

Neelakantan Keshavan (Ph. D.)

Assistant Professor, Department of Design, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
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Education

Doctor of Philosophy (2018), *Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai*
Master of Arts in Aesthetics (2007), *Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*
Master of Urban and Regional Planning (2003), *CEPT, Ahmedabad*
Bachelor of Architecture (2000), *Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai*

Work

Assistant Professor, Department of Design, IIT Hyderabad (2014 – till date)
Senior Visiting Lecturer (2008-2009), *D. Y. Patil College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai*
Senior Visiting Lecturer (2008-2009), *Pillai's College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai*
Senior Lecturer (2007-2008), *Pillai's College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai*
Program Manager (2004), *Bombay First, Mumbai*
Junior Architect (2001), *Stapati Architects, Calicut & Kochi*
Architectural Intern (2000), *Gokhale Associates, Mumbai*

Work at IIT Hyderabad

Courses (currently teaching): Space Design, Contemporary Visual Culture, Design/Culture, Visual Thinking, Research Methodology, Semiotics

Courses taught: Word and Image, Environmental Installations and Performance, Elements of Design, Action Drawing, Form Exploration

Current Research Projects

Stories of Making, an enquiry into the narratives that occur in and around the process of conception, design and construction of spaces and places.

Experiential Electronica, an initiative to generate playful, interactive spaces being pursued in collaboration with Prof Pradeep Yemula from the Department of Electrical Engineering

Completed Research Projects

Performance and Space (2018), an enquiry which resulted in a site specific performance called 'Shadows of Time' in collaboration with the dancer-choreographer Jayachandran Palazhy, Prof. Deepak John Mathew of Department of Design, dancers from Attakkalari (Bangalore), students from Department of Design, and students and faculty from Department of Electrical Engineering.

Thinking Outside Boxes (2019), an enquiry which was captured via a site specific text-based installation in a conference setting, in collaboration with students of Department of Design and Prof. Prasad Onkar of Department of Design

Publications

Neelakantan Keshavan, Saroj Boipai, Devi Meghana Karanam, 2021, Protest as Performance: The Staging of CAA Protests, Chapter 64, 779-791, Design for Tomorrow - Volume 1, A Chakravarthi et al. (eds.), proceedings from International Conference on Research in Design 2021, Mumbai, India

Neelakantan Keshavan, 2022, Lab-ouring: Heritage as Lab-work, (In)Tangible Heritages Conference proceedings, Series 29.2, Chapter 31, 330-336, ISSN 2398-9467, University of Kent, United Kingdom

Conference presentations

Neelakantan Keshavan 2022, Tracings: between Wallpapers and Chora L Works, in AISU, Adaptive Cities through the Pandemic Lens Conference, Torino, Italy

Neelakantan Keshavan, 2023, Flat-Bubble: bi-scalar interventions in apartment design in Mumbai, Privacy Matters. How interiors make and break our Cities, Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen, Denmark

Theses Supervision (current)

Doctoral: Formal Aesthetics of the Jaali, perforated spatial screen (Sreeprada Gogulapati), Legality and Architecture (Elizabeth Thomas)

M.Des: Extensibility and School Education (Shreya Mahabalshetti), Tangible Interactive Design (Pavan K G), Pluriversal Speculations (Nithin), Social Ergonomics (Pavanan)

M. Des Thesis themes Supervised

Playful and Therapeutic Public furniture, Visual Narrative on Farmer Suicides, Ethnography for Designers, Film project exploring human-dog relationship, Graphic novel themed on Depression, Photographic exploration of Sugar, Space Portraits - Photographic studies of Hostel rooms, Character Design + Graffiti, AR Information Layer for Machine Repairs, Interface for Student University exchange, Strategies for enhancing Rail commuter experience, Visual Design for teaching-learning control systems, Film examining the Mirror-Self, Spatial Information Design for escaping Fire Hazard, Mumbai through Visual Poetry, Visualizing Haiku

Awards

2021 Distinguished Paper Award, International Conference on Research in Design 2021, IIT Bombay, Mumbai

2019 Excellence in Teaching, IIT Hyderabad

2018 Excellence in Research, IIT Bombay, for doctoral work

2009-2014 Ministry of Education Doctoral Fellowship

2001-2003 Ministry of Education Masters Fellowship

Departmental roles (current)

Advisor, M.Des. Program, Year II

Member, Faculty & Staff Recruitment Team,
Planning and provision space-related utilities

Other in-campus contribution

Departmental coordinator for Sunshine Psychological Wellness Initiative

Faculty-In-Charge, Creative Arts Initiative (2019-2020)

Faculty-In-Charge, Media Relations and Outreach (2016-2019)

Member of the Campus Committee discussing affairs related to built spaces (2016-2018)

Design and execution of various spatial utilities within campus

