

PRITIKA AKHIL KUMAR

Both as a designer and researcher, I work across varied fields of design and adopt a transdisciplinary approach to achieve unique, sustainable and inclusive solutions.

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth | 01 December, 1992

Age | 31

Nationality | Indian

Current City | Chennai, India

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

University of Sheffield, School of Architecture, Sheffield, UK

Master of Arts in Architectural Design, 2016 - 2017 (Student Ambassador), Merit

Projects such as the Future Forum Live Project, Re-Making Bradford and Urban Spaces of (Re)Use (thesis) undertaken, focussing primarily on themes of participatory practices and urban regeneration as part of Studio Reuse.

Anna University, Measi Academy of Architecture, Chennai, India

Bachelor of Architecture, 2010 - 2015, First Class

Undergraduate degree resulting in qualification as an Architect (CoA registration number – CA/2016/78204).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Co:Lab, Chennai, India

Principal Architect & Researcher | December, 2019 - Present

Working on projects relating to architecture, interiors, product and graphic design. Simultaneously, in collaboration with reputed organisations like GIZ and Anukruti (Mumbai), I have been working on research relating to public space, participatory and performative spatial practices, and play in the urban environment.

Nila, Chennai, India

Co-founder/Designer | October, 2022 - Present

Founded the vegan and eco-conscious brand of wallets and tech accessories in collaboration with Shwetha Lakshmanan. First collections are made of cork. Been involved with product research, design, website development and marketing on social media.

Plural, Mumbai, India

**Researcher (Part-time) | August, 2018 - September, 2018
January, 2019 - February, 2024**

Senior Researcher (Part-time) | September, 2024 - Present

Research for book aimed at comparing urban governance in 6 cities. Also worked on development of a public space in Cuffe, Parade, Mumbai and on a project about rental housing in Mumbai.

SRM School of Architecture & Interior Design, Chennai, India

Visiting Professor | October, 2022 - January 2024

As part of the school's vibrant faculty, I taught students from the BArch, BDes Interior Design and MDes Public Space Design courses. I was engaged in teaching a wide range of subjects including public space design, interior design and detailing, design thinking, etc.

Urban Design Collective, Chennai, India

Associate Urban Designer | September, 2019 - November, 2019

Conducted Tactical Urbanism experiments in Coimbatore through participatory practices as well as studied the potential for the application of Water Sensitive Urban Design principles in Chennai.

UNICITI, New Delhi, India

Urban Development Specialist | March, 2019 - April, 2019

Development of knowledge products related to sustainable planning practices, climate resilience and the role of heritage in contemporary society along with social media management and fundraising.

Mancini Enterprises, Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, India

Architect | July, 2018 - December, 2018

Involved in concept and scheme development, interior detailing and furniture design for residential projects in Chennai, India.

A Design Co., Chennai, India

Junior Architect | September, 2015 - April, 2016

Handled projects at different stages of development, including production of working drawings, BOQs, client/ vendor interactions, site inspections, site documentation, scheme development and project presentations.

CONFERENCES

RC21 Conference, Presenter, 2022

Paper Presentation entitled, "Dismantling the Urban "Public": The Simultaneous Decline of Public Space & Active Citizenship in Contemporary Chennai," as part of the "Ordinarily Massive: Revitalizing Approaches to Large Scale Urbanization" panel.

The Nature of Cities Festival, Presenter, 2022

Seed session entitled, "Finding an Alternative "Public": Understanding Public Space in the Contemporary Indian City".

ISA Forum of Sociology IV, Presenter, 2021

Paper Presentation entitled, "Dynamic Cities of Celebration - Navigation of the Public Realm during Indian Festivals," as part of the RC13 Sociology of Leisure session: "Leisure Competing for Space".

International Conference on Future Cities, Presenter, 2019

Paper Presentation based on the "Urban Spaces of (Re)Use" thesis project, presented under the Urban Development & Management.

RC21 Conference, Presenter, 2019

Paper Presentation entitled, "Art Denied: Generating Subversive Imaginaries that challenge the Status Quo," as part of the "Occupying the city: artistic activism, the production of space, politics and the everyday life in large cities" panel.

OTHER EVENTS

Unturning the Stones: Exploring Climate Finance for Asian Cities, Co-Moderator, 2021

Virtual dialogue event by TUrbOCliC (GIZ) and Connective Cities.

2020: A Year without Public Space under the COVID-19 Pandemic, Speaker, 2020

Talk on Tactical Urbanism in India as part of webinar series by City Space Architecture and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, School of Architecture, promoted by the Journal of Public Space.

People for Cities, Host, 2020

Webinar series by Co:Lab advocating civic engagement in issues concerning the urban environment.

Reimagined Histories, Reimagined Futures, Speaker, 2017

Experimental walk in Chennai, India as part of "Urban Spaces of (Re)Use" thesis project.

LANGUAGES

Tamil (Native), English (Fluent), Hindi (Fluent) and French (Elementary).

PUBLICATIONS

Spies, M. M., & Akhil Kumar, P. (Eds.). (2025). *Cult of Play: The Culture and Development of Children's Play in Mumbai & Beyond. The People Place Project.*

Book on play spaces and cultures of play in Mumbai, developed in collaboration with Anukruti, using methodologies like arts based research and participatory action research. Expected publication in February 2025.

HONOURS

DHL Fastest Pit Stop Trophy Design Competition, 2024

Won an international design competition organised by DHL in partnership with Formula 1. Design featured a tribute to the team behind pit stops – the pit crew.

Local Pathways Fellowship - SDSN Youth Initiative (UN SDSN)

Local Pathways Fellow | February, 2021 - November, 2021

This fellowship by SDSN Youth empowers young people to champion and create local pathways for sustainable development. Through this fellowship, I completed a course on Sustainable Cities (delivered by the SDG Academy and IIHS) and worked on amplifying the need for inclusive public spaces in Chennai, especially in informal settlements, through participatory urban interventions.

MEMBERSHIPS/ AFFILIATIONS

Placemaking India

A regional learning network and change agenda of PlacemakingX, Placemaking India is a self-organised network of architects, urban designers, planners, researchers and bloggers, geographers, heritage conservationists, citizen intermediaries, social workers, and local and regional government administrators.

City Space Architecture, Bologna, Italy

Early Career Advisor | March 2022 - Present

City Space Architecture is a non-profit that works on studying and promoting public space culture around the world. It is a partner of UN-Habitat and cooperates with the Global Public Space Programme. I am a member of the organisation's Early Career Advisory Board.

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY

2D & 3D Modelling | AutoCAD, Sketchup Pro, Revit, Blender

Rendering | Vray, SU Podium

Adobe Suite | Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, After Effects

Others | Procreate, MS Office
