SURBHI AGRAWAL

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EDUCATION

Master in City Planning   2021-23
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

M.Sc. Urbanism (30 credits)   2019-20
Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Bachelor of Architecture (Hons)   2013-18
School of Planning and Architecture, India

SKILLS

Data: Python | R | SQL | Excel

Mapping: ArcGIS | QGIS | Mapbox

Web dev: HTML | CSS | JavaScript | Figma

Graphics: Adobe Suite | MS Office Suite

CAD: Rhino | SketchUp | AutoCAD | Revit

PUBLICATIONS

Urban Digitization with Purpose
Authoring a book about democratic and value-based approaches to urban digitization and digital equity.

Blue Lines of Kolkata
Agrawal, Surbhi, et al. (2018). Trajectories of Live + Work + Play. In S. Biswas, Blue Lines of Kolkata (pp. 50-54). Kolkata: Trust for SEARCH

Vernacular Settlements in Chanderi
Agrawal, Surbhi, et al. (2017). Learning from Practice. In S. Singh, Vernacular Settlements in Chanderi (pp. 65-85). Bhopal: SPA Press

SELECT AWARDS

MIT Morningside Design Fellow 2022-23
Awarded a $100k design and social impact grant to support research in digital equity in developing contexts.

Ivory Innovations Hack-a-House   2022
National winning team in a hackathon for developing innovative solutions for the affordable housing crisis.

MIT PKG Public Service Fellows   2021
Public service grant to support community work in Nairobi.

MIT Human Rights & Tech Fellow   2021
Grant to support research on responsible urban digitization underscoring the interplay of technologies and human rights.

EXPERTISE

Urban Planning and Design, Urban Technology, Architecture, Policy and Strategy Project Management, Community Engagement, Human Centered Design (UI/UX)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MIT Senseable City Lab
Data Visualization and Urban Planning Research Assistant   09/22-present
- Researching digital equity in informal settlements in 3 cities in India, using network analysis of telecommunications & census data. Developing a digital equity framework to support meaningful connectivity in underserved areas.
- UI/UX research for open sourcing an autonomous environmental sensor including wireframing and front-end website design, exhibition design of the device for the Venice Biennale 2023, assembly manual design.

LinkNYC for CityBridge
Urban Planning and Transportation Intern   06/22-08/22
- Analyzed citywide parking data and proposed locations for an EV charging pilot across 5 boroughs, contributing to the city's sustainable transportation efforts.
- Conducted a feasibility study for the expansion of services on 2000 public communication kiosks, supporting development of accessible infrastructure.

San Francisco Planning Department
Urban Planning and GIS Intern   06/22-08/22
- Developed a web-based mapping app and QR-coded plaques for 300 historical monuments in San Francisco, supporting the city's efforts to recognize and interpret its historical landmarks while working with building codes, permitting, tendering, contractors, and public officials.

MIT Civic Data Design Lab
Project Management Research Assistant   05/21-06/22
- Project managed a community-based internet hub for 5 CBOs across 13 villages in Kibera, Nairobi, supporting the development of digital infrastructure in underserved areas.

MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning
Urban Planning Research Assistant   05/21-06/22
- Conducted post-industrial redevelopment assessment of 56 Jute Mills sites in Kolkata, India using a spatial statistics methodology, contributing to the development of sustainable urban planning policies and practices.
- Developed communication and community engagement strategies for an innovative justice-based planning framework as a finalist in the MIT Climate Grand Challenges.

Responsible Sensing Lab, Amsterdam
Project Management Research Assistant   05/21-06/22
- Curated a 3-year travelling exhibition on urban sensing in Amsterdam, contributing to public awareness of privacy and data rights in the Smart City
- Managed the development of 4 urban sensing projects: privacy-proof sensing devices for crowd management, privacy shutters for urban surveillance cameras, a toolkit for developing responsible crowd monitoring sensors, and scan cars, supporting the development of responsible tech solutions for urban challenges.

Others
- Product Manager at Proxi ('22), Architect at Rahul Mehrotra Architects ('19) and Studio Infinite ('18), Intern at VTN Architects ('17) and adesignstudio ('17)