

Volume 1, Issue 1



May
2023

GLASS PANELS

In this issue:

TECHNOLOGY AND HERITAGE

On Curating an Exhibition

Design x Heritage Centre

Manna from Heaven

AMUSING MUSEUM MUSINGS

"If you don't know history, then you
don't know anything.

You are a leaf that doesn't know it is
part of a tree."

- Michael Crichton

TEAM HERITAGE CENTRE

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Uncredited photographs: Heritage Centre staff

The Heritage Centre was formally inaugurated by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, former Director of IIT Madras, on 3 March 2006. It is a repository of material of heritage value and historical significance to IIT Madras.

Located centrally on campus, the Heritage Centre has an exhibition space that enjoys an abundance of natural light. The centre also has a small theatre and a particularly pleasant reading area that offers incomparable views of the green campus.

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Only at the Heritage Centre

The one, the only, *Campaschimes* is now available at the Heritage Centre! With an iconic cover design and rich content, you can discover the fascinating history of IIT Madras like no other. Make this a part of your coffee table for just ₹1000!



Campaschimes is available at the IITM Gift Shop in the Heritage Centre. See the inside back cover for details.

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

The Heritage Centre is an oasis of tranquillity, such as a lobby or a parlour in a tastefully created hotel endeavours to be—a parlour that sometimes has the soothing sounds of a tinkling piano rising and falling in the background.

Recently, a visitor told me that the Heritage Centre was reminiscent of some pleasant establishments in Graz, Austria. There was something evocative about the uncrowded space, the lighting, the music, and the open views of the green campus provided by the glass sides.



This feedback was very satisfactory as the Heritage Centre seeks to provide a serene ambience and an immersive atmosphere to enjoy its exhibits.

The Heritage Centre was a unique facility among the IITs when it was inaugurated 17 years back—and it still is. More than a museum, the Heritage Centre collects and displays items of heritage value to IIT Madras. In the collections of the Heritage Centre are artefacts, photographs, videos and publications. Maintaining the oasis that the Heritage Centre is, tranquillity and all, as with the aforementioned hotel, is a back office that functions intensely.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Glass Panels*, a newsletter that takes you behind the scenes. It has been imagined and produced by Team Heritage Centre. How does one curate an exhibition? What is the role of 'design' in the Heritage Centre? What makes a good natural history exhibit at IIT Madras? You will find the answers to these questions and more in this issue. You will also find a heritage-themed crossword puzzle and cartoons as well.

I hope you enjoy this peek into how the Heritage Centre works.

Stay tuned for the next issue!



Kumaran Sathasivam
Operational Head
Heritage Centre

TECHNOLOGY AND HERITAGE: TRAVERSING TIME AND SPACE THROUGH HISTORY AND THE FUTURE



Introduction

Museums have existed for a long time: whether they were people's shrines to lost ones or countries dedicating a space for their history and people. The Capitoline Museums have existed since 1471. We are in 2023, if we need any reminding.

People have always liked being intellectually and emotionally touched by information rather than just being informed. Museums help in doing this. They enable us to immerse ourselves in a time that has gone past or is yet to come. They connect us to a time and space that has no bounds using literature, audio, video and even virtual or augmented reality (VR/AR) - while augmented reality works with reality, virtual reality is a created reality.



An immersive experience through information, sounds and visuals is ready to meet visitors at the Heritage Centre.

At the Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre is the only one of its kind among the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology. The Heritage Centre of IIT Madras sounds like an endemic species. Initially created with a more traditional museum layout, after its renovation on 18 December 2022, the Centre has incorporated interactive screens and has had several exhibitions about technological innovations. The Heritage Centre presents the past in multiple ways: artefacts, information, video and AR.

Museums transcend age; AR also does the same: children, teenagers, and adults all are equally interested in the workings of the Oculus model we have at the Centre. Currently, it contains videos on IIT Madras and the Heritage Centre.

Time: Past versus Future

Dipping in and out of physical and digital showpieces takes people through different timelines. Museum displays have evolved to more than just posters and photographs on a wall. With the advancement of technology, interactive screens and digital displays are becoming more common now. Rather than being stimulated visually or tactilely, these screens tap into a different area of our brain: one that responds to bright lighting and moving graphics, much like a film. But what is the difference between seeing a physical photograph on paper and seeing it as a photograph on a screen?

The Heritage Centre's website has digital scans of IIT Madras photograph albums from the 1960s. We also have physical albums. The current exhibition at the Centre is about IIT Madras' Institute Day. In this exhibition, we have included a display table with albums from the 1960s till the 2000s. Visitors can touch the physical albums and turn pages. While seeing images on a screen enables us to see details and brighter colours, physical photographs take us back to the actual moments. There is a certain timelessness to the digital and a clear past and present to the physical.

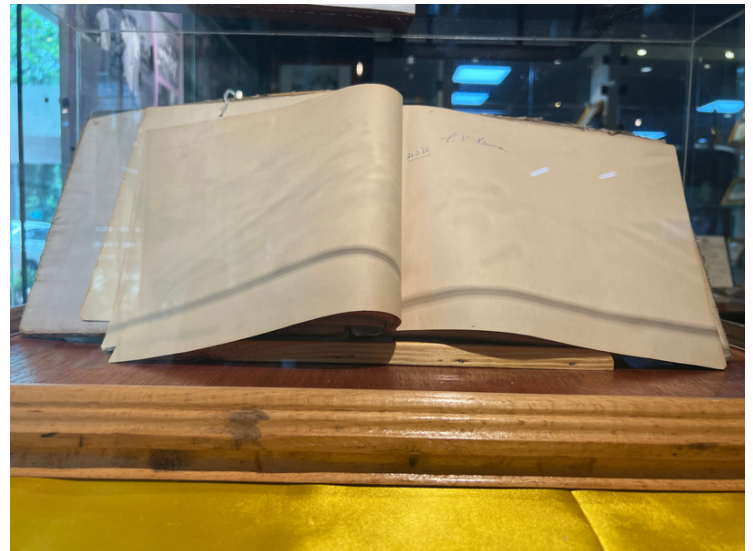
Space: Physical versus Digital

For example, the Heritage Centre has two IIT Madras Visitor's Books or autograph books. The Visitor's Book has signatures and autographs by eminent people who visited IIT Madras from its inception in the 1960s. The visitors were people from multiple fields in India and abroad, representatives of several governments, Nobel Prize winners and educators.

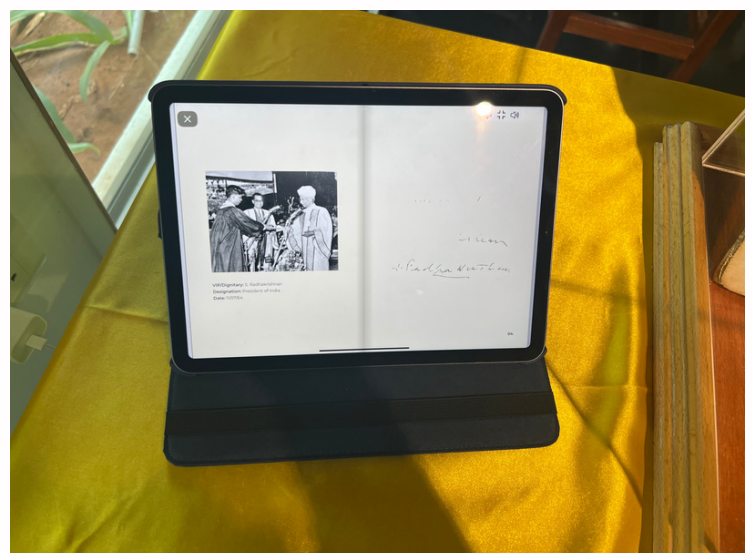
What do I mean when I state that there are two IIT Madras Visitor's Books at the Heritage Centre when there is only one? We also have a digitised version whose pages can turn with a touch. The original Visitor's Book requires restoration; the book is fragile, having survived for about six decades.

Through this digital method, we can show so much in a small space compared to physical items that may take space but have their gravitas.

Digitised Visitor's Book at the Heritage Centre ►



▲ The original Visitor's Book or Autograph Book from the 1960s at the Heritage Centre



We have also had temporary exhibitions based on technology, one of which was by the Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at IIT Madras. They design mobility vehicles for those who need them. One of the designs by R2D2 was the Arise Standing Wheelchair. They also had a hand robot synced to a game designed by them titled PLUTO (Plug and Train Robot) for hand rehabilitation: “A low-cost hand-neuro-rehabilitation device to provide gamified therapy to persons with neurological and musculoskeletal conditions such as stroke, arthritis, cerebral palsy, Parkinson’s disease, etc. to restore hand functions.”



Mr. Vigneshwar S. (mechanical engineer) from R2D2 explains the workings of PLUTO.

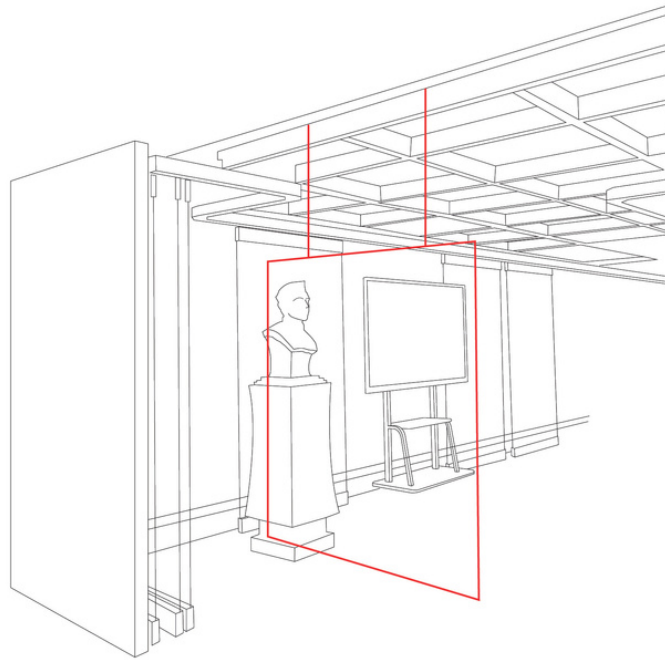
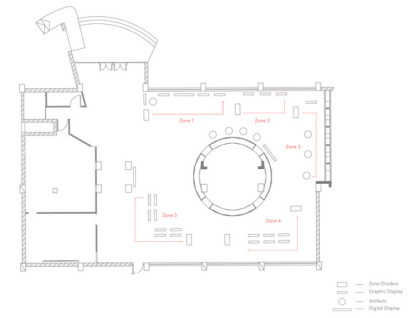
At the Heritage Centre, we employ transmedia storytelling: a method that tells a story or narrates an event using multiple forms of media.

Through the tools we use and the exhibitions we have, the Heritage Centre has interacted with technology in many ways. Although technology in history is an anachronism, technology helps to perceive the past in a new light. Rather than seeing the value of one over the other, if done well, technology and history can go hand-in-hand and tell a story more effectively together than they can separately.

Ashlin Deena Mathews
Project Associate



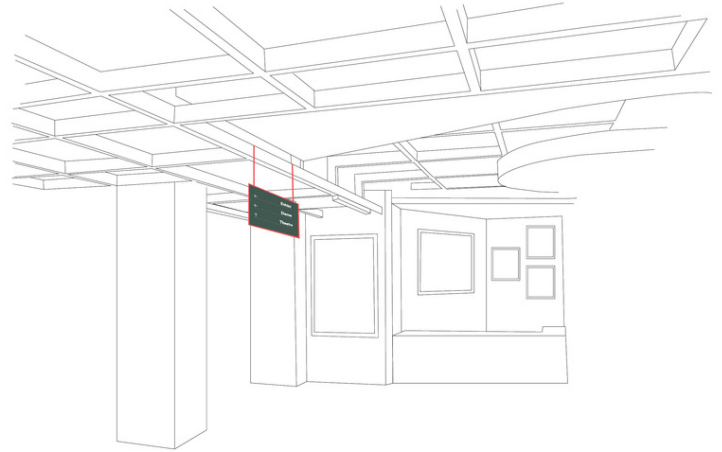
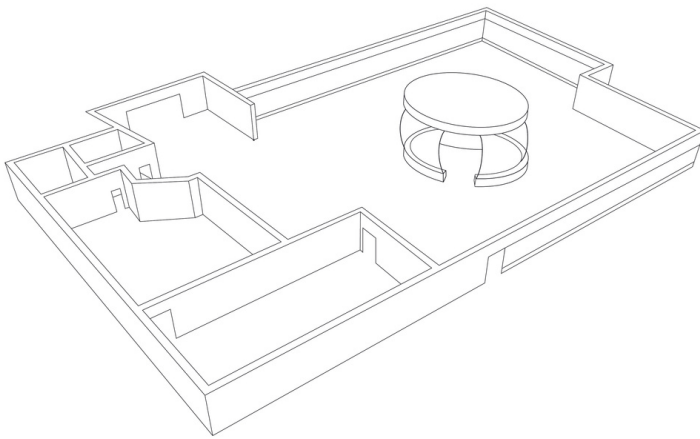
DESIGN × HERITAGE CENTRE



Good Design

Have you ever found yourself at a bookstore, strolling among the aisles and browsing through books with no particular title in mind, and your eyes hastily jump from one eye-catching book cover to the next? You suddenly realise that there are quite a few books that your brain doesn't register! Why is that? Yes, 'eye-catching' is the answer here. Although it is commonly known that it is wise not to judge a book by its cover, the chances of you picking up a book with an aesthetically designed cover over one with a simply designed cover is much greater. There are chances that the contents of the chosen book could turn out to be absolute trash upon further scrutiny; good design made you buy the book! But why did it catch your eye in the first place? Your answer to that question may sound something like, "The colour jumped at me," "The font was beautiful, perfectly sized and interestingly placed," or even, "There was a beautiful illustration/photograph on the cover". Every answer is valid.

On the other hand, have you ever wondered what all the hype about a specific 'ugly' product was, only to realise later just how comfortable, functional and easy to use the product was? Or have you ever found yourself wondering, while using a particular app, just how much foresight its creators must have had to provide you with not only such a tremendous and seamless experience while using the app but also to provide features that you weren't aware you needed! Keep the word 'Intuitive' in mind here. Such is the power of good Design.



Ironically, in the second case, the design of the hypothetical product needs to be revised. A product has two criteria to be met to deserve the term 'well-designed': Functionality and Aesthetics. Amongst the two, aesthetics, although essential, take the back seat as usual, with the functionality aspect being met; the aesthetic element is a by-product. It is a common misconception that design is simply about making 'beautiful' things that inspire an emotion of sorts in the user/perceiver. Although, like art, the design holds meaning via the appropriation of elements used, it is more practically driven. Design is about problem-solving at its core.

When it comes to any organization, design, if adequately incorporated, can generate momentum that could propel the entire cause beyond its limits. Not only does design aid in providing a strategic approach to various scenarios that the organization may face as a whole, but it also enables simple articulation and conveying of ideas on different levels.

Museums and Design

Much design is incorporated at museums. A museum is a space that specializes in collecting, preserving and exhibiting items of any cultural, scientific or artistic heritage value. Every museum has a theme or broad category for managing and maintaining content. A well-designed museum offers visitors not just a place to view and learn about its contents but also goes further and offers a thoroughly immersive experience that transports its visitors as they journey through the exhibition.

There are two significant steps in the creation process of any museum in which design is involved: (a) Creation of the space and (b) Creation of exhibits. The first step in creating a museum is designing the space itself. Here, research-intensive design helps offer a keen understanding of the nature of the content to be used, potential users and the best methods of representation, thereby creating an appropriate interior structure and details such as ambience and other interactive elements. At this stage, significant features of the space must also be considered: storage, recreation area, reception, restroom, lounge and displays. The flow of visitors must also be considered, and a well-defined route must be indicated.

Understanding how the material will be consumed and designed appropriately is essential for the exhibits themselves. Decisions regarding the static or interactive nature of the exhibits must also be aptly made. The actual means of representation, i.e. posters, display screens, videos, photographs, models, signage etc., must all be worked on in a manner that adds value to the experience and stays in line with the content and theme. In short, the museum and exhibits must work together as an interwoven entity to narrate a story in the most engaging manner possible.

The Role of Design at the Heritage Centre

To narrate an engaging story about the history of IIT Madras using the vast photographic collection, publications, and other alumni contributions in hand is what the Heritage Centre is all about. Currently, the Centre is split into three broad sections: the permanent exhibition, the dome (changing exhibition) and the theatre. These sections contain posters, display screens, 3D models, photographs, textual content, and interactive screens.

The permanent exhibition is a poster and photograph-intensive display assisted by models, busts, and other 3D exhibits. The poster-intensive nature was decided upon as textual content and photographs/images were needed to depict the history of IIT Madras and the student life at the Institute during its early days. The exhibition is currently colour-coded to tell the different zones apart. The dome houses various exhibitions whose contents vary from each other. Design plays a significant role here as well. Each exhibition is specially curated, a theme selected and all the material is put together in a fun-to-digest manner that does not overlap with the permanent exhibition. Sometimes, depending on the content, the exhibitions are poster-intensive or 3D exhibit intensive. The display screens are used in every one of these exhibitions and feature videos and slideshows.

The role that design could play in the further development and growth of the Heritage Centre could extend well beyond the exhibitions and their contents. Installations at an Institute-wide scale could be planned and executed strategically to draw more visitors to the Centre. On the other hand, more minor details that concern the various 'Visitor-Centre' related interactions could be more seamlessly designed, hence making the Heritage Centre one that is unparalleled.

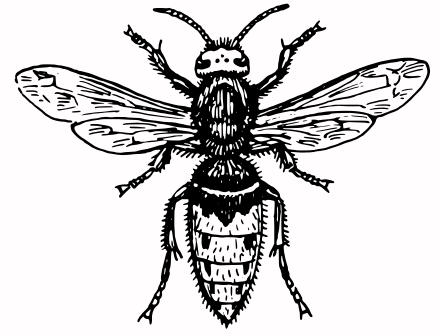


Sushmitha Sathasivam
Project Associate



Sajani Sathasivam
Intern

MANNA FROM HEAVEN



IIT Madras's natural wealth is an important aspect of the institute's heritage. This natural wealth surrounds us in the campus. It presents a panorama that is comfortably and readily if somewhat selectively and intermittently, viewed through the glass panels of the Heritage Centre's sides.

With all our living heritage around us, it is hardly desirable to put up the traditional stock-in-trade of natural history museums: dioramas, skeletons, stuffed specimens, models and so forth. Thus we have hitherto restricted ourselves to exhibiting printed photographs, slide shows and videos in our flora-and-fauna section. It is a curious thing, but at the back of our minds has been the thought that we can do more in this critical section.

Some days back, we got a good natural history artefact to exhibit at the Heritage Centre: a hornet's nest! You may know that a hornet is a kind of wasp. Technically speaking, hornets belong to the genus *Vespa*. Hornets are large insects in general. The colours they sport are primarily red, yellow, brown and black. On the whole, hornets bear a superficial resemblance to bees.



Kumaran Sathasivam

The majority of bees feed on plant-derived foods—nectar and pollen. Similarly, hornets feed on nectar. Further, they feed on other sugar-rich substances derived from plants, such as sap and the pulp of ripe fruits. But hornets are also entirely carnivorous. They actively hunt insects of various kinds—bees, grasshoppers, dragonflies ... It is believed that the hunters do not consume these insects themselves but chew them up and feed them to their young ones—their larvae.

▲ Photographs of hornets taken in 2023 ►

▼ Palmyra trees at the IIT Madras campus, 2023



Kumaran Sathasivam

Hornet larvae are born in large broods to a fertilized female hornet known as a 'queen'. The larvae hatch and grow up in a comb, a horizontal layer of cells built out of chewed tree bark. The hornets seem to be great chewers! Each cell of a comb is hexagonal, like the six-sided spaces of a honeycomb. It is believed that the hornet's comb may have been built by the queen herself or by other (unfertilized) female hornets, referred to as 'workers'. More combs are built as the colony of hornets grows, with the combs being arranged in layers. The hornets provide a cover around the cell layers. This cover, too, is made of chewed bark. Eventually, a nest is formed that has an opening only at the bottom, through which the hornets enter and leave.

I knew that there were hornets on campus. I had seen one once on the ground, near the lake. I found its size and 'jizz' impressive and photographed it. And, in 2015, I spotted a hornet nest hanging from the top of a Palmyra tree. It appeared larger by far than the standard basketball, and there it was, suspended like a strange giant drop among the Palmyra leaves.



Kumaran Sathasivam

A hornet nest at the IIT Madras campus, 2015

Fascinating as hornets and hornet nests are, it may be prudent to avoid getting close to a hornet nest if you should find one near ground level. For it is a fact that hornets display an uncomfortable readiness to sting anyone they perceive as a threat to their nest. And it is another fact that hornet stings are extremely painful. It is a third fact that hornets can sting repeatedly without any harm to themselves, unlike bees, which die if they inflict just one sting.

In April, I found an abandoned hornet nest hanging from a tree near the Heritage Centre. This was the nest I had mentioned previously. The nest had evidently been built originally in a different tree, a palmyra growing nearby. There were no hornets on it, adult or larva. The palmyra leaf to which the nest had been attached had dried and had been shed. And the nest had not suffered excessive damage because its downward descent had been arrested by the other tree. Given all this and the Heritage Centre's wish to exhibit unusual natural history items, it was a rare opportunity that had presented itself. The expression 'manna from heaven' springs to the mind.

Well, we have put the nest on display at the Heritage Centre. It is quite fragile. We hope to preserve it forever, but you never know. So do come over to inspect a hornet's nest from close quarters while you have the opportunity.



Kumaran Sathasivam

A hornet at IIT Madras, 2011

Kumaran Sathasivam
Operational Head
Heritage Centre



ON CURATING AN EXHIBITION: INSTITUTE DAYS OF YORE



A portion of the exhibition

I had the opportunity to work on an exhibition at the Heritage Centre. The topic for this thematic exhibition was Institute Day. Around two years back, I researched the Institute Days of IIT Madras. The focus of this research was the early years, particularly the 1960s. I had the raw materials to set up the exhibition; the first step was identifying the photographs, videos and artefacts I wanted to display. I had an article and images paired with content uploaded to the Heritage Centre website two years ago.

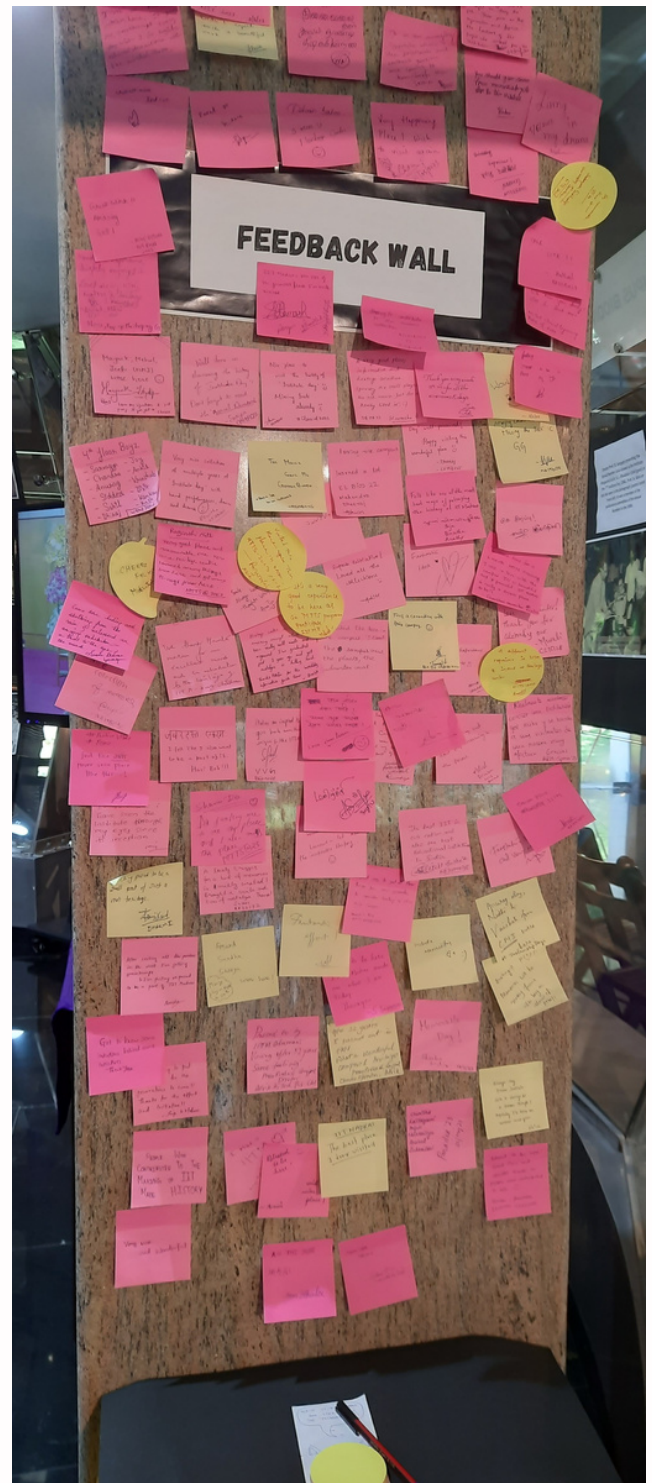
If you visited the central globe of the Heritage Centre sometime after 20 April, you may have seen the exhibition. The globe has 12 sides and four entrances. There are four pillars and 36 glass panels, of which 12 are hidden by the pillars, which can't be used for posters. The pillars and panels serve as places to stick posters and photographs. So far, we had focused on designing posters for our exhibitions. We also utilised the large interactive screens and some artefacts for this purpose. This time, I thought we could do away with posters and focus majorly on photographs. I had a vague idea of what I wanted to present, but I was unsure how it would turn out.



◀ The article about the band in a pocket designed by one of our project associates

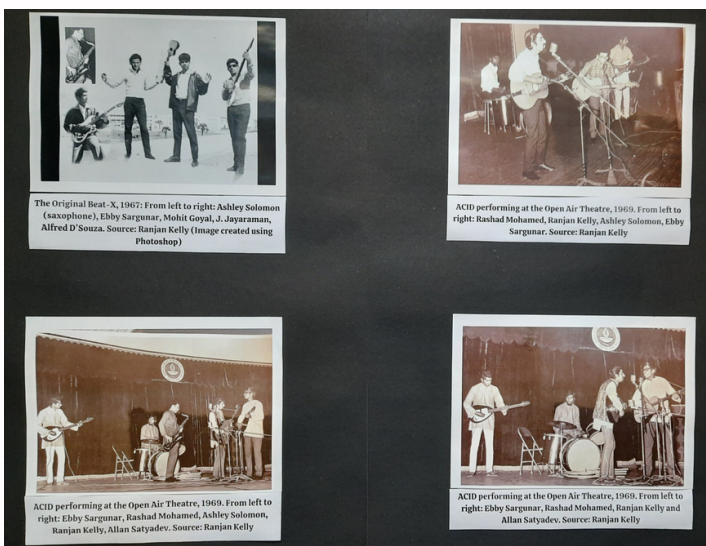


▲ The DVD



▲ The 'Feedback Wall'

◀ Photographs of the Beat-X



The exhibition also had two interactive screens playing videos, two busts, some Institute Day awards, physical photographic albums, Annual Numbers of IIT Madras (magazines released on Institute Day in the early years) and a newly added feature, namely a 'Feedback Wall' to record feedback from visitors. Visitors were encouraged to write their comments on post-it notes and stick them to a pillar in the globe.


Through this project, I realised that curating an exhibition is challenging. It requires a strong knowledge of the theme and an aesthetic eye to make the display stand out. Apart from this, the curator must think about how they can bring something new to the table (quite literally) without disrupting the rest of the exhibition.

The exhibition must flow through the sections seamlessly to provide an optimum experience to the viewer. It should be a balance between interactive elements and non-interactive elements. The viewer should be able to touch and feel some of the objects on display (such as magazines and the music album pamphlet) while also imbibing relevant information about the subject (through photographs, captions and videos). The viewer must not feel obligated to consume knowledge to enjoy the exhibition. The atmosphere of an exhibition needs to be friendly and relaxed for it to run efficiently.

This exhibition taught me some dos and don'ts about curating and planning. However, I feel it will take a lot more dos and don'ts to master the skill.

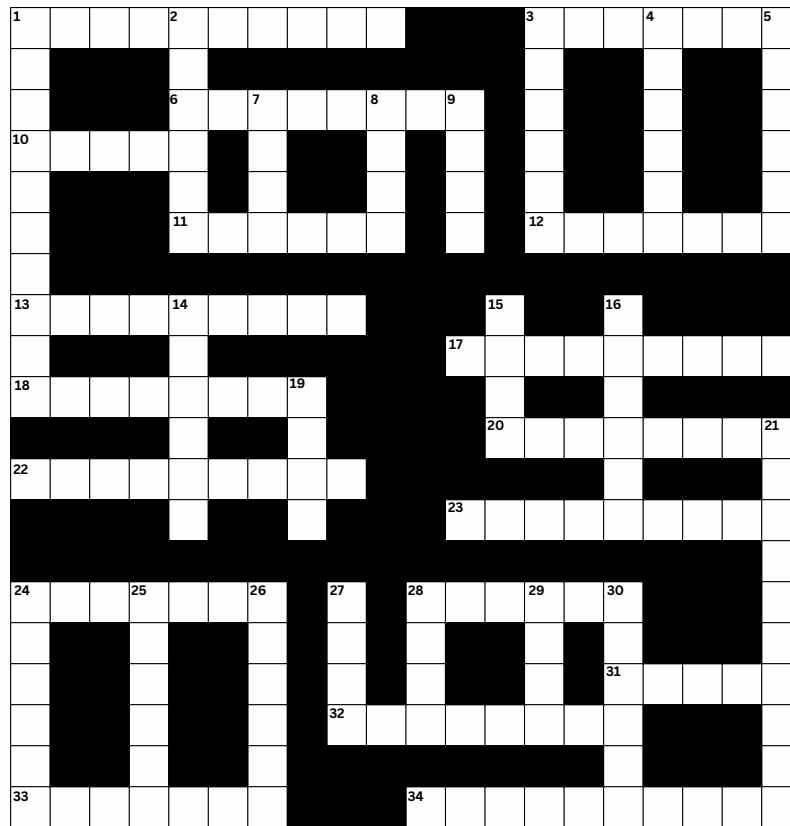


Bhuvanesh Santharam
Project Associate

 @bhuva23



THE HERITAGE SQUARE



ACROSS

1. The Mudaliars were also known as (5,5)
3. The Chief Minister responsible for giving the 600+ acres to create IITM. (7)
6. A tall tree found on campus once used to make ships' masts. (4,4)
10. In the mid 1990s, IITM provided technical consultancy for the development of a new international airport in this city on the west coast. (5)
11. Students' habitation. (6)
12. First day, first show (Film Club) - Imitation _____. (7)
13. IAS officer, cricket connoisseur. 1960s. (9)
17. Popular animals on campus. However, they are not found here. (9)
18. One of the creators of the Heritage Centre. Former Diro. (6, 1, 1)
20. A circle that is more oval in shape. (8)
22. A campus sports rag. (9)
23. This person received the DAA in 2011. His second name is Mannar. (9)
24. A long road that ends at GC. (4, 3)
28. The German IIT is found in this city. (7)
31. IIT Madras, but according to students. (5)
32. _____ means something that is of special architectural, natural or historical value and is preserved. (8)
33. Ramadan (anagram) - A "river" found across the grub hub. (7)
34. CLRI Director from the past, he was also a member of the council of IITs. Met an unfortunate end aboard Air India Flight 182. (1, 9)

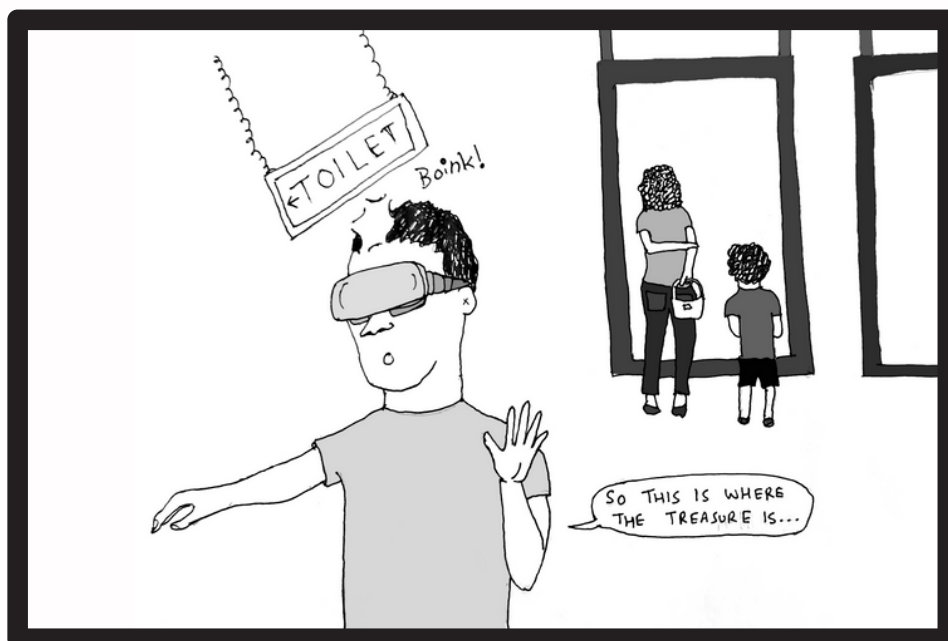
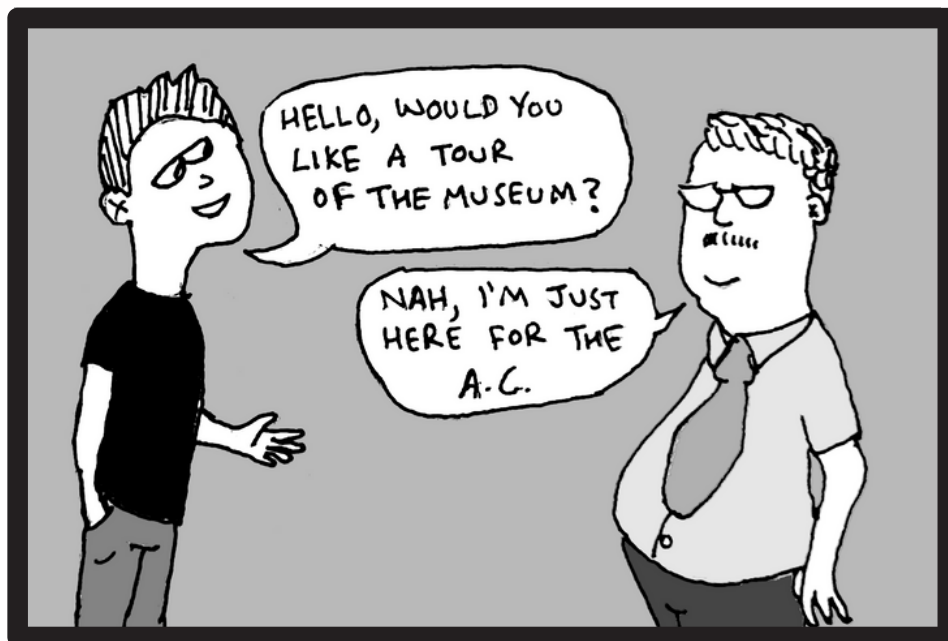
DOWN

1. A hostel inaugurated in 1966. (10)
2. A language spoken in the south. Also the name of a person. (6)
3. Something done using a keyboard. Computer Science students might be familiar. (6)
4. To get a real feel of IITM, you need to explore every _____. (6)
5. Member of the *Canidae* family, shy. (6)
7. A group of male professors. (4)
8. A number that a student identifies with during their academic life. (4)
9. End sem. (4)
14. A otter (anagram) - Movement of a body around a center. (6)
15. To work hard. Informal. (4)
16. ΦH. (3,3)
19. Vehicles at IITM have to go _____ at all times. (4)
21. A small warbler found on the IITM campus. (4,6)
24. A spooky tree found on campus. (6)
25. After the old semester comes the _____. (3,3)
26. "What man", colloquially. (4,2)
27. A place where the VIPs stay. Abbreviation. (1,1,1,1)
28. To _____ a ship means to anchor it. (4)
29. Something the Classical Arts Club would indulge in. (4)
30. Found at the Heritage Centre. Cousin of the trophy. (6)

AMUSING

MUSEUM MUSINGS

by bhuva



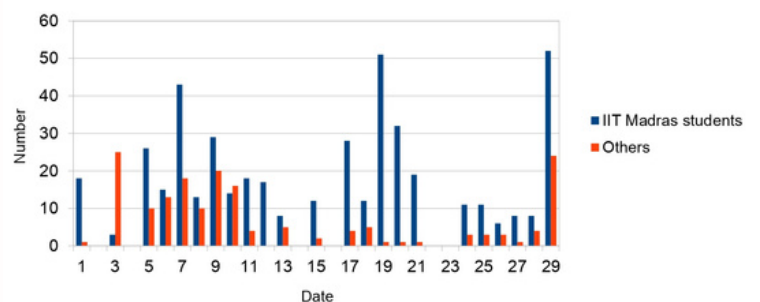
VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

(for the stat lovers)



Day	Date	IIT Madras students	Others
Saturday	01-04-23	18	1
Sunday	02-04-23		
Monday	03-04-23	3	25
Tuesday	04-04-23		
Wednesday	05-04-23	26	10
Thursday	06-04-23	15	13
Friday	07-04-23	43	18
Saturday	08-04-23	13	10
Sunday	09-04-23	29	20
Monday	10-04-23	14	16
Tuesday	11-04-23	18	4
Wednesday	12-04-23	17	
Thursday	13-04-23	8	5
Friday	14-04-23		
Saturday	15-04-23	12	2
Sunday	16-04-23		
Monday	17-04-23	28	4
Tuesday	18-04-23	12	5
Wednesday	19-04-23	51	1
Thursday	20-04-23	32	1
Friday	21-04-23	19	1
Saturday	22-04-23		
Sunday	23-04-23		
Monday	24-04-23	11	3
Tuesday	25-04-23	11	3
Wednesday	26-04-23	6	3
Thursday	27-04-23	8	1
Friday	28-04-23	8	4
Saturday	29-04-23	52	24
Sunday	30-04-23		

Visitors to Heritage Centre in April 2023
Total: 628 (454 IIT Madras students, 174 others)



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE CENTRE (DECEMBER 2022 - PRESENT)

Heritage Centre - Reimagined was inaugurated by Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman on 18 December 2022. The alumni reunion visits were lined up soon after the inauguration. There were 7 alumni reunion visits in December and January. During the Inter-IIT Cultural meet, Saarang, Shaastra and G20 summit, there were a large number of visits. Among these were many distinguished visits to the Heritage Centre in the past 4 months. Some of the glimpses are given below.

December 2022

18th

Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman
(Finance Minister of India)



February 2023

13th



Prof. Carl-Henrik Heldin (Chairman,
Board of Directors of the Nobel
Foundation)

*"Excellent exhibition, I
enjoyed very much and learn
about the development."*

February 2023

17th

Dr. Subhas Sarkar
(Union Minister of State for
Education)

*"Visited the Heritage Centre,
IIT Madras. Observed different
documents since its inception and
felt proud. Well documented and
presented. This effort is to be
continued for the next generation.
My regards to contributors."*



March 2023

2nd

Professor Brian P. Schmidt
(Nobel laureate)

*"A great way to
highlight a great
institution."*



March 2023

15th



Ma. Subramanian
(Minister for Health
and Family Welfare, Tamil Nadu)

*"Wonderful campus
and management."*

May 2023

13th

Suneeta Reddy,
MD Apollo Hospitals

*"An amazing opportunity
for unlearning and
relearning the future."*



It is always a pleasure and honour to host important personalities at the Heritage Centre. From ministers to entrepreneurs to Nobel laureates, the Centre is never short of stories of dignitaries gracing the museum. The past, present and future of the Institute are documented and kept on display here, making it a significant part of any visitor's itinerary.



Mamata Dash
Senior Project Officer



@thatcurlyredhead_

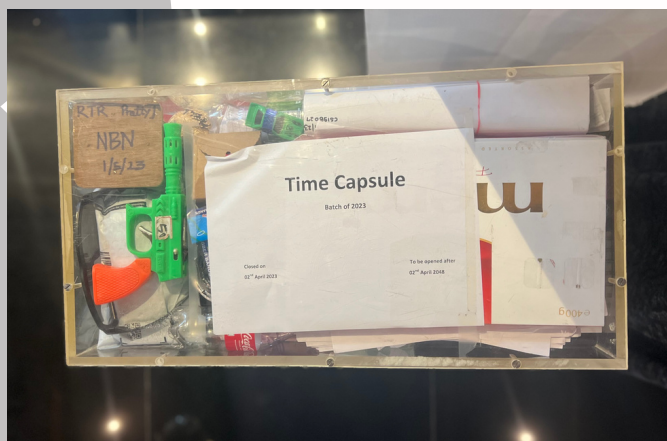
Swati Pariath
Intern



NEWS BITES

Time capsule sealed: see you in 25 years!

The outgoing batch of 2023 contributed various articles to the time capsule, such as toy cars, group photographs, prom crowns, t-shirts, jerseys, and plenty of messages inscribed on paper to their future selves. The time capsule will be kept at the Heritage Centre. It will only be opened at the Silver Jubilee Reunion of this batch after 25 years! It took a couple of hours for the Heritage Centre staff and volunteers to fit all the items into the acrylic box.



Invisible guests at the Centre

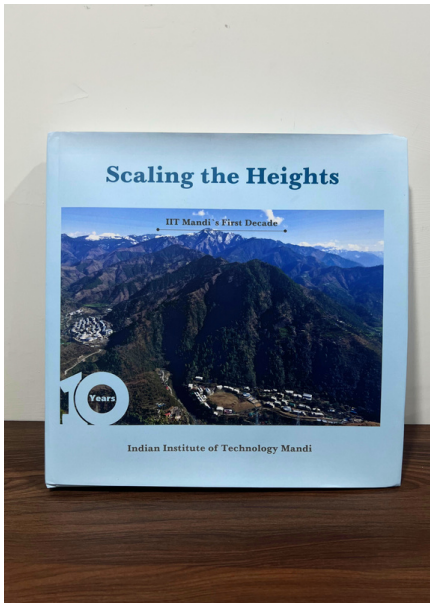
One evening, around 6:30 pm, the automatic doors opened but nobody walked in. The project associates at the Heritage Centre were terrified because it was dark outside, and all was quiet. The door shut, and there was silence. For a few minutes, there was fear in the air. What was going on?! It turned out that there were termites flying around the sensor, which caused the eerie incident.

A new book is on the way

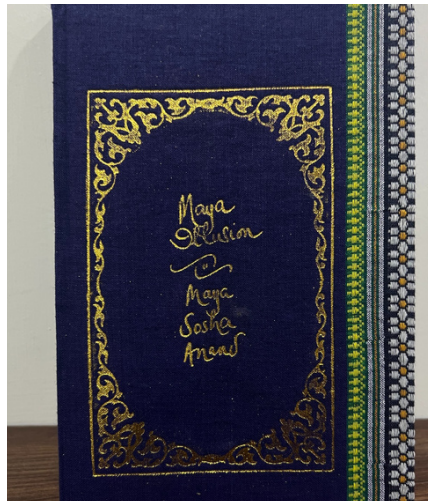
Book lovers, buckle up! A book about the Heritage Centre is being written and is expected to be out soon. You will find a concise and informative history of the museum, which is unique to IIT Madras.



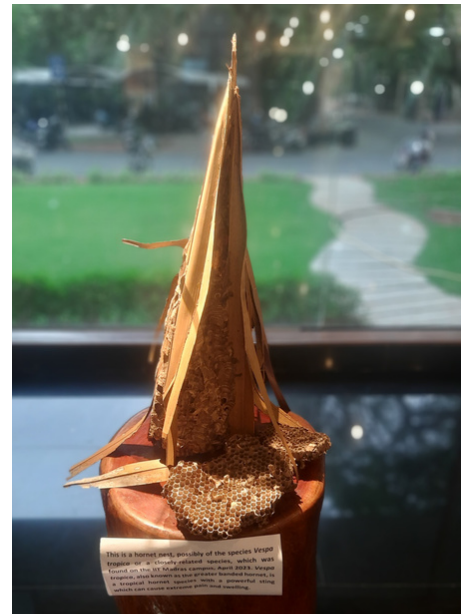
RECENTLY RECEIVED



A book on IIT Mandi's first decade (2009-2019) and the efforts of the various people that made IIT Mandi what it is today.



Maya Illusion is a poetry book by Maya Soshia Anand (1979-2002) gifted to the Centre by her parents. Maya passed away in 2002. The book is a collection of the works she wrote during her life. It includes a foreword by Prof. Elizabeth N. Kurian (Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IITM), an aunt of Maya. The book also mentions the late Mr. Thomas Tharu, an alumnus of IITM (1969), who was an uncle of Maya.



A real hornet nest found on a palmyra tree at the IITM campus, currently displayed at the Heritage Centre. The species of hornet may be *Vespa tropica*.

IIT-M GIFT SHOP

Looking for the perfect tea coaster? The ideal coffee mug? A fridge magnet to remind you of your days at IIT Madras? Then you simply must not miss this cute little shop tucked away in a corner of the Heritage Centre. Come check out our exciting range of products!



"A visit to a museum is a search for beauty,
truth, and meaning in our lives. Go to museums
as often as you can."

- Maira Kalman



Stay up to date with the latest events, activities and exhibitions through our social media pages.
Schedule visits by writing to the official email or by calling us!



Social media volunteer P. N. V. S. Sai Puneet (MM18B108)
helped us in making our Instagram page grow.
This cartoon was inspired by his dedicated efforts.

To know more about the work we do, SCAN THE QR CODES :



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