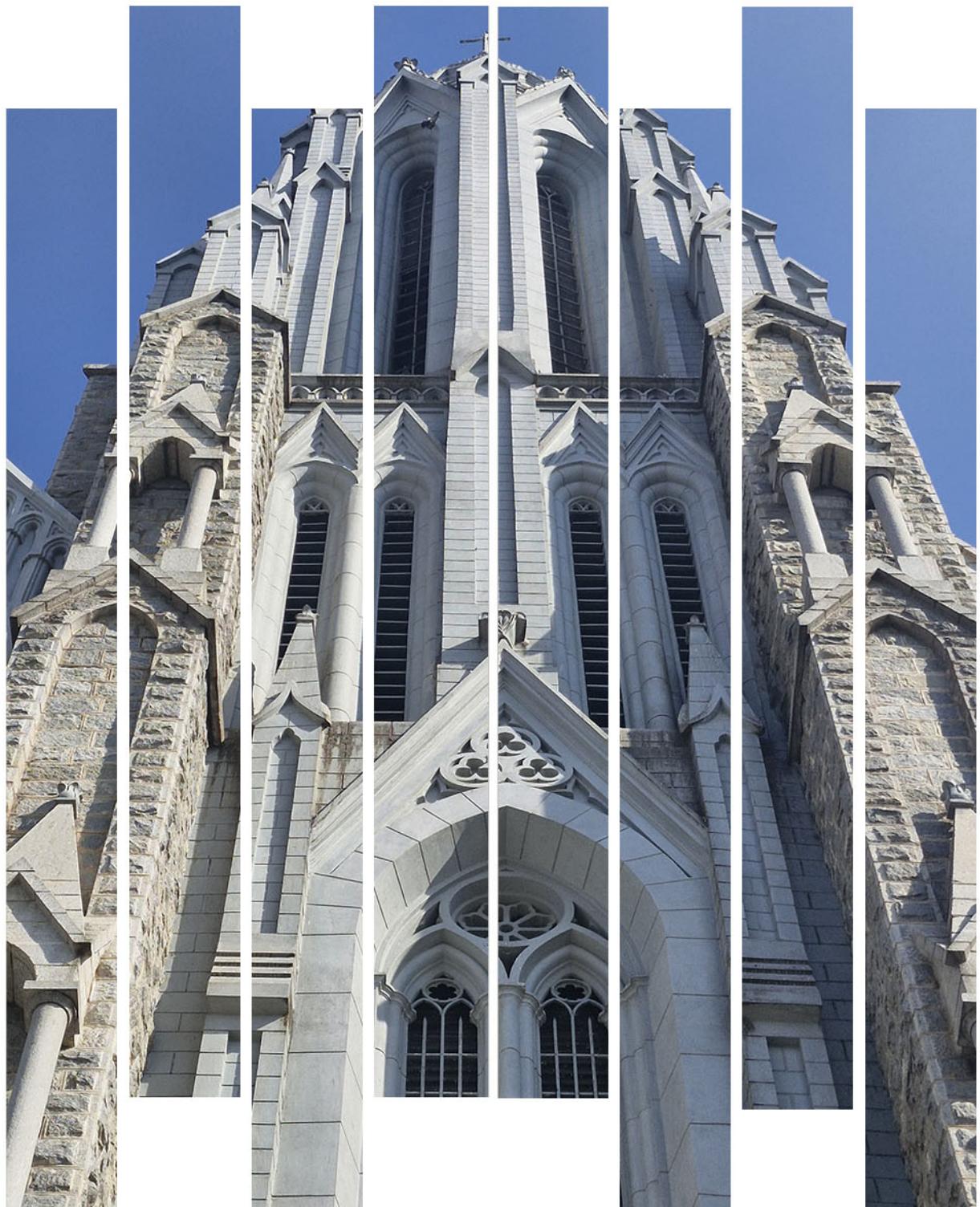
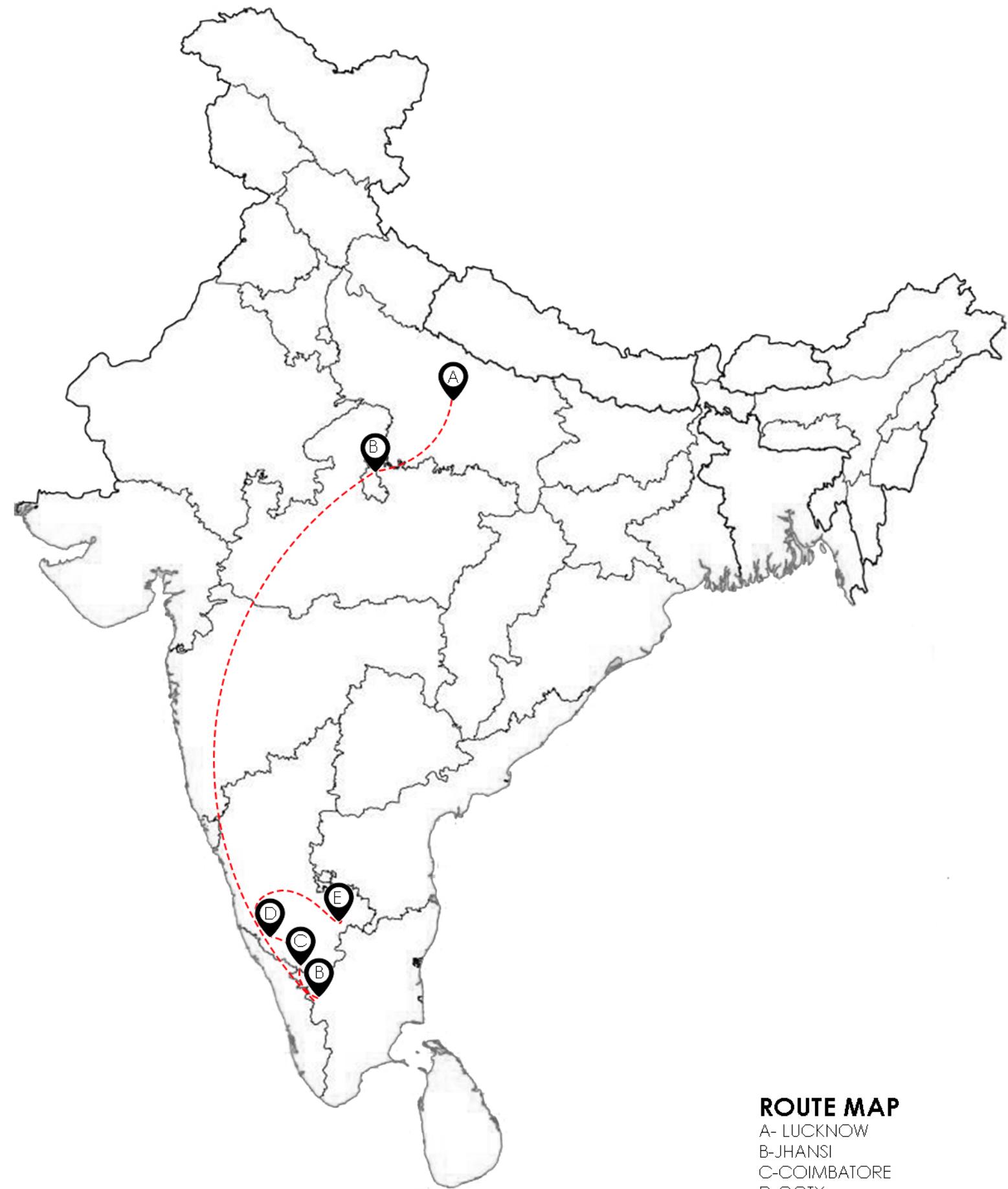


# EDUCATIONAL TOUR

AN ARCHITECTURAL REPORT ON THE THIRD YEAR TOUR- (2024-25)

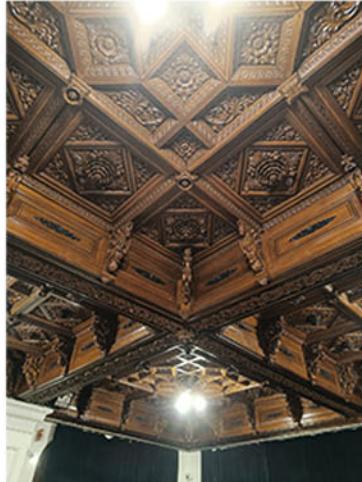
OOTY-MYSORE-BANGALORE





### ROUTE MAP

- A- LUCKNOW
- B- JHANSI
- C- COIMBATORE
- D- OOTY
- E- MYSORE
- F- BANGALORE



This report meticulously documents the activities and observations made during the educational tour undertaken by the third-year students of the Bachelor of Architecture program from January 24th to January 30th, 2025. The tour was strategically designed to provide firsthand exposure to the diverse architectural landscapes of Ooty, Mysore, and Bangalore. The itinerary encompassed the study of historical architecture, urban planning principles, and contemporary housing typologies, specifically focusing on row housing and group housing developments. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the learning experiences and key takeaways from each day of the tour.

The journey began in Lucknow, home to our college, the Faculty of Architecture and Planning. Students travelled by bus and train to reach Jhansi. The wait time for the next train here was 8 hours. Students opted to use their waiting time to visit Orchha, even though this was not part of the original itinerary. Jhansi, while historically significant for its formidable fort and urban development, stands in close proximity to Orchha, a town celebrated for its well-preserved palaces and temples reflecting the grandeur of Bundela architecture.

# 01

## INTRODUCTION

# 02

## DAY 1

Day-01: Friday, January 24th, 2025 - Arrival in Coimbatore and Travel to Ooty

- **Morning (Approx. 08:00 AM):** The student group arrived at Coimbatore Railway Station. Upon arrival, transportation arrangements (e.g., pre-booked buses) were utilized to facilitate the onward journey.

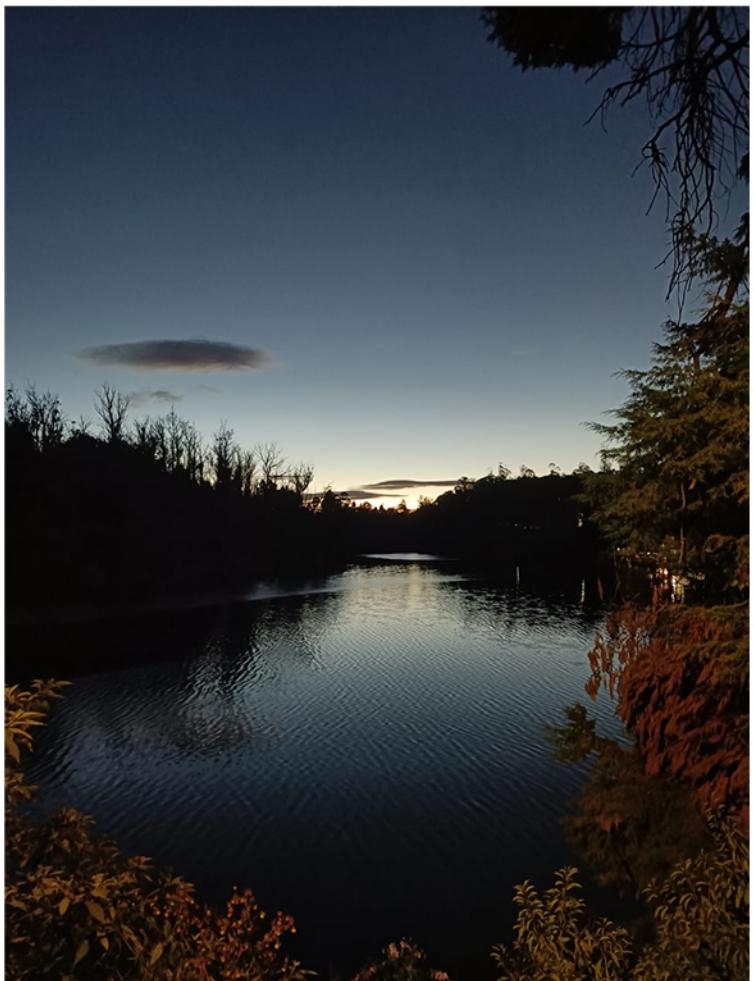
- **Forenoon (Approx. 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM):** A visit was made to a local temple in Coimbatore. This provided an opportunity to observe the Dravidian style of temple architecture prevalent in the region, noting features such as the gopuram (tower), mandapam (hall), and the intricate carvings depicting deities and mythological narratives. Students were encouraged to document the spatial organization, materials used (primarily granite), and the integration of art and religion in the architectural design.

- **Afternoon (Approx. 11:30 AM - 04:00 PM):** The group commenced the 85 km journey to Ooty. This scenic drive through the winding Ghat roads offered glimpses of the changing landscape and vegetation as the altitude increased.

- **Evening (Approx. 04:00 PM onwards):** Upon arrival in Ooty, the group checked into the pre-arranged hotel. The evening was reserved for settling in, followed by dinner and an overnight stay. A brief orientation session might have been conducted to outline the activities planned for the following day in Ooty.

### Key Observations (Day-01):

- Initial exposure to South Indian temple architecture in Coimbatore.
- Understanding the geographical transition and varying terrain during the journey to Ooty.
- Appreciation for the natural beauty of the Nilgiri foothills.



- **Morning (After Breakfast):** The day was dedicated to exploring the key attractions of Ooty, providing insights into its colonial-era architecture and natural landscape planning. Potential sites visited include:
  - **Botanical Garden:** Established in 1848, this garden showcases a diverse collection of exotic and indigenous plants. Students observed the landscape design principles, the use of terraces, and the architectural elements within the garden, such as the Italian Garden and the Fern House.
  - **Ooty Lake:** A man-made lake offering boating activities. Students could have analysed the lake's role in the urban fabric of Ooty and its recreational significance. The boathouse architecture might have also been noted.
  - **Doddabetta Peak:** The highest point in the Nilgiri Hills, offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. This provided an understanding of the topography and its influence on settlement patterns.
  - **St. Stephen's Church:** One of the oldest churches in the Nilgiris, showcasing colonial Gothic architecture. Observations would have included the stone masonry, stained glass windows, and the overall architectural style.
  - **Ooty Railway Station (Nilgiri Mountain Railway):** While a full journey might not have been undertaken, a visit to the station would have highlighted the historical significance of this UNESCO World Heritage site and its unique architectural character.
- **Evening:** The group returned to the hotel for dinner and an overnight stay. A debriefing session could have been held to discuss the day's observations and encourage students to document their findings.

#### Key Observations (Day-02):

- Understanding the principles of landscape design and horticulture in the Botanical Garden.
- Appreciating the role of natural features like Ooty Lake in urban planning.
- Identifying characteristics of colonial-era architecture in buildings like St. Stephen's Church.
- Recognizing the historical and architectural significance of the Nilgiri Mountain Railway.





# 04

## DAY 3

Day-03: Sunday, January 26th, 2025 (Republic Day) - Travel to Mysore and Kukkarahalli Lake

- Morning (Early Checkout): The group checked out from the hotel in Ooty early in the morning to commence the 271 km journey to Mysore.
- Forenoon/Afternoon: The travel to Mysore would have involved traversing through varying terrains and landscapes.
- Late Afternoon/Evening: Upon reaching Mysore, the group checked into the pre-arranged hotel. Following check-in, a visit was made to Kukkarahalli Lake. This urban lake provides a green space within the city and offers insights into the importance of water bodies in urban ecosystems and their recreational value. Students could have observed the landscaping around the lake and its role as a habitat for birds.

Key Observations (Day-03):

- Understanding the scale and distance of inter-city travel in the region.
- Observing the urban green space provided by Kukkarahalli Lake and its ecological significance.

# 05

## DAY 4

Day-04: Monday, January 27th, 2025 - Exploring the Palaces of Mysore

• **Morning (After Breakfast):** The primary focus of the day was the exploration of the royal architecture of Mysore. Key sites visited likely included:

- o Mysore Palace (Amba Vilas Palace): A magnificent example of Indo-Saracenic architecture, blending Hindu, Islamic, Rajput, and Gothic styles. Students would have studied its intricate carvings, domes, arches, stained glass, and the grand Durbar Hall. The planning and spatial hierarchy within the palace would have been a key area of observation.

- o Lalitha Mahal Palace: The second largest palace in Mysore, showcasing a pure white Italianate Palazzo style. Observations would have focused on its elegant facade, sprawling gardens, and the contrast with the Mysore Palace's architectural style.

- o Jagannmohan Palace: Now an art gallery, this palace offers insights into traditional Mysore architecture and its evolution. Students could have analyzed the paintings and artifacts housed within, providing cultural context to the architectural styles.

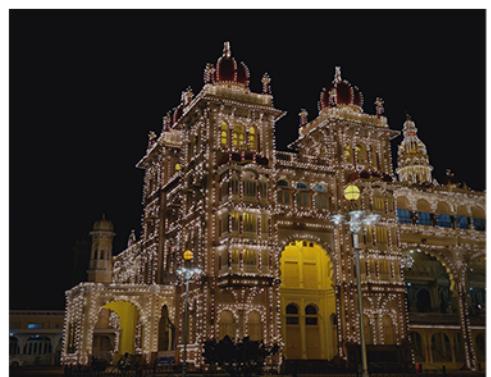
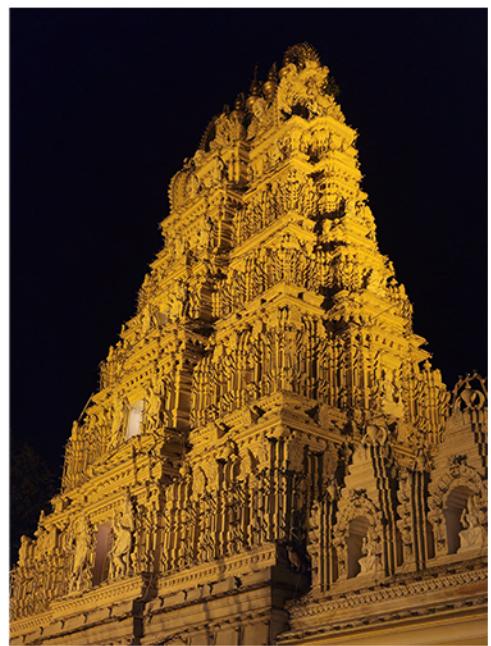
- **Afternoon:** Continued exploration of other palaces or historically significant structures in the vicinity, such as the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion (now a museum).

**Key Observations (Day-04):**

- In-depth understanding of Indo-Saracenic architecture through the study of Mysore Palace.

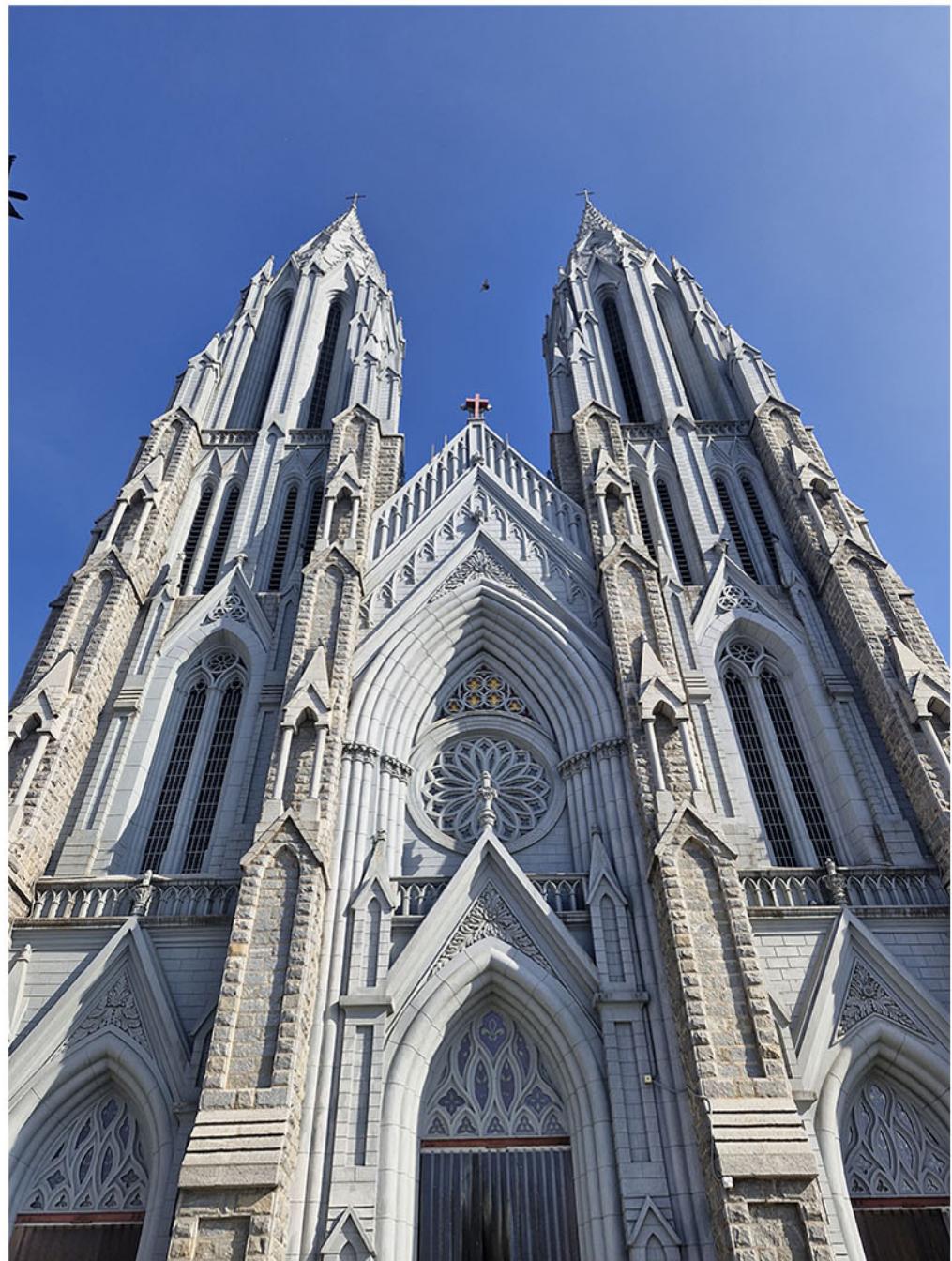
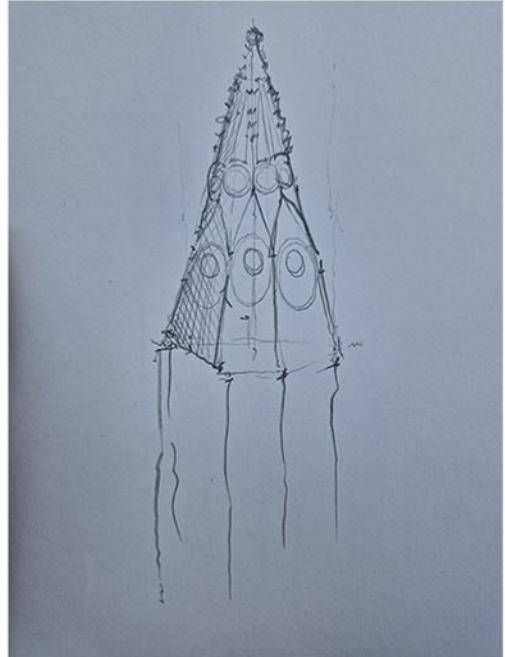
- Appreciating the diversity of architectural styles in Mysore's palaces, including Italianate influences.

- Recognizing the historical and cultural significance of the palaces and their role in the city's identity.



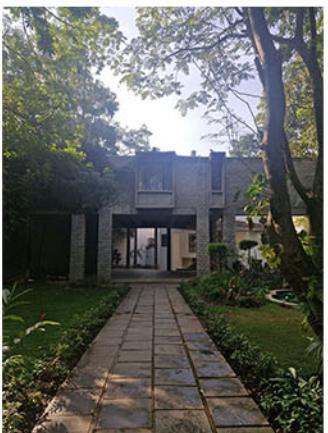
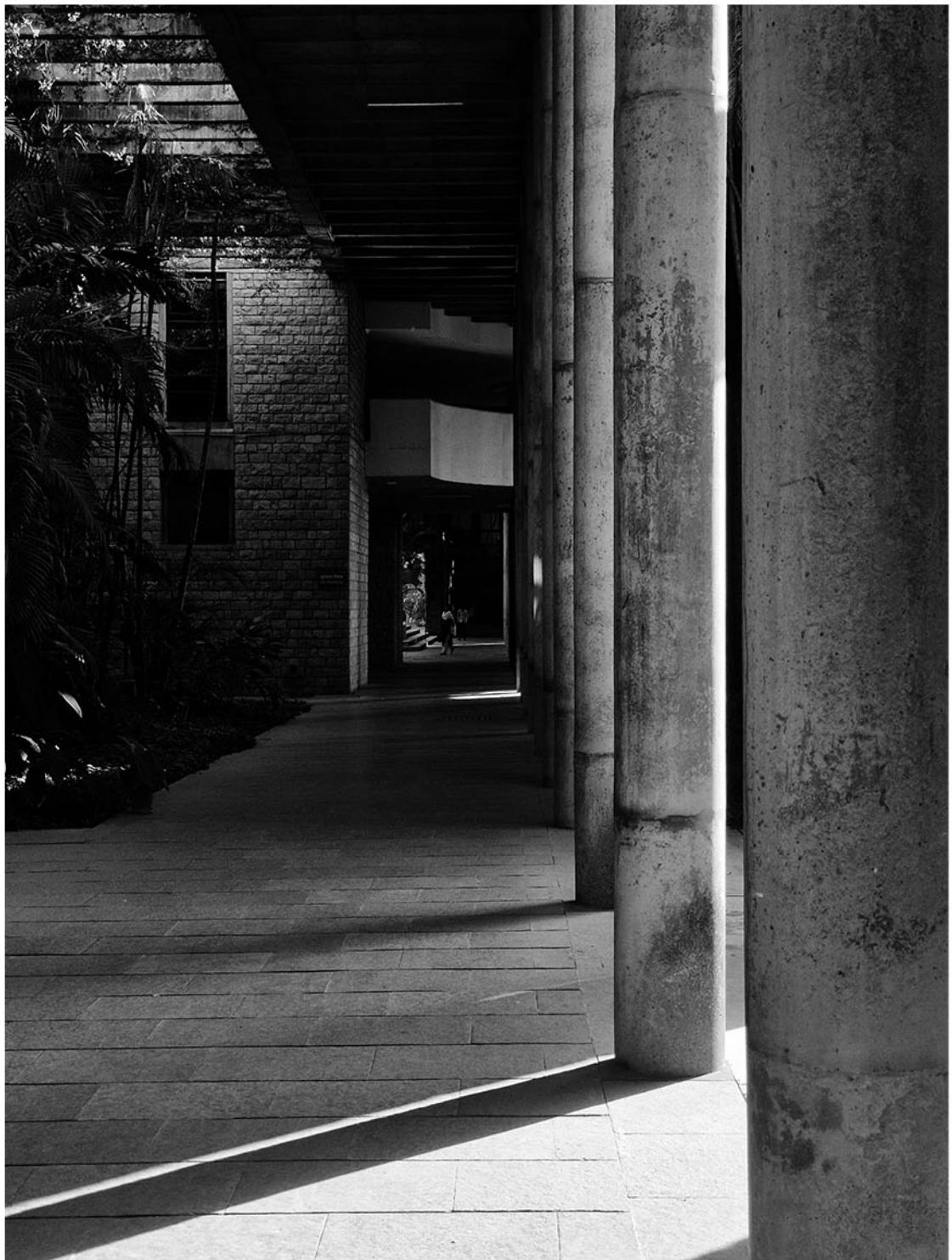






#### ST.PHILOMENA CATHEDRAL

The students were assigned with the task to create sketches of different architectural elements of the church and study this magnificent structure.



Day-05: Tuesday, January 28th, 2025 - Travel to Bangalore and Visit to IIM Bangalore

- **Morning (After Breakfast):** The group checked out from the hotel in Mysore and commenced the 140 km journey to Bangalore.
- **Forenoon:** Travel to Bangalore. Upon arrival in Bangalore, the group checked into the pre-arranged hotel.
- **Afternoon:** A visit was made to the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). This visit provided an opportunity to study a contemporary institutional campus designed by renowned architect B.V. Doshi. Students would have observed the spatial planning, the use of natural light and ventilation, the integration of landscape with the built environment, and the modernist architectural vocabulary employed.

Key Observations (Day-05):

- Understanding the urban sprawl and modern infrastructure of Bangalore.
- Analyzing the architectural principles and design philosophy of a significant contemporary institutional campus like IIM Bangalore.
- Observing the relationship between buildings, open spaces, and circulation within the IIMB campus.

06  
DAY 5

# 07

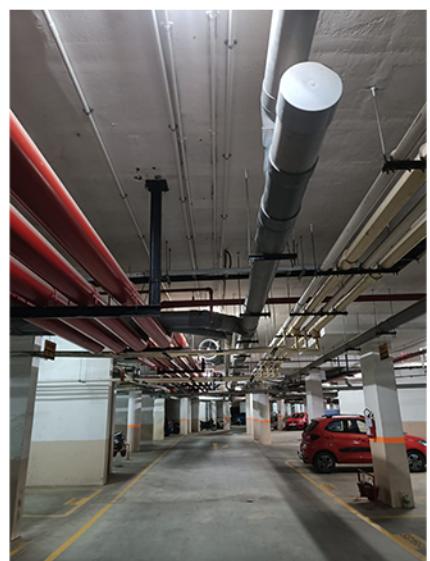
## DAY 6

Day-06: Wednesday, January 29th, 2025 - Case Study of Housing Typologies in Bangalore

- Full Day: This day was dedicated to conducting case studies of various housing typologies prevalent in Bangalore. This would have involved visits to specific examples of:
  - Row Housing: Observing the layout, unit design, density, and community spaces in different row housing developments. Analysis would have included aspects like privacy, access, and integration with the surrounding urban fabric.
  - Group Housing: Studying the planning, building forms, amenities, and social interaction spaces within apartment complexes and gated communities. Different scales and socio-economic segments of group housing might have been examined.
  - Potentially other housing forms: Depending on the available examples, the study might have extended to include independent houses in planned layouts or innovative housing projects.

Key Observations (Day-06):

- Understanding the spatial organization and design considerations of row housing developments.
- Analyzing the planning principles and amenities offered in various group housing projects.
- Gaining insights into the challenges and opportunities in contemporary urban housing in a rapidly growing city like Bangalore.
- Developing observational and analytical skills related to housing design and urban planning.



# 08

## DAY 7



Day-07: Thursday, January 30th, 2025 - Departure from Bangalore

- Morning: The group checked out from the hotel in Bangalore.
- Afternoon: Proceeded to the railway station to catch the scheduled train departing at 2:30 PM for their onward journey.



## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through this educational tour, the third-year architecture students gained valuable firsthand experience and knowledge in the following areas:

- Historical Architecture: Understanding the distinct architectural styles, construction techniques, and socio-cultural influences that shaped the historical buildings of Ooty and Mysore.
- Urban Planning: Observing the historical development and contemporary urban fabric of the three cities, including the role of natural features, infrastructure, and planning policies.
- Housing Typologies: Gaining practical insights into the design, layout, and social implications of row housing and group housing developments in a major metropolitan city like Bangalore.
- Architectural Analysis: Developing observational, analytical, and documentation skills through the study of diverse architectural examples.
- Experiential Learning: Enhancing their understanding of architectural concepts through direct interaction with the built environment.

The educational tour to Ooty, Mysore, and Bangalore proved to be a highly beneficial and enriching experience for the third-year Bachelor of Architecture students. By exposing them to a diverse range of architectural styles, historical contexts, and contemporary housing solutions, the tour effectively complemented their classroom learning. The observations and analyses made during this immersive experience will undoubtedly contribute significantly to their academic growth and future professional development as architects. Further reflection and academic assignments based on this tour will help solidify the knowledge gained and encourage critical thinking about the built environment.

# 09 OUTCOME