



SOIAD

Faculty Profiles

M e e t t h e m i n d s



School of Arts & Design

The Woxsen School of Arts and Design is a hub of creativity and innovation, fostering the next generation of designers and thinkers with cutting-edge programs, global collaborations, and a focus on sustainability. It empowers learners to excel in design, craft impactful solutions, and shape the future of the creative industries.

Ranked among the top design school in Hyderabad, the School of Arts & Design at Woxsen University stands as a pioneering institution committed to delivering world-class education through innovative and unconventional pedagogies. Situated on a sprawling -200acre campus in Hyderabad, the school boasts top-tier infrastructure designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

The school's diverse programs are among the best design courses in Hyderabad and Telangana, equipping students with the

skills and knowledge to excel as design practitioners. With a focus on organizational, economic, market, social awareness, and research, students are prepared to thrive in the dynamic world of design. The curriculum is continuously updated to stay in line with industry trends, ensuring that graduates are well-equipped to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving creative landscape.

Woxsen University's School of Arts & Design consistently aims to achieve international standards in teaching, research, and creative excellence. Its objectives include offering exceptional academic programs at UG and Ph.D. levels, providing unique and applied learning experiences, promoting global exposure, and fostering strong industry connections to nurture the next generation of visionary artists, designers, and creative professionals.





Adity Saxena PhD [Linked in](#)

Professor & Dean of the School of Design, Woxsen University, India | Director of Centre for Learning Design | Elected Member of Board of Director of College Art Association, USA | India Representative of Restorative Justice Education, USA.

Adity Saxena calls herself a messenger of happiness and believes in empathy. Mind-mapping is her tool for plotting ideas and communicating through stories.

Dr. Adity Saxena, a distinguished academician, brings over two decades of expertise in higher education. She holds a PhD in Mass Communication and has a unique specialization in design thinking, visual storytelling, learning design, education, and development communication. Many of her research publications result from interdisciplinary global collaborations.

Her international presence is solidified through her roles on the Board of Directors for the College Art Association (CAA), USA, and as India's representative for Restorative Justice Education, USA. Dr. Saxena's diverse portfolio includes impactful Erasmus projects such as Corporate Storytelling and Design Thinking for Social Change. She was invited as an external researcher and advisor to these projects.

Dr. Saxena's commitment to enriching learning environments is evident in her role as a resource person on global platforms. Her recognition as a thought leader in academia, featured in prestigious publications such as The Academic Woman Magazine (UK) and 1000Spotlights, further underscores the impact of her work. She continuously fosters meaningful dialogue on international stages, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and understanding.



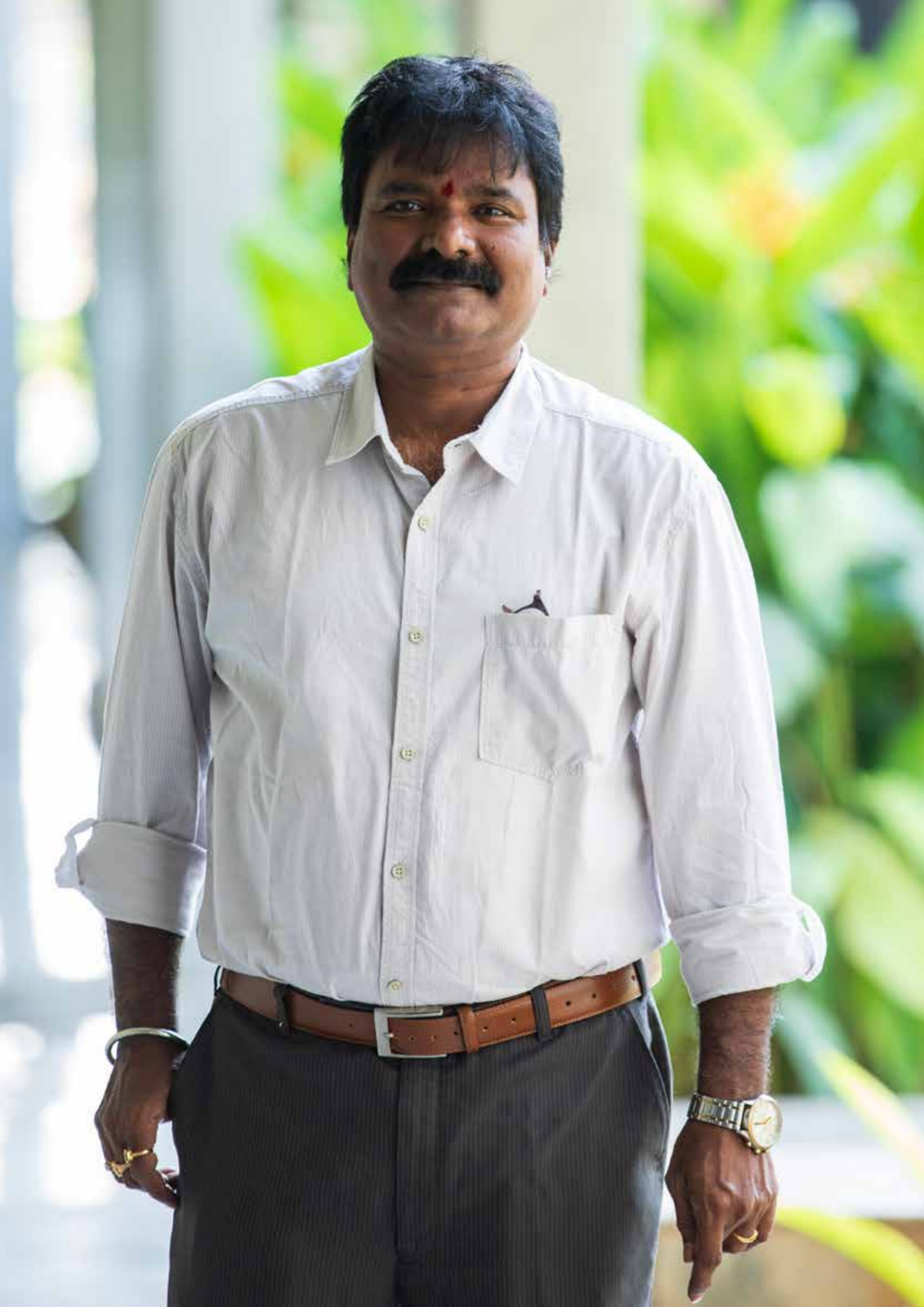
Prof. Sanjay Guria [LinkedIn](#)

**Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
Program Director, Fashion Design Department
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Sanjay Guria is a seasoned design academician with over 20 years of experience in higher education, industry, and social innovation. He plays a crucial role in shaping the academic direction of the school, ensuring that its curriculum remains innovative, industry-driven, and culturally grounded. He has developed a curriculum that merges modern fashion practices with India's textile heritage.

He has integrated sustainable design practices into the curriculum at the school, emphasizing the importance of ethical design in shaping the future of the industry. His industry experience includes roles such as Assistant Designer at Louis Philippe. Additionally, Prof. Guria has worked as an independent consultant for major companies such as Toyota Motors, Whirlpool Asia, and Moonwalkr, focusing on user-centric design solutions. His work with Freeset Fabrics was supported by a Harvard University Social Innovation grant.

Through his work, Prof. Guria continues to inspire the next generation of designers, fostering creativity, ethics, and industry readiness.



Dr Murali V Kesaboina [Linked in](#)

**Assistant Dean for Student Affairs,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Dr. Murali V. Kesaboina is a proficient academician and animation industry professional with 28 years of experience in both education and animation. His vast industry experience enhances his academic work, providing a practical, real-world approach to design and animation education.

Dr. Murali's research centers on the folk and traditional arts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with a focus on Kalamkari art. As an alumnus of the SN School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad, his commitment to preserving and promoting various art forms demonstrates his dedication to cultural heritage. In the animation industry, Dr. Murali has worked with top companies like Sriven Multitech Limited, Colour Chips India Limited, and D.Q. Entertainment Ltd. in Hyderabad. His work on national and international animation projects has enriched his teaching, making him a respected figure in 2D animation.

Dr. Murali's unique ability to blend traditional and digital art forms positions him as an inspirational mentor for future animators and designers. Through his work, he not only preserves traditional arts but also advances their relevance in digital media.



Arun Kumar Gaikwad [Linked in](#)

Associate Professor
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University

Prof. Arun Kumar Gaikwad is an accomplished academician and researcher with over 20 years of experience in fashion education, sustainable design, and industry innovation. An alumnus of NIFT and AIFD, he brings a unique blend of academic depth and hands-on industry expertise to his role as Associate Professor. His work spans curriculum development, mentorship, and fostering interdisciplinary learning environments.

Prof. Gaikwad integrates 2D/3D apparel design with digital tools like CAD/CAM and trend forecasting to offer students a future-ready education. His research focuses on sustainable fashion, eco-conscious practices, and the fusion of traditional craftsmanship with modern technology.

Over the past 15 years, he has collaborated extensively with the Government of India on academic and consultancy projects, contributing to national design initiatives. A strong proponent of industry-academia partnerships, he champions ethical fashion, circular systems, and innovation. His learner-centric approach nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and cultural sensitivity, preparing students to tackle global challenges in the ever-evolving fashion industry.



Arun Gupta [LinkedIn](#)

**Assistant Dean for ERS,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

With over 300 projects to his name, Prof. Arun Gupta is a renowned cinematographer and producer, shaping the visual storytelling landscape of television, advertising, and documentaries. A graduate of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, he specializes in Motion Picture Photography and has a talent for blending technical precision with creative expression. His notable works include television shows like Bollywood Business and Starry Nights Gen Y, along with short films for ETV Bangla. As a producer, he has overseen 176 episodes of The Art of Living Show for ZOOM and worked on numerous commercials, corporate films, and music videos.

In addition to his cinematic career, Prof. Gupta is dedicated to education and mentorship. Over the course of his career, he has held leadership roles such as Academic Mentor, overseeing programs at multiple universities. His expertise in curriculum development has made a lasting impact.

Prof. Gupta's ability to merge artistic vision with technical skill has not only defined his career but also shaped the learning experiences of aspiring filmmakers, ensuring they are equipped with both creative and practical knowledge.



Vishakha Rao [Linked in](#)

**Assistant Dean for International Relations,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Vishakha Rao specializes in the communication aspects of fashion. She blends holistic health, creativity, and mindful learning, integrating design thinking with traditional wisdom. As a co-founder of ARNAVH Yoga, Prof. Vishakha merges classical yogic texts with modern design and spirituality, offering students a unique approach to creativity and well-being.

Her research spans holistic health, education, art therapy, and innovative pedagogical practices. Prof. Vishakha examines the transformative role of yogic practices and mindfulness in education, as well as their intersection with creativity and design. She has published in UGC CARE journals, the American Art Therapy Association, and at several international conferences. Her research enhances her teaching, which focuses on emotional intelligence, technical skills, and creativity through mindful learning. Additionally, she has received project incubation funding at the MSME Women's Hackathon 3.0.

Prof. Vishakha envisions education as a transformative and inclusive process, aiming to create an environment where students think critically, connect emotionally, and explore creatively.



Aditya Pasumarthi [LinkedIn](#)

**Assistant Dean for Sustainability,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Aditya Pasumarthi brings over 14 years of academic experience and 15 years in professional practice to the fields of architecture, environmental design, and urban planning. He holds a master's degree in Environmental Design and a postgraduate diploma in Town and Country Planning. His work seamlessly integrates theory with practice.

Aditya has led pioneering research on sustainable building materials, including his collaboration with TEPI University in Ethiopia, where he explored using recycled PET bottles in construction. This initiative aims to reduce plastic waste and offer cost-effective, sustainable building solutions. His professional experience includes working with key government bodies like the Horticulture Department of Telangana, APIIC, and GHMC. Notable projects include the Pulivendula bus terminal, APIIC food processing units, and master planning for Pune railway quarters. He has also collaborated with modular industry leaders such as Homelane and Häfele Design Studio.

As an educator, Aditya is passionate about shaping future architects, emphasizing sustainability and innovation. His dedication to environmental responsibility and hands-on expertise in sustainable design make him a prominent figure in both academia and professional practice.





Vidyadhar Bhupal Bhandare [Linked in](#)

**Program Director &
Senior Assistant Professor, Industrial Design,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Vidyadhar Bhupal Bhandare is a versatile designer, educator, and entrepreneur with over eight years of experience bridging academia and industry. He holds a master's degree in Transportation and Automobile Design from NID, Ahmedabad. His exceptional design talent was recognized early on when he won the prestigious Regional Best Award at the Nissan Mobility Vision Competition, a global initiative celebrating innovative automotive design.

Prof. Vidyadhar's career spans roles as a design engineer, consultant, associate, and industrial designer in leading organizations. He co-founded Earthen Tunes Designs Pvt. Ltd., a social enterprise focused on creating user-centric, sustainable products for rural communities, reflecting his commitment to impactful innovation.

His diverse experiences, ranging from technical innovation to user-centered design, position him as a dynamic force in both academia and industry, inspiring students and professionals alike to push the boundaries of design and sustainability.



Kamalanarayanan Kamalakannan [Linked in](#)

**Program Director & Assistant Professor, Communication Design,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

With over 13 years of experience in Visual Effects, Multimedia, and Animation, Prof. Kamalanarayanan Kamalakannan is an academician known for his engaging teaching approach. He combines technical expertise with a passion for emerging technologies to inspire students in creative fields.

Prof. Kamalanarayanan is particularly interested in AI-driven content creation, immersive technologies, and Metaverse applications in design, staying at the forefront of multimedia innovation. His extensive industry experience includes working as a Compositing & Prep Artist on Hollywood blockbusters such as Maleficent, Guardians of the Galaxy, and Terminator Genisys. His freelance career in Visual Effects and Motion Graphics showcases his versatility.

In addition to his teaching, Prof. Kamalanarayanan has placed over 300 students in top companies. He is also the organizer of Next Con, a multimedia conclave connecting industry leaders and emerging talent.



Ar. Tejas Pawar [Linked in](#)

**Program Director & Sr. Assistant Professor, Interior Design,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

With over seven years of experience, Ar. Tejas Eknath Pawar has contributed significantly to architectural and conservation projects across India. His work includes heritage restoration, digital documentation, and urban conservation, combining traditional methods with modern technology. Notably, he played a pivotal role in the award-winning India Garden project in Beijing, recognized internationally for its design and conservation excellence.

Currently pursuing a PhD at IIT Hyderabad's Department of Design, Ar. Pawar is pioneering heritage conservation through technology. His research focuses on integrating Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Mixed Reality (MR) into heritage interpretation, reshaping the documentation, preservation, and experience of cultural sites.

Ar. Pawar bridges traditional conservation and digital innovation, using 3D scanning, photogrammetry, and immersive storytelling to enhance accessibility and engagement with heritage sites. His work revolves around how history is experienced, making it more interactive and relevant to modern audiences.



Pradeep Kumar [Linked in](#)

**Program Director & Assistant Professor, Foundation,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

With 25 years in design industry, Prof. Pradeep Kumar has worked with leading advertising agencies and Amazon, specializing in branding, visual identity, graphic design, and layout. His industry experience informs his teaching, bridging the gap between professional practice and education.

He fosters hands-on learning, peer collaboration, and real-world applications. His courses emphasize a holistic approach to design education.

Prof. Pradeep's research in Visual Studies in the Cultural Context explores the intersection of tradition and contemporary design. His passion for photography and filmmaking enhances his visual storytelling approach, enriching both his research and teaching. Prof. Pradeep encourages students to think critically and innovate responsibly. His vision integrates traditional wisdom with modern technology, ensuring culturally aware and ethically driven design practices.





Dr. Sadhna [Linked in](#)

**Associate Professor and Research Chair
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Dr. Sadhna holds a Ph.D. in Clothing and Textiles. She also serves as the Margaret Bishop Professor of Strategic Design and Management and is a university-level CRC Member.

With extensive experience in textile and fashion research, Dr. Sadhna has made significant contributions to areas such as sustainable textiles, traditional craft innovations, and strategic design management. She has published numerous research papers in reputed journals, including Polymer Bulletin (Springer Nature) and AATCC Journal of Research (SAGE), as well as edited books under Springer and Routledge. She is currently editing a special issue on Crafts of India: Innovations and Sustainability for TEXTILE: Cloth and Culture (SCI-SCOPUS, Q2 Journal).

Dr. Sadhna actively engages in academic leadership, conference convening, and collaborative research initiatives. Her work aligns with sustainable development goals, bridging traditional textile practices with modern innovations to promote sustainable fashion and craft-based economies.



Dr. Gajanan Pratap Kulkarni [Linked in](#)

**Associate Professor,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University
Design Researcher | UX Research | Human-Centered Design | Innovation**

Dr. Gajanan Pratap Kulkarni is a passionate design researcher specializing in human-centered design and mixed-methods research. He focuses on solving Blue Sky Thinking problems and excels in UX research and design thinking practices. With a creative yet pragmatic approach, Dr. Kulkarni thrives in resource-constrained R&D environments, maintaining a reflective and experimental mindset.

His research aims to advance design methodologies, fostering inclusive and innovative solutions for real-world challenges. He holds a Ph.D. in Product Design and Manufacturing from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), where he explored decision-making processes in new product design and development.

Dr. Kulkarni's professional experience includes serving as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI), where he contributed to technology development for next-generation observational platforms. He has also worked as a Senior Research Associate at the Indian School of Business (ISB), leading ventilator innovation projects during the COVID19- pandemic. Additionally, as a Design Research Consultant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Bangalore, he developed a Design Thinking curriculum for advanced learners.



Dr. Divya Gauri [Linked in](#)

**Assistant Professor,
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Dr. Divya Gauri specializes in visual studies, focusing on the representation of marginalized identities by blending art history, visual intelligence, and contemporary issues. Her work aims to elevate subaltern perspectives in visual culture.

Her research examines the depiction of subaltern figures, particularly in colonial India. She earned her Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, where her doctoral thesis explored the portrayal of marginalized figures in 18th- and 19th-century visual materials. Her MPhil research delved into the Patna School of Paintings and the Company School, shedding light on subjects from society's margins.

Dr. Gauri takes a multidisciplinary approach, merging visual studies with business processes to enhance communication and decision-making. By challenging traditional narratives, she raises awareness of the complexities surrounding marginalized identities.





Ar. Shivaram Reddy [LinkedIn](#)

**Sr. Assistant Professor, Interior Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. D. Shivaram Reddy is an architect, educator, and urban and rural planner known for his expertise in integrating design, architecture, and urban planning. His work spans space design, sustainable building materials, vernacular heritage, and universal design.

With a strong academic foundation, Prof. Reddy holds a Bachelor's in Architecture from SPA Delhi, a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from IIT Roorkee, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Design at IIT Hyderabad.

He has collaborated with leading organizations on high-profile projects, including PWD, Smart City Satna, and the Patna Town Planning Department, as well as with firms like Tata Consulting Engineers and DCAD. His contributions to design and education have earned him multiple accolades, including the Udita Design Educators Award and the PRME Innovative Teaching Pedagogy Award for his forward-thinking teaching methodologies.

Prof. Reddy is committed to shaping the next generation of designers by combining extensive practical experience with innovative educational approaches.



Mrudul Chilmulwar [Linked in](#)

**Assistant Professor, Industrial Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Mrudul Chilmulwar is an expert in structural packaging design, ethnographic research, and tangible user experience. As an External Packaging Design Consultant at Packfora LLP, he has contributed to high-profile projects for brands like Ponds, Vaseline, and Indulekha. He also led the Retrofit Curtain project at Somfy India Pvt. Ltd., overseeing ethnographic research, ideation, and prototyping.

Prof. Chilmulwar's research focuses on merging design education with real-world challenges, particularly in product design, packaging, and user experience. His approach integrates ethnographic methods to develop innovative, user-centric solutions.

Committed to bridging academia and industry, he embeds real-world design challenges into the curriculum, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. His teaching philosophy emphasizes impactful, meaningful design, preparing future designers to address global challenges with creativity and sustainability.



Christian F. Aronsen [LinkedIn](#)

**Associate Professor, Interior Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Christian F. Aronsen is an Associate Professor at the School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University, bringing decades of experience in architecture and design. With a distinguished background as Creative Director at IKEA worldwide and extensive experience in hospitality design across the globe, he specializes in ideation, marketing communications, and crafting globally impactful experiences.

His teaching philosophy blends practical expertise with innovative approaches, inspiring students to transform spaces into compelling narratives. His expertise spans Interior Design, Architecture, Exhibition Design, Event Marketing, Design Strategies, and Film Production.

Prof. Aronsen fosters an environment of intercultural exchange where students can thrive and develop creative, sustainable solutions. With a strategic and results-driven mindset, he has led dynamic projects in brand development and global execution, ensuring exceptional design outcomes. His goal is to prepare students to lead the ever-evolving design world with vision, creativity, and sustainability.



Rajesh Kumar [Linked in](#)

Associate Professor, Fashion Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University

Prof. Rajesh Kumar blends his extensive fashion design expertise with a passion for shaping the next generation of designers. Specializing in portfolio development, pattern making, garment construction, and sustainable fashion, he has worked across diverse fashion segments, including knitwear, sportswear, lingerie, and styling. His teaching approach fosters creativity and technical excellence, preparing students for real-world applications in the fashion industry.

Prof. Kumar's research focuses on sustainability in the textile and garment industry, with publications exploring ethical practices, circular fashion, and reducing environmental impact. A strong advocate for ethical sourcing, he integrates sustainability principles into both his teaching and research, inspiring students to embrace responsible fashion practices.

Committed to bridging academia and industry, Prof. Kumar equips students with a strong foundation in design principles, technical skills, and industry trends, empowering them to lead with innovation and sustainability.



Ashutosh Kumar [LinkedIn](#)

**Assistant Professor, Fashion Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Ashutosh Kumar is a skilled sartorialist and couturier with over 10 years of experience in the fashion industry. His work has been showcased at prestigious events such as India Couture Week, Paris Fashion Week, and the Cannes Red Carpet, specializing in haute couture and bespoke fashion.

As an educator, Prof. Kumar shares his expertise in design, mentorship, and sustainability, having taught at NIFT and FDDI. His commitment to sustainability is evident in his use of zero-waste pattern making and deconstruction techniques, challenging traditional fashion norms while addressing environmental concerns.

Prof. Kumar has also pursued a Master's in Psychology to explore the emotional connections people form with clothing. This unique blend of fashion and psychology enriches both his designs and teaching. Today, he manages his own haute couture and bespoke brand in Hyderabad, focusing on luxury fashion with a sustainable approach.





Kamalvas Narayana [Linked in](#)

**Sr. Assistant Professor, Fashion Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Kamalvas Narayana is a seasoned design professional with over 16 years of experience across the textile value chain, having worked with renowned international brands such as Jack & Jones, Zara, Levi's, and GAP. His extensive industry exposure enables him to bring a wealth of practical knowledge into the classroom.

Holding a Master's in Fashion Design from NIFT and as a cohort of ISLab at ISB, Prof. Kamalvas is committed to shaping the next generation of fashion professionals. He has designed market-relevant fashion programs specializing in denim, menswear, merchandising, and fashion entrepreneurship and has collaborated with prestigious institutions like NIFT, FDDI, and Osmania University.

His teaching approach bridges creative design with commercial outcomes, drawing from his industry experience to emphasize both creativity and practical application. Additionally, Prof. Kamalvas has played a key role in building brands from the ground up, gaining valuable insights that inform his teaching methodology.



Dipankar Gogoi [Linked in](#)

Assistant Professor, Industrial Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University
UX Researcher | Human-Centered Design Specialist

Prof. Dipankar Gogoi is a dedicated UX Researcher and Industrial Designer, passionate about creating innovative, user-centered design solutions. Combining artistic talent, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of human behavior, he aims to craft experiences that enhance people, systems, and environments.

Specializing in design thinking, human-centered design, form styling, and sketching, Prof. Gogoi brings concepts to life through CAD modeling, rendering, and prototyping. His expertise extends to design for assembly, manufacturing, and 3D printing, focusing on products that are functional, scalable, and visually appealing.

Merging creativity with practicality, his work delivers impactful solutions that enhance user experiences and contribute meaningfully to both design and research fields.



Manoj Molagamudi [Linked in](#)

**Associate Professor, Industrial Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University
Designer | Educator | Researcher | Engineer**

An accomplished industrial product designer and passionate design educator, an alumnus of IIT Guwahati and a PhD scholar at IDC, IIT Bombay. He seamlessly blends creativity, functionality, and human-centric principles in the pursuit of innovation. With close to 20 Yrs. of experience in Product design, toy design and furniture design, He consistently demonstrated a keen ability to transform ideas into tangible, user-centered products.

He has been associated with leading companies across diverse industries, including Funskool India Ltd, India's premier toy manufacturer, Magickwoods, a global furniture manufacturer and exporter, and Nilkamal, a leader in plastic furniture. His career began as an engineer at General Electric's India Innovation Center, where he contributed to cutting-edge advancements. Additionally, he is served as a consultant to Funskool India Ltd, Nippo Ltd, Namaste Toys, and Fair & Green Toys USA, leveraging his expertise to drive innovation and market growth.

Guided by the belief that design is not just about aesthetics but about enhancing the human experience. Through a holistic approach, He seeks to create designs that not only delight the senses but also solve real-world needs.





Navdeep Sindhu [Linked in](#)

**Assistant Professor, Communication Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Navdeep Sindhu is a passionate educator, game designer, and technology enthusiast, dedicated to shaping the next generation of game developers. Specializing in game design, level design, environment design, AR/VR, mixed reality, and the metaverse, he helps students bring their ideas to life through immersive digital experiences.

With over seven years of experience in game education, Prof. Sindhu has held key roles, including Professor of Game Level Design at GDUT University, China. Under his mentorship, students have successfully published over 20 games on the Google Play Store. Additionally, he offers in-depth courses on platforms like Udemy, equipping learners worldwide with the skills to develop their own games.

Prof. Sindhu's vision is to empower students to shape the future of interactive media and take the lead in the evolving gaming industry by staying ahead of emerging technologies such as AR, VR, and the metaverse.



Athira Usha Balakrishnan [Linked in](#)

**Assistant Professor, Industrial Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Athira Usha Balakrishnan is a talented designer and educator, specializing in Innovative Product Design and User Experience (UX) Design. With a strong foundation in both product and fashion design, she blends creative thinking with a commitment to sustainability. Prof. Athira holds a Master of Design in Integrated Product Design from IIITDM Kancheepuram and a Bachelor of Design in Fashion Communication from NIFT Hyderabad. Her work, particularly in leather crafts and origami, has been recognized for its innovation and cultural depth.

Her teaching philosophy focuses on user-centered, sustainable design, advocating for products that address real needs while fostering an emotional connection with users. Prof. Athira also emphasizes the importance of cultural heritage and sustainable materials in her designs. She was recently honored with the Revolve 2023 Design Award by Apollo Tyres for her socially responsible designs.

As an educator, Prof. Athira inspires students to create meaningful, sustainable products, empowering them to shape the future of responsible design.



Ashwinikumar Bachaspatimayum [LinkedIn](#)

**Assistant Professor, Foundation Design
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Ashwinikumar Bachaspatimayum is a skilled artist with a background in Fine Arts, seamlessly blending traditional artistry with digital techniques. His journey began with a passion for visual arts, leading him to master both classical and modern art forms.

Initially focused on education, Prof. Bachaspatimayum dedicated years to teaching Gaming and Multimedia, mentoring students in digital art and fostering creative thinking for success in the multimedia industry.

Transitioning into full-time concept art, he specializes in character and background design. His Fine Arts foundation enables him to merge traditional methods with digital tools, crafting visually captivating characters and immersive environments that enhance storytelling.

Prof. Bachaspatimayum's work reflects a commitment to creativity and technical excellence, aiming to create visuals that deeply resonate with audiences.



Munwar Khan [Linked in](#)

Adjunct Professor
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University

Munwar Khan is a distinguished leader in UX design innovation, serving as the DGM & Head of Design at OPPO India and the Director of the David Dunne Design Thinking Lab at Woxsen University. An alumnus of IIT Bombay with a strong postgraduate background, Munwar brings over 15 years of specialized UX design experience to the table.

His career includes influential roles at industry giants such as Samsung Mobiles, Huawei Mobiles, Honeywell Innovation Lab, and ADP India, shaping a rich and diverse professional narrative. Beyond his industry expertise, Prof. Khan is a passionate educator, teaching UX design at various universities and design schools.

Munwar's expertise spans UX design, design strategy, and design thinking, with a special focus on the creative economy. A highlight of his career includes the privilege of working alongside Nobel laureate Dr. Eric Allin Cornell, further enriching his professional journey. A testament to his innovative spirit, Prof. Khan holds 25 significant patents across India, South Korea, and the USA.



Joan Marie Kelly [LinkedIn](#)

**Professor of Practice
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University**

Prof. Joan Marie Kelly is a visual artist, educator, community engagement facilitator, and design thinking expert. She coordinates and teaches an interdisciplinary approach that bridges art and engineering. Navigating the complex, interwoven community relations of Southeast Asia as a foreigner, Prof. Kelly engages communities in art-making as a tool for transformation. She reinvigorates figure painting and drawing by integrating ethnographic practices into her artistic process.

Prof. Kelly explores the human body within the landscapes of globalization, shedding light on marginalized communities—whether in the foreign worker enclaves of Little India, the brothels of Kolkata, or the factory towns of the Shenzhen Economic Zone. Through interdisciplinary art-making workshops, she focuses on visualizing trauma stories, offering new perspectives on lived experiences.

She conducts her work within the very spaces these communities inhabit, from India and Morocco to China and Singapore. In addition to her community-driven practice, Prof. Kelly maintains a vibrant artistic career, with solo exhibitions in New York City, New Delhi, and Morocco.



Ar. Eesha Sharma [Linked in](#)

Assistant Professor
School of Arts and Design, Woxsen University

Eesha Sharma is an interior architect, artist, and art educator with a passion for spatial design, behavioral psychology, and sustainability. She holds an MA in Interior Architecture from Oxford Brookes University, UK, and a Bachelor's in Architecture from VSAP, Hyderabad.

Her journey has taken her through architectural firms and freelance practice, designing luxury residential, commercial, and social spaces. As an art educator, she has mentored young minds, helping them develop cognitive and motor skills through art. She is also the founder of Little Architects, an educational initiative that nurtures young minds by introducing them to design thinking in a fun, engaging way. Passionate about behavioral psychology, she is enthusiastic about exploring how spaces influence interaction and well-being.

At Woxsen, she aims to bridge design theory and practice, fostering creativity and critical thinking in the next generation of interior architects.

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