



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

# WRITING (ALONGSIDE) ARCHITECTURE

12 July-25 August 2023

**CPP** | CEPT  
UNIVERSITY

# CEPT PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

CEPT Professional Program (CPP) aims to bridge the gap between academics, practice, policy-making, and implementation through short certificate programs. The mission of CPP is to support individual and organizational learning by creating opportunities to acquire new skills and capabilities, thus allowing professionals to stay relevant in the current knowledge based global context. It will achieve this by offering professional development, continuing education, and up-skilling opportunities for professionals and in-service persons across disciplines concerned with urban development and the built habitat.

CPP draws from the expertise and capacity of the accomplished faculty at CEPT University, enhanced further by experts and practitioners from the field. Its programs are built on deep research, vast consultancy projects and innovative pedagogies. CPP offers a repertoire of short programs and topic focused programs across disciplines of architecture, design, planning, and management with immersive learning approaches combining interactive lectures, case studies, and peer-to-peer exchanges.

# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Writing (alongside) Architecture is a seven-week-long live virtual program, designed for young professionals from a variety of backgrounds, who aspire to develop their skills in non-academic architectural writing.

The program offers participants the chance to collaborate with established writers who share similar interests. Through reading-based discussions and practical strategies, participants will refine their writing skills and explore their individual writing styles. The program's tutors, who are both architects and writers, will provide valuable feedback on their writing. The aim is to help build writing skills without interrupting participants' other professional pursuits.

The primary goal of the program is to foster a culture of architectural thought and theory that is open and accessible to a wider audience. The program emphasizes the potential of different writing genres and styles to engage with the public and contribute to larger public discourses.

# 1

## PREMISE

If writing, not unlike the process of design, entails telling a good story – in a variety of genres – the act of telling this story does not stop with understanding what gives body and flow to a narrative. It interweaves the analytical, experiential, dialogic act of reading and entering into conversations around writing, with the careful yet playful act of writing through which one's own style evolves. It draws on moments of clarity, when a thought sits just right, ready to be framed into a text that speaks with sharpness and beauty, just as much as it draws on the almost compulsive craft of looking at how words sit side by side on the page, how syntax builds rhythm or slows breathing down.

Hyped though it may be as a solitary endeavour, writing of this kind need not be an isolated, isolating process. It gains nuance and richness from dialogue, from a shared sense of purpose, from gentle critique and discussion, and from a sense of accountability to an invested readership which ultimately builds a cohort of writers who can support each other, maybe even a community. This is what forms the ethics of the program, and what anchors its pedagogy.

## 2

# PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program is designed as a hybrid virtual format that combines interactive expert lectures with a writing workshop model. It consists of two parallel but interrelated components:

**A**

## DIALOGUES WITH WRITERS



The dialogues and engagement with eminent writers start from a carefully curated selection of their texts on architecture. These function as an anchor for a discussion that allows the participants to learn from their experience and insight, but also to develop the ability to read a text paying close attention to the cogs and wheels that make it work.

**B**

## DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL TEXT

Side by side with the dialogues, and drawing on the reflections they engender, the participants will articulate in the context of their own work what makes for a good piece of writing, and they will experiment with different ways of giving shape to their voice.

Working on multiple drafts, supported by collective critique and individual detailed feedback will allow each participant to gain clarity on their individual writing process and focus on aspects of structure, internal logic, register, style, and flow, as a way to develop techniques that can strengthen the writer's intention.

### 3

## OUTCOME

Each participant will submit a 500-word abstract indicating what they intend to work on during the program. This could be a new text, or it could take off from their existing work.

During the program, each participant will work on two drafts of the text they will eventually produce : a 1500 word-long piece of popular/ journalistic writing\*. Each participant will receive detailed feedback for the abstract and each of the drafts, addressing different aspects of writing, from articulating a theme/ argument, to structuring a text and selecting the right narrative strategies, to nuances of register and style. By the end of the program, each participant will submit a final draft of the text they worked on. Submission of each draft is mandatory for the successful completion of the program.

The successful outputs of the program will be compiled in an online publication, which will be uploaded to the CEPT Professional Program website, along with a note of the pedagogical processes and overviews of the dialogues.

*\* Please note that the program will not work with academic research and papers intended for publication in peer-reviewed journals, since these entail a different process and style.*

*\*\* Participants will receive a certificate from CEPT University on successful completion of the program.*

## 4

## SCHEDULE

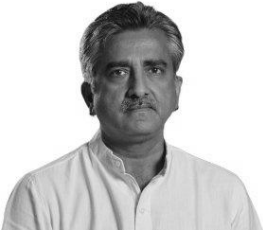
\*The sessions will be scheduled at 7:00-9:00 pm IST

W1		Su	<b>Submission of abstracts (500 words)</b>
	S1	W	<b>Introductory Session</b>
	S2	Th	Individual Feedback (Abstract)
	S3	F	Individual Feedback (Abstract)
W2		Su	
	S4	W	<b>EXPERT LECTURE 1</b>
		Th	
	S5	F	<b>EXPERT LECTURE 2</b>
W3		Su	<b>Submission of Draft 1 (1500 words)</b>
	S6	W	Individual Feedback (Draft 1)
	S7	Th	Individual Feedback (Draft 1)
	S8	F	<b>EXPERT LECTURE 3</b>
W4		Su	
	S9	W	<b>EXPERT LECTURE 4</b>
		Th	
	S10	F	<b>EXPERT LECTURE 5</b>
W5		Su	<b>Submission of Draft 2 (1500 words)</b>
	S11	W	Individual Feedback (Draft 2)
	S12	Th	Individual Feedback (Draft 2)
	S13	F	<b>EXPERT LECTURE 6</b>
W6		Su	
		W	
		Th	
	S14	F	<b>Closing Session</b>
W7		Su	<b>FINAL SUBMISSION ( 1500 words)</b>
		W	Selection of work/ edits / graphic design
		Th	Selection of work/ edits / graphic design
		F	Selection of work/ edits / graphic design

\*The detailed timeline of the sessions will be shared before the commencement of the program..

## 5

## PROGRAM TUTORS



**A. Srivathsan**  
Program Tutor

A. Srivathsan is an architect and urban designer, and currently heads the Centre for Research on Architecture and Urbanism, CEPT University. Previously, he was the Academic Director of the University, taught for many years, and worked as a senior journalist. His research and writings include themes of Indian cities and contemporary architectural practices. His recent works include 'The long-arc history of Chennai's unaffordable housing' and the co-edited book titled 'The Contemporary Hindu Temple- Fragments for a History.'



**Catrinel Dunca**  
Program Tutor

Catrinel is a queer trans\* feminist writer and avid reader engaging with both theoretical and action-oriented research, using intersectional queer feminist frameworks. Their interests lie in queer-trans\* re-orientations towards law and citizenship; in the politics of pedagogical practices, and in speculative-futuristic narratives evolving from activist spaces.

Catrinel has taught courses on gender and queer studies, narrative and critical theory at St. Xavier's College, and NID, Ahmedabad and has designed writing courses for students of disciplines of the built environment at CEPT University. They are presently setting up the writing centre at CEPT.



**Sebastián Trujillo-Torres**  
Program Tutor

Sebastián is a designer, researcher, and lecturer that works between Colombia and India.

He is the co-founder of Chaal.Chaal.Agency; a design-research collaborative project that specializes in experimental infrastructures, community engagement processes, and public pedagogy. Aside from authoring 'The Fourth Geography: Mappings of Colombian Architecture outside Colombia', as well as other essays published in different journals, he is the recipient of the 2022 DXD-Sanskriti Fellowship, and currently the program coordinator of the CEPT Master Class.



## 6

## INVITED EXPERTS

**Annapurna Garimella**

Annapurna Garimella is an art historian and a designer. Her research focuses on late medieval Indic architecture and the history and practices of vernacular visual and built cultures in India after Independence. Garimella is the Managing Trustee of Art, Resources and Teaching Trust, a not-for-profit organization, which has a research library dedicated to art, architecture, design and craft histories, conducts independent research projects and does teaching and advisement for college and university students and the general public. She also heads Jackfruit Research and Design, an organization with a specialized portfolio of design, research and curation. Jackfruit's recent curatorial projects include Vernacular, in the Contemporary (Devi Art Foundation, New Delhi 2010-11) and Mutable: Ceramic and Clay Art in India Since 1947 (Piramal Museum of Art, 2017) and Barefoot School of Craft in Goa (Serendipity Arts Festival, 2017-18). Her newest books are the co-edited Marg volume titled The Contemporary Hindu Temple: Fragments for a History (2019) and The Long Arc of South Asian Art: A Reader in Honor of Vidya Dehejia (Women Unlimited, 2022). Digesting the Past: The Discourse of Sacralized Architectural Renovation in Southern India (14th-17th Centuries) is her book manuscript under preparation.



### **Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi**

Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi is an architectural historian at Barnard College, Columbia University. Her work centers African and South Asian questions of historicity and archives, heritage politics, and feminist and colonial practices. Alongside *Architecture of Migration: The Dadaab Refugee Camps and Humanitarian Settlement* (Duke University Press, forthcoming), she is completing a book manuscript tentatively titled *A Modern Architecture of the Past*, which examines heritage politics in South Asia, in part through the feminist and environmental work of Minnette de Silva (1918–1998), a theorist of an Asian modern architecture and one of the first women in the world to establish a professional architectural practice as sole principal (in 1947 Ceylon). Siddiqi edited “Architecture as a Form of Knowledge” in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* (CSSAAME). She co-edited “Feminist Architectural Histories of Migration” on the open-access platforms *Architecture Beyond Europe*, Canadian Centre for Architecture, and *Aggregate*; as well as *Spatial Violence* (Routledge, 2019). She directs the Columbia University Center for the Study of Social Difference working group *Insurgent Domesticities* and co-chairs the University Seminar, *Studies in Contemporary Africa*.

## 6

## INVITED EXPERTS

**Avni Sethi**

Avni Sethi is an interdisciplinary practitioner with her primary concerns lying between cultures of violence, memory, space and the body. She conceptualized and designed, the Conflictorium, a Museum of Conflict ([www.conflictorium.org](http://www.conflictorium.org)) in Ahmedabad and Raipur city and Mehnat Manzil ([www.mehnatmanzil.org](http://www.mehnatmanzil.org)), a Museum of work situated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat in 2013, 2022 and 2019 respectively.

She has been writing and speaking about the potential of small museums as a holding space for social justice processes and the necessity of building care based ecosystems.

Trained in multiple dance idioms, her performances are largely inspired by syncretic faith traditions and sites of contested narratives. She has been continually interested in exploring the relationship between intimate audiences and the performing body. She is currently nurturing 'Ordo Performance Collaboratory' ([www.ordocollaboratory.com](http://www.ordocollaboratory.com)), a studio space that focuses on performance based experimentations.

She is the recipient of the Jane Lombard Prize for Art and Social Justice 2020-2022 by the Vera List Centre for Art and Politics. She currently lives and works in Ahmedabad, India.

**6****INVITED EXPERTS****Divya Subramanian**

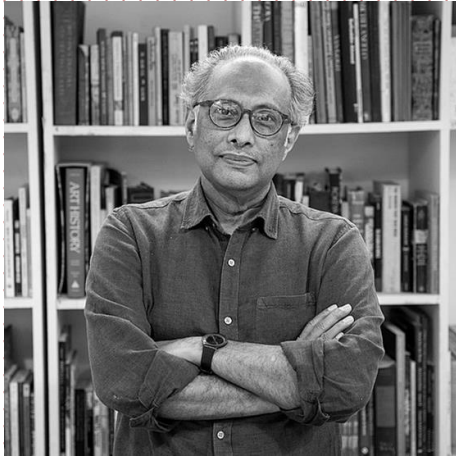
Divya Subramanian is a historian and writer based in Brooklyn.

Her scholarly work centers on modern Britain and South Asia, with a focus on race and migration, postcolonial urbanism, and architectures of development. Her current book project is a global history of the Townscape movement, a widely influential planning movement that emerged in 1940s Britain. The manuscript is based on her dissertation, which won the Anthony Sutcliffe Dissertation Award from the International Planning History Society and the Michael Katz Dissertation Award from the Urban History Association.

Her writing has appeared online in *The Atlantic*, *Dissent*, *The New Republic*, *the Nation*, and the *New York Review of Books*.

## 6

## INVITED EXPERTS

**Kazi Khaleed Ashraf**

Kazi Khaleed Ashraf is a Bangladeshi architect, urbanist and architectural historian. Writing from the intersection of architecture, landscape and the city, Ashraf has authored books and essays on architecture in India and Bangladesh, the work of Louis Kahn, and the city of Dhaka. His various writings on the architecture of Bangladesh have provided a theoretical ground for understanding both the historical and contemporary forms of architecture, while his written and design work on Dhaka advances that city as a "theorem" for understanding urbanism in a deltaic geography. Ashraf and contributing team received the Pierre Vago Journalism Award from the International Committee of Architectural Critics for the Architectural Design publication Made in India. He has also co-authored a number of publications with the architect Saif Ul Haque. Ashraf has recently established an international publication series called Locations: Anthology of Architecture and Urbanism that will present works and features from around the globe.



## Sarover Zaidi

Sarover Zaidi is a philosopher and a social anthropologist. She works at the intersections of critical theory, anthropology, art, architecture and material culture studies. She has extensively worked on religious architecture, and urbanism in the city of Bombay and currently co-runs a site on writing the city called Chiragh Dilli (<https://chiraghdilli.wordpress.com>).

Previously she has worked on rural development, with a focus on health, education, and women's rights across India, and currently works on religious iconography & modernist architecture in south Asia. She has received the Max Planck fellowship, the INTACH fellowship, the IFA fellowship and the Khoj fellowship for her research interests. Besides this she also curates an interdisciplinary forum on art, architecture and anthropology, 'Elementary forms' and has previously taught at the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. She volunteers at the Muslim Women's Forum for the past five years, and has recently been teaching at Sewagram, Wardha. She currently teaches at the Jindal School of Art and Architecture, Sonapat India.

# 7

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM

If you are a writer at the beginning of your career, interested in writing about architecture, this is in an opportunity to:

- interact with eminent South Asian contemporary writers within the field of architecture.
- reflect, based on textual engagement with published work and the work of the cohort, on the qualities that make for good writing.
- bring to a publication stage a specific non-academic text within the broad area of architecture writing.
- understand your unique voice as a writer, and strategies to scaffold it
- gain visibility through publication after the successful completion of the program (for selected participants).

# 8

## APPLICATION DETAILS

To apply for this program, participant will need to fulfil the following eligibility criteria

- Undergraduate/Graduate Diploma\*.
- Proof of professional experience of minimum 1 year.
- 1 writing sample authored by the prospective participant.
- The participants will be selected based on the nature of the sample text submitted.
- Limited Seats. Seats will be allotted on a first come first serve basis. Admissions will be closed once all seats are full.

**Note:** Participants will be asked to submit a 500-word abstract of the piece they will be working on once they are selected, prior to the beginning of program.

- ***Although the program is partly oriented towards young architects, it will be also open to interested artists, journalists, designers, and so on.***







CEPT Professional Programs  
CEPT University

Kasturbhai Lalbhai Campus  
University Road, Navrangpura  
Ahmedabad-380009, Gujarat, India.

 [cpp@cept.ac.in](mailto:cpp@cept.ac.in)

 [cpp.cept.ac.in](http://cpp.cept.ac.in)

 [@cpp.cept](https://www.instagram.com/cpp.cept)

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