

NEWSLETTER



THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

WEST BENGAL CHAPTER

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From the Chairperson's Desk

Dear Members

It is that time of year when the Goddess of Creation, Preservation and Annihilation is eagerly awaited and the planning for her sojourn brings together cultural, artistic, political, communal, aesthetic, spatial, historic, symbolic and various other intents. The activity of planning, designing and erecting of Puja Pandals involves and engages the entire community in a manner that does not find too many parallels across the globe. Dialogue, public opinion, consultation, dissent and consensus together transform dreams into reality. A tourist visiting Kolkata during this special period savours the city at its most resplendent and gets an insight into the ethos that makes this city. The pandals of the city could evoke visions of the Ganga, famous personalities, milestone events, natural and built landmarks and much much more. The design invites one to engage in dialogue with the different elements of the structure, with the other visitors, with the supreme power and with oneself.

Should we not reflect if some of these qualities, if not all could manifest in our designs as architects too? Would we not be able to influence lifestyles through our creations?

As Winston Churchill once said "We shape our buildings and then our buildings shape us."

With best wishes for the festive season to all

Gita Balakrishnan

NEWSLETTER request for opting e-copy

Our first newsletter of the term was released on the 22nd of August 2015 – we have received confirmations from over 100 members that they would like to receive newsletters and all other communication as soft copies. This is part of our drive to reduce the use of paper. If you would like to receive only soft copies, do send a mail saying "**NO HARD COPY**" to iiawbchapter@gmail.com The Newsletter may also be downloaded anytime from our website <http://iiawbchapter.org/newsletters/>

Editorial

History is changing its course swiftly enough to miss even the blinks. From the disturbing image of dead Syrian child, to the economic melt down of the country claiming most of the pages of classical history of architecture; from the demise of the most successful sports administrator of our city to the recently found trace of water on Mars. For us, though, slowdown in real estate and suspended projects are probably bigger concern.

Yet, we all have a unique ability to set aside all our concerns by a simple stroke of a pencil to create a dream that we can jump into in the realm of virtual reality. As the pencil marks the paper producing simulacrum of reality by somewhat uncontrolled form of sympathetic magic, the process of making architecture begins. To boost those abilities one needs inspiration from the forerunners of the design fraternity. And we are lucky enough to get a chance to be enchanted by international stalwarts like Fumihiko Maki, Rahul Mehrotra, Boonserm Premthada, Peter Oborn et al. at the IIA National Convention 2015 popularly known as IIA NATCON.

With visibly increased enthusiasm around chapter activity, it is perhaps, not incorrect to expect a lot more members coming out to participate wholeheartedly towards making NATCON'15 a grand success and an exemplary one in the history of IIA.

Meanwhile, sadly, we have lost a few inspiring seniors of our fraternity, Ar. Gopal Mitra & Prof. Anupam Banerji, who will remain in our memory forever.

As your new editor, may I request all of you to actively participate in the newsletter and 'demand' what you would like to have in order to make it more relevant and interesting. We would love to have your opinion even on the issues we may agree to disagree.

Happy Puja to all.

Ar. Abhishek Dutta,
Editor, IIA – WB Chapter

You may write to editor : editor.iiawbchapter@gmail.com

IIA WB CHAPTER CELEBRATES TEACHERS' DAY 2015

IIA WB Chapter celebrated Teachers' Day on 5th September, 2015, at the Chapter Premises. The programme started with commemorating one of the greatest teachers of all times, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The "People's President" once said- "If the people remember me as a good teacher that will be the biggest honour for me".

The Chairperson, IIA WB Chapter, Ar. Gita Balakrishnan welcomed the gathering.

On this occasion, Prof. Anupam Banerji, who passed away last month was remembered. A Professor emeritus of the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Waterloo, Canada, Prof. Banerji had exhibited his works on art and architecture in Canada, USA, China, India and Mexico. Ar. Dibyendu Chakravorty, Prof. Keya Mitra and Prof. Samir Kumar Rakshit shared their memories of Prof. Banerji. An audio message sharing memories of association with Prof. Anupam Banerji sent by Ar. Sudipto Chakravarty, who could not attend the programme, was played out too.



Prof. Monideep Chattopadhyay felicitating Prof. B.K. Sengupta

Prof. Biplab Kanti Sengupta, an eminent teacher, who recently retired from the Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, IIT Kharagpur, was invited to share his insights on architecture through some of his work. He explained the challenges and the route to overcome the same for his project within IIT campus at Kharagpur. He was felicitated and presented a memento by Prof. Monideep Chattopadhyay, retired professor of Department of Architecture, Jadavpur University.

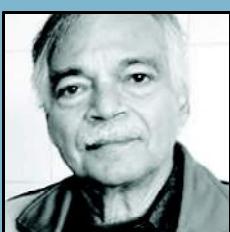


Ar. Dibyendu Chakravarthy & Prof. Keya Mitra commemorating Prof. Anupam Banerjee

Along with the veterans, the house also had a young talent - Ar. Pritam Dey, Zonal winner (Zone-2) and Finalist (5th position) for National Award for Excellence in Architectural Thesis 2015, by NIASA, CoA. The graduate from Piloo Mody College of Architecture, Cuttack showcased his thesis work. The session became a platform for discourse and synergy.

A technical presentation was made by the sponsor of the evening, Greaves Power, on Greaves generators.

Prof. Anupam Banerji passed away



Prof. Anupam Banerji
(1938 - 2015)

Professor Anupam Banerji passed away on August 23, 2015. Prof. Banerji spent ten years in the U.S. studying, teaching, consulting and exhibiting works of art and architecture, many of which won national awards, before he joined the University of Waterloo's School of Architecture in 1970 where he worked until retirement. His research areas included architectural acoustics, modern architecture, Eastern and Western architecture. He had a passion for teaching, designing, painting, publishing and was a mentor to many students and friends over the years. Prof. Banerji's articles have appeared in leading architectural journals, his art has been exhibited around the world, and he has published eight books on Design, Architecture and Poetry.

IIA WB CHAPTER LAUNCHES OFFICIAL WEBSITE on 22nd August, 2015

Aug 23: Marking the start of a new session (2015-17) IIA WB Chapter hosted an event to launch the official website, www.iiawbchapter.org, on 22nd August 2015 at Yule hall, Tollygunge club, Kolkata. The program consisted of Website Launch, Sponsored Presentation by UAL Koncrete on AAC Blocks followed by Fellowship and Dinner.

The gathering was welcomed by Jt. Secretary, IIA WB Chapter, Ar. Debjit Adhikari. Ar. Sunil Kumar Ghosh, the senior most member of the chapter was invited to launch the website. In his public address the veteran architect highlighted the need to confront the issues of "copyright" and "public awareness" in architecture.

Ar. Debjit Adhikari and Ar. Abhishek Dutta gave a run through informing the audience how the website could provide necessary information on the chapter as well as scope for interaction and way finding for the fraternity.

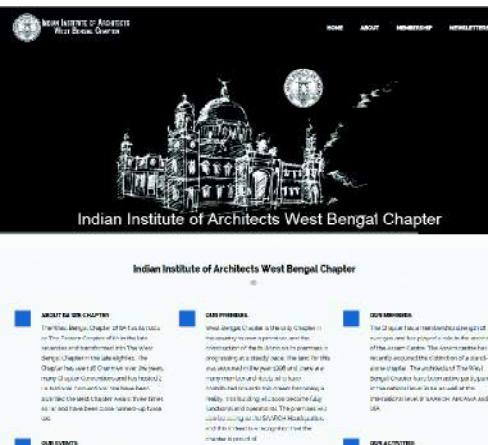


(From left) Mr. Arun Sharaf, Mr. KNP Sinha, Mr. S.K. Roy, President, UAL Koncrete and Mr. S. Diwakar, Technical Consultant during Q&A session of presentation on AAC Blocks.

The technical presentation on AAC blocks by UAL Koncrete followed which unfolded an important innovation in the field of building materials. The "Question Answer" session further clarified issues regarding the use of AAC blocks in different types of projects. Further discussions and discourses continued informally during Fellowship and Dinner bringing in a successful end to the evening.



Ar. Sunil Ghosh Addressing the audience after launching the Chapter website



A Web-page of IIA WB Chapter



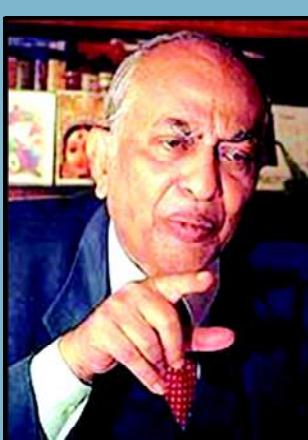
The gathering at Tollygunge Club

Sad Demise of Ar. Gopal Mitra

Ar. Gopal Mitra, an eminent architect, alumnus and ex-Faculty at IIT Kharagpur and one of the most respected and multifaceted professional and entrepreneur, passed away at the age of 79 in Kolkata. Right after his Masters in Architecture from University of Michigan, USA, he was hand-picked by Ar. Minoru Yamasaki during one of his exhibitions, to be a member of the design team of the World Trade Centre, New York. He is the pioneer of multi-storied housing complexes in Kolkata through architect-led design-built approach.

Apart from being member of several charitable organizations, he was an active participant in most of the IIA programmes with his thought-provoking questions and wise remarks.

We are going to miss your glorious presence. Rest in Peace, Sir.



Ar. Gopal Mitra
(1936 - 2015)

Professional Lecture Series

In our endeavor to showcase works of Architects, IIA West Bengal Chapter has decided to dedicate the last Friday of every month to extent support to them by allowing Professionals to present their works. These sessions will be open to non-members as well.

The first presentation of this series on 25th September, 2015, Friday was on the theme "Experimentation with Eclecticism" by SQUARE, a group of young promising Architects who covered their professional journey through an exceptional presentation.



Ar. Ranit Maity & Ar. Subhrajit G Mitra being felicitated by Prof. Kalyan Mukherjee

Report on Meeting with DG (Building), KMC

IIA WB Chapter was given an appointment to meet Ar. Anindya Karforma, Director General, Building, Kolkata Municipal Corporation. The meeting was attended by Ar. Gita Balakrishnan, Ar. Sunil Maniramka, Ar. Anjan Ukil and Ar. Saibal Sen. The issues discussed and the course of action outlined are as follows:

DG Building suggested that he would convene a joint meeting between Survey Department, IIA representatives, Commissioner etc. to understand the problems being faced by our members.

IIA Members represented to the DG that there is a time lag between the time of submission of plans by payment of the required fee and the actual commencement of the process of sanctioning. DG has asked his office to study the data of all applications that have been paid for but have not been responded to so that this issue may be addressed.

A request was made to avoid the need for submitting hard copies for land assessment. DG clarified that hard copies would be required for land parcels exceeding 5 cottahs in size.

The DG requested IIA members to provide a feedback to his office on the online plan sanctioning system. This will be done after studying the same over a period of time and getting a feedback from our members.

IIA highlighted that there was a disparity in the interpretation of rules across boroughs. DG said that IIA should prepare where a comparison of the evident differences across boroughs and submit the same. It was also decided that there would be a workshop with engineers from different boroughs and IIA members after this comparison was submitted.

The DG requested all IIA members to comply with rules in order to reduce prayers for relaxation. IIA assured that the message would be spread and stressed that this need for relaxation arises because of difference in the layout scenarios and critical configuration while the byelaws stay the same.

A discussion was held on the need to prepare detailed maps and studies of all localities which would incorporate information on infrastructure, age of buildings, ownership and other details. A capable organization would be required to handle this exercise and a pilot project would need to be undertaken to begin with. IIA offered to prepare the terms of reference for this pilot exercise.

Achievements

Ar. Kingshuk Ghosh has received recognition at the 13th Annual Awards for Excellence for "Outstanding First Generation Enterprise" by FOSMI (Federation of Small and Medium Industries, West Bengal) which was given away by the Honorable Union Minister for Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu. The award is for his modular furniture design and manufacturing company M/s Ergo Woodlines Pvt. Ltd., which has its factory at Howrah & showroom at Salt Lake, catering to pan India clients.



18th & 19th December, 2015

THEME: PEOPLE AND THEIR SPACES

A City's character is defined by its people and their spaces.

Before the dawn of civilization, there were no “people”, only individuals. Individuals who used and enjoyed spaces created by nature; caves for shelter, rivers for bathing, moonlights for gazing and seas to contemplate. With time, community-living and society-living evolved and the need for different kinds of spaces – built and unbuilt came about. And hence the need for an architect to shape these spaces and define the experiences of the people using them arose.

Spaces and buildings that create them could be of different types. Of which, public spaces are the building blocks that visually impact urban society. They provide the ultimate challenge to the architects as they are prone to be critically appraised by the best critics of our society—the public at large. Starting from Hadrian's Villa to the Roman Forum, from Nalanda to Fatepur Sikri, public buildings with their plazas and squares have defined aspirations of the civil societies. Through the ages, at different points, political, religious and commercial powers have dreamt big and their architects have toiled hard to give shape to their dreams. But these were also dreams which brought people together and formed strong foundations for cohesive societies and gave expression to their intellectual or creative thoughts. The transformation of how public spaces and buildings are perceived and conceived today can be sensed through the newer creations around us.

Complementing the spaces and buildings that are shared property, there are those that are designed for specific purposes or for a specific target group. Living, communication, transport, games, shopping, working, entertainment are some on an endless list of activities that require the architect's expertise.

Architects are gifted with the opportunity to decide what people see and experience. A space designed by an architect has the potential not just to draw people but also embrace them over time and generations.

The theme People and their Spaces aims at exploring how spaces are shaped by people and people shaped by spaces. And what better venue can you think of other than Kolkata, the home of the “argumentative Indian”? We at the IIA, West Bengal Chapter are proud to host National Convention on People and their Spaces in December 2015.

Friends, do join us for this convention and enjoy the People and the spaces of Kolkata.



SPEAKERS

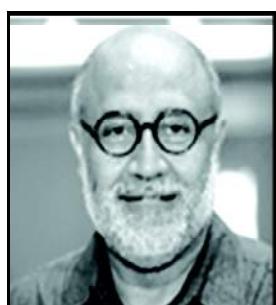
Ar. Fumihiko Maki, Winner of Prince of Wales Prize in Urban Design in 1993 from Harvard University was honored by many of the professions highest accolades, including the Wolf Prize from Israel in 1988, the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture in 1990, the Gold Medal of the UIA in 1993. Maki has lectured extensively in Japan, the United States and Europe. His collective writings were published in the volume, *Nurturing Dreams*, by MIT Press in 2008.

Fumihiko Maki,
Tokyo



Rahul Mehrotra is an architect, urbanist and educator who is the Founder Principal of RMA Architects and is Professor of Urban Design and Planning and Chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. Mehrotra has written and lectured extensively on issues to do with architecture, conservation and urban planning in Mumbai and India.

Rahul Mehrotra,
Mumbai/Boston



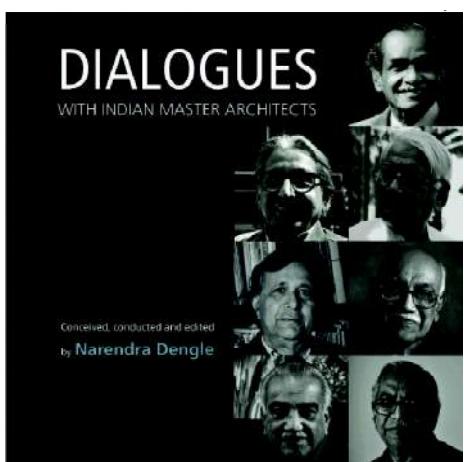
The winner of the 2011 ar+d Awards for Emerging Architecture, Boonserm holds the position of Chairman of the Department of Interior Architecture at Chulalongkorn University. The Kantana Film and Animation Institute is a prime example of Boonserm's theoretical and real-world ideals. To embody an idea of pushing architecture from "Modern" to "Timeless"

Boonserm Premthada,
Bangkok Project Studio



Peter is Vice President, International at RIBA and a National member of the RIBA COUNCIL. He founded the London-based Aedas Research & Development group, which developed specialisms in sustainability, advanced modelling and computational design.

Peter Oborn,
RIBA London



Ar. Peter Stutchbury from Australia and **Ar. Vo Trong Nghia** from Veitnam may also be joining as speakers (*subject to final confirmation*)

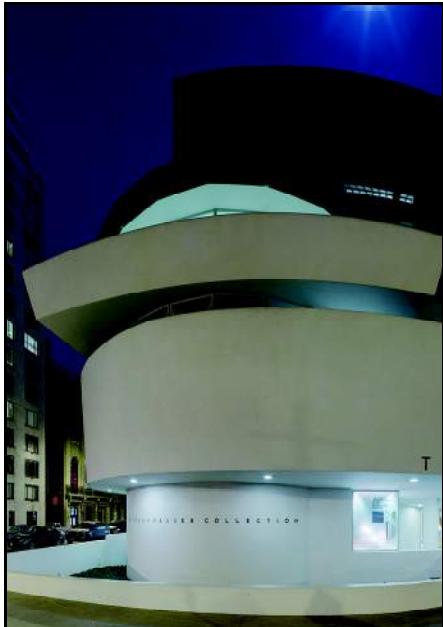
PANEL DISCUSSION

on the Launch of the book
DIALOGUES WITH INDIAN MASTER ARCHITECTS
 By Ar. Narendra Dingle
 with Ar. Pushkar Kanvinde
 Ar. Prasanna Desai

... For more Information & Registration please visit <http://iianatcon2015.com/>

The Architect's challenge Set 1

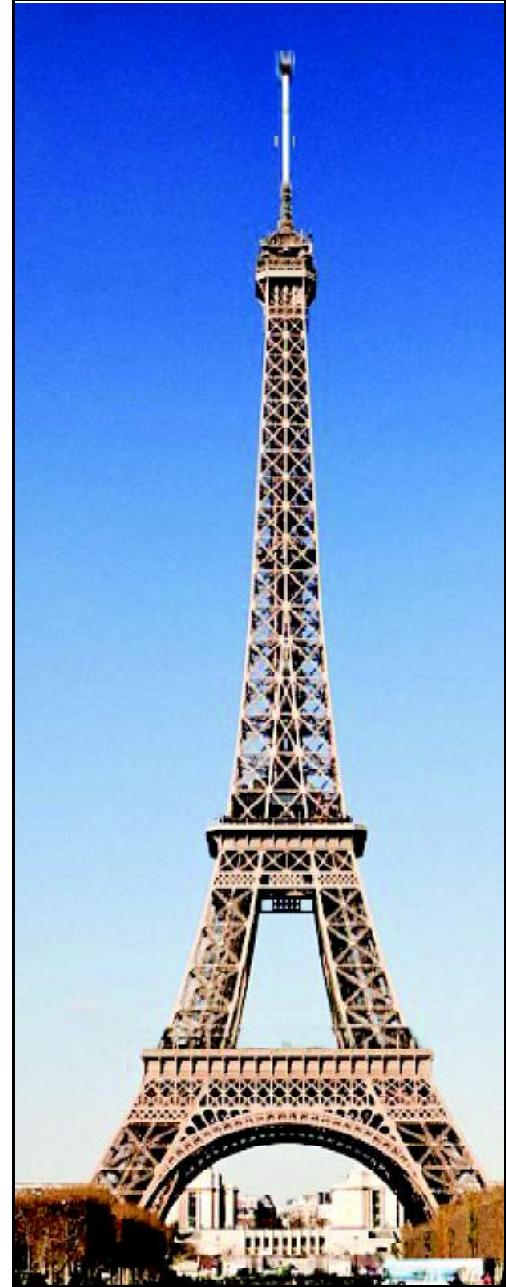
The architect's challenge is a new initiative to engage more members with the newsletter.



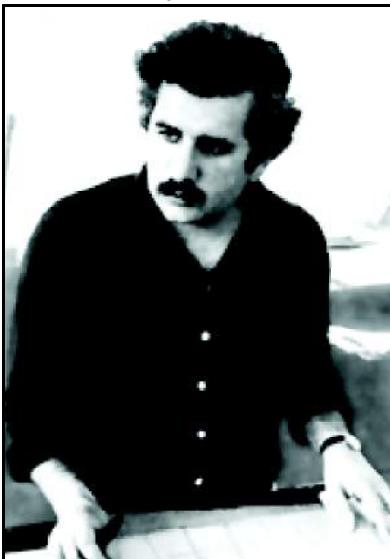
A. Identify the structure :



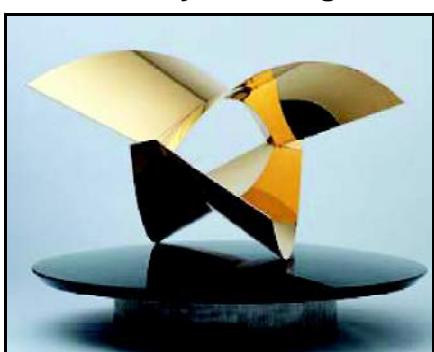
B. Identify the Project :



C. Identify the architect :



D. Identify the Designer :



E. What are wrong with the picture ?

The answer of the following questions are to be e-mailed within 31st Oct '15 to editor.iiawbchapter@gmail.com. The name(s) of the participants with right answer will be published in the next issue.
Any suggestions for improvement of newsletter are also welcome from members.

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 And Student Representatives



A sketch by Ar. Sanjana Panja, a JU Alumni, who is presently studying at Politecnico di milano, Italy

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Chapter email : iiawbchapter@gmail.com.

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