conference in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in February 2019.



The AGM was followed by an event titled GREENING CITIES

The event GREENING CITIES was designed as an opportunity for ISOLA members to learn of alternative strategies, innovative technologies and engage with allied professionals with presentations on creating Urban Micro-forests and app-based Tree Tagging initiatives. The main speakers for the event were Shubhendu Sharma of AFFORESTT whose talk was titled Creating Native Forests and Anal Vaishnav who spoke of Creating a Micro-forest in GIFT City. Students of CEPT followed up the talks with a short film and presentation on their work of tagging trees in their campus through an app. The event was well attended and the work presented was appreciated by all present.

ISOLA recently announced the launch of its sixth regional chapter – the TAMIL NADU and PONDICHERRY Chapter. This chapter is the

[Link for evnt pages](#)

The 13th annual conference of ISOLA will be held in Thiruvananthapuram on the 8th and 9th February 2019.

ISOLA Other News

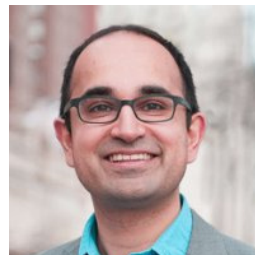


The Delhi NCR Chapter has launched a design idea competition called PUBLIC SPACES FOR THE CITY ON THE MOVE in collaboration with the Delhi Development Authority. The competition is currently underway and is open to ISOLA student members and fresh graduates.

[Read more](#)



The Gujarat ISOLA Chapter had organized a Nature walk at Manekbaug Lokvan on the 10th of October 2017 for its members and other interested individuals. Manekbaug Lokvan is a community park containing forest of native species as well as manicured garden. The walk was an experience through the different variants of forests.



The ISOLA Bangalore Chapter in association with the Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago's Bangalore office held a discussion with Professor Nilay Mistry along with a presentation of the recent works of the MLA students and current research at IIT Chicago. The event was held on the 12th of December 2017.



Landscape Architects and Urbanists from across India namely Shweta Suhane, Amrita Kaur, Intekhab Alam, Sandeep Menon, Parisutha Rajan, Ankit Kalantri, Maithily Velangi & Shailaja Shah presented their respective papers at IFLA Asia-Pacific Regional Congress held at Bangkok from 2nd November-5th November.

CITY Updates



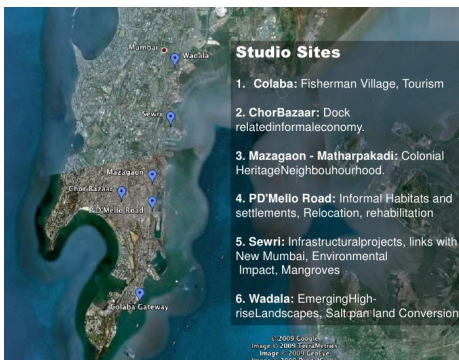
Shivaji Memorial

Area: 1,30,000 sq.mts.

The 3,600 crore INR project of the Shivaji Memorial coming amidst the Arabian Sea offshore to our city of Mumbai is mired in controversy.

NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) and the National Institute of Oceanography who have prepared the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) Report claim that the location wherein the said statue is being built, there is an abundance of Coral. This was also confirmed by the officials of Public Water Works Department and MoEF.

Not only will the construction of this project cause harm to the rich corals but also hamper the Aquatic ecosystem as in turn will hamper the fisherfolk community.

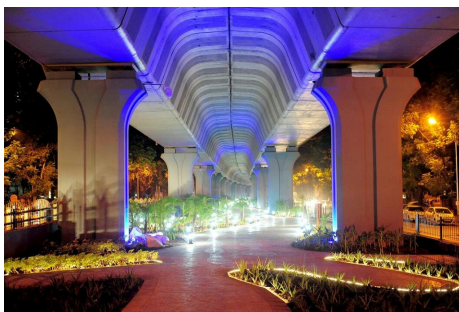


Eastern Waterfront

Area: 74,00,000 sq. mts.

The city's eastern waterfront never had the charm of what the western waterfront enjoys. In an attempt to alter that, the Mumbai Port Trust invited EOI from architects and urbanists from around to design and revamp the stretch.

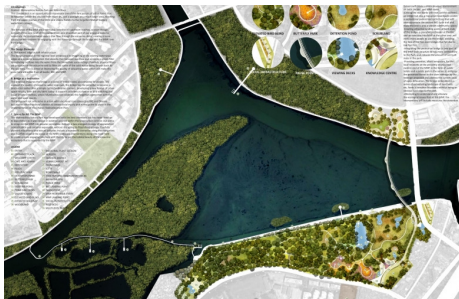
Various studies have been carried out by UDRI (Urban Design Research Institute) and KRVA (Kamla Raheja Vidyaneedhi Institute of Architecture) to study and examine the potential of the eastern waterfront. Expected to begin work in a few months and to be completed in the next 5-6 years the brief includes an ecological garden, yacht clubs, ferry wharfs, entertainment hub and ropeway. Also the surrounding land-use would be subject to change incorporating high density residential and commercial stretches which would boost the city's real



Matunga Flyover Garden

Area: 6,000 sq. mts.

As the number of vehicles in the city have increased so have the road infrastructural facilities like freeways & flyovers increased. The spaces beneath these flyovers which have been usually utilized as either parking spaces or certain traffic police cabins are under utilized and at times become dingy and unapproachable. A group of NGO "one Matunga" and residents around came up with the idea of a green space open to public for recreational purposes. This space was proposed and inaugurated for public access below the Tulpule flyover on Dr. Ba-Basaheb Ambedkar road. The garden has green pockets and sit-out spaces along with a 600m jogging track. Amidst the noise and pollution On the Ambedkar road, this green pocket

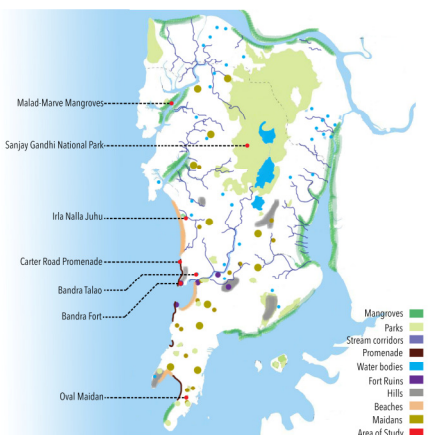


Maharashtra Nature Park

Area: 1,61,875 sq. mts.

A Global Design Competition was held to transform the parcel of land which was once a garbage dump and had slowly over 12 long years (thanks to the brain child of a corporate lawyer- Ms.Shanta Chatterji) become a hub for environmentalists and ecologists, housing 580 species of plants, houses 123 species of birds (as recorded), more than 78 types of butterflies, 22 varieties of reptiles and amphibia and more than 30 species of spiders. The competition was won by Sameep Padora & Associates, Design Cell & Ratna.J.Batlibio Consultants Pvt. Ltd. The ambitious objective of the design was to maintain the forest-like environment which had always been the asset of the project whilst striving to maintain a perfect balance between afforestation and built forms. In doing so Mumbaikars will be compelled to embrace nature and move towards ecology as a definite measure.

ACADEMIC Updates



Mapping City Open Spaces - Landscape Studio Work,

L.S.Raheja School of Architecture

The city breathes through its trees, through the water that flows through it and through its open spaces. The existing landforms by themselves talk of a 'network' that is built for the smooth functioning of the city. With the advent of urbanized chaos and more so due to "the grow more syndrome", many researchers believe that as the city of Mumbai grew, its open spaces have been shrinking. While equating 'Urban Liveability' with Urban Open Space quality, the students from the Dept. of Landscape Architecture at the L.S.Raheja School of Architecture, conducted an eight-week research on the perceived and unperceived Open Space within Mumbai. Public parks, Maidans, Creeks, Nallas (stream corridor), and Fort remnants, Lakes, Promenades all formed a larger umbrella of landscape typology. The research speaks about the quality of spaces and how refinements to these can influence the quality of life and build an image for the city.

[Read more](#)

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