



THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

WEST BENGAL CHAPTER

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At a glance



7th ARCASIA
Round table

Ar. Mohd. Shaheer
No more



NATCON 2015



Professional
Lecture Series II

World Architecture
Day Celebration



From the Chairperson's Desk

It was a trying time for Chennaites when the rain and floods wreaked havoc on their lives. Our Chapter was the first to reach out and offer a sum of Rs.1 lakh for relief and this was routed through The Indian Institute of Architects. The Karnataka Chapter organized the effort.

While such disasters wake us up to the reality of how ill-prepared the authorities and the community at large are to handle calamities, a long-term blueprint for disaster mitigation is rarely put in place. Even if such a plan is in place, it needs to be dynamic and participatory; failing which it is as good as not being there.

It is after over a decade that our Chapter has been bestowed with the honour of hosting the National Convention of IIA. We are thankful for the help that has come in from different quarters of our Chapter and from other Chapters towards the success of this mega-event. Let us all work together in making our Chapter stand out for its hospitality and warmth towards all the delegates from outside our state.

I take this opportunity to wish each of you and your family happiness in this festive season as well as a perfect 2016! May the New Year be a harbinger of Peace Happiness and Fulfillment for all.

Best Wishes

Ar. Gita Balakrishnan

Editorial

India is getting 'smarter' at least as per the promises of the governments at centre and state alike. Design professionals along with concerned citizens spend hours analysing and discussing city-centric problems - increasing pollution levels to significant loss of city greens, from encroachments to crime rates, destruction of heritage in the name of development, to complete loss of cultural identity through politically motivated mindless twisting of regulations. The disparity in both thinking and treatment is apparent to a few trained eyes, but for majority it takes a calamity in scale of ones in Nepal or Chennai to shake us off the comfort of ignorance.

Despite all the talk and hype over smart cities, the smartness is restricted to surveillance & electronic connections rather than connections between people ignoring rights of citizens to be able walk safely on footpaths without stumbling, to look at the play of clouds uncluttered by the characterless skyscrapers. Feeling of being safe amongst neighbours anywhere in the city. A right to own the city in the truest sense.

Amidst such confusion one gets a chance to bring together the greatest minds around the world and be enchanted by the words of wisdom at IIA National Convention with the most relevant theme 'People and their Spaces'. We all look forward to an enriching learning time just before a brand new year greets us with the promise of prosperity, good health and new aspirations.

Ar. Abhishek Dutta,
Editor, West Bengal Chapter
The Indian Institute of Architects

Please feel free to share your thoughts with the editor,
write to : editor.iawbchapter@gmail.com

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7th ARCASIA Round Table on Green & Sustainable Architecture hosted by IIA on 5th Oct '15 at Kolkata

7th ARCASIA Round Table on Green & Sustainable Architecture hosted by IIA on 5th Oct '15 at Kolkata

The 7th Green Round table Conference of ARCASIA (Architects Regional Council of Asia) was held in Kolkata this year. Initially the event was scheduled to be held in Malaysia but was turned down by the host country at the last moment under unavoidable circumstances. The focus turned on India as the second choice & The West Bengal Chapter grabbed the opportunity to play host to this yearly event which saw a modest turnout from the member countries namely, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Indonesia & the host country, India.

The President of The Indian Institute of Architects, Ar. Divya Kush accompanied by the immediate Past President Ar. Prakash Deshmukh & Vice President Ar. Vilas Avachad graced the occasion at Tollygunge Club. Incidentally the event coincided with The World Habitat Day & World Architecture Day which gave credence to the theme "Public Spaces for all".

Ar. Divya Kush set the ball rolling by declaring that these meets will have sufficient importance if a proper resolution be made during its conclusion. Ar. Sathirut Nui Tandanand from Thailand & also the President, ARCASIA, seconded the proposal. The first session witnessed the Key Note Speaker, Prof. Santosh Kumar Ghosh taking centre stage for the next hour. His deliberations were laced with startling statistics & his flair to get everyone's attention

Ar. Qazi M. Arif, Chairman ACGSA (ARCASIA Committee for Green & Sustainable Architecture) opened the session with slides showcasing the event held in Bangladesh. The other participants, Ar. Chhado Drukpa, from Bhutan, Ar. Bernard Gomez from Srilanka, Ar. Man Singh & Ar. Muskey, from Nepal, Ar. Masudur Rahman Khan from Bangladesh & Ar. Debatosh Sahu from India took turns to express their views on Green Sustainability.

Interestingly each country had their views expressed in the right spirit where Bhutan shared the fact that the Architects' role coming in last after the Govt. policies, Srilanka expressing the need for recharging ground water, Nepal giving a brief mention of Vaastu & Feng Shui affecting the profession, Thailand coming up with their own manual TREES, Bangladesh presenting examples of saving open spaces from hawks waiting



Ar. Prakash Deshmukh, Ar. Divya Kush, Ar. Qazi M. Arif, Ar. Masudur Rahman & Ar. Debatosh Sahu

to grab any & every open space available, reminding of similar such struggles in India, & finally India making it ample clear that providing incentives in the form of F.A.R. would actually promote more & more Green Building making inroads into the Urban agglomeration. Nepal bringing it to the notice of all the participants that India is the second country after the U.S. to have the maximum number of Green certified buildings.

The meeting ended with participants happy with a fruitful meeting which opened up a lot of avenues by sharing views from different cultural & social backdrop. Everyone agreed they would have been happier if the participation would have been more from the member countries. As it transpired "There's always a tomorrow."



Members of the ARCASIA Round Table with the Key note Speaker Prof. Santosh Ghosh

Student's Achievements

TRANSPARENCE (Students' Design Competition)

East Zone Winners- Ayan Roy, Saisha Mattoo, Soumyodeep Das from IEST, Howrah

ARCHUMEN 15-16 (Students' Quiz) -

First Runner-up: Kunal Rakshit & Sulagna De from **Jadavpur University, Kolkata**

Second Runners-up: Debmalya Ghosh & Saheli Ghosh from **Jadavpur University, Kolkata**

Professional Lecture Series

As a part of the professional lecture series, the 2nd lecture of the term on "Kolkata Real Estate - The Face" was deliberated at the chapter premises on 28th Nov 2015 by Ar. Kaushik Gupta, an M.Arch. from J.U. presently the technical head, Corporate Lending functions Eastern Region for HDFC, Ar. Gupta runs the audience through a nostalgic journey of the start of city with rare collections of photographs to the present trends of real estate development of Kolkata – its form and function with relevant graphical data on the price movements of real estate both rental and outright sale.

The presence of many senior members made the occasion memorable.



Ar. Gupta being felicitated by Prof. Samaresh Mukherjee

Sustainability and Environment Cell

The Chapter has formed a very important Cell for Sustainability and Environment with Dr. Suchandra Bardhan, Ar. Sanchita Das and Ar. Akhil Ranjan Sarkar as the Key members.

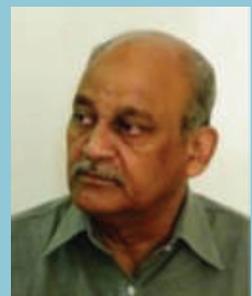
Positive Impact of Meeting DG (Building), KMC

Following the meeting with representatives of IIA WB Chapter on Sept'15, & Director General, Building, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the office of Municipal Commissioner (as per the approval of Mayor-in-Council dated 16.09.15), has recently issued a circular (81 of 2015-16 dt. 03.12.15) whereby the proposal of a new building need no longer carry a separately collected Survey Observation Report (SOR) from Ch V&S, instead, it will now only have the application for the same and that would get automatic internal forwarding within 3 days & the applicant will SOR within 10days from submission. This, apparently, will reduce the time for sanctioning substantially and make the process a smoother single window system.

Sad Demise of legendary Landscape architect Prof. Mohammad Shaheer

One of the most respected Landscape architects of our country, Prof. Mohammad Shaheer passed away 21st November, early morning in his sleep at the age of 67. Prof. Shaheer taught and influenced a whole generations of Landscape architects across the nation, with his sharp critical yet thoughtful comments.

After his masters at SPA in urban design, Prof. Shaheer took a second masters in landscape architecture from the University of Sheffield. He taught at SPA for over two decades from 1976. A Ford Fellow, Shaheer extensively wrote about and practiced landscape design, giving direction to many in the field. His Delhi-based practice, Shaheer Associates, has projects across the country over four decades, largely in the public domain. Prof. Shaheer won many awards, including the medal from the Indian Society Of Landscape Architecture and the HUDCO Award for Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Park in Lucknow, where he was born. He partnered with some of India's most respected architects and institutions to weave magic into spaces he became involved with — ranging from industrial sites and institutions to memorials and monument complexes, among others. some of his significant projects such as the Vir Bhumi, Sanskriti Kendra, Rajiv Gandhi Ninaivakam in Sriperumbudur, Begum Hazrat Mahal Park and the award winning Ram Manohar Lohia Park among others.



Ar. Mohd. Shaheer
(1948 - 2015)

IIA West Bengal Chapter Celebrated WORLD HABITAT DAY and WORLD ARCHITECTURE DAY

The West Bengal Chapter of The Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) celebrated World Architecture and Habitat day on 5th October 2015 at the Tollygunge Club, Kolkata.

A panel discussion on the theme “SMART CITIES – PROPOSALS PROBLEMS PROSPECTS” was organised where Prof. K. P. Bhattacharya, former Chairman Indian Institute of Architects, WB Chapter and Executive Director, Centre for Human Settlements moderated the session. The deliberations was focused on various experiences of planning cities and townships since West Bengal has been allocated four Smart Cities – Salt Lake, Haldia, Durgapur and New Town.

Ar. Sathirut Nui Tandanand, President of ARCASIA from Thailand, defined Smart City as a city which is technologically advanced yet working for Humanity with empathy, sensitivity & respect to history & culture which enhances social activities. He also emphasized the potential of Indian architects and planners to understand the need from within and offer best solution not only for India but can offer direction to the world.

Mr. Gianni Silvestrini, from Palermo, Italy spoke about Incorporation of renewable resources - water, solar, wind energies.

Ar. Prakash Deshmukh emphasized the need for awareness and involvement of the end user and smart use of technology. He advocated keeping functioning and maintenance cost to be clearly delineated within the projected development cost for a city to make it smarter and inclusive.

Mr. Damien Syed, Hon'ble Consul General of France in Kolkata, informed the gathering India's significant role and commitments at United Nation. India is ambitious and aiming to increase in fuel by 2030 to 40% (non-renewable energy) & hydroelectricity by 25000 MW. He also made a point to mention France is interactively & intensively in support with anything related to conservation of fossil fuel and usage of Green Energy.

Amongst live comments coming over Skype with European perspective, Ar. Abhijit Paul compared the City with computers as Physical Infrastructure to hardware and people as software.

The concluding analysis made the points clear that the smartness of any city does not merely depend on the inclusion of newer gadgets and smarter infrastructures but more importantly the smartness of ideas and intention of the stakeholder of the city, from regulators to planners, from developers to dwellers, even the commuters and user of all sort.

The process of the exchange of ideas continued over the Dinner as well before the event finally ended with a success of being able to provoke thoughts for all concerned participants.



Ar. Saibal Sen introducing the Panel including the moderator



Continuing discussion through Skype making physical distances irrelevant on pertinent issues of global concerns.

INDIA won the honour of hosting ARCASIA Conference on 2017

The Indian Institute of Architects has won the honour of hosting ARCASIA Conference on 2017 which coincided with the 100 years of IIA, (As on 12th May 1917 The Architectural Student's Association (1917-22) was formed which later became The Bombay Architectural Association (1922-29) and thereafter became The Indian Institute of Architects from 1929).

Thanks to an engaging presentation by Ar. Lalichan, India could manage to win by a very narrow margin from the formidable co-bidder for the event, Bangladesh. The City of Jaipur is going to host the event in 2017.

IIA NATCON Students' Competition 2015 - Brief was to design a traffic Island which will make one 'THINK'



Ar. Partha Ranjan Das and Ar. Abin Choudhuri were the juries for the competition who had selected the following entries as top 6; The results will be formally announced at NATCON 2015

- A. Sourav Ghosh (3rd yr.) from Piloo Mody College of Architecture, Cuttack
- B. T.R. Radhakrishnan & Mona V Jain (2nd Yr.) from SAP, Anna University, Chennai
- C. Rajorshi Chatterjee & Sayantani Saha (4th Yr.) Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- D. Nida Haque & Samridhi Nalwa (4th Yr.) from Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
- E. Amjad VK from MES School Of Architecture, Kuttippuram, Kerala
- F. Buddha & Raj Kumar from Andhra University College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam



IIA-WB Cricket Team winning a Friendly match with IEST

The Cricket Team of IIA WB chapter played a limited over double innings friendly match with the university team of IEST, Howrah on 13th Dec at the Oval ground of the campus.

IIA-WB Chairperson Ar. Gita B. and Past Chairman Ar. Subir Basu joined the players at ground as IIA snatched victory at 2nd inning despite trailing after the 1st. by 8 runs.

SCORE

1st Innings (20 Overs)

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| IIA-WB –127/5 | Sayan-35;Sudipta.S-23 |
| | Bowling - Partha 4-0-21-2 |
| IEST–135/4 | Amritanshu-82*; Trinanjan-19 |
| | Bowling - Sujoy 4-0-17-2 |

2nd Innings (10 Overs)

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| IIA-WB – 76/4 | Sayan-22 |
| | Bowling - Partha 2-0-9-3 |
| IEST – 54/8 | Rahul 15* |
| | Bowling - Abhishek 2-0-5-4 |

IIA – WB won by 14 runs



The Star Architects, who left us for ever in 2015



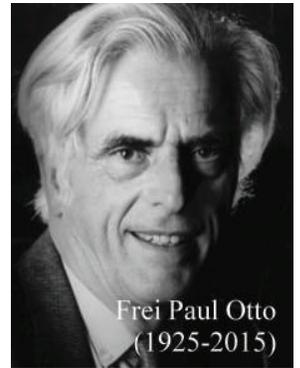
Michael Graves
(1934-2015)

Michael Graves, one of the most prominent and prolific Post modernist American architects of the latter 20th century, who designed more than 350 buildings around the world but was perhaps best known for his tea-kettle and pepper mill died 12th March this year.

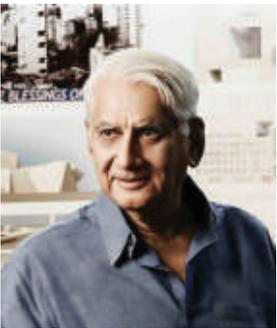


Frei Paul Otto was one of the greatest German architect and structural engineer noted for his use of lightweight structures, in particular tensile and membrane structures, including the roof of the Olympic Stadium in Munich for the 1972 Summer Olympics.

He passed away on 9th March this year right before the receiving the Pritzker Prize for 2015



Frei Paul Otto
(1925-2015)



Charles Mark Correa
(1930-2015)

Charles Mark Correa was an Iconic Indian architect, urban planner and activist. Credited for the creation of modern architecture in post-Independence India, he was celebrated for his sensitivity to the needs of the urban poor and for his use of traditional methods and materials.

He had inspired generations of Indian architects towards a sensible architecture relevant to the place it belongs.



Achievements

Ar. Debatosh Sahu has been elected as Deputy Chair (Chair for term '16-'17) of ARCASIA Committee for Green & Sustainable Architecture.

Ar. Sahu has also been nominated to receive 'Outstanding Member of the Year 2015' of IIA.

IIA Certificates of Merit has been awarded to Ar. Indranil Ghosh, Ar. Aditya Goswami, & Ar. Abhishek Dutta

Nazrul Tirtha, a cultural centre at New Town Kolkata, by Ar. Abin Chaudhri Was nominated as 'Finalist' in the Culture – Completed buildings Category at the World Architecture Festival 2015



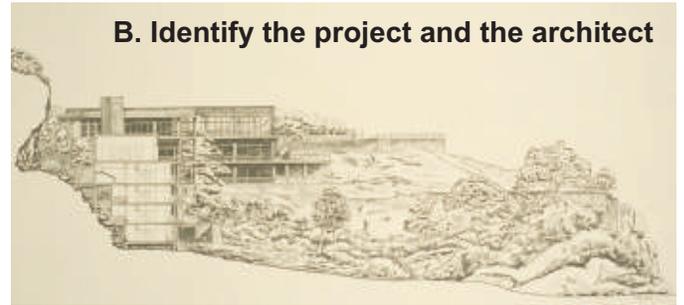
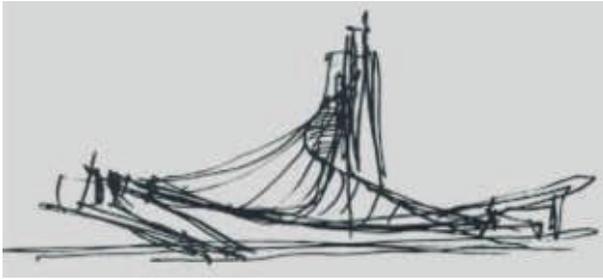
Ar. Abhishek Dutta has been awarded First Prize for the Saint Gobain 'Housing Innovation Challenge 2015' for his Innovative upgradable semi-prefab packable housing concept, out of 100+ entries from all over the country.

The Architect's Challenge Set 2

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

The answer of the following questions are to be e-mailed within 15th Jan '16 to editor.iiawbchapter@gmail.com. The name(s) of the participants with right answer will be published in the next issue.

A. Identify the project and the architect



The Architect's challenge Set 1 Answer

Here are the answers for the previous challenge



A. Guggenheim Museum by FLW



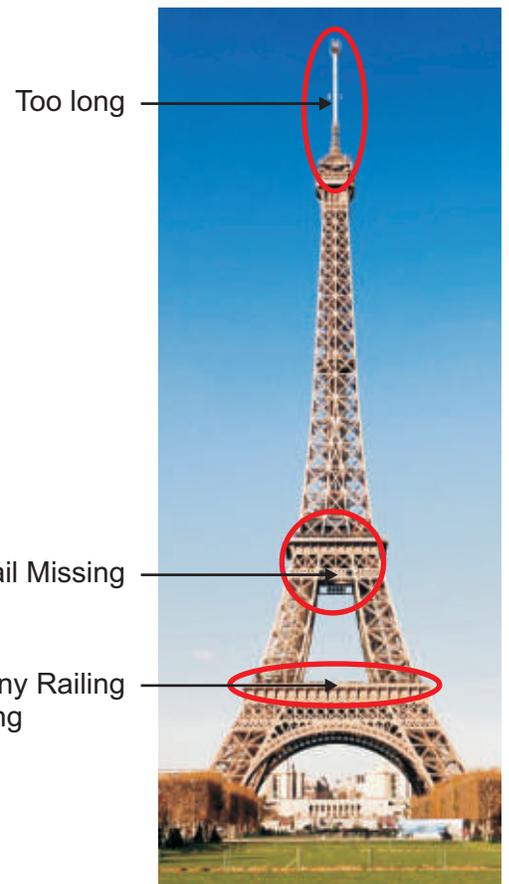
B. Vitra Design Museum



C. Ar. Moshe Safdie



D. Santiago Calatrava (Designer)



The only participant with all right answers is Kunal Rakshit (student of Jadavpur University). Congratulation Kunal !!!

Executive Committee IIA West Bengal Chapter 2015-17

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PEOPLE AND THEIR SPACES



KOLKATA 2015

DECEMBER 18-19, 2015

Venue : Vedic Village, Kolkata

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