

## A Journey of Design Innovations at DSSI Labs



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DSSI Labs (Design for Social and Spatial Impact), established in 2021, is led by Prof Srikar at the Department of Design, IIT Hyderabad. The lab has begun numerous design-led innovations to foster social and spatial dimensions in the built environment. In this issue, we will uncover the following initiatives from his labs:

### Indian temple architecture influence in the lower Mekong region:

As most of the Indian architecture students and enthusiasts learn about the history of Indian architecture, due to current national boundaries confining them to limit their knowledge of its significance and influence at large., Prof Srikar argues in his research that the Indosphere (James Motisoff,1990) gives a broader framework to understand Indian architecture and its influence. Whereby the pedagogy and teaching material taught by the instructors is not just limited, but having to include examples from the Indosphere the whole journey of learning.

The current phase of the research involved unique design documentation of the numerous sites in South India and the lower Mekong region (covering Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam) and leading to the design and development of a phygital exhibition at the National Museum at UbonRatchathani, Thailand (March2025).

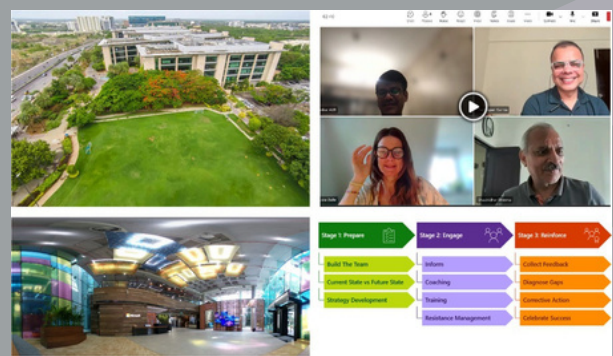
Earlier, Prof Srikar also conducted an Indian architecture and Design workshop in UBU Thailand(2024). The outcome of the workshop is bi-cultural design and demonstrating digital and physical manifestations of the semantics of temple building.

Details of the museum launch can be viewed through this link:  
[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=104544S550S577S0&id=1000C4782C34072&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=zSOrQwp7laWq4Th3](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=104544S550S577S0&id=1000C4782C34072&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=zSOrQwp7laWq4Th3)



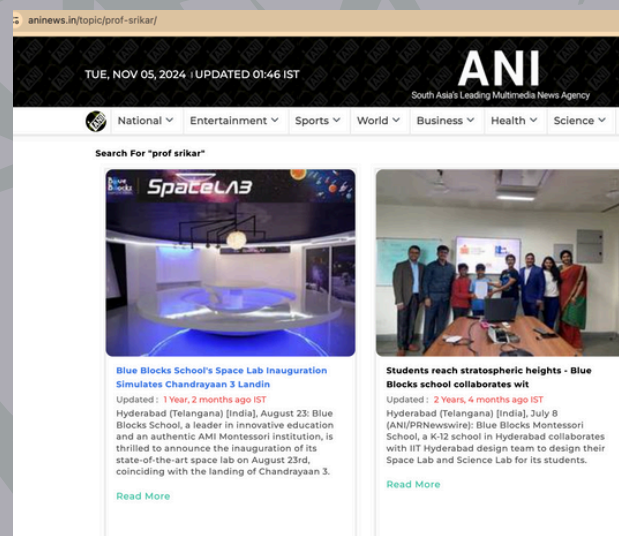
### Microsoft -Change Management Services:

As the Fortune500 company transitions with a consolidated workplace strategy, Prof Srikar, alongside with AWA, London, collaborates to develop a service design to deliver change management for their site in Hyderabad (Microsoft India HQ). The design innovation includes service design mapping and deployment to ease the employees from multiple sites to make the transition to their headquarters in Hyderabad with ease.



### Blueblocks- Research Labs for Children:

With the onset of ABL (Activity-Based Learning), pedagogical tools have been put to the test to make the engagement attractive and effective for students in many learning spaces. With the onset of space technologies attracting young minds, many institutions have approached Prof Srikar, DSSI Labs, to intervene and develop novel spaces and tools to engage students. Here are some case studies from Blueblocks school where Prof Srikar and his team have developed India's first Space Labs, Biomimicry Lab, and Drone Labs for children in the Montessori system.



Newspapers covering Blueblocks' space lab launch coinciding with Chandrayaan-3 Landing on 23rd Aug.2023.



For more information on the space labs, browse through the following links:

[https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/blue-blocks-school-s-space-lab-inauguration-simulates-chandrayaan-3-landing-designed-by-iit-hyderabad-a-leap-in-education-and-exploration-123082300363\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/content/press-releases-ani/blue-blocks-school-s-space-lab-inauguration-simulates-chandrayaan-3-landing-designed-by-iit-hyderabad-a-leap-in-education-and-exploration-123082300363_1.html)

<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/business/blue-blocks-school-launches-first-of-its-kind-biomimicry-lab-for-its-students20220408160518/>

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*Newspapers covering Blueblocks' space lab launch coinciding with Chandrayaan-3 Landing on 23rd Aug. 2023.*

## Space Labs and Alternative Pedagogy in Schools

