IVS

Spring 2026 Newsletter

It's time for an IVS newsletter.

so we can make sure you stay updated
on all IVS events and achievements!

Cover Story

Blaze 2026

Where Fashion Returned Home



On an evening shaped by creativity, generosity, and shared purpose, IVS welcomed its community back for BLAZE—a fashion show fundraiser that celebrated far more than design.

It was a homecoming for alumni whose work has transformed Pakistan's fashion landscape, a gathering of friends and supporters of creative education, and an investment in the future of the institution that helped pave their paths.

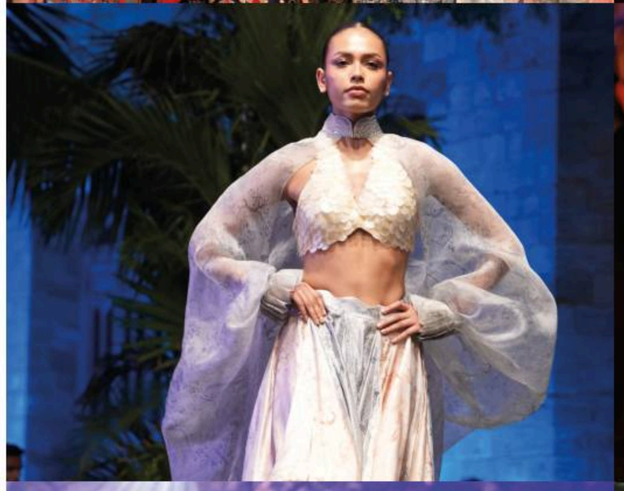
With the iconic Nusserwanjee building in the backdrop, BLAZE brought together three of Karachi's most respected design houses, each one founded by IVS alumni: **Sania Maskatiya, Nida Azwer, and Khaadi's Chapter 2 by Saira and Shamoon Sultan.** Their collections—interpreting the elemental themes of Earth, Water, and Fire—created a cohesive narrative that celebrated Pakistan's rich traditions of craft while demonstrating the innovation that continues to define its contemporary fashion industry.

Yet the evening's significance extended well beyond the runway.

As a non-profit institution, IVS has always depended on a community that believes in the transformative power of art, architecture, and design education.













Every ticket purchased, every contribution made, and every partnership forged through BLAZE supports the school's Campus Expansion Project.

IVS Dean and Executive Director, Dr. Faiza Mushtaq, shared details of the ambitious initiative that will add studios, laboratories, classrooms, and shared learning spaces for the next generation of creative practitioners.

That spirit of giving back was visible throughout the evening. Hosted by acclaimed actor and IVS alumna Sarwat Gilani, BLAZE gathered alumni across disciplines and generations.

Musician Bilal Maqsood, a member of IVS's first graduating class, reflected on the school's lasting influence on his creative journey, while education advocate Shehzad Roy spoke about the importance of sustaining institutions that nurture imagination, critical thinking, and cultural expression.

Together, their presence reinforced an idea that has long defined IVS: creative education flourishes through community.

For the designers themselves, returning to IVS carried a meaning that could not be replicated on any commercial runway.



Their collections showcased years of experience, international recognition, and evolving design philosophies, but they also reflected a continuing relationship with the institution where those journeys began.

Watching these alumni return not simply as celebrated professionals, but as partners in IVS's future, was among the evening's most meaningful moments.

Throughout the event, the runway became a conversation between heritage and contemporary practice. Earth honoured the textures and craftsmanship of local handloom traditions. Water explored movement, softness, and fluidity through delicate silhouettes. Fire concluded the evening with a powerful expression of craftsmanship rooted in tradition yet unmistakably modern.

Together, the collections demonstrated the remarkable breadth of Pakistan's fashion ecosystem and the enduring relevance of craft within contemporary design.

BLAZE also underscored something that often goes unnoticed: Pakistan's creative industries do not thrive in isolation. Behind every successful designer, architect, artist, filmmaker, or communicator stands an institution committed to experimentation, mentorship, and rigorous education.

Supporting such institutions is not simply an investment in buildings or equipment—it is an investment in the country's cultural future.







As the evening drew to a close, what remained was not only the memory of remarkable collections or a beautifully staged production, but the collective conviction that creative education deserves sustained support.

BLAZE demonstrated what becomes possible when alumni, faculty, students, industry leaders, and patrons come together around a shared purpose.

For IVS, it was an evening of celebration. More importantly, it was an affirmation that the school's greatest legacy is not only what its graduates go on to create, but how willingly they return to help build what comes next.



Big News

Undergraduate Research Conference 2026







IVS successfully hosted the third edition of its Undergraduate Research Conference organized by the Liberal Arts department.

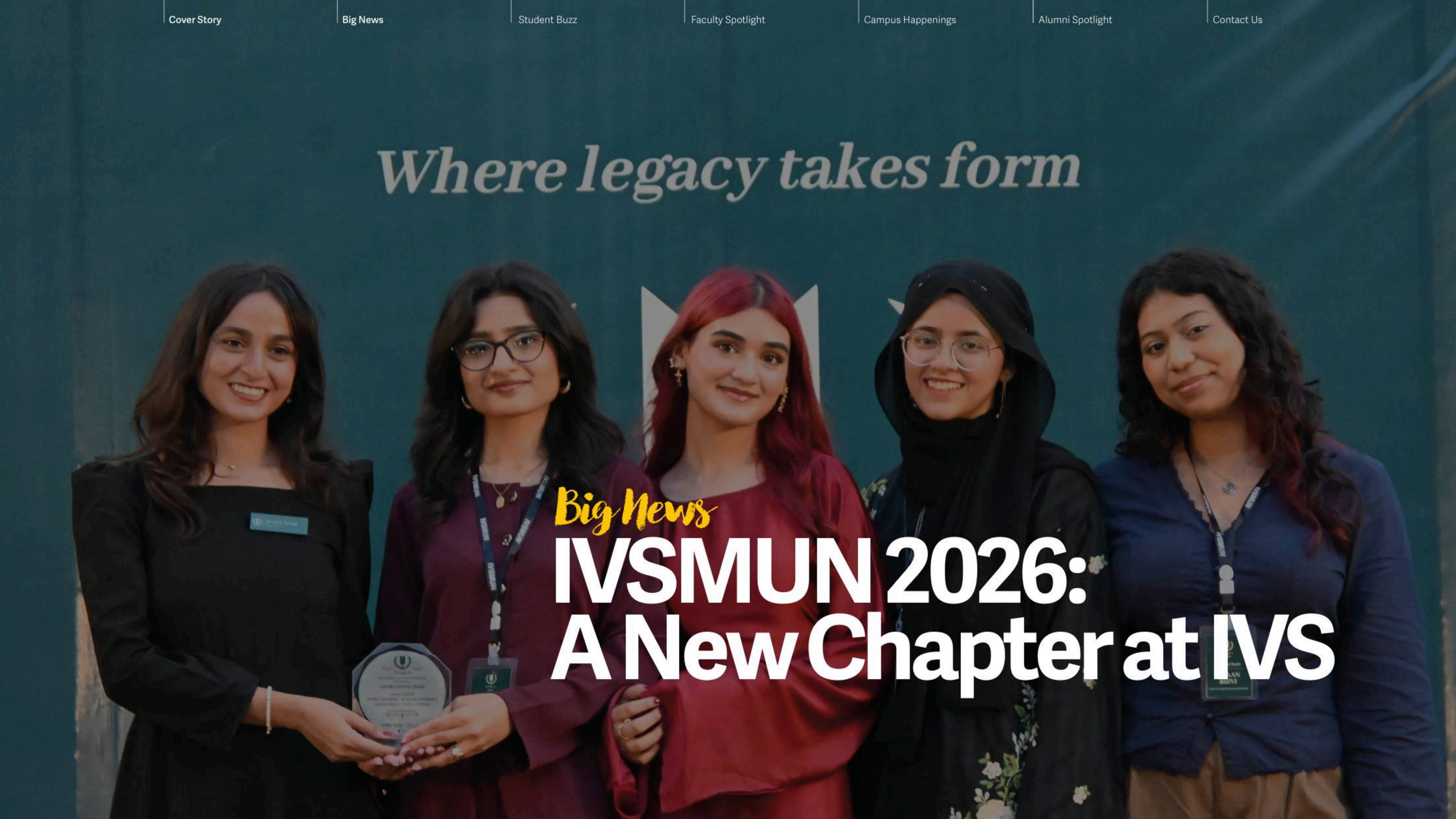
The conference gathers emerging researchers from universities across Pakistan, creating a unique platform for undergraduate students to present original research, exchange ideas, and engage in critical conversations with peers and faculty.

This year's conference attracted presenters from institutions across the country, including IVS, Habib University, LUMS, IBA, COMSATS University, and NCA, as well as from the University of Edinburgh. The diversity of participants reflected the conference's growing national reach and reinforced its position as an important forum for showcasing undergraduate scholarship in Pakistan.

The conference featured four thematic panels that explored pressing contemporary issues through the lens of architecture, design, urbanism, gender, culture, ecology, and the humanities. Research presentations addressed topics such as urban memory, informal livelihoods, climate justice, Karachi's ecological futures, digital identity, typography, migration, spirituality, and gendered experiences, demonstrating the breadth and depth of undergraduate research being undertaken across disciplines.

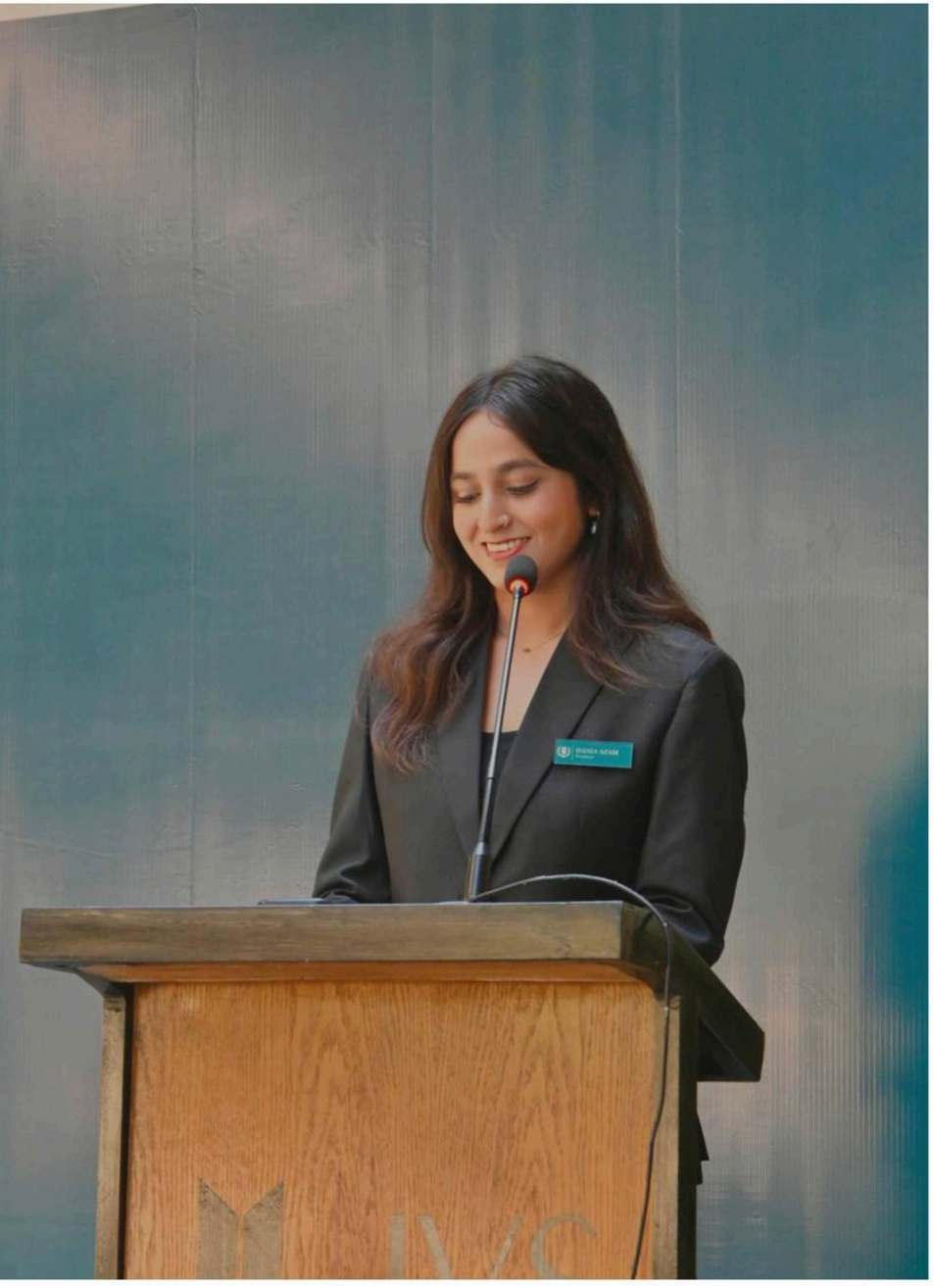
Each session was chaired by distinguished academics and practitioners who provided thoughtful feedback and encouraged meaningful dialogue between presenters and attendees.

By bringing together students from diverse academic backgrounds, the event encouraged collaboration and highlighted the importance of research as a tool for critical thinking and creative problem-solving. Through initiatives such as this conference, IVS continues to champion research that is locally grounded, socially relevant, and responsive to the complex challenges of our time.



Big News

IVSMUN 2026: A New Chapter at IVS



On 3-5 July 2026, IVS hosted IVSMUN 2026, its first-ever Model United Nations conference, welcoming more than 200 delegates from over 30 schools and colleges across Karachi.

The conference was an initiative of Naatiq, IVS's Public Speaking Society, with support from other student volunteers.

Over three days, students debated pressing political, social and humanitarian issues, representing different countries and perspectives while engaging in diplomacy, negotiation and collaborative problem-solving. The conference offered an opportunity to step beyond the classroom, build confidence and engage with peers from across
the city.

The conference also prioritised accessibility. Students from Kiran Foundation and The Citizens Foundation participated free of cost, allowing them to take part in the same opportunities for learning, leadership and exchange.

For IVS, hosting an MUN marked an exciting expansion of its creative and intellectual community. Known for encouraging independent thought and challenging conventional ideas, IVS provided a new setting for dialogue, debate and critical thinking. It also offered students from across Karachi an opportunity to experience the institution beyond its reputation as a school for art, design and architecture.

The conference was entirely student-led, with the organising team taking responsibility for planning, academics, delegate affairs, marketing, hospitality and logistics. At the centre of the initiative was Dania Azam, a third-year Communication Design student who is the Founder and President of IVSMUN and Naatiq; she envisioned creating a conference that would establish IVS as a recognised destination within Karachi's MUN circuit.







The three-day programme extended beyond committee sessions, with a Neon Game Night and closing dinner providing opportunities for delegates to connect and build friendships. Credo College was awarded Best Delegation, while individual delegates were recognised for their diplomacy, research, leadership and committee contributions.

More than a conference, IVSMUN 2026 was an exercise in student initiative and institution-building. It opened IVS's doors to a new community and demonstrated that a creative institution can also be a space for dialogue, diplomacy and debate. As its first edition, IVSMUN laid the foundation for an initiative that aims to grow in scale and impact in the years ahead.



Student Buzz

LAAM Fashion Week 2026

Recent Fashion Graduates from IVS Shine at LAAM Fashion Week 2026

IVS alumni took centre stage at the inaugural LAAM Fashion Week in Lahore in February, showcasing the breadth of talent nurtured at the school. Recent graduates from the Fashion Design programme, Mariam Tariq, Simroza Khowaja, and Ahsan Jawaid, presented their designs as part of the LFW Hot List and received high praise for their confident and coherent collections.

Complementing this achievement, fourth-year Fashion Design students travelled to Lahore to volunteer behind the scenes, gaining firsthand experience of runway production and the collaborative effort required to execute a large-scale fashion event. By creating opportunities for students to engage directly with the industry, IVS remains committed to providing meaningful real-world exposure that prepares graduates to lead and innovate within Pakistan's creative landscape.







Student Buzz

Mountain Studio 2026

Architecture in the High Mountains

Students from the IVS Architecture programme travelled to Gulmit, Hunza, for Mountain Studio 2026, a hands-on learning platform initiated by the Architecture department at IVS in collaboration with MountainGetAway, led by architect Eibne Sajjad.

Set within a fragile mountain landscape increasingly shaped by climate change, the studio takes architectural education beyond the classroom, immersing students in the realities of place, material and community. Students engage directly with the terrain, local materials, construction practices and communities of Gulmit to explore how architecture can respond to environmental change and limited resources.

Through observation, documentation, design and hands-on making, Mountain Studio encourages students to critically examine the relationship between architecture and its context, considering material use, topography, climate and cultural practices. The experience offers students an opportunity to learn about building in challenging environments, and the responsibilities of architecture in landscapes undergoing rapid environmental change.









Student Buzz

Murtaza Qizilbash

From Indie Classics to New-Age Anthems: A Night of Music at IVS

The IVS Student Council welcomed millennials and Gen Z for an evening of music, nostalgia and sing-along favourites, featuring acclaimed artists Mooroo and Murtaza Qizilbash. The evening opened with Mooroo, whose genre-defying sound and distinctive storytelling had audiences singing along to beloved tracks including Shor, Mein Koun Houn, Tasveer and Kahaani Puraani.

Murtaza Qizilbash then took the stage with his soulful, contemporary sound, captivating the crowd with popular hits such as Hum, Tum, Bhool and Har Baar.

The concert transformed the IVS campus into a lively space where different generations came together through music, proving once again that a great song has no age limits.











Faculty Spotlight

Fazal Rizvi

Expanding Artistic Horizons

Fine Art faculty member Fazal Rizvi has had an exciting year of artistic practice, international exhibitions, and collaborative initiatives. In January, he co-founded Darham/Marham with fellow IVS faculty member Sophia Balagamwala. Darham/Marham is an artist-run space in Karachi, hosting exhibitions, talks, listening sessions, and workshops.

Fazal's work has also reached international audiences through Global Positioning Systems at Art Jameel, Dubai, and Hayy Jameel, Jeddah. His commissioned project Astan Bos: Kissing of the Threshold was presented at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, as part of Speaking in Tongues, curated by Amanda Sroka. He also participated in Mughalnama, curated by Saher Sohail at The Peepul Press, Lahore, marking a dynamic period of artistic exchange and engagement.

Campus Happenings

A Growing Campus for a Growing Community





The IVS campus is growing! We are pleased to share that Phase 1 of the IVS Campus Expansion Project is now complete, with two new floors added to our existing campus and new spaces created to support the School's evolving academic community.

This milestone would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors, whose contributions are helping IVS expand its facilities and create better learning environments for our students. We extend our sincere gratitude to Farhana Mowjee, Munir & Maliha Bhimjee, Nihal & Alina Cassim, UBL, Allied Bank, Bank Alfalah, the Faruqui family, Getz Pharma, and Ghouse & Laeeq Akbar for investing in the future of IVS.

Meanwhile, Phase 2 of the Campus Expansion Project is well underway. As construction progresses, the Department of Fashion Design has temporarily relocated some studio sessions and classes to newly completed rooms. Once Phase 2 is complete, these spaces will be fully equipped with the fixtures and facilities required for teaching, studio practice and student activities.

The expansion marks an important step in IVS's continued growth, allowing us to accommodate our expanding student body while creating spaces that support experimentation, collaboration and creative practice.

With each new space, we are building not just a bigger campus, but a stronger foundation for the future of creative education at IVS.



Campus Happenings

Career Connect at IVS:

Our First Career Fair in Partnership with the British Council's WOW Festival

IVS partnered with the British Council's WOW Festival to host Career Connect: Creative Careers in a Changing World, an exclusive event connecting IVS students and recent alumni with leading professionals and organisations from across the creative and corporate sectors.

Held at the beginning of the Spring semester at the IVS Campus, the event brought together employers from advertising, media, marketing, architecture, interior design, fashion, textile, publishing, technology, NGOs, cultural institutions, and other fields. Participants had the opportunity to meet emerging creative talent, review portfolios, and explore potential recruitment opportunities.

The programme also featured industry-led workshops on creative entrepreneurship, financial management for creatives, leadership and personal growth, and navigating creative careers. A panel discussion consisting of professionals from diverse industries to share insights on building sustainable creative careers in a rapidly changing world.

Alumni Spotlight

Bahram Baloch

Expanding Artistic Horizons

As the mastermind behind the studio Bahramopus, Bahram Baloch (Architecture, Class of 2023) recently brought a bold slice of home to the Gulf with Matka Junction, a Pakistani eatery in Doha, Qatar.

Ditching the usual clichés, Bahram envisioned a unique way to present truck art, crafting a sleek, contemporary space that introduces our rich cultural heritage to an international crowd with serious style.

Back in Karachi, his project MORNIN' Coffee transforms a tight 300-square-foot footprint into a warm, minimalist sanctuary.

Built as a cozy retreat from the city's relentlessness, it blends subtle textures and clean lines to create an inviting spot for working, catching up, or just zoning out.

Bahram is also collaborating with I.B Design Practice and diving headfirst into the urban revitalization of Sehwan Sharif.

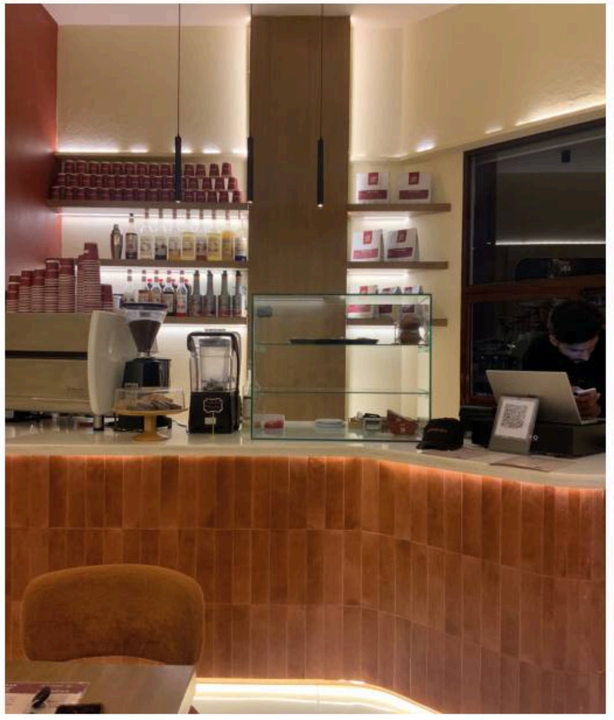


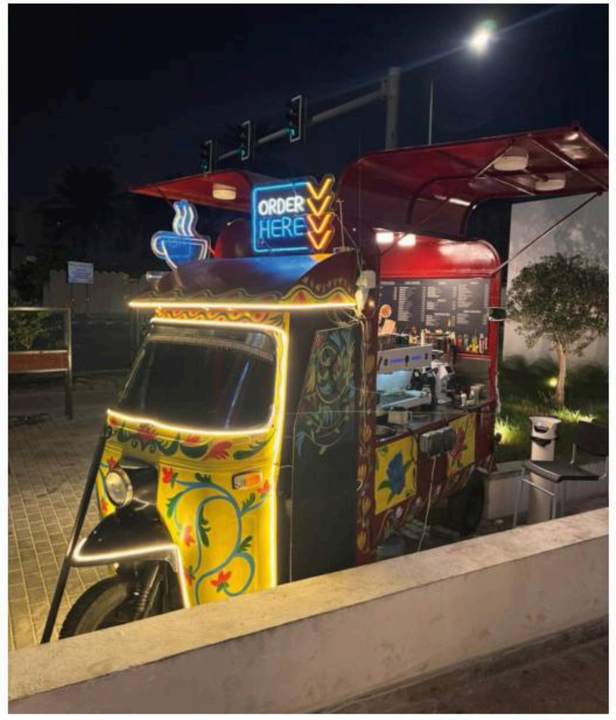
This massive Government of Sindh initiative reimagines public spaces, roads, gateways, and pedestrian paths around the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, aiming to dramatically elevate the experience for hundreds of thousands of pilgrims annually.

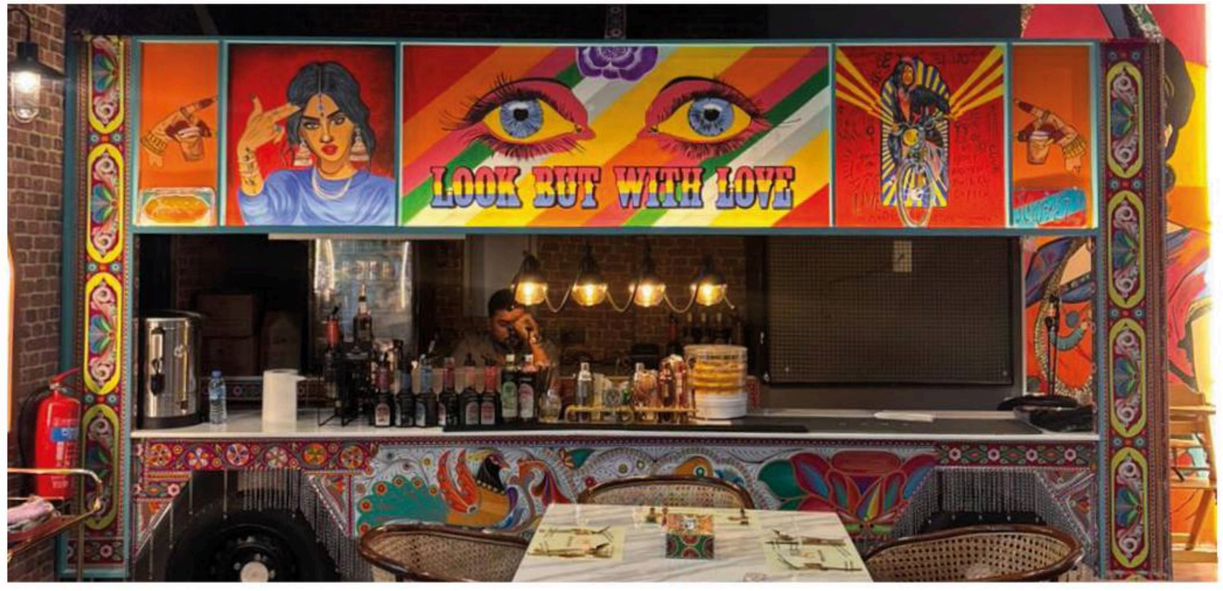
Additionally, he's working on a 500-bed hospital in Sukkur that is due for completion by the end of this year, and has taken on multiple residential architectural projects in Karachi ranging from 500 to 3000 square yards.

Bahram's work proves that rooted, culturally driven architecture can still be razor-sharp, modern, and deeply impactful.

Keep an eye on this studio—he is just getting started.









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