



ROLE OF CRAFT AND TECHNOLOGY IN INTERIOR - ARCHITECTURE

PROF. SMRITI SARASWAT

Department of Architecture and Planning

IIT Roorkee

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Designers; Architects; Artists; Craft Persons; Entrepreneurs working in the core and peripheral subjects

INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO :All the relevant Industries related to Interior- Architecture; Design; Art; Craft and the Creative Industries (Specific Examples – Asian Paints; District Industries Centres; Alaya Design Studio)

COURSE OUTLINE :

This course is very crucial as it focuses on a trans-disciplinary research, emphasizing on the role of Craft & Technology in the discipline of Interior-Architecture. In the current decade which focuses on trans-disciplinarity and innovation, a course like this shall be very useful for a wide audience hailing from different disciplines such as art; craft; architecture; design; and, creative industries. Moreover, such a course is very much in line with the MHRD's initiatives like – SANDHI and Design Hub, where the focus is on amalgamation of Art, Science and Technology. It has multifold objectives: a) To understand the definition and scope of 'Interior-Architecture' and 'Craft & Technology'. b) To document and disseminate the role of Craft & Technology in Interior-Architecture through state-of-the-art literature; best studies and case studies. c) To create awareness and exposure for skill based knowledge systems. d) To establish link between tradition and continuity. e) To develop new paradigms of pedagogy and practice in the field of Interior-Architecture and Craft & Technology

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Smriti Saraswat is trained as an architect and interior designer. She was awarded the Letter of Merit for academic excellence in Master of Interior Architecture and Design, by the CEPT University, Ahmedabad. She has a work experience of fifteen years. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture and Planning at IIT Roorkee (Uttarakhand, India), and a joint faculty member in the Department of Design, IIT Roorkee. She is passionate about Architectural Heritage; Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage; Traditional Building Practices, Indian Knowledge Systems; Indigenous Communities; Interior- Architecture; Craft and Technology; Material Culture and Design-Build Procedures; Creative and Cultural Industries; Skill Development; Entrepreneurship, Trans-Disciplinary Explorations and Cross-Sectoral Collaborations; Narratives; Anthropological Quests and Ethnographic Approaches in Architecture; Women Empowerment; Curriculum and Pedagogy Development; Research Methods.

She has worked on – prestigious projects focusing on museums and conservation while doing internship with the Development and Research Organisation on Nature, Arts and Heritage (DRONAH), Gurgaon; projects and events discussing craft & technology, design innovation and interior-architecture during her tenure as a senior researcher at Design Innovation and Craft Resource Centre (DICRC), CEPT University, Ahmedabad, with a focus on conducting workshops, prototyping, developing monographs based on these, and creating material inventories; projects and events focusing on indigenous communities (especially women artisans), art-craft- interior-architecture traditions of Uttarakhand and visual and cultural narratives from the Himalayan state with IIT Roorkee and Ministry of Culture; and, a joint project (Co – PI with Prof. Harshit Lakra, IIT Roorkee) on Model Village Development for the Juang Tribe of Odisha, funded by HUDCO. She has taken initiatives to promote the role of craftspersons, especially women artisans, in the non-traditional sectors like education and encouraged their participation in varied courses, workshops, exhibitions and events at IIT Roorkee. She got a Research Grant "Experimental Architecture and Material Culture (EAMC)", under the Scheme 'A New Passage to INDIA' (2019- 2022), sponsored by DAAD, Germany, in collaboration with Prof. Axel Sowa, RWTH University, Aachen that focuses on architectural heritage, material culture, building crafts and experimental architecture. The project EAMC has received an extension of duration and funding, until Dec. 2023. Currently, she is involved in the capacity of a co-investigator, in the Project "Traditional Principles of Settlement Planning in Heritage Temple Sites of Odisha/ Erstwhile Kalinga Region", along with Prof. Rabi Mohanty, IIT BHU, sanctioned by AICTE, under the Scheme 'Indian Knowledge Systems'. She is also working with MoC, MoE, UTDB, MoT on diverse projects, primarily focusing on promoting tourism, culture and IKS.

Her Ph.D. is an attempt to explore and investigate material culture, traditional architecture and building crafts of the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand in India, with a focus on community-based knowledge systems. She has received several grants and scholarships; organized varied national and international workshops; training programmes; short term courses, including GIAN and SWAYAM NPTEL under the aegis of Ministry of Education; trans-disciplinary academic workshops at IIT Roorkee that focus on materials; heritage; craft and technology; interior-architecture; and, design innovations.; set up collaborations with National and International schools and organisations; conducted FDP courses; contributed in training and capacity building programmes; and authored several publications. She loves to travel; document; read; create photo essays; and tell stories.

COURSE PLAN :

- Week 01** : Interior- Architecture: Definition and Understanding, Craft: Definition and Understanding (Varied Perspectives on Art and Craft),Interior- Architecture and Craft & Technology: Establishing Inter-Relationships and Exploring Applications. Discourse
- Week 02** : Interior- Architecture: Documenting Knowledge and Skills, Traditional Knowledge Systems and the Ingenious skills of the communities, Interior-Architecture: Documenting Materials; Tools and Techniques, Traditional Knowledge Systems and the Indigenous materials; tools and techniques, Discourse
- Week 03** : Creative and Cultural Industries:Understanding Definition; Significance and Scope, Building Crafts: Definitions; perspectives and frameworks, Building Crafts: Craft and Technology and its Role in creating/ enhancing Interior- Architecture, Discourse
- Week 04** : Best Studies related to the Craft Sector, Case Studies From Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Miscellaneous Case Studies
- Week 05** : Craft and Technology in Interior Architecture: Decoding Systems and Transformation through Time, Discourse.
- Week 06** : Overview of the Craft Sector Today, Issues and Challenges, Policies and Reforms, Gaps, Summary & Discourse
- Week 07** : Continuity and Revival: Research and Documentation Perspective, Education and Training Perspective, Innovation and Development Perspective, Resource Building and Dissemination Perspective, Summary & Discourse
- Week 08** : Interventions: Process Based, Product/Design Based, Technology Based, Marketing/Management Based, and Spatial, Summary & Discourse.