

# THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

## WEST BENGAL CHAPTER

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At a glance



ZAHA HADID  
NO MORE



URBAN DESIGN  
HACKATHON



IIA CENTENARY +  
ADI AWARDS NIGHT  
12th MAY



LECTURE  
SERIES

### From the Chairperson's Desk

Let me begin by wishing all of you Subho Nabobarsho! May this year bring in happiness for all!

It is oft-repeated how a convergence of disciplines and ideas is fundamental to the emergence of effective and practically viable solutions. This was in full demonstration during the Urban Design Hackathon recently executed by your chapter in association with HIDCO and NKDA, when students of architecture, art and fashion technology came together for a time bound exercise of developing solutions for our city. The teams were guided by architects, landscape architects, product designers, graphic designers, IT experts and lighting experts. This is a first and we are immensely excited that at least one of the solutions is likely to see the light of day.

Coming together of different partners at all levels is the crux of sustainable urban and architectural solutions for our existing cities and more importantly in the new ones that are being planned. An architect's role today is no longer limited to crafting a space and creating a built environment that responds to basic living needs. The pursuit of design expression needs to evolve to accommodate the available sustainable technologies in order to be in harmony with the paradigm shift. Integrated project delivery is a key term today and the need for coordination between different role players in the design and execution of any building is most felt in today's scenario.

What FLW said many decades ago seems to ring truer for today's times and will probably hold good forever.

*"As we live and as we are, Simplicity - with a capital "S" – is difficult to comprehend nowadays. We are no longer truly simple. We no longer live in simple terms or places. Life is a more complex struggle now. It is now valiant to be simple: a courageous thing to even want to be simple. It is a spiritual thing to comprehend what simplicity means."*

? Frank Lloyd Wright, The Natural House

Warm Regards

Ar. Gita Balakrishnan  
West Bengal Chapter  
The Indian Institute of Architects

### Editorial

Eventful time, indeed, it had been since the last issue.

Firstly, we've lost one of the 'starchitects' of this generation, the queen of curves, Ar. Zaha Hadid.

Then, sadly, our city experienced one of catastrophic man-made disaster as the Vivekananda Flyover fell down upon busy city life beneath, crushing many lives and even more dreams, as we all helplessly stood traumatised.

On the other hand, new bridges are being made as we collaborate with urban local bodies and Govt. Agencies to contribute in solving issues of public interest with students from various academic institutions coming together for Urban Design Hackathon, one of the first of it's kind event in this part of the country.

Many of us had been questioning, what the society has done for us apart from intellectual exploitations; but, I guess, the real question now, as responsible architects and thinkers, what can we do for the society. The best time to start that was 20 years ago, the next best time is now.

In an otherwise climatically and politically heated atmosphere, it's not easy for one to keep cool and concentrate on the design, yet the design must go on, as we all geared up for the inaugural IIA-Multiwyn ADI awards knocking on door. Let us all Design together the new (Bengali) year with concrete of trust, reinforcement of fellow feelings, and the bricks of friendship.

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

The centenary year of The Indian Institute of Architects commences on the 12th of May 2016. IIA WB Chapter plans to celebrate this momentous day with a showcase of the work of this region at the IIA Multiwyn ADI Awards night. For details please follow our website.

## **NIIUD Meeting | April 04-05, 2016 NKDA office, New Town**

The NIIUD (National Institute of Intelligent Urban Design) workshop was organised by NKDA (New Town Kolkata Development Authority) on 4-5th April at the NKDA office in New Town. The workshop was led by the FCC Catapult UK with the agenda of developing ideas toward setting up a national level institute to foster holistic approach in urban development, provisionally named as NIIUD. This was the second workshop in a series organised by NKDA for this purpose with the earlier one having taken place in February 2016.

Ar. Sujoy Dhar, Ar. Anjan Mitra and Ar. Sridipta Ghatak represented IIA-WB at the workshop. The other delegates in this closed round table workshop included officials from NKDA, ASSOCHAM and other departments of Govt. of West Bengal. Mr. Debasis Sen, CMD HUDCO graced the occasion with his presence and leadership.

The discussion followed a two-course structure with the FCC Catapult officials presenting first their ideas on how an institute of the stature of NIIUD could be developed. They presented on possibilities of using data in efficient planning and development of urban areas in Bengal. The focus was on how and why using urban data could be a prime concern for an institute like NIIUD. The discussion formats were ideated by the FCC Catapult officials where participants were distributed in groups of 2-3 participants and were asked to come up with their ideas on setting up the NIIUD.

Amongst the various groups, the group with IIA members recommended strongly for a workable institutional mechanism that would make sure that the advisory provided by the intended institute is implemented with least procedural hindrance. They explained with a broad overview of the structure that could be followed while setting up this institute and the power and responsibilities vested to the same.

The workshop concluded with fruitful discussion and the recommendations that emerged are expected to be included as a way forward while formulating strategies for the forming of the intended national level institute.

## **IIA Awards - Crossroads 2016**

Salient Design Studio was awarded IIA Awards for Excellence in Architecture 2015 in the Category Landscape Project - for Ecospace, New Town.



Abin Design Studio was awarded Commendation in the Category Institutional - for Pavilion of Canopies

## **COA recognizes all IIA students for registration**

COA informs the President, IIA its decision to grant registration to all the students enrolled by IIA after July 1, 2002 who have been given associate membership of IIA and also to those who are currently undergoing the course after successfully passing the examinations and getting the associate membership of IIA in future. Please click the below link to see the copy of the letter. Hearty congratulations to all.

[https://indianinstituteofarchitects.com/img/announcement/coa\\_registration.pdf](https://indianinstituteofarchitects.com/img/announcement/coa_registration.pdf)

## **The Urban Design Hackathon 2016**

29th, 30th and 31st March 2016 – An Urban Design Hackathon with the objective of arriving at design solutions for six locations in the New Town area was organised at Rabindra Tirtha as a collaborative effort by The West Bengal Chapter of Indian Institute of Architects, NKDA (New Kolkata Development Authority) and WBHIDCO (West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation). Mr. Debashis Sen, the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development and the Chairman of HIDCO, set the tone for the design charrette on the first day by asking all the participants to think out-of-the-box but at the same time urged them to ensure that implementable solutions emerge out of the ideation exercise.



Inauguration of the Hackathon being marked by the lighting of lamp - Mr. Debashis Sen, Prof. B.K. Sengupta, Ar. Dilip Chatterjee and Ar. Gita Balakrishnan

The effort brought together students of architecture, art and design from institutions offering these disciplines in West Bengal. The colleges that participated included Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology Shibpur, Jadavpur University Kolkata, Om Dayal Group of Institutions, Uluberia, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Silpa Sadan Santiniketan, and NIFT Kolkata. There were 6 areas of design ideation – a Canal front, a Sensory Park for the physically challenged, Metro pillars and the area in between, a Lighting Sculpture, Streetscapes and Vendor Kiosks. In around 40 hrs of non-stop work 8 teams developed design proposals with each

team being guided by a young architect as a team mentor. The three days saw different eminent architects and urban designers, graphic and visual artists and technologists spending time with the teams to support the brainstorming. Such coming together and interdisciplinary convergence as a team is indeed unique. On behalf of IIA, the endeavour was anchored by Ar. Ayan Sen, Ar. Abhishek Dutta and Ar. Sudipta Seal under the leadership of Chapter Chairperson, Ar. Gita Balakrishnan.



Briefing teams in progress - Ar. Ayan Sen, Ar. Susweta Das, Ar. Sudipta Seal and Ar. Abhishek Dutta



The ideation process

On the day the event was inaugurated, Ar. Anuradha Rathore, an eminent landscape architect commented that professionals often say that they cannot contribute since they are not involved. “Here is a unique opportunity”, she said “for designers and other professionals to participate towards making a difference to our city.”

More than 30 practising architects, visual artists, Lighting Designers, IT professionals attended the hackathon at various times during the work and contributed in different ways by advising and guiding the participants with their experience and expertise, while a few of them, namely Ar. Kalyan Chakraborty, Ar. Susweta Dutta, Ar. Alokanda



Renowned author Mr. Amit Chaudhuri giving his views on the effort and the proposals

Mukherjee, Ar. Sujoy Das, Ar. Sridipta Ghatak, Ar. Diya Banerjee, Ar. Nakshatra Sen, Ar. Shovan Saha, Pritam Dey, spend considerable amount of time as they guided and mentored their specific teams.

The intense 40 hours of brainstorming culminated in a presentation before an august audience including many eminent architects of Kolkata. They praised at large the outcome of such a time-bound initiative and applauded the organisers for coming up with this 'hackathon'. Mr. Amit Chaudhuri, a noted author and social activist also attended the presentations and lauded the effort. He advised the participants to ensure that the designs emerged from the immediate surroundings for them to be sustainable and encouraged engagement with concerned citizens.

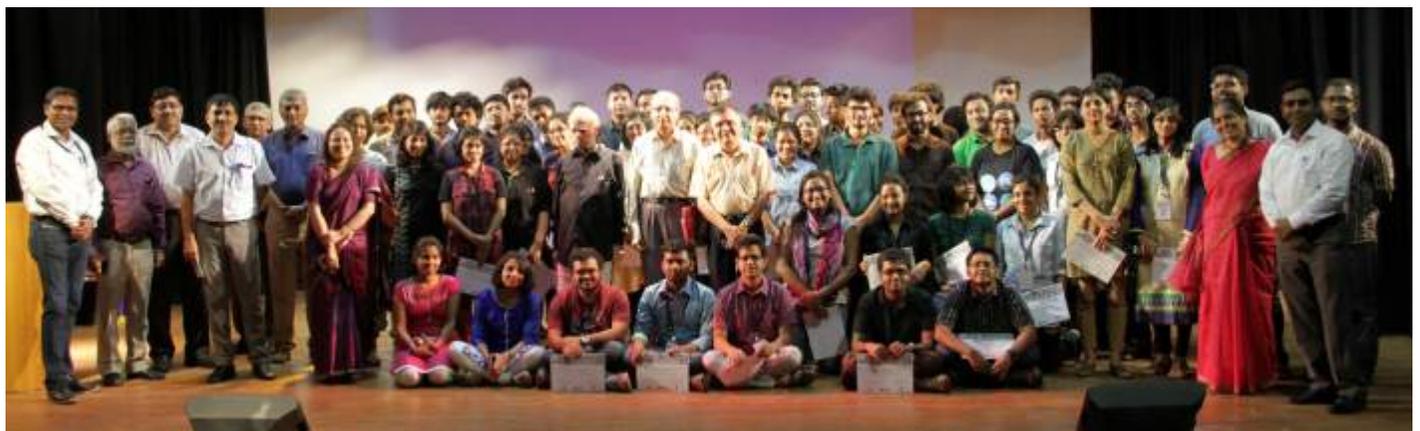
Prof. Santosh Ghosh also encouraged the participants and gave his advice on the occasion. This collaborative exercise between professionals of the city and the government bodies could be the beginning of a new model for generating ideas for a better city.

### Announcement :

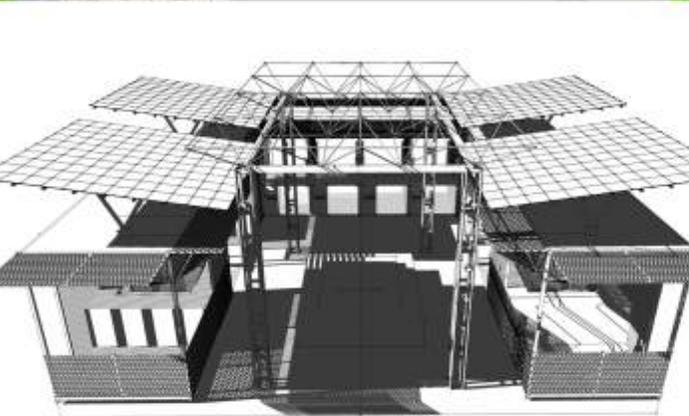
After a presentation to Mr. Debasish Sen, IAS, NKDA & WBHIDCO have decided to implement a few of the design outcomes from the Hackathon.

Anyone willing to contribute towards bringing the conceptual designs to implementable designs with GFC and BoQ, are requested to contact Ar. Abhishek Dutta (+91 9748325700) at the earliest, please.

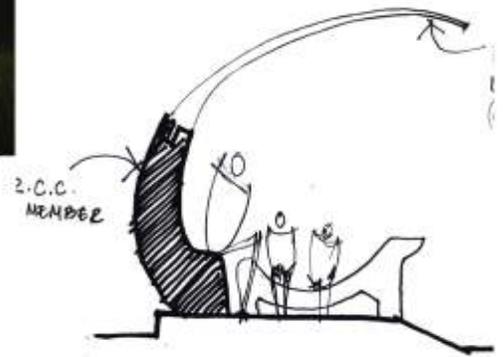
IIA WB Chapter welcomes the students too who are willing to be a part of it.



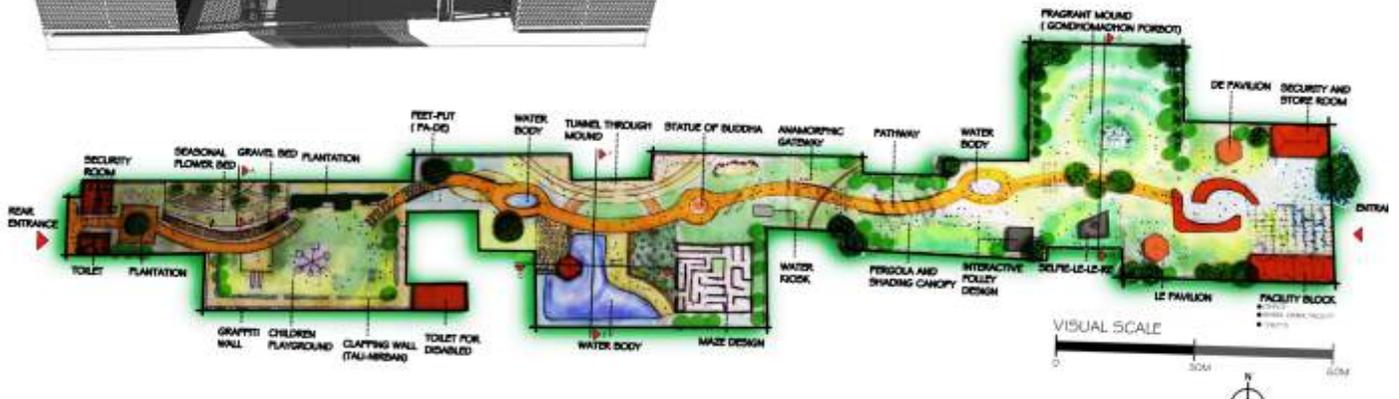
All the participants



The Various Design Outcomes of the Urban Design Hackathon



AFTER



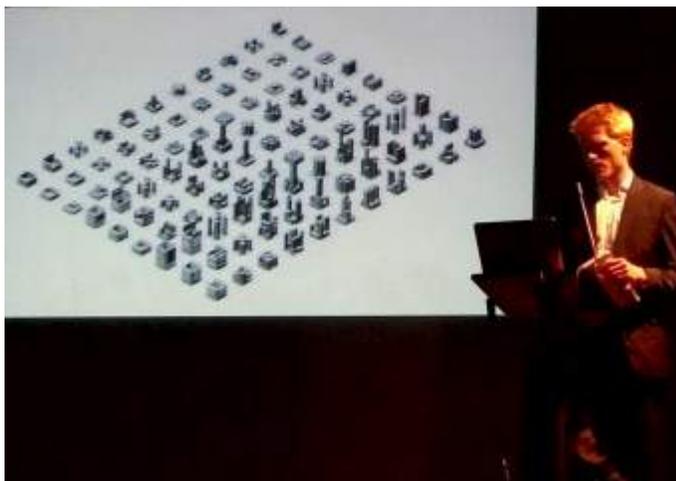
## Lecture Series

On the 5th of March 2016 at Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata IIA-WB professional lecture for the month of March started with a brief introductory speech by Ar. Ranjit Dhar on his overseas experience in teaching and practice, as he explained how integration of three 'E's namely education, experience and excellence enhances architectural understanding.



Ar. Ranjit Dhar sharing thoughts

Then, the main lecture was delivered by Mr. Clayton Strange Lee, a Master of Architecture in Urban Design, a teaching associate in the Urban Planning and Design Department at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, on "The Transformative Urban Project: Operative Frameworks and Approaches in the Context of Jakarta", as he explains with case studies on urban design all over the world including works of Alver Siza, Riken Yamamoto et al. With concepts like shared recreational and social spaces with continuous landscaped circulation ring intersected by buildings or Rem Koolhaas's concept of multi-level urban development with unification at street



Presentation by Ar. Clayton Lee

level. Then briefly going through the socio-political history of the volcanic island called Batalia to modern day capital of Indonesia, Jakarta and it's challenges as it sinks slowly. Perhaps a key take-away could be the smart canal management system they have developed over year understanding the importance of it.



The evening also offered an opportunity for Mr. Avilash Bardhan and Ms. Rinky Haldar of Jadavpur University, to present their winning entry for the IGBC Green Design (Student) Competition on the theme "Green Transit Shelters for Construction Workers. They explained how transit housing can be looked at from a different perspective and their potential of re-using waste and contribute to the socio-environmental issues. The Session ended with a vote of Thanks and high tea.

## IIA-WB Supported IPSC Conclave

A conclave titled "**Skilling in Plumbing Sector as a part of the National Mission - Skill India: It's Challenges & Opportunities**" was held at Novotel, on 3 March, 2016. This event was supported by IIA WB Chapter.

Ar. Kamal Periwal represented our Chapter in a panel discussion on Skills in Plumbing Sector as a part of the National Mission - Skill India - Its Challenges and Opportunities organised by the Indian Plumbing Skills Council under the Skill India Programme of the Government of India.





### End of an Era : Zaha Hadid, the 'Starchitect', no more

Dame Zaha Mohammad Hadid, the Queen of Curves, a pioneer of parametricism and an icon of neo-futurism, passed away on 31st of March, 2016 in Florida, USA. She was an Iraqi-born British architect, who was the first woman and the first muslim to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

The Alumnus and later the faculty of Architectural Association, London, joined OMA to work with her professor Rem Koolhaas and later became a partner in 1977, before starting her own practise at London in 1980.

Zaha was inspired by works of Kazimir Malevich (Russian Painter) which influenced her liberated architectural geometry with the creation of highly expressive, sweeping fluid forms of multiple perspective points and fragmented geometry that evoke the chaos and flux of modern life.

Zaha had been an inspiration for many not only for her out of the world designs but to me for her convictions and patience to wait

on her own ground for years amidst a sea of unbuilt dreams. She taught us to believe in our gut feelings that architecture is beyond a linear function of project briefs, budgets, deadlines and whims of the impatient capital, when everyone around would advice to be practical, thank you Zaha, for being 'impractical', 'biased with imagination of a different league', thank you for being timeless and asking 'what's next.'

Rest in peace Ma'm.

### Remembering Zaha

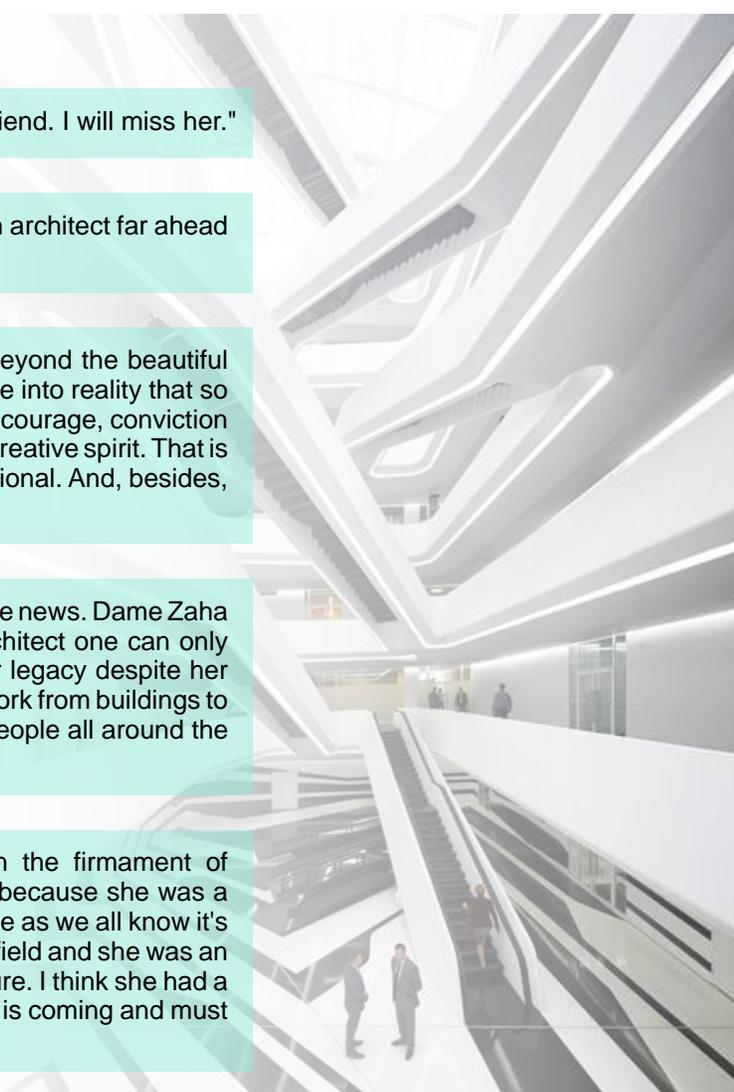
**Frank Gehry:** "She was a great architect and a great friend. I will miss her."

**Richard Rogers:** "Zaha Hadid was a radical genius - an architect far ahead of her time. I loved Zaha and will miss her"

**Norman Foster:** "I think it was Zaha's triumph to go beyond the beautiful graphic visions of her sculptural approach to architecture into reality that so upset some of her critics. She was an individual of great courage, conviction and tenacity. It is rare to find these qualities tied to a free creative spirit. That is why her loss is so profound and her example so inspirational. And, besides, she was my dear friend."

**RIBA President Jane Duncan:** "This is absolutely terrible news. Dame Zaha Hadid was an inspirational woman, and the kind of architect one can only dream of being. Visionary and highly experimental, her legacy despite her young age, is formidable. She leaves behind a body of work from buildings to furniture, footwear and cars, that delight and astound people all around the world."

**Daniel Libeskind:** "It's as if a star has gone out in the firmament of architecture. It's a sad loss that I think is irreplaceable because she was a unique architect. I think she was really a pioneer because as we all know it's very difficult for women to succeed in a male dominated field and she was an example and an inspiration to many women in architecture. I think she had a very important role in engendering a sense that equality is coming and must come."



## The Architect's Challenge Set 4

Please send your answers to [editor.iiawbchapter@gmail.com](mailto:editor.iiawbchapter@gmail.com) by 25th May 2016

Identify the buildings with locations, designed by Ar. Zaha Hadid



Deadline for submission of answers of Architect's Challenge Set 3 is also extended till 25th May 2016

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And Student Representatives



A tribute by Ar. Abhishek Dutta

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