

*“Art, the only way to express thought without words.” – Amanda Lovell*

Growing up, art was a bridge for expression of various emotions. During high-school, when my peers preferred outdoor adventures, my introvert nature led me to enjoy indoor activities. I sat for hours developing vibrant cities out of Lego, completing complex 3-D structure puzzles and co-relating musical notes in various songs. Art was also a tool to understand new concepts through sketching and preparing timeline graphs.

When our class teacher asked us to sketch a dream home, instead of a vanilla structure, I drew an elaborate blueprint of a home replete a huge foyer, open corridor spaces, plenty of windows for natural light, a temple room for my grandparents and bedrooms with dramatically large balconies. In that experience, I realized that I wanted to take my creative vision further by studying interior design and architecture.

Joining [College Name], the leading academy of architecture and design in [City], I got unparalleled exposure to modern and classical design trends. We developed the ideology of thorough research of the needs for a certain space, and understood the importance of establishing a hypothesis and a rationale for each design decision. Finding inspiration in everyday elements, opened a whole new spectrum of thinking towards developing conceptual designs.

Watching “Playtime”, Jacques Tati’s cult film, featuring a minimalist ultra-modern flat built from floor-to-ceiling in glass panels, I was inspired of how it allowed scenes happening inside to be filmed through the walls. This widened my perspective towards illusion in spaces and inculcation of the terminology in design. I later took advanced electives in Spatial Photography and created my own narratives which got published on the cover of my university’s magazine.

In my final year, I had the opportunity to intern with the principal architects and designers of the reputed [Company 1]. Here I got introduced to large scale commercial projects like the new office for banking giant, [Client name] in Mumbai and few residential spaces. The gloom of COVID-19 and the lonely lockdowns had severely impacted many people in the community. Moved by the agony of the situation, I felt a deep desire to create spaces that promote social bonding and an open safe space to speak your mind. This became my final year dissertation topic – a therapeutic and wellness centre with the ideology of how mindful design can positively impact mental health and emotional healing.

Post-graduation, I joined [Company 2] as a Junior Interior Architect, where the firm’s focus was on designing for the hospitality industry, specifically QSR’s and Luxury Restaurants across Indian Tier-1 cities. Each project exuded a vibrant palette, ambient lights and told stories through its decor. I understood anthropometry and ergonomics in design, while applying myself in an environmentally conscious manner balancing aesthetics with responsible creation. Traversing these different spaces, I realized a deep desire to ignite my mind with fresh perspectives from a different culture, co-learn with global peers and find innovative solutions for daily problems. This has motivated me to apply for a Master’s program in design at [University name].

The hands-on research and studio learning will help me evolve into a well-rounded, and sustainability focussed interior design professional. Working on lighting design with industry experts like [Professor 1] and engaging in research besides [Professor 2] on emerging computational ecologies will broaden my skillsets significantly. Being part of the Design Futures Lab and the charrettes will offer me opportunities to contribute and learn through the collaborative and creative brainstorming sessions. My obligation towards nature and the community will reflect in my thesis projects that promote inclusion and sustainability in the Built Environment. Aesthetics, Functions, Technology and the realities of the marketplace are some of the vital aspects of design that attract my curious mind.

Post-graduation I look forward to collaborating with American architects and designers as a Senior Designer and prepare my-future self to lead large scale projects in the industry and cater clients globally. I wish to create spaces with emotive and impactful experiences, and be a sound designer with the knowledge of green and cautious designs. I hope to continue my design journey at the [University name] campus and groom myself to leave an enduring mark on society.