

THOMAS OOMMEN

thomas_oommen@berkeley.edu

+1 (510) 229.2920

https://www.instagram.com/thumoh_architect/

EDUCATION & AFFILIATIONS

- **PhD Candidate in Architecture: History, Theory and Society**, Fall 2023 (expected)
Department of Architecture
College of Environmental Design,
University of California, Berkeley

Dissertation: *Houses of Labor: Dwelling, Middling Experts and Oceanic Cultures of Building on the Malabar Coast, Southern India (1960-2022)*

Dissertation Committee: Prof. Margaret Crawford, Architecture
Prof. Greig Crysler, Architecture
Prof. Sugata Ray, History of Art, South & S. East Asian Studies
Prof. Projit Mukharji, History & Sociology of Science, UPenn

- **Ivy Plus Exchange Scholar**
Department of South Asian Studies
University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2018
- **Master of Urban Planning, Certificate in Sustainable Urbanism**, 2011
College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, USA
- **Master of Architecture (Professional)**, 2009
College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, USA
- **Bachelor of Architecture**, 2006
National Institute of Technology Calicut (NITC), Kerala, India

Registered Architect, Council of Architecture, India 07/40199
Associate Member, American Institute of Architects 38034129
LEED Professional, United States Green Building Council GBCI 10409989

EXPERTISE & RELEVANT COURSEWORK AREAS

- **Post-Colonial, Transnational and Global Histories of Architecture and Urbanism**
- **Eco – Critical and Oceanic Histories of Art, South Asian Studies**
Coursework in History of Art, South Asian Studies at Berkeley and U of Pennsylvania
- **Postcolonial Histories and Sociology of Science**
Coursework in History of Science, Anthropology at Berkeley and U of Pennsylvania

AWARDS & GRANTS

- **Junior Fellowship of the American Institute of Indian Studies**
Awarded 2022
- **Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship**
Social Science Research Council
Awarded 2020. Completed 2022
- **Graduate Division Award**
UC Berkeley, Awarded 2022
- **Berkeley International Office Student Grant**
UC Berkeley, Awarded 2022
- **Stevens Scholars Award**
Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, 2020 (declined).
- **Maharaja Kaul Conference Travel Grant**
Institute of South Asia Studies, UC Berkeley, 2020
- **Developing Country Scholars Travel Award**
American Association of Geographers, 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Graduate Student Instructor, 2018 - 2022**
Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design,
University of California, Berkeley
 - ARCH 130 Introduction to Architectural Theory and Criticism, UG Survey
Prof. Greig Crysler, Fall 2022
 - ARCH 170 A Historical Survey of Architecture and Urbanism, UG Survey
Prof. William Littman, Fall 2020.
Prof. Andrew Shanken, Fall 2021
 - ARCH 270 History of Modern Architecture, Graduate Survey
Prof. Greg Castillo, Fall 2018
 - ARCH 230 Advanced Architectural Design Theory & Criticism, Graduate Survey
Prof. Neyran Turan, Spring 2018 & 2019
- **Assistant & Associate Professor of Architecture, Jan 2012 -May '14, Aug 2015 - May '17**
Sushant School of Art and Architecture,
Sushant University, Gurgaon, India
 - Lead Instructor, Urban Design Studio
Bachelor of Architecture, 2012 & 2015
 - Dissertation Chair, Capstone Thesis Studio
Bachelor of Architecture, 2012- 14, 2015-17 (around 12 students in 4 years)

- Lead Instructor, Senior Year Institutional and Urban Mixed Use Studio
Bachelor of Architecture, 2013 – 14 & 2015 – 17
- Lead Instructor
Modern Architectural History, 2015-16
Architectural Theory, 2012- 14 & 2015 – 16
Bachelor of Architecture
- **Visiting Faculty in Urban Design & Architecture**, Aug 2015 to Dec 2016
School of Planning and Architecture,
Delhi, India
 - Co-Instructor, Reading the City Research Studio
Master of Urban Design, 2015, 2016
 - Co-Instructor, Urban Research Methods
Master of Urban Design, 2015, 2016
 - Dissertation Advisor
Bachelor of Architecture, 2015
- **Assistant Professor in Architecture & Urban Design**, Aug 2014 to May 2015
R.V. College of Architecture,
Bengaluru, India
 - Histories and Theories of 20th century Urbanism
Master of Urban Design, 2015
 - Survey of Post-Independent Modern Architecture of India
Bachelor of Architecture, 2014 -15
 - 3rd year Institutional Design Studio
Bachelor of Architecture, 2015
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, August 2009-11
CRS Center for Leadership in Design and Construction Industries
College of Architecture,
Texas A&M University, USA
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, August 2007 - 09
Department of Architecture,
Texas A&M University, USA
 - Introduction to Visual Communication
Undergraduate Design Studio, Prof. Richard Davison

- Structural Design,
Undergraduate course, Prof. Shelly Holliday

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Director & Lead Architect**, Sep 2012 to July 2017
Collaborative Urbanism
New Delhi, India
- **Urban Designer**, May to Nov 2011
Martha's Vineyard Planning Commission,
Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, USA
- **Junior Architect**, Aug 2006 – May 07
AEC Max, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala, India
- **Architect Intern**, Dec 2004- May 2005
Prof. Kulbhushan Jain,
Emeritus Professor, CEPT University
Ahmedabad, India

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- The Glazed Eyes of Architectural History: Reflections on the (Dis)Contents of Global History Survey Courses
Architectural Histories 10 (1), 1-16
<https://doi.org/10.16995/ah.8280>
- The Politics of Infrastructural Aesthetics: The case of Delhi BRT and Metro
International Development Planning Review, 2021 Vol 43:4
Co-authored with Sequeira, Ryan
<https://doi.org/10.3828/idpr.2020.21>
- Rethinking Indian Modernity From the Margins: Architectural Politics in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in the 1970s
Architectural Theory Review, March 19, 2019, 1–24,
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13264826.2018.1516684>
- “Modern Urban Heritage and public engagement: The case of Thiruvananthapuram”
The Future of Historic Cities: Urban Heritage in South Asia,
Context: Built, Living and Natural, Volume XII, 2016.
Aryan International Books, Delhi.
- The Politics of Architecture
Economics and Political Weekly, Mumbai, India
Vol - L No. 14, April 04, 2015
Co-authored with Pal, Shreyasi
<https://www.epw.in/journal/2015/14/commentary/politics-architecture.html>

- From the ground up: Re-Appropriating Urban Infrastructure in Delhi
Critical Planning, Volume 20, 2013
Co-authored with Singh, Radhika
<https://criticalplanning.squarespace.com/volume-20-1>

ARCHITECTURAL CRITICISM/REVIEW

- Thomas Oommen and Nipesh Palat Narayanan. *Democracy, Development and Identity: Notes on the Central Vista Project*. Berkeley and Florence, 2020.
<https://architexturez.net/doc/az-cf-219811>
- Thomas Oommen. *The Portal: Reading the Kerala Students Union Building (ca. 1969) by Thomas Panicker and A.K. Jayachandran*. Architexturez Imprints, 2020.
<https://otaa.architexturez.net/doc/az-cf-194141>
- Thomas Oommen, *Ee Nadathayil Nagarathe Ariyam* (Translation: This Walk Helps You Understand Our City), Kerala Kaumudi, January 17, 2015

SELECTED CONFERENCES

- *Practice by Rumor: Middling Experts and Linked Landscapes of Creative Labor across the Arabian Sea*
The Profession's Extensions: Architecture Beyond Architects in the Modern Middle East
May 13-14, 2022,
Princeton Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and Humanities,
Princeton University, USA
- *Monkeying with New Delhi: Notes towards a Post Human, Post Natural Urban History*
South Asian Materialities: Materializing Urban Change in South Asia
Oct 19th, 2019
48th Annual Conference on South Asia,
University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA
- *The Glazed Eyes of History: Re-reading the 1964 ACSA Conference*
Field Studies: Princeton Doctoral Colloquium
May 2-3, 2019
School of Architecture, Princeton University
- *Re-thinking Aesthetic Politics: Delhi BRT and the Aesthetics of Infrastructure*
Beyond a Standardised Urban Lexicon: Which Vocabulary Matters?
Aug 29, 2018
Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference,
University of Cardiff, UK
- *Modernism from the Margins: The Case of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala*
Re.Asia – Architecture as Method
July 4, 2017

Center for Asian and Middle Eastern Architecture & Society of Architectural Historians of Australia and New Zealand Conference
The University of Adelaide, Australia

- *Local Aesthetic Engagement: Tracing the Subaltern in Participatory Planning*
Utopian Urban Futures: Histories, Imaginations, Possibilities
June 2016
University of Leeds, UK

SELECTED TALKS/WORKSHOPS

- *Is Modernism Dead?*
Speaker, July 2022
Kerala Museum, Kochi, Kerala
- *Writing Architecture: Constellative writing and Critical Theory*
Lecture, Faculty Seminar, March 2022
Avani Institute of Design
Kozhikode, Kerala
- *Introduction to Research in Architecture*
Lecture, Jan 2022
Department of Architecture, College of Engineering Trivandrum
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- *The Future of Indian Architecture Education*
Moderator, Jan 2017
Delhi Architecture Festival,
School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi
- *India: Modern Architectures in History*
Discussant, Sept 2016
Book Lecture by authors Peter Scriver and Amit Srivastava
Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Gurgaon, Delhi- NCR
- *Reflections on 50 years of Architecture Education in Kerala*
Speaker, Sept 2015
Crossroads Architecture Awards, Kozhikode
Indian Institute of Architects, Kerala Chapter
- *Houses: Cultural Narratives and Malayalam Cinema*
Lecture, June 2015
Department of Architecture, College of Engineering Trivandrum, Kerala
- *What does Architectural Theory Do?*
Lecture, November 2015
Srinivasa College of Architecture, Mangalore, Karnataka
- *Modern Architecture Heritage Walk*

Walk Leader, Sept – Dec 2015 (twice a month)
Indian Institute of Architects, Trivandrum Chapter
Thiruvananthapuram, India

- *Final year Urban Design Workshop*
Workshop Instructor
October 5- 8th, 2015 & Sept 12-14, 2014
Department of Architecture, College of Engineering Trivandrum, Kerala
- *Modernism: Form, Space, Content*
Workshop Instructor, 2014
College of Architecture Trivandrum, Kerala

LANGUAGES

- English, Malayalam, Hindi
(Fluent in reading, writing and speaking)

REFERENCES

1. **Prof. Margaret Crawford** (Chair)
Professor of Architecture and Urbanism
Department of Architecture,
University of California, Berkeley
mcrawfor@berkeley.edu
2. **Prof. Greig Crysler** (Committee)
Professor of Architecture; Arcus Social Justice Chair
Department of Architecture
University of California, Berkeley
crysler@berkeley.edu
3. **Prof. Sugata Ray** (Committee)
Associate Professor in the History of Art & South and South-East Asian Studies
University of California, Berkeley
sugata@berkeley.edu