

# Foreword



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Kalpa, a brainchild of RVCA academicians, engulfs itself on the culture of research to inculcate its ideologies in architecture and related fields. Architecture being a very subjective programme, gives rise to an investigative feature that lets us explore the complex peripheral streams informing design. This feature led to the formation of the research cell to infuse the philosophy of systematic study driven by context.

The inspiration for the word 'Kalpa' lies in its ritualistic approach that endures significant cycles of learning, revolving around the processes of creation, dissolution and recreation. Kalpa evolves with five definitive wings that guide through **Chandas (patterns)**, **Shiksha (learning)**, **Vyakarana (grammar of assembly)**, **Nirukta (etymology)** and **Jyotisha (timeline)**. When looked closely, these concepts constitute the essence of research.



**Prof. Alisha Sinha**

B.Arch (BIT Mesra) | M.Arch by Research  
(Sir JJCOA, Mumbai University)

The research cell also ideated to include an archive at institution level with an aim to inspire the student folk and drive their attention towards unearthing layers of concepts that get hidden or unnoticed in their design processes. This first edition of the magazine engulfs in exploring the 'idea of research' with dialogues of faculty framing informal yet in-depth perceptions on the complexity it endures. The magazine gets enriched with the contributions of students attempting a structured take on their motivations during the academic year 2019-20.

We hope to enrich the research cell further with thematic scales that question the nuances of the field and its peripherals. We acknowledge the immense support and encouragement of our principal **Dr. O P Bawane**, our **Dean Prof. Suresh Murthy** and the faculty. We also applaud the consistent efforts of the ninth semester students **Shashwath Ravisundar**, **Aishwarya P Hegde** and the design team in the success of this edition.

Hope you have a good read. Cheers!

- **Editors-in-chief**

# Mentors' Insights



## Dr. Om Prakash Bawane

B.Arch (NIT, Bhopal) | M.Arch (IIT Roorkee)  
| MSc. (Sustainable development) | PhD

Principal

Research is fundamental to knowledge building and welfare of the human society. Research in architecture is rather at nascent stage but has witnessed a phenomenal interest among the academic and professionals to further the knowledge base in architecture and allied field through applied and theoretical research.

Owing to multi disciplinary and multi dimensional nature of the discipline, architecture offers scope for research in numerous areas linked fine arts, social sciences, technology etc.

In applied sense , the research in architecture can contribute to advancement of architectural science & technology for the direct benefit of the industry. Whereas, theoretical research would contribute to advancement of knowledge and emergence of new theories.

Of late, research in architecture in India gaining momentum. There is a greater onus on the people in academia in architecture to provide desirable thrust to research to expand the existing knowledge base to enhance their own credibility.

“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought” (Nobel laureate Albert Szent-Gyorgyi). These words ring especially true in thinking of the important role of research in deciphering the myriad messages transmitted between the built environment and its users. And as professionals and academics committed to creating liveable and vibrant communities, what better place to think about “the unseen in the seen” than an educational institution populated with learners, seekers and makers of knowledge? I congratulate the faculty and student team for initiating Kalpa, and look forward to sharing in their exciting journeys in research. I wish the Kalpa team the very best in their ongoing and future ventures



## Dr. Salila Vanka

B.Arch (VNIT) | M.Planning (CEPT) (Univ. Texas)| Phd.( Univ. Michigan)

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## Ar. Rashmi Pavagada Subbanarasimha

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Research Scholar, IITB

It is truly exciting to be part of team KALPA, a research initiative at RVCA, which recognizes the need to focus on the research-based education that integrates empirical inquiry into our projects for better learning and development. Architecture has always been invariably linked to cognitive research, involving constant and provocative inquiry about intuitive ideas. David Sarnoff rightly states, ‘Research is the distance between an idea and its realization.’ Exploring this is very important in transforming students into professionals and thus renders it crucial to have a research culture on campus, where academicians work towards discovering new reliable information and documentation.

Research culture fuels curiosity in students, they ask questions and immerse themselves in the joy of discovering. I believe, research will enable thorough in-depth understanding of spatial narratives in design and provoke productive, reliable, and valid conclusions when applied in the building industry with an effort to bridge the mythical gap between practice and research felt by many architects.

A wonderful start from the RVCA team and one of the first architectural schools in Bengaluru. I wish you good luck and look forward to reading it.

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Aishwarya P Hegde |  
Shashwath Ravisundar  
9th Sem, RVCA

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In a world of constant chaos and change, Architecture even at its best, cannot stay still. To keep up with this endless entropy, we'd need an endless exchange of knowledge and a constant broadening of the mind's horizon.

Kalpa, a joint initiative by the Faculty and Students of RVCA, is a form of the the manifestation of a solution to this need. It aims towards looking beyond the traditional routes to architecture and making the idea of investigation into the unknown, a norm. It is a platform on which we, the team of Kalpa, hope to fill the voids of our existing knowledge and spread the same to our readers.

This magazine and its contents thrive on the idea of exploration and experimentation through research as well as insights into our learnings through the semester. It is set in place, not only to push the limits of learning in Architecture but also to redefine our approaches to it. With each piece, comes a hoard of well researched information that is certain to leave you more equipped for any hurdles faced in Architecture School and beyond.

To conclude our purpose, we'd like to dive right into the main cause and effect behind the creation of Kalpa. Beautiful architecture in all its glory, is so much more than what meets the eye. To equip ourselves to find, understand and in turn, create the same hidden beauty that ties it all together, the idea of research and investigation is a must. With our first issue, focusing solely on the importance of research and informed design, we hope to shed light on this often-neglected aspect of architecture and give it the pedestal it deserves. This spirit of well-informed and well researched learning, to be carried as a gift that manifests in our built forms, is a future that we hope for through our magazine Kalpa, in RVCA and beyond.