

In honour of National Maritime Day 2021 the next live session of AVID Online will explore Bombay's Maritime Legacy

For Immediate Release

Due to its marine proximity, the city of Mumbai has a rich architectural legacy informed by transnational and transcultural influences.

There are ways that water ties together different places with Bombay, which becomes the melting pot of many styles, objects, and languages. From the streets, gothic facades, shrines and forts- evidence of the maritime history of cross pollination is unmistakable and fascinating to discover.

To mark the occasion of **National Maritime Day 2021**, **Avid Learning** presents **Indian Ocean Architecture in Bombay** a fascinating lecture demonstration on the nautical impact and influence that has shaped Mumbai's urban landscape through the ages.

Coveted academic perspectives from leading architectural, Naval and cultural historians will be discussed and divulged.

Please read on for further details:

Navy and Maritime Historian **Commodore Srikant Kesnur** will set the premise of the session by elucidating post independence connections between the Navy and city of Mumbai. He will speak on Bombay's maritime history and the connective strands between the city, trade and naval history. He will also speak about certain iconic areas of the city that are the enclaves and sanctums of the navy like Navy Nagar, Naval Dockyard and even parts of Colaba. He will shed light on these areas' histories, nuances and status as icons of the city in the context of maritime colonial and Naval history.

Social Anthropologist **Sarover Zaidi** will present on architectural influences coming from innumerable trading communities from the Indian ocean trade routes of East Africa, Iran, Yemen, Gujarat, and other regions of India like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Using photographic and illustrative material, she will highlight the difference of styles as material representation of the city's transcultural histories. She will discuss architectural patronage and this specific *bricolage* motif of the old city that emerged from an 'Indian ocean moment' in Bombay in the 19th century, generated by a varied milieu of forms and facades brought in by travelling merchants, artisans, rulers, religious sects, masons and craftsmen.

Urban Conservationist and Author **Kamalika Bose** will present on the Forts of Mumbai that hark back to the days of maritime trade and warfare, that now stand as silent sentinels of a bygone era, a testimony to bygone histories and a palimpsest of *Urbs Primus in Indus*. She will highlight the rich repository of Mumbai's forts and their distinct architecture in the context of naval defence, maritime trade and the formation of the city's identity as a port city. Using a range of cartographic, photographic and illustrative materials, she will form a narrative linking forts to Mumbai's nautical history and water networks.

These eminent speakers will then be in conversation with Commander Kesnur moderating, to further trace the city's unique cultural and design ethos as a result of this cross pollination and also probe how these city relics find new narratives. They will further discuss maritime and Naval architecture at large and how it finds unique expression in the buildings of Bombay and will also weigh in on new conversations around water, ecology, migration, infrastructure and commerce and that will shape the future histories of architecture in the city.

Join us to discover unique architectural gems and Naval enclaves within a city anchored by the Indian Ocean.

When: Thursday, 8th April 2021 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

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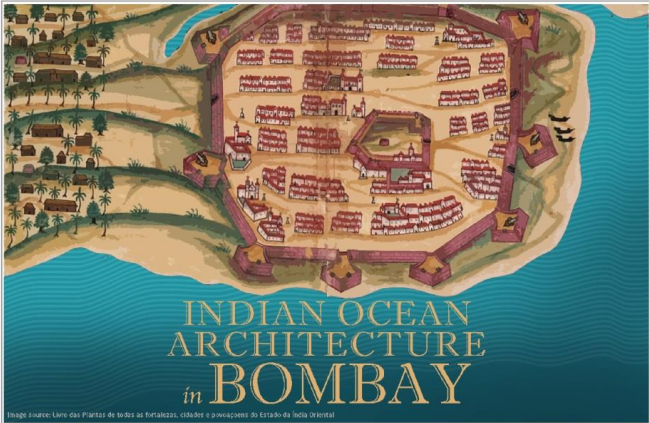





Imagem inspirada: Livro das Planilhas de todos as fortificações, cidades e povoações do Estado da Índia Oriental

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#AVIDONLINE LIVE



Social Anthropologist
Sarover Zaidi




Urban Conservationist
and Author
Kamalika Bose






Navy and
Maritime Historian
**Commodore
Srikant Kesnur**

MODERATOR

DATE: **THURSDAY, 8 APRIL '21**
TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (IST)**
REGISTER: www.avidlearning.in



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About the Speakers

Sarover Zaidi is a social anthropologist, working at the intersections of critical theory, anthropology, art, architecture and material culture studies. She has extensively worked on religious architecture, carceral urbanism and currently co-runs a site on writing the city called Chiragh Dilli (<https://chiraghdilli.wordpress.com>). Previously she worked across India looking at issues of women's health and education, and has undertaken extensive research on religious iconography in the contexts of Islam & modernist architecture in south Asia. She also curates an interdisciplinary forum on art, architecture and anthropology, titled 'Elementary forms' and 'the Saiyidain Manzil Sessions' on south Asia literature, cinema and culture. She currently teaches at the Jindal School of Art and Architecture, JGU, Sonapat.

Kamalika Bose is an urban conservationist and founder of Heritage Synergies India, a Mumbai-based consultancy. Her work lies at the intersection of built and cultural heritage, research and education, having worked on community-oriented urban conservation initiatives in Indian cities. She co-curated the exhibition '*Bengal's Durga*' at London's Totally Thames festival 2018 and has authored five books including *People Called Kolkata* (2019) and *The Hoysala Legacy* (2019). Kamalika completed her Master in Historic Preservation Planning from Cornell University as a Fulbright Scholar and was Assistant Professor at CEPT University, Ahmedabad from 2008-15. She is a recipient of the SAH-Getty International Fellowship (2016), the European Union's Global Cultural Leadership Programme (2018) and the French Ministry of Culture's international training program *Séjour Culture* (2018). Kamalika is an expert member of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage and the Coordinator of National Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage, ICOMOS India.

Comde Srikant Kesnur, an alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy, was commissioned in the Indian Navy in July 1986. In his nearly 35 year career he has had extensive experience in maritime operations, training, leadership, diplomacy, and communication. He has been the Captain of two frontline ships and, in addition, his tours of duty have witnessed several important assignments, prestigious courses and interesting tenures - at sea, ashore and abroad. He was also the Defence Adviser at the High Commission of India, in Nairobi, Kenya, from Oct 2008 to Mar 2012, with Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, Eritrea and Somalia as his area of responsibility. He has a PhD from Mumbai University apart from five postgraduate degrees in science and social sciences. He has been senior faculty at Navy/Military colleges and training institutions. He has also been the lead writer and Chief Editor of nine books and many journals for the Indian Navy. In addition, he has been involved with several academic, creative and corporate outreach endeavours of the Navy. He is presently the Director of Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai as also the Officer in Charge of Naval History Project. He has been conferred the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in the Republic Day awards this year.

Further Information

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