S E M I N A R

Organized by

Centre for Bio Systems Science and Engineering

&

Centre for Ecological Sciences

at 4:00 PM on August 19, 2015

Seminar Hall, Centre for Ecological Sciences

Living Root Bridges

Sanjeev Shankar

Living root bridges are *Ficus elastica*-based suspension bridges within dense tropical rainforests of Meghalaya in the North-Eastern Indian Himalayas (25° 30‘ N and 91° 00‘ E). Ranging in span from 15 feet to 250 feet, these bridges are grown by indigenous Khasi tribes over a time period of 15 to 30 years, and last for several centuries demonstrating exceptional socio---ecological resilience under extreme climatic conditions. Sanjeev Shankar discusses these living plant based structural systems, and explores a socio---scientific framework for fundamental research and future application of this indigenous technology.

About the speaker:

Sanjeev Shankar uses his training in design, science and architecture to merge traditional crafts-- based knowledge with contemporary cultural and technological patterns to challenge the way we live and impact our planet. His research interest lies in using biology as a springboard for innovation. A recipient of the Chevening fellowship for Science and Technology from Britain and the DAAD fellowship from Germany, his works have featured at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London; Centre for Architecture in New York and the Doors of Perception in New Delhi. He was shortlisted for the Emerging Architecture award at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London and has won the "10 Great Ideas to change the world“ competition, a global initiative focused on revitalizing the planet by Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Mr. Shankar received his Bachelor of Architecture from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; Master of Design from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; and Master of Science from Architectural Association London.