

The Garden Campus

Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

Neha Harish

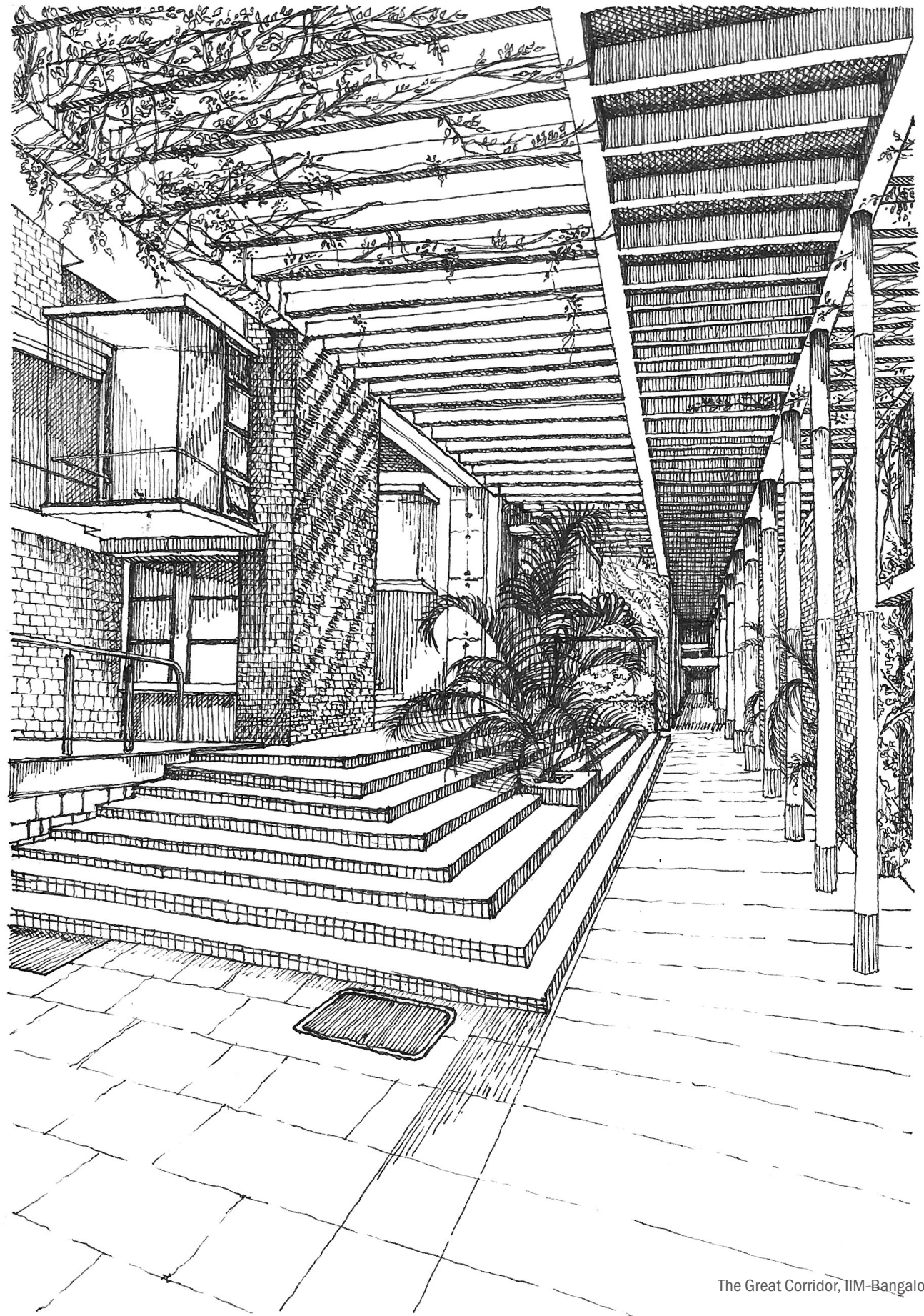
The grey stone and concrete walls have faded into the background. The large rain trees form portals through which these walls reveal themselves, although as glimpses. My first visit to the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B) campus was during the summer months of 2018 as part of a case study for my undergraduate semester coursework. The green of the campus was very evident even during these hot months. The subsequent visit was two years later during the monsoon months and anybody visiting the campus could clearly see the shift of the landscape towards a more prodigal green. It was during this visit that I decided to pen down this memory. Coincidentally it was the institute's yearly celebration where its venerated architect Balkrishna Vittaladas Doshi was the chief guest. My illustration tries to capture Doshi's words of the old campus' conception combined with architect Sanjay Mohe's note on his latest extension for the campus. The illustration sits at the union of two visions, where the old stone walls of the great corridors across the campus, intertwine with green ivy on one end and with the new exposed concrete walls on the other end.

A stark feature of this memory was the light fighting its way through the vine-covered pergola almost as a final attempt to grace the old stone walls of the great corridor. It reminded me of the great architect Louis I.Kahn's words '...which slice of the sun does your building own today...?'.

Everytime I draw, I try to capture the material qualities of the buildings in front of me, but this time it was more about tracing the veins on the leaves, the last twirl of the climber's newborn leaf and the winding vines on the campus's walls and pergolas. The new building has also started to be engulfed by this beautiful and plentiful garden, almost as an attempt to marry the old and new. But above all, in a city of no extremes, IIM-B represents the power of light and shadow, and architecture's primordial dependence on it.

Note: This illustration was originally published as cover art for 'Blueprint', newsletter of the Indian Institute of Architects (Karnataka Chapter, Issue 01, Volume 02, 01 July 2021)

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The Great Corridor, IIM-Bangalore