

# ANKURI 2015

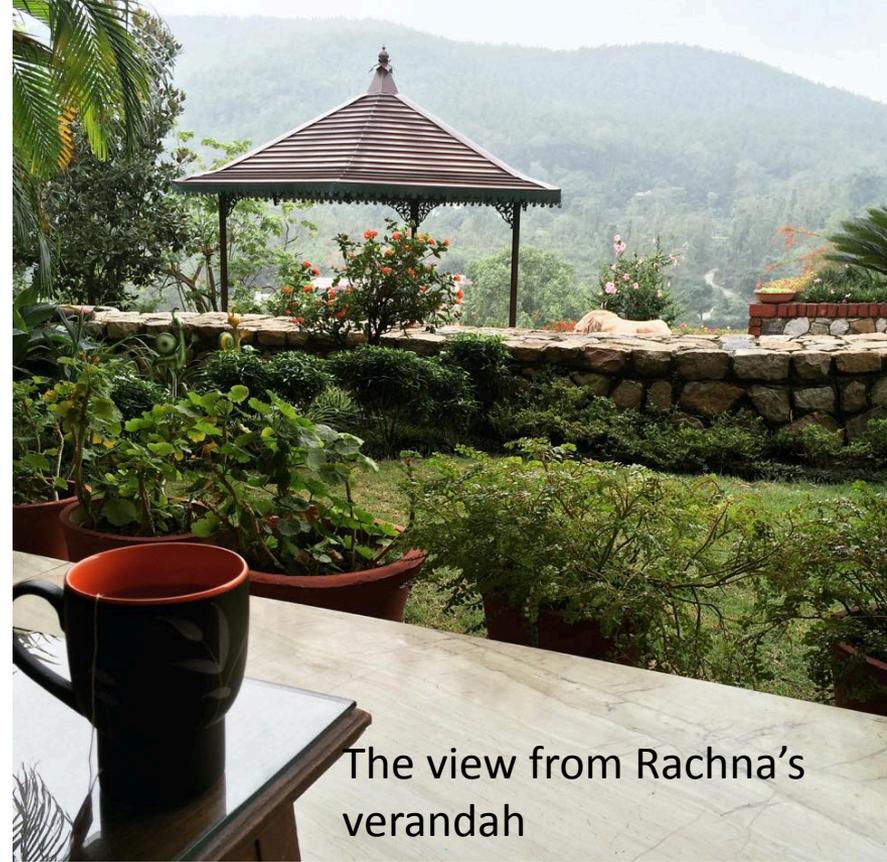
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# Thikana

Thikana is the name for the property where you will live and work. It houses Rachna's home, your dorm, the Literacy and Craft Centres, and what will eventually be a luxury guest house.

Money from the intern program and the guest house will fund the Literacy and Craft Centre's running costs.



The view from Rachna's verandah



^^ In front of the main house

Also, the food is amazing



# Craft Centre

>> Us and the Craft Managers, Kajal and Asha. Kajal and Asha check the quality of the knit goods, hand out money and wool, and sometimes teach interns to knit...

v v Us and Rachna's daughter Tara (in the pink) + two of her friends in the middle of inventorying the wool products



- Because Ankuri is a non-profit, the woolen products must be sold under a separate name. The brand is Pure Hands. Previous interns made the Pure Hands website. Cici and Ify worked on editing the Thikana and Ankuri websites, updating photos and information
- <http://ankuri.org/index.html>
- <http://thikanainthefoothills.com/>
- <http://pure-hands.com/>

- Inventorying complete, all the items are bagged and stored in waiting for the market >>
- The Craft Centre is where all interactions with the knitters normally take place- they pick up their wool and money and drop off their items. Kajal and Asha open the Centre around 2 every day.



# Literacy Centre

Across the hall from the Craft Centre, the Literacy Centre is a bigish room where the kids do their homework. We taught from around 4-6 on weekdays, and would spend mornings making lesson plans, flashcards, and other resources.



Watching Rio



Little flip flops at the bottom of the stairs >>

^^ Dancing to the Rio theme song





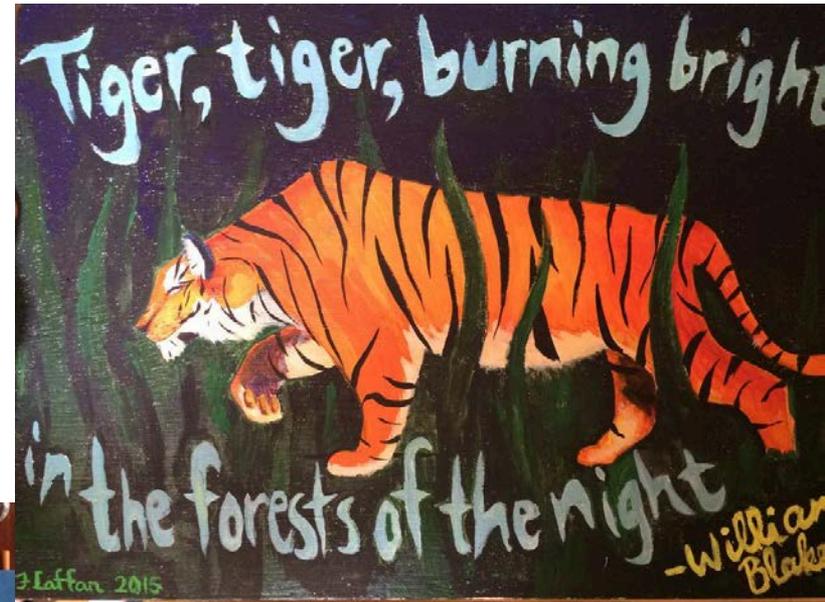
A scavenger hunt in the woods down the hill. We had to hide in the government school when it started raining!



<< Playing a competition game, divided into four groups. They work sitting on the floor around low tables.



We also added a Princeton tiger for posterity... vv



^^ One of the collages we made with the kids. We also made an alphabet banner for the room and added information to maps of the world, India, and the USA that previous interns had painted.





With the translation help of Tara and her friend Dhruva we conducted a survey on the knitters and set the responses to Aubrey, a previous intern who is currently analyzing them.

Tanisha is the girl in purple. She was one of our students. Her mother knits for the program, but not every child's mother knits.





A meeting of all the knitters was held at the local government school (literally across the road from Thikana) to discuss issues like payment.

Alice Schulman, a San Francisco-based member of ANKURI's board, and Asha, one of the craft managers, set up for the meeting



Rachna helped organize festivities for Teej, an August festival for women. Wives return to their mother's homes and swing on a swing representing childhood. They pray for happy, prosperous marriages and unmarried women pray for a happy engagement.

We taught the kids some songs and a dance to Dancing Queen to perform for their mothers. After the concert there was dancing, delicious kheer and pekoras, henna, swinging, and RAIN.



<< Laughing at Teej: Rachna, her mother, and Evelyn Domingo-Barker, a new addition to ANKURI's creative process. She is working with Rachna and Alice to start a quilting project.

Rachna, Alice, Evelyn, and Diesel the Dog plot the new quilting project in the Craft Centre. The quilting line is hesitantly being called Grey Elephant >>



<<Visiting Rhikoli:  
Rachna has property higher in the mountains where she has the beginnings of a spinning program. She wants to turn the space into a glamping ground. It will eventually be where the interns will work.

In partnership with We Care Solar, Princeton sent us with solar panels to install in a nearby orphanage. We installed them with the invaluable help of Rachna's handymen. They cemented the panels to the roof, we did the wiring in the building.



Rachna organised for us to see a Buddhist Monastery, Rishikesh, and a Hindu Temple near Dehradun. As an added treat, she organized a trip for us around Northern India, hitting Jaipur, Agra, and Khajuraho.



Rishikesh: sunset on the Ganges



^^ Mindrolling Monastery on the outskirts of Dehradun

Agra >>





It was very hard to leave Rachna, the kids, and Thikana behind. If you want to see more, check out the facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/womenofankuri>

And our joint blog we made to entertain our family:  
[tigertiger2018@wordpress.com](mailto:tigertiger2018@wordpress.com)