

Architectural Tour Report

The ICFAI School of Architecture conducted an architectural tour in South India in the month of February 2026. A total of 19 students of the first, second and third year were part of the tour. Two faculty members Dr. Aruna Reddi and Prof. Sonu Kumar have accompanied them. The tour encompassed different architectures such as religious architecture, palace architecture, neighborhood planning and landscape planning. The focus of the tour was to learn the South Indian temple architecture in the religious architecture and it included few churches en route.



Photo: Principal and Faculty members of the ICFAI School of Architecture with the parents of Tour students
Date: 13/02/2026

The students started their journey on the 13th of February 2026 flying from Hyderabad to Madurai, Tamilnadu. In two days of stay between 14th and 15th of February in Madurai, they visited Meenakshi temple, Koodal Azgar Temple, Nayakar Palace, Athangudi palace. Having one of the tallest Gopurams, the Meenakshi temple is considerably one of the architectural marvels of the temples in South India. Though the Koodal Azgar temple is small in scale when compared to Meenakshi temple, it is also showcasing the finest architectural details inside and outside of the temple. The Nayakar Palace built in 1636, known for its massive pillars and blending of the Rajput and Dravidial styles. The palace still houses the replica of the crown seat in the middle of the palace. The Athangudi palace is a fine example of Chettinadu house style with sloped roofs, courtyards and exceptional wood work in the ceilings and openings, columns.



Photo: Meenakshi Temple, Madurai. Date: 14/02/2026



Photo: Koodal Azgar Temple 14/02/2026



Photo: Nayyakar Palace 14/02/2026



Photo: Nayyakar Palace 14/02/2026



Photo: Nayyakar Palace 14/02/2026

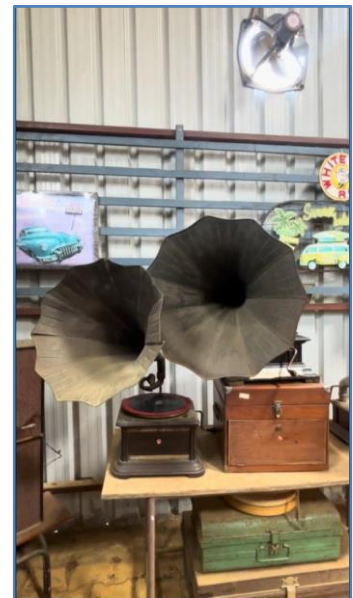


Photo: Chettinadu Vintage Car and Camera Museum 15/02/2026



Photo: Chettinadu Vintage Car and Camera Museum 15/02/2026



Photo: Athangudi Palace 15/02/20206

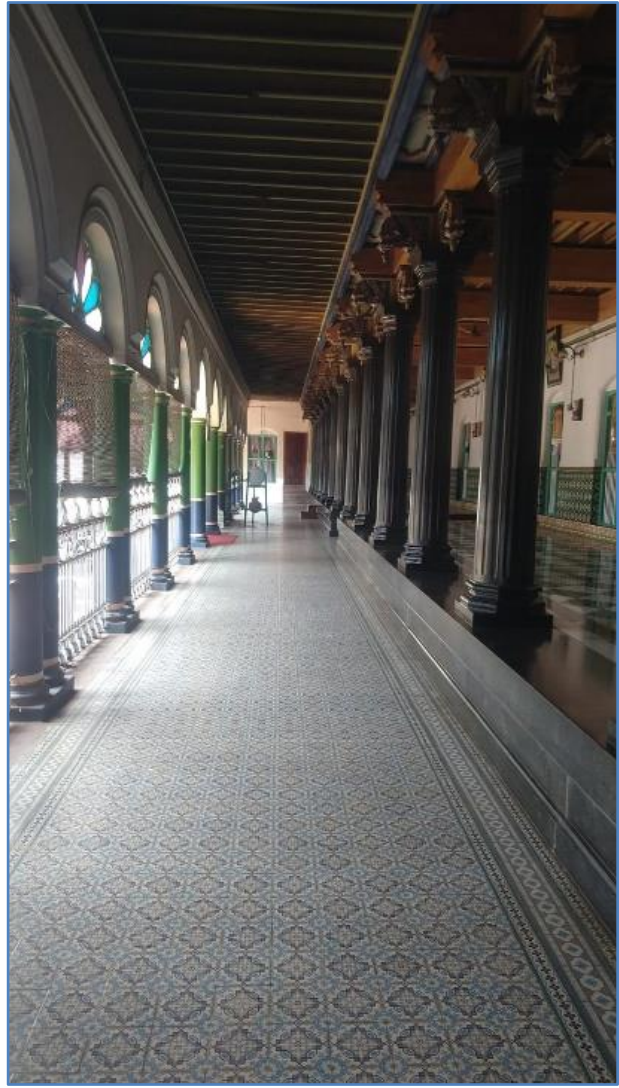


Photo: Athangudi Palace 15/02/20206



Photo: Our Lady Lourdes Church, Tiruchirapalli (Trichy) 15/02/2026

On the 16th February, students visited the St. Lourde's Church, and Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple in Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli, which is one of the largest Hindu temples covering 156 acres of area. It is listed in the UNESCO world heritage sites.. In the afternoon students visited the Jambukeshwara temple, and butterfly park to study the landscape architecture.



Photo: Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli (Trichy) 16/02/2026



Photo: Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli (Trichy) 16/02/2026

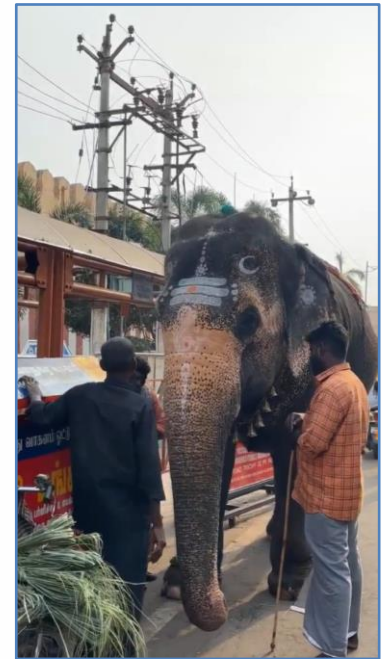


Photo: Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple 16/02/2026

On 17th of February in Tanjavur, students visited Brihadeshwara temple, the local artisan shop to learn about the Tanjore painting and the Maratha Palace. Maratha palace is also a museum with some of the exhibits dated in the Neolithic period, pots that were used to cremate dead bodies, and it houses some of the smallest palm leaf scriptures.



Photo: Brihadeshwara Temple 17/ 02/2026



Photo: Brihadeshwara Temple 17/ 02/2026



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Photo: Brihadeshwara Temple 17/ 02/2026



Photo: Brihadeshwara Temple 17/ 02/2026



Photo: Maratha Palace 17/ 02/ 2026





Photo: Maratha Palace 17/ 02/ 2026



Photo: Butterfly Park 17/02/2026

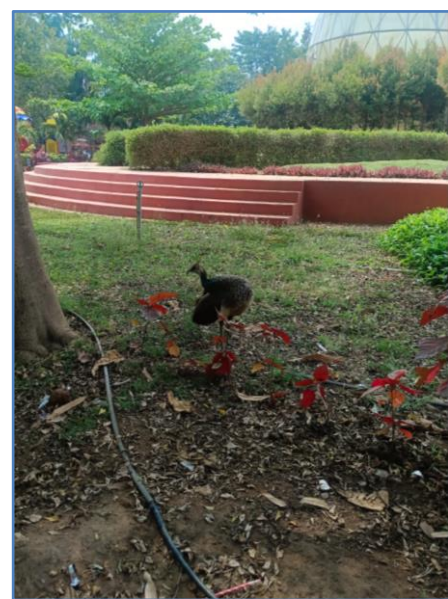


Photo: Butterfly Park 17/02/2026

On the 18th and students reached Puducherry to study the French colony, a 100 year old neighborhood built by French. The French colony consists of few churches that are 300 years old. Students visited the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral to study the Christian church architecture.



Photo: French Colony 18/02/2026



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Photo: French Colony 18/02/2026

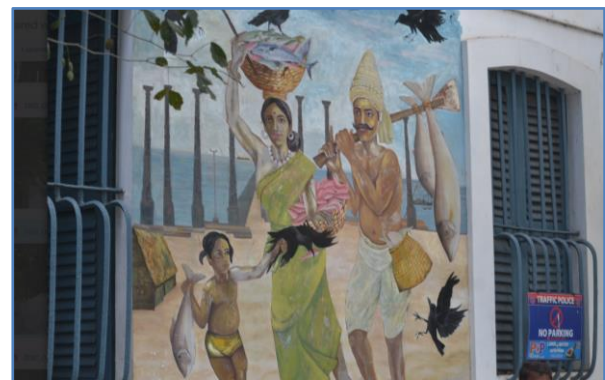
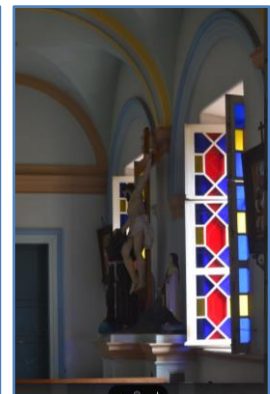
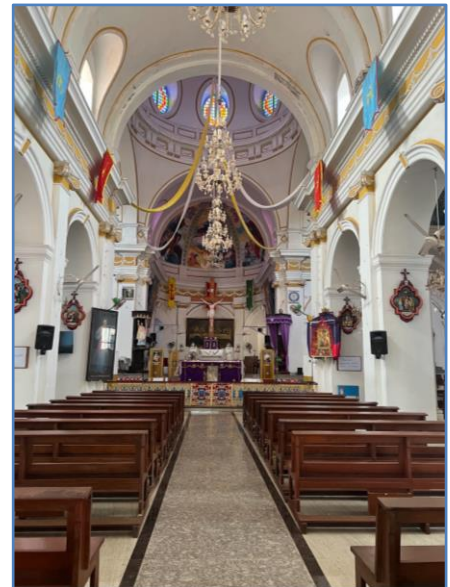




Photo: French Colony 18/02/2026



Photo: Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral 18/02/2026



Our Lady of Angels Church (Eglise de Notre Dame des Anges), 18/02/2026

On the day of 19th February, students visited the Shore temple at Mahabalipuram and studied the rock cut temples and caves en route to the Chengalpattu railway station to reach Hyderabad. They reached Kachiguda railway station, Hyderabad on the 20th February morning and departed to their respective homes.

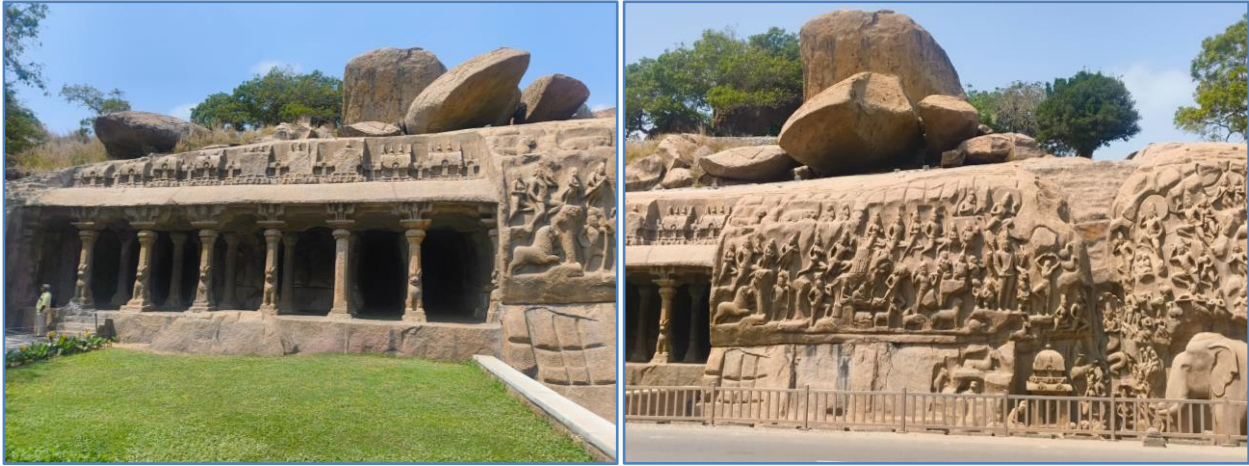


Photo: Descent of Ganga, Shore temple, Mahabalipuram 19/02/2026



Photo: Descent of Ganga, Shore temple, Mahabalipuram 19/02/2026



Photo: Shore temple, Mahabalipuram 19/02/2026





Photo: Fun Times in the Trip

The seven day trip of the Architectural tour tried to cover as many different architectural styles based on the culture, time and use. The students were able to study different architectural styles elements, motifs, and characteristics that can be influenced by religion, culture, lifestyle, locally available materials and climatic conditions.

Prepared by

Dr. Aruna Reddi

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