

# SMITA DATTA MAKHIJA

Established AVESANA studio in 1988 to work on projects driven by process where solutions are based on an in-depth understanding of local identity, continuity of the shared heritage components, sustenance of sensitive ecosystems and socio-economic regeneration factors.

Worked with organizations in the capacity of conservation architect consultant with INTACH, Aga Khan Foundation, Pani Morcha, Delhi Development Authority, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority, Ford Foundation, UNICEF, FAO, WHO and as an Advisor to ICCR for the Indian Cultural Center at Paris. Worked on conservation projects and research undertaken in Delhi, Rajasthan, Ladakh, Assam and Uttarakhand.

Developed a module for teaching Appropriate Intervention and Adaptive reuse of heritage resource for the third semester master's degree course in Architectural Conservation Studies, Department of Architectural Conservation, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Visiting Faculty for teaching the module for more than 20 years in addition to teaching as visiting faculty for the urban conservation studio and the thesis semester.

Engaged in public domain for appropriate heritage intervention action through research and organization of an awareness campaign for the Red Fort and Chandni Chowk in Shahjahanabad, Delhi; along with filing and winning a public interest litigation to safeguard its heritage values.

Developed the structure and identifying zones for study in Shahjahanabad for the studio on "Reducing Risk, Raising Resilience: Recovering the Public Spaces of Shahjahanabad, Delhi, India through Participatory Conservation and Ecological Urbanism", its outcomes exhibited in the Venice biennale 2023.

Co-author for the "Delhi Declaration" on Heritage and Democracy 2017 for ICOMOS.

Created Integrated Heritage appreciation programmes for schools to enable children to develop a deep-rooted appreciation and understanding of heritage of linking the past with present and future.

B.Arch. School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, 1984

Masters in Conservation Studies, IAAS, York, U. K.; MCA.1986. Awarded the Charles Wallace Scholarship administered by the British Council for Architectural and Urban Conservation at the York University. Dissertation on System of Documentation of Vernacular Settlements in India.