

## CETLD Design and Traditional Indian Manufacturing

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The India project, for me, was initially a fantastic opportunity to work on a research project within the Brighton CETLD, with Chris Rose, and with a small group with connected interests within design materials practices.

Visiting India has had a huge impact on my view of the world and where I belong in it, the kind of person I want to be, and what it is I believe to be valuable. As I am studying my Masters at the RCA alongside my involvement with this project, the impact of visiting India upon my research and practical work is difficult to express! In short, I am indebted to the project as it has provided a platform that has supported the asking of questions, and allowed in-depth discussions where I previously felt on my undergraduate course this was unavailable. Issues, questions, thoughts or worries that I had felt in my BA, I now could share and discuss thoroughly. Along with the visit to India, which has inspired all of the current research within my work, it is this platform that has shaped, changed and informed my personal practice at Masters level. Links have been created with the University in Bangalore, Srishti, and an NGO called The Timbaktu Collective, a working link I plan to continue to develop. A second trip to India provided an opportunity to further these relationships and it is hoped that this could be the beginning of a greater working relationship with a continuation the India Project and potentially the University of Brighton.

Working with the students from Brighton provided an opportunity to continue and carry out my passion for education, and within this role there has been invaluable insight into the teaching and learning model Chris Rose proposed for the project. For me both facilitating and participating, a dual role created an integral dynamic within the group that showed in practice that teachers should not stop being learners. This project provided hands-on experience of this reality. This method of thinking shall continue to influence and inspire my role in education.

The India Project has helped shape my creative life, what I think, what I believe, and what I might be capable of achieving. It has provided an opportunity to support existing structures within the education system, whether at undergraduate or as in my case, postgraduate level. I deeply believe this project should find a method of continuation, developing within or alongside the current undergraduate curriculum; something that if it is possible I sincerely hope I may be a part of in its future!

These images are two that I think about often:

The beauty of this everyday scene prompted us to stop. It was a sight I believed only fit for a religious purpose, holy sheets from a local temple. The reality was a cleaning business servicing the bed sheets from the local posh hotels.



2. The air, the spices, the colour, the light, the sound. This experience shall never leave me. Trading in a market place, I had forgotten how natural this feels. Flowers everywhere, to decorate homes, parties, festivals. I couldn't help but feel sad...how far away from this had progress led us.



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