





Designer-Makers / Fashioning Fashion

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Globally, more designers are painstakingly hand-crafting their products. Our post-industrial culture craves the non-mechanized, and such designer-makers are in great demand.

As a concept, the designer-maker is not new. Prior to industrialization, craftspeople were designer-makers by default since localized markets kept them involved with the product from conception to sale. During and after the Industrial Revolution, mainstream products began to be designed by designers, and produced by machines, or by industrial craftspeople. However, even when most other forms of production were mechanized, the finest products in fashion and textile continued to be those that were handmade.

Scandinavian textile designer-makers carved a niche for themselves in the midst of Industrialization and Modernist Movement, while couture stayed custommade and bespoke.

Recognizing this fact, the Kala Raksha Vidhyalaya(KRV) in Kutch aims to equip traditional craftspeople with design skills, thereby enabling them to keep their craft dynamic, while maintaining continuity with their cultural capital.

ne such designer-craftsperson is Irfan Khatri. The Khatri community of textile artisans, best known for ajrakh printing, is also skilled in bandhini and batik. They traditionally produced value-added textiles for neighbouring non-artisan communities— such as ajrakhprinted lungis and turbans for the men of the Sindhi community, and saris for women of the Patel community in East Kutch.



Six years ago, Ishmail Khatri—

a well-respected member of the community—convinced Irfan to enrol at KRV. Irfan was familiar with design development through design workshops, and assumed that the year-long course would follow a similar format. Instead, he found that his course required him to design, and equipped him to do so through inputs in colour, marketing and display. The students explored different materials like viscose, silk and cotton and a variety of different expressions of their technique. These inputs culminated in his own collection, which won him accolades as being 'most marketable'.

Today, Irfan encourages other artisans to take the course, and make the transition from artisan to designer-maker. He says that the course equipped him to develop new designs for new markets, and allowed him to open up to new experiences. He now creates designs based on traditional and contemporary colour palettes while staying true to his roots. His craft has now become dynamic. When he goes for exhibitions, he takes something away from each of them—he feels he learns far more than he did before the course.

Irfan firmly believes he is first a craftsperson and then designer. He says, "I don't compare myself with regular designers. They study in structured courses. They learn designs with applications in many textile fields. I am an artisan-designer, which means I'm a traditional artisan with modern design knowledge. I apply my design knowledge within my craft only. So, I visualize the design within the context of my craft only.'

Irfan feels his niche is his craft. While designers need craftspeople to actualize their creations, his edge is hands-on innovation—he can now create new products independently. Khatri says, "Design knowledge and sense helps us to survive in changing markets, through innovations within our traditions."

Irfan's products combine the crafts that are indigenous to his community. These contemporary products still have a strong craft sensibility, and are getting a fantastic response from the market. Commercial viability is essential for craft to survive—something that is of utmost importance to Irfan, who learned at KRV the importance of sustaining his tradition. Interestingly, KRV also opened up Irfan's mind to the possibility of other communities picking up the craft. In his workshop, Dalits work alongside Khatris to meet orders.

Meanwhile, Irfan uploads his products on Facebook, and takes orders as well. He speaks good English, which he picked up by speaking with the hordes of tourists and development workers who visited Kutch after the 2001 earthquake, and further honed by speaking with his foreign teachers at KRV. He expands his vocabulary by referring to his dictionary, and chatting with clients who want to order his stoles and scarves.

As an articulate designer who retains the charm of a craftsperson, Irfan impresses with his creativity and depth of knowledge. A symbol of things to come, Irfan is an inspiration to his community, who he hopes will prove to be a force to be reckoned with in the fashion world.











Fashion Makers Of Tomorrow

As always, fashion offers plenty of space to young talent for creation. In the fashion industry it is always spring and there is always a crop of budding new talent, finding and creating connections and keeping all of us on our toes; Backstitch gives a sneak look and brings you some highlights of the upcoming fashion fete 'GABA', The Graduate Design Show. Slated for the 14th of July, 2012 the fashion extravaganza is sure to reveal a lot of young talent. Needless to say, GABA is all about creating a stepping stone for young designers looking to enter the fashion industry. The excitement is already on and we have jury members from the fashion industry sharing their experience on a recent visit to the Arch Academy of Design. Below are a few excerpts from our experts.

Pramod Yaday, Principal ATDC, Jaipur and incharge AEPC, sharing his feelings said that he highly appreciated the work profile of the students. He said "It's good that young talent has wide vision when it comes to theme, pattern, style, cuts and lots more. I was really attracted overall to the drape and finish of the garment. There was no way to tell that these clothes had originated from budding talent. Colour plays a major role in fashion designing and it takes long time to understand colour schemes enough to use them well, but here I got to see students who showed a sound base in handling colour. "

Kanupriya Jain, senior designer at 'Koelle Designs Pvt Ltd' felt that she got to see lot of hard work in each students' design. "I found the watermelon theme design well synchronized and attractive. The inspiration was transformed really well into a garment. Though some of the student creators lacked depth in research and industry exposure, overall their work was good, and their slightly fuzzy focus could be forgiven at this level."

Dema Mittal feels, "It was an excellent visit to the campus. I think students were good and they worked equally well."

Swaroop Dutta, said "I got feedback from Tarang, who was present at the campus. It seemed interesting, the collections were very good." Kunal Dutta, HOD for fashion at Arch feels, "With the change in time perception towards fashion has really changed. With so much of exposure I feel young talent is doing very well. Though they are less passionate, I must say, they do have a sound interest in creating."

He adds "The upcoming fashion event 'GABA' will unfold a series of surprises. We would get to see a huge variety of designs on the fashion ramp. The mixed blend of multi inspirational fashion only requires that you hold your breath and indulge."

Indrajeet Das, HOD for Jewelry at the Arch Academy says, "We are producing an exclusive bouquet of jewelry designers here. The youngsters are very passionate, especially about their collection stories. These stories have been very well narrated. I am very fascinated with the 'Krishna Leela' collection inspired by different Leela's of Shri Krishna and transformed into jewelry pieces. I also liked the Flora and Fauna collection; it included lot of flowers, leaves and lots more."

Talking about the ingredients of jewelry design, he says,

"Conceptualization is very essential while designing jewelry. Well, before coming up with any design one needs to know the market, target clientele, atmosphere and how to generate and use inspiration. Also, prototypes and presentation are very important to finally communicate about the product."

Abhishek Sand, a partner at Savio Jewelry feels, "While visiting the campus to judge the creations I really liked the fact that the budding designers were knowledgeably paying attention to the technical aspects





and a company was slowly getting smaller. I also liked the fact that each student had their own story to tell and no two ideas were similar." "I also appreciate the fact that these students are taught to design jewelry in accordance with change in price for instance - with the increase in the price of gold, jewelry gets a little lighter in weight but that neckpiece still covers the

entire neckline and price too isn't touchy. I was fascinated with the work of Vikas Soni. I feel that he has a very innovative ideas and has in-depth knowledge of jewelry design"

Designer Sunita Shekhawat says, "It's been approximately five years that I have been coming to Arch. I see a lot of difference in quality of design. This time I saw that implementation from concept and was very good. I travel and exhibit a lot and so I can judge what goes well and where. The young talent is doing very well and I must say I can see my city growing."

About the most exclusive collection, she said she really got taken up with Nikita's collection. "Great inspiration and excellent presentation."

"I think students are doing really well because of the exposure that they are getting. They have a lot of resources to create things beyond the general aspects. I really liked the fact that a lot of their inspirations are from overseas.







Organiser

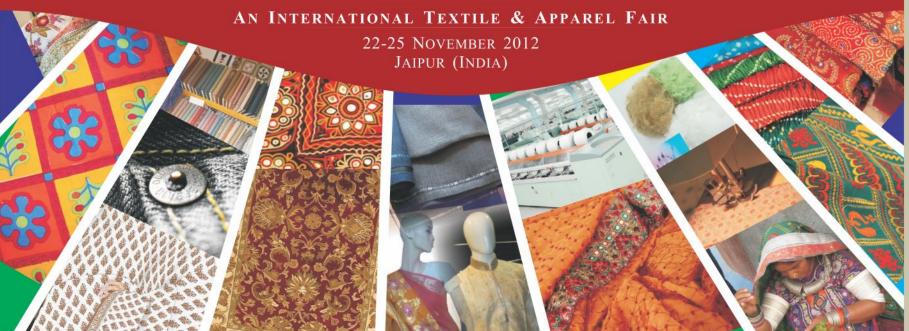












A complete Fibre to Fashion Fair

Exhibition Highlights

- First ever comprehensive international exhibition on Live demonstration of traditional textile crafts Textiles & Apparel in India
- More than 10000 sq. mtrs. exhibition area
- More than 500 exhibitors across entire textile value addition . chain - All Products from Fibre to Fashion, Made-ups, Accessories, Technical Textiles, Plant & Machineries, Technology, Dyes & Chemicals
- International participation
- · States' pavilions
- Fashion show, Business shows
- Fashion Designers & Studios

- · Concurrent conferences
- · Business & Networking opportunities
- International and Indian buyers and delegations
- Prefixed Buyer Seller Meets
- Participation by Government Agencies, R&D Labs / Training /Educational Institutions, Industry Associations
- · Infrastructure for Textiles industry
- Supporting facilities Business Centre / Lounge, Business Information Centre, Information Desk, Travel & Transport

Visitor Profile

- · Buyers, Users, Traders, Importers, Exporters of Products in Textiles and Apparel
- Existing Industry Players
- Fashion Designers
- · Builders, Interior Designers
- · Hotels, Hospitals & Institutional Buyers
- · Scientists, Consultants, Students
- Country and State delegations
- · Plant & Machinery Suppliers and Users
- · New Investors

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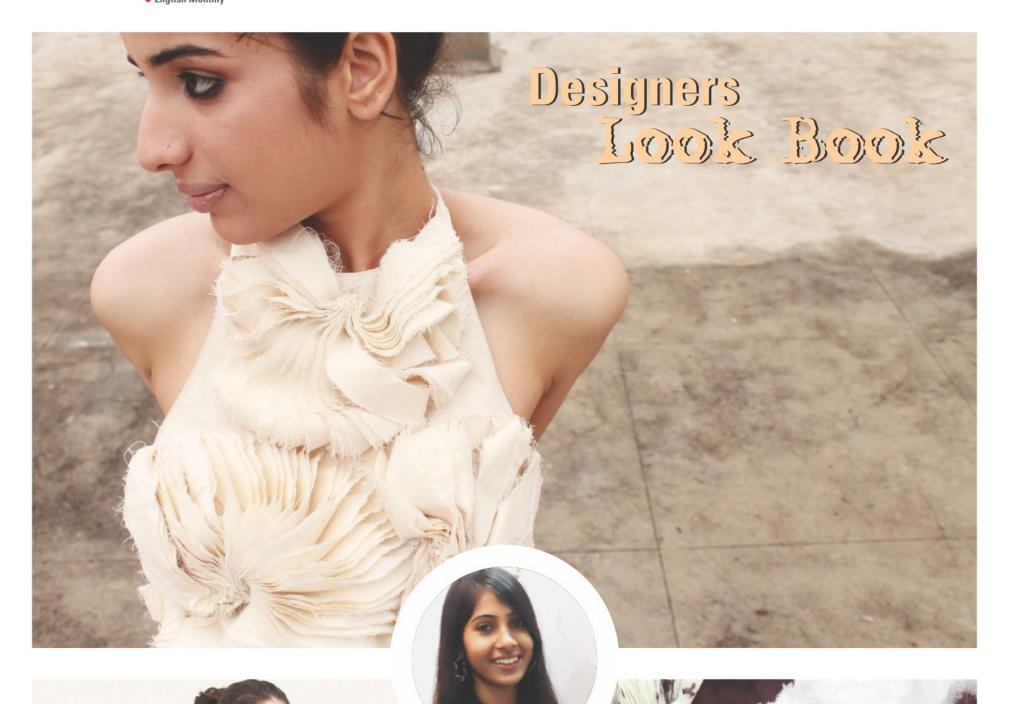














side to it at some point of time. Preeti's
Collection talks about how much pain
exists behind the formation of each life,
which we never would come across. In
this collection, she creates these emotions
through the characteristics of mushroom
and shows how they struggle and adapt
to their surroundings adjusting with their
surfaces and growth. Preeti's creation of
some extraordinary surfaces brings together
this collection as an avant-garde couture for
women and a new awakening to life.







Labhita Deka

They say it all

Labhita's inspiration are her own paintings which quite strongly express her emotions in abstraction. The best part about her work is the interaction of colors that come together in the process and create wonderful textures and surfaces. This is a Casual Wear Indian Collection, using hand-painted textiles, combined with variety of textile surface design techniques as Tie - Dye, Batik etc. The color palette brought forth is warm, deep and intimate yet calm amidst the chaos of abstraction. The abstraction, which becomes the key to Labhita's principle of Design.





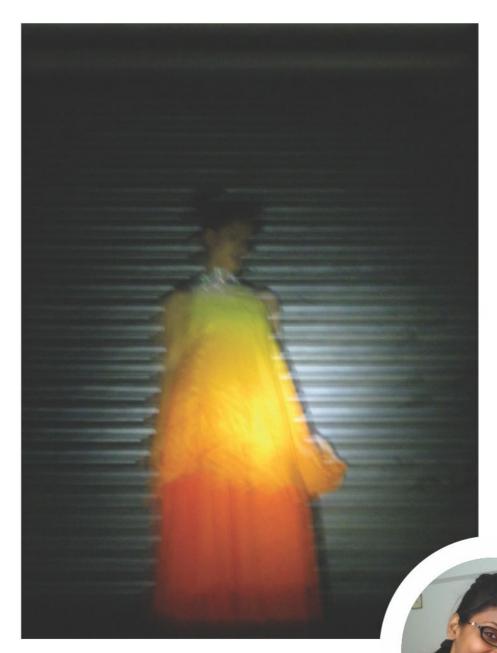














Diksha Srivastava

The Quirky Lens

The glamour of artificial lights and the play with it has been the inspiration behind Diksha's Collection. She has attempted to break in this speed and linearity that is the inherent propoerty of light, either in its natural or raw form. Diksha has created images out of her experimental works and digitally printed them on textile & put together an inspiring and emotive collection using a majority of man-made materials. This has been styled into a range of jazzy, glamorous clubwear for women.







Shivangi Natani

Uniformity in First Glance

Shivangi's concept is to show the first glance or first sight of the morning. As we see the early morning sight we encounter different colors and textures at that time which appeals to be fresh and soft. In this collection Shivangi plays with colors and created serene textures which depicts the mood of the morning in its different forms, giving freshness and positive energy to start a new day with all passion.

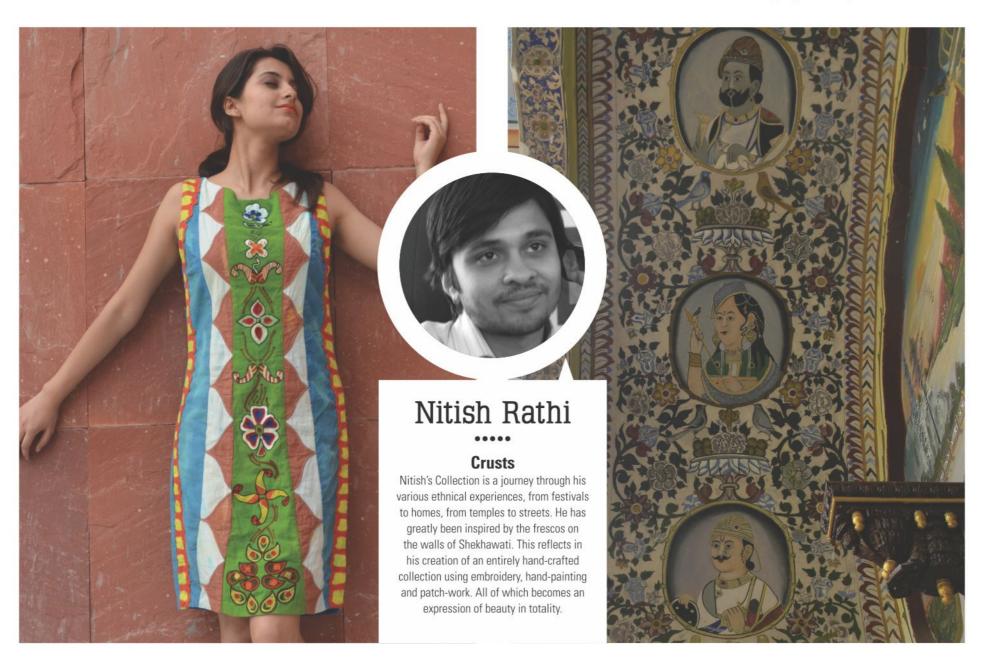






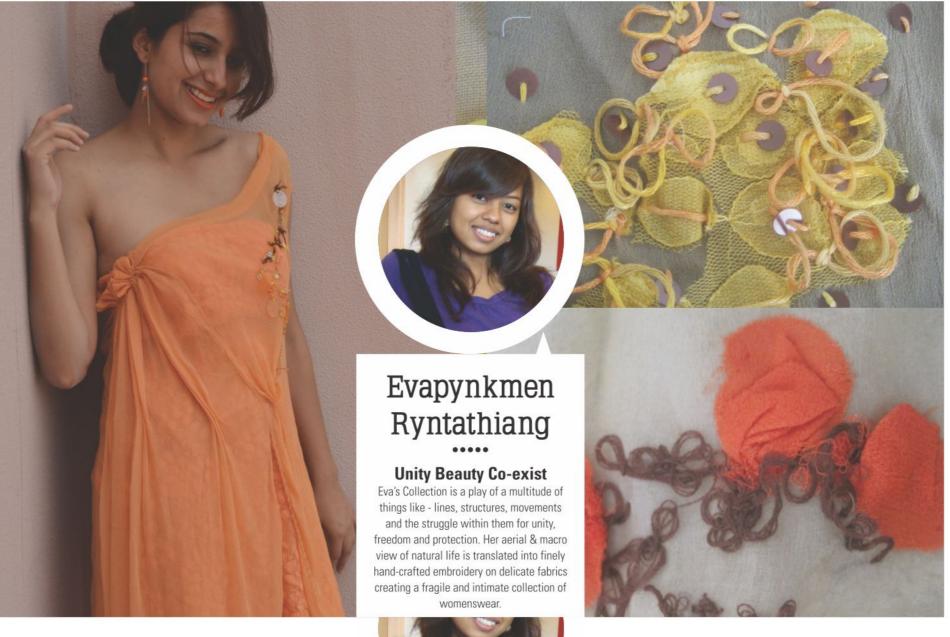
















Anuj Sharma's fashion is simple, understated and chic. A lot of his garments use minimal or no sewing, and invite the wearer to be creative by offering possibilities for endless silhouettes within the same original garment.

We asked Anuj about his journey and what design means to him, and this is what he had to say.

Unbuttoning Fashion Design

by Anuj Sharma

did my schooling in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. By the time I finished 12th standard, I had not even heard about word design. Design was never introduced as a subject or even as a word in schools in those days. And it's not taught or practiced even yet.

If one of my friends had not told me about NID, I wouldn't know what I would be doing now.

At NID, I was told design was problem solving but over the years I realised that problems are merely state of mind. Humans can create or define a completely perfect situation as a problem. So if there are no problems, design surely can't be problem solving.

My own, personal understanding of design has evolved over many years.

If I ask you, 'can wood fly?' most reasonable minds will say that it can't. But if I ask you, 'can wood float?' all of us will agree that it can and it does. But 2000 yrs back in a desert, man didn't know if wood could float. That doesn't mean that wood only started floating when humans found out about it. It always floated and will always float. Similarly wood can fly - it's just that we haven't yet explored it.

Design is not about creating. We do not come up with anything new, we merely see and explore what always existed. It is our ability to see what already exists makes us and makes us grow. Once we have explored, we tend to share. And the stories of explorations and discoveries of people have together helped us all grow. Design is about sharing stories but it's important that we share stories of failures as well as success.

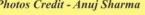
Design makes me smarter, because I realise that it's not about me. EGO is what kills design. In other words - the idea of 'I created, I designed, its MINE, somebody copied MY work or MY design' are some very common misconceptions in design. Giving up these notions will only make us be better as designers and eventually as humans.

Good design in today's time is about customisation and mass consumption. Industrialisation has made so many things available that most consumers spend more time shopping than consuming the product well or enjoying their purchase. This has made the common public move slowly and steadily away from a belief that 'I can design too'. And I feel that it is the biggest loss to the society by and large.

Complicated designs and non interactive design combined with fast pace supply and hysteric buying patterns have made most humans believe that design is what designers and only designers can do. I believe design is not a specialisation - it's the most common human ability. The belief that it doesn't exist in 99 percent of the people is my biggest concern today.

Therefore I try and make clothes that can be 'made' by every body. I want people to look at my garments and believe and have faith that they can do it too - a faith in ever existing quality to fight every day issues that floats in all of us.

Simple design produced with simple means and even simpler projection will resolve all the issues that we are facing today. Everybody needs to contribute equally. A handful of people with design degrees in suitcases will only complicate current scenario.















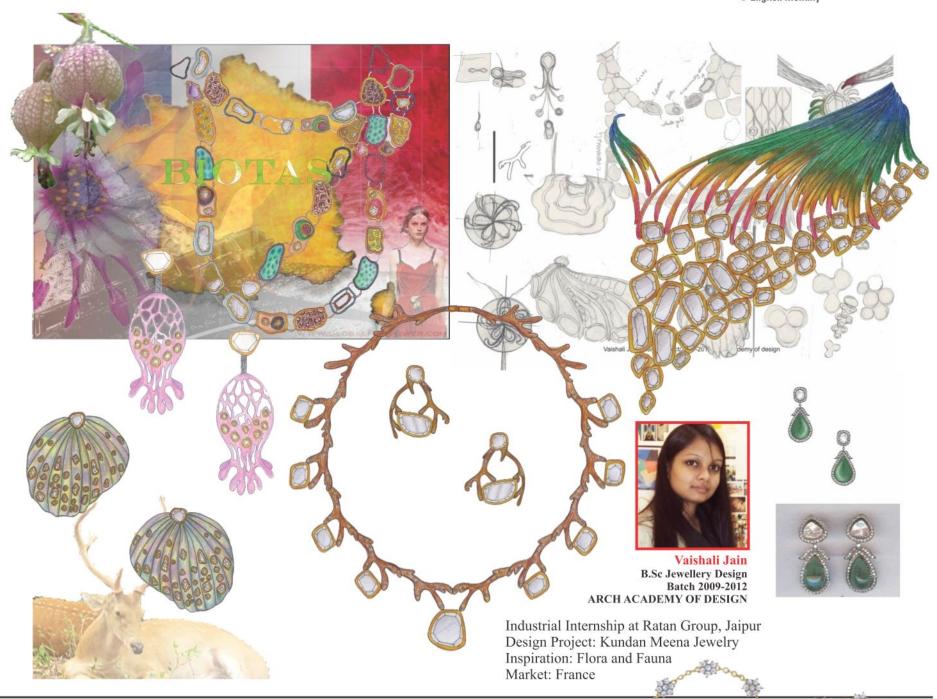


Market: Mumbai/Italy

SONAL SAWANSUKHA

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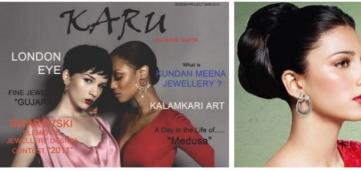












Rupal Gupta B.Sc Jewellery Design Batch of 2009-2012 ARCH ACADEMY OF DESIGN

Industrial internship at Sunita Shekhawat, Jaipur Design Project: Kundan Meena Jewelry Inspiration: Kalamkari, Andhrapradesh Market: Hyderabad





the fashion extravaganza, full of glitz & glamour, with Super Models & Designers

all set to showcase mesmerizing Collections,













Aanchal

Rajeev

Olga

Somana

14th July

Graduate Fashion Show

7.30 p.m. onwards

Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur

Shri Babu Lal Nagar Chief Guest

State Minister Khadi & Rural Industries, Dairy

Shri Rajendra Bhanawat Managing Director, RIICO

Guests of Honor Ms Azzah Aldeghather Ms Wasan Al Hijazi

Shri Rajiv Arora

Special Guest

Commodore Vijay Chaturvedi

16th July

10:00 am to 01:00 pm

Orientation Session For New Entrants

17th July

09:00 am to 05:00 pm

Jaipur City Tour for New Students

18th July

12:00 noon to 01:30 pm

Effect & Effectiveness of Design Education

Panel discussion

- Yunus Khimani, Director, City Palace Musuem
- Madhurima Patni, Design Consultant
- · Vikram Joshi, CEO, Rangotri
- · Dileep Baid, CEO, Dileep
- · Dheeraj Kumar, Principal, IIGJ
- · Sonal Sawan Sukha, Jewelry Designer
- · Prof. Chinmay Mehta, Muralist & Design Curator

Program Showcase

Graduate

02:00 pm to 05:00 pm **Theater Workshop** by Chandra Deep Hada

19th July

09:00 am to 12:00 pm

Presentations by Arch Alumni & Senior Students

02:00 pm to 05:00 pm

Workshop on Mood Board Making

by Indrajit Das

20th July

09:00 am to 01:00 pm Cine - Madnessss

~ a perspective on world cinema by Nandan Ghiya

03:00 pm onwards

Meet Writer & Film Director **Ekta Kapoor**

21st July

07:00 pm onwards

Farewell Party For Seniors

Arch Campus,

Malviya Nagar, Jaipur. 10 am to 6 pm from 16-21 July







12 Week

14th > 21st July 2012

10:00 am to 6.00 pm



















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