DOA	AR 2721 Critical Design Studio	Date:10.09.2025 Pages: 1 - 8

1.0 GENERAL

Programme				B.Arch
Academic Year	2025-2026		Academic Year	2025-2026
Course Code	AR 2721		Course Code	AR 2721
Course Faculty	Ar.Benasir, Ar.J.Vasim Akram.			
Project 1 Project 2	MUSEUM with Library (Archeology) (OR) PERFORMING ART CENTRE with Library (Arts and Cultural)			
Project Period	Date of Introduction	10.09.2025	Date of Submission	10.11.2025
Project Duration	210 Periods 210 Periods			

Design Task

You're invited to imagine and design an architectural landmark that has the potential to turn the trajectory of architecture in India. A path-changing piece of architecture that is an icon not just in terms of how it appears but also establishes the country as a leader in light and sustainable construction while providing better living for all.

1. You have complete creative freedom to choose your site, program and any typology of everyday use or of public nature—be it a performing arts center, , museums, yet to be invented.

2. Your design should embody the vision for India's future:

   a. **Local Roots, Global Voice**: While rooted in an Indian context, it should resonate on a global scale and be capable of becoming an international icon for creating the

ripple effect of architecture shaping times. Derive inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage of arts and crafts, as well as the extensive palette of locally available materials that make India unique.

b. **Defining Tomorrow:** It should pioneer a new design vocabulary and set the
c. precedent for future architecture.
d. **Built for the Future:** It should be a high performing, light and sustainable construction, providing comfort and better living for all, while also focusing on DE carbonization and efficiency.
e. **Contextual Impact:** It should transform and uplift its urban or natural context- this could be environmental, social, economic, cultural ora multitude of many of these factors.

PROJECT – MUSEUM with Library (Archeology)

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Museum is envisioned as a cultural and educational landmark that preserves, interprets, and displays the material heritage of ancient civilizations, with a special focus on archaeological findings from India and around the world. Through architectural storytelling and exhibit design, the museum becomes a space that connects the past with the present — not just as a gallery of artifacts, but as a living archive of human evolution, culture, and identity.

1.2 PROJECT INTENTIONS

The primary intention of this project is to design a museum that:

- Celebrates and conserves archaeological heritage
- Educates diverse audiences about ancient history, art, and culture
- Integrates modern museum practices with contextual architecture
- Balances public accessibility with curatorial sensitivity and artifact preservation

The design aims to foster curiosity, learning, and reflection — offering both immersive and contemplative spatial experiences for visitors of all ages.

OBJECTIVE:

- To enable an understanding of architecture as having the capacity to critically interpret and transform status quo in the built environment and society through the act of design.
- To guide in the taking of critical/ philosophical/ ideological positions respect to various aspects of contemporary life and to explore architectural morphology as an expression of those positions.
- To encourage propositions/projections directed at positive future transformations.

OUTCOMES:

- Ability to understand the wider implication of design decisions and their interdependency with larger processes of society.
- Ability to take creative, critical and informed decisions in the context of significant projects that could shape society in positive ways.

1.3 PROJECT BRIEF:

This project is focused on the following potential areas-

The Archaeology Museum will consist of both indoor and outdoor exhibit areas, educational zones, and research facilities. The spatial narrative will follow a chronological or thematic journey through human civilization. The museum must:

- Accommodate **permanent and temporary exhibitions**
- Provide **interactive and digital learning spaces**
- Include **conservation labs, archives, and reading zones**
- Reflect archaeological materiality in architectural expression
- Respond to the **climate and cultural context** of its proposed site

Key Functional Zones:

- Orientation & Reception Lobby
- Permanent Galleries (Prehistoric, Protohistoric, Ancient India, Global Civilizations)
- Temporary Exhibit Zone
- Interactive Dig Area / Children's Discovery Lab
- Conservation and Restoration Lab
- Library & Archive
- Auditorium / Seminar Rooms
- Café and Museum Shop
- Open-air Courtyards and Sculpture Gardens

1.4 METHODOLOGY

Site Analysis

A thorough understanding of the site context is crucial for developing a responsive and sustainable built environment.

- **Orientation**
- **Public Domain Interface**
- **Visual Privacy**
- **Access and Movement**
  - **Pedestrian Access & Entries**
  - **Vehicular Access & Parking**

Designing the Building

Design principles focus on optimizing natural resources, enhancing livability, and integrating user comfort with functional aesthetics.

- **Solar and Daylighting Aspects**

- Natural Ventilation
- Ceiling Heights
- Exhibition Layout and Spatial Organization
- Interpretive Open Spaces and Pause Points
- Visitor Movement and Common Spaces
- Gallery Mix, Public Amenities, Facade and Roof Design
- Landscape Design
- Services and Sustainability

1.5 PROJECT SITE

SITE 1- LOCATION : KEELADI

Site Area: 8.50 Acres

9.85563438728841, 78.19314601773

https://maps.app.goo.gl/[illegible]

1.6 DESIGN APPROACH

1. Study Seminar

The foundational research stage focuses on archaeological design precedents, museology, and cultural architecture.

- **Data Collection**: Gathering primary and secondary information on archaeological museums, preservation needs, climate and context.
- **Literature Study**: Exploration of theories on museum planning, artifact conservation, display lighting, and historical architecture.
- **Case Studies**: Comparative analysis of national and international museums.
  - **Services:**
    1. **Building Level**: lighting, vertical circulation, etc.
    2. **Site Level**: Visitor parking, service access, landscape integration, etc.
- **User and Area Requirements**:
    1. Defined based on anthropometrics and museum standards (e.g., IS codes, UNESCO norms)
    2. Zoning for public, semi-public, and restricted areas
    3. Circulation study includes visitor flow, artifact handling paths, and staff Movement

2. Site & Neighborhood Analysis

- **Site Analysis**: Study of topography, climate, wind, sun path, noise levels, access, and vegetation
- **Neighborhood Context**: Cultural influence, accessibility to schools/universities, integration with public infrastructure
- **SWOT Analysis**: Evaluation to determine design opportunities and constraints

3. Conceptual Design at Master Plan Level

- **C1 – Concept Derivation**:
  - Based on the themes of excavation, layers of time, and cultural storytelling
  - Spatial narrative aligned with historical progression.
- **C2 – Master Plan Development**:
  - Site-responsive layout considering orientation, wind direction, public approach, and zoning logic
  - Landscape zones integrated with outdoor artifact displays and courtyards
- **C3 – Program Finalization**:
  - Defined gallery types (chronological, thematic), research labs, and archive blocks
  - Subdivision and layout of key zones such as:
    - Reception & Orientation
    - Chronological Exhibition Halls
    - Dig Simulation Area
    - Restoration Labs
    - Café, Library, Admin etc
    - Etc……

4. Single Line Design

- **Zoning and Massing**:
  - Block-level schematic incorporating light wells, plazas, sculpture courts
  - Site response studied through form orientation, access control, and buffer zones
- **Drawings & Models**:
  - Master Plan and Zoning at 1:500
  - Preliminary Massing and Building Layout at 1:200
  - Schematic sectional study at 1:50, especially exploring gallery height and lighting layers

5. Double Line Design

- **D1 – Structural Layout**:
  - Column grid, basic slab system, structural span logic with the floor plans, elevation and sections

- **D2 – Floor Plan Development**:
  - Detailed layouts at 1:100 or 1:50
  - Furniture layouts for galleries, reading rooms, labs
  - Service integration (lighting slots, sprinkler system)
- **Section & Elevation**:
  - Consideration of material texture, perforated panels, and diffused lighting

6. Building Services Detail

- **Electrical Layout**: Smart lighting with spotlight tracks and ambient zone control
- **Fire Safety**: Smoke detection, suppression system, fire exit provisions, and signage

7. 3D Modeling

- Development of architectural form inspired by excavation motifs and timeless structures
- Integration of voids, daylight chimneys, and layered wall treatments

8. Mock Viva

- Presentation of concept, research, schematic models, and primary drawings for critique
- Feedback recorded and integrated into refinement process

9. Final Presentation Sheets

- Full drawing set including:
  - Master Plan, Floor Plans, Sections, Elevations
  - Concept Diagrams, Exploded Axons
  - Lighting and Material Boards
  - Daylight & Lux Simulation Data (optional)

10. Physical Models

- **Site Model**: Context integration at 1:500
- **Sectional/Massing Model**: Highlighting circulation or daylight strategy
- **Detailed Interior Model** (optional): Showing one gallery with exhibit lighting

1.7 Final Design Presentation

A final set of drawings is produced, including:

1. Site Analysis Sheet – A2 Sheet
2. Concept sheet - A2 Sheet explaining the design process & methodology adopted
3. Master Plan – A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500

4. Site Plan showing entire development and adjacent sites A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500
5. All Floor plans and sections of Focus area building A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:200
6. Elevations and Site sections of total development A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:100
7. Elevations of Focus area (1:100)
8. Detailed Simulation Lighting Analysis
9. Massing, Detailed 3D model / perspectives of significant spaces of the proposed building.
10. Approach views of the total Zoning.

1.8 Project Schedule

S.No.	Stage	Tentative Dates
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10	Design Review 6 – D2	09.09.2025
11	Design Review 7 – Building Services detail	15.09.2025
12	3D Modelling	21.10.2025
13	Mock viva	28.10.2025
14	Final Presentation- Drawing sheets	04.11.2025
15	Physical Model	04.11.2025

1.9 Evaluation stages and submission requirements:

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15	Physical Model		04.11.2025	10
			Total	100

(Note: All above evaluation stages require scaled drawing and model to explain your idea/ design. The review or valuation will be done only on the specified dates/ schedules assigned to the specified Groups. In all the above mentioned evaluation stages, both individual and group marking is given.)

Course Faculty HOD

DOA	AR 2721 Critical Design Studio	Date:10.09.2025 Pages: 1 - 10

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Programme				B.Arch
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1. You have complete creative freedom to choose your site, program and any typology of everyday use or of public nature—be it a performing arts center… museums, yet to be invented.

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   a. **Local Roots, Global Voice**: While rooted in an Indian context, it should resonate on a global scale and be capable of becoming an international icon for creating the ripple effect of architecture shaping times. Derive inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage of arts and crafts, as well as the extensive palette of locally available materials that make India unique.

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e. **Contextual Impact:** It should transform and uplift its urban or natural context- this could be environmental, social, economic, cultural ora multitude of many of these factors.

PROJECT – PERFORMING ART CENTRE with Library (Arts and Cultural)

1.1 INTRODUCTION

A **Performing Arts Centre** is a dynamic cultural institution designed to host and support live performances such as music, dance, theatre, and multimedia arts. A **Performing Arts Centre** is a dedicated facility designed to nurture and showcase artistic talents in the fields of music, dance, drama, and other live performance arts. As cultural landmarks, these centers act as bridges between tradition and contemporary expression, offering immersive spaces for performers and enriching experiences for audiences.

In today's urban context, performing arts centers go beyond being just performance venues — they become **interactive, educational, and community-driven spaces**. A well-designed PAC can spark local artistic development, provide platforms for cultural exchange, and contribute to the identity and vitality of a city.

1.2 PROJECT INTENTIONS

The primary intention of this project is to design a Performing Arts Centre that:

- To **create a vibrant cultural hub** that caters to diverse performance art forms
- To offer state-of-the-art **acoustics, lighting, and stage infrastructure**
- To **foster community participation**, talent development, and artistic collaboration
- To integrate **sustainable architecture** with high functional efficiency and audience comfort

The design aims to foster curiosity, learning, and reflection — offering both immersive and contemplative spatial experiences for all ages.

OBJECTIVE:

- To enable an understanding of architecture as having the capacity to critically interpret and transform status quo in the built environment and society through the act of design.
- To guide in the taking of critical/ philosophical/ ideological positions respect to various aspects of contemporary life and to explore architectural morphology as an expression of those positions.
- To encourage propositions/projections directed at positive future transformations.

OUTCOMES:

- Ability to understand the wider implication of design decisions and their interdependency with larger processes of society.
- Ability to take creative, critical and informed decisions in the context of significant projects that could shape society in positive ways.

1.3 PROJECT BRIEF:

This project focuses on the development of a **Performing Arts Centre** that integrates performance, education, and cultural enrichment. The centre will encompass a range of **indoor and outdoor performance venues**, educational spaces, and public gathering areas. The architectural narrative will celebrate the **diverse traditions of the performing arts**, while supporting contemporary artistic expression.

The Performing Arts Centre must:

- Accommodate **multiple performance types** (theatre, music, dance, experimental)
- Provide **rehearsal and training studios** for students and professionals
- Include **technical and backstage support areas** such as green rooms and storage
- Reflect the **fluidity and rhythm of performance arts** through its architectural form and materiality
- Be **climate-responsive and culturally contextual** to its site location

Key Functional Zones

1. Public & Orientation Spaces
2. Performance Zones
3. Educational and Rehearsal Facilities
4. Backstage and Technical Areas
5. Community and Cultural Amenities
6. Outdoor Public and Landscape Zones

1.4 METHODOLOGY

A. Research & Study

- Literature study of national/international performing arts centers
- Case studies
- Study of acoustical and lighting design principles

B. Site Selection & Analysis

- Accessibility, connectivity to city, noise sensitivity
- Orientation, wind and sun paths, zoning regulations

C. User Needs & Space Programming

- Seating capacities, flexibility of space use
- Acoustic requirements per performance type
- Visitor movement and performer circulation separation

D. Design Development

- Conceptual massing with contextual response
- Form evolution inspired by music/dance movement
- Integration of technology, sound, and sustainability

E. Final Design Output

- Master Plan and landscape
- Auditorium section and acoustic simulation
- Detailed floor plans
- 3D views, physical model, and services layout

1.5 PROJECT SITE

SITE 1 - LOCATION: RAMESHWARAM

Site Area: 8 – 11 Acres

9.2949545765793 16, 79.312471800946 31

https://maps.app.goo.gl/pSUC2kp3vmRfYZvU6

1.6 DESIGN APPROACH

1. Study Seminar

The foundational research phase emphasizes **performing arts architecture**, acoustics, stagecraft, and spatial dynamics. The goal is to understand functional needs, audience engagement, and technical integration in performance spaces.

• Data Collection

- Gathering primary and secondary data on **auditorium design**, **acoustic requirements**, **climatic response**, and **cultural symbolism** in performing arts architecture.
- Reviewing **codes and regulations** related to fire safety, accessibility (e.g., NBC, IS Codes), and performance venue guidelines.

• Literature Study

- Study of global standards for **auditorium acoustics**, **theatrical lighting**, **stage design**, and **audience comfort**.

- Exploration of **architectural theories** in cultural and performance-based spaces.

• Case Studies

- Comparative analysis of national and international performing arts centres (e.g., NCPA Mumbai, Sydney Opera House, Esplanade Singapore).
- Evaluation based on spatial zoning, stage layout, circulation, materials, and user experience.

• Services Analysis

1. Building Level:

- Integration of **stage lighting**, **AV systems**, **vertical circulation**, **acoustic insulation**, HVAC, and fire escape design.

2. Site Level:

- **Vehicular and pedestrian circulation**, service access for loading/unloading sets, visitor drop-off, and **landscape planning** for public interaction.

• User and Area Requirements

1. Defined by:

- **Anthropometric data**, auditorium standards, and performance type-specific guidelines (drama, dance, music).
- Consideration of **performers, technicians, staff, and audience needs**.

2. Zoning:

- Clear separation of **public**, **semi-public**, and **restricted backstage** zones to ensure functionality and privacy.

3. Circulation Study:

- Detailed analysis of **visitor movement** from entry to exit, including waiting areas, seating access, intermission spaces.
- Efficient backstage circulation for **performers, props, technical staff**, and service access.

2. Site & Neighborhood Analysis

Site Analysis:

- **Topography:** Study land slope and elevation to position auditoriums and outdoor performance areas.
- **Climate:** Assess temperature, humidity, and rainfall to plan for thermal comfort and acoustics.
- **Wind Direction:** Optimize building openings and orientation for natural ventilation in semi-open zones.
- **Sun Path:** Position lobbies, rehearsal rooms, and public areas for maximum daylight use while managing glare.
- **Noise Levels:** Assess ambient sound to place quiet zones like practice halls away from traffic noise.
- **Access & Circulation:** Study vehicular and pedestrian entry points, drop-off zones, and parking locations.

- **Vegetation:** Identify existing green elements to retain or incorporate into landscape design for shade and aesthetics.

Neighborhood Context:

- **Cultural Influence:** Examine nearby institutions (art schools, theatres, music academies), cultural demographics, and heritage value.
- **Educational Institutions:** Proximity to universities or music/dance schools for collaborative programs.
- **Public Infrastructure:** Access to public transit, connectivity with civic spaces (like plazas, libraries, galleries), and urban visibility.

SWOT Analysis:

- **Strengths:** Cultural richness of site, visibility, community interest
- **Weaknesses:** Site constraints, budget limitations, traffic noise
- **Opportunities:** Collaborations with local artists, public engagement, tourism attraction
- **Threats:** Urban sprawl, zoning restrictions, environmental impacts

3. Conceptual Design at Master Plan Level

C1 – Concept Derivation:

- Inspired by the rhythm, flow, and dynamism of performing arts.
- Narrative design approach representing **journeys of creativity**, **cultural expression**, and **audience interaction**.
- Blends **traditional and contemporary forms** to reflect evolving art forms.

C2 – Master Plan Development:

- **Site-responsive Planning:**
  - Orientation aligned for optimal acoustic insulation and performer comfort.
  - Wind and sun studies used to shape amphitheaters, lobby openings, and rehearsal wings.
- **Zoning Logic:**
  - Clear separation of **public zones** (auditorium, café, lobby) and **private/technical zones** (green rooms, control rooms, service cores).
- **Landscape Integration:**
  - Open-air performance courts, art walkways, sculpture zones.
  - Fluid outdoor-to-indoor transition with green rooms facing courtyards or water bodies.

C3 – Program Finalization:

- **Key Components:**
  - **Main Auditorium(s):** Classical + Contemporary performance halls with varied seating capacities.
  - **Black Box Theatre:** Flexible space for experimental performances.
  - **Rehearsal Studios:** For music, dance, and theatre with acoustic treatment.
  - **Workshops/Studios:** Set design, costume making, sound production.
  - **Public Amenities:**
- Grand foyer, café/bookstore, exhibition areas.
- Multipurpose rooms for community interaction and lectures.
  - **Support Facilities:**

- Green rooms, technical booths, control rooms, storage.
- Admin offices, ticketing, security, maintenance areas.
- **Educational Spaces:**
- Classrooms for training programs, archive/library on performing arts.
- Media lab or digital performance zone.

4. Single Line Design (Performing Arts Center)

- **Zoning and Massing:**
    - Block-level schematic planning includes **performance zones**, **rehearsal clusters**, **public gathering spaces**, **open plazas**, and **sculptural forecourts**.
    - Light wells, acoustic buffer zones, and landscaped spill-out areas positioned based on sun path and wind analysis.
    - Site response explored through:
        - **Form orientation** for optimal audience flow
        - **Access control** between public, performer, and service entries
        - **Buffer zones** between high-noise and contemplative spaces
- **Drawings & Models:**
    - **Master Plan and Zoning** at 1:500 scale
    - **Preliminary Massing & Layouts** at 1:200 to define:
        - Performance halls vs. backstage/support spaces
        - Hierarchical courtyards or terraces
    - **Schematic Sections** at 1:50 to explore:
        - Double-height foyer and lobby volumes
        - Fly tower and stage height studies
        - Natural and artificial lighting integration (daylight chimneys, glare control)

5. Double Line Design (Performing Arts Center)

- **D1 – Structural Layout:**
    - Structural grid aligned with **auditorium span requirements** and column-free viewing zones.
    - Basic slab system adjusted for acoustically sensitive areas (floating floors, vibration control).
- **D2 – Floor Plan Development:**
    - Detailed floor plans at **1:100 or 1:50**, including:
        - Seating layouts (main hall, experimental theatre)
        - Movement flows for audience, performers, staff
        - Stage access and technical room positioning
    - **Furniture Layouts:**
        - Cafe, rehearsal studios, green rooms, administrative offices
    - **Service Integration:**
        - Lighting slots for stage and ambient lighting
        - HVAC ducts, rigging systems, acoustic ceiling treatments
        - Sprinkler, AV cabling, and backstage logistics corridors
- **Sections & Elevations:**
    - Study of **external façade treatments:**
        - Materiality with sound-reflective or absorbent finishes
        - Use of **perforated panels**, kinetic facades, or cultural motifs
    - Interior sections exploring **layered acoustic treatments**, gallery walls for visual arts integration, and **lighting variation zones**

6. Building Services Detail

7. 3D Modelling

- **Architectural Form Development:**
  - Variation in rooflines for different halls (fly tower, rehearsal studio volumes, outdoor amphitheater canopies)
- **Integration of Spatial Features:**
  - **Void manipulation** for dramatic lobbies and interaction spaces
  - **Daylight chimneys and skylights** in rehearsal or public transition zones
  - **Material layering and textures** for acoustic identity and visual richness (e.g., timber baffles, stone/terracotta cladding, fabric panels)

8. Mock Viva

- Presentation of concept, research, schematic models, and primary drawings for critique
- Feedback recorded and integrated into refinement process

9. Final Presentation Sheets

- Full drawing set including:
  - Master Plan, Floor Plans, Sections, Elevations
  - Concept Diagrams, Exploded Axons
  - Lighting and Material Boards
  - Daylight & Lux Simulation Data (optional)

10. Physical Models

- **Site Model:** Context integration at 1:500
- **Sectional/Massing Model:** Highlighting circulation or daylight strategy
- **Detailed Interior Model** (optional): Showing one gallery with exhibit lighting

1.7 Final Design Presentation

A final set of drawings is produced, including:

1. Site Analysis Sheet – A2 Sheet
2. Concept sheet - A2 Sheet explaining the design process & methodology adopted
3. Master Plan – A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500
4. Site Plan showing entire development and adjacent sites A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500
5. All Floor plans and sections of Focus area building A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:200
6. Elevations and Site sections of total development A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:100
7. Elevations of Focus area (1:100)
8. Detailed Simulation Lighting Analysis
9. Massing, Detailed 3D model / perspectives of significant spaces of the proposed building.
10. Approach views of the total Zoning.

1.8 Project Schedule

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Project Duration	210 Periods 210 Periods			

Design Task

You're invited to imagine and design an architectural landmark that has the potential to turn the trajectory of architecture in India. A path-changing piece of architecture that is an icon not just in terms of how it appears but also establishes the country as a leader in light and sustainable construction while providing better living for all.

1. You have complete creative freedom to choose your site, program and any typology of everyday use or of public nature—be it a performing arts center, , museums, yet to be invented.

2. Your design should embody the vision for India's future:

   a. **Local Roots, Global Voice**: While rooted in an Indian context, it should resonate on a global scale and be capable of becoming an international icon for creating the

ripple effect of architecture shaping times. Derive inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage of arts and crafts, as well as the extensive palette of locally available materials that make India unique.

b. **Defining Tomorrow:** It should pioneer a new design vocabulary and set the
c. precedent for future architecture.
d. **Built for the Future:** It should be a high performing, light and sustainable construction, providing comfort and better living for all, while also focusing on DE carbonization and efficiency.
e. **Contextual Impact:** It should transform and uplift its urban or natural context- this could be environmental, social, economic, cultural ora multitude of many of these factors.

PROJECT – MUSEUM with Library (Archeology)

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Archaeology Museum is envisioned as a cultural and educational landmark that preserves, interprets, and displays the material heritage of ancient civilizations, with a special focus on archaeological findings from India and around the world. Through architectural storytelling and exhibit design, the museum becomes a space that connects the past with the present — not just as a gallery of artifacts, but as a living archive of human evolution, culture, and identity.

1.2 PROJECT INTENTIONS

The primary intention of this project is to design a museum that:

- Celebrates and conserves archaeological heritage
- Educates diverse audiences about ancient history, art, and culture
- Integrates modern museum practices with contextual architecture
- Balances public accessibility with curatorial sensitivity and artifact preservation

The design aims to foster curiosity, learning, and reflection — offering both immersive and contemplative spatial experiences for visitors of all ages.

OBJECTIVE:

- To enable an understanding of architecture as having the capacity to critically interpret and transform status quo in the built environment and society through the act of design.
- To guide in the taking of critical/ philosophical/ ideological positions respect to various aspects of contemporary life and to explore architectural morphology as an expression of those positions.
- To encourage propositions/projections directed at positive future transformations.

OUTCOMES:

- Ability to understand the wider implication of design decisions and their interdependency with larger processes of society.
- Ability to take creative, critical and informed decisions in the context of significant projects that could shape society in positive ways.

1.3 PROJECT BRIEF:

This project is focused on the following potential areas-

The Archaeology Museum will consist of both indoor and outdoor exhibit areas, educational zones, and research facilities. The spatial narrative will follow a chronological or thematic journey through human civilization. The museum must:

- Accommodate **permanent and temporary exhibitions**
- Provide **interactive and digital learning spaces**
- Include **conservation labs, archives, and reading zones**
- Reflect archaeological materiality in architectural expression
- Respond to the **climate and cultural context** of its proposed site

Key Functional Zones:

- Orientation & Reception Lobby
- Permanent Galleries (Prehistoric, Protohistoric, Ancient India, Global Civilizations)
- Temporary Exhibit Zone
- Interactive Dig Area / Children's Discovery Lab
- Conservation and Restoration Lab
- Library & Archive
- Auditorium / Seminar Rooms
- Café and Museum Shop
- Open-air Courtyards and Sculpture Gardens

1.4 METHODOLOGY

Site Analysis

A thorough understanding of the site context is crucial for developing a responsive and sustainable built environment.

- **Orientation**
- **Public Domain Interface**
- **Visual Privacy**
- **Access and Movement**
  - **Pedestrian Access & Entries**
  - **Vehicular Access & Parking**

Designing the Building

Design principles focus on optimizing natural resources, enhancing livability, and integrating user comfort with functional aesthetics.

- **Solar and Daylighting Aspects**

- Natural Ventilation
- Ceiling Heights
- Exhibition Layout and Spatial Organization
- Interpretive Open Spaces and Pause Points
- Visitor Movement and Common Spaces
- Gallery Mix, Public Amenities, Facade and Roof Design
- Landscape Design
- Services and Sustainability

1.5 PROJECT SITE

SITE 1- LOCATION : KEELADI

Site Area: 8.50 Acres

9.85563438728841, 78.19314601773

https://maps.app.goo.gl/[illegible]

1.6 DESIGN APPROACH

1. Study Seminar

The foundational research stage focuses on archaeological design precedents, museology, and cultural architecture.

- **Data Collection**: Gathering primary and secondary information on archaeological museums, preservation needs, climate and context.
- **Literature Study**: Exploration of theories on museum planning, artifact conservation, display lighting, and historical architecture.
- **Case Studies**: Comparative analysis of national and international museums.
  - **Services:**
    1. **Building Level**: lighting, vertical circulation, etc.
    2. **Site Level**: Visitor parking, service access, landscape integration, etc.
- **User and Area Requirements**:
    1. Defined based on anthropometrics and museum standards (e.g., IS codes, UNESCO norms)
    2. Zoning for public, semi-public, and restricted areas
    3. Circulation study includes visitor flow, artifact handling paths, and staff Movement

2. Site & Neighborhood Analysis

- **Site Analysis**: Study of topography, climate, wind, sun path, noise levels, access, and vegetation
- **Neighborhood Context**: Cultural influence, accessibility to schools/universities, integration with public infrastructure
- **SWOT Analysis**: Evaluation to determine design opportunities and constraints

3. Conceptual Design at Master Plan Level

- **C1 – Concept Derivation**:
  - Based on the themes of excavation, layers of time, and cultural storytelling
  - Spatial narrative aligned with historical progression.
- **C2 – Master Plan Development**:
  - Site-responsive layout considering orientation, wind direction, public approach, and zoning logic
  - Landscape zones integrated with outdoor artifact displays and courtyards
- **C3 – Program Finalization**:
  - Defined gallery types (chronological, thematic), research labs, and archive blocks
  - Subdivision and layout of key zones such as:
    - Reception & Orientation
    - Chronological Exhibition Halls
    - Dig Simulation Area
    - Restoration Labs
    - Café, Library, Admin etc
    - Etc……

4. Single Line Design

- **Zoning and Massing**:
  - Block-level schematic incorporating light wells, plazas, sculpture courts
  - Site response studied through form orientation, access control, and buffer zones
- **Drawings & Models**:
  - Master Plan and Zoning at 1:500
  - Preliminary Massing and Building Layout at 1:200
  - Schematic sectional study at 1:50, especially exploring gallery height and lighting layers

5. Double Line Design

- **D1 – Structural Layout**:
  - Column grid, basic slab system, structural span logic with the floor plans, elevation and sections

- **D2 – Floor Plan Development**:
  - Detailed layouts at 1:100 or 1:50
  - Furniture layouts for galleries, reading rooms, labs
  - Service integration (lighting slots, sprinkler system)
- **Section & Elevation**:
  - Consideration of material texture, perforated panels, and diffused lighting

6. Building Services Detail

- **Electrical Layout**: Smart lighting with spotlight tracks and ambient zone control
- **Fire Safety**: Smoke detection, suppression system, fire exit provisions, and signage

7. 3D Modeling

- Development of architectural form inspired by excavation motifs and timeless structures
- Integration of voids, daylight chimneys, and layered wall treatments

8. Mock Viva

- Presentation of concept, research, schematic models, and primary drawings for critique
- Feedback recorded and integrated into refinement process

9. Final Presentation Sheets

- Full drawing set including:
  - Master Plan, Floor Plans, Sections, Elevations
  - Concept Diagrams, Exploded Axons
  - Lighting and Material Boards
  - Daylight & Lux Simulation Data (optional)

10. Physical Models

- **Site Model**: Context integration at 1:500
- **Sectional/Massing Model**: Highlighting circulation or daylight strategy
- **Detailed Interior Model** (optional): Showing one gallery with exhibit lighting

1.7 Final Design Presentation

A final set of drawings is produced, including:

1. Site Analysis Sheet – A2 Sheet
2. Concept sheet - A2 Sheet explaining the design process & methodology adopted
3. Master Plan – A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500

4. Site Plan showing entire development and adjacent sites A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500
5. All Floor plans and sections of Focus area building A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:200
6. Elevations and Site sections of total development A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:100
7. Elevations of Focus area (1:100)
8. Detailed Simulation Lighting Analysis
9. Massing, Detailed 3D model / perspectives of significant spaces of the proposed building.
10. Approach views of the total Zoning.

1.8 Project Schedule

S.No.	Stage	Tentative Dates
1	Date of introduction	10.07.2025
2	Data collection	16.07.2025
3	Literature Review /Case study	24.07.2025
4	Site Analysis, Neighborhood Analysis, Zoning	29.07.2025
5	Design Review 1- C1 – Concept derivation according to the study and requirement of the design.	01.08.2025
6	Design Review 2- C2 – Concept at master plan level	07.08.2025
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10	Design Review 6 – D2	09.09.2025
11	Design Review 7 – Building Services detail	15.09.2025
12	3D Modelling	21.10.2025
13	Mock viva	28.10.2025
14	Final Presentation- Drawing sheets	04.11.2025
15	Physical Model	04.11.2025

1.9 Evaluation stages and submission requirements:

S.No.	Stage	Deliverables	Tentative Dates	Marks
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2	Data collection	Seminar (submit hardcopy and softcopy) A3 Sheet Presentation	16.07.2025	5
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13	Mock viva	Printed sheet (pin up review)	28.10.2025	20
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15	Physical Model		04.11.2025	10
			Total	100

(Note: All above evaluation stages require scaled drawing and model to explain your idea/ design. The review or valuation will be done only on the specified dates/ schedules assigned to the specified Groups. In all the above mentioned evaluation stages, both individual and group marking is given.)

Course Faculty HOD

DOA	AR 2721 Critical Design Studio	Date:10.09.2025 Pages: 1 - 10

1.0 GENERAL

Programme				B.Arch
Academic Year		2025-2026	**Semester**	VII
Course Code	AR 2721		**Course Title**	Critical Design Studio
Course Faculty	Ar.Benasir, Ar.J.Vasim Akram.			
Project 1 **Project 2**	**MUSEUM with Library (Archeology)** **(OR)** **PERFORMING ART CENTRE with Library (Arts and Cultural)**			
Project Period	**Date of Introduction**	10.09.2025	**Date of Submission**	10.11.2025
Project Duration	210 Periods 210 Periods			

Design Task

You're invited to imagine and design an architectural landmark that has the potential to turn the trajectory of architecture in India. A path-changing piece of architecture that is an icon not just in terms of how it appears but also establishes the country as a leader in light and sustainable construction while providing better living for all.

1. You have complete creative freedom to choose your site, program and any typology of everyday use or of public nature—be it a performing arts center… museums, yet to be invented.

2. Your design should embody the vision for India's future:

   a. **Local Roots, Global Voice**: While rooted in an Indian context, it should resonate on a global scale and be capable of becoming an international icon for creating the ripple effect of architecture shaping times. Derive inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage of arts and crafts, as well as the extensive palette of locally available materials that make India unique.

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e. **Contextual Impact:** It should transform and uplift its urban or natural context- this could be environmental, social, economic, cultural ora multitude of many of these factors.

PROJECT – PERFORMING ART CENTRE with Library (Arts and Cultural)

1.1 INTRODUCTION

A **Performing Arts Centre** is a dynamic cultural institution designed to host and support live performances such as music, dance, theatre, and multimedia arts. A **Performing Arts Centre** is a dedicated facility designed to nurture and showcase artistic talents in the fields of music, dance, drama, and other live performance arts. As cultural landmarks, these centers act as bridges between tradition and contemporary expression, offering immersive spaces for performers and enriching experiences for audiences.

In today's urban context, performing arts centers go beyond being just performance venues — they become **interactive, educational, and community-driven spaces**. A well-designed PAC can spark local artistic development, provide platforms for cultural exchange, and contribute to the identity and vitality of a city.

1.2 PROJECT INTENTIONS

The primary intention of this project is to design a Performing Arts Centre that:

- To **create a vibrant cultural hub** that caters to diverse performance art forms
- To offer state-of-the-art **acoustics, lighting, and stage infrastructure**
- To **foster community participation**, talent development, and artistic collaboration
- To integrate **sustainable architecture** with high functional efficiency and audience comfort

The design aims to foster curiosity, learning, and reflection — offering both immersive and contemplative spatial experiences for all ages.

OBJECTIVE:

- To enable an understanding of architecture as having the capacity to critically interpret and transform status quo in the built environment and society through the act of design.
- To guide in the taking of critical/ philosophical/ ideological positions respect to various aspects of contemporary life and to explore architectural morphology as an expression of those positions.
- To encourage propositions/projections directed at positive future transformations.

OUTCOMES:

- Ability to understand the wider implication of design decisions and their interdependency with larger processes of society.
- Ability to take creative, critical and informed decisions in the context of significant projects that could shape society in positive ways.

1.3 PROJECT BRIEF:

This project focuses on the development of a **Performing Arts Centre** that integrates performance, education, and cultural enrichment. The centre will encompass a range of **indoor and outdoor performance venues**, educational spaces, and public gathering areas. The architectural narrative will celebrate the **diverse traditions of the performing arts**, while supporting contemporary artistic expression.

The Performing Arts Centre must:

- Accommodate **multiple performance types** (theatre, music, dance, experimental)
- Provide **rehearsal and training studios** for students and professionals
- Include **technical and backstage support areas** such as green rooms and storage
- Reflect the **fluidity and rhythm of performance arts** through its architectural form and materiality
- Be **climate-responsive and culturally contextual** to its site location

Key Functional Zones

1. Public & Orientation Spaces
2. Performance Zones
3. Educational and Rehearsal Facilities
4. Backstage and Technical Areas
5. Community and Cultural Amenities
6. Outdoor Public and Landscape Zones

1.4 METHODOLOGY

A. Research & Study

- Literature study of national/international performing arts centers
- Case studies
- Study of acoustical and lighting design principles

B. Site Selection & Analysis

- Accessibility, connectivity to city, noise sensitivity
- Orientation, wind and sun paths, zoning regulations

C. User Needs & Space Programming

- Seating capacities, flexibility of space use
- Acoustic requirements per performance type
- Visitor movement and performer circulation separation

D. Design Development

- Conceptual massing with contextual response
- Form evolution inspired by music/dance movement
- Integration of technology, sound, and sustainability

E. Final Design Output

- Master Plan and landscape
- Auditorium section and acoustic simulation
- Detailed floor plans
- 3D views, physical model, and services layout

1.5 PROJECT SITE

SITE 1 - LOCATION: RAMESHWARAM

Site Area: 8 – 11 Acres

9.2949545765793 16, 79.312471800946 31

https://maps.app.goo.gl/pSUC2kp3vmRfYZvU6

1.6 DESIGN APPROACH

1. Study Seminar

The foundational research phase emphasizes **performing arts architecture**, acoustics, stagecraft, and spatial dynamics. The goal is to understand functional needs, audience engagement, and technical integration in performance spaces.

• Data Collection

- Gathering primary and secondary data on **auditorium design**, **acoustic requirements**, **climatic response**, and **cultural symbolism** in performing arts architecture.
- Reviewing **codes and regulations** related to fire safety, accessibility (e.g., NBC, IS Codes), and performance venue guidelines.

• Literature Study

- Study of global standards for **auditorium acoustics**, **theatrical lighting**, **stage design**, and **audience comfort**.

- Exploration of **architectural theories** in cultural and performance-based spaces.

• Case Studies

- Comparative analysis of national and international performing arts centres (e.g., NCPA Mumbai, Sydney Opera House, Esplanade Singapore).
- Evaluation based on spatial zoning, stage layout, circulation, materials, and user experience.

• Services Analysis

1. Building Level:

- Integration of **stage lighting**, **AV systems**, **vertical circulation**, **acoustic insulation**, HVAC, and fire escape design.

2. Site Level:

- **Vehicular and pedestrian circulation**, service access for loading/unloading sets, visitor drop-off, and **landscape planning** for public interaction.

• User and Area Requirements

1. Defined by:

- **Anthropometric data**, auditorium standards, and performance type-specific guidelines (drama, dance, music).
- Consideration of **performers, technicians, staff, and audience needs**.

2. Zoning:

- Clear separation of **public**, **semi-public**, and **restricted backstage** zones to ensure functionality and privacy.

3. Circulation Study:

- Detailed analysis of **visitor movement** from entry to exit, including waiting areas, seating access, intermission spaces.
- Efficient backstage circulation for **performers, props, technical staff**, and service access.

2. Site & Neighborhood Analysis

Site Analysis:

- **Topography:** Study land slope and elevation to position auditoriums and outdoor performance areas.
- **Climate:** Assess temperature, humidity, and rainfall to plan for thermal comfort and acoustics.
- **Wind Direction:** Optimize building openings and orientation for natural ventilation in semi-open zones.
- **Sun Path:** Position lobbies, rehearsal rooms, and public areas for maximum daylight use while managing glare.
- **Noise Levels:** Assess ambient sound to place quiet zones like practice halls away from traffic noise.
- **Access & Circulation:** Study vehicular and pedestrian entry points, drop-off zones, and parking locations.

- **Vegetation:** Identify existing green elements to retain or incorporate into landscape design for shade and aesthetics.

Neighborhood Context:

- **Cultural Influence:** Examine nearby institutions (art schools, theatres, music academies), cultural demographics, and heritage value.
- **Educational Institutions:** Proximity to universities or music/dance schools for collaborative programs.
- **Public Infrastructure:** Access to public transit, connectivity with civic spaces (like plazas, libraries, galleries), and urban visibility.

SWOT Analysis:

- **Strengths:** Cultural richness of site, visibility, community interest
- **Weaknesses:** Site constraints, budget limitations, traffic noise
- **Opportunities:** Collaborations with local artists, public engagement, tourism attraction
- **Threats:** Urban sprawl, zoning restrictions, environmental impacts

3. Conceptual Design at Master Plan Level

C1 – Concept Derivation:

- Inspired by the rhythm, flow, and dynamism of performing arts.
- Narrative design approach representing **journeys of creativity**, **cultural expression**, and **audience interaction**.
- Blends **traditional and contemporary forms** to reflect evolving art forms.

C2 – Master Plan Development:

- **Site-responsive Planning:**
  - Orientation aligned for optimal acoustic insulation and performer comfort.
  - Wind and sun studies used to shape amphitheaters, lobby openings, and rehearsal wings.
- **Zoning Logic:**
  - Clear separation of **public zones** (auditorium, café, lobby) and **private/technical zones** (green rooms, control rooms, service cores).
- **Landscape Integration:**
  - Open-air performance courts, art walkways, sculpture zones.
  - Fluid outdoor-to-indoor transition with green rooms facing courtyards or water bodies.

C3 – Program Finalization:

- **Key Components:**
  - **Main Auditorium(s):** Classical + Contemporary performance halls with varied seating capacities.
  - **Black Box Theatre:** Flexible space for experimental performances.
  - **Rehearsal Studios:** For music, dance, and theatre with acoustic treatment.
  - **Workshops/Studios:** Set design, costume making, sound production.
  - **Public Amenities:**
- Grand foyer, café/bookstore, exhibition areas.
- Multipurpose rooms for community interaction and lectures.
  - **Support Facilities:**

- Green rooms, technical booths, control rooms, storage.
- Admin offices, ticketing, security, maintenance areas.
- **Educational Spaces:**
- Classrooms for training programs, archive/library on performing arts.
- Media lab or digital performance zone.

4. Single Line Design (Performing Arts Center)

- **Zoning and Massing:**
    - Block-level schematic planning includes **performance zones**, **rehearsal clusters**, **public gathering spaces**, **open plazas**, and **sculptural forecourts**.
    - Light wells, acoustic buffer zones, and landscaped spill-out areas positioned based on sun path and wind analysis.
    - Site response explored through:
        - **Form orientation** for optimal audience flow
        - **Access control** between public, performer, and service entries
        - **Buffer zones** between high-noise and contemplative spaces
- **Drawings & Models:**
    - **Master Plan and Zoning** at 1:500 scale
    - **Preliminary Massing & Layouts** at 1:200 to define:
        - Performance halls vs. backstage/support spaces
        - Hierarchical courtyards or terraces
    - **Schematic Sections** at 1:50 to explore:
        - Double-height foyer and lobby volumes
        - Fly tower and stage height studies
        - Natural and artificial lighting integration (daylight chimneys, glare control)

5. Double Line Design (Performing Arts Center)

- **D1 – Structural Layout:**
    - Structural grid aligned with **auditorium span requirements** and column-free viewing zones.
    - Basic slab system adjusted for acoustically sensitive areas (floating floors, vibration control).
- **D2 – Floor Plan Development:**
    - Detailed floor plans at **1:100 or 1:50**, including:
        - Seating layouts (main hall, experimental theatre)
        - Movement flows for audience, performers, staff
        - Stage access and technical room positioning
    - **Furniture Layouts:**
        - Cafe, rehearsal studios, green rooms, administrative offices
    - **Service Integration:**
        - Lighting slots for stage and ambient lighting
        - HVAC ducts, rigging systems, acoustic ceiling treatments
        - Sprinkler, AV cabling, and backstage logistics corridors
- **Sections & Elevations:**
    - Study of **external façade treatments:**
        - Materiality with sound-reflective or absorbent finishes
        - Use of **perforated panels**, kinetic facades, or cultural motifs
    - Interior sections exploring **layered acoustic treatments**, gallery walls for visual arts integration, and **lighting variation zones**

6. Building Services Detail

7. 3D Modelling

- **Architectural Form Development:**
  - Variation in rooflines for different halls (fly tower, rehearsal studio volumes, outdoor amphitheater canopies)
- **Integration of Spatial Features:**
  - **Void manipulation** for dramatic lobbies and interaction spaces
  - **Daylight chimneys and skylights** in rehearsal or public transition zones
  - **Material layering and textures** for acoustic identity and visual richness (e.g., timber baffles, stone/terracotta cladding, fabric panels)

8. Mock Viva

- Presentation of concept, research, schematic models, and primary drawings for critique
- Feedback recorded and integrated into refinement process

9. Final Presentation Sheets

- Full drawing set including:
  - Master Plan, Floor Plans, Sections, Elevations
  - Concept Diagrams, Exploded Axons
  - Lighting and Material Boards
  - Daylight & Lux Simulation Data (optional)

10. Physical Models

- **Site Model:** Context integration at 1:500
- **Sectional/Massing Model:** Highlighting circulation or daylight strategy
- **Detailed Interior Model** (optional): Showing one gallery with exhibit lighting

1.7 Final Design Presentation

A final set of drawings is produced, including:

1. Site Analysis Sheet – A2 Sheet
2. Concept sheet - A2 Sheet explaining the design process & methodology adopted
3. Master Plan – A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500
4. Site Plan showing entire development and adjacent sites A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:500
5. All Floor plans and sections of Focus area building A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:200
6. Elevations and Site sections of total development A1 Sheet | Scale: 1:100
7. Elevations of Focus area (1:100)
8. Detailed Simulation Lighting Analysis
9. Massing, Detailed 3D model / perspectives of significant spaces of the proposed building.
10. Approach views of the total Zoning.

1.8 Project Schedule

S.No.	Stage	Tentative Dates
1	Date of Introduction	10.07.2025
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1.9 Evaluation stages and submission requirements:

S.No.	Stage	Deliverables	Tentative Dates	Marks
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14	Final Presentation- Drawing sheets	Printed sheet (pin up review)	04.11.2025	20
15	Physical Model		04.11.2025	10
			Total	100

(Note: All above evaluation stages require scaled drawing and model to explain your ideas/ design. The review or valuation will be done only on the specified dates/ schedules assigned to the specified Groups. In all the above mentioned evaluation stages, both individual and group marking is given.)

Course Faculty HOD