

SANJEEV SHANKAR - BIOGRAPHY

Sanjeev Shankar was born in the Nilgiri hills of Southern India.

As founder of a research-based studio, Sanjeev uses his training in architecture, design and science to merge traditional knowledge with contemporary patterns to nurture positive socio-economic-ecological impact. Over the last decade, he has inspired communities through rigorous field research, experimentation and an inclusive hands-on methodology. A recipient of National Geographic Society Expedition Council grant from USA, Chevening fellowship for Science and Technology from Britain, and DAAD fellowship from Germany, his critically acclaimed works have featured at Royal Institute of British Architects in London, Centre for Architecture in New York, International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering in Geneva, Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago, Cornell University in New York and Doors of Perception in New Delhi. He was shortlisted for Emerging Architecture award at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London in 2009, won the '10 Great Ideas to change the world' competition at Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai in 2010, and has won 'outstanding young engineer contribution' award for the paper *Living Root Bridges: State of knowledge, fundamental research and future application* at the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering conference in Geneva in 2015.

Sanjeev continues to explore a critical and collective agenda for human ingenuity, challenging the way we live and impact our planet. His long-term research interest lies in using nature and biology as a springboard for innovation in architecture, material science and energy. Currently he is developing a collaborative research and development framework to realize the *green brick* and *living root bridge ecosystems* vision. Other critically acclaimed projects include *Jugaad*, *we all fly*, and *bicultural handmade footwear*. *Jugaad* was shortlisted for the emerging architecture award at Royal Institute of British Architects in 2009 and continues to be used as a benchmark for participatory methods in architecture and public art. *Bicultural leather footwear* project has become a reference case study for investigating hybrid identities in products.

Sanjeev Shankar earned his B.Arch (with distinction) from School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi in 2004, an M.Des in Industrial design from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in 2006, and an M.Sc in Emerging technologies and design from Architectural Association London in 2010.