

URBAN SKETCHERS PUNE
SKETCHOLOGUE

VOLUME THIRTEEN - JANUARY 2022

 **Urban Sketchers**
pune

Mx
USPO

FOREWORD

A large part of 2021 was devoid of any on-location urban-sketching activity for most of us but the last quarter provided some respite and using that to its advantage, Urban Sketchers Pune held its annual exhibition 'USP05' in December. Although put together within a short period of time, "USP 05" showcased a display of artworks by 60 urban-sketchers, sketching demos, interactive talks with artists and was a resounding success. In this issue, five young talented urban-sketchers who conducted the demos at "USP 05" have shared their tips and techniques.

Like in the previous issue, this quarter's featured international artist is also from Taiwan. Cheng Kai Hsiang is a master at sketching the urban street scenes and talks about the clutter in the marketplaces and streets which is a recurring theme in his sketches

Hemant Mahajan has spent more than 30 years as a professional architect but feels that the past 4-5 years of urban-sketching has made him look at architecture in a very different perspective and has expressed these thoughts in the urban sketcher's view.

Just a few days back, restrictions have been imposed on the movement and activities conducted in groups but last quarter we managed to have some very interesting Sunday sketching sessions. The one at a newly constructed station under the Pune Metro project was quite novel.

Lastly we are happy to announce the addition of two new members to the Urban Sketchers Pune Core Committee. We welcome Niloufer Wadia and Anagha Chitale who have been providing valuable support across various functions of our group over the past few years. In view of the scope of activities and events to be organised in the future, an expansion to the core management was warranted and we are happy to have Niloufer and Anagha on board.

So enjoy reading this issue of "Sketchologue", take care of your health, follow the norms and have fun sketching

HARSHAD AROLE



URBAN-SKETCHER'S VIEW

SEE - FEEL - SKETCH

HEMANT MAHAJAN FROM URBAN SKETCHERS PUNE SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON HOW URBAN SKETCHING HAS SHARPENED HIS OBSERVATION SKILLS AND CHANGED HIS POINT OF VIEW TOWARDS LOOKING AT ARCHITECTURE



HEMANT MAHAJAN



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I am an Architect by profession. Heritage, Photography & Systematic Documentation are my keen interests & Sketching is a passion.

I was introduced to the urban sketching movement by our beloved friend Sanjeev Joshi (SanJo) which resulted in me joining the Urban Sketchers Pune group in March 2016. Since then I have been sketching Pune city and surrounding areas every Sunday, gaining new confidence and being appreciated with every sketch I make, no matter how perfectly and accurately it was drawn. With every piece, I feel that my skills are sharpened and my connection with the community becomes stronger.



I have tried to pen some of my thoughts regarding urban-sketching. It is a bit about of how I approach a sketch but more of what I strive for and have got from sketching as a passionate pursuit.

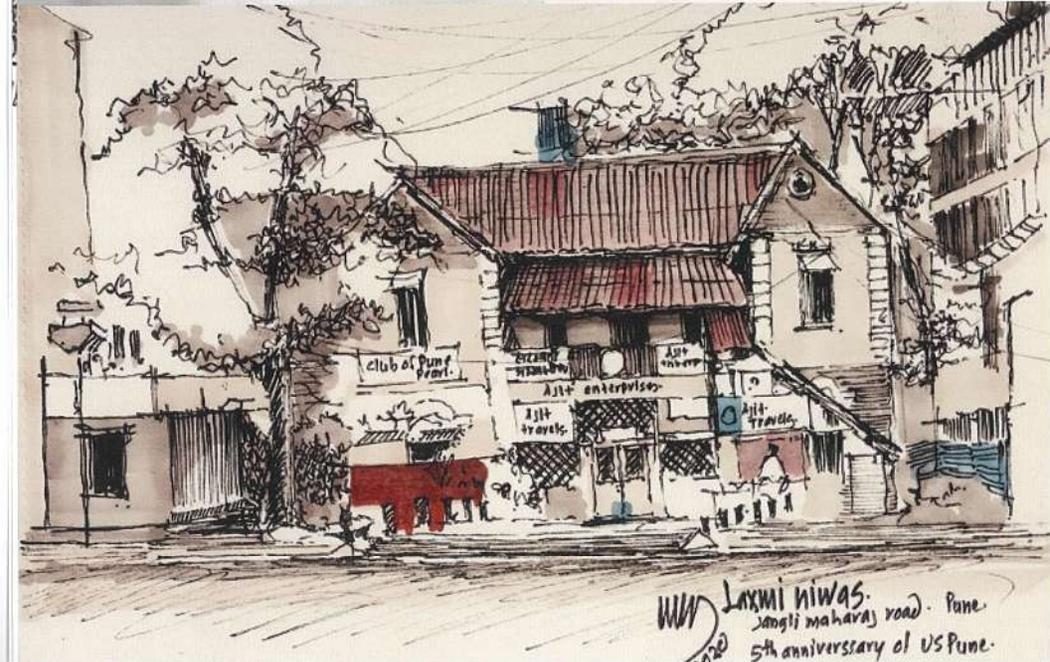
Not delving too much on tools or materials or mediums, I would say that I like to keep sketching in its basic form as much as possible. My sketching kit includes A4,A5,A6 sketchbooks (smaller ones preferred), some sketchbooks with colour tinted paper of any shape, fountain pen, water brush pen and markers. I prefer to draw black and white sketches with Grey wash

Sketching on the spot every Sunday for two hours is a part of my meditation & offerings to the God. Whatever happens on paper is never predefined, but it takes shape as a resultant, sometimes satisfactory, sometimes unsatisfactory.

Sketching helps me to familiarise myself with any space. The key is to learn about the surroundings as a keen observer. Through this one gets an understanding of the scale, composition, colour, material, texture which then gets reproduced on paper in an effective way.

My focus is on protecting cultural values and creating public awareness towards our surroundings through sketching. While sketching or even when I take any photo, I try to observe first. Later I try to relate what I have seen and formulate my image through the process.

Urban sketching is a slower process than taking a photograph and it has enabled me to give myself time to revisit the historical, landmark structures and locations with a peace of mind, and explore them at leisure, understanding and feeling the space that they exist within. Such sketches feel more 'real' to me even when they



are mostly done as a simple line-work in black ink on a white paper.

That said, I do occasionally lean towards making the line sketch look aesthetically pleasing. In such instances, shadows always attract my eye and I like to accentuate them in my sketches.

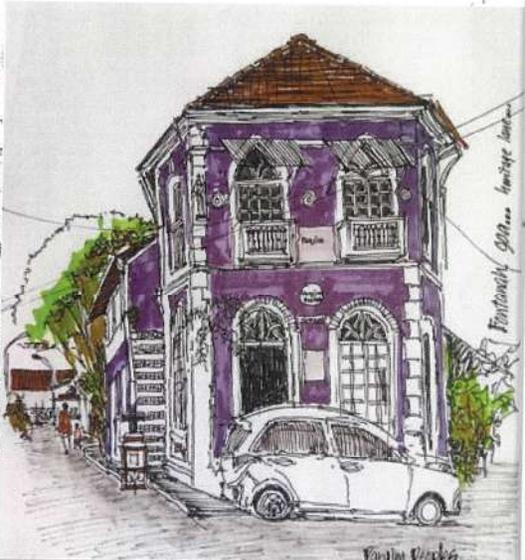
I love when there is some interesting story or some history to the place that I am sketching at and usually try to incorporate these elements through some textual annotations in my sketch. This makes the sketch memorable for me as well as others who might see it later. A calligraphic signature is also the peculiarity of my sketches.

I like to experiment with different tools, media and techniques to communicate the different feelings and energies of my subjects, on different sizes of papers. Recently I have explored the application of watercolours and acrylic colours on my black and white sketches which I had drawn earlier. Taking up a challenge and then completing with flying colours has become an habit nowadays thanks to urban-sketching

What I have gained through five years of urban-sketching can be summarised in two parts. One involves the study of history of a place, observation and analysis of the



Tylshibang Ram Mandir sketch 5.
Tylshibang VIII



Fontana's garage house

Fontana's garage house

surroundings, geometry, scale, proportions, massing, composition and making a viewpoint while the second part pertains more to one's self wherein lie the transformation in the personality, attitude, ability, patience, consistency and experimentation.

I have grown to love to sketch whenever and wherever it is possible - be it a moving car, bus, train or waiting at airports, hospitals or at the restaurants and shopping malls and not just

limiting myself to a planned sketch-walk. This has made my travels more interesting and enjoyable. While I have done sketching day trips around Pune, I have enjoyed my sketching holidays at Jaipur, Goa, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Hanoi and USA to list a few. My sketchbooks are now my travel diaries and a repository of visual ideas, notes, thoughts, caricatures inspired my experiences at the places I visited.



UMS
22/1/2022
Kamla road,
Kamla
Kug.
Mansion? constructed
in year 1951. Heritage Structure.

Lastly, I would say that urban-sketching is the easiest way to make good friends all over the world. Urban Sketchers is a global community which grows through sharing so don't forget to share your sketches with your new friends as a takeaway memory.

