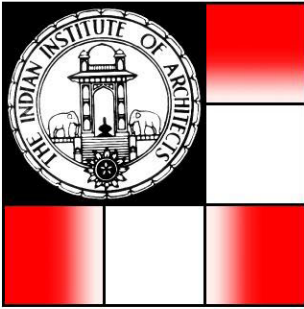


# NEWSLETTER

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## THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS WEST BENGAL CHAPTER

ISSUE NO. 01/2015-2017

July 28th, 2015

### FROM THE CHAIRPERSON'S DESK

Dear Members,

Elections at our Chapter were held for this term after a long gap. I thank all of you for your mandate and am happy to take charge as the Chairperson of our Chapter. I will strive towards fulfilling your expectations in this term with the rest of the team.

In Henry Ford's words "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

The newly elected Executive Committee has made a beginning. We had our first meeting and there are many plans on the anvil. During the course of the last few years and particularly in the last two months, many issues - professional and academic have come to the fore. We will work towards making a difference on those fronts too.

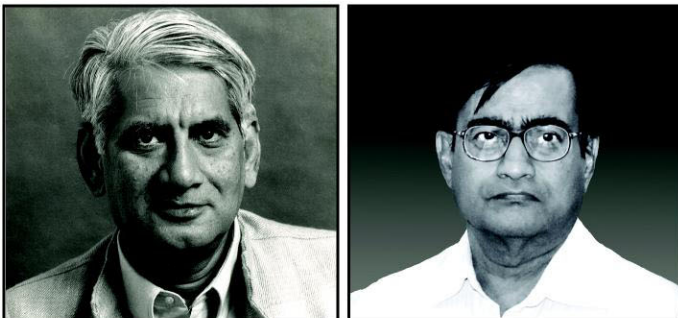
We intend to revive the professional lecture series and introduce new activities.

Our Chapter will be hosting the IIA National Convention on the theme "People and Their Spaces" on the 18th and 19th of December 2015. We welcome anyone who would like to contribute towards the planning.

Let us all at our chapter come together, keep together and work together to ensure the progress of our Chapter and the success of all our activities.

Yours in Service

Gita Balakrishnan



IIA WB Chapter Salutes The Masters Ar. Charles Correa and Ar. Kabir Ray (Ex-Chairman, IIA WB). RIP

### EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Marking the beginning of a new term not only for West Bengal Chapter but also for me as the editor of IIA-WB newsletter, this is Ar. Alokanda B Mukherjee, with the first newsletter of 2015.

At the very onset, the chapter, while focusing on big-picture environmental opportunities such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increasing renewable energy investments, has initiated a very elemental step of paper consumption reduction through e-newsletter. I feel immensely proud to be a part of such Green Initiative. I urge everyone to do their bit as well, towards sustainability. Celebration of world environment day was also another such endeavour towards awareness, discourse and way-finding.

While going through his countless architectural wonders, I have never imagined that one day I will be writing a commemorative note on the great architect and thinker Charles Correa. Also we lost our very own Ar. Kabir Ray (ex-chairman, IIA WB Chapter) and Ar. Somnath Ghosh.

The last few months have also seen some upheaval in world architecture with the news of Zaha Hadid's neofuturistic structure for Japan's new national stadium for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics being scrapped by the Japanese prime minister, as well as death sentence for the Architect of the new airport in Pyongyang by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Let the debate begin.

As we go to press, another tragedy unfolds in the form of the sudden demise of our beloved "People's President" Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. May his soul rest in peace.

With a promise to make the newsletter a true reflection of values, ethics and responsibilities we share in IIA-WB chapter, this is me signing off.

With Best Wishes,

Alokanda B Mukherjee

## The Indian Institute of Architect- West Bengal Chapter Celebrates World Environment Day on 6th of June 2015

**7th June 2015:** WB chapter celebrated World Environment Day on the 6th of June 2015 at Bengal Club, Russell Street, Kolkata. On this occasion, Ar.Prof. Souvanic Roy of IEST, Howrah and Ar.Prof. Suchandra Bardhan of Jadavpur University, Kolkata were invited to present their approach to sustainable design. Ar. Shamalendu Mitra, Ar. Shakuntala Ghosh, and Ar. Debashish Kar also shared their views on environmental concerns with the audience.



The gathering at Bengal Club (from left) Ar. Subir Basu, Ar. Debashish Kar and Dr. Suchandra Bardhan (Speaker for the Evening)



Ar. Shyamalendu Mitra Greeting Dr. Souvanic Roy (Speaker for the Evening)



Ar. Sakuntala Ghosh sharing her insights with the audience

## The Indian Institute of Architect - West Bengal Chapter Commemorates Ar Charles Correa, Ar Kabir Roy and Ar Somnath Ghosh on 23rd of June 2015

**24th June 2015:** This year was a great loss to our fraternity as we lost the legendary Ar. Charles Correa, and our beloved and respected Ar Kabir Roy. We also had to witness the sad and untimely demise of Ar. Somnath Ghosh.

West Bengal Chapter organized a remembrance session to pay respect and remember the deceased Architects at 7 PM on the 23rd of June 2015 at the IIA Premises.

The architects who had the opportunity of working with Ar. Charles Correa either as trainee or professionals shared their experiences.

The Chapter also remembered Ar Kabir Roy. Ar. Mukul Mitra (Ex-Chairman, IIA-WB Chapter) sharing his sentiments expressed "Kabirda was two years senior to me at IIT. Although I did not know him closely at the Institute we became great friends during our long association with the IIA West Bengal Chapter. He was Chairman for two consecutive terms and worked with commitment for the profession's, Chapter's and Institute's interest. Professionally a meticulously complete Architect he specialised in health-care design. In his passing I have lost a family friend, and guide."

Ar. Saibal Sen recalled his childhood friend Ar. Somnath Ghosh. "A cheerful lovable character with ever smiling face and an indomitable passion for solving the difficult riddles we often have to overcome in life. Always in his life he had been a good Samaritan whoever has approached him for any kind of assistance..He used to have a selfless approach in extending help whether to a person or a pet. He didn't keep himself restricted within the ambits of a consultant once he started practising. After Sir Ratan Tata propably he is the second Architect to tune into entrepreneur- Developer, Petrol pump owner, Hotelier..." he added.

The other notable speakers of the evening were Ar. Parashar Basu, Ar. Gopal Mitra , Ar. Partha Ranjan Das, Ar Ashis Bose , Ar Shubhrajit Das and Ar Ayan Sen. Many others like Ar. Dilip Chatterjee, Ar. Subir Basu and Ar. Debotosh Sahoo also shared their memories.



Ar. Partha Ranjan Das, commemorating Ar. Charles Correa and Ar. Kabir Ray



Ar. Shubhrajit Das, sharing his experience of working with Ar. Charles Correa

## Special Column by Ar. Ashish Acharjee, Intern (1987), Project Architect (1988-90) with Ar. Charles Correa

### Charles Correa: MY MASTER MY INSPIRATION

A walk down memory lane traverses through mixed emotions and images that are both blurred as well as sharp. The first day I walked up the stairs, to the first floor office at 9, Mathew Road, Mumbai - 700004, after getting down at Charni Road railway station, seems like yesterday - vivid and fresh in the mind.

That was the summer of 1987, the beginning of my tryst with a legend and inspiration for a life time.

What began as an awe-inspiring meeting with the master, gradually transformed into the most educative and enjoyable experience of a life time - I began my internship with Charles Correa. After shaking off the initial fear and trepidation, I embarked on a beautiful journey that taught me how to see and think and observe at close quarters and experience how a mastermind worked. Those were exciting times with Jawahar Kala Kendra in Rajasthan, IDBI training center at Hyderabad, PMI New York on the drawing boards (computers were still a far cry). Butter sheet overlays, study models and free hand sketches made their rounds as ideas crystallized from thin air and conjured from metaphors and symbols. Isometric drawings and detail sections were Charles's favorites.

I will refrain from explaining his projects simply because they are widely catalogued and is easily available on the net for anyone interested in his works. Instead, I will try to reminisce my times with him and later as I saw and understood him.

Everyone called him Charles. From Monica, his beautiful wife to all and sundry including start ups and trainees like me. His tall and handsome demeanour, restless gait and the manner in which his eyes, hand, paper and deep scribbling with soft lead pencils fused into an enigmatic whole, left everyone who came near him, affected. He chased the perfect and the beautiful, sometimes with the impatience of a child but more often with a cultured contemplation. I had never seen him meditate, but suspect that, he was meditating all the time amidst his most routine daily chores. I realised much later in life, the real import of his manners and thought processes- or patterns to be more precise. He would multi-task with effortless ease and read vociferously. His collection

of books required serious cataloguing - a job that he entrusted to me in 1988. He appreciated my methodical and structured approach.

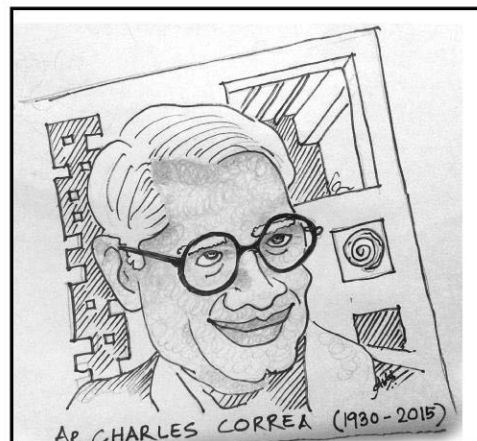
His professional life had two, in fact three, very distinct phases as he evolved. The first stage was when he was back from USA with his exposure to modern masters' works and philosophy and when Chandigarh was happening in India under Corbusier-who worked in a semi basement black cube. After several attempts, Charles managed to meet him.

The first phase was experimentation with 'what was learnt' with dexterity and creative brilliance. The Mumbai Master Plans, several projects and visualizations of this phase- Handloom Pavilion at Delhi-1958, Hindustan Lever Pavilion-Delhi 1961, un-built India Pavilion for Osaka Expo in 1969 clearly mark the trail of a path breaker. His search for an Indian identity and his values on cultural regionalism, climate, local materials and social factors blended inside his mind and expressed themselves through his architecture. Gandhi Ashram, Bharat Bhavan, Kala Academy and Crafts Museum are testimonies to his genius.

The second phase was after 'Vistara' the exhibition on Indian Architecture that he co-curated with Pravina Mehta, Uttam Jain, Devangana Desai and Dilip Purohit. During and after Vistara, his intellectual transformation and understanding pushed Correa to territories that a modern architect would dare to traverse not just because of its complex and near arcane insinuations but also the difficulty in adapting and expressing it through architecture. But he did that successfully with a saint-like dedication to create landmarks. Jawahar KALA Kendra at Jaipur, Vidhan Bhavan at Bhopal, Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) at Pune are examples.

The third phase of his works until he retired and passed away was literally an embodiment of all that he stood for and learnt and internalised. His work at 'Champalimaud Center for the unknown at Lisbon', The 'Ismaily Center at Toronto' are ethereal in their philosophical content and artistic expression making the assembly of 'material' seem 'immaterial' draped in an all engulfing and subtle spiritual experience.

That achieved, the fusion of the inside with the outside or vice versa, Correa passed away almost like King Arthur '.... from the great deep to the great deep he goes...' as a triumphant man who realised it all to himself leaving behind the world and critics to evaluate him for generations to come. May his soul rest in peace.



A Tribute By Ar. Abhishek Dutta

## Our representatives to the National Bodies:



Ar. Debotosh Sahoo of IIA WB Chapter has been elected as the **National Council member of IIA for the term 2015-2017** in the election held in the month of June 2015.

**Co-Ordinates**  
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9830090144



Dr. Amitava Roy of IIA WB Chapter has been elected as the **IIA Representative on COA for the term 2015-2018** : Eastern Region in the election held in the month of July 2015.

**Co-Ordinates**  
r.amitava@gmail.com  
9830007654

## Forthcoming Events

**Official IIA WB Website Launch** - Official Website for The Indian Institute of Architects, West Bengal Chapter, is going to be formally launched on 22 August, 2015 at Yule Hall, Tollygunge Club. All members are cordially invited to the event.

**Teachers' Day Celebrations** - Tentative date for the event has been fixed for September 5th 2015.

**World Habitat Day** - An event is being planned tentatively on October 10th 2015.

**National Convention 2015** - Tentative dates are 18-19 December 2015.

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