

COMPETE *Plus*

Sunsets are proof that endings
can often be beautiful too

By Vatsal Patel, Semester 5, USLM

AN INSIGHT INTO THE FUTURE OF DESIGN EDUCATION AND ITS GLOBAL IMPACT

- By Wamini Patil, B.Des, Semester 3, Interior and Furniture Design, UID.

From- <https://www.karelvredenburg.com/>

Karel Vredenburg is the Director of Design at IBM and has led the design community worldwide at IBM for three decades of his career. He is also a founding member of the IBM Design Organization in 2012. He lives in Toronto, Canada. It was a privilege to have him share his experience and knowledge on the online platform during the current pandemic situation. He touched upon several on-going current scenarios and challenges humans are experiencing and solutions to deal with it.

In the early years of his career, he carried out research programs of designs from investigating positive and negative reactions to software-based user interface designs, age and gender differences. Also, optimal user interface design elements and characteristics as measured by self-report as well as physiological indicators including heart rate and galvanic skin response. This was followed by how we can make the user-interface more enjoyable and understandable and intuitive rather than making it negative in terms of experience.

As his design career was not much known during the earlier times, he decided to design his job after joining IBM. Later it initiated design jobs into the business. He thought about making design a crucial for the part of the company and showing how important a role it plays.

In this talk, he also mentioned a book he had published entitled 'User-Centred Design: An Integrated Approach'.

To serve the needs of the users the company, with Karel's guidance, saw the need of introducing Global Design Service to fill the gap between the designer and the needs of the company for activating experiential learning. Since then the company has seen a rise in the number of designers employed with effective returns.

In the past two years, he mentioned how the focus has shifted to academic learning and how crucial it is to make up for the gaps in design education. So he worked with universities in Toronto and created a new curriculum and incorporated some ideas that were necessary based on the Bootcamp they initiated. Based on the success of this, these ideas are now being introduced to universities globally.

He mentioned how the world we have been living in the last few years is far from optimal. Everybody is getting a taste of what the world might be like if we do not make some drastic changes and make them soon. He believes that designers and design thinkers can not only help but can lead some of the change that is required.

He further reflected upon how design has got its recognition than what it had in the past, which even at IBM changed quite after Apple demonstrated the importance of designers in the field of user-interface design. It changed the whole system of working, giving designers the power to bring a positive change and analyse future effects to avoid negative impacts. To better understand this, he referred to the recently released documentary, The Social Dilemma on Netflix which shows how technology and user interface designs are affecting a lot of social groups who are responsible for creating unintended content.

Karel believes that designers have the power to bring about a social and global level change. Thus, it does not only have a negative impact but more of a positive impact that works as a challenge. Many people including him worked with the World Design Organisation for the "Design for America " challenge and had participants ranging from students to practitioners to higher sectors. They were very successful in bringing out the change that was required for the environment and people living in it.

He also mentioned about his another upcoming challenge which is mainly going to focus on climate change, inequity and also how to prevent further pandemics by bringing systematic changes because designers have the power to create an impact in the world.

Karel Vredenburg, throughout his talk, mentioned how the world is changing and how it is opening different opportunities which should be taken as a positive challenge. To make it more effective one needs to step back and think through the whole picture and how an individual can help bring a change.

In the end, he mentioned that no matter what discipline or career, one must have an open eye and should be flexible enough to work with not only designers but people from different fields to bring a considerable change. He also gave few tips on how to design a portfolio and how one must be able to express a story by including only the best works and not overdo it given the time that the viewer puts into viewing it.

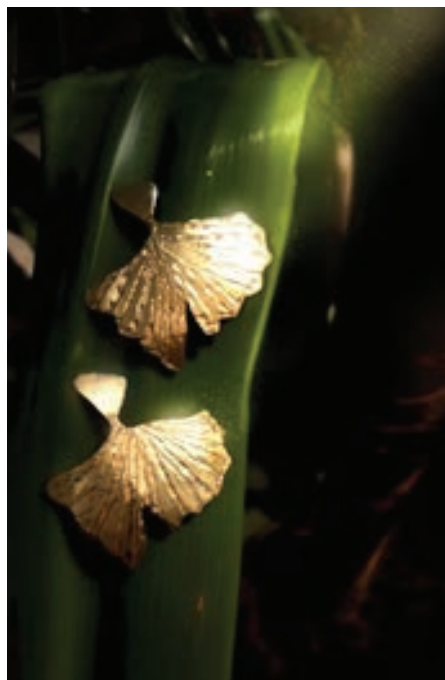
The session ended with a question-answer interaction between the speaker and the attendees. Overall it was a fun learning experience and impacted each individual in different ways as a designer and their responsibility towards the world of bringing about proactive and positive change.



COPPER & BRASS

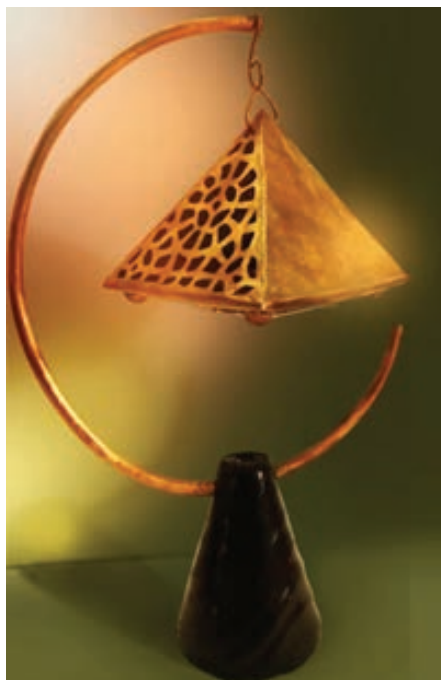
- By Somkanta Chatterjee, B.Des Lifestyle Accessory Design Semester 3, UID.

According to me, lifestyle accessory is all about handling materials. In the third semester, I got an opportunity to work with copper and brass as materials. For me, the module was all about exploring the flexibility of the material. It was amazing to see how some twists, turns, folds and joints made something look so attractive. It was also about learning various techniques and processes that would open one's third eye of observation. Overall, I am happy seeing my outcome, how my inspirations and ideas took shape. It was only possible with lots of hard work, patience & continuous work.



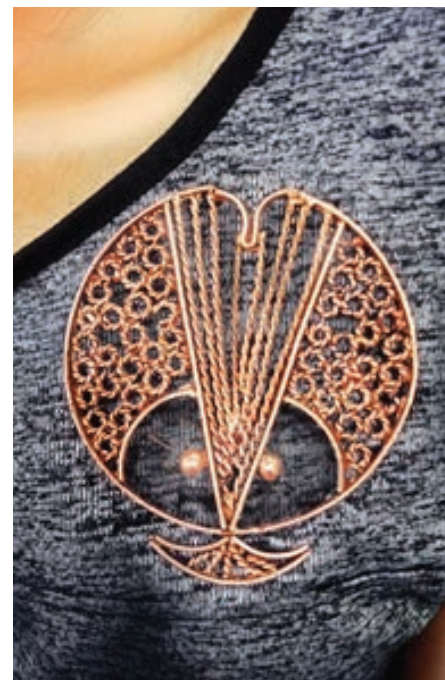
Brass metal earrings inspired from Ginkgo leaf pattern with engraving and jali work technique used.

Photographed, Designed & Prototyped at UID jewellery Labs by Somkanta Chatterjee.



Jali work Handmade, Brass & Copper metal Table lamp.

Photographed, Designed & Prototyped at UID jewellery Labs by Somkanta Chatterjee.



Filigree copper wire handmade fish motif Brooch.

Photographed, Designed & Prototyped at UID jewellery Labs by Somkanta Chatterjee.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- By Shrut Brahmhatt, Assistant Professor, UWSL

"Women's rights are an essential part of the overall human rights agenda, trained on the equal dignity and ability to live in freedom all people should enjoy." – Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Women's rights have remained the matter of discussion since so long. The conceptualisation and evolution of Feminism is nothing but an attribute of bringing women out from the patriarchal societies that undermined the role of women in building the societies. Indian women have been endowed the status of being "Gruh Lakshmi" residing and performing household chores in the four walls of house. The modern need of society to have hands of the best managers of home in the business has motivated the concept of women entrepreneurship in the country. Women entrepreneurship means the economic activity of those women who initiates business enterprise by undertaking all the risks, barriers and handles the uncertainty in the best manner.

Women Empowerment can be achieved by ensuring the respect, dignity, space, and position to women in the society. It is important to note that the empowerment shall begin from homes. The mentality of woman members shall be improved to ensure dignity and respect to other women of the homes. The idea is that each generation shall be keen to uplift the women without which the empowerment remains a concept of theories. The respect and dignity to each other shall be ensured by the female members of the society. The issues out of different relationships shall be kept aside when it comes to respect the womanhood of a member of society. This can only boost the respect and position women as high as sky in the society.

Entrepreneurship is not a male prerogative and hence is no longer considered as a job of men, Indian women have, with the support of society, plunged into business have initiated the steps into the shoes of being entrepreneur. Such entrepreneurs have moved a step ahead from just being in the career of corporate to holding business enterprise and opening the employments for other members of societies. Last three decades has been observant of women entrepreneurs gaining the momentum with the contribution of such entrepreneurs to the economic growth of the country.

While the number of women entrepreneurs is growing in India, there needs positive development of the laws that may shield such entrepreneurs from violation of their rights. Trade Secret is one such area that needs positive protection in order to nurture the start-ups of women. The confidential information which is building a business needs apt protection so that the competitors do not overtake the business. Protection of trade secrets can definitely boost the business of women entrepreneurs. India do not accord special legislative protection to trade secret as a form of Intellectual property law but its protected under various laws including contract law and data protection laws. These laws are not sufficient as they do not intend protection of trade secrets only and hence do possess certain lacunas when the question comes about protection of undisclosed information. India needs to frame a suitable legislation for protection of Trade Secrets as a form of Intellectual property and such protection can always help building the start-ups of women.

Entrepreneurship is increasingly an important driver of economic growth, productivity, innovation and employment and it is widely accepted as a key of economic dynamism. Entrepreneurship is considered as one of the important and essential factor of production along with land, labour and capital by the economists. The role of entrepreneurs is considered important for the economic growth of any nation. Entrepreneur is the one who undertakes a business on an idea to make maximum economic profit from it by combining all the factors of production. The entrepreneur also takes on all of the risks and rewards of the business. These are the people who have the skills and initiative necessary to take good new ideas to market and make the right decisions to make the idea profitable. The reward for the risk taken by the entrepreneur is the potential economic profits that they could earn.

A more gender centric term is 'Women Entrepreneurs', which may be defined as 'women initiating, organising, or running business enterprise individually or in group'. Women entrepreneurs are defined based on their participation in equity and employment in business enterprise by Indian Government. In accordance to which the enterprises which are ran by women are defined as 'enterprises owned and controlled by women having a minimum financial interest of 51% of the capital and giving at least 51% of the employment generated in the enterprise to women'.

Indian women entrepreneurship is found in extension of the home activities such as food based industries, cloth weaving, catering, beauty salons. The cultivation of the prior art into a product has been considered as a desirable business among the women entrepreneurs. Such entrepreneurs have probably been entered into the business enterprise out of need and sometimes to showcase their capabilities to society that attempts to control their activities and lives. However, such entry of women into business enterprise is a welcome move as it denotes women empowerment. The term is not only to empower women equally with men in the society but even to grow respect and dignity for women members of the society.

Contemporary India witnesses the women entering into almost all forms of enterprises, from medicine, engineering, and law to corporate. The innovations in these fields have been unique and capable of holding hope of humans high. Women entrepreneurs have not only expanded their kitchen activities but even the activities once considered to be the job of men at the high levels, this is indeed a welcoming thing but carries with it several challenges for the best accomplishments.

DECODING STRESS

- By Purnima Gupta, Assistant Professor- Psychology, USLM

Stress is an inevitable part of human existence or I can say, an inevitable part of existence. No one escapes this, not because they cannot, but because they fail to find the gateway. Stress has gripped our minds like never before. Each one of us uses this particular word to explain one's condition and expects to be understood from the frame. From a clinical standpoint, stress is something that challenges one's state of equilibrium or one's state of homeostasis. It affects an individual's ability to think, analyze and process critical information in a clear manner. It makes one feel a heightened state of emotions even when there is no apparent situation or trigger for the same. Stress impacts our behavior and pushes us on a defensive path unknowingly. We feel victimized and misunderstood along with an inability to take responsibility for our own lives in our hands.

Stress dampens our spirit to take on challenges and face them head-on. Stress makes us look for an easy way out, it raises a question mark on our capabilities. More often than not, one realizes about stress after it has considerably cast a negative impact on one's resources (physical as well as psychological).

Stress is invisible but present everywhere. Every task that we choose, voluntarily or involuntarily, to perform, is bound to put some stress on us. We cannot not feel stressed if we are into action (both physical and mental). So, naturally one feels pushed to ask about ways to deal with stress. Along with age-old wisdom of how to live life, psychological help is something that helps one go into deeper aspects of stress. Psychological aid supports a person in finding out the exact cause of his stress and then chalk out a strategy that would yield desired results in terms of coping with stressful situations and triggers.

Generally, given the cultural set-up and its limitations in India, psychological help is not the primary choice for many people when they think about asking for help to cope with their stress. Although, in the urban environment, the scenario is changing slowly with a greater number of people approaching a counselor or a psychologist to help them get control of their life.

Counseling or psychotherapy is a structured form of talking cure where an individual decides to open up about his personal problems to a trained psychotherapist to seek relief. Psychotherapy has a systematic and structured way of conducting sessions with the individual depending upon the intensity of the problem and the availability of resources like time and family support etc. In cases where the individual has got the support from his family members, the recovery is faster and stable compared to those situations where the individual has to fight a lonely battle. The family environment plays a major role while chalking out strategies that will help the individual fight stress in a healthy and successful manner.

In many cases, it has been observed that behind the apparent symptoms of stress, the individual carries a history of trauma or abuse in his past. Such revelations demand that the psychotherapy be customized to enable the individual so that he can resolve his past trauma through careful attention and insight development. Sometimes, stress can be a result of a long-standing physical or psychological illness. During such cases, a thorough understanding of an individual's personality, family environment and his genetic predisposition guide the psychotherapist to develop a customized intervention plan for the individual.

In young children and growing teens, stress can be more due to the pressing demands of academics and social performance. In situations like these, the psychotherapist might need to conduct sessions with the entire family to help them develop empathy and acceptance towards the child or the adolescent.

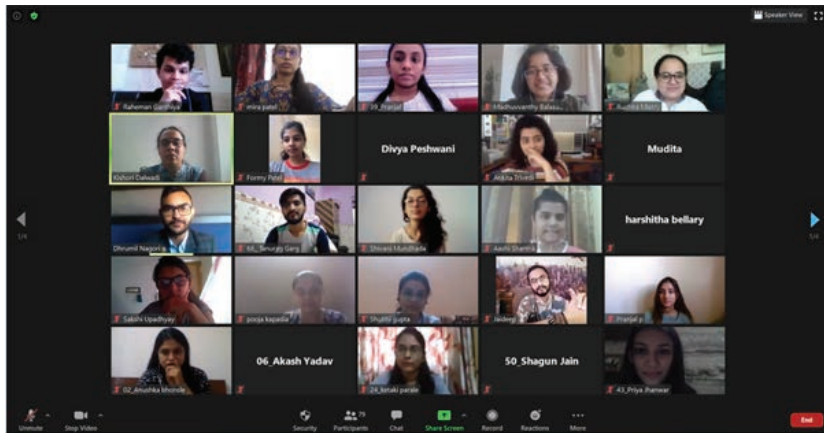
One might want to say that stress cannot be helped through anything since it is everywhere. But as a psychologist, I feel, one must never refrain from taking help from an expert like a counselor or a psychotherapist. Some thoughts to remember while feeling stressed-

1. Life will never be free of stress. So, it is unreal to expect and think that after psychotherapy, there will be no trace of stress of any type.
2. Just like, mental stress is real, so is physical stress. More often than not, psychological stress is felt because our body is exhausted. So, ensure that your body is well taken care of before you complain about psychological stress.
3. It helps to have some reality orientation. While it is good to stretch oneself beyond perceived limits, it is equally important to realize when to say "NO".
4. It is good to expect your friends to help you cope with stress but one must be careful in understanding that one's friends, too, have their own troubles and challenges. Instead of burdening them down with expectations, it is healthy to take turns to some active listening.
5. Learning to be responsible for one's life, choices and decisions is the ultimate solution to all troubles of life. No one gets to choose it for you.

THE PLY STORY | MATERIAL KNOWLEDGE IS IMPORTANT

- By Wamini Patil, B.Des, Semester 3, Interior and Furniture Design, UID

Industry Expert- Mr Dhruvil Nagori, Plymart Co



The two days session with Mr. Dhruvil Nagori was quite an informative experience which gave a detailed insight into furniture design, construction, interior décor and furnishings. It ignited the power to be able to transfer ideas from the paper to practically implementing it into space.

Mr. Dhruvil Nagori is a smart and talented young businessman with a degree in mechanical engineering. He is a budding entrepreneur and the founder of Plymart Co. He is successfully running the company along with his family for many years now. He believes in the idea of building transparent relationships with the customer and providing them products from top leading brands at wholesale prices and top-notch quality. This belief was also followed by him while delivering information to the students during the lab sessions. He shared his knowledge and experience with positive energy by keeping the excitement alive while interacting with the class students.

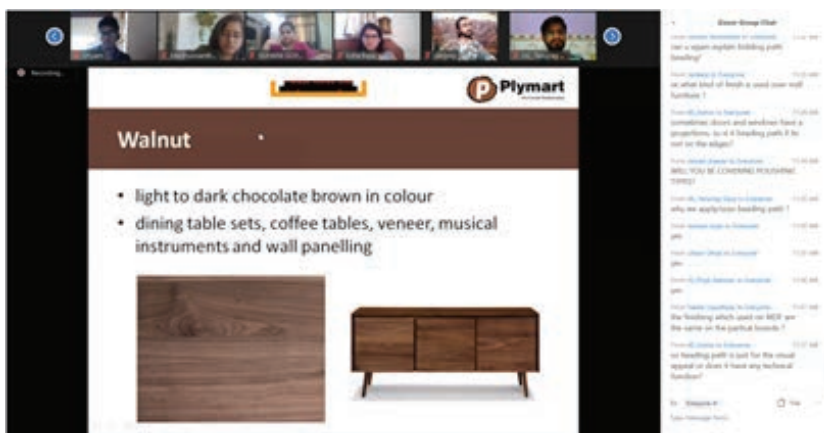
Material knowledge is a necessity in the design industry. It is similar to knowing the correct ingredients to create a delicious recipe and be able to achieve that goal. He shared the process of starting from offline mode to reaching out to a large number of people by going online and being able to sell all varieties of interior furnishings at great deals.

The sessions mainly focused upon interior materials like timber and how it is different in different parts of the country and the world with its variety of applications, providing multiple options to help achieve the desired design requirement. He also quoted how senses like 'touch, smell and sight' make it easier to learn or buy any and should always be taken into consideration for any design project. Furthermore, there were other materials like plywood, veneer and other allied products with their step by step production starting from the forest, to further creating sheets of different sizes and colour and later into the market to the vendors and then finally to the customers. The sessions reflected upon a calculative insight into the rates of the products, their measurements at different scales and importance while dealing with vendors at the early stages of the designing period for a smooth start.

Being able to be a part of profoundly informative and practical learning sessions about interior materials at this stage of student life is truly important when it comes to making and executing designs. It also ignited a sense of confidence in the students for further exploration into this world of materials. This kind of detailed knowledge of materials provides an advantage to the students in the current situation.

The sessions proved to be interactive with questions answered at all stages and doubts resolved for further clarifications.

Like the title says, it was a STORY of materials as the inseparable part of an interior designer's career.



WEBINAR ON 'CAREER IN LAW'

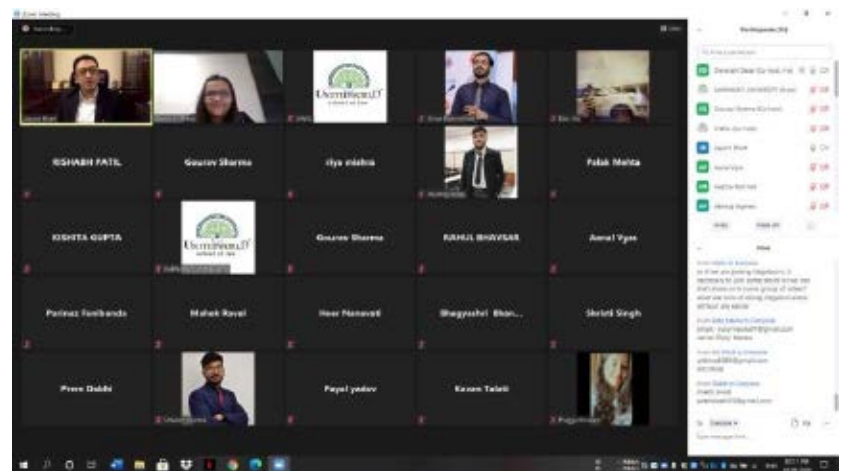
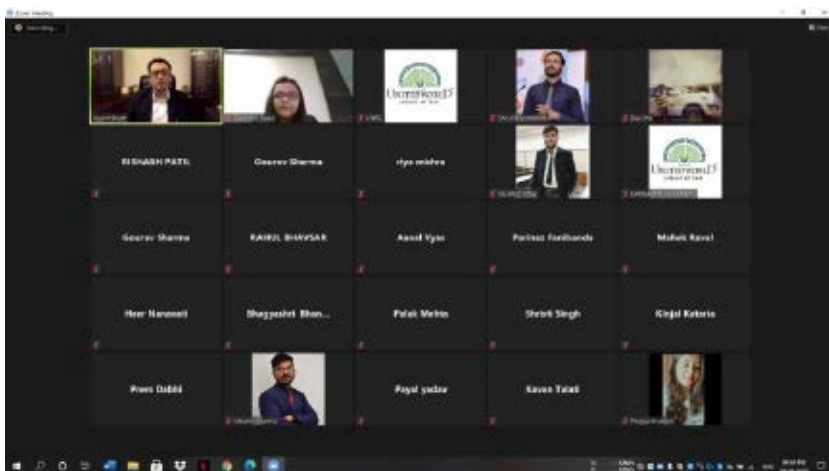
- By ADV. Jayant Bhatt, Supreme Court of INDIA, UWSL

Centre for Corporate Governance and Corporate Training established under Unitedworld School of Law conducted a profound session with Advocate Jayant Bhatt, Supreme Court of India and Delhi High Court, on 'Career in Law' as a part of Webinar Series titled 'Building Careers in Corporate Sectors in India' on September 28, 2020. The Guest Speaker of the Webinar enlightened participants regarding importance of active involvement of Law students in Research, Drafting, Moot Court Competitions, Seminars and Internships to establish career in Law.

Centre: Centre of Corporate Governance and Corporate Training (CCGCT)

Centre Director: Prof. Shruti Brahmabhatt, Co- Director: CA Nitesh Nanavati

Student Research Associates: Ms. Palak Mehta, Ms. Parinaz Fanibanda, Ms. Devanshi Desai, Mr. Gourav Sharma and Mr. Ayush Bhandari



MAKEUP

- By Anushka Shah, Sem-3, USLM

It all starts with a dream. But for me, it's something more than that, which can't be simply explained through words. People use makeup to enhance their beauty or hide their scars, but for me makeup is how you manage to enhance your eternal beauty. Makeup is an art through which one can spread awareness and inspire people into breaking stereotypes. Every look has its own concept and story behind it. Beneath the makeup and behind the smile I am just a girl who wishes good for the world.



PROGRESS IS ALWAYS AT A COST

- By Dr. Kavita Joshi, Assistant Professor, UWSB

Progress has never been free; it always has an associated cost. A person needs to responsibly decide what amount of cost he or she is willing to pay for an extent of progress. Well known author, Mr. Devdutt Patnaik has explained the concept of cost of progress by taking an illustration from Mahabharata. Pandavas were given the land of Khandavaprastha by their uncle as a part of their inheritance. In order to build their capital city Indraprastha, a part of the forest of Khandavaprastha was set ablaze. Large number of plants and trees were destroyed, and numerous animals and birds lost their lives and habitat. The wild life and resources were the cost paid by the Pandavas for the beautiful city of Indraprastha. As the eldest brother and king Yudhishtir had to decide about what portion of forest had to be destroyed for building the magnanimous city, he wisely evaluated both progress as well as its cost. As a king he had to balance between the nature, its resources and progress.

Similarly, today we as an individual or as an organisation should evaluate the cost of progress and decide about the extent of it. We cannot consume resources beyond what is being allotted to us. We are privileged to use the most precious resources of nature like fresh air and water at no cost. Along with the privilege we also have to assume the responsibility to pass it on to the next generation by causing least or tolerable damage to it. The extent of damage should be decided wisely. Worldly resources are passed from current generation to the future generation. But natural resources are the borrowed resources. We have borrowed it from our future generation, which has to be returned to them.

In a sort of blind race of progress we have already depleted the resources to a great extent. It's time to halt, ponder as to how to make good the loss, so that we are not remembered as an irresponsible generation.

ART WORK

- By Prof. Nupur Rawal, Assistant Professor, UWSB

During the lockdown, I started learning drawing through Youtube and it helped me discover my hidden talent.

I have learned Mandala Art, meaning 'circles' in Sanskrit, Mandalas are sacred symbols that are used for meditation, prayer, healing and art therapy for both adults and children. Mandalas have been shown in clinical studies to boost the immune system, reduce stress and pain, lower blood pressure, promote sleep and ease depression.

A mandala is a symbolic picture of the universe. It can be a painting on a wall or scroll, created in coloured sands on a table, or a visualisation in the mind of a very skilled adept. Today, the mandala is viewed as a diagram, chart or geometric pattern that represents the cosmos metaphysically or symbolically; a time-microcosm of the universe, but it originally meant to represent wholeness and a model for the organizational structure of life itself, a cosmic diagram that shows the relation to the infinite and the world that extends beyond and within minds and bodies.

Here are two of my Mandala Art: One is Goddess Lakshmi and the second one is form of Mandala art, known as Zentangle Art.



Similarly, today we as an individual or as an organisation should evaluate the cost of progress and decide about the extent of it. We cannot consume resources beyond what is being allotted to us. We are privileged to use the most precious resources of nature like fresh air and water at no cost. Along with the privilege we also have to assume the responsibility to pass it on to the next generation by causing least or tolerable damage to it. The extent of damage should be decided wisely. Worldly resources are passed from current generation to the future generation. But natural resources are the borrowed resources. We have borrowed it from our future generation, which has to be returned to them.

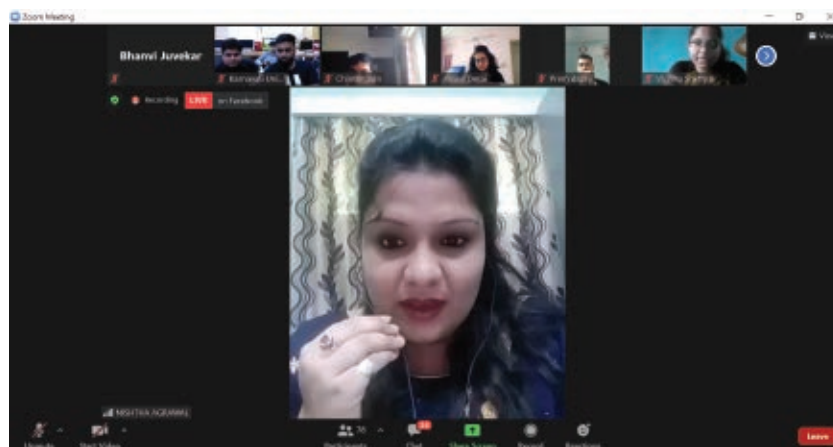
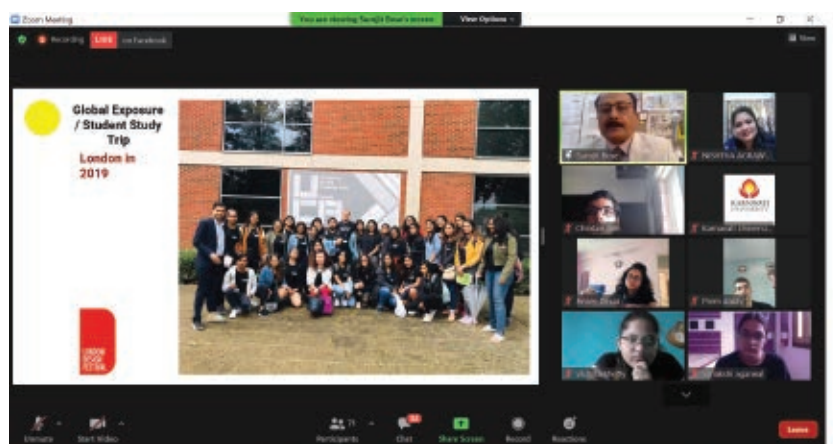
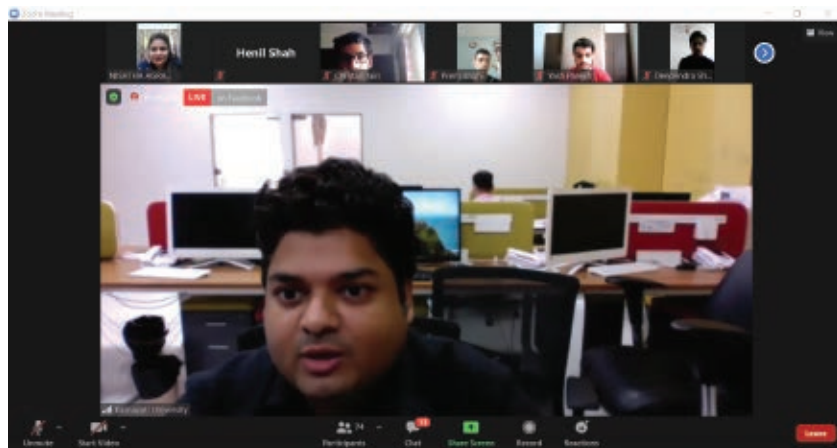
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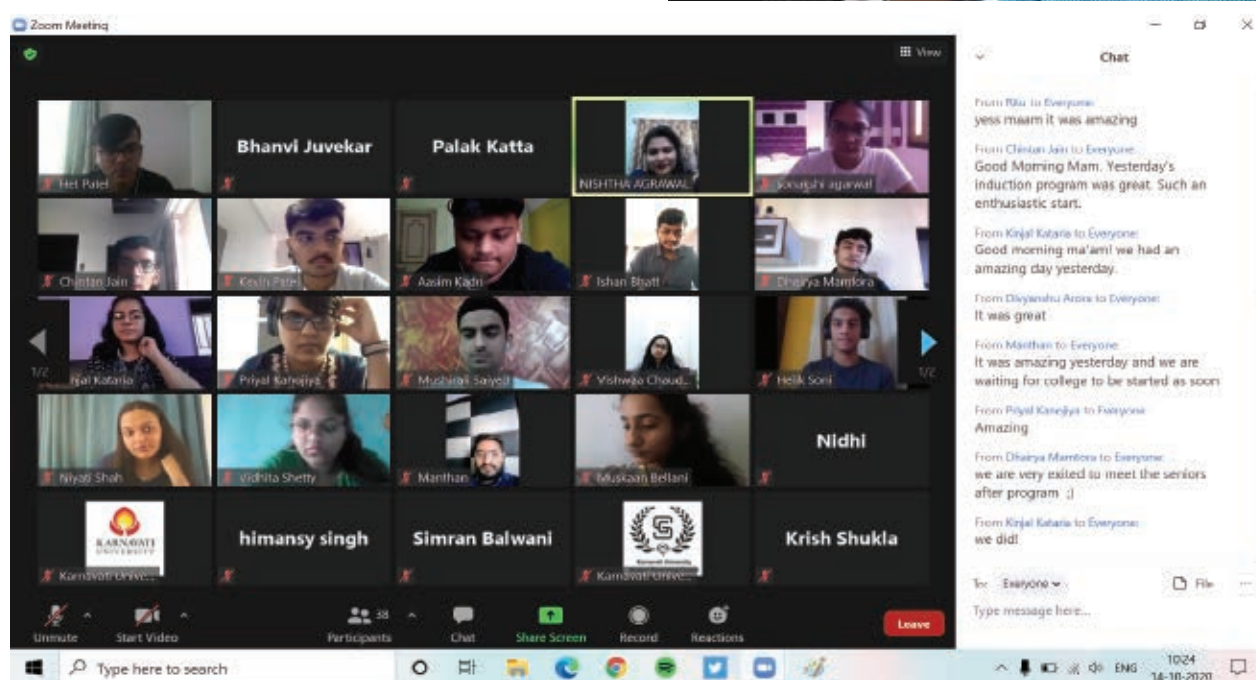
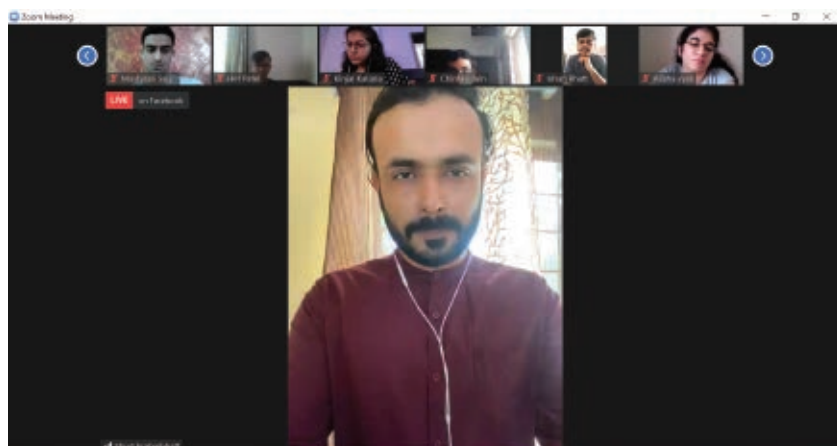


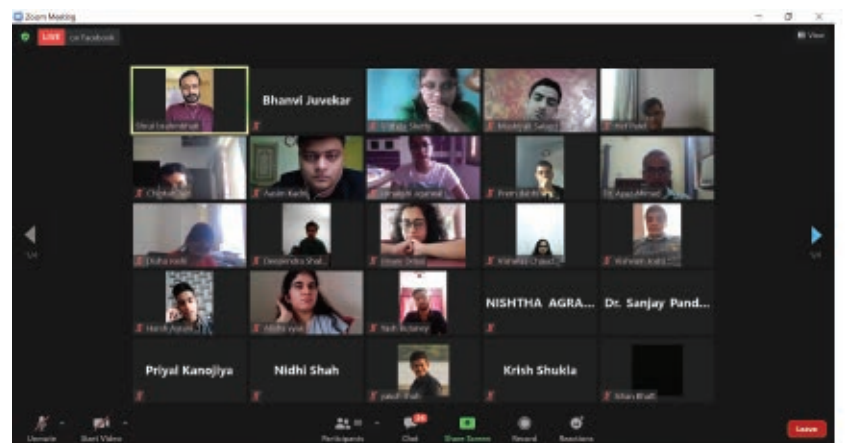
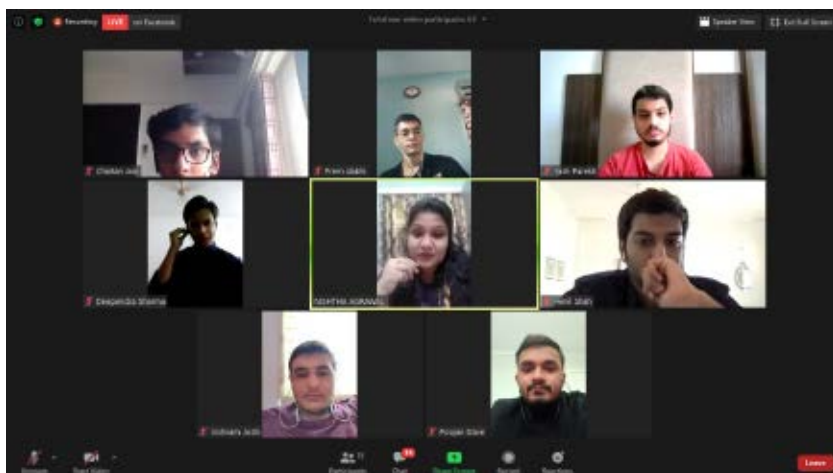
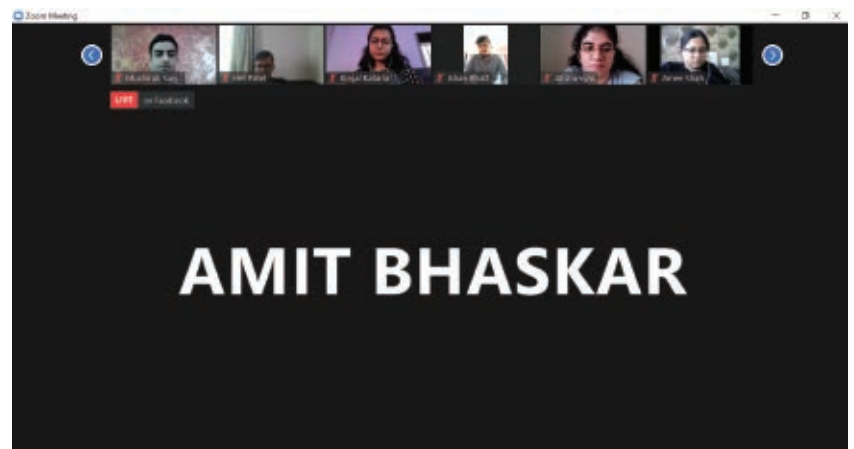
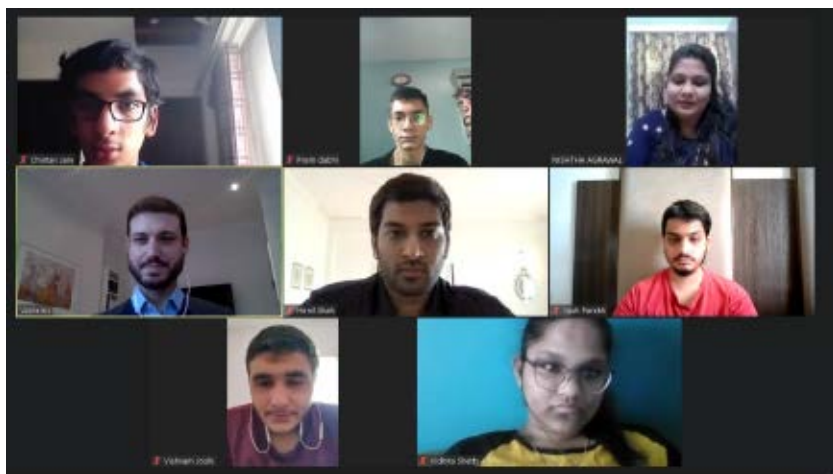
INDUCTION BATCH 2020 (OCTOBER 13-15, 2020)

Unitedworld School of Law conducted Induction of the Batch 2020 from October 13th to 15th, 2020. Fresh Batch of 2020 was welcomed by the Management, Advisors, Faculty and Staff Members of Karnavati University.

The Three Day programme covered sessions of eminent jurists and scholars of Law including Hon'ble Justice Ravi R Tripathi, Former Judge, Gujarat High Court and Chairman, Gujarat Human Rights Commission; Dr Aniruddha Rajput, member of the United Nations International Law Commission; Dr.VasileiosAdamidis, Principal lecturer and International manager of Nottingham Law School; Mr. Aditya Kamath, Head of operations and recruitment at BCP Associates. This sessions remained enlightening for new students.

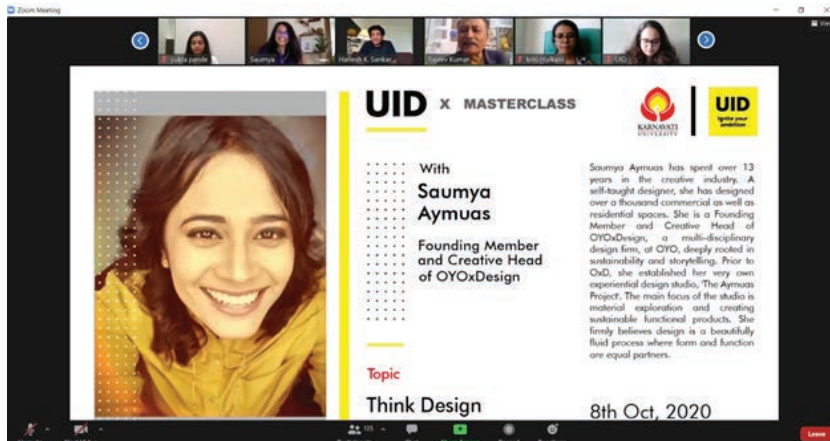






ECHO: EVERY SPACE HAS A STORY TO TELL

- By Kishore Dalwadi, Assistant Director, School of Interior Design, UID.



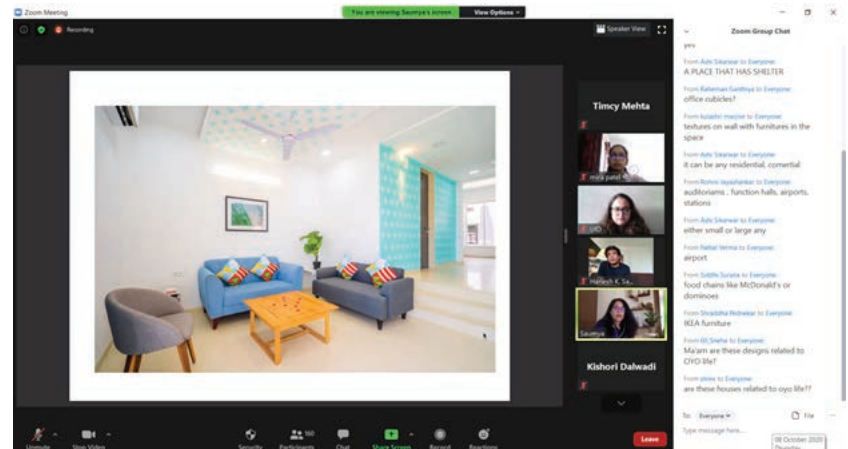
The Interior Design Department at the Unitedworld Institute of Design started the Masterclass 2020 series this October, collaborating with design practitioners from all over the world, wherein the students interact with them and gain invaluable learning from the experience of their design journey.

The first Guest Speaker was Ms. Saumya Aymuas, the founding member and creative head of OYOxDesign, a multi-disciplinary design firm, at OYO, which is deeply rooted in sustainability and storytelling. She adopts the main principle of re-purpose and re-use in her design whereby introducing unique and different concepts amongst all.

"Functions and Forms are equal partners," says Saumya.

She believes in situating perfect functional ideas with aesthetics for gathering users' attention. According to her, storytelling plays an important role in the design, where the story will reflect the character and personality of a client. It was a fascinating experience where she shared her knowledge of materials. Her agenda in every project is to make local - 'global' and to do that, she reinforces the process of - observing, experiencing and exploring all kinds of materials available in the vicinity.

"Just try to put 'naturalness' in your space," says Saumya.



As she always works under the umbrella of sustainability in her designs, she discussed using natural elements like bamboo, jute, etc. because it not only helps to build a positive environment, but a sustainable living as well.

By sharing her experience as a designer, Ms. Saumya inspires the upcoming entrepreneurs by helping them with their business strategies and advocating to keep their focus on variations and scaling in design.

A great deal of interaction took place during the Q & A sessions, in which she cleared doubts of students regarding the technical changes in space, the use of appropriate materials, budget related questions and many more. She firmly believes that every individual has the potential to come up with excellent ideas, hence she wanted every individual to think and question themselves about various concerns during the process of design. She recommended that all students should self-examine regularly- 'Whether alterations are needed in an existing structure which might affect the budget?' and so on. She advised to think twice before making any structural changes in a given space.

When posed with the question - 'How do you balance business strategies with your design philosophies involving visual aesthetics, functionality, sustainability, repurposing & reusing?' Ms. Saumya's reply was that one must always keep the business strategy intact from day one to the last day. The reason for this being, that at the end of the day this design business is our life long companion, on which we are dependent for our survival. It is essential for us to learn the ethics of professionalism to be able to run a successful business on which not only us, but several people are associated with. Having said that, one cannot practice design without a vision or a set of principles. For her these are 'creating a sustainable design' and 'generating as small a carbon footprint as possible.' She reinforces the value of market research, R&M, working out in depth logistics of product availability, supply chain management etc. to be able to find a balance between the business policies and design philosophies.

KHANSA AAPA

- By Nandish Shah, Sem 3, USLM

This piece is out of a conversation with an old lady whom I came across during a shoot. She was fondly called 'Khansa Aapa' by the people around her.



I met this lady in June 2018. It was before Ramzan. I was to shoot a conversation with the Maulavi Sahab in a dargah. The shrine also acted as a shelter for the homeless and the old of a local community. I started exploring the place with my camera when I heard a voice that drew me towards it. The source was this very kind lady. We got into a conversation and I got to know about her life story. Here is what I learnt about her during the conversation:

The way she sang. It has to come out of a passion. Was there a story behind it?

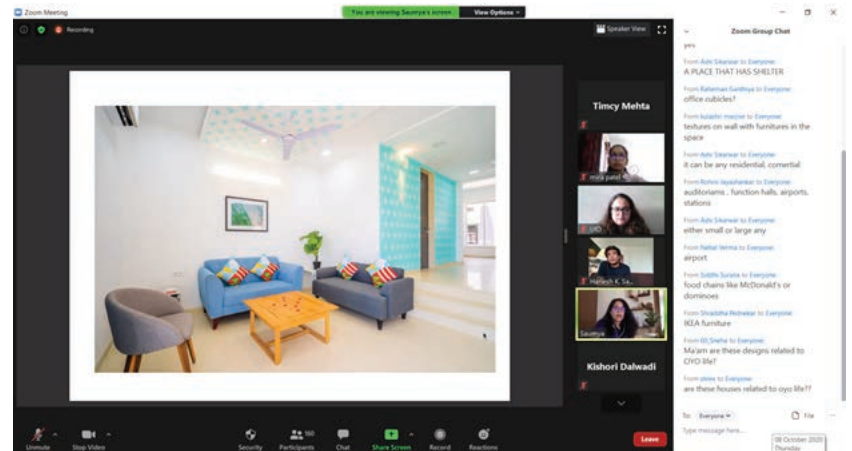
She said she was a community singer and she used to sing for gatherings that used to be held at her local masjid. She was fond of singing since childhood and was heavily influenced by the Sufi poets and qawwali singers. She was a keen follower of the Sufi teachings by Syed Marwandi. She discovered her profound love for devotional music from her father who himself used to sing and play during Muharram processions, weddings, and other masses.

What did she do before coming there? What was her life like?

She did not belong to a family one would call 'stable'. Her father suffered an amputation when she was 18 and she became the one who had to make sure her family survived. Women were not allowed or encouraged to work in her community and her mother preferred to abide by it. She believed that the will of God allowed her to provide for the family of three by the means of her singing. Being a person with staunch Sufi beliefs and being under the influence of Sufism, she decided to sing ghazals and qawwali. This was a bold move considering that these forms of music rarely ever tend to have female performers. Even though women were barred from entering a masjid's prayer hall, the local mawlawi did not mind her performing at all. This is one of the reasons why she believed that her life was solely based on khuda ki marzi.

How did it all change? How did she end up without an identity inside a dargah?

"Because I got married," she said. She discussed how her marriage proved to be the turning point in her life. She said that it was a wedding where she was set to perform. There was a very influential man of their community present at the wedding, who was mesmerized by her performance and awarded her a huge sum. The man was attracted to her and chose to marry her. He asked her to give up her singing and abide by all the norms of their society. She agreed to do so on a promise that he will provide for her parents as well.



Everything was going well till she was young, hale and hearty. Things were still fine until she became terminally ill. Eventually, she became a burden for the household. She lost all the say or stand she had in her own house. She was practically ousted from her house by her husband. One day, she decided that she had enough and decided to leave her house for good. She escaped her house in the dark of the night and made her way to a dargah far away where she decided to settle until she figured out something for herself. As this was a place she could sing again, she realised that this was her calling. Allah Tala wanted her to be there to help others through the hardships of their lives. She told me that was what she would be doing for the rest of her life. She said there, at that moment she was richer than she could ever have been or felt around her husband. "When Allah intends, He says, "Be!" And it is!" she quoted the Quran-e-Sharif and continued with her day.

Meeting her was one of the most surreal experiences I had in my life. I was there working on a shoot I was doing something I am passionate about. And she was there doing the same. There was little difference between both of us, but there was a stark one in our lives. She had fulfilled it and I did not. I tried to get in touch with her before writing this to brush up on some facts about her life. It was in vain. Wherever she is, I hope she carries the flame still.



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