

**We're back with
another IVS
newsletter.**

Cover Story

Reading the moment

Socially Engaged Projects from the 2025 Degree Show

The IVS Degree Show 2025 foregrounded projects that move beyond formal concerns to confront urgent social realities. Graduating students across disciplines demonstrated how art, design, and architecture can respond thoughtfully to questions of public space, gender justice, craft preservation, incarceration, faith, and collective grief.

Together, these projects exemplify how socially conscious practice at IVS extends beyond critique to action. Whether through film, design, craft, architecture, or material experimentation, each thesis engages directly with lived realities, demonstrating that responsible creative practice can foster empathy, agency, and meaningful change. Below we shine a spotlight on a few of these projects.



@chaidhaba.game



chaidhaba.info@gmail.com

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN

DHABA

CHAI



Darsgah

by **Usman Anwer**
Communication Design

Recipient of the Alumni Award for the Most Socially Responsible Thesis

Darsgah is a short film that explores the emotional world of a young madrasa student struggling to build a meaningful connection with the Quran.

Rather than framing the issue as academic failure, the film gently examines the absence of emotional and spiritual engagement.

Through the character of a compassionate Qari Sahib, the narrative advocates for empathy-led religious education rooted in patience and understanding.

The project reflects on how faith, when nurtured thoughtfully, can transform anxiety into connection.

Seam Jo Kam

by **Batool Ali Jumani**
Textile Design

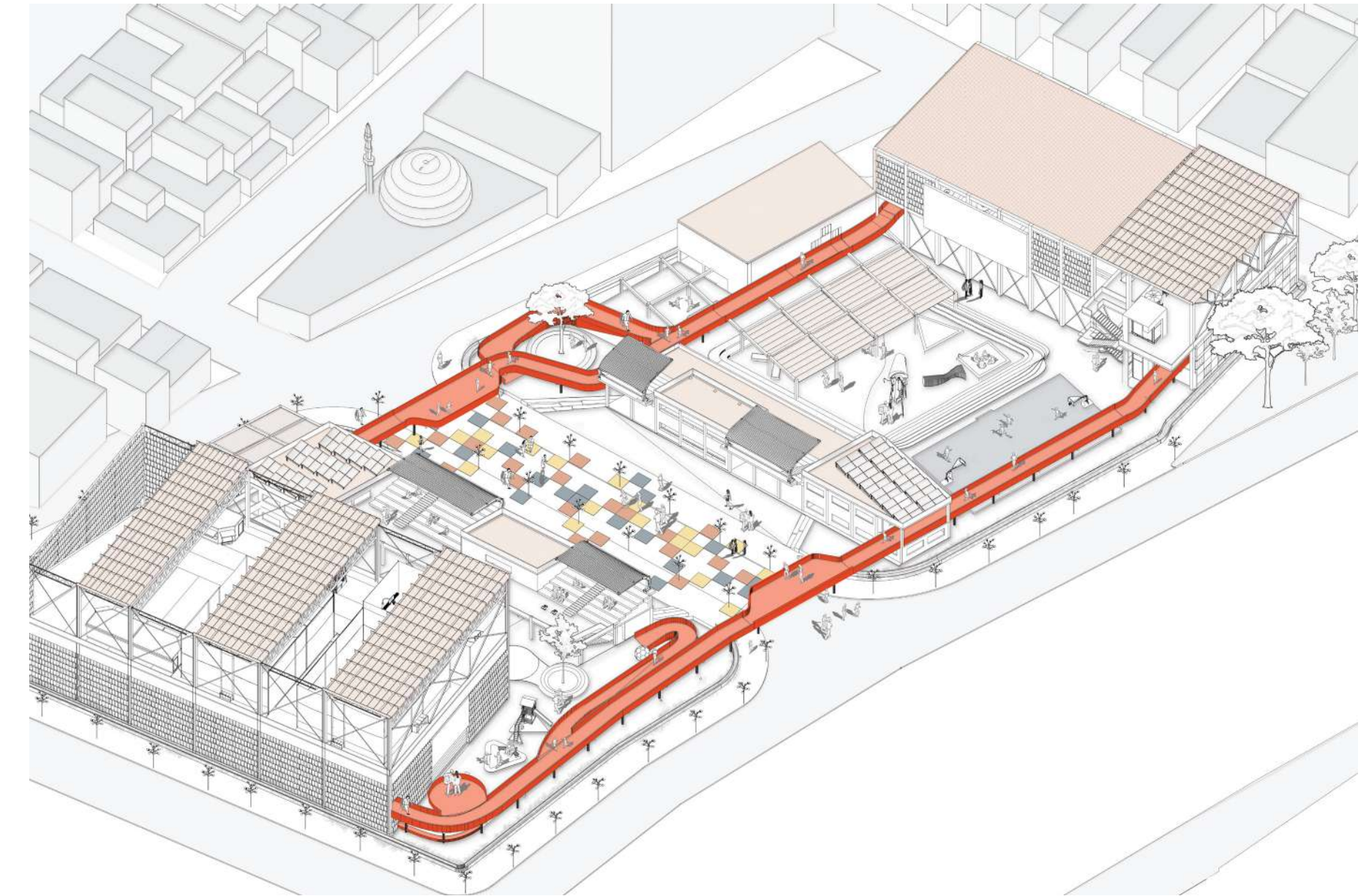
Recipient of the Ruby Ghuznavi Award

Seam Jo Kam revives Chaandi Seamwork, a fading Sindhi craft involving silver embroidery on leather, historically used to adorn horses as symbols of pride and power.

Rooted in Batool's upbringing in Khairpur, the project reconnects craft to lived memory and ecological coexistence.

Reinterpreting her family's 80-year-old heirloom jhoola, traditionally decorated with Jandi lacquer work, she translates heritage into a contemporary furniture piece.

The thesis becomes both preservation and renewal, sustaining endangered craftsmanship while honoring intergenerational belonging.



Elastic City

by **Faaz Ali**
Architecture

Responding to the scarcity of public space in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Elastic City proposes a flexible urban framework that reclaims a residual plot for community use.

Moving away from rigid zoning, the project introduces adaptive infrastructure capable of hosting sports, public gatherings, and civic life.

By prioritizing social agency and shared ownership, the thesis positions architecture as a tool for reclaiming urban commons in a rapidly densifying city.



Inheritance: Her Share. Her Right

by Isha Shafiq
Communication Design

This design-led awareness initiative addresses the widespread denial of women's inheritance in Pakistan due to lack of legal literacy.

Through a publication, an interactive website with a share calculator, social media storytelling, and an ID-style rights card, the project translates complex legal frameworks into accessible communication tools.

By reframing inheritance rights as a design challenge, the thesis demonstrates how visual communication can empower women to understand and claim what is legally theirs.

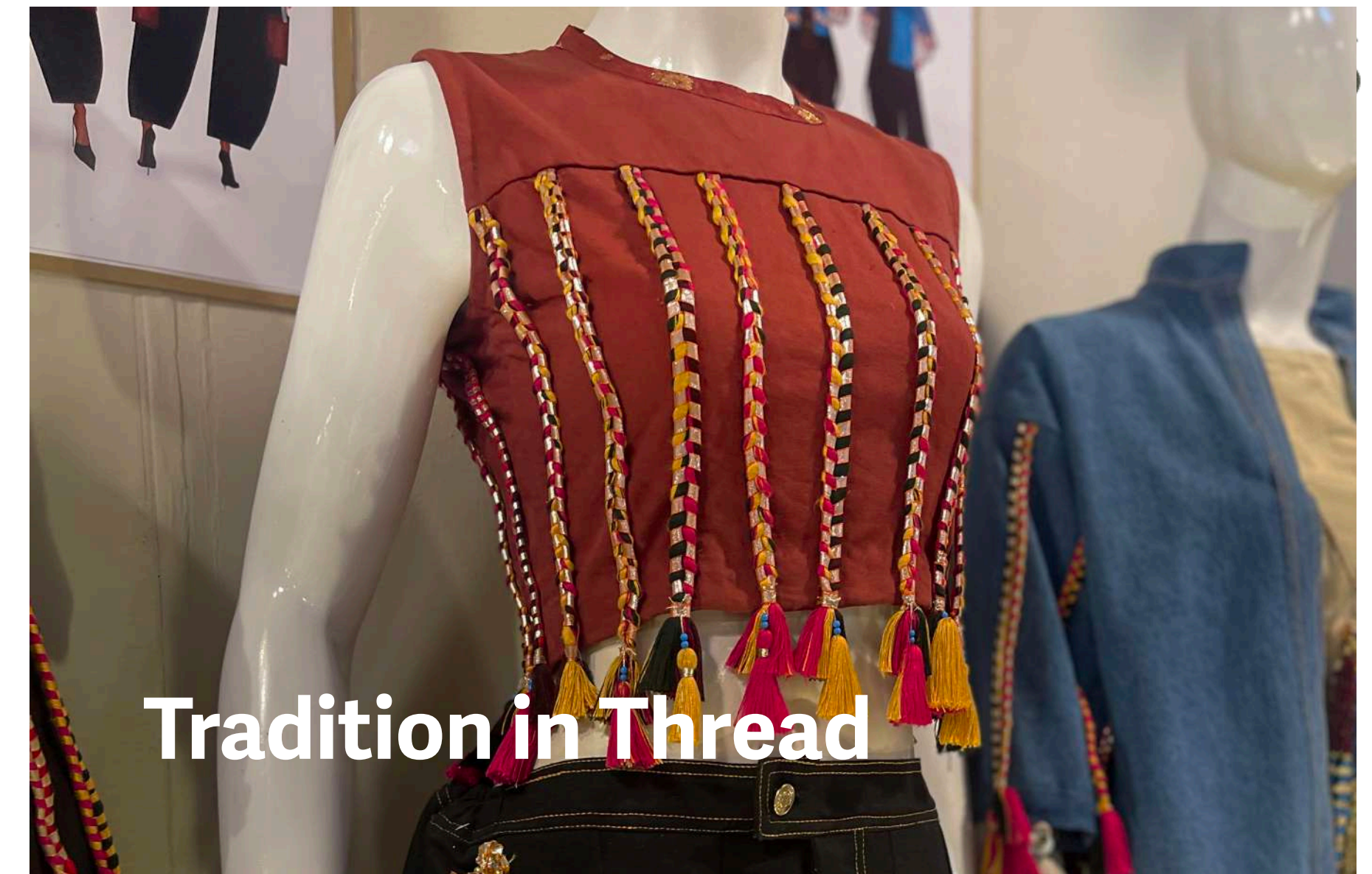
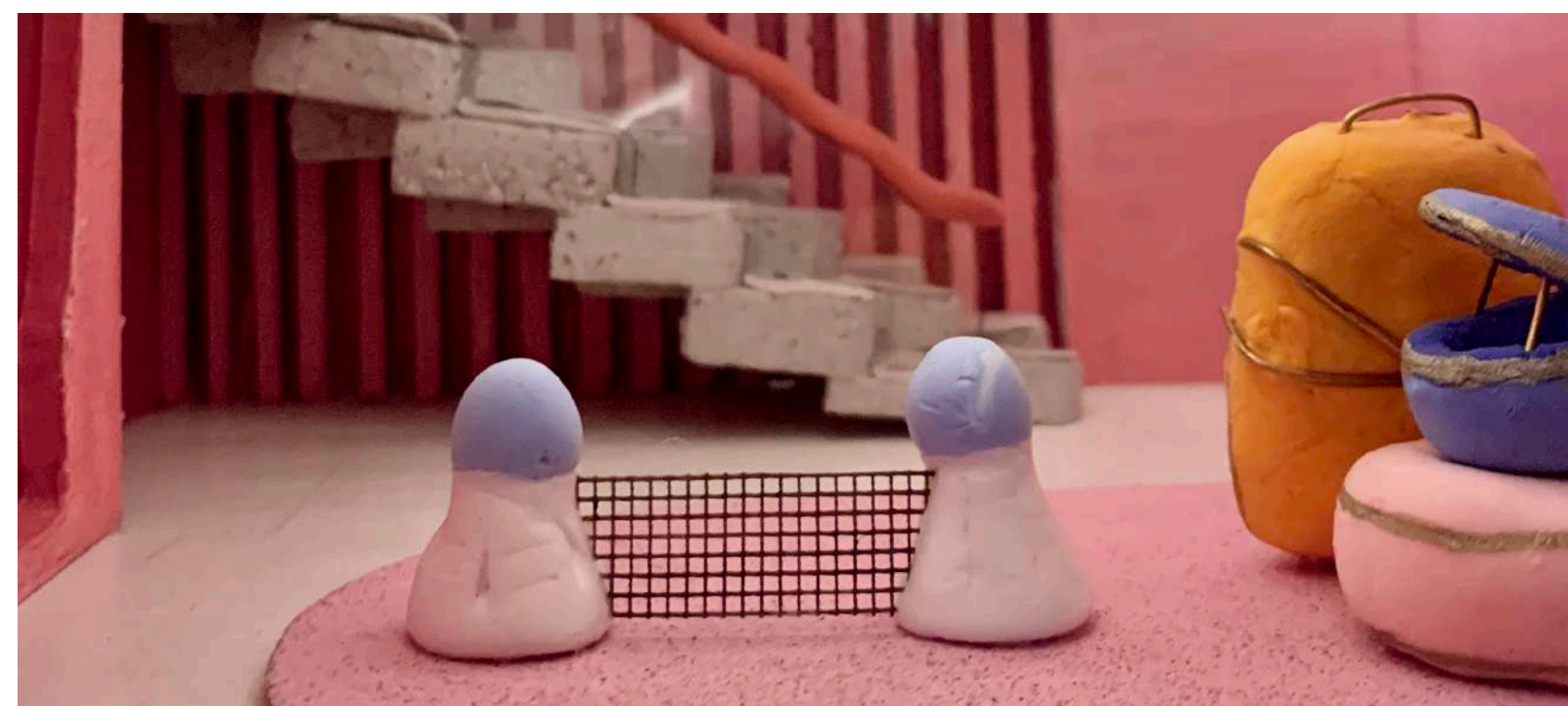
Objects as Storytellers: Animating the Inanimate

by Rabab Hasnain
Interior Design

This thesis transforms a retail space into a powerful narrative experience, using inanimate objects to explore difficult, often unspoken realities. Rivayat, an experiential doll store set in Najmi Market, Saddar, is designed for the Dawoodi Bohra community, engaging with the sensitive issue of female genital mutilation.

Through anthropomorphised dolls, fragmented displays, and a carefully choreographed spatial sequence, the project guides visitors from a sense of playful familiarity into moments of discomfort and reflection.

By allowing objects and environments to speak, the thesis gently opens up space for dialogue, awareness, and healing—demonstrating how design can confront deeply embedded social practices with nuance and empathy.



by Gulmina Khan
Fashion Design

At the heart of this project is a commitment to restoring visibility and dignity to Dasmaal artisans from Balochistan and Pakhtoon communities.

Shaped by immersive fieldwork, the research draws on firsthand encounters with craftspeople whose skills are gradually fading due to lack of recognition and unfair compensation. Their voices and lived experiences inform the work, positioning them as collaborators rather than subjects.

Reimagining the Dasmaal's symbolic and protective elements, the project translates traditional motifs, spices, and textile techniques into contemporary, wearable forms.

These garments create a bridge between cultural heritage and modern fashion, making the craft more accessible while opening up avenues for artisan recognition and economic opportunity.

Dagh

by Fatima Hussain

Fine Art

Dagh responds to the January 2025 protests in Karachi against violence targeting Shia communities in Parachinar.

Using the lung's alveolar structures as a conceptual framework, the project investigates breath as both a biological and political site.

Smoke-fired ceramic forms carry unpredictable imprints, echoing the lingering effects of tear gas on communities.

Through zines inspired by soz khwani laments passed down through generations, the thesis translates mourning into contemporary visual language, reflecting on memory, resistance, and inherited grief.

Thresholds of Confinement: Rethinking Architecture for Reintegration and Renewal

by Azeemullah Ghilzai

Architecture

Thresholds of Confinement examines the systemic challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in Karachi, particularly those imprisoned due to unpaid fines.

Drawing from rehabilitative international precedents, it proposes a community-based halfway house designed as a transitional environment for reintegration.

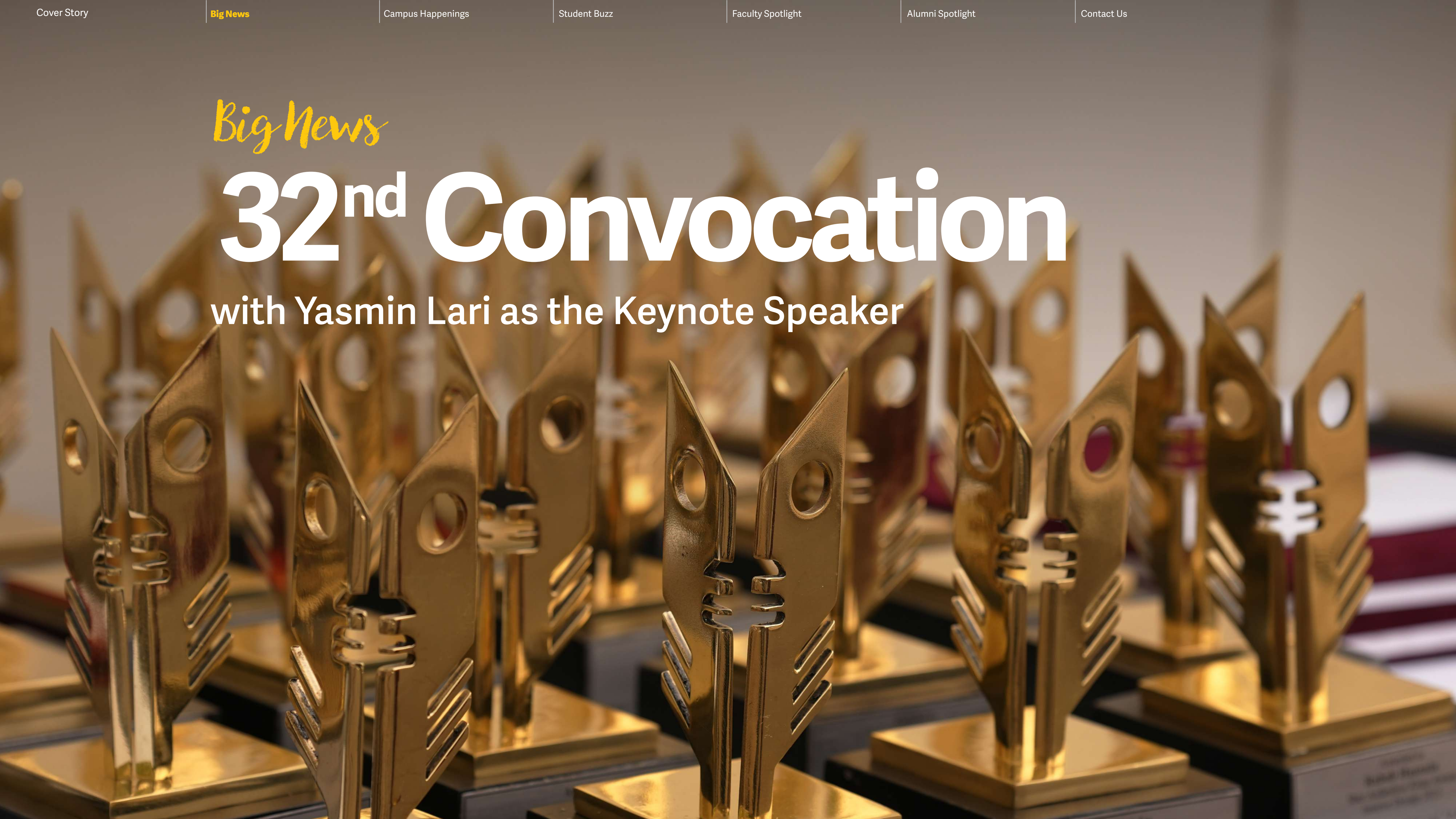
Through campus-like clustering and carefully articulated threshold spaces, the project explores how architecture can support dignity, autonomy, and a restorative approach to justice.



Big News

32nd Convocation

with Yasmin Lari as the Keynote Speaker





The convocation commenced with a welcome address by the Dean and Executive Director, Dr. Faiza Mushtaq, who congratulated the graduating class and reaffirmed IVS's commitment to socially responsible and contextually grounded creative education.

This was followed by the keynote address by renowned architect, humanitarian, and activist Dr. Yasmeen Lari, who highlighted the role of ethical practice, sustainability, and community engagement in shaping the future of art, design, and architecture.

In her keynote address, Dr. Yasmeen Lari urged graduating students to take justifiable pride in being part of a distinguished institution, while recognizing that they were now stepping beyond the shelter of academia into a world shaped by climate crisis, inequality, displacement, and the enduring impacts of colonial mindsets.

Reflecting on her own three-decade journey, she spoke of questioning the elitism often associated with architectural practice and choosing instead a humanistic path rooted in ethics, ecology, and social justice.

Emphasizing that design is never a standalone activity, Dr. Lari called on architects to serve humanity by creating people-centred, ethical, and ecological solutions, advocating for decolonized thinking and resilient communities that prioritize equity and care for the planet.

A total of 175 students received their degrees. The graduating class included 30 students from the Department of Architecture, 18 from the Department of Interior Design, 52 from the Department of Communication Design, 24 from the Department Textile Design, 27 from the Fashion Design Programme, 17 from the Department of Fine Art, and 7 from the M.Phil in Art and Design Programme.



Big News

Lights. Lens. Learning.

The 3rd IVS Film Festival Brings Pakistan's Emerging Storytellers into Focus

In September 2025, IVS hosted the third IVS Film Festival (IVSFF), organised by the Department of Communication Design. The three-day event included screenings, panels, workshops, and industry conversations to celebrate emerging Pakistani filmmakers and the evolving language of storytelling.

Over 270 submissions were received this year, with 37 short films selected for screening across the festival. The IVSFF bootcamp welcomed more than 80 A-level/Intermediate students as they competed to make the best one-minute short film to be screened in front of an audience.

The festival opened with the panel Social Media Filmmakers: From the Silver Screen to Digital Screens, moderated by Pheby Haroon. Featuring Asad ul Haq, Azaan Sami, Ali Gul Pir, and Patangeer

(Amtul Baweja and Fahad Pervez), the discussion explored how digital platforms are reshaping film narratives and creating space for new voices.

Audiences viewed a diverse lineup of documentaries, animations, and short films throughout the second day. A highlight was Stimulus Productions' talk, Let's Talk AI: Reimagining Film and Advertising Production, examining how artificial intelligence is influencing creative workflows in cinema and advertising.

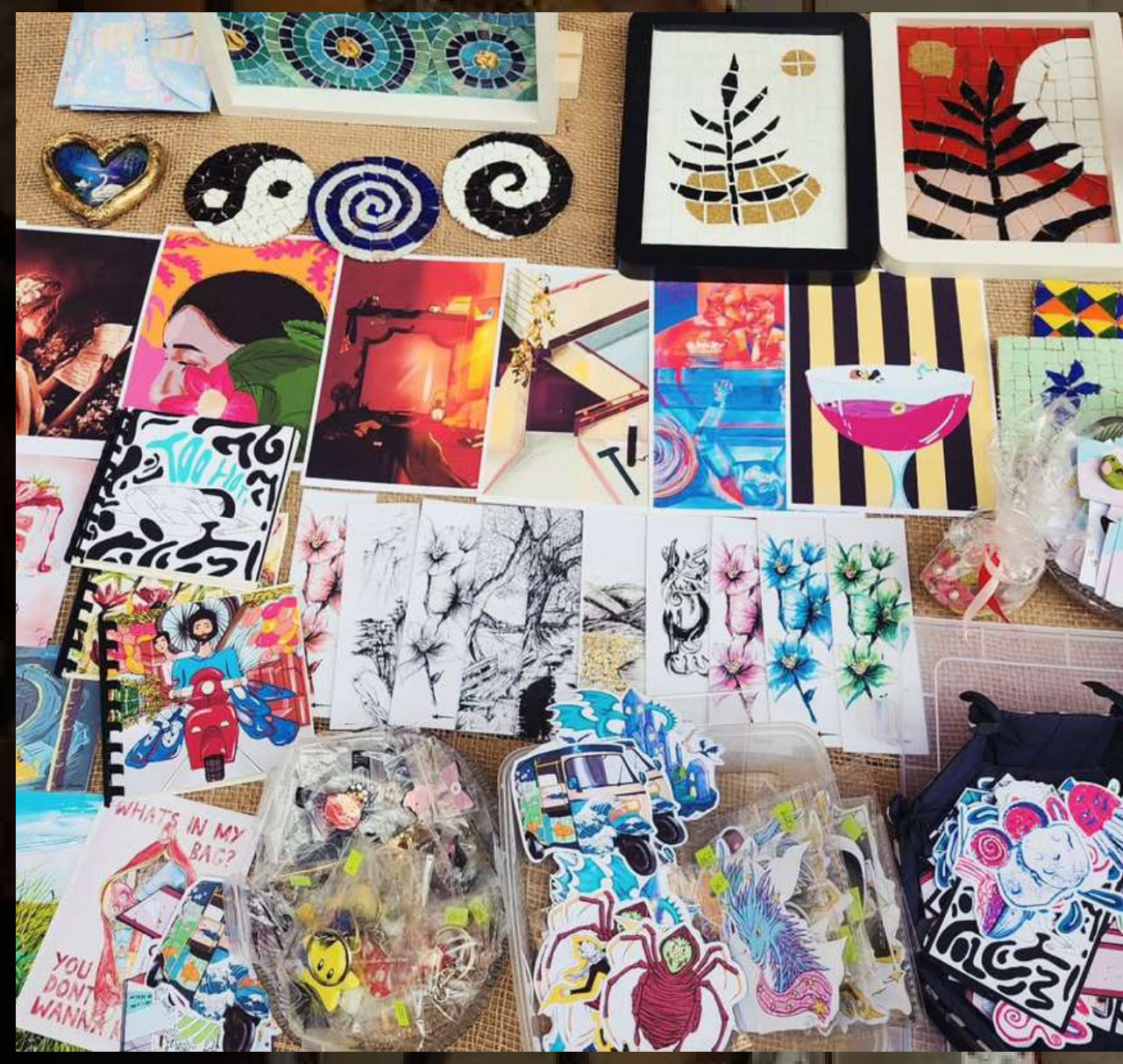
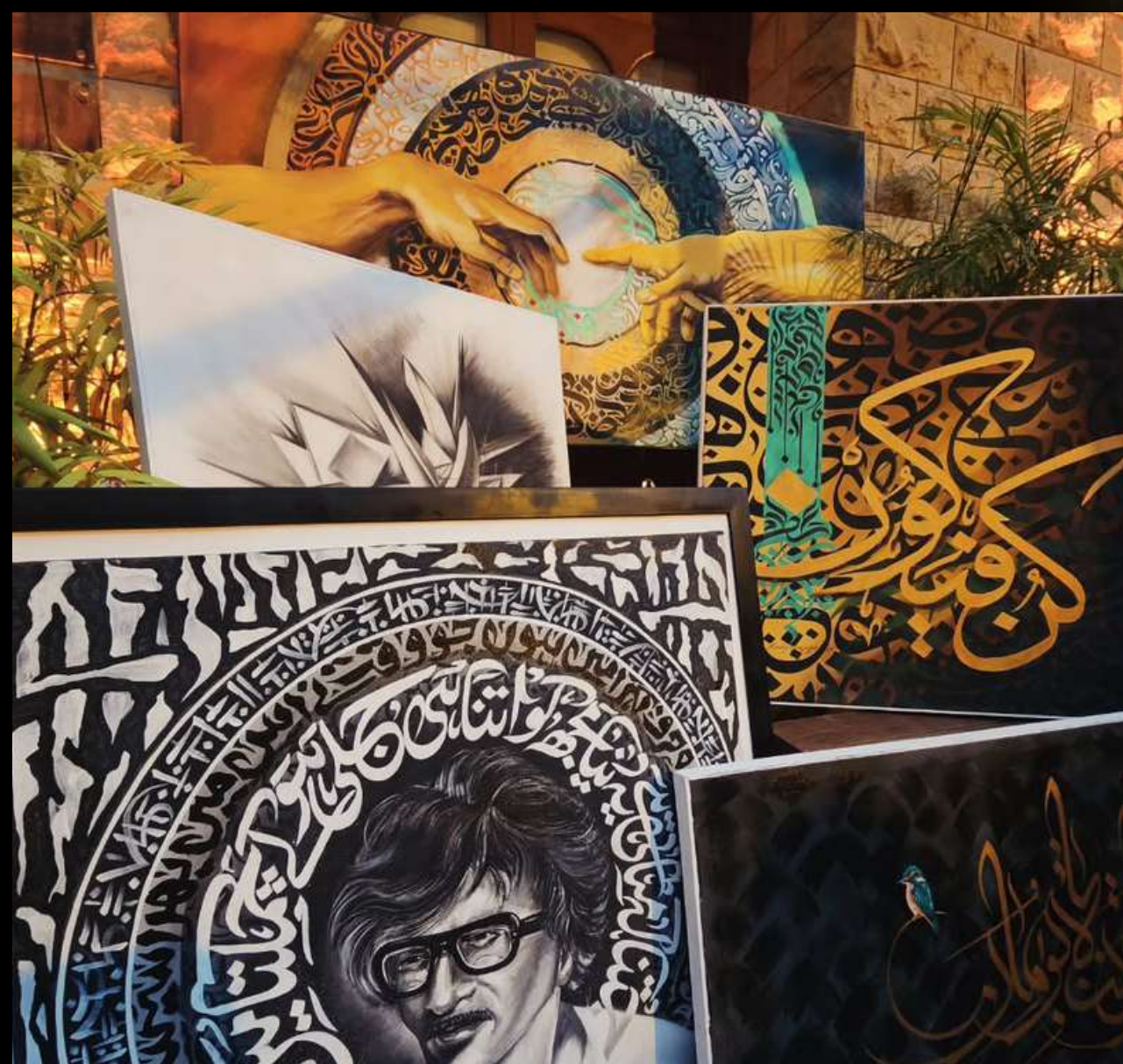
The final day featured screenings followed by the panel Educating Through the Lens with Atiya Zaidi, Saife Hasan, Gul Zaib Shakeel, and Farooq Rind discussing film as a tool for cultural dialogue. The festival concluded with an awards ceremony recognising outstanding filmmakers with cash prizes.



Campus Happenings

IVS Mela 2025

Revival of a Beloved Tradition





The much-anticipated return of the IVS Mela took place in September last year, marking the revival of a cornerstone event in IVS's cultural calendar.

Long remembered for bringing together artisans from across the country alongside the works of students and alumni, it signaled a rebirth of shared creativity, community, and celebration.

An IVS team of staff and faculty organized the event in close collaboration with representatives from the IVS Alumni Association.

Together, they transformed the campus into a hub of energy and exchange. A vibrant mix of vendors showcased unique arts and crafts, bespoke home décor and lifestyle products, with the majority of stallholders being IVS alumni, faculty, and students. Each academic department also hosted its own dedicated stall to highlight the diverse practices and talents found throughout the School.

The event served as a powerful testament to the strength and continuity of the creative community.

Visitors immersed themselves in interactive activities that reflected the hands-on ethos at the heart of IVS. From temporary tattoo engraving and marbling to printing, calligraphy, and mural art, the opportunities for engagement were endless.

The day was as flavorful as it was creative, with food stalls offering everything from traditional favorites to contemporary bites. The evening culminated in electrifying live performances by Kashmir and Dulhay Mian, with opening acts by Laal Aangan, Musadiq and Azka. Their music filled the campus with a momentum that carried through the night.





Campus Happenings

An Unforgettable Soulful Evening with Kaavish

On a cool November evening, the campus came alive as Kaavish performed at IVS for the very first time. For the IVS community, it was a landmark moment.

Formed in 1998 by Jaffer Zaidi and Maaz Maudood, Kaavish has become one of Pakistan's most beloved bands, known for poetic lyrics and soulful melodies that have defined a generation.

Organized by the Student Council, the concert brought together the entire IVS community for an unforgettable shared experience. Over two hours, Kaavish performed their classics as the crowd sang along to every word. In true IVS style, the energy was electric yet intimate, turning the evening into a celebration of music, memory, and community.





Campus Happenings

Progress on the Campus Expansion Project

We are excited to share that Phase I of the IVS Campus Expansion Project is now complete. The construction of the entire fourth floor above Block A was made possible through the generous support of the Mowjee Family, spearheaded by Farhana Mowjee. It features three teaching studios, a faculty lounge, and an office hall.

The fifth floor on Block A houses the Mahnoor Bhimjee Studio, UBL Studio, the ABL Student Counselling Centre, the Alina and Nihal Cassim 3D Lab, a Makers' Lab, and a Female Prayer Area.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our donors for helping the campus grow and allowing the institution to better serve our community. Phase II of campus expansion is set to commence in Summer 2026.



Student Buzz

Naatiq Debuts at IBA & Wins BIG at Signature MUN

Naatiq, the Public Speaking Society at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, marked a major milestone this year with its debut at the IBA Debating Championship (14-15 June, 2025).

Competing in Parliamentary Debates and Declamations in English and Urdu, the team delivered an impressive performance.

Mubaraka Mushtaq secured 1st Position in the English Humorous category and was crowned Best Speaker of the Championship, while Ruhama

Siddiqui placed 3rd and Faryal Bhutto 4th in their respective humorous categories.

At Signature MUN (1-3 August, 2025), Naatiq earned the Best Emerging Delegation Award, with Honourable Mentions for Mubaraka Mushtaq and Faryal Bhutto and Outstanding Diplomacy Awards for Reyan ur Rehman, Sara Saif, Mahrosh, and Hafsa Khan.

We look forward to seeing what Naatiq will accomplish in the coming year!



Student Buzz

IVS at Unplugged 2025:

Art for Awareness



IVS was proud to collaborate with Synapse Pakistan for Unplugged 2025, a student-led concert series dedicated to raising awareness around youth mental health.

Synapse works to transform mental health access in Pakistan through advocacy, research, and community engagement, while its Youth Circle empowers young people to lead conversations and challenge stigma through creative expression.

At this year's event, IVS faculty members Nurayah Sheikh Nabi, Adeela Shah, and Ozair bin Mansoor

led a team of student volunteers from IVS and other educational institutions in creating a collaborative on-site mural at the concert venue, i.e. the Aga Khan University campus in Karachi.

The mural brought the campaign message (Ab Chup Nahin) to life, turning a shared space into a powerful call for openness, empathy, and continued dialogue around mental health.

IVS students, led by Mary Andrew Kenneth, were also a prominent part of the organizing team and performers at the concert.





Faculty Spotlight

Coexist

Building Inclusive Pathways in Fashion Education

The idea for Coexist emerged from Fashion Design faculty member Nabiha Athar's experience teaching a Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) student in 2018, who is now successfully working in the fashion industry as a designer.

Realizing that differently-abled students can thrive in mainstream design education when given the right support, she began researching inclusive approaches to fashion education.

While volunteering at Deaf Reach, she observed that many DHH students are highly creative and deeply interested in learning fashion design.

This inspired the development of Coexist, an inclusive program designed to bring Deaf and Hard of Hearing students into a collaborative learning environment alongside mainstream fashion students.



NOWPDP came on-board as the inclusive partner and Rajby Industries as the industrial partner for a workshop in which five DHH students and five Fashion Design students from IVS participated, working in pairs.

The workshop focused on denim design, where students studied trends, fashion forecasting, concept building, and the steps involved in creating a contemporary collection.

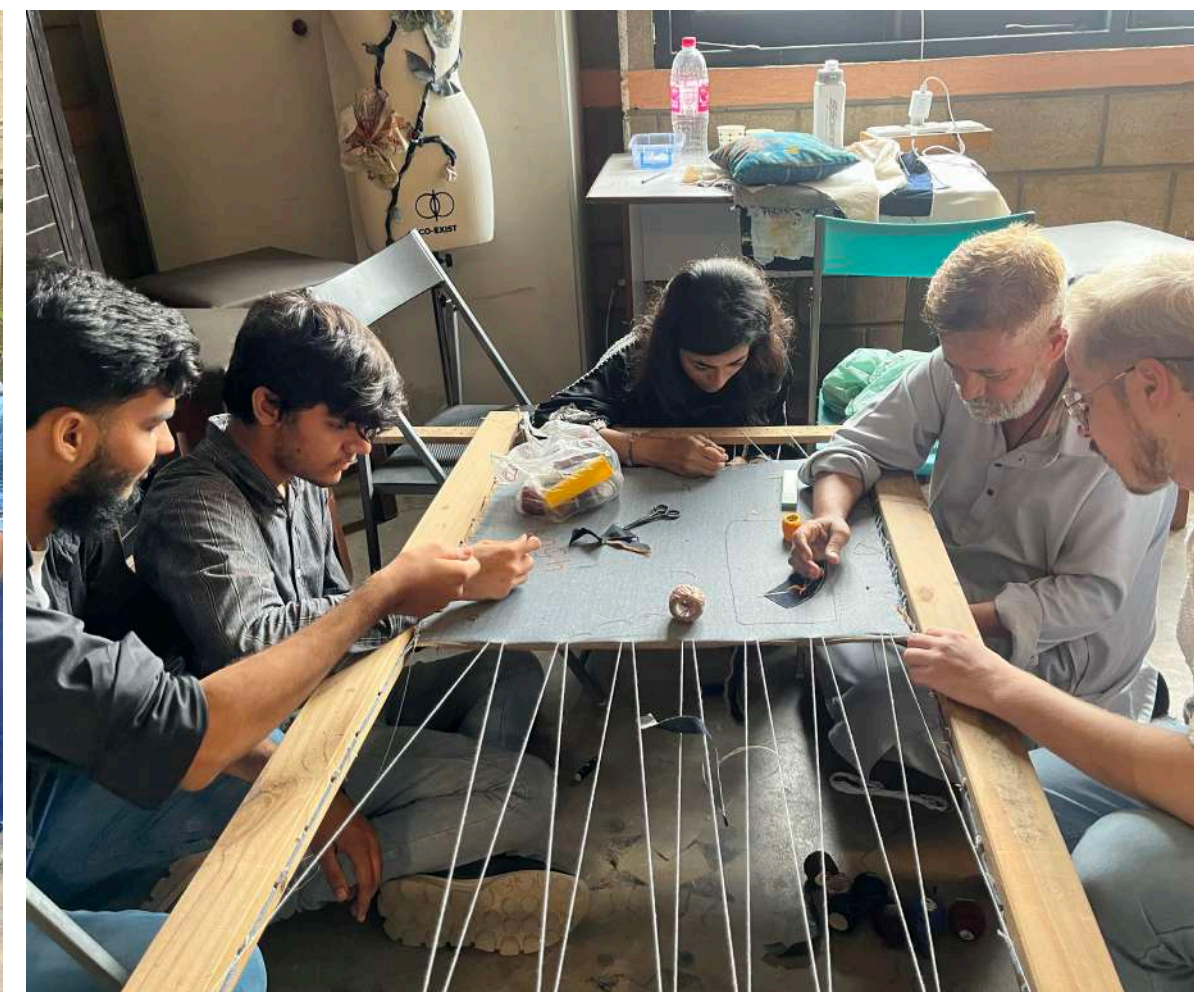
The designs developed in the workshop were later executed at Rajby Industries, where the DHH students completed a one-month internship and transformed their classroom concepts into a denim collection within an industry setting.

The project team developed step-by-step learning manuals with QR codes linked to Pakistani Sign

Language (PSL) videos, to support accessibility, and two interpreters were present throughout the sessions.

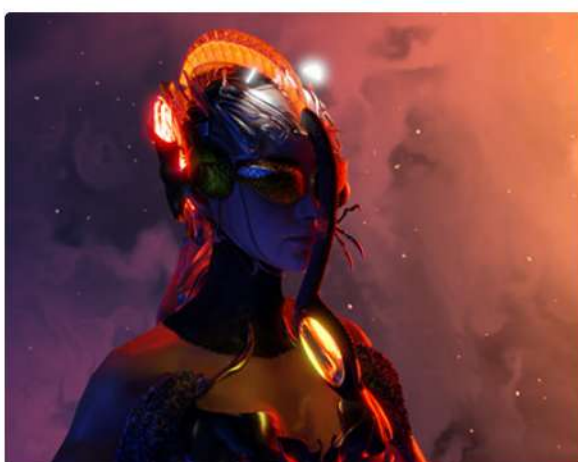
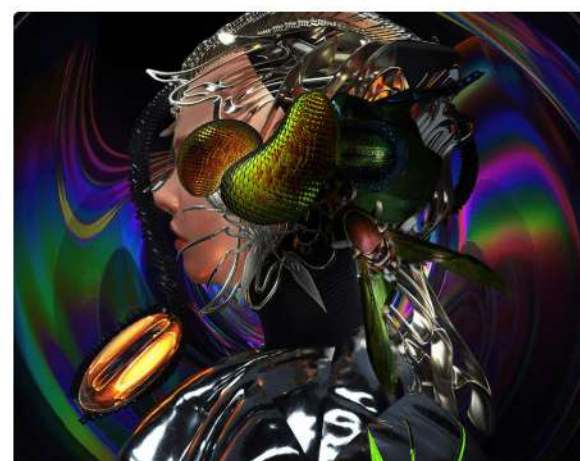
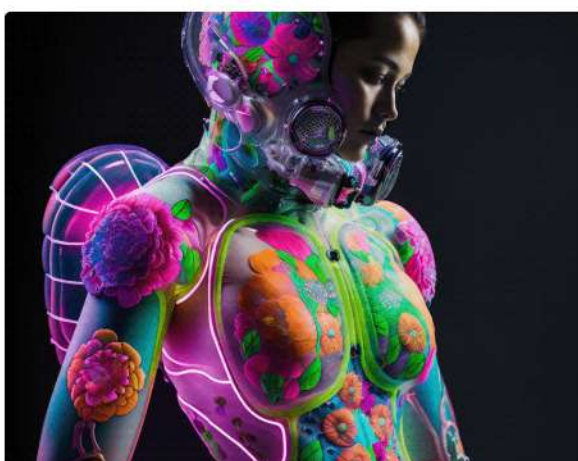
Since PSL currently lacks many fashion-related terms, the project also documented and proposed nearly 100 fashion terms for future inclusion in the language, while a Pantone book with PSL alphabets was created to expand students' vocabulary around colour trends.

Coexist demonstrates how inclusive design education can open pathways for differently-abled students to participate meaningfully in mainstream creative industries while fostering collaboration, empathy, and innovation among all participants. IVS is proud of our faculty member Nabiha Athar for leading this initiative which will have a lasting social impact.



Alumni Spotlight

Ayesha Mubarak Ali



Expanding the Frontiers of Art and Technology

Ayesha Mubarak Ali is an internationally recognized multimedia artist and an alumna of the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture from the Class of 2018, where she studied Fine Art with a major in New Media Art.

Her work blends traditional artistic methods with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and digital fabrication to explore themes of identity, light pollution, and the future of humanity.

One of Ayesha's most remarkable achievements is becoming the first Pakistani artist to collaborate with scientists from NASA. In 2022, her work was sent to the International Space Station through a mission launched by SpaceX as part of the Maeth II project, placing her artistic practice within a global scientific context.

Her pioneering fusion-art practice has been featured on international platforms and media outlets including NFT.NYC, Forbes Middle East, GRAZIA, and Hello! Magazine, reflecting the growing global interest in her work. She has also exhibited internationally, including at the Karachi Biennale and at Islington Mill.

In recognition of her innovative work at the intersection of art and technology, Ayesha Mubarak Ali was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia



in 2023. She is also the co-founder and creative director of MetaVisionaries, a London-based platform focused on education and experimentation in emerging technologies.

Through her groundbreaking projects and collaborations with global scientific and creative institutions, Ayesha Mubarak Ali represents a new generation of artists redefining how technology and art can intersect. Her achievements continue to place Pakistani contemporary art on an international stage while inspiring young creatives to imagine new possibilities for the future.



Contact Us

Phone: 021 111 111 487 | **Email:** info@ivs.edu.pk

Address: ST-33, Block-2, Scheme-5, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan, 75600

Instagram: @indusvalleyschoolkarachi | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/indusvalley/