

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

WEST BENGAL CHAPTER

REGISTERED UNDER THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT XXI OF 1860
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At a glance



IIA NATCON 2015



AN EVENING WITH AUTHORS



PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION



GENERAL BODY MEETING

From the Chairperson's Desk

I am happy that we executed the IIA NATCON in a manner that has done our Chapter proud and I am grateful to the team that made this possible. I believe that is one step that we have taken towards making our Chapter's presence at the National level. I often ask myself what I would like our chapter to have achieved at the end of our term. I believe that our Chapter should begin to be noticed as a professional body that is making a difference and contributing to a larger dialogue on policies and a better built environment. We should demonstrate, how through small design interventions and installations a quantum change could be brought about. There are many organisations that could be synergetic with ours. Networking with these organizations and finding a common ground to make an impact is essential. We have begun work in this direction and I am happy to share with you that we are partnering the Indian Plumbing Skills Council which is organizing a "Skills Competition for Plumbers" followed by a Skills Conclave on the 3rd of March at Kolkata. This is under the National Skills Development Corporation and the Pradhan Mantri's Kaushal Vikas Yojana or the Skill India Programme. Also, we plan to arrange for a design contest for the Srerampore Town Square with National Museum of Denmark and ITPI.

Another initiative that is all ready to be executed is a design charrette jointly with the NKDA and WBHIDCO to generate implementable design ideas for our city. We intend to collaborate with college students, architects and artists for this venture.

We would welcome our members to share their thoughts with us on any other such ideas and collaborations that we could undertake.

"The world will provide you with stones everyday. What you build out of it, is your choice. A Wall, a Road or a Bridge. You may even choose to do nothing. At the end, the world will know you by what you did with it."

Best Wishes
Ar. Gita Balakrishnan

Editorial

Since the last newsletter, our neglected planet has reluctantly rotated a few more times and perhaps ignorantly crossed some more danger signs too. And we, as usual, have been busy with our mostly mundane prosaic life looking for that illusive tomorrow when we shall 'Live'. In a way, missing the brilliant sunset, the artistic play of clouds to call aloud the season of love. But love is not in the air as the pollution is, which took just a breather in Delhi to acknowledge the odd-even policy for a couple of days or so. But counting these days for the rest of world has not been easy enough, which gave birth to new businesses of selling bottled air in China, as the Syrian crisis is still far from over.

In our land from controversies on intolerance to the devastating fire disarranging 'Make in India' platform – perhaps just a bit too much happening around us. The Sensex keeps the dancing shoes on and we the running shoes. As running too busy to even stop for a cup of tea, is in our habits now. Even though the 'Free Basic' is denied, the urge to respond to a FB post or a WhatsApp ping, marks impatience as the new devil for the entire generation of so called 'smart' era, almost like the impatient capital Ar. Rahul Mehrotra tried to tame through his architectural approach as he shared with us in the NATCON.

Natcon, speaking of which sparks the fond memories of the time well spend as we worked hand-in-hand with the real friends and fake foes, to pull out a NATCON of pure class. The lectures of Ar. Fumihiko Maki and other stalwarts in a single platform was as enriching as the finest beats of RDX – the real team of legendary Pancham-da. The beats has perhaps still kept us on our toes as the chapter has been working visibly hard to bridge the gaps between us and allied industries by partnering on conferences of common interest. Let's walk the common path together, as instead of moving faster, we long to go longer.

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

Annual National Convention of The Indian Institute of Architects - 2015

The Annual National Convention of The Indian Institute of Architects was organized by the West Bengal Chapter at the verdant Vedic Village, Kolkata on the 18th and 19th of December 2015. It turned out to be one of the largest and best conventions hosted by the IIA so far with close to 800 registered delegates and some of the best names of the fraternity as speakers deliberating on the theme “People and Their Spaces”.

The mega event began with the inaugural session on the morning of the 18th of December with IIA West Bengal Chapter Chairperson, Ar. Gita Balakrishnan welcoming the gathering and Ar. Debatosh Sahu, Chairman NATCON Organising Committee setting the pace for the two days. The Chief Guest, Mr. Debasish Sen (IAS), Principal Secretary Urban Development Government of West Bengal & Honourable Chairman, WBHIDCO Ltd. in his address spoke on public spaces and urged the assembled architects to come up with innovative ideas and solutions for rejuvenating urban spaces. The IIA President, Ar. Divya Kush also addressed the gathering and stressed on the importance of safeguarding the interests of the profession. The highlight of the session was the launch of a First Day Special Cover with cancellation to mark the occasion. Ms. Arundhaty Ghosh, Chief Post Master General WB Circle released the cover along with the IIA President and office bearers – Ar. Vilas Avachat (Vice President), Ar. Amogh Kumar Gupta (Junior Vice President), Ar. Sunil Degwekar (Treasurer), Ar. Prakash Deshmukh (Immediate Past President), Ar. Lalichan Zacharias and Ar. C.R.Raju (Jt. Hony. Secretaries). The event was inaugurated by the customary lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries.



The Baburao Mhatre Gold Medal is awarded annually to a Distinguished Architect or Man of Science or letters who has produced works which promote or facilitate the knowledge of Architecture or the various branches of Science connected therewith. The session saw this prestigious medal being awarded to Prof. Jeet Kumar Malhotra. Citation was read by Ar. C.R. Raju.



Mr. Debashish Sen, IAS, Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Govt. of W.B. addressing the audience.

The Madhav Achwal Gold Medal is given to a teacher, professor, lecturer or administrator who has made a lasting and dedicated contribution to architectural education and community service. Prof. Najamuddin was awarded The Madhav Achwal Gold Medal for this year.

The inaugural session also saw the release of a book titled 'Habib Rahman - The Architect of Independent India' authored by Prof.S.M.Akhthar, by the IIA President. The e-library and e-cataloguing on IIA website were also launched by Prof.Najamuddin and Ar.Prakash Deshmukh respectively.

Ar.Mukul Mitra, one of the mentors of the NATCON Committee introduced the theme and the inaugural session ended with a Vote of Thanks given by Ar.DebjitAdhikari, Jt. Hony. Secretary WB Chapter.

The technical sessions followed soon after and all heads in the audience turned towards a distinguished old gentleman walking into the hall! It was indeed a dream come true for the delegates and the organisers when Ar. Fumihiko Maki enthralled the audience with his presentation on Modernism on the Open Sea. The stalwart is a Pritzker Prize winner and the Wolf Prize from Israel in 1988, the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture in 1990, the Gold Medal of the UIA in 1993, the Prince of Wales Prize in Urban Design from Harvard University in 1993, the Arnold Brunner Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1999, the Praemium Imperiale from the Japan Arts Association in 1999 and the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects, in 2011 are among his other distinctions. He took the architects on a journey through time explained the evolution of some of his most well known projects and related them to current trends in architecture. He did pay his respects to another great – Ar. Charles Correa who passed away earlier this year. Ar. Maki's presentation was an apt start to those by the stunning gallery of speakers who followed.



Ar. Fumihiko maki, the Key-note Speaker sharing his thoughts

Ar. Peter Stutchbury's presentation was titled "Architecture as we knew it - is our future secure?" There was much excitement since the audience comprised a few architects who had attended Glenn Murcutt Master Class where Peter has been lecturing since its inception in 2001. A Conjoint Professor in Architecture at the University of Newcastle since 1999 and a resident professor since 2011, Peter was awarded the Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 2015 and was made a life fellow of the RIBA. Peter sees buildings as rooms of education – the bridge between walking in the bush and wandering through the mind. Ultimately people are the act of integration within a true work of architecture.

The next speaker was Ar. Anupama Kundoo. She demonstrated a strong orientation towards material research to achieve architecture of low environmental impact, and development of building technologies that are socio-economically beneficial. Kundoo has had the experience of working, researching, and teaching architecture in a variety of cultural contexts across the world: UCJC Madrid, Cornell University, TU in Berlin, AA in London, TU in Darmstadt, Parsons New School of Design in New York City, and University of Queensland in Brisbane, since 1990.

In the panel discussion "The Diminishing Personal Space", Moderator Ar. Mukul Mitra and Panelists Ar. Prem Chandravarkar, Prof Arunava Dasgupta, Ar. Sagar Thorat highlighted the need to pause and reflect on the elements that are in the control of the designer that would help safeguard the sanctity of the personal space, particularly in the Indian context whether in an institution, a residence or an office or even in a public space.

The day thereafter also hosted a constellation of speakers from various parts of the world.

Ar. Yatin Pandya, is an author, activist, academician, researcher as well as the practising architect. Environmental sustainability, Socio-cultural appropriateness, Timeless aesthetics and Economic affordability were the key principles he addressed through his work.

Ar. Rahul Mehrotra, an architect, urbanist and educator has written and lectured extensively on issues to do with architecture, conservation and urban planning in Mumbai and India.

Ar. Vo Trong Nghia studied architecture at the University of Tokyo before returning to Vietnam to establish Vo Trong Nghia Architects in 2006. He has received numerous international prizes and honours including but not limited to the World Architecture Festival Award, the Arcasia Award, Wan 21 and FuturArc Green leadership Award. He shared his thoughts on topics such as creation of humane environments, responsibilities of an architect, crafting spaces and building knowledge.

Bangkok-based Ar. Boonserm Premthada's approach is one of adventurousness and artistic daring, particularly in the application of materials and structures. Many of his projects aim to improve the people who lack an opportunity such as the mobile hospital and Alzheimer house. His passion, challenge and innovation as a responsibility by an Architect for humankind moved the audience. "This is not my work, this is my life", he concluded amidst standing ovation from the mesmerized audience.

To embody an idea of pushing architecture from "Modern" to "Timeless", Ar. Peter Oborn, vice-president of the International Royal Institute of British Architects and a national member of the RIBA Council discussed specialisms in sustainability, advanced modelling and computational design.

The book "DIALOGUES WITH INDIAN MASTER ARCHITECTS" was Conceived, Conducted and Edited by Narendra Dengle. There was a conversation between the author and Partha Ranjan Das as panellists on the philosophies of some of the greatest Indian architects. In this book, seven of India's senior most architects who have played a significant role in shaping independent India's architecture, urban design and planning- Achyut Kanvinde, Raj Rewal, Anant raje, Hasmukh C Patel, Balkrishna V Doshi, Uttam C Jain and Charles Correa – speak to Narendra Dengle over a period of time.

A souvenir with many scholarly articles was also released to mark the occasion.

The evenings got lit up by cultural programmes. The various chapters brought in an array of performances depicting the rich cultural diversity of the country. While in the day time, IIA WB chapter chose the event to showcase the regional tribal dance-form "Chhau" to its national and international delegates.

The last evening saw the delegates dancing the night away with Singer Jolly Mukherjee singing the songs of great musical maestro R.D.Burman.

The event wouldn't have been possible without the support of sponsors like Yaduka, Merino, Skipper Pipes, Fenesta, Vedic Realty, Autodesk, Mayabious Art and others.

Such a convention is only an endeavor to bring together a fraternity which needs to innovate, collaborate and lead in the process of evolution. The Indian Institute of Architects embraces this responsibility and looks for avenues of discourse and way finding towards human-centric socio-spatial continuum without compromising our environmental goals.

IIA NATCON Students' Competition

Winner : Nida Haque & Samridhi Nalwa,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Runner up : T.R. Radhakrishnan & Mona V Jain,
SAP, Anna University, Chennai

An Evening with Authors

It was really an enriching experience for those who attended the informal meeting with the authors of 'Constructing Modern India' Ar. Peter Scriver & Ar. Amit Srivastava was held at chapter premises on 2nd Feb, 2016. With reference of slides from the book the modern Indian architectural journey was discussed in lucid way. From Habib Rehman to A.P. Kanvinde, from the Nehru to Modi the book searches for the identity and differences of Indian-ness. The very informative and interactive discussion ended on a pleasant note by presenting the authors the token of appreciation by Ar. Anjan Mitra on behalf of the chapter.



Professional Presentation

Ar. Ayan Sen, a CEPT and MIT Alumni, shared his journey in architecture with the members on 27th January with an interesting pictorial presentation. Ar. Ayan discussed how the integration of landscape can help a space find its true definition, how one can use the traditional vernacular motifs into a totally modern vocabulary of design to transform a building into the architecture it longs to become. Students participated with their interesting queries which made the session really interactive and a platform for knowledge sharing.



General Body Meeting

The 2nd General Body Meeting was held at the chapter premises on 5th Feb 2016, where the Chairperson started with engaging and informative opening remarks on the Chapter activities since the last GBM and the activities planned for the coming months. She also informed the members that the problem faced by the members not being awarded registration by Council of Architecture dates back to early 2000 and is not a new problem. She outlined events that have led to the current impasse and said that the Chapter strongly supported the cause of these members. The spontaneous willingness of all members present to stand by the affected IIA members who have not received COA registration was noticeable.

As the well-attended meeting proceeded, various issues like completion of the chapter premises for proper use, making the building's presence felt by properly lighting up the facade with Institute's name being prominent and transparency in the functioning of the chapter were also discussed. The meeting ended with a promise of everyone working towards a better future for the profession.



IIAPL 2016 Indore

The 5th IIAPL cricket and badminton (1st) tournament was very well organised by Indore Centre between 8th -10th January 2016, where in the opening match of the tournament WB chapter beat Assam chapter in a comprehensive way with the help of a record opening Partnership of 154-0 in 10 Overs between Ar. Abhishek Dutta (66 of 34 balls) and Ar. Sudipta Seal (69 of 27 balls).

In the next match 'Bengal Dadas' lost to Maharastra Chapter in a game with a nail-biting finish, as an

impossible catch was taken at the edge of boundary rope in the final moments of the match.

West Bengal Chapter made a memorable impact with the traditional Bengali dress code at the awards night as it claimed the 4th Position in the tournament.

IIA had also participated for the first time in the Badminton Tournament organised by Lake Club. Although lost this year, but the team managed to give enough fight for a beginner participants and ended the tournament with promise to come up with a much better performance in the coming years.



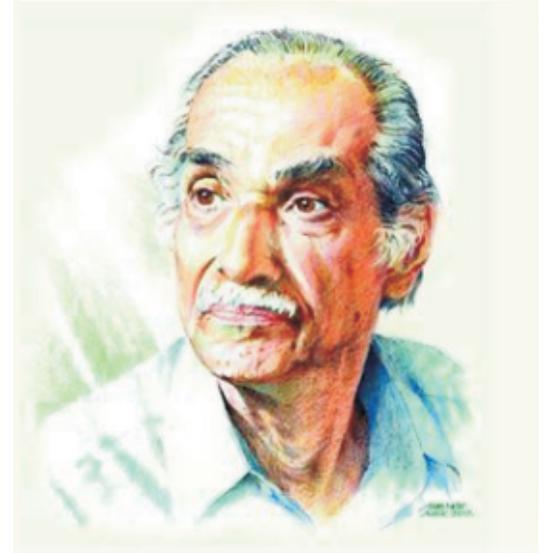
Birth Centenary of Father of Modern Architecture of India – A. P. Kanvinde

“Over the years I have come to believe it is imperative that an architect develop a sensitivity to human nature and a respect for human values.”

- A.P. Kanvinde

Achyut Purushottam Kanvinde (1916–28 December 2002) was an Indian architect who worked in functionalist approaches with elements of Brutalist architecture. He received the Padma Shri in 1974 from President of India. In 1985, IIA honored him with "Baburao Mhatre Gold Medal.

Born in Achare, in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, in 1916 Kanvinde was influenced by his father, who was a portrait and landscape painter. Kanvinde graduated in architecture from Sir J.J. School of Arts, Mumbai then headed by Ar. Claude Batley in 1942. He was then sent by the Government of India to study architecture as the first Indian at Harvard Graduate school of Design where he worked under Walter Gropius and was influenced by his thinking and teaching. The European masters of the Bauhaus – Albert Bayer, Moholy Nagy, Marcel Breuer, Siegfried Giedion et.al. had a great impact. Some of his famous batchmates were Paul Rudolph, I. M. Pei and John Perkins.



Some of his famous works include the IIT Kanpur, NDDB Dairy, ISKCON Temple, New Delhi, National Science Centre, Delhi, NIA, Pune etc.



IIA Awards for Excellence in Architecture 2015

Unique features of IIA Award for Excellence in Architecture 2015 are

- Two stage Jury comprising iconic Indian and International architects;
- Over 60 Live Shortlisted presentations at multiple halls
- Exhibition of Shortlisted projects
- Publication of Shortlisted projects
- Building of the Year Award for the first time
- More Categories and opportunities

For the e-brochure of the Awards with all details and the rules for submission <http://iiaawards.com/e-brochure.pdf>. Last date for uploading all the documents onto the website is 28th February 2016, 6.00 pm.

ADI - Architecture Design Interiors Awards for the Eastern region

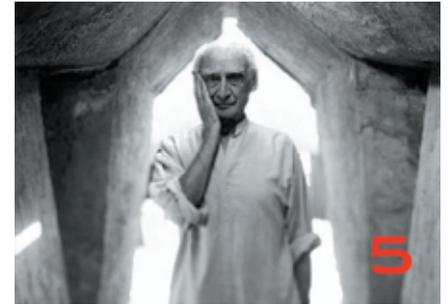
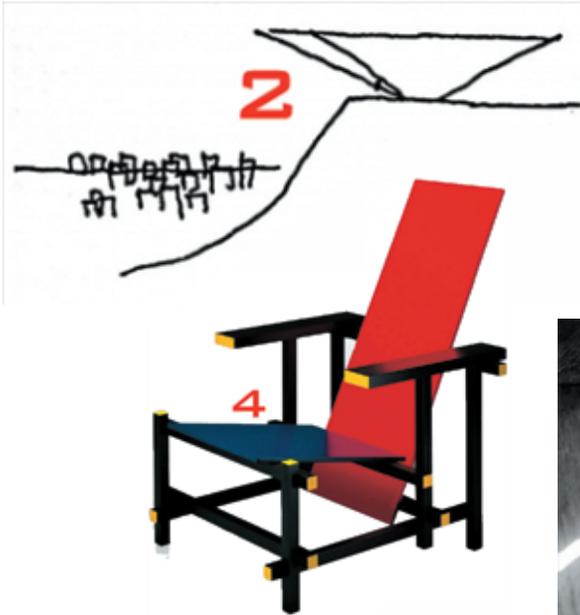
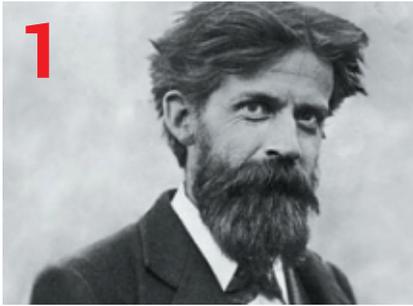
The first edition of ADI award, which is an IIA WB Chapter and Multiwyn initiative, has been instituted with the objective of showcasing the talent of this region. The last date for registration and sending of entries is 2nd April, 2016 and 9th April, 2016 respectively. For updated details one can visit www.adiawards.com or email at wbiia.adi@gmail.com.

All members are requested to spread the word among the fraternity and help making this event a success.

The Architect's Challenge Set 3

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

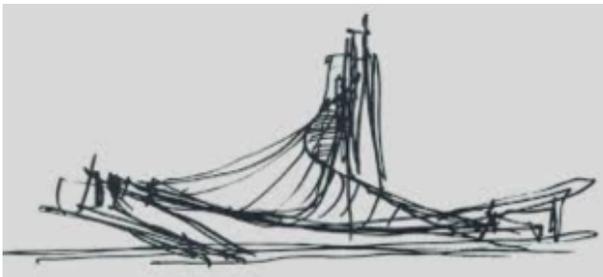
The answer of the following questions are to be e-mailed within 15th Jan '16 to editor.iiawbchapter@gmail.com. The name(s) of the participants with right answer will be published in the next issue.



IDENTIFY ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS

The Architect's challenge Set 2 Answer

Here are the answers for the previous challenge



A: Yoyogi National gymnasium by Kenzo Tange



B. Kandalama Hotel by Geoffrey Bawa



C: Hindustan Lever Pavilion by Charles Correa



D: Villa Savoye by
Le Corbusier



E: Bijoy Jain

Name of the reader with all right answer : Kunal Rakshit

Executive Committee IIA West Bengal Chapter 2015-17

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And Student Representatives



LAST DATE

REGISTRATION
SUBMISSION

2nd April '16
9th April '16

Members are requested to inform the Chapter about any change in their mailing address and telephone numbers to help in updating records at Chapter email : iawbchapter@gmail.com.

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