

Arijit Sen has spent nearly two decades studying and teaching in his adopted backyard, Milwaukee's poorest, and most poorly served, neighborhoods. In this work, he articulates how sites acquire meaning through movement. This focus on experience allows him to recognize the architectural significance of the empty lot and to see how sound and smell inform histories of urban space. His study of South Asian immigrants in Chicago demonstrates how to keep occupants at the center of histories of architecture, describing how individuals make sense of landscapes that are not of their own making. His intellectual creativity, his wide-ranging curiosity, and his facility with multiple humanistic discourses are reflected in the diversity of publications in which his scholarship has appeared, including *Future Anterior*, *Buildings and Landscapes*, *Food and Foodways*, *Winterthur Portfolio*, and *South Asian History and Culture*.

The insights of this work are enough to recommend Dr. Sen as an SAH Fellow. But his importance goes beyond his contribution to a body of scholarship. Like several recent fellows, he has worked to broaden substantially the constituencies that historians serve, making a material difference in the lives of his neighbors as well as his students and colleagues. He has convened discussions in Milwaukee's city hall to resist bureaucratic indifference about the neighborhoods he studies, drawing attention to places and people that otherwise attract little official notice.

Dr. Sen pursues this politically engaged research in company, with community activists, geographers, folklorists, and historians. With his collaborators, he invites his students to do work that is worthy of the city's residents and deserving of their attention. The mutual respect that he engenders between students and city residents is a lesson in the value of community-oriented scholarship and a powerful counterpoint to hidebound, privileged ideals of academic life as placeless, devoted principally to the life of the mind.

Our field needs more scholars like Arijit Sen, whose contribution to the field is matched by his commitment to his city. Both communities are enriched by his participation.

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