



GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS STUDIES
(CGBS)

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
PROGRAM (IEP) - 2018
(ARCHITECTURE)
I week - June 1'18 to June 10'18

AT



UNIVERSITY OF ARCHITECTURE, CIVIL
ENGINEERING AND GEODESY (UACEG),
SOFIA - BULGARIA

INTRODUCTION:

International Experience Program abbreviated as IEP is a step forward from GTU in the direction of becoming an “International Innovative University”. The program was initiated in 2011. Currently IEP is one of the largest student mobility programs offered by the technological universities of India.

Since the inception of the program, more than 1500 students have been benefited through IEP. GTU has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with more than 30 renowned universities of USA, Canada, Europe, Russia, Asia and Africa and now Europe. GTU students go for studies to the foreign universities for 6 to 8 weeks during the summer. It is a comprehensive international experience program designed exclusively for GTU students across the branches of Engineering, Management (MBA), Pharmacy and Computer Science (MCA) with a constant progress towards making sure that it gradually expands to all the other departments of the University.

This year marks another such progressive step forward for Gujarat Technological University as the University has been successful in adding Architecture in the International Experience Program- 2018. Under this, students of final year of Bachelor’s of Architecture were sent to the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy(UACEG). UACEG is situated in Sofia - the capital city of an Eastern European country - BULGARIA.



A group of 19 students departed from Ahmedabad to Sofia, Bulgaria via Qatar. A 9-hour long journey of excitement, anxieties and anticipation finished in no time. Greeted by a very warm and comforting lady, Ms. Rayna.

We were taken to our accomodation immediately after landing in Sofia. Our mentor, Prof. Shweta Mistry, was to join us later on the June 11th’ 2018.

SOFIA, BULGARIA:

Sofia is the capital and largest city of Bulgaria. 1.3 million people live in the city and 1.7 million people live in its metropolitan area. The city is at the foot of Vitosha Mountain in the western part of the country. Being in the centre of the Balkan peninsula, it is midway between the Black Sea and the Adriatic Sea, and closest to the Aegean Sea.

Being Bulgaria's primate city, Sofia is a hometown of many of the major local universities, cultural institutions and commercial companies. Sofia is one of the top 10 best places for start-up business in the world, especially in information technologies. Sofia was Europe's most affordable capital to visit in 2013.

CLIMATE:

We were all glad that we were visiting Bulgaria in summers as winters are relatively cold and snowy, temperature dropping down below -15 degree Celsius in January.

Summers are very warm and sunny with unexpected rain at odd times making the temperature drop enough to make us all wear jackets, sweatshirt, etc. Its advisable to carry an umbrella all the times and so we did.

In summer, the city generally remains slightly cooler than other parts of Bulgaria, due to its higher altitude. However, the city is also subjected to heat waves with high temperatures reaching or exceeding 35 °C in the hottest days, particularly in July and August.



ACCOMMODATION:

We were given accommodation at one of the University hostel blocks. A common hostel for both- girls and boys, located at a very vibrant student area called - Strudent-ski grad, with all the shops/supermarkets/cafeterias, etc. at a walkable distance from the hostel block.

We were all given triple sharing rooms with attached toilets, 3 sets of table and chair, wardrobes and racks with small cupboards. Rooms were neat and clean, spacious enough of 3 people, well lit and well ventilated.

Every once in a week, the rooms were cleaned by the hostel authorities, linens were changed and soaps were replaced.

As for laundry was concerned, it was also at a walkable distance and at an extremely affordable prices.

We didn't have Wi-Fi facility in the hostel, but we all had bought our sim-cards, and also, all the cafeterias near the hostels had Wi-Fi facilities.



FOOD:

It was very different experience for us when it came to food. We were served all the three meals of the day - breakfast, lunch and dinner at the College canteen, with a special dining area allocated specially for us.

There were wide variety of salads and sweet dishes served everyday, all the three times with a lot of varieties of fruit juices served with food. Butter and different types of cheese variety were also an important part of the meals.

The cook and the canteen staff were extremely cooperative with us and would change the menu to fit our requirements. They also tasted our Indian snacks that we would offer them, and tried to analyze the taste, and would try to achieve that taste in what they cooked for us everyday.



EXPLORING PLACES IN SOFIA:

As soon as we landed in Sofia, the very next day we were taken on a walking tour to explore Sofia city. We were all too excited for the same. We went to see the important architectural monuments of the city, the gardens, the main shopping streets, etc. It was a guided tour and accompanied with us were Rayna ma'am with one of the guides.

ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY CATHEDRAL

The St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral is a Bulgarian Orthodox cathedral in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Built in Neo-Byzantine style, it serves as the cathedral church of the Patriarch of Bulgaria and it is one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world, as well as one of Sofia's symbols and primary tourist attractions. We were all in the awe of the place after looking at the interiors of the Cathedral.



VITOSHA STREET

Vitosha Boulevard is the main commercial street in the centre of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. It extends from the St Nedelya Square to the Southern Park. The boulevard is named after Vitosha, the mountain just next to Sofia. It was an unadjusted street during the Ottoman rule of Bulgaria and acquired the name Vitoshka ulitsa ("Vitosha Street") after the Liberation, in 1883. The street was initially built up with low one-storey houses, but turned into an imposing trade street in the Interwar period as massive public buildings were constructed, changing Vitosha's appearance completely. The street is always crowded with people, there are people giving musical and dance performances in the evening, keeping the street live all the time.



THE UNIVERSITY - UACEG, Bulgaria

The University campus is very lively, with three major departments i.e Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, all in one campus. This allows interaction between students of different departments and hence, allows possibility of a next level of exploration which helps the students of all discipline. We were really impressed to this.

As for the infrastructure of the University, Everything necessary for an Architecture students was all there in the campus - many stationary shops, printing/plotting shops, a bank, coffee vending machines at every other corner, 3D printing workshop, Laser cutting workshop, a main canteen, many smaller eating kiosks etc. which is very impressive for most of us.

Here, at UACEG, all of us are required to study 2 subjects from our curriculum:

1. Architectural Research Program
2. Advance Computer Application

which, started from Monday i.e. 4th June'2018.



LEARNING - Lecture rooms and the Tutors:

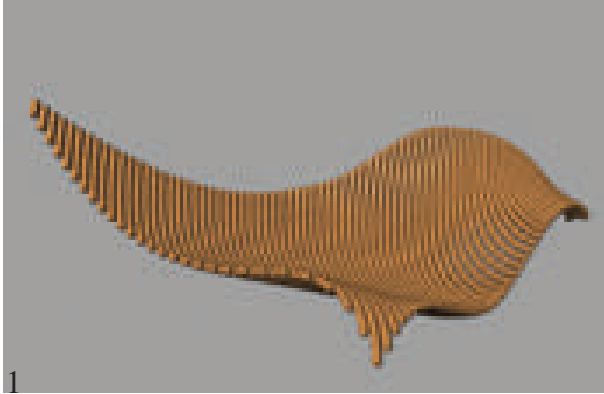
The Lecture rooms are all big enough, well lit and well ventilated. We never required to put on extra lights when in Lecture rooms. Also, one surprising thing about this country is that we did not witness any fans any where!! All the areas had Wi-Fi, may that be a workshop or lecture rooms which helped us a lot in preparing our projects as we were required to research a lot. All the lecture rooms had many extension boards, allowing all of us to work comfortably at any corner of the rooms.

All our tutors are extremely supportive and encouraging. Available to us as many time as we call them, they force us to think beyond our capacities which made our projects all the way more challenging and involved a lot of research and thought process in it. Extremely friendly and polite, they sure make sure that we week, and then improved our work everyday by trying new methods for the same thing.

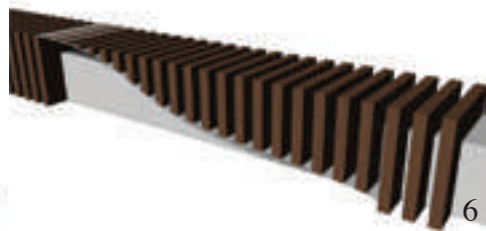


SUBMISSION- Completion of project at the end of First week:

Students were required to come up with innovative ideas for designing a bench, understanding the flexibility and limitations of Rhino.



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Priyansh
5. Krima
6. Maithili
7. Chirag
8. Piyush

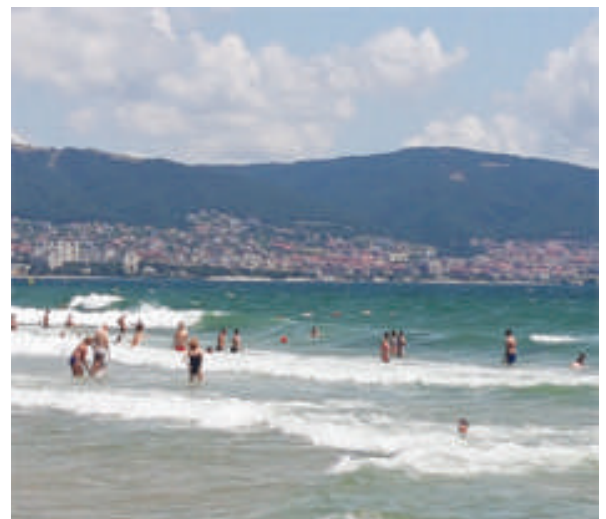


BAG PACK- trip to Burgas, Nesserbar and Varna:

After one week of intense learning session, the weekend that followed was a much required break that we all were looking forward to. As all our other weekends were already planned, this was the only weekend where we were left with a choice to do whatever we wanted to. Hence we all decided to visit the coastal area of Bulgaria - Burgas, Nesserbar and Varna. Ofcourse, it wouldnt have been possible without the permission of GTU. We were really grateful to GTU for allowing us to make it a memorable weekend.

Although a very short tight and fast trip, we were really happy to see this part of the country, mostly because of the Black Sea Coast and Nesserbar, which is reffered as the “Pearl of the Black Sea”. It is a rich city-museum defined by more than three millenia of ever-changing history.

Neserbar has on several occasions found itself on the frontier of a threatened empire, and as such it is a town with a rich history. Due to city’s abundance of historic buildings, UNESCO came to include Neserbar in its list of World Heritage Sites in 1983.





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ASSIGNMENT - II

Second week started with an assignment of designing a pavilion. It was required to be done in groups as it was a bigger project and we couldn't have finished it in the time limit had it been individual work. The brief of the assignment was to design a small/large scale pavilion with the freedom of using any type of material, scale and location.

The week started with brainstorming on ideas and concepts among the group members. The faculties throughout the assignment were the same as for the first week project - Mr. Radul Shishkov, Mr. Zlatko Yanakiev and Tung Nguen. The classroom atmosphere throughout the assignment was very active and the students were given the liberty to explore with several site options all over the world. The main concentration of the assignment was to work with the core softwares - Rhinoceros and Grasshopper. The students were expected to work with parametricism and free flowing structures so as to understand the software's more thoroughly.

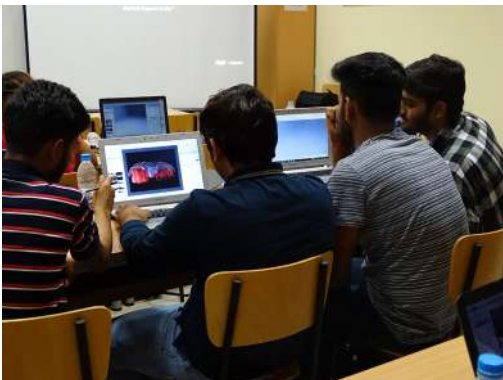


The first day all the students were supposed to bring forth the basic idea or concept for their pavilion. The process of concept development took place with several sketches, doodles and hand drawings. All the students came up with entirely different ideas for their pavilions and explored with several materials and structures.

FINAL PRESENTATION

The next few days went on with creating the pavilion on the software. The tutors were constantly engaging students in rigorous brain storming sessions, every time leaving it to a question that the students will have to further work on. They were helping students as and where they got stuck with the software.

The entire process took at least 4-5 days to get over with. Throughout the process every student had the opportunity to work with their own designs and personal attention was given to all the groups. As the project was a little complex one and the expectations of our tutors being high, we were required to work extra hours - throughout the night for this whole week.



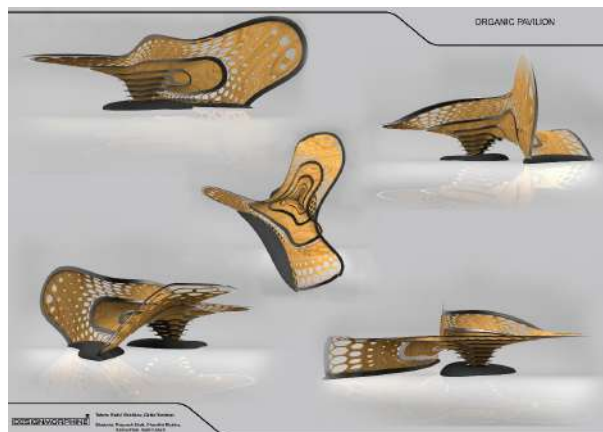
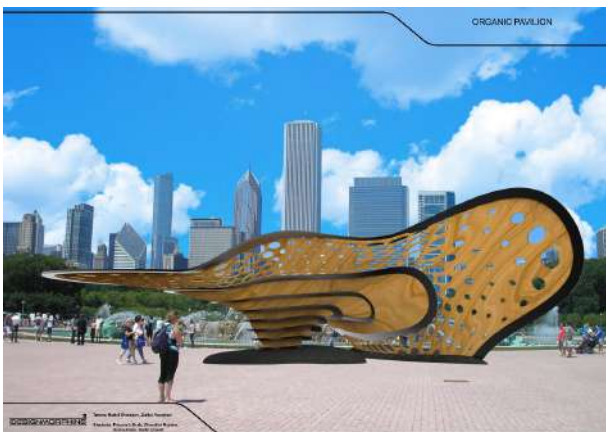
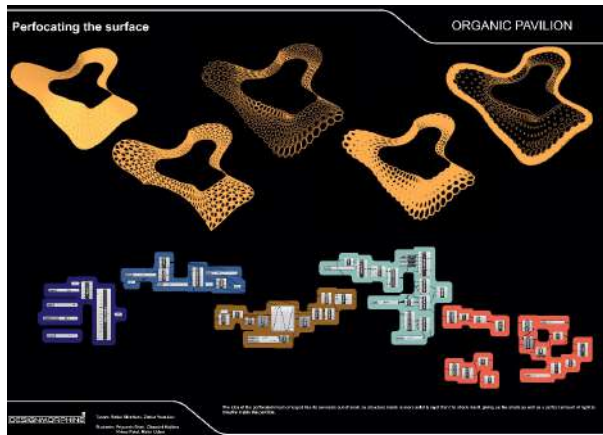
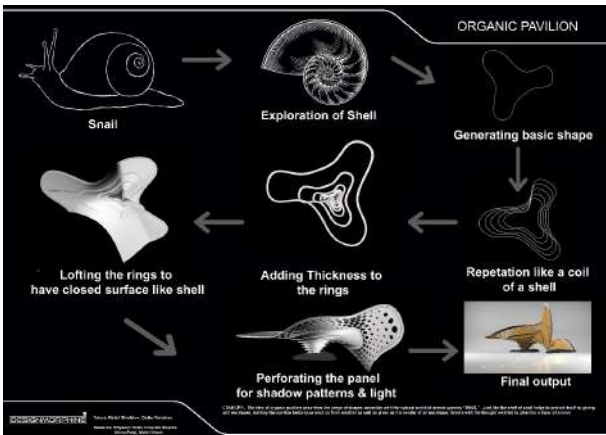
FINAL PRESENTATION: GROUP - A

ORGANIC PAVILION

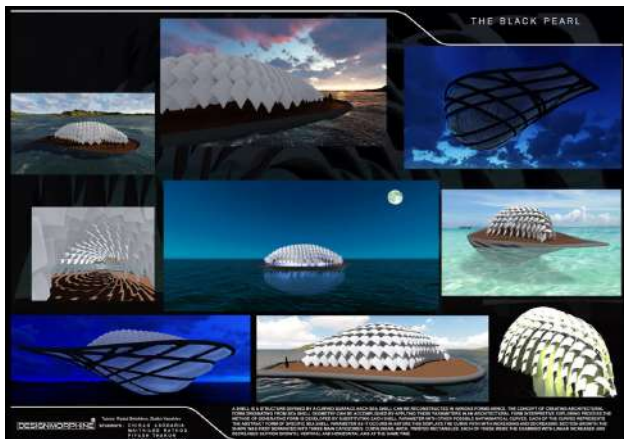
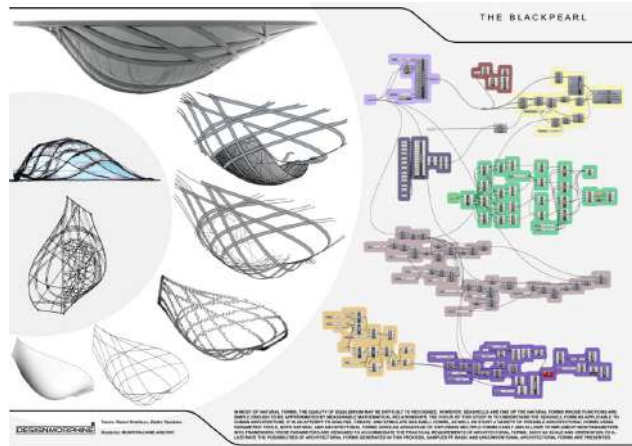
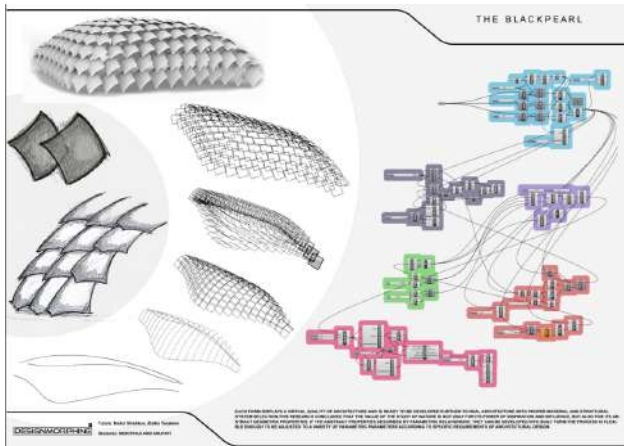


DESIGNMORPHINE

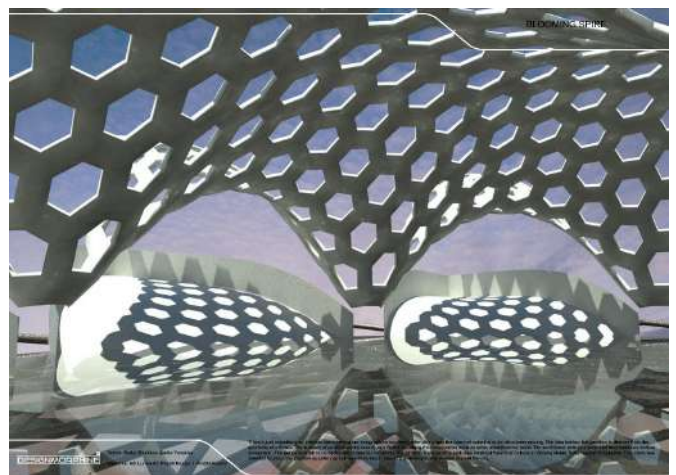
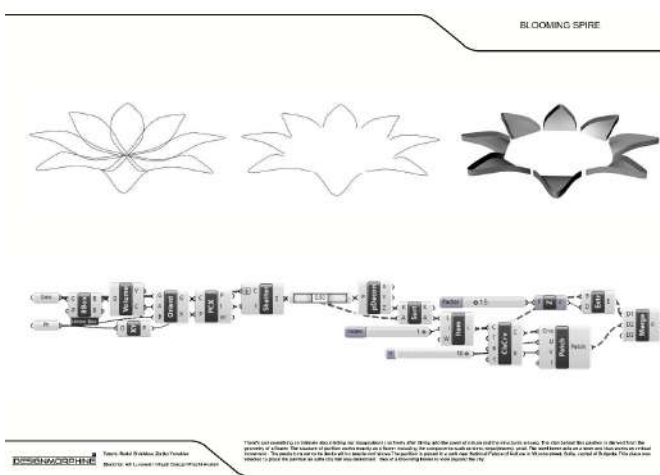
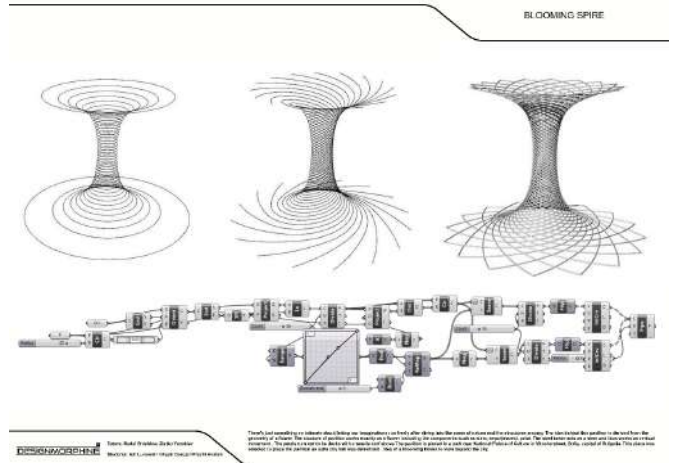
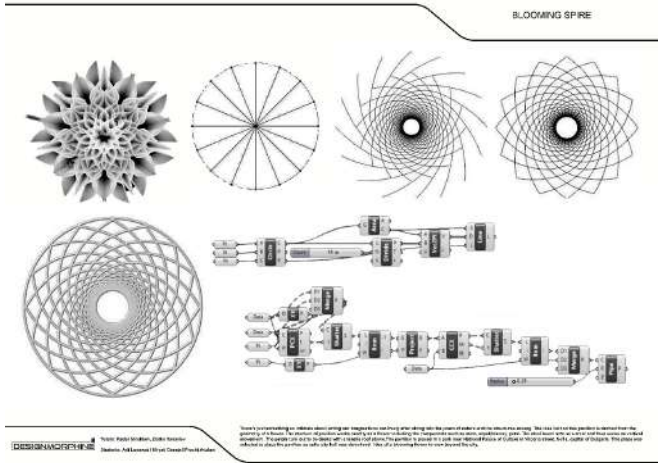
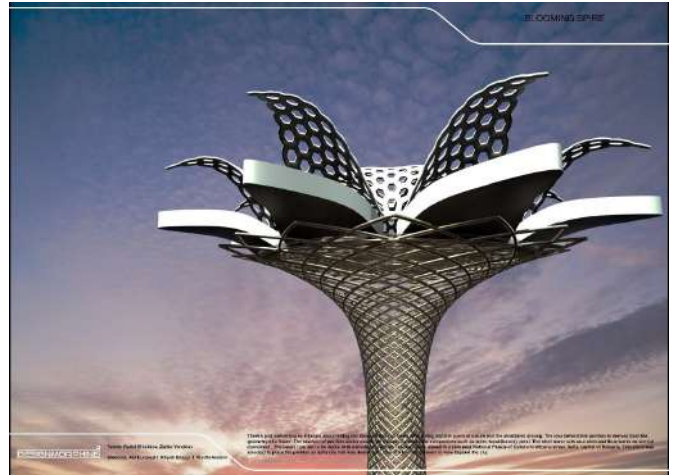
Tutors: Rohit Shrivastava, Ashok Terdesiya
 Students: Prayash Shah, Chandni Mehta,
 Ritna Patel, Anshu Mishra



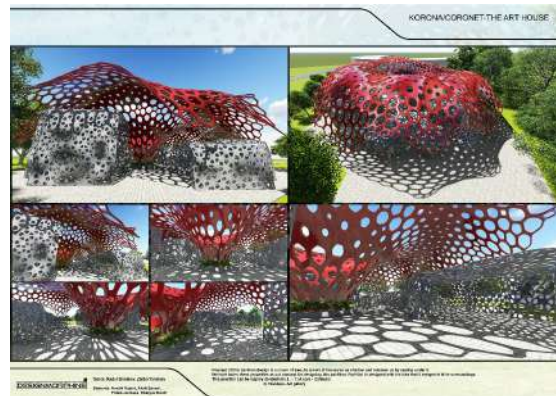
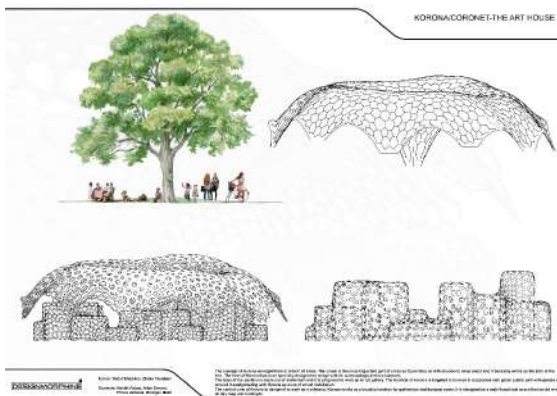
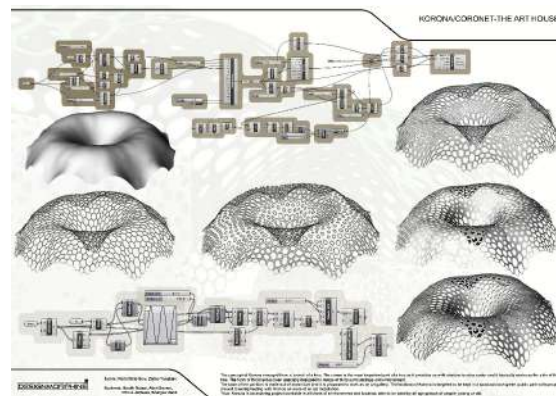
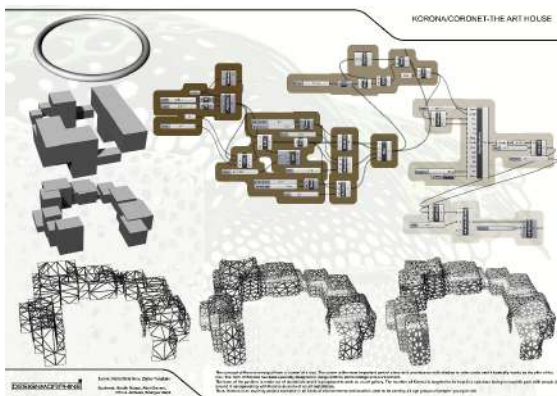
FINAL PRESENTATION: GROUP - B



FINAL PRESENTATION: GROUP - C



FINAL PRESENTATION: GROUP - D



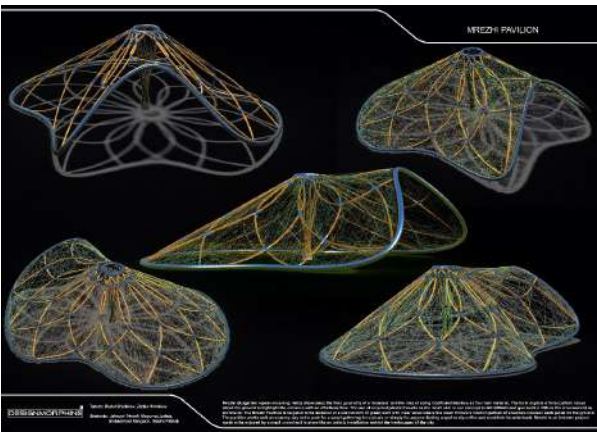
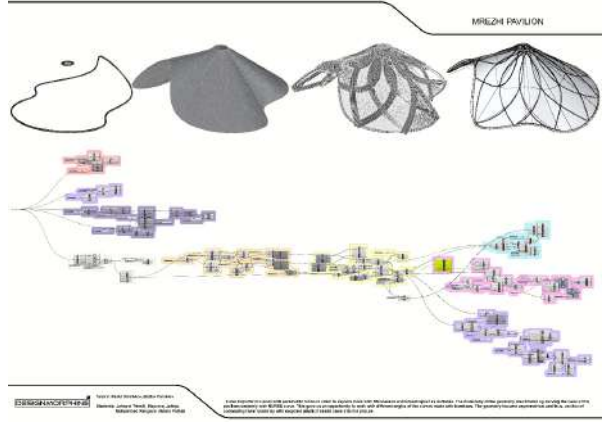
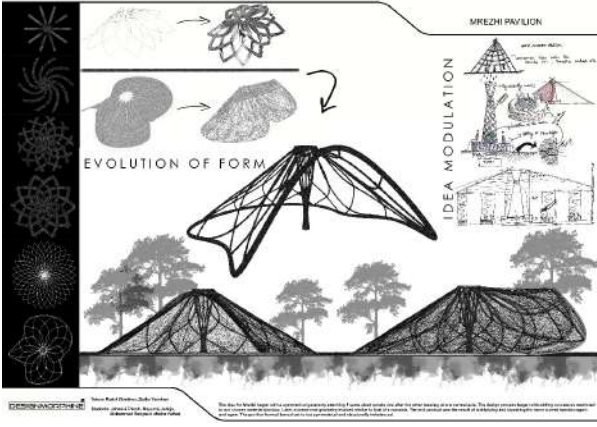
FINAL PRESENTATION: GROUP - E

MREZHI PAVILION



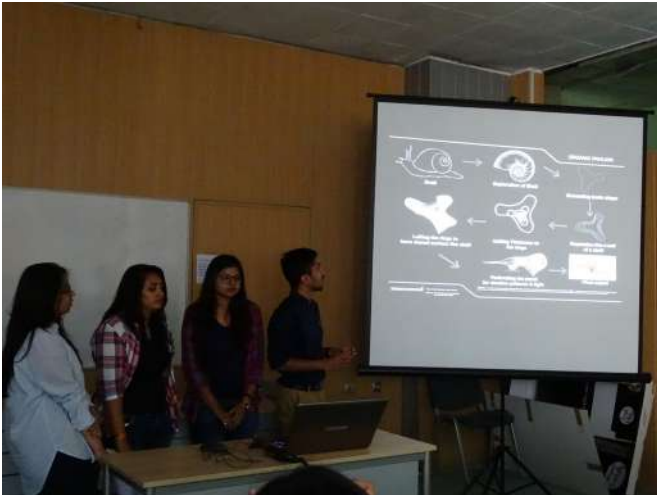
DESIGNMORPHINE

Tutors: Radil Shishkov, Zlatica Yankovik
 Students: Jahaqad Tarnadi, Mayuraj Jadhav,
 Mahannad Rangoon, Madira Patrak



DISCUSSIONS AND CRITIC

After each presentation, there was a discussion session where in everyone was open to discuss, question and enquire the design. All the tutors along with our mentor gave us a different ideas and their perspective to make our project even better and to take it to next level.



DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUDING SESSIONS



WEEKEND EXCURSION

Weekend after the hectic week followed by a planned weekend excursion, wherein, the students were taken to **MEDI VALLEY - THE WINERY & RILA MONASTERY** on Saturday accompanied with Ms. Rayna and to **TSARI MALI GRAD, BOROVIETS SKI RESORT & LAKE ISKAR** on Sunday accompanied with on Prof. Boris.

MEDI VALLEY



Medi Valley is a winery approximately 80 km from Sofia on the way to Rila Monastery. We were so glad that this destination was planned for us to visit as, we understood the whole wine making process, right from sorting of grapes to fermentation process to distillation process to various experiments made before aging and the whole aging process, etc. We also saw acres of Vineyards spreaded across he valley We were also taken to a cellar where the wine was stored in containers for aging.

After understanding the whole wine making process, we went to finally taste 5 different wines. Our tour guide for the winery also explained the whole process of drinking wine and how can you one differentiate between good wine and bad wine.



RILA MONASTERY

Rila Monastery, also known as - The Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila, is the largest orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. Situated in the southwestern Rila Mountains, 117 km south from Sofia at an elevation of 3763 ft above sea level, the monastery houses around 60 monks. Founded in 10th century, destroyed by fire in the beginning of 19th century, the complex was rebuilt. Looking at the scale of the Monastery and the type of construction details, use of colours, etc. it clearly is an Architectural Marvel.



TSARI MALI GRAD

Tsari mali grad is a cultural and historical complex located in the Belchin Village, 53km from Sofia. It is built on top of a hill, known as Sveti Spas mount, which carries the ancient history, myths and legend of the area. We were required to trek up to visit this place. we saw restored and conserved parts of the fortress, mainly towers as well as parts of the wall and main gate. The 15th century church of Ascension has been restored fully. Tsari Mali Grad offers a spectacular view of Belchin Village. It was an amazing experience exploring the place with Prof. Boris being our guide for the day.





BOROVETS SKI RESORT

Borovets is a popular Bulgarian mountain resort situated in Sofia Province, on the northern slopes of Rila, at an altitude of 1350m approximately 75km from Sofia. Borovets was originally as a hunting place for the Bulgarian Kings, but it gradually developed into a modern ski resort with hotels, restaurants, bars and a network of ski runs and lifts along the slopes of the Rila Mountains, providing for a whole range of winter sports.

It is supposed to be covered totally with snow and many winter sports are on, but Borovets managed to take our breaths off with its enchanting beauty even in summer. We had to reach the highest point via rope-way. A good 25 minute ride with constant surprises, which holds us throughout the ride and till the end.





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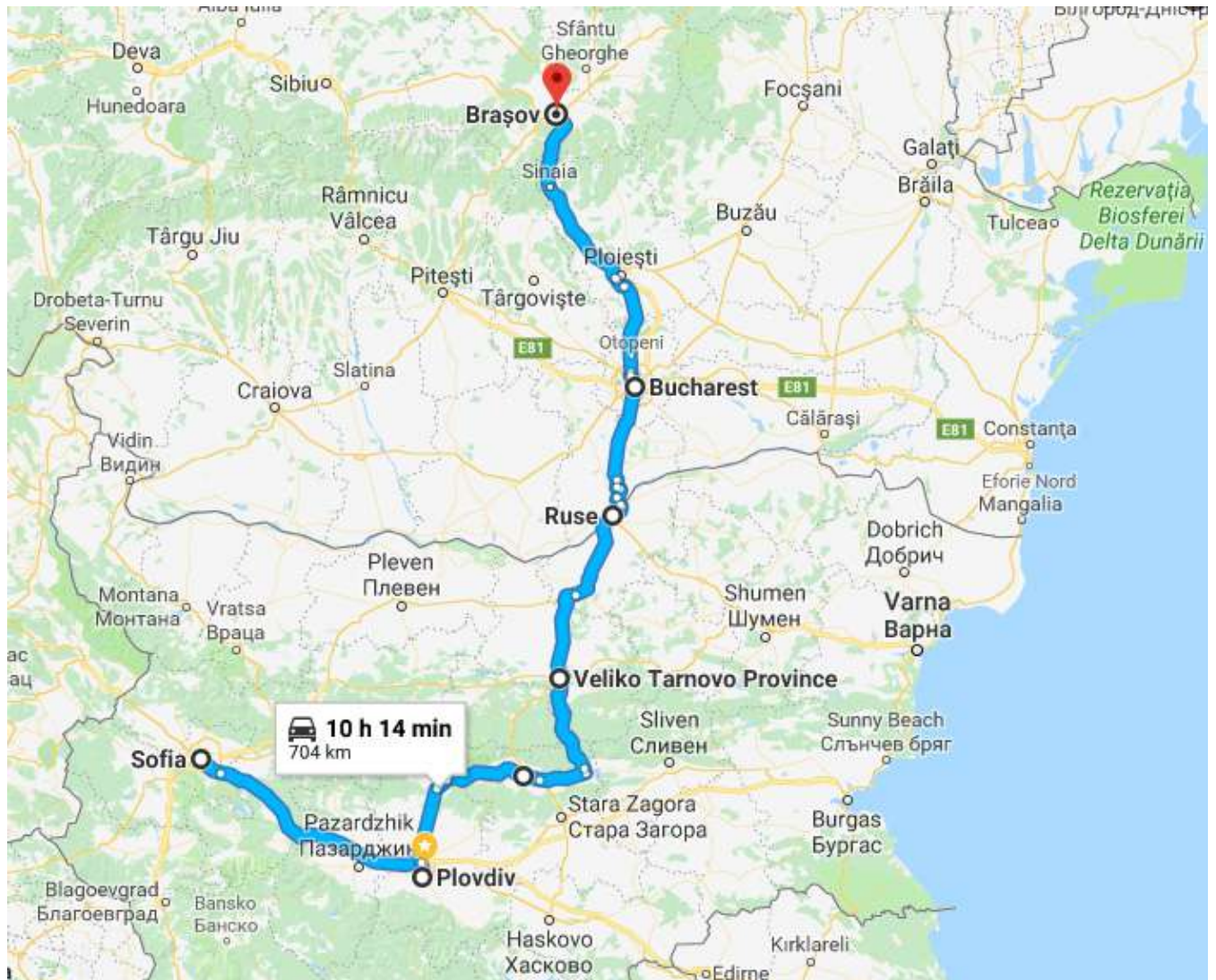
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Third week of our stay at Bulgaria was the one for which all the students had been waiting, right from the day -1. The Universities had planned a week long architecture excursion to many important cities of Bulgaria and Romania.

We were given a private bus and a private guide- Eva to guide us throughout the tour.



The trip was planned in such a way that we could visit 7 different cities in 7 days, staying overnight at all the cities in the order as follows:

- Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- Kazanluk, Bulgaria
- Velico Tarnovo, Bulgaria
- Ruse, Bulgaria
- Bucharest, Romania
- Brasov, Romania
- And back to Sofia

BACHKOVO MONASTERY

The Bachkovo Monastery in Bulgaria is an important monument of Christian architecture and one of the largest and oldest Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Europe. It is located on the right bank of the Chepelare River, 189 km from Sofia. The monastery is known and appreciated for the unique combination of Byzantine, Georgian and Bulgarian culture, united by the common faith. The monastery is under conservation process. The first part is a sort of market – there are plenty of small stalls on both sides, offering souvenirs, jewelry, ice-cream and the well-known Bulgarian sandwiches.



PLOVDIV, BULGARIA

Plovdiv is the second-largest city in Bulgaria. It is an important economic, transport, cultural, and educational center. There is evidence of habitation in Plovdiv dating back to the 6th millennium BCE, when the first Neolithic settlements were established; it is said to be one of the oldest cities in Europe. Situated in a fertile region of south-central Bulgaria on the two banks of the Maritsa River, the city has historically developed on seven syenite hills, some of which are 250 metres (820 feet) high. Because of these hills, Plovdiv is often referred to in Bulgaria as “The City of the Seven Hills”.



Some strong aspects of the old town of Plovdiv like - the narrow streets, the architecture, cobbled walk ways, pedestrian only zones, public squares, murals and paintings on the walls surprising you at every next turns - all reflected the true characteristics of a typical European town.



THE ROMAN STADIUM:

The Roman Stadium in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, is among the largest and best preserved buildings from the time of the Ancient Rome in the Balkan peninsula. The facility, approximately 240 m (790 ft) long and 50 m wide, could seat up to 30000 spectators. Today, the northern curved part of the stadium is partially restored and is one of the most recognizable landmarks of the city among the many preserved buildings from Roman times. The stadium is located in the centre of Plovdiv, under the main pedestrian street.



PLOVDIV ROMAN THEATRE:

The Roman theatre of Plovdiv is one of the world's best-preserved ancient theatres, located in the city center of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. It was constructed in the 90s of the 1st century AD, probably under the rule of Emperor Domitian. The theatre can host between 5000 and 7000 spectators and it is currently in use of Plovdiv. The theatre is one of the most valuable monuments from the ancient city of Philippopolis.



KAZANLAK, BULGARIA

Kazanlak is a Bulgarian town in Stara Zagora Province, located in the middle of the plain of the same name, at the foot of the Balkan mountain range, at the eastern end of the Rose Valley. It is the center of rose oil extraction in Bulgaria and the oil-producing rose of Kazanlak is one of the most widely recognizable national symbols.



THE ROSE MUSEUM

Very recently opened in 2016, the Museum of Roses guided us through the history of rose-oil production and the 300-year-old production methods that continue to be used today. Its light-flooded atriums are packed with antique perfume-making equipment and photographs of rose pickers past.



ANCIENT THRACIAN TOMB

It comprises a narrow corridor and a round burial chamber, both decorated with murals representing a Thracian couple at a ritual funeral feast. The monument dates back to the 4th century BCE and has been on the UNESCO protected World Heritage Site list since 1979. The murals are memorable for the splendid horses and for a gesture of farewell. The paintings are Bulgaria's best-preserved artistic masterpieces from the Hellenistic period.

To preserve the sensitive paintings, the tomb is not open to the public; a full-size replica was built nearby which is open to public.



ROSE OF BULGARIA - THE SOUVENIR SHOP

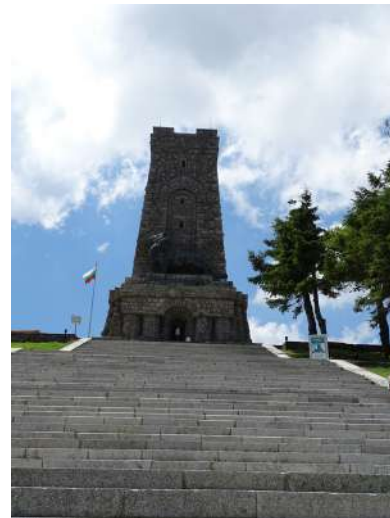
Visit to Bulgaria is absolutely incomplete without visiting this shop in Kazanlak which is the centre of rose extraction in Bulgaria. This is one place where one can find unimaginable rose products ranging from eating/drinking items to cosmetics to perfumes whatever extent one can think. Everything was kept for us to taste first before buying.



SHIPKA MONUMENT, GABROVO

The Shipka Monument is on Stoletov Peak near the Shipka pass, reached by a long and never ending flight of steps. It is a Monument dedicated to those who died for the Liberation of Bulgaria during the Battles of Shipka Pass in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78.

The monument is a 31.5-metre high stone tower in the form of a truncated pyramid. A giant bronze lion stands above the entrance to the tower, and a figure of a woman represents the victory over the Ottoman forces. There are four other floors where one can find replica of Bulgarian military flags and other relics. The top of the tower reveals a breathtaking panorama of Shipka Peak and the surrounding area.



ETAR, BULGARIA

The Open Air Ethnographic Museum -ETAR, is an open-air museum and a neighbourhood of Gabrovo in northern Bulgaria. It is located on the northern edge of the Bulgarka Nature Park, between the park and the city of Gabrovo.

It presents the Bulgarian customs, culture and craftsmanship. It spans over an area of 7 ha and contains a total of 50 objects, including water installations and houses with craftsmen's workshops attached. As a whole, the complex's goal is to illustrate the architecture, way of life and economy of Gabrovo and the region during the Bulgarian National Revival.

The park features typical Bulgarian revival houses with two floors, bay windows, a clock tower, and a beautifully decorated house by Saakov featuring 21 windows. Using original instruments and following the old traditions, locals represent around 20 characteristics of the regional crafts such as wood-carving, pottery, coppersmith crafts, furriery, cutlery making, needlework etc. There are shops for souvenirs. There are numerous restaurants in the park where tourist could consume local Bulgarian cuisine.



VELIKO TARNOVO, BULGARIA

Veliko Tarnovo is a city in north central Bulgaria and the administrative centre of Veliko Tarnovo Province. It is an important administrative, economic, educational, and cultural centre of Northern Bulgaria. Veliko Tarnovo is the center of one of the largest urban areas in Bulgaria and is one of the few cities in the country with a growing population. It is a foremost educational and cultural center, and the home of two major universities and extensive artistic activity.

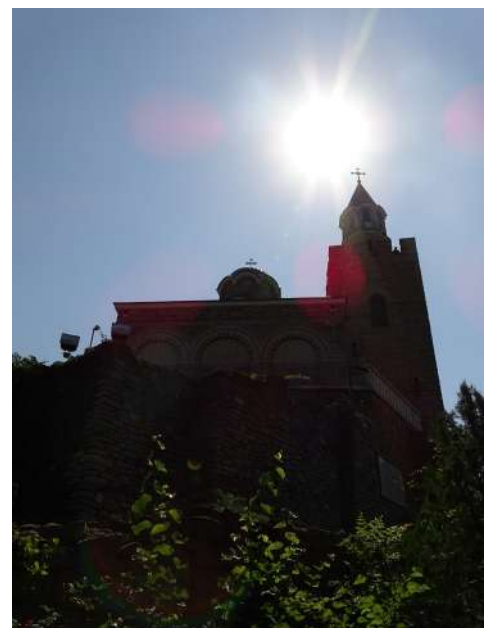
Often referred to as the “City of the Tsars”, Veliko Tarnovo is located on the Yantra River and is famously known as the historical capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire, attracting many tourists with its unique architecture. The old part of the city is situated on the three hills Tsarevets, Trapezitsa, and Sveta Gora, rising amidst the meanders of the Yantra. On Tsarevets are the palaces of the Bulgarian emperors and the Patriarchate, the Patriarchal Cathedral, and also a number of administrative and residential edifices surrounded by thick walls.



TSARAVETS

Tsarevets is a medieval stronghold located on a hill with the same name in Veliko Tarnovo in northern Bulgaria. Tsarevets is 206 metres above sea level. It served as the Second Bulgarian Empire's primary fortress and strongest bulwark from 1185 to 1393, housing the royal and the patriarchal palaces, and is a popular tourist attraction.

The whole stronghold is girdled by thick walls reaching up to 3.6 metres (12 ft) and was served by three gates. The palace is on the hill's central and plain part, which was a closed complex encircled by a fortified wall, two towers and two entrances, a main one from the north and one from the south. It featured a throne room, a palace church and a royal residential part.



RUSE, BULGARIA

Ruse is the fifth largest city in Bulgaria. Ruse is in the northeastern part of the country, on the right bank of the Danube, opposite the Romanian city of Giurgiu, approximately 75 km (47 mi) south of Bucharest, Romania's capital. It is the most significant Bulgarian river port, serving an important part of the international trade of the country.

After having lunch and some time for leisure we started our city tour at 3 p.m. we saw various monuments around the main street and shopped a few souvenirs from there. Then we headed to the river front of Danube river, which divides Bulgaria and Romania on this stretch in the evening and sat there for a while. After that all were set free to absorb the place, the people, the public squares, the central park at the public square, etc.



BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

After going through the many colourful cities of Bulgaria, we were all set to take in all about Romania, after all, we were going to step into a new country all together. We were just a river apart, yet it seemed like a long journey owing to the formalities that we need to go through. It took our guide a while to set everything into place and soon we entered this new country called ROMANIA and went straight to its capital, BUCHAREST.

Bucharest is the capital and largest city of Romania, as well as its cultural, industrial, and financial centre. It is located in the southeast of the country, on the banks of the Dâmbovița River, less than 60km north of the Danube River and the Bulgarian border.

Romania became the capital of Romania in 1862 and is the centre of Romanian media, culture, and art. Its architecture is a mix of historical (neo-classical), interbellum (Bauhaus and art deco), communist-era and modern. In the period between the two World Wars, the city's elegant architecture and the sophistication of its elite earned Bucharest the nickname of "Little Paris". In recent years, the city has been experiencing an economic and cultural boom. In 2016, the historical city centre was listed as "endangered" by the World Monuments Watch.

All in all, we all felt that Bucharest was that one city, where just a day is not enough to absorb the city. The city has a lot to offer and we had too little time.



ROMANIAN PATRIARCHAL CATHEDRAL COMPLEX

The Romanian Patriarchal Cathedral is a wonderful example of Brâncovenesc architecture. It's also an important place of worship that shelters a magnificent collection of religious art. The Romanian Patriarchal Cathedral was established in the 1650s.

Originating in Romania in the late 17th century, its architectural style blends Baroque, Byzantine, Ottoman and Renaissance features. Crowning the roof are three domes and four towers, each topped with a simple cross.



PALACE OF PARLIAMENT

The Palace of the Parliament is the seat of the Parliament of Romania. Located on Dealul Arsenalului in the national capital city of central Bucharest, it is the second largest administrative building in the world after The Pentagon. The Palace has a height of 84 metres, an area of 365,000 square metres. SUCH A MAGNIFICENCE.

A colossal building, designed and supervised by chief architect Anca Petrescu, with a team of approximately 700 architects, constructed over a period of 13 years (1984–97), it was built as a monument for a totalitarian kitsch style of architecture, in Totalitarian and modernist Neoclassical architectural forms and styles, with socialist realism in mind.



PELES OF CASTLE, SINAIA

Palace Castle is a Neo-Renaissance castle in the Carpathian Mountains, near Sinaia, in Prahova County, Romania, on an existing medieval route linking Transylvania and Wallachia, built between 1873 and 1914. Its inauguration was held in 1883. It was constructed for King Carol I.

By form and function, Peles is a palace, but it is consistently called a castle. Its architectural style is a romantically inspired blend Neo-Renaissance and Gothic Revival. Peleş Castle has a 3,200-square-metre floor area with over 170 rooms, many with dedicated themes from world cultures (in a similar fashion as other Romanian palaces, like Cotroceni Palace). Themes vary by function (offices, libraries, armories, art galleries) or by style (Florentine, Turkish, Moorish, French, Imperial); all the rooms are extremely lavishly furnished and decorated to the slightest detail. The establishment hosts one of the finest collections of art in Eastern and Central Europe, consisting of statues, paintings, furniture, arms and armor, gold, silver, stained glass, ivory, fine china, tapestries, and rugs. The collection of arms and armor has over 4,000 pieces, divided between Eastern and Western war pieces and ceremonial or hunting pieces, spreading over four centuries of history. Oriental rugs come from many sources: Bukhara, Mosul, Isparta, Saruk, and Smirna. The porcelain is from Sèvres and Meissen; the leather is from Córdoba. Perhaps the most acclaimed items are the hand-painted stained glass vitralios, which are mostly Swiss. Its a delight to have visited this Palace. Since the photography was not allowed inside the palace, we could only bring back its memories.



BRAN CASTLE, BRAN

Bran Castle, situated near Bran and in the immediate vicinity of Braşov, is a national monument and landmark in Romania. The fortress is situated on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia. It is commonly known as “Dracula’s Castle”.

The castle is now a museum dedicated to displaying art and furniture collected by Queen Marie. Tourists can see the interior on their own or by a guided tour. At the bottom of the hill is a small open-air museum park exhibiting traditional Romanian peasant structures (cottages, barns, etc.) from across the country.



BRASOV, ROMANIA

Braşov is a city in Romania and the administrative centre of Braşov County. Braşov is located in the central part of the country, about 166 kilometres north of Bucharest. It is surrounded by the Southern Carpathians and is part of the Transylvania region.

The city is notable for being an important centre of Transylvanian Saxons in the past, and a large commercial hub on the trade roads between East and West. It is also the birthplace of the national anthem of Romania.

Amazingly colourful houses stacked side by side, empty roads, cool chilly breeze even in summers and lovely people is all that we will always remember about the place.



BACK TO SOFIA

Sunday, we were required to be ready at 5:30am sharp and leave from Brasov. There are some very strict rules and regulations for drivers in Europe. Our driver had only 8 to 9 driving hours for the day and the distance between Brasov and Sofia is 561km which would have taken us around 15 hours in all including the immigration process at the border of Romania and Bulgaria. Hence, we were supposed to leave early to avoid the traffic.

Journey back was too long and tiring. As we were all on the move for one last week, checking in and out of a new hotel everyday, rushing to see the cities immediately after checking in, walking for kilometers and kilometers everyday non stop for seven days, we were all actually looking forward to be back in Sofia, relax a little and enjoy the lazy evenings of Sofia.

Once we reached back to Sofia, it felt like home. As we all were now staying here for two good weeks, it had become our home. It is an amazing feeling to be back to your base after a long holiday. Our rooms were all cleaned and the linens changed as a part of the weekly maintenance policy of the hostel.

We had a great time during our excursion which we shall cherish for our lifetime. Thanks to UACEG, Prof. Boris and the team, the travel agency and to GTU for planning such an amazing trip.



GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS STUDIES
(CGBS)

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
PROGRAM (IEP) - 2018
(ARCHITECTURE)
IV week - June 25'18 to June 30'18

AT



UNIVERSITY OF ARCHITECTURE, CIVIL
ENGINEERING AND GEODESY (UACEG),
SOFIA - BULGARIA

YOGA DAY CELEBRATION AT SOFIA

June 21st is celebrated as International Yoga Day, but since we were on our week long excursion on the International Yoga Day, we celebrated it a little later. With the help of Prof. Boris, we had a specialised Yoga Teacher, who was Bulgarian and had learned Yoga from India, with us to lead the Yoga session. We gathered at the campus early in the morning at 7:30am and had an hour long Yoga session to start our day with.

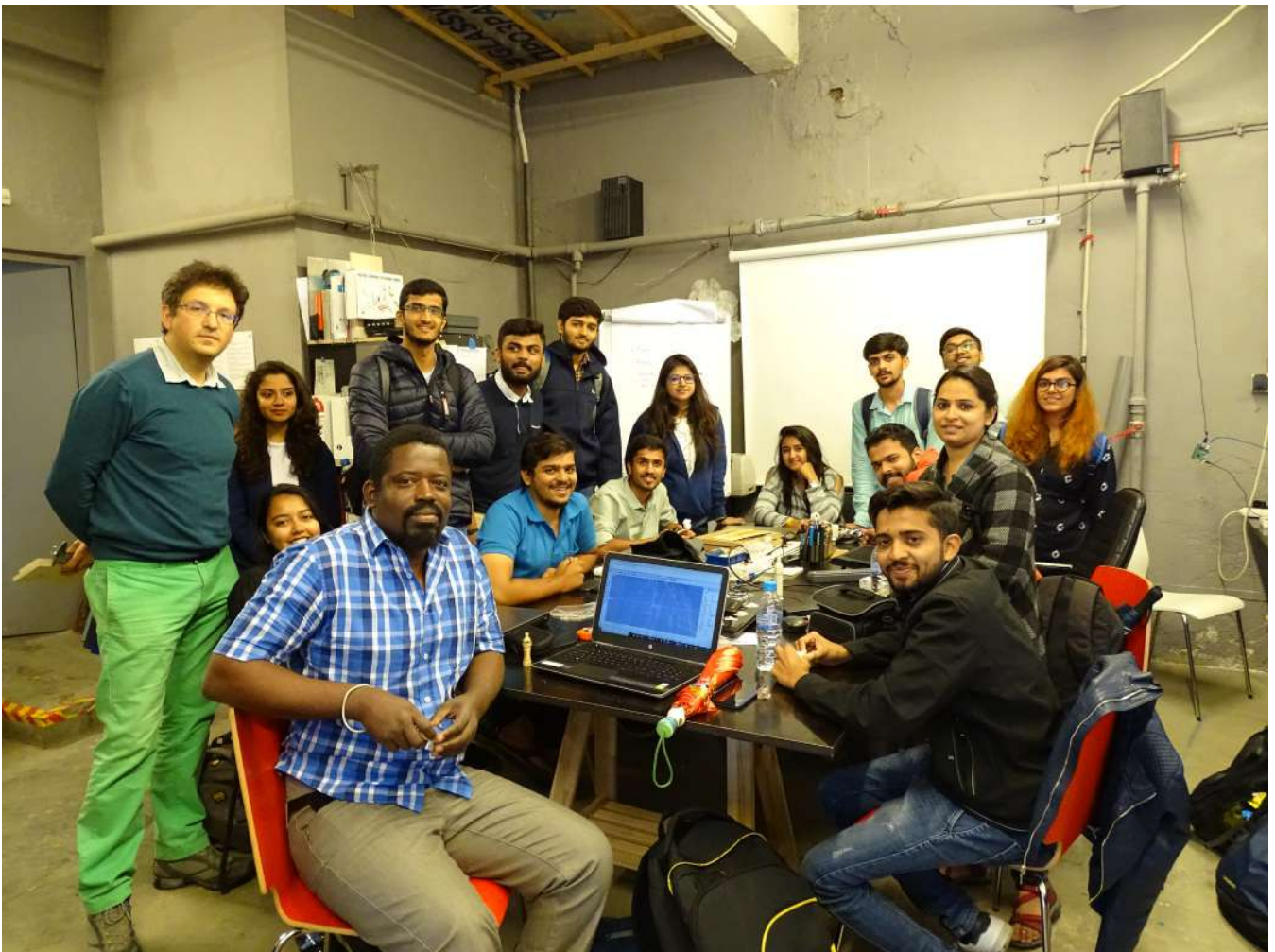


ASSIGNMENT III

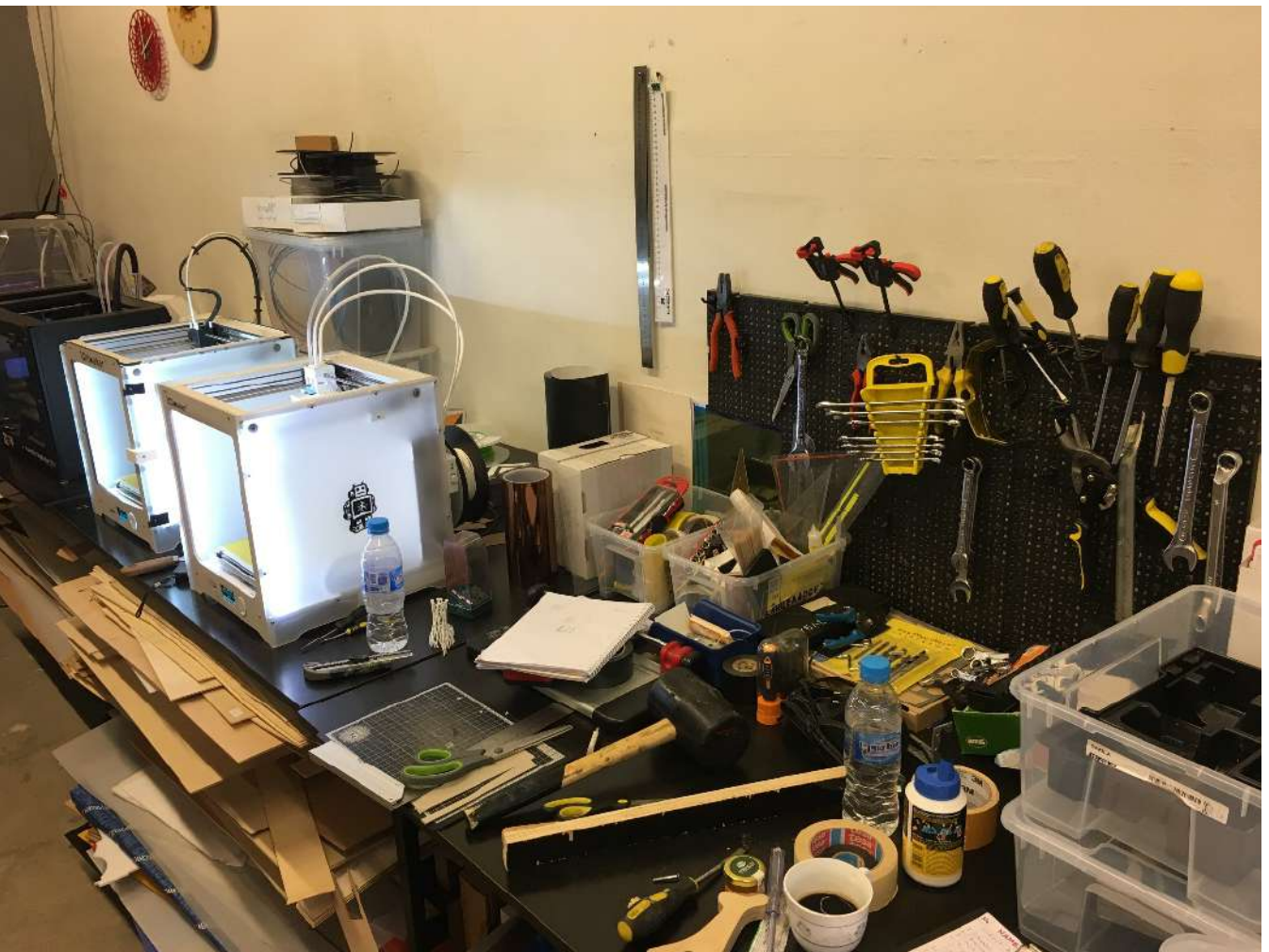
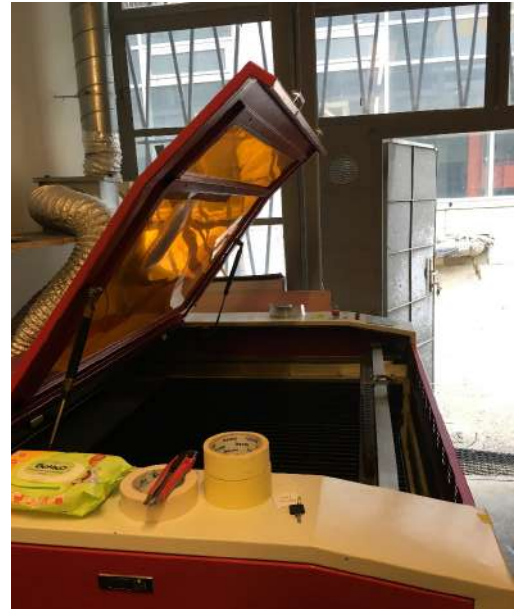
The week started off with our usual schedule that we used to have in Sofia. We were all ready at 8:30 am in the morning, reached UACEG Campus at 9:00am, had breakfast and gathered in the new lecture room that was dedicated us for this week.

The tutors were all there sharp at 10:00am, and gave students an introduction to their week long schedule. This week was more like a workshop where the students were made to understand the process of Laser printing and 3D modelling. Not just understand the theory of the process but to learn to operate the machines, understand the strength and weakness of the same and explore a totally new dimension to design process where these machines can be an important tool, where these tools become a catalyst for some innovation.

The process of understanding these technologies was to and fro - students were taught theory in the morning, and were asked to work in the workshop for the second half. As the 3D printing process is comparatively a slow process, they started working on their models from day 1 so that by the end of the week, they all would have our assignments ready.

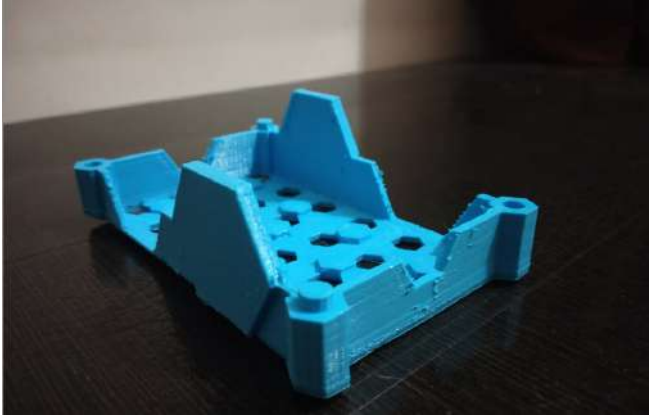


The workshop area and Fablab were quite vibrant places to work for the students. There was one laser cutting machines whereas four 3D printing machines. Laser printing is a quick process, hence one machine was enough between all the five groups, whereas 3D printing used to take half a day sometimes for finishing a small object but since there were 4 and all of them were occupied all the time, students managed to finish their assignments well in time.

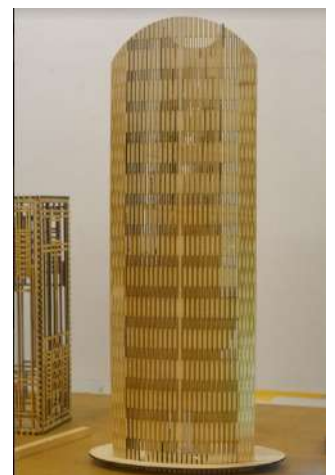


As a part of their 3D printing exercise, the students were asked to design a small soap case, of which they shall make 3D models. The models were to be designed and digitally made using the softwares that they learned in the first phase and then keep it for printing. Each small soap case would take a minimum of 2-3 hours of printing. Once that was done, they were asked to print objects of their choice so that they can take it back to India as a Souvenir from the workshop.

Following are the pictures of some of the objects printed in 3D.

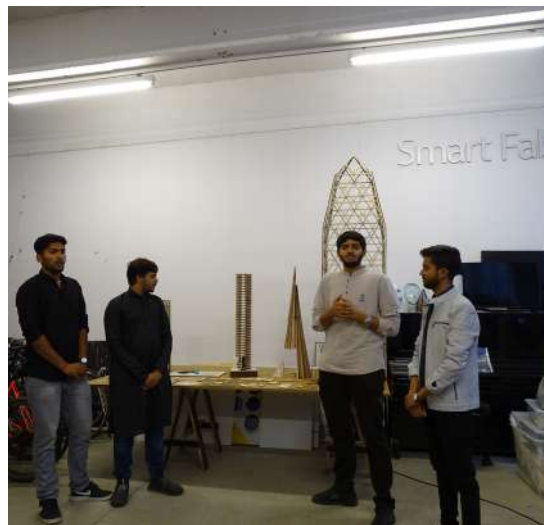


As far as Laser printing was concerned, it was not related to the way students have been practicing here in India. It was taken to a next level where all the five groups were given an MDF board of 1m x 1m, and the students were required to design structures/sky scrapers using different types of joineries and no use of adhesive was permitted. Hence, it was a good brain storming exercise for students to crack this. The other criteria was - the taller the better. After the end of week, the following was the result of all the hard work and night long working hours.



FINAL PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENT III

Once all the work was displayed, again the students were to present their work on the basis of which they would be marked. Special guests were called for the jury. One by one the students presented all what they had done in the whole week, what was the idea behind the work and how did they execute the same. After every presentation, the students were asked questions regarding their projects by the jurors and the tutors which they were required to answer. Although they were presenting in groups, each student was required to speak while presenting.



DISCUSSIONS, CRITIC AND CONCLUDING SESSION

After all the presentations, there was an ending note, a concluding session where all the tutors gave a short speech of motivation and appreciation to all. The work done by the students was appreciated by all, also the behavior and readiness to do whatever was given to them, however difficult it may be was something that was pointed out by the tutors for our students. Definitely, they had put in all their energies and time into the projects given to them and that was all paid by when the tutors appreciated it. They were all extremely happy.



CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION



CELEBRATION THAT FOLLOWED

As a farewell gesture, UACEG had organized a special dinner session on the last day after the presentations and certificate distribution, where in all the tutors, organizers, etc. were invited. Students were eager to know the views of all the tutors about their work, their conduct and behavior and overall experience, which the tutors and organizers happily shared with them.

As the UACEG had organized this special dinner, our students had got cakes to cut and had got a small token of appreciation for everyone involved in their journey of one month of stay in Sofia that included - all the tutors, Prof. Boris, the cooking staff, the driver who use to pick and drop us everyday and their mentor that is - I.





LAST DAY IN SOFIA, BULGARIA

Knowing the fact that this it was our last day, we had already planned a small picnic to a beautiful cave near Sofia which was called - The God's Eyes. It was suppose to be half-a-day picnic , so that the rest of the day students can be back to do the last minute souvenir shopping which they were unable to do so far. For the night, we had planned a dinner together in an Indian Restaurant in Sofia. Everyone was happy to be going back the next day, but were sad that their journey in Bulgaria finished so soon!!



GOODBYE BULGARIA

Finally the day when we had to leave Bulgaria. All of us were struggling with a confused feeling of happy and sad. We were all very grateful to GTU to have such an arrangement where the students can get such an exposure!! With that confused happy and sad feeling, we left Bulgaria promising to come back again sometimes in our life.



GROUP - BULGARIA



Maithilee Prakramsinh Rathod



Priyansh Sanjay Shah



Mohammed Nuruddin Rangoonwala



Mudra Lomesh Pathak



Swapnil Babubhai Dobariya



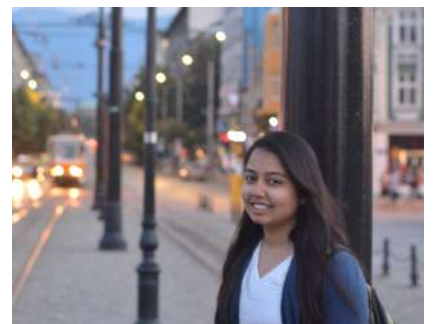
Alish Dipeshkumar Savani



Prince Vijaykumar Jariwala



Jahnvi Trivedi



Maitri Pareshkumar Udani



Piyush Prabhatkumar Thakur



Mayurraj Jadeja



Chandni Hiteshkumar Mojdra



Bhargav Vinubhai Nasit

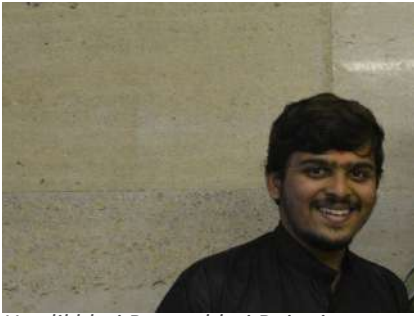


Chirag Pravinbhai Asodaria

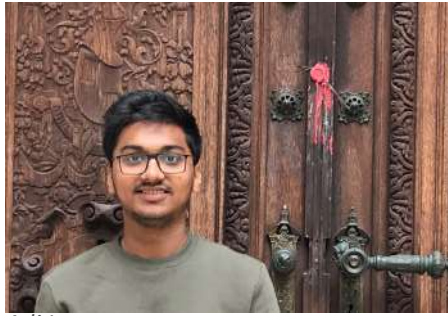


Prachi Nitin Avalani

GROUP - BULGARIA



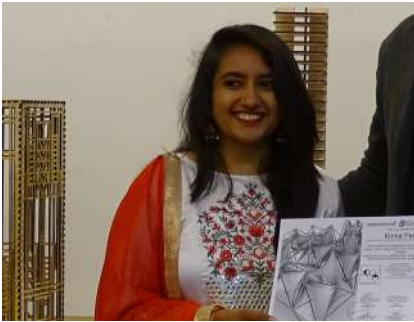
Hardikbhai Pravunbhai Rajani



Adi Lunawat



Khyati Daseja



Krима Jitendra Patel



*Mentor
Prof. Shweta Mistry*

