

ABHIJIT KONDHALKAR

Urban Designer, Streetscape and Public Space designer, Documentary film-maker



ABOUT ME

Trained as an architect and urban designer, Abhijit is an avid traveller, who loves architecture, cities, books and Cinema. In 2008, after completing his masters from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, he travelled to Africa and Middle East for work. In his professional life he has worked on various urban design and urban planning projects such as Master Plans, City Development Plans, Urban Renewal and Urban Heritage Conservation Projects.

After gaining an international experience, abhijit established his own urban design practice under the banner Shunya Studio. His is a collaborative practice based on research, self-initiated projects and experimentation. Abhijit's Master's thesis revolved around the investigation about how memory can be used in architecture, urban design or urban space design to create an experiential understanding of space. Through Shunya Studio abhijit has initiated project 'Memory and the city' which is an extension of his master's thesis work. 'Memory and the city' project is an experimentation in public space design. The idea is to examine the historical, personal and collective memory and use the knowledge to re-produce space. To demonstrate the idea Shunya Studio has initiated three public space design projects in the city of Pune.

Abhijit's interest lies in developing a comprehensive understanding of urban design by studying it from various perspectives. Abhijit uses documentary films as a tool to understand the marginalised members of the city, primarily slum children and transgenders. The tool helps him in his urban design exercise to make socially inclusive public spaces.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1.	Personal Details				
	Name	Abhijit Kondhalkar			
	Date of Birth	11 March 1983			
	Nationality	Indian			
	Office Address	Plot No 10, Shivdarshan Colony, Near Muktangan English School, Pune 9			
	Telephone No.	+918007893571			
	Email Address	shunyastudio@gmail.com / abhijitnkondhalkar@gmail.com			
2.	COA Registration	CA/2006/37552			
3.	Education	M. Arch. (Urban Design) passed in First Class	School of Planning and Architecture (Deemed to be a University), New Delhi-110002	April 2008	
		B. Arch. Passed in First Class	Pune University, BKPS College of Architecture, Pune, India	May 2005	
4.	Language & Degree of		Speaking	Reading	Writing
		English	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
		Hindi	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
	Marathi	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	
5.	Countries of Work Experience	India (Bangalore, Delhi, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh) Libya (13 towns in Fezzan Region, Tripoli and Bengazi)			

WORK EXPERIENCE

Year	Position	Project Information
2012 till June 2019	Founder at Shunya Studio and Independent Urban Design Consultant	<p>1. Master Planning, Street design and Public Space design Projects</p> <hr/> <p>Project: Urban Park at Taljai, Pune Client: Pune Municipal Corporation Site Area: 107 acres Project Cost: 40 Crores Project Stage: Phase 1 of the project is executed Year: 2018-2020 Role: Master Planner and Urban Design Consultant</p> <p>General Description of the project: Urban Park at Taljai is an ambitious project aimed at creating a large central urban park for the city of Pune. The 107 acres of land parcel on the hill are partially owned by Pune Municipal Corporation and partially by private landowners. The aim of the project to save the 107acre hill land from privatization and prevent it from turning into a residential zone. To do so, a master plan and a detailed project report are been prepared as a guiding document for Pune Municipal Corporation to fight a legal battle against the private landowners. The objective is also to propose a phase wise development on the land owned by Pune municipal corporation in order to prevent it from encroachment.</p> <p>Activities Performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting PMC in land acquisition issues and court proceedings • Analysis of existing situation • Stakeholder consultation • Preparing development scenarios based on land acquisition • Preparation of detailed project report • Preparation of block estimate • Presentations to MC, Corporators, officials, Additional Commissioner <p>Achievement: In 2020, Pune Municipal Corporation successfully won the long-standing land acquisition legal battle in Supreme Court. The case was won against the private land owners</p> <hr/> <p>Project: Playground at Taljai, Pune Client: Pune Municipal Corporation and Sunraj Constructions (Government Contractor) Site Area: 6 acres Project Cost: 7 Crores Project Stage: Executed Year: 2019 Role: Master Planner</p> <p>General Description of the project: The playground project is 'Phase 1 development' of the proposed Urban Park at Taljai Pune. The idea behind creation of the playground is to promote physical activity across all age groups of people to improve the physical and mental health of citizens. The project is daily visited by 2000 people.</p> <p>Activities Performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Situation Analysis • Preparing Presentation Drawing • Preparing detailed working drawings • Site Supervision • Presentations to MC, Corporators, officials, Additional Commissioner <p>Achievement:</p>

The ground has been visited by children, youth and elderly. Every day the ground is visited by 1500 people

Project: Revival of Zero Stone Precinct, Pune

Client: Pune Municipal Corporation and Shivswayambhu Government

Contractor

Site Area: 100-meter Street Stretch

Project Cost: 70 lakhs

Project Stage: Executed

Year: 2019

Role: Project Lead

General Description of the project: Zero Stone Project is an experiment in public space design and is an attempt to reveal an untold story of how India was mapped. The aim of the project is to create a memorial space, a place of remembering and commemoration, dedicated to the band of surveyors who died during the great trigonometric survey of India, 1802-1871.

Activities Performed:

- Existing Situation Analysis
- Preparing Presentation Drawing
- Preparing tender estimate
- Preparing detailed working drawings
- Site Supervision
- Presentations to MC, Corporators, officials, Additional Commissioner

Achievement:

After launch, the project has become a popular hotspot in the city of Pune.

Project: Street design at Marvel Vista, NIBM Road, Pune

Client: Pune Municipal Corporation

Site Area: 1.5 Km Street Stretch

Project Cost: 3 Crores

Project Stage: Ongoing

Year: 2020

Role: Urban Design Consultant

General Description of the project: Proposing Public Space, Pedestrian walkway and cycle track based on Pune Urban Street Design Guidelines

Activities Performed:

- Preparing Presentation Drawing
- Preparing detailed working drawings
- Site Supervision and stakeholder consultation
- Presentations to MC, Corporators, officials, Additional Commissioner

Achievement:

The front setback space of Marvel Vista shopping complex was successfully handed over to PMC for Public Space Design

Project: Public Space at Rajaram Bridge, Pune

Client: Pune Municipal Corporation and M/S Sathye Contractors (Government Contractor)

Site Area: 125-meter street stretch

Project Cost: 2.5 Crores

Project Stage: Ongoing

Year: 2020-2021

Role: Project Lead

General Description of the project: The city of Pune has multiple bridges crossing over the river Mula-mutha and all the bridges act merely as an

infrastructure entity denying the potential of the bridge to become a vibrant public space. The project 'Rejuvenating Rajaram Bridge' introduces public space along the bridge to connect historical past and forgotten traditional spaces of the city with its modern inhabitants.

Activities Performed:

- Existing Situation Analysis
- Preparing Presentation Drawing
- Preparing detailed working drawings
- Preparing detailed project report and tender estimate
- Site Supervision
- Presentations to MC, Corporators, officials, Additional Commissioner

Project: 'Pune in my memory', Public Space design at Salisbury Park, Pune

Client: Pune Municipal Corporation and Shivswayambhu Government

Contractor

Site Area: 3000 Sq.ft

Project Cost: 70 Lakhs

Project Stage: Ongoing

Year: 2020-2021

Role: Project Lead

General Description of the project: The project 'Pune in my memory' is a public space design project located at Salisbury Park, a high-profile residential colony, in the city of Pune. The public space is designed for senior-citizens and children. The idea behind the project is to reaffirm the bond between grand-parents and their grand-children in traditional space like setting.

Activities Performed:

- Existing Situation Analysis
- Preparing Presentation Drawing
- Preparing detailed working drawings
- Preparing tender estimate
- Site Supervision
- Presentations to MC, Corporators, officials, Additional Commissioner

Project: Pune-Kashmir friendship Square, Public Space design at Katraj, Pune

Client: Pune Municipal Corporation and Shivswayambhu Government

Contractor

Site Area: 5000 Sq.ft

Project Cost: 30 Lakhs

Project Stage: Ongoing

Year: 2020-2021

Role: Project Lead

General Description of the project: The project is dedicated to Pune-kashmir friendship agreement. The main aim of the project is to give peace message through Public Space design.

Activities Performed:

- Existing Situation Analysis
- Preparing Presentation Drawing
- Preparing detailed working drawings
- Preparing tender estimate
- Site Supervision
- Presentations to MC, Corporators, officials, Additional Commissioner

Project: Re-development of Willingdon Island, Kochi

Client: Groupe SCE India Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore

Site Area: 55 acres

Project Stage: Assignment Completed

Role: Urban Design Consultant

Year: 2012

General Description: At the historic Willingdon island, the Cochin Port Trust Authority expected to make optimal use of land for long-term economic benefits so as to make the island an accessible public destination.

Activities Performed:

- Analysis of existing site situation
- Preparing master plan
- Preparation of detailed project report

2. Metro Related Work

Project: Inception Report for Pune Metro Corridor II

Client: Architect Hafeez Contractor, Mumbai

Site Area: Metro Corridor II

Project Stage: Assignment Completed

Role: Urban Design Consultant

Year: 2017

General Description: The assignment was to prepare an inception report for Phase 1 of Pune Metro Rail Project. The assignment was aimed at the primary assessment of the metro influential zone and the immediate surroundings of the metro station areas.

Activities Performed:

- Primary assessment of the metro influential zone
- Primary assessment of the metro station areas
- Analysis of existing site situation
- Preparation of Inception report

Project: Multi-modal Integration Plan for Arumbakkam, Ashoknagar, St Thomas Metro Stations, Chennai

Client: Egis Geoplan, New Delhi

Project Stage: Assignment Completed

Role: Urban Design Consultant

Year: 2014

Activities Performed:

- Developing strategy for pedestrianisation and multi-modal integration in the metro influential zone
- Developing Accessibility Plan for all the three Metro Station

3. Community based research work

Project: Studying the impact of BSUP schemes on children's environment, a case of Pune and Bhubaneswar

Client: Action for Children's Environment (ACE), New Delhi

Project Stage: Assignment Completed

Year: 2014

Role: Research Assistant and urban Design Consultant

General Description of the project: The Project was initiated by architect and urban designer Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee, to understand the impact of BSUP schemes on children's environment. The research project was funded by Bernard Van Leer Foundation.

Activities Performed:

- Mapping of settlements where BSUP scheme is implemented
- Activity Mapping of Play Areas

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting interviews across age groups • Conducting cognitive mapping exercise with children <p>Achievement: The research has been published in various national and international magazines including Journal of Urban Design, June 2015.</p>
2008-2011	Urban Designer at Groupe SCE India Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore	<p>Project: City Development Plan for the Tikamgarh, Dabra and heritage city of Datia, Madhya Pradesh, India Client: UADD, MP Project Stage: Assignment Completed Year: 2010 Role: Project Co-ordinator</p> <p>Activities Performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Collection and Project Co-ordination • Conducting workshop for Stakeholder Consultation • Preparing Project Reports <p>Achievement: The CDP of the holy city of Datia was submitted by GoMP for National Urban Awards. 2010</p> <hr/> <p>Project: Preparation of Third Generation Urban Design Plans for the five main cities, namely Awbari, Brak, Ghat, Murzuq and Sabha of Fezzan Region, Libya. Client: UN-Habitat, ECOU and Government of Libya Project Stage: Assignment Completed Year: 2008-2009 Role: Jr. Urban Designer</p> <p>Activities Performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing 3rd generation Master Plan for the city of Awbari (2006-2035) • Preparing Draft Master Plan Report • Conducting participatory Workshops on Site and with the client <hr/> <p>Project: Urban Renewal and Urban Heritage Conservation of Panjim JNNURM Project, Goa, India Client: UN-Habitat, ECOU and Government of Libya Project Stage: Assignment Completed Year: 2008-2009 Role: Jr. Urban Designer</p> <p>Activities Performed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail designing and preparing project report for the urban renewal site of Miramar Beach, Panjim • Detail designing and presentation drawings for the urban renewal and urban heritage site of Boca Da Vaca, Panjim

TRAININGS and WORKSHOPS

- Participant at the seminar on Urban Street Design Guidelines for Pune City, organized by ITDP, India, July 2019
- Participant at the seminar on Child friendly cities organized by BVLF foundation, India, December 2019
- Participant of documentary and short-film making workshop organized by National Award Winning film-maker Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni and academician Prof. Samar Nakhate
- Participation in an Intensive workshop on Documentary Filmmaking conducted by Impulse Media in New Delhi, (July 2010 to December 2010)

- Participant of International Conference on “New Architecture and Urbanism: Development of Indian Traditions” held in January 2007, New Delhi

RECOGNITION:

- Felicitated by Pune Municipal Corporation at the hands of Ex. agriculture minister Hon. Shri. Sharad Pawar for completion of Playground at Taljai, Pune, 2019
- Felicitated by Pune Municipal Corporation at the hands of Hon. Municipal Commissioner Shri. Saurabh Rao, Pune for successful completion of Zero Mile Stone Project, 2019
- Awarded scholarship by Urban Design Department, SPA, New Delhi to participate in The International Conference on “New Architecture and Urbanism: Development of Indian Traditions” held in January 2007, New Delhi
- Recipient of GATE Scholarship for master’s program, 2006
- Finalist for the Maharshi Karve and Kale trophy award 2003-04, an architectural competition for Final Year Architecture student of Pune University.
- Professor Kelshikar award for Best Architectural Design in final year 2003-04

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all the information given above is true to the best of my knowledge & belief.

Date: 17/06/2020

Place: Pune



ABHIJIT KONDHALKAR