

Indian students find world of urban design



Intercontinental project: From left: University of Melbourne Masters of Urban Design students Manguirish Bhatikar and Nivedita Vijayan. Photo: MICHAEL SILVER

Two Indian students studying at the University of Melbourne have recently returned from Bordeaux, France, as part of an intercontinental project to delve deeper into the world of urban design and architecture.

University of Melbourne Masters of Urban Design students Nivedita Vijayan and Manguirish Bhatikar, originally from India's Goa College of Architecture, were among a group of postgraduates invited to take part in a collaborative international project involving teaching, design and research, known as BMB.

The Bangkok-Melbourne-Bordeaux venture is run through the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, in conjunction with Kasetsart University's Faculty of Architecture in Bangkok and L'Ecole d'Architecture et de Paysage Bordeaux. The project involves workshops,

exhibitions, international symposia, and debates on planning and design issues within the three cities.

Mr Bhatikar said he was thrilled to be part of the international contingent, and that the intensive program was an experience for which he was very grateful.

"Coming to the University of Melbourne as an international student from India, the Bordeaux trip was a fantastic addition to my Masters program," he said.

"I was able to explore my potential amongst fellow students from varied cultural backgrounds and design fields within the presence and guidance of staff from

three renowned schools of architecture. We learnt from people with different lifestyles, and picked up an understanding of their attitudes towards the future of cities and architecture."

three renowned schools of architecture

Ms Vijayan also thought the program was of great benefit to her academic experience and was an appropriate culmination of her studies at the University.

"This was like a window showing us what international professional life can be like, relating to global clientele and overseeing diverse collaborations," she said.

For more information: www.apb.unimelb.edu.au

World's first degree in distributed computing launched

The world's first postgraduate degree in the emerging field of distributed computing and grid technology, which enables users to access resources through a virtual network of computer applications, was recently launched at the University of Melbourne.

Director of the University's Grid Computing and Distributed Systems (GRIDS) Laboratory, Dr Rajkumar Buyya, says, "This new engineering degree will provide Melbourne graduates with a unique qualification not available anywhere else in the world but sure to be of great demand in the near future as the emerging field of distributed computing and grid technology continues to expand."

Next generation of internet

Grids are believed to be the next generation of internet and web applications where, rather than building a supercomputer or advanced facility of your own, the services



World first: Director of the University of Melbourne's Grid Computing and Distributed Systems (GRIDS) Laboratory, Dr Rajkumar Buyya. Photo: MICHAEL SILVER

of distributed resources are borrowed for the time that they are needed.

Individuals or businesses can access resources that would normally not be available to them by borrowing from the Grid network. In return, they can also place their resources on the Grid, making them available to other users.

"All over the world governments and industries have recognised the potential of Grid technology and are investing in its long-term development."

For more information, see: <http://www.cs.mu.oz.au/courses/mbc/medc.html>

Comparing Indian and Australian federalism

Eminent law scholars from India and Australia have joined forces to create a course comparing India and Australia's constitutions.

One of the foremost scholars and practitioners of constitutional law in India, Dr Rajeev Dhavan, will join with University of Melbourne constitutional law expert Professor Cheryl Saunders to co-teach the new course, Comparing Federal Constitutions, as part of the Law School's graduate program. Dr Dhavan is Director of the Public Interest Legal Support and Research Centre in New Delhi and member of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists.

The new course, which will be taught at the University of Melbourne in June 2005, will compare both constitutions and demonstrate how each country can learn from the other, according to Professor Saunders.

"India and Australia offer an exciting comparison for this purpose. Both are common law federations and there are marked similarities between the two federal systems.

"However, there are some significant differences as well," she said.

For more information: <http://graduate.law.unimelb.edu.au>

