

# Expeditions Through *My* Lens

A Visual Narrative of the Built and the Un-built



Tania Shah

“

The world is a book and those who don't travel read only one page.”

- St. Augustine

As an architect, a sense of composition was already induced which later facilitated a sense of framing. I started photographing still-life around me and created compositions through different frames. There was a growing enthusiasm to capture daily objects around me with the help of sophisticated phone cameras. This grew into a passion and turned me into a shutterbug. However, I never used a professional camera and was convinced about the picture quality my phone camera would give. I started looking at buildings as works of art and tried to capture spaces that appeared as elements of Design. All my frames create compositions which have design principles like symmetry, balance, rhythm and harmony in them. This compilation is my humble effort that exhibits photos from my expeditions spanning two decades, all shot on iPhone. As the year 2020 of global pandemic struck us and travel just remained a dream, I thought of paying tribute to my travel by creating this book of photos from the past; till I start my travel again in the future.

Tania Shah

# Contents

- 1. Cityscapes
- 2. Landscape
- 3. Streetscapes
- 4. Architecture
- 5. Bridges
- 6. Facades
- 7. Doors and Windows
- 8. Markets
- 9. Art , Culture & Miscellaneous



1

Cityscapes





“

*Agar Firdaus baroye zameen ast, hamee asto,  
hamee asto, hamee ast.”*

If paradise be on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here.

The famous quote by Ameer Khusru has justified the splendor of this place in the most perfect way. The valley of Kashmir offers breathtaking views from any summit.  
View from *Pari Mahal* in May 2017.





Snowfall, no matter how native is it to Kashmir, when untimely is never welcome.

A massive snowfall in early November 2019 resulted in closure of airport for the first time in history. This Photograph was taken from a moving vehicle on the third day of my travel from home to airport in hope of catching a flight.





## The English expedition

“

I travel continuously, and I see many cities,  
but there is nowhere like London.”

Ar. Norman Foster

You can absorb thousands of years of history by  
looking at the London skyline along Thames with  
Houses of Parliament and towering Clock Tower  
“Big Ben”. London, December 2004.





### The European expedition

**Krems**, a beautiful historic city on the banks of Danube in Lower Austria known for its old architecture and famous wine offers you picturesque vineyards creating a perfect balance of natural and built environment. This view was captured from the first floor of Krems University in June 2019 where we visited for exchange of innovative ideas between young minds of Indian and European universities.



### The Ottoman expedition

**Istanbul**, a unique city that unifies the East and the west offers all kind of freedom to the mankind. It has stolen the hearts of many poets, writers, and philosophers throughout the ages. People are right when they say that there is no place on earth as beautiful as Istanbul.. October 2016.





Holy Istanbul! Your name is the most enchanting. One can never find another world or sea better than this city. This place is indelible. The Photograph shows the cityscape of Istanbul, the Bosphorous and the East meeting the West taken in October 2016





## The American expedition

“I would give the greatest sunset in the world for one sight of New York's skyline. Particularly when one can't see the details. Just the shapes. The shapes and the thought that made them. The sky over New York and the will of man made visible. What other religion do we need? And then people tell me about pilgrimages to some dank pesthole in a jungle where they go to do homage to a crumbling temple, to a leering stone monster with a pot belly, created by some leprous savage. Is it beauty and genius they want to see? Do they seek a sense of the sublime? Let them come to New York, stand on the shore of the Hudson, look and kneel. When I see the city from my window - no, I don't feel how small I am - but I feel that if a war came to threaten this, I would throw myself into space, over the city, and protect these buildings with my body.”

**Ayn Rand, *The Fountainhead***

They say there is something in the New York air that makes sleep useless. No other urban night is like a night here. The illuminated cityscape is like a flickering constellations of light. It's a miracle. The photograph has been taken from the observatory of World One Tower which gives a 360 degree panoramic view of the city in April 2018





Central Park, New York

From a chaotic city to a peaceful jungle , New York has it all. The central park , an urban park in New York is most filmed one which you have already seen before being there. But the joy of walking in central park with your loved ones is certainly something worth an experience that gives you best of both landscape and architecture. On a cloudy day in April 2018.





“

San Francisco is the only city I can think of that can survive all the things you people are doing to it and still look beautiful.”

- Frank Lloyd Wright

Truly urban and cosmopolitan San Francisco is really warm to people from all over the world. The skyscrapers , water , hills, the steep roads and the fishing wharf , all in a day. This photograph was taken from a moving vehicle in May 2018





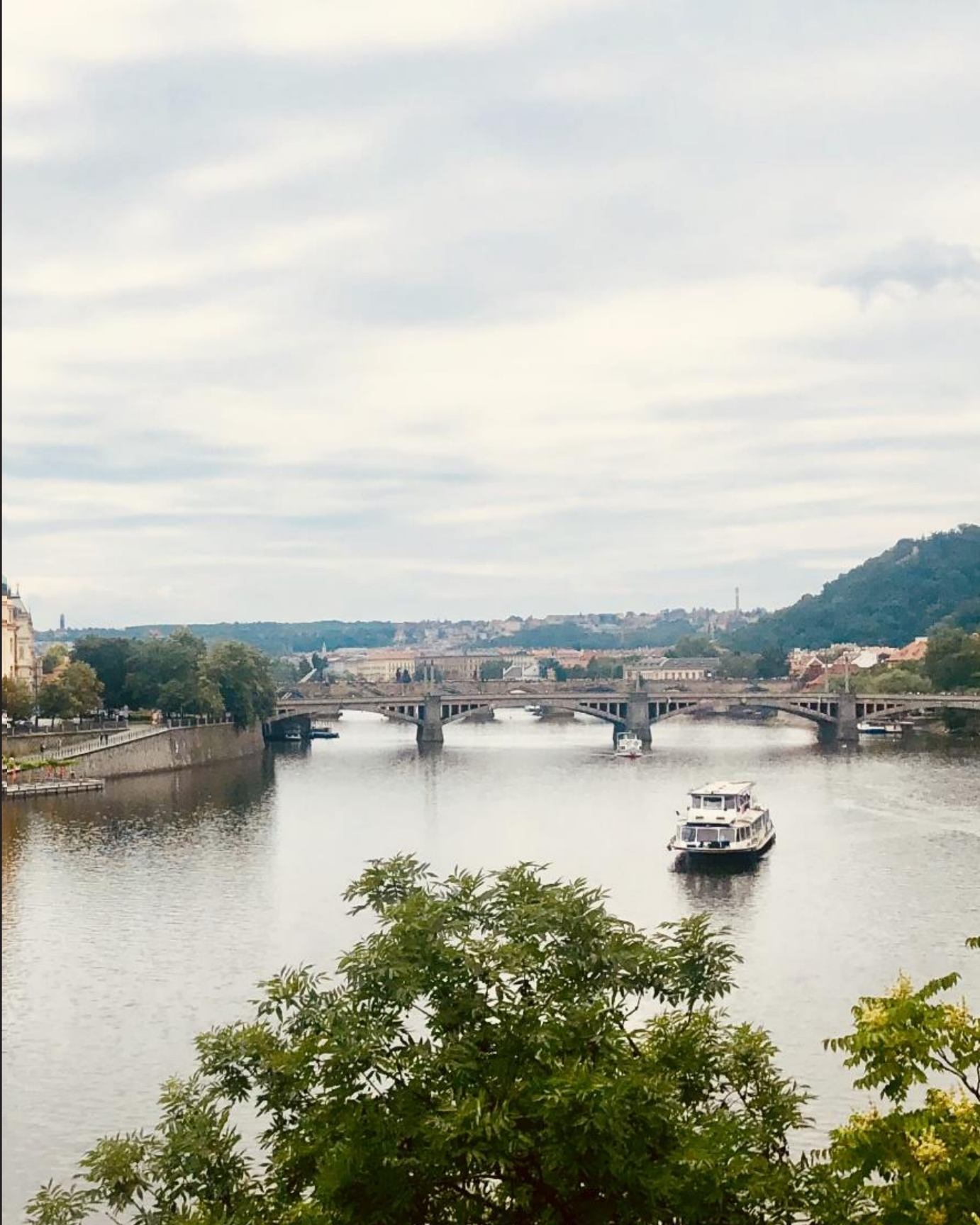
## The European expedition

*Praha!* I left a piece of my heart there. It is a city beyond compare., rich in heritage and architecture . It is so medieval ! That's what makes it so beautiful. This photograph has been taken in June 2019 from Prague castle, which gives a panoramic view of city.









## Prague

The vast waterfront is encompassed by grand architecture and forms a perfect balance between the built and the un-built environment.

This was an escape trip for two days from an official trip to Europe in June 2019





Whenever you explore, you always stumble on landmarks that are so symbolic to their cities.

.

Above: London Eye that contributes to the skyline of London ,December 2004.

Left: Statue of Liberty, April 2018, during American Expedition.



*Ye hai Mumbai meri jaan*



No one  
can sleep  
hungry here.  
Some make it  
big, and some  
manage to earn a  
livelihood,  
but no one sure  
wants to leave it  
once they live here.  
Shot in December  
2018.



2

Landscapes





## Cappadocia, Turkey

Turkey was fantastic, Cappadocia was mystical and such a special place. Just unique, something that's really hard to describe, such beauty, those mountains, and the stone that is kind of eroded. Special erosion which makes what you see just as it's been made for a movie, it's like something out of fantasy, except it's real. This once in a life time experience was only a miracle that happened due to a sudden decision in Istanbul. The ride of hot air balloon called us to a two day trip to Cappadocia where we explored the open air museum that forms a coherent geographical entity and represents historical unity. An empty cave town , with churches and monasteries, eroded rocks , deepest underground city, rock-cut castles, deepest gorge of Anatolia, mushroom- shaped fairy chimneys, first settlements in Cappadocia, imagination valley, 13<sup>th</sup> century hotels on the silk road etc . October 2016, it was but a dream come true!





The Beauty of this landscape lies in the melancholy. Melancholy not only in the landscape but in my heart too as I had travelled to see my loving grandma who had met with a brain stroke - February 2017





## Mumbai, India

*Let the waves hit your feet and sand be your seat.*

That morning when you feel health is wealth and you need morning walks to beat your Monday blues. December of 2016, when the Creator, the supreme artist showed me lines in nature that were accentuated by virtue of twilight.





## The Dal lake

The swirls of slow  
ripples,  
the shikaras, water,  
lotus leaves that  
float on the surface  
like a layer of green  
rug. The overhang of  
clouds and piercing  
sun that reflects on  
water is what my  
home looks like.







Kanha National Park,  
Madhya Pradesh

“

You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover is yourself.”

- Alan Alda

Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India believed to be the inspiration behind Rudyard Kipling's popular novel 'The Jungle Book' is famous for its impressive number of tigers and outstanding wildlife. Shot in December 2017





Wild animals are less wild and more human than many humans in this world. The pleasure of spotting the wildlife in a jungle is immeasurable.

Left: Sambhar in Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India , December 2017  
Above: Deer in Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India , December 2017





## Bhedaghat, Madhya Pradesh

Staring up at me were these piles of rocks in Bhedaghat, famous as a site for many Bollywood movies once upon a time and glittering marble rocks that stand a hundred feet tall on the banks of Narmada making visually appealing scenery . These rocks are glistening white mounds with hues of black and dark green which shine through its seams. River Narmada that provides a magical reflection of these rocks creating a majestic view gains turbulence a little ahead and roars into a mighty waterfall. A fun filled trip where these rocks made all kinds of expressions at us in Jabalpur, December 2017.





“

The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter.”

- Jen Selinsky

A quick jaunt to *Baadamwari* (Almond Orchard) , when I stole some time to refresh my soul by fragrance of the bloom from a tight schedule on my site visit to Kashmir in April 2018.

Right: Santa Maria, where we saw best of both- mountains and sea on a road trip to Los Angeles from Las Vegas







“

And then my heart with  
pleasure fills,  
And dances with the  
daffodils.”  
-William Wordsworth

“

Picasso said that no  
one has to explain a  
daffodil. Good design  
is understandable to  
virtually everybody.  
You never have to ask  
why.”  
-Hugh Newell Jacobsen

From the stolen time of  
site visit to Kashmir in  
April 2018,  
at *Baadamwari*  
(Almond Orchard),  
Srinagar.







Los Angeles, USA

**Getty Center**, a master piece of architecture. resting on a hilltop and overlooking the city of Los Angeles had always been a big dream to visit since I studied about it in my architecture school. The Getty features the personal collection of businessman and art collector J. Paul Getty, who saw art as a civilizing influence in society and sought to make it more widely available to the public. This place was explored in May 2018





Beauty of Kashmir surpasses everything. It cannot be described through words. It needs to be experienced. Whether its blooming spring or blazing autumn, naked trees or blanket of snow, Kashmir has a heartbeat that everyone can feel all year round. Photographed during the untimely snowfall of November 2019  
Right: Melancholy in February, 2017







Road trip through Nevada, Utah and California, May 2018





## Cappadocia, Turkey

Imagination valley in Gerome open Air Museum, Cappadocia, Turkey. A sculpture zoo formed by nature has animal shaped rock formations that can let the imagination go really wild. From the Ottoman expedition in October 2016





## Srinagar, Kashmir

Winter is not a season , it's a celebration. These fastigiated poplars which soar up so high are significant of Kashmir. They talk of temperance and grow in colonies. They contribute to the landscape of Kashmir and look beautiful in each season , despite shedding their leaves in winters . The prominence of their branches in the gloomy dull skies is more beautiful than dense green canopies of other trees..February 2017, on way to airport .after catching some last glimpses of my ailing grandma.





## Doadpathri , Kashmir

The name "*doadpathri*" means Valley of Milk. It is said that the famous saint of Kashmir Sheikh ul Aalam Sheikh Noor Din Noorani has prayed here and once when he was in search of water in the meadows, to offer prayers, he pricked the ground with his stick to search for water and milk came out. He asked the milk that you can only be used for drinking and not performing ablution. Hearing this milk at once changed its state to water and the meadow got its name Doodpathri. The water which is at present flowing through the meadows has a milky appearance from the distance and remains very cold throughout the year.

This place had not been explored by many people until recently. That is why one can't find any commercial activity in this pristine valley. Being born and brought up in Kashmir, I myself experienced it in May 2017.





“

Therefore am I still a lover of the meadows and the woods, and mountains; and of all that we behold from this green earth?”

- William Wordsworth

Yes definitely! Go to the meadow and open your eyes. You will fall in love with Doodhpathri which is a sloping, lush green grassy landscape over the vast meadows. You will be speechless.





## The Dal Lake, Kashmir

Like Dal Lake is central to the landscape of Kashmir, so are shikaras to Dal Lake. Not only do they give rides to the tourists in the Dal but also contribute to the aesthetics of the landscape. A simple glide over the scintillating water is all that you need on a summer day.

Srinagar, May 2017





Salt Lake City , Utah , United States of America



Sugar House Park in Salt Lake City with ponds and sledding hills is in the middle of the city. I wish such open spaces existed in all cities and there would a great balance of nature and built environment.





“

Man despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication and his many accomplishments owes his existence to a six inch top soil and the fact that it rains.”

-- Unknown

From a moving vehicle on a road trip through Utah, Nevada and California, May 2018.





“

Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go.”

- T.S.Eliot

From a moving vehicle on a road trip through Utah, Nevada and California, May 2018









*Betaab Valley,*  
Kashmir

Lying between the two  
Himalayan Ranges-  
Pir Panjal and Zaskar,  
Betaab valley got its  
name from a Bollywood  
movie *Betaab* as it was  
shot here.  
Srinagar, May 2015







“

The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.”

-John Muir

Enroute Kanha National park. The journey to this trip was equally exciting, meandering through thick jungle.  
Madhya Pradesh, December 2017





“

There must be something really sacred in  
salt. It is in our tears and in the sea.”

- Kahlil

Gibran

Salt pans of Salt Lake city, enroute home  
from a week long trip to California , USA.  
Shot from a moving vehicle In May, 2108





“

The mountain remains unmoved at it's seeming defeat by the mist.”

- Rabindranath Tagore

The mist, the meadows and the mesmerizing landscape of Doadhpathri ( the milk valley ) in Budgam , Kashmir was a sure surprise as it has been an unexplored zone in Kashmir's tourism. Kashmir,2017





The best way to control sheep is to give them a big grazing field.



The desert does not mean the absence of men, it means the presence of God.



Dubai ,UAE, December 2015





“

Reflect upon your present blessings , of which every man has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”

-Charles Dickens





Bosphorus, Istanbul

Our first day in Turkey, and my first time to witness blue water in the ocean. Istanbul definitely owes its extraordinary situation to Golden Horn , Marmara Sea and the Bosphorous, October 2016



3

Streetscapes





New York, April 2018



Prague, June 2019





San Francisco,  
May 2018

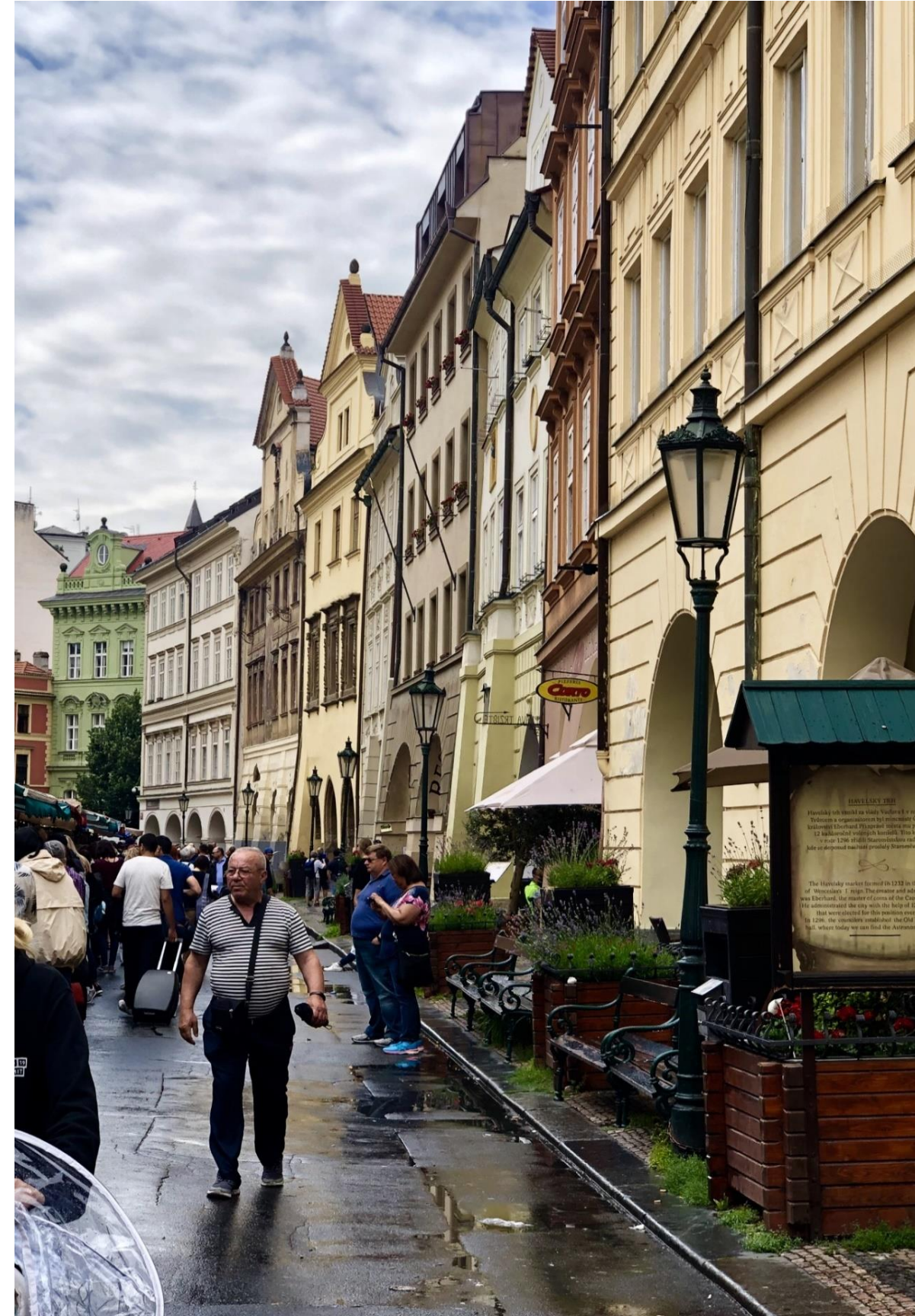
Right: Krems,  
Austria,  
June 2019







Istanbul,  
October  
2016



Prague , June 2019





Prague , June 2019



Krems, Austria , June 2019





Highline, New York,  
April 2018



Manhattan, NY,  
April 2018





Bratislava, Slovakia,  
June 2019  
Right: Prague, Czech,  
June 2019







New York, April 2018  
Right: Krems, Austria,  
June 2019







Bratislava, Slovakia,  
June 2019  
Right: Prague, Czech,  
June 2019







New York,  
April 2018



Krems, Austria,  
June 2019





Linz, Austria, June 2019



NY, April 2018





## Istanbul, Turkey

“

If one had but a single glance to give the world, one should gaze on Istanbul.”

-Unknown

Of all the places I traveled , Istanbul is certainly that one place where I would like to go again and again .Don't ask me 'why?'  
There is no other place as enchanting as Istanbul. Turkey, October 2016





Bratislava, Slovakia,  
June 2019





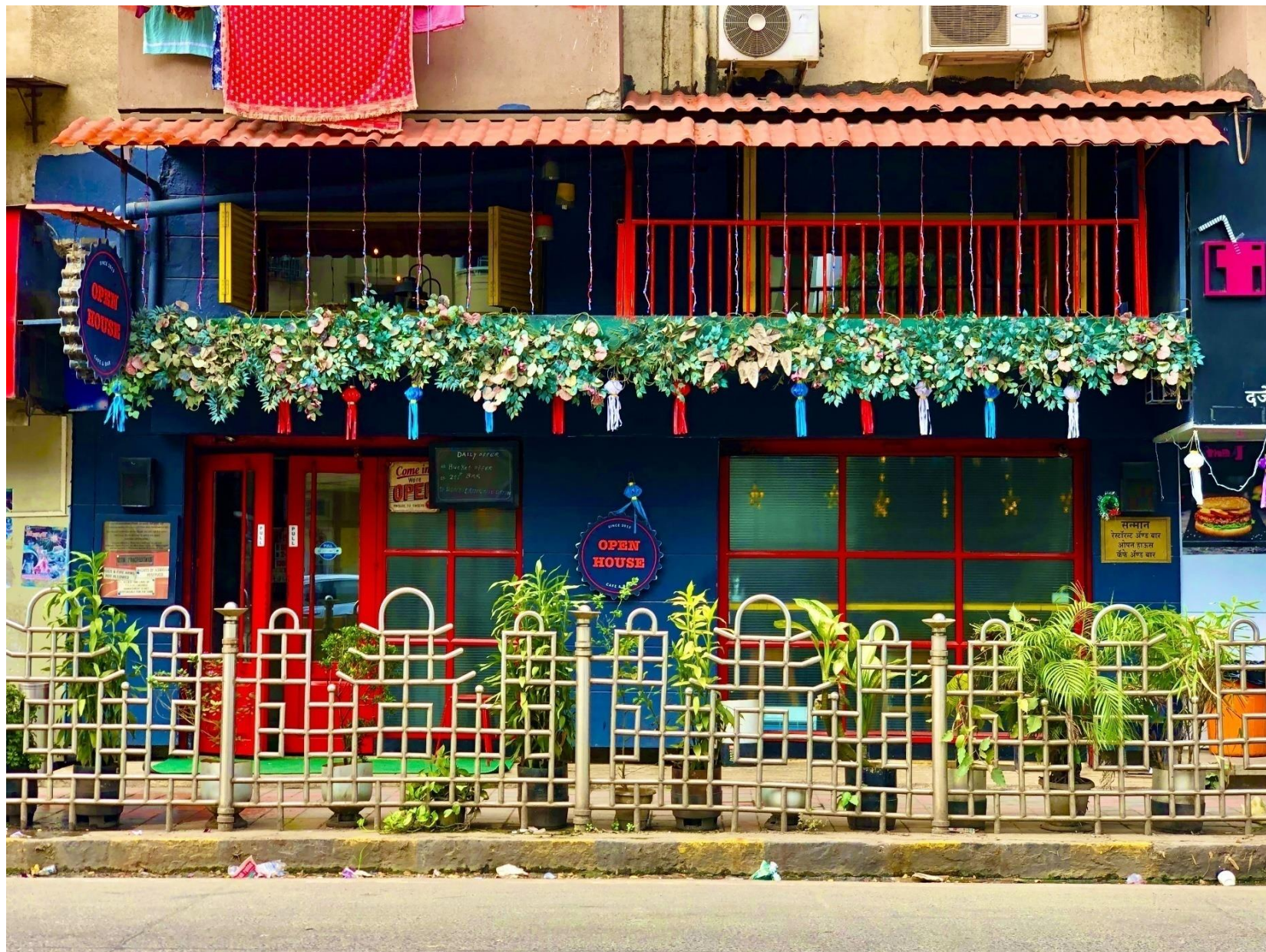


Linz, Austria,  
June 2019

Linz, Austria, June 2019







Above: Mumbai , November 2019  
Right: Linz, Austria, June 2019







Linz, Austria, June 2019



Linz, Austria, June 2019





Linz, Austria, June 2019



Linz, Austria, June 2019





Linz, Austria, June 2019

Linz, Austria, June 2019







Bratislava, Slovakia, June 2019



Budapest, Hungary,  
June 2019



4

Architecture





Blue Mosque,  
Istanbul,  
October 2016

Right:  
Capitol House,  
Washington DC,  
April , 2018







Budapest, Hungary

The Hungarian Parliament Building in Budapest situated on the Pest side of the city, on the eastern bank of the Danube, built in neo- gothic style is a delightful sight.  
What a *Buda*-ful view!  
Budapest, June 2019





## Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Twin Towers stood out like an enormous number 11 looming over the city of Malaysia. Size matters! It had been a dream to see the tallest building at one point of time . Being an architecture student, I wanted to see all architectural marvels.

Malaysia, December 2011





Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Shaikh Zayed Mosque or Grand Mosque Abu Dhabi is truly majestic. It's an architectural marvel. Whoever named it Grand Mosque really named it well. Be it the domes ,arches, minarets , carpets and chandeliers, they are all magnificent. There is a story or a reason behind each and every fine detail that you see.

Abu Dhabi, November 2015

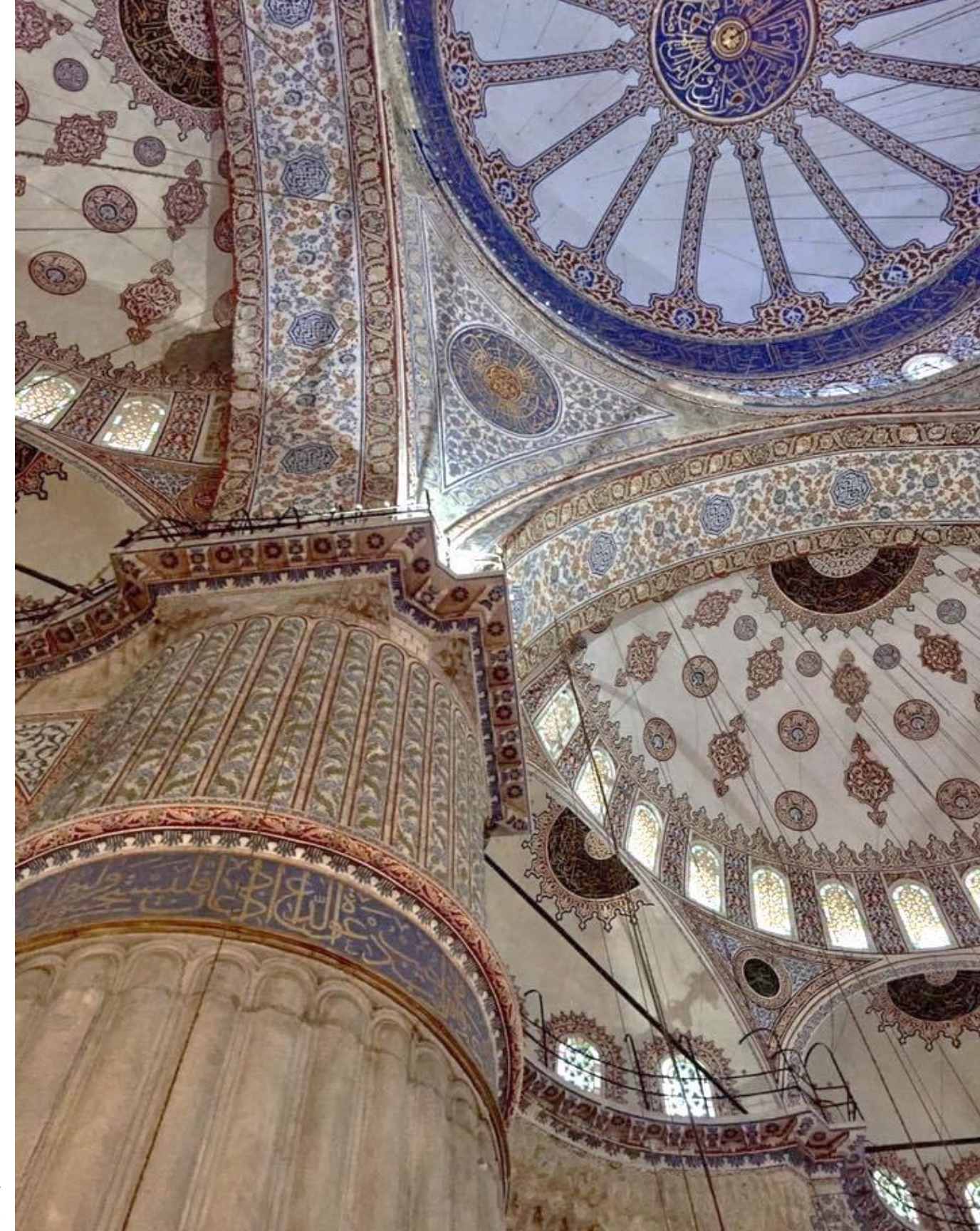




## Blue Mosque, Istanbul

“At one glance I loved  
you with a thousand  
hearts . . .  
Let the zealots think  
loving is sinful. Never  
mind, Mihri, let me  
burn in the hellfire of  
that sin.”  
—Hatun, 16<sup>th</sup> Century  
Ottoman poetess.

From the Ottoman  
Expedition in October  
2016



Blue Mosque,  
October 2016





Left:  
Synagogue, Budapest,  
June 2019



Right:  
Disneyland,  
Los Angeles, May 2018





Ortakoy Mosque,  
Istanbul, October 2016



New Cathedral,  
Linz, Austria, June 2019





## Prague, Czech Republic

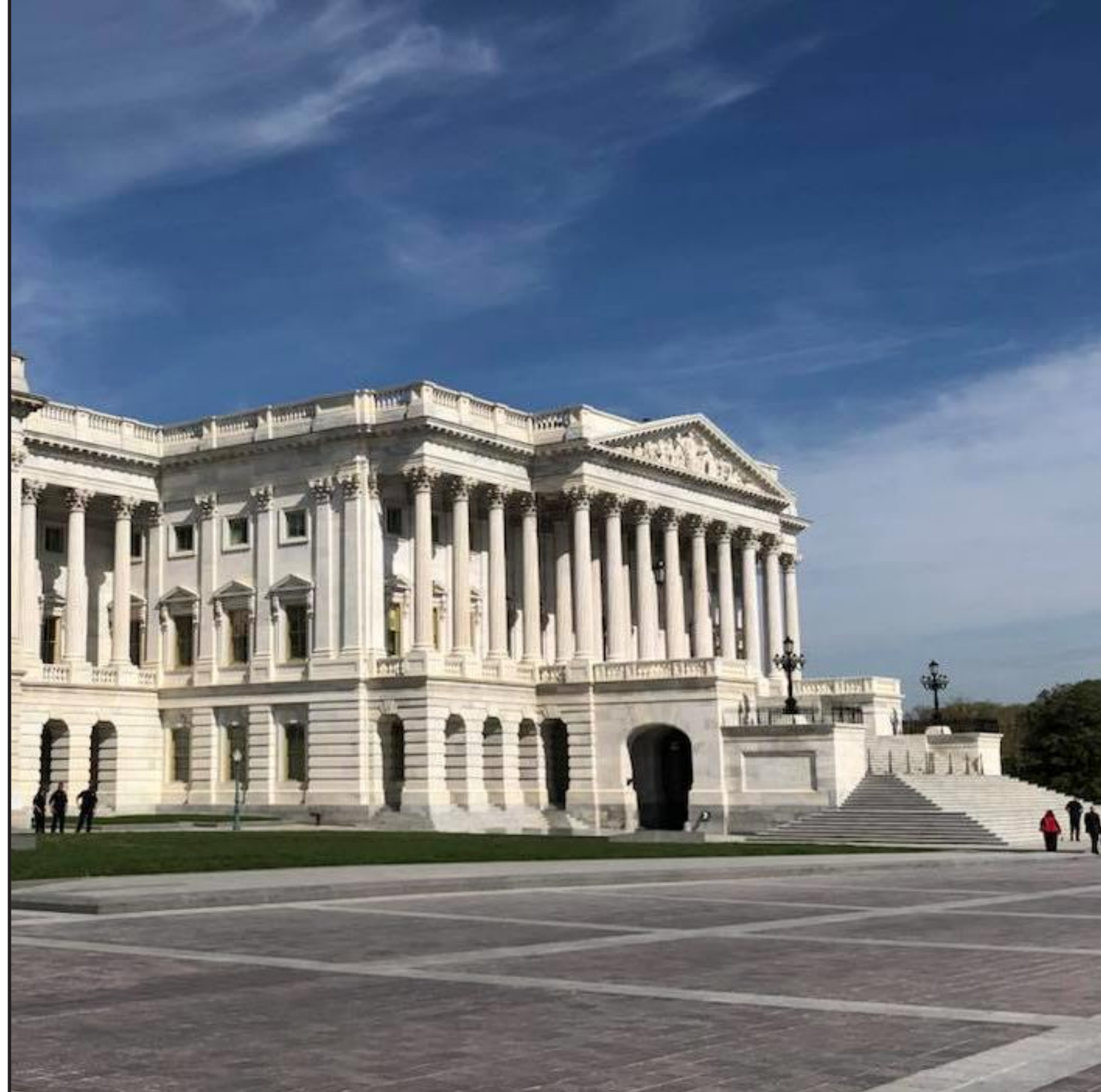
Prague wears its history on its sleeve. A walk down a lane in any old street will give you centuries of history to decode. You can see glimpses of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Neoclassical, Baroque , Art Nouveau etc. It was a blessed decision to have a quick jaunt to Prague to witness this architectural heaven. An unforgettable experience of how we managed to get tickets at the eleventh hour, our train journeys and managing the booking in a beautiful hostel. while on an exchange program in Austria Prague, June 2019.





Above : Krems, Austria, June 2019 amidst vineyards. A perfect blend of built and un built environment.

Right: Capitol House, Washington DC, April 23, 2018, the best Birthday gift ever. A tour of Washington DC.







Above: Formerly known as Victoria Terminus, now Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai, at a Traffic signal on a rainy day in July 2020



Right: Hippodrome and street furniture , Istanbul, October 2016



5

Bridges





“

We build too many walls and not enough bridges.”

- Sir Isaac Newton

Goa, which is a paradise for India's west coast has numerous beaches with unbeatable views. One of the beaches is Anjuna beach which hypnotizes your soul and makes people fall for it. But to access the beach one has to go through this narrow and tottering bridge. Goa is a feeling of thrill and excitement, be it with friends or family. This one was with family in December 2013, a road trip from Mumbai to Goa via its Western Coast.





## Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco

“

The Golden Gate Bridge offers enduring proof that human beings can alter the planet with reverence.”

-Kevin Starr

They say money sits in New York and Power in Washington and you will find Freedom sipping Cappuccino at a sidewalk in San Francisco. The only bad thing about San Francisco is that you never want to leave it.

The Golden Gate Bridge is the icon of San Francisco and its vermillion red colour is visually so pleasing a suspension bridge that hovers delicately over the brilliant blue water below often with a veil of fog that makes photographing the Golden Gate Bridge a bucket list must for visitors. There are many points and angles that one can view this bridge from but this one has been shot from the vantage point near parking where you have to wait for the crowd to disappear. – May 2018.









Tower Bridge, London

Twenty bridges from Tower to Kew-  
 Wanted to know what the river knew-  
 Twenty bridges or Twenty two,  
 For they were young and Thames was old,  
 And this is the tale that River told- ---- **Rudyard Kipling**



Liberty Bridge, Budapest

This photograph is taken when I got down from the hop on - hop off bus with a city map in my hand. Absolute solo trip , no one except Google maps with me. I let many cars to pass by and waited for the red car to strike a contrast with green background till I moved on and hopped in again to go further. I mistook this bridge as the famous Chain Bridge of Budapest but an encounter with this one was also worth it.  
 June 2019





## Budapest, Hungary

Chain Bridge , the queen of Danube is the first stone bridge connecting Buda and Pest in Budapest..It has been recorded as the most beautiful bridges

in the world. Every year in the month of June there is a chain Bridge festival when lots of activities happen and the bridge

is closed for vehicular traffic. The chain bridge is also depicted on the forint , currency of Hungary.

Once you see this place ,you will never be completely at home again as a part of your heart will always be here. The beauty of chain bridge is enhanced multifold at night as it glitters like gold.

June 2019,Budapest, Hungary





Budapest, Hungary

I'm still Hungary for this sight of Budapest!  
You can never have enough of it. The Chain Bridge offers you the most stunning views of the city. You can cross from Buda to Pest through this bridge with mighty Danube flowing below you. This panorama at night will surely fascinate you. June 2019, Budapest.





A good composition is like a suspension bridge where each line adds strength and takes none away.

Bandra –Worli  
Sea link , Mumbai,  
December 2018

## Linz, Austria

While passing by  
Danube in Linz , we  
came across these love  
padlocks on the railing  
of this bridge. It has  
become a common  
ritual across Europe to  
symbolize one's love  
by fixing these  
padlocks to fences,  
railings, bridges etc.  
Our first day in Linz  
Austria, 13<sup>th</sup> June  
2019







“

The skyline of new York is a monument of splendor that no pyramid or palaces will ever approach or replace.”

-Ayn Rand, the virtue of selfishness

I remember seeing Brooklyn Bridge only in movies and then it was no less like a dream to actually see it.. The soul of New York lies in Brooklyn Bridge connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn with its majestic Gothic arches. New York, April 2018





Los Angeles, United States of America

Lower Tram Station of the Getty Center gives you a glimpse of the spectacular site which gets revealed and makes a lasting impression on your mind.. The immediate effect of the Getty Center is positive, even exhilarating. Its hard to not react to the magic and elegance of the architecture.

Los Angeles, USA, May 2018.





## The European Expedition

Above: Budapest, Hungary, June 2019

Right: Prague, Czech Republic, June 2019







## Prague, Czech Republic

The ancient splendor and beauty of Prague, a city beyond compare left impression on my mind which will never fade. The majestic bridges, cobbled stoned streets ,architecture and history that we enjoyed, how can you not fall in love?

June, 2019, Prague, Czech Republic





Galata Bridge, Istanbul, Turkey

Hundreds of fishermen cast their rods over the side of the bridge. Galata Bridge named after Galata Tower in Istanbul over Golden horn. Its history lays a connection between two different civilizations. Look east towards Asia or west. towards Europe. and remember the saying that it was a passageway to the Old City of Constantinople. A bustling place , with addictive vibes , you can eat variety of street food including famous fish sandwiches here. October 2016, Istanbul.





Golden Horn Metro Bridge, Istanbul

This steel cable-stayed bridge is one of the newer bridges in Istanbul which also caused some controversy during its construction for disturbing the skyline of the city's historical area. However, all bridges of Istanbul over the strait of Bosphorous provide spectacular views of the city. October 2016, Istanbul



6

Facades





SultanAhmet ,  
Istanbul, Turkey  
October 2016

Oh how I remember  
my wait for the bus at  
this place to take me  
back to my hostel.  
That's when a solo  
trip starts getting  
scary. Had it not been  
for these Indian girls I  
spotted waiting for  
the same bus , I  
wouldn't have been  
writing this now.  
The Great Bath  
House, Budapest,  
Hungary  
June 2019







## New York, United States of America

What I loved about New York's architecture was the fact that even high rises had exposed brick facades. That adds so much warmth and character to these buildings. This is Highline, New York, a famous abandoned railway track which got converted into a public realm and is one of the liveliest places here. We made it a point to come and see this place. Shot from the Highline in April 2018.





Above: Budapest, Hungary, June 2019

Left: Bratislava , Slovakia, June 2019





Left :  
Vienna,  
Austria,  
June 2019

Right:  
Alexandria,  
Washington DC,  
May 2018







Linz, Austria,  
June 2019

Right: Entrance to  
Masjid e Haram,  
Mecca, Jeddah,  
Saudi Arabia,  
January 2005







Krems, Austria,  
June 2019







Cave Hotel ,  
Cappadocia,  
Turkey,  
October 2016





7

Doors & Windows





The magnificent entrance  
to the Prayer Hall,  
Grand Mosque,  
Abu Dhabi,  
October 2015

You say to a brick,  
'What do you want, brick?'  
And brick says to you,  
' I like an arch'.  
And you say to brick,  
' Look I want one too but  
arches are expensive and  
I can use a concrete lintel'.  
And then you say:  
'What do you think  
of that, brick?'  
Brick says: **I like an arch**'.

-Louis Kahn

*Baadamwari,*  
the almond orchard,  
Srinagar ,April 2018







Left: I don't need to stare out the window. The streets of Istanbul give you plenty of beautiful windows with flowers that fill these facades with life.

SultanAhmet , Istanbul, Turkey, October 2016

Right: Window seat in my bedroom that offered this picturesque view, the only means of survival in Covid - 19 lockdown.

Mumbai, April 2020.







Happiness often sneaks in through these old doors for a photographer.

Krems, the historic city in Austria, June 2019

“

Why do you speak to me  
of the stones? It's only the  
arch that matters to me.

-Kublai Khan

A peaceful old housing  
colony in Krems, Austria,  
June 2019







The old world charm in Bratislava. Encountered so many rich, grand old doors in this historic city during our walk in June 2019



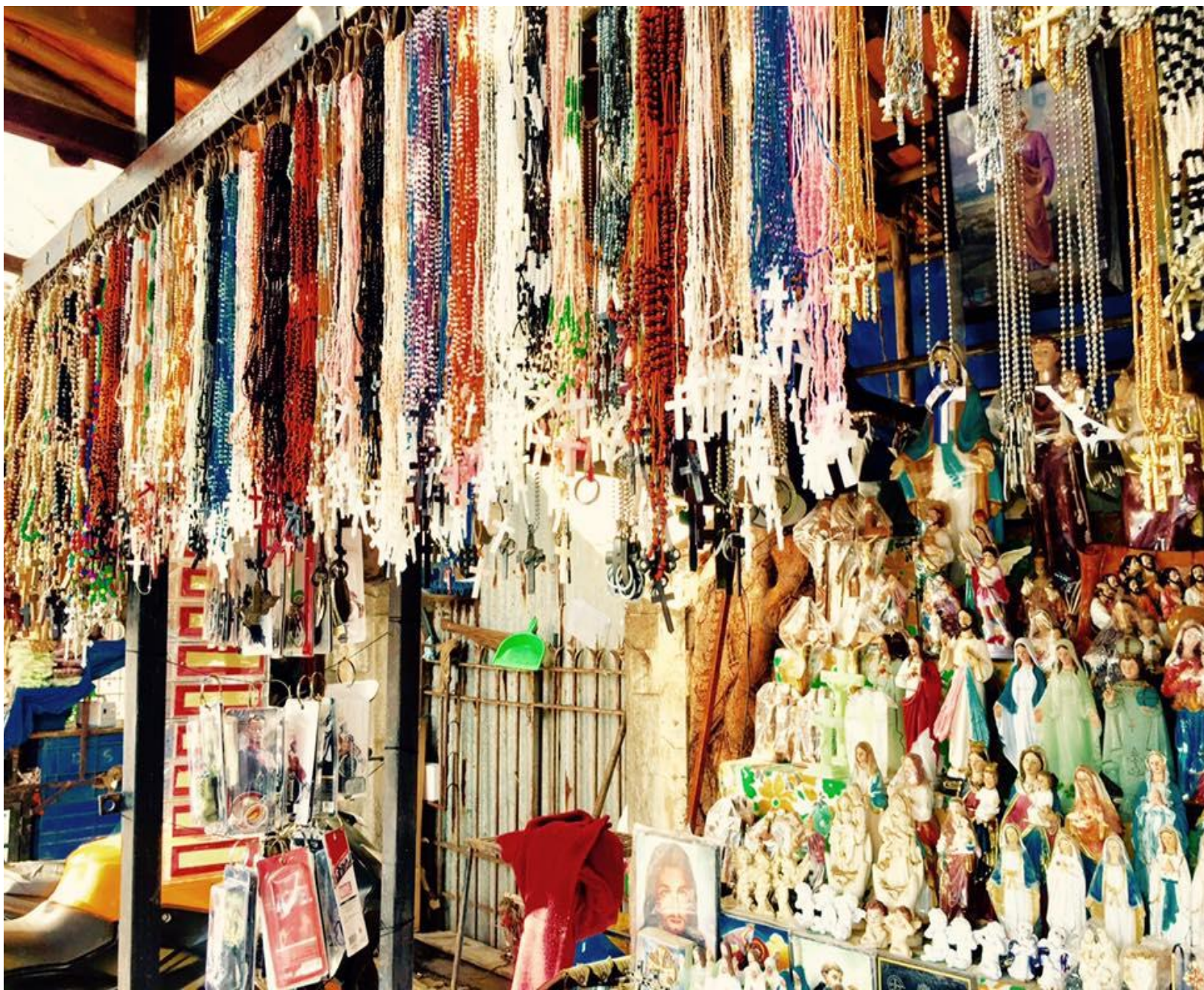
This magnificent Gothic edifice that is St. Stephan's Cathedral is Vienna's most culturally significant landmarks, a heritage site and is respected across the world throughout. This lavishly decorated cathedral is filled with artistic delights.. Ornate Gothic columns supporting the roof tell the tales of Christian saints with countless solemn stone faces peering out from high up the walls. Vienna, Austria, June 2019



8

Markets





Every year around Christmas we take a trip with our kids to Mount Merry Church Bandra, Mumbai. The lane outside the church is lined up with stalls selling candles, altars and other goodies that Santa Claus would get us.. To me it's an interesting site as I find these stalls very artistic in nature. Plenty of colours, and organization of these trinkets gives me good frames to capture them. The end result is a delightful composition.

Mumbai, December, 2019







Look at the organization of these various foods which nature has given different shape, size, colour and texture and tell me how its possible to resist not framing it.

Bazaars of  
Vienna,  
Austria,  
June 2019







These antique pieces and artifacts are worth capturing. The Colaba Causeway market is a shopper's paradise in Mumbai which is often flocked by foreigners visiting Mumbai  
December 2018

Right: Markets of Istanbul which are so rich in arts and crafts that it's hard to describe and you can imagine it only when you have experienced  
October 2016







From a quick jaunt to Texas , my friend took me to this historic district of cowboys which had a cowboy museum, hall of fame, rodeos, parades, and of course shopping.

Cowboy shoes from a store in Fort Worth, Texas, United States, May 2018



Istanbul ,October 2016





We think that we nurture our gardens but its gardens that nurture us.  
Every Thursday there is an open vegetable market set up in Sultanahmet area of Istanbul where you can see a variety of fresh colorful vegetables.  
Istanbul ,October ,2016



If you think that I placed yellow over red chilies and green over yellow, you are mistaken. Turkish people are inherently artistic. Art and design lies within which is evident from these photos .Creating this focal point in these compositions was what they had done. I just captured it.





Left: Variety of dried food including fish called 'hokh gaad' meaning Dried Fish is something people in Kashmir stock for their harsh winters when due to extreme weather conditions they cannot source the fresh food. In Jama Masjid Bazaar, Srinagar, November 2020



Right: Juice stall outside Prague Castle, Prague, June 2019





Istanbul, October 2016

All things bright and  
beautiful,  
are made from  
ceramics.  
People like me who  
have a fetish of  
ceramics cannot resist  
shopping here.  
Souvenir Market,  
Bratislava.  
June 2019





9

Art, Culture &  
Miscellaneous





“

Only from the heart can you touch the sky.”

-Rumi

The spellbinding worship service, the *Mevlevi Sema*, has dervishes in long white dresses whirling ecstatically for an hour at a time to the drone of ancient Islamic hymns. This mystic religious rite was done by Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi in ecstasy on streets of Konya. At present this service takes place at Mevlana Cultural Centre in Konya where we got an opportunity to experience this mesmerizing performance.  
Konya, Turkey, October 2016





Peek a boo!  
Farms in Fort Worth, Texas.  
United States, May 2018  
Right: Autumn in Kashmir, Nishat Bagh, Srinagar. November 2020







These candles represent Christ as the light. Also, it is a symbol of holy illumination of the spirit of truth.  
Mount Merry Church, Mumbai , January 2018

Right: Streets of Istanbul are always full of life. The café culture, smoke and hookah is something you will find in all lanes there.  
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey, October 2016.







Above: Whirling Dervish performing at Konya Cultural Center. What a mesmerizing experience!  
Konya, Turkey, October 2016

Right: Cemetery in Krems was very much a part of its landscape.  
Krems, Austria, June 2019







## Fort Worth Stockyards, Texas

Once home to cowboys, cattlemen and outlaws ,today the Stockyards national historic district is one of the most popular attractions in Texas. The vibe of this place is unreal as it has the ability to take you back through time to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Texas in a matter of minutes..  
From the Texas trip where I went to meet my school friend while I was on American expedition. May 2018





## Linz, Austria

Kulturquartier, Linz is a complex of buildings that comprises of art collection of upper Austria, food stalls and art house cinema. Its a meeting point for guests and residents of Linz. It hosts various events and exhibitions on art and displays artistic work all throughout the complex. This sculpture of nets is woven and installed on a roof top which looks nothing less than a fairyland. The whole space has an artistic aura to it.  
Linz, Austria, June 2019





Mumbai, September 2016

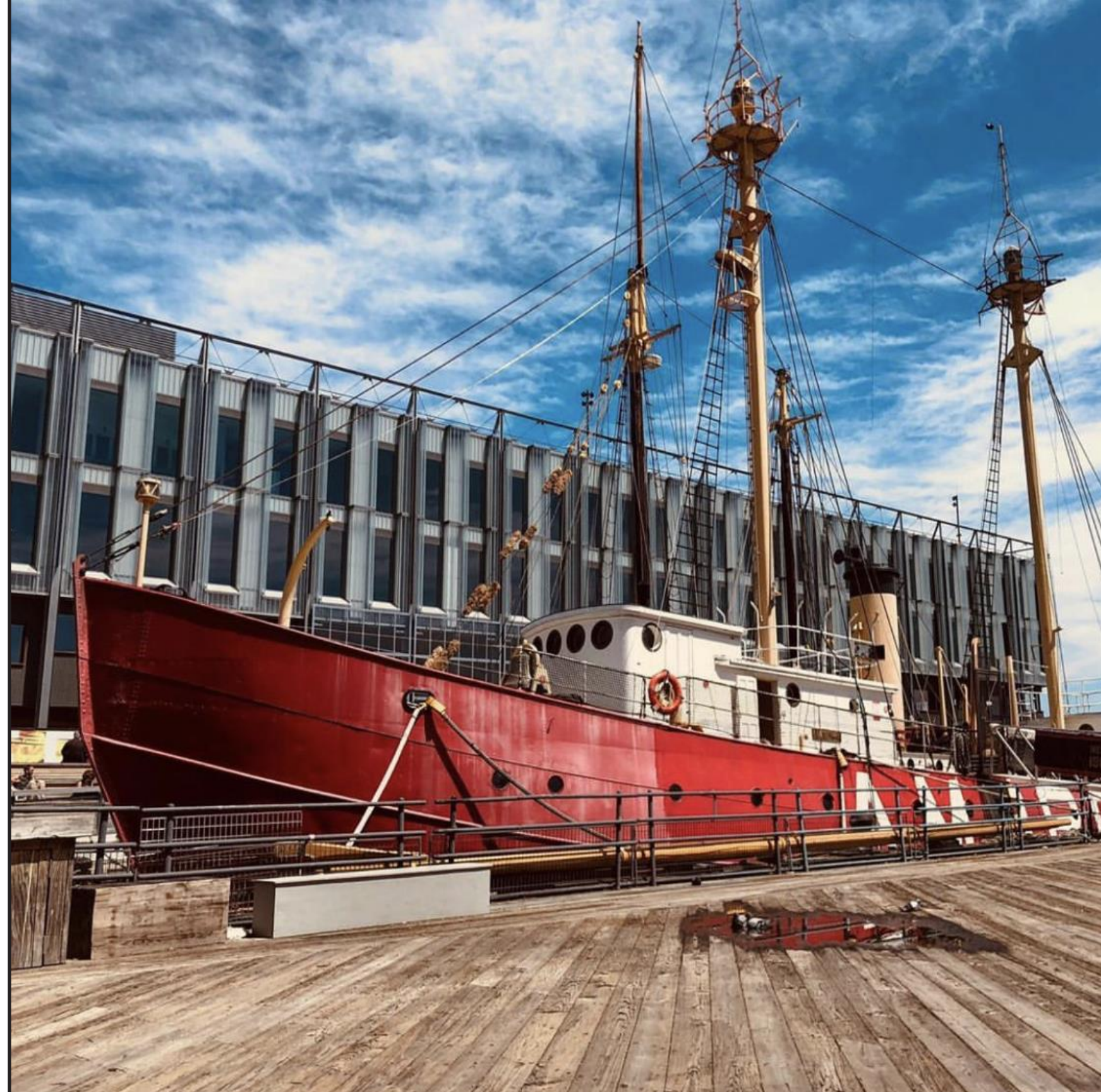


Kashmir, 2018





Above: San Francisco Bay Area, United States, May 2018  
Right: Pier 17, New York, United States, April 2018







Somewhere in the sky  
between Jammu and  
Kashmir, November 2018

Right: Goa,  
December 2013



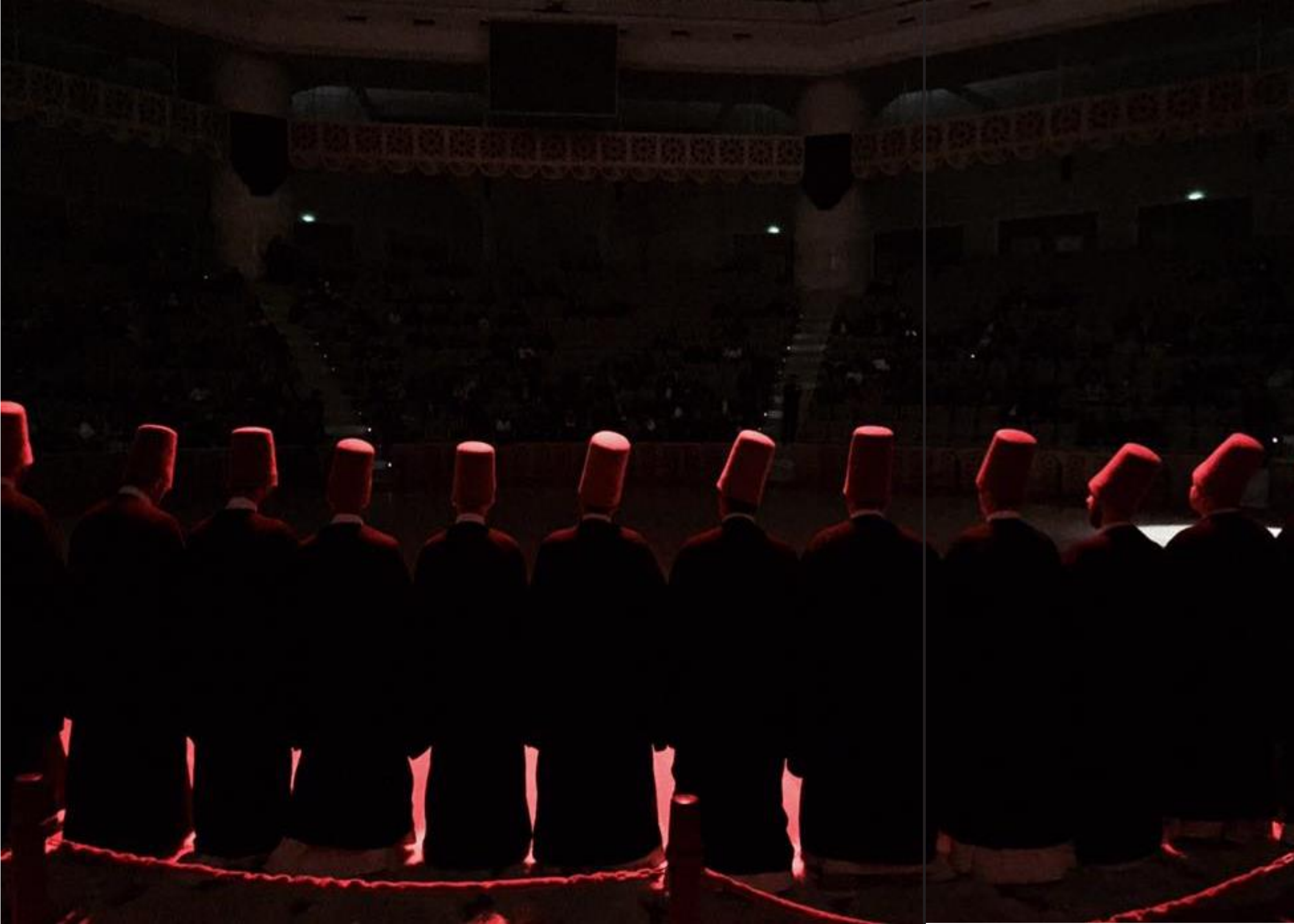




Above: Dubai, UAE, December 2012  
Right: Mumbai, April 2020







## Whirling Dervish, Konya, Turkey

Mevlevi Sema ceremony is a UNESCO intangible Cultural Heritage. This mesmerizing ceremony is held every year on National Day of Turkey in Mevlana Cultural centre with free entry. Have been fortunate enough to witness this Sema.

Konya,Turkey, October 2016



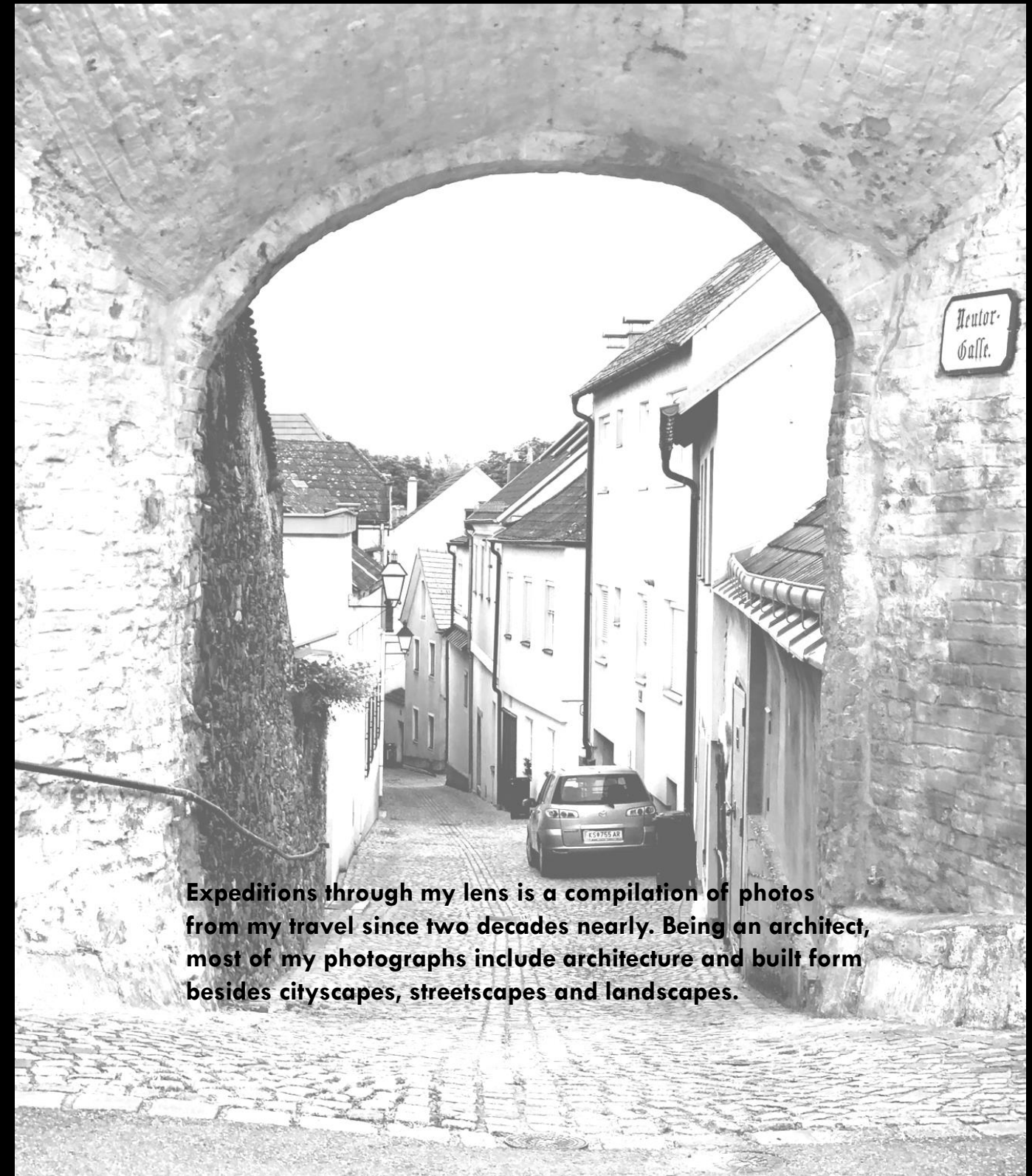
# About the Author

Tania Shah is an architect, founder of TS Design Works and a professor in a school of Architecture besides being a photography enthusiast. Born in the beautiful valley of Kashmir , she moved to Mumbai for her education in Architecture at prestigious Sir JJ college of Architecture and has been living in Mumbai since then. She lives with her husband and two kids, likes to travel and enjoys photography.



<https://instagram.com/expeditionsthroughmylens>

<https://instagram.com/tsdesignworks>



**Expeditions through my lens is a compilation of photos from my travel since two decades nearly. Being an architect, most of my photographs include architecture and built form besides cityscapes, streetscapes and landscapes.**

