Case study — CEPT

Temperature and light are the two most important conditions within a space that define user comfort. They are, therefore the conditions that need maximum attention and sensitivity in terms of their intensity and control mechanisms. It becomes the interior designer's prerogative and responsibility to ensure optimum comfort through sensible design.

Meet Sanyogita Maru, a Research Associate with the **School of Interior Design (SID) Research Cell at the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad**, who has been studying the thermal effects of furniture on interior environments. Her undergraduate research dissertation has been published as a Thesis Monograph titled "Exploring the Realm of Energy and Comfort in interiors: Experiments to understand Thermal effects of Furniture on Interior Environments."

"The publication of my dissertation has provided me the much-needed springboard for further enquiry into the field. It has also helped me identify my current research focus - 'Building Energy Simulation Tools'," remarks Sanyogita. She specifically studies the processes employed for virtual simulation of interior environments, to analyse their energy efficiency, and their climatic adaptability and logic, besides ways and means of achieving energy efficiency through cutting-edge interior design practices.

In 2006, the Trust sanctioned a grant to **CEPT**, for its new **Design Research Cell** housed in the **SID**, to commence operations. The raison d'être of this Cell revolves around enhancing and disseminating new research, while focusing on publishing advanced monographs and teachable research publications in the areas of:

- Traditional habitats
- Traditional crafts of India
- Sustaining advanced research on issues concerning interior design such as energy efficiency, the roles of light, vegetation and water, building products, and the history of the field in India

The Cell's work enables dissemination and mainstreaming of cutting-edge curricula in areas such as environment and resource conservation, indigenous architecture, traditional craft practices, diverse design practices, and new technological advances.

It also enables the hands-on creation of prototypes and simulation systems, in a specially designed laboratory, which will permit same-scale prototypes of various situations in space, through space and scale simulators. This would permit empirical research under 'candid' space scenarios.

The Trust's support to **CEPT** falls under the sub-thematic area of **Advance Learning in the Arts,** which seeks to support significantly located institutions within the university system capable of groundbreaking disciplinary transformations in their field.

Design is a new and increasingly critical presence within the emerging humanities' discipline in India. The Trust vindicates **CEPT's** ability to substantially influence the field of design, architecture and built-environment theory.