School of Arts and Aesthetics

Jawaharlal Nehru University

Invites you

to a Screening of

Nostalgia for the Future

by
Avijit Mukul Kishore and Rohan Shivkumar

Followed by Q&A with the director

All are welcome

The screening will be held in
SAA Auditorium

at 6 pm,
Monday February 5th 2018

NOSTALGIA FOR THE FUTURE
Documentary film, Hindi and English (with English subtitles), 16mm and video, 54 minutes, 2017; Directed by Avijit Mukul Kishore and Rohan Shivkumar

ABOUT THE FILM
'Nostalgia for the Future' is a film on Indian modernity, the making of the citizen and the architecture of the home. It looks at imaginations of homes across four examples of buildings made over the period of a century. These are Lukhshmi Vilas Palace in Baroda – the gigantic home built by a progressive monarch in the late 19th Century; Villa Shodhan in Ahmedabad – a private residence which represents the idea of domesticity within Nehruvian modernity, designed by Le Corbusier; Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, which epitomises

the Gandhian aspirations of the nation-state; and public housing in post-independence Delhi, designed by the Government of India to house refugees from Pakistan and the bureaucrats of the newly independent nation.

The film explores these spaces and imagines the bodies that were meant to inhabit them through the evocation of the cinematic and aural collective memory of a nation. It uses a mix of formats – 16mm film and digital video in both colour and black and white, along with archival footage from state propaganda films and mainstream cinema.

The film is a collaboration between film maker Avijit Mukul Kishore and architect Rohan Shivkumar. It emerges from the intersection of their respective disciplines – architecture and documentary film, both of which have been ingrained in the discourse of utilitarianism and certainty. The film opens these disciplines out to self-critique and looks at their role in imagining and constructing a nation and its citizen.

The film is produced by Films Division India. It was awarded the Best Film Award in the Long Documentary category at International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala, Trivandrum, 2017 and the Jury's Special Mention at Signs Film Festival, Kochi, 2017. It has been screened at several documentary film fora, cultural institutions and architecture schools in Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Kochi. It was also screened across various departments in universities in the USA - NYU, Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, Brown, Stanford, University of California Santa Barbara and Vanderbilt.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS
Avijit Mukul Kishore is a filmmaker and cinematographer based in Mumbai, working primarily in documentary and inter-disciplinary moving-image practices. He is involved in cinema pedagogy as a lecturer and a curator of film programmes. His films as director include 'Snapshots from a Family Album', 'Vertical City', 'To Let the World In', 'Electric Shadows' and 'Nostalgia for the Future'; and as cinematographer: 'Kumar Talkies', 'Kali Salwaar', 'John and Jane', 'Seven Islands and a Metro'; 'Bidesia in Bambai', 'I am Micro' and 'An Old Dog's Diary'.

Rohan Shivkumar is an architect and an urban designer practicing in Mumbai, and Dean of Academics and Research at the Kamala Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies. His work spans architectural and interior design, to urban research and consultancy on issues concerning housing, public space and sanitation. He is interested in exploring the many ways of reading and representing the city, and is co-editor of the publication on a research and art collaboration – Project Cinema City. He also curates film programmes and writes for Anarchytect (blog) on cinema and urban issues. He is working on a book discussing approaches to the design of homes among Indian architectural practices.