

**Statement  
on  
Proposed Demolition of Most of the Dormitory Blocks  
of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A)**

**Society of Architectural Historians  
Heritage Conservation Committee**

The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) supports our colleagues from ICOMOS India, and joins with an international group of architectural historians, architects, preservationists, and others to express significant concerns regarding plans by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) to demolish 14 of its 18 dormitory blocks and replace them with newly constructed dormitories.

SAH previously expressed these concerns directly to Dr. Errol D'Souza, former Director of IIM-A, on 7 March 2021 following IIM-A's announcement that it had abandoned plans to demolish these buildings. With recent changes in administrative staff, however, IIM-A has announced that the demolitions will, in fact, take place.

Built between 1968 and 1978, these dormitories are an integral part of IIM-A's internationally significant historic core, designed by architect Louis I. Kahn in collaboration with the important Indian architects B.V. Doshi and Anant Raje. These buildings represent a vision for higher learning rooted in student and faculty interaction. The complex utilized local available materials and methods and embraced passive heating and cooling, all of which are recognized today as sustainable building practices.

We respectfully request that IIM-A depart from the planned demolition and seek a course that preserves these buildings, which form an essential component of IIM-A's historic core.

SAH recognizes that the challenges of preserving these buildings are significant. However, the design of these dormitories supports IIM-A's fusion of learning, living, and socializing; their loss would damage, if not destroy, this critical relationship, which embodies one of the qualities that renders IIM-A an internationally respected institution. IIM-A is also internationally renowned for its architecture, and Kahn's design for IIM-A is widely considered to be the crowning achievement of his illustrious career. The totality of the design of IIM-A is critical to an understanding of Kahn's work.

For both of these reasons -- the importance of Kahn's IIM-A dormitories in supporting the mission of IIM-A, and the international architectural reputation of these buildings -- we strongly urge IIM-A to reconsider demolition and pursue a path to the preservation of these important buildings. The IIM-A campus is a thorough integration of modern architecture into a unique Indian place and time, resulting

in an international landmark of education and architecture, and should be preserved in its entirety as a living monument to a significant development in Indian higher education.

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*Society of Architectural Historians*

*Heritage Conservation Committee*

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