



## SAGARA JAYASINGHE

Sagara Jayasinghe is a practising architect and a design researcher focusing on Cultural Heritage, Colonialism, Missionary Movements and Ecclesiastical Architecture in Sri Lanka. His practice and research have helped preserve numerous colonial heritage facets, especially by documenting and undertaking systematic architectural drawings of church buildings and other liturgical art in Sri Lanka.



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## EDUCATION AND AFFILIATIONS

### Qualifications

1999-2000

**M.Sc. (Architecture)**, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Dissertation: *Architecture, Color and Religion; Symbolic use of colour in Catholicism and Hinduism*

1994-1996

**B.Sc. (Built Environment)**, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

History & Social Studies Essay: *An examination of the use of color with special reference to Hindu and Islamic communities in Sri Lanka.*

### Affiliation

2020-Current

**Doctoral Candidate:**

ARTIS - Institute of Art History, School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon

2005-Current

**Senior Lecturer:**

Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

2004-Current

**Cooperate Member:**

Sri Lanka Institute of Architects

## DISTINCTIONS AND HONOURS

### Awards

2021

**Architectural Publication Award**, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Annual Sessions

2017

**Architectural Research Gold Award**, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Annual Sessions

2013

**Architectural Publication Award**, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Annual Sessions

2009

**Architectural Publication Award**, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Annual Sessions

2009

**Young Architect of the Year Award**, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Annual Sessions

2008

**House of the Year Award/ Merit**, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Annual Sessions

2007

**Winner of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Design Competition**

Design of a unique identity for Bank of Ceylon branches in Sri Lanka

2006

**Dulux Colour Award for the Creative use of Colour in Architecture**

2006

**Award of Excellence for Most Innovative Display Panels**

Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Member's Exhibition

### Scholarships

2020

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia Doctoral Research Scholarship, Portugal

2014

Fundação Oriente Scholarship, Portugal

## MEMBERSHIPS AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

### Professional Memberships

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2021	<b>Expert Member:</b> ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual (PRERICO)
2021	<b>Member:</b> HERITAGE Asia – Pacific (heritAP)
2021	<b>Member:</b> International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
2015	<b>Member:</b> Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL)
2014	<b>Fellow Member:</b> Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA)
2002	<b>Member:</b> International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Sri Lanka

### Positions & Responsibilities

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2021	<b>Honorary Secretary :</b> International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Sri Lanka
2021	<b>Chairman:</b> Board of Architectural Publication, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
2018-2020	<b>Joint Secretary:</b> International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Sri Lanka
2017-2018	<b>Council Member :</b> Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
2017-2018	<b>Secretary:</b> Board of Architectural Publication, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
2017-2018	<b>Chairman:</b> Media Committee, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
2017	<b>Council Member :</b> International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Sri Lanka
2010-Current	<b>Member:</b> Catholic National Commission for Liturgy and Culture
2010-2018	<b>Chairman:</b> Design and Graphic Committee, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects

### Scholarly Activities

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2020-2021	<b>Jury Member:</b> Asia Young Designer Awards, Nippon Paint Sri Lanka
2020-2021	<b>Jury Member:</b> Design Award, Colour Award Young Architect Award, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
2019-August	<b>Jury Member:</b> Architecture Design Competition, Theme: Temporary Spaces during Festivities of India Acharya's NRV School of Architecture, Bangalore, India.
2019-March	<b>Panellist:</b> A Square Conference, Acharya's NRV School of Architecture, Bangalore, India. Theme: History, Tectonics Design: Manifestation in Architecture
2018-August	<b>Chair:</b> Sri Lanka Design Code - Design Code Research Conference Theme: Future of Integration in Design, Colombo
2017-Dece.	<b>Abstract Reviewer:</b> 73rd Annual Sessions of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science
2016-Nov.	<b>Public Lecture:</b> ICOMOS-Sri Lanka Public Lecture Series, Colombo Theme: Origin, Types and Development of Oratorian Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka
2015-March	<b>Public Lecture:</b> 71st session of the monthly lecture series, The National Trust – Sri Lanka, Colombo, Theme: Churches of Sri Lanka
2013-August	<b>Panellist:</b> Sri Lanka Institute of Architects continuing professional development programme Seminar 2 – Session 2012/2013, Theme: Architectural visualisation for printing
2011-Feb.	<b>Co-chairman:</b> 28th National Conference on Architecture, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Theme: Architecture for All - City +Community

### Conference Scientific Committees

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2019	<b>Symposium on Architectural Heritage of Goan Oratorians' Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka</b> . Goa College of Architecture, Goa
2019	<b>36th National Conference on Architecture</b> , Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Theme: Emergence - Entrepreneurial Architect
2018	<b>Sri Lanka Design Code</b> - Design Code Research Conference, Colombo Theme: Future of Integration in Design
2018	<b>35th National Conference on Architecture</b> , Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Theme: Architecture to represent People and Place
2017	<b>34th National Conference on Architecture</b> , Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Theme: Return of the City: Megastructure Revisited

## RESEARCH AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### Research Experience

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- 2018-Current **Survey of Oratorian Missionary Churches with Portuguese influence in Sri Lanka.**  
In collaboration with ARTIS - Institute of Art History of the University of Lisbon, Faculty of Architecture of the University of Lisbon, School of Architecture of the University of Queensland, Institute of Art History of Universidade Nova de Lisboa and School of European Languages, Culture and Society of University College London. Project funded under the Gulbenkian Program of Portuguese Language and Culture of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal.  
Project reference: 224590
- 2019 **Chronological Development of Baptismal Fonts in Urban Churches in Sri Lanka**  
University of Moratuwa, Project reference: SRC/ST/2019/08
- 2019 **Documentation of design concepts, materials and manufacturing process of equipment and utensils used for traditional toddy tapping industry in Sri Lanka**  
University of Moratuwa, Project reference: SRC/ST/2019/09
- 2017-2018 **Architectural Documentation of Oratorian-Influenced Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka**  
A Joint project of ICOMOS Sri Lanka and Central Cultural Fund, Sri Lanka
- 2017 **Documentation Project/ Portuguese-Influenced ecclesiastical buildings in Northern Sri Lanka**  
University of Moratuwa, Project reference: SRC/ST/2017/04
- 2017 **Architectural Documentation Project/ Sylvestro-Benedictine Church Façades in Sri Lanka**  
University of Moratuwa, Project reference: SRC/ST/2017/05
- 2014 **Architectural Documentation of Our Lady of the Gate of Heaven Church, Telheiras, Lisbon**  
Under the scholarship programme of Fundação Oriente, Portugal
- 2007 **Documentation of Art & Architecture of the Catholic Churches in Southern Sri Lanka**

### Conference Presentations

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- 2019-Janu. **Symposium on Architectural Heritage of Goan Oratorians' Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka.**  
Goa College of Architecture, Panaji, Goa Title: "Origin, Types and Development of Oratorian Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka"
- 2017-June **REHAB 2017: 3rd International Conference on Preservation, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings and Structures .**  
Braga, Portugal Title: "Sylvestro-Benedictine Churches in Sri Lanka: As an alternative Tropical Model"
- 2017-June **Colloque of L'Asie Portugaise : des arts et des lettres** , Université Paris Sorbonne, France  
Title: "The 'Remains of Faith': Portuguese-Influenced Ecclesiastical Art and Architecture in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka"
- 2016-June **International Conference on Integrated Design: Building Our Future** , The University of Bath, UK  
Title: "Nineteenth-century Catholic church architecture in Sri Lanka: Evolution of a tropical model"
- 2015-Nov. **ARCASIA (The Architects Regional Council Asia) Design Analysis Forum**  
Ayutthaya, Thailand, 2015, Title: "Identity Crisis of Post-Colonial Church Architecture in Sri Lanka"

## SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTIONS

### Books

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- 2019-July **"Remains of Dark Days: The Architectural Heritage of Oratorian Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka"**  
*Sagara Jayasinghe; Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos; Hélder Carita*, Caleidoscópio – Edição e Artes Gráficas, ISBN: 978-989-658-595-2

The book is a narrative of the turbulent, historical, cultural and artistic context of the Goan Oratorian architectural tradition, adapted to the temporal and spiritual needs of the native Catholic population of Sri Lanka, during the 18th and 19th centuries, through various forms of Indo-Portuguese influences. While analysing the growth and the current situation of the "Oratorian Church Models", which is unique to Sri Lanka, the passages trace the historical background of the Portuguese missionary church architecture from which it emerged. The book also looks at the diversity of architectural traditions of the Oratorians (formally known as Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri) in other Portuguese territories around the world.

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2014-Dec.

**"The Black Prince's Chapel: The church built by a Sinhalese Prince in Portugal."**

*Sagara Jayasinghe*, Colombo: Vijitha Yapa Publications, ISBN: 978-955-665-248-2

One of the publication's objectives is to portray architecture as a living record and its positive contribution towards transnational identity. This idea is explored through the church of "Our Lady of the Gate of Heaven", Telheiras in the suburbs of Lisbon that spans over four hundred years. This church is historically unique about the political and religio-cultural affairs of Sri Lanka and Portugal during the Portuguese overseas expansions of the 16th and 17th centuries. It goes down in history as the only building erected overseas by a Sri Lankan royal family member. It was built initially by Dom Joao of the Kandyan Kingdom, known as the Black Prince in historical chronicles. An attempt has been made to document all available evidence for the benefit of future research and also for archival purposes. It is the first time formal documentation, including a set of measured drawings, has been made on the architectural style of the church.

2007-Sept.

**"Dwellings of Faith: Art & Architecture of the Catholic Churches in the Galle Diocese"**

*Sagara Jayasinghe*, Galle: Bishop's House, ISBN: 978-955-1792-00-8

Church architecture in southern Sri Lanka evinces an affinity to the physical context rooted in a community of faith that created it and continues to nurture it. The book presents a record of catholic churches' art and architectural heritage in Southern Sri Lanka, which is not widely known outside the province. Care and attention have been given to presenting the details of twelve church buildings in the Southern province, from the majestic St. Mary's Cathedral (1874) in Galle to the quaint little Church of Our Lady of Sorrows (1867), Hambantota. Furthermore, the work describes the social and physical context from the Portuguese Padroado to the present day that gave rise to such a heritage.

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**Exhibition Catalogues/ Research Scripts**

2013-June

**"Guide to the Permanent Exhibition Museum of St. Anthony "**

Colombo: St. Anthony's Shrine, Colombo 13

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**Curatorial Exhibitions**

2019-Jan.  
2019-March  
2019-Nov.

Title: *Architectural Heritage of Goan Oratorians' Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka*

Goa College of Architecture, Panaji, Goa, India

Acharya's NRV School of Architecture, Bangalore, India

ARTIS - Institute of Art History, University of Lisbon, Portugal

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**PUBLICATIONS AND EDITORIALS**

**Publications in Journals (Refereed)**

2021

Jayasinghe, S., *"Altares decorativos de igrejas missionárias oratorianas no Sri Lanka"*

ARTIS: Journal of Art History and Heritage Sciences, Issue No. 7/8, pp 216-219

2016

Jayasinghe, S., *"Edifices in Dark Days: Origin, Types and Development of Oratorian Missionary Churches in Sri Lanka"*, Antiphon: A Journal for Liturgical Renewal, Vol. 20, No. 03, pp 268 – 280

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**Publications in Journals (Non-refereed)**

2018

Jayasinghe, S., *"Vogue of Renaissance: 19th-century Italian-Influenced Church Architecture in Sri Lanka"*

The Architect: The Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Vol. 118 / Issue No. 4, pp 100 – 103

2016

Jayasinghe, S., *"Devotion to St. Anthony during the Portuguese and Dutch occupation in Sri Lanka."*

Oriente: The Journal of the Fundação Oriente, Lisbon Vol. 24, pp 78 – 89

2015

Jayasinghe, S., *"The Black Prince's Chapel: An architectural record of the Church of Our Lady of the Gate of Heaven, Telheiras, Lisbon."* Oriente: The Journal of the Fundação Oriente, Lisbon, Vol. 23, pp 56 – 77

2015

Jayasinghe, S., *"The Black's Prince's Chapel: A work of a Sinhalese Prince in Portugal."*

The Architect: The Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Vol. 116 / Issue No. 2, pp 101 – 106

2011

Jayasinghe, S., *"Information Centre and Maritime Archaeology Museum Galle Fort"*

The Architect: The Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Vol. 112 / Issue No. 3, pp 62 – 64

2010

Jayasinghe, S., *"Gospels in Glass: Stained Glass from churches in the southern province of Sri Lanka."*

The Architect: The Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Vol. 111 / Issue No. 1, pp 68 – 67

2009

Dias, S., Jayasinghe, S., *"Waiting To Embark: The many facets of railway furniture in Sri Lanka."*

The Architect: The Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Vol. 110 / Issue No. 3, pp 56 – 58

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## OpenEdition Journals

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- 2018 Jayasinghe, S., *"The 'Remains of Faith': Portuguese-Influenced Ecclesiastical Art and Architecture in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka"*  
Colloque of L'Asie Portugaise : des arts et des lettres, Université', <https://creops.hypotheses.org/1027>

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## Conference Proceedings

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- 2017 Jayasinghe, S., *"Sylvestro-Benedictine Churches in Sri Lanka: As an alternative Tropical Model"* ,  
REHAB 2017: 3rd International Conference on Preservation, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of  
Historic Buildings and Structures, June 14-16, pp 851-859
- 2017 Jayakody, D.M.S.S. and Jayasinghe, S., *"Study on the relationship between solid waste volume and  
residential collection methods with reference to Soysapura Flats"* ,  
10th International Built Environment Research Conference, December 08-09, pp. 490-502
- 2016 Jayasinghe, S., *"Nineteenth-century Catholic Church architecture in Sri Lanka: Evolution of a tropical  
model"*, International Conference on Integrated Design: Building Our Future, June 29 – July 01,  
The University of Bath, UK, pp. 291-302

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## Edited Journals

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- 2008-2012 *Vasthu*: The Sinhala Medium Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects  
Vol. 11 / Issue No. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Vol. 10 / Issue No. 3 and 4 , Vol. 10 / Issue No. 1 and 2 and  
Vol. 09 / Issue No. 2

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## Editorial Boards

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- 2021 *Vasthu*: The Sinhala Medium Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects  
2021 **The Architect**: The Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects  
2015 **The Architect**: The Journal of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects

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## TEACHING AND GUIDING

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### Guiding & Mentoring

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- 2018 Post-doctoral Research - *"Safeguarding the architectural heritage with Portuguese influence in South  
Asia"* by Joaquim Rodrigues dos Santos, ARTIS Institute, University of Lisbon

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### Course/ Discipline Taught

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- 2005-Current **Senior Lecturer**: Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka  
Degree Courses: Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Design
- 2018-2021 **Visiting Lecturer**: Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka  
Certificate Course in Cultural Tourism
- 2017 **Visiting Lecturer**: Architecture Awareness Programme, City School of Architecture, Colombo
- 2017 **Visiting Dissertation Tutor** : City School of Architecture, Colombo
- 2016 **Visiting Lecturer**: Department of Western Classical Culture & Christian Culture,  
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka Degree Course: Master of Arts (Christian Studies)
- 2015 **Visiting Lecturer**: Department of Western Classical Culture & Christian Culture,  
University of Kelaniya, Degree Course: Bachelor of Arts (Western Classical Culture & Christian Culture)
- 2014 **Examiner**: Professional Practice Examination,  
Board of Architectural Education, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
- 2009 **Tutor**: Architectural Licentiate Course/ Measured Drawing Project  
Board of Architectural Education, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Design
- 2009 **Tutor**: Architectural Licentiate Course/ Comprehensive Design Project  
Board of Architectural Education, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Design
- 2008 **Tutor**: Architectural Licentiate Course  
Board of Architectural Education, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects



## CONSULTANCY SERVICES

### Professional Training

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200-2002 **Project Architect** - Development Consultants Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Colombo, Sri Lanka

### Commissioned Projects

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2014 **Consultant Architect – BCI Campus, Negombo**

The given site was a former teacher training school with a lasting chapel with a significant architectural value influenced by the post-independence nationalistic movements. The new master plan of this "Revitalized Institute" was developed by creating the existing chapel as the focal point and other existing and new buildings being sited alongside it with their own functions. Giving such prominence to the chapel is intended to emphasise the religious background of the place and avoid new buildings being highlighted and overshadowing the spiritual and historical value of the context. The design concept emphasises a renewal of architectural traditions as part of the existing and re-interprets it in a contemporary, more straightforward form relevant to contemporary and practical issues.

2010 **Consultant Architect - Information Centre and Maritime Archaeology Museum, Dutch Fort, Galle**

It comprised an adaptation of interior spaces to accommodate the Maritime Archaeology Museum without disturbing the authentic historic character and architecture of the existing warehouse building at the world heritage site of the Dutch Fort, Galle. It intends to house the seafaring history of Sri Lanka and its rich experience endowed by transoceanic connectivity that enriched the multi-cultural ethos of the country for over 300 years, which was translated into material representations and visual medium through dioramas, audio-visuals and printed trilingual presentations and displays. The interior of museum galleries has been created after properly conserving the maritime artefacts and exhibiting them with necessary information being arranged.

2010 **Consultant Architect - Chapel and Resource Centre for St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa**

St. Sebastian's College of Moratuwa stood as an epitome and a forerunner of education in the region. The new building, which houses the Administration Centre of the college together with the chapel above, creates a blend of authority and spirituality. The design concept emphasises a revival of conservative architectural traditions as part of the present. It re-captures the essence of the iconic architectural characters of the old colonial institutional buildings and re-interprets it in a simpler form to suit current needs.

### Creative Works and Art Direction

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#### Visual Communication Concepts and Art Direction

for Sri Lanka Institute of Architects National Conference and Annual Sessions

- 2019 Theme: Emergence - Entrepreneurial Architect
- 2018 Theme: Architecture to represent people and place
- 2017 Theme: Return of the City: Megastructure Revisited
- 2016 Theme: Flows – Touching the Void
- 2014 Theme: Think Smart Innovative
- 2010 Theme: Architecture - Rethinking Sustainability

### Published Projects

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- 2015 Nanayakkara, P., *"Recording the Art and Architectural Heritage of Churches"*  
Domus Sri Lanka, Vol. 013/Oct- Nov 2015, pp 11-17
  - 2015 Hirudini, M., *"Revitalised architecture for Spiritual Learning."*  
The Architect, Vol. 116 / Issue No. 2, pp 157 – 160
  - 2012 Nanayakkara, P., *"A place to Call Home."*  
The Architect, Vol. 113 / Issue No. 1, pp 68 – 70
  - 2010 Dias, S., *"Spiritual Transcendence"*  
Architecture Asia: The Journal of the Architects Regional Council Asia, Issue No.04, pp 76 – 77
  - 2010 Dias, S., *"Chapel and Resource Centre, St. Sebastian's College Moratuwa"*  
The Architect, Vol. 111 / Issue No. 4, pp 20 – 22
  - 2007 Hettiarachchi, A., *"Towards a silent language."*  
Architecture Asia: The Journal of the Architects Regional Council Asia, Issue No.03, pp 22 – 27
  - 2007 Hettiarachchi, A., *"Punchihewa House: Captures the enchanting Spirit of the Lake Bolgoda."*  
The Architect, Vol. 107 / Issue No. 01, pp 22 – 27
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