

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

WEST BENGAL CHAPTER

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At a glance



CONNECTING HISTORIES



ARCASIA 2017

IIA BANGIYA STHAPATTAKALA - An Exhibition of Architectural Works of Bengal



From the Chairperson's Desk

Dear Members

We have lost three senior architects from West Bengal in the last month – Ar. Shobanal Banerjee, whose wife Ar. Snigdha Banerjee is our member, our dear Ar. Monideep Chatterjee and Ar. Abhijit Sen who had an indomitable spirit. An irreparable loss to our fraternity indeed!

We are close to the end of our term and our team has put together various events such as the IIA NATCON, Urban Design Hackathon, Book Launches, IIA CREDAI Joint Convention, ARCASIA Green round Table, ADI Awards, IIA Bangiya Sthapattakala, regular presentations by different personalities and a lot more.

As we bid farewell I, on behalf of our team would like to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your constant encouragement. There have been many members who have kept in touch egging us on, contributing selflessly to our efforts. I also thank all those who conveyed where we could do better. It did help us realize how we could improve our endeavours. To err is human. It is possible that in our intention to perform our duties with vigour and to reach events of high quality to all of our members, there may have been some lapses. I request your forgiveness in all humility.

I end with Former President Abdul Kalam's quote "Dreams are not what you see when you sleep but they are those that do not let you sleep." Let us continue to nurture such dreams for our Chapter.

In Gratitude

Yours in Service,
Ar. Gita Balakrishnan
West Bengal Chapter
The Indian Institute of Architects

Editorial

Dear Friends,

As we got many good things happening around us, our country, relatively a young one, is perhaps maturing faster than ever on a seemingly right track amidst many short term disturbances, we hope to cross the tipping point for our profession as well in not too distant future.

The Roman philosopher Seneca once said - "**Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.**" Since such a beginning 2 years back, it had been a wonderful experience to be a part of a team that worked relentlessly over the years for IIA West Bengal Chapter. With the help and support from the colleagues like Ar. Alokanda, Ar. Pritha, Ar. Divya, Shubhayan and many others who contributed in various ways to take the newsletter to a step forward, and of course Ar. Gita Balakrishnan who kept us on track like a good leader, It was a great privilege for me to get the opportunity as your editor to connect with you and share feelings candidly. It was even more heartening to get calls and mails from seniors with words of advice and appreciation for our efforts. I would like to thank all of you who read, participated in the quiz, contributed various articles and called with suggestions.

I hope the same will continue for the next term. All the best for the next team.

Happy designing.

Your friend in profession,

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

IIA CREDAI SUMMIT 2017

A joint conference spearheaded by IIA and CREDAI was held on the 3rd and 4th March 2017 at Hotel Marriott, Kolkata, on the theme **Connecting Histories** with the following Sub-themes: **Humanizing Heritage: restoration, conservation, adaptive reuse, heritage responsive planning.**

It was moderated by Ar. Manish Chakraborti followed by speakers - Mr. Sugato Bose (Member of Parliament), Prof. Joy Sen, Ar. George Ferguson (Former RIBA President and Former Mayor of Bristol). The **Design Dialect: craft to contemporary** was moderated by Ar. Abin Chaudhuri followed by speakers - Ar. Palinda Kannangara, Ar. Kaiwan Mehta and Ar. Madhav Joshi. Similarly **Where the City Sleeps: housing and living** was moderated by Ar. Dibyendu Chakravorty followed by speakers - Ar. Biju Kuriakose, Ar. Sameep Padora and Ar. Alejandro Echeverri (Key Note Speaker). This was followed by **Panel Discussion - Industry Perspective** with leading members anchored by Ar. Mukul Mitra. The **Grand Moves: urban direction and movement** was moderated by Ar. Ayan Sen followed by Speakers - Ar. Juergen Mayer, Ar. Leila Araghian and Ar. Pratap Talwar. Finally the Closing Remarks by Ar. Ashish Acharjee was addressed.



The major points that emerged from the conference are the following:

- Urbanization has created set patterns leading to the loss of tradition and heritage.
- Emerging projects should be designed such that they co-exist peacefully with the heritage.
- The various influences on Kolkata have helped it develop a character of its own.
- The tendency to overemphasize the colonial architecture should be avoided and local architecture should not be completely forgotten.
- The demolition of heritage buildings and erection of modern structures in their place is not a feasible solution. A process has to be devised to make the old and new to remain in harmony.
- Heritage has a powerful tangible connection with anthropology, economy and geography.

- The ancient philosophy of India iterates the idea that microcosm connects to macrocosm.
- The people of a city should be involved with its heritage and the role of industrial heritage in a city should also be understood.
- One should never try to oversimplify city plans as that might have an adverse impact on its future. The streets of a city- ranging from the main intersections to the narrow winding alleyways, define the way that a city functions.
- Giving people back the public spaces of their city.
- Looking at cities in the form of aerial diagrams and not involving with them at ground level can never give a clear perception of that city. All the activities will take place at the ground level. Analysis of how a city functions at the ground level reveals to us the real character of a city.
- Humanizing the scale and creation of common interactive zones are the key factors which help build public spaces.
- The housing has to be framed within DCR norms and re-imagined in new formats. As public sector invests more in affordable housing, the policy frameworks should be reformulated such that incentives are offered by the government and there is a relation between transportation systems and affordable housing.
- Medellin is a modern day example of how urban design can dictate and is also dictated by the social structure of a city and its inhabitants.
- The increased rate migration into metropolitan areas changes the sustainability dynamics and economics of a project. Sustainability should also take into consideration the culture and background of the people, which constitutes the social fabric. Each built form is a part of the city and it should leave a legacy behind.
- Public spaces create a sense of belonging to the city, making them symbols for social justice.

POSSIBLE PROJECTS/ PROGRAMS / IDEAS

Heritage

- Work towards transferable development rights.
- Select few streets and neighbourhood and demonstrate how they can be regenerated.
- Starting a project of documenting the heritage buildings of Kolkata on a long term basis.
- Integrating various schools for heritage awareness amongst students by specific program.
- Organizing heritage walks in different segments of Kolkata and training more people to conduct the same. Carrying this idea to suburban areas (that have heritage assets) too.

Public domain

- Imaginative solutions for pavement dwellers, hawkers, temporary exhibitions, festivals etc.
- Undertaking an audit of public spaces in the city, with respect to security, accessibility, territorial control and hygiene and making recommendations.
- Campaign for fair design competitions for public projects.
- Propose public debates on large public projects.
- Festival driven urban regeneration projects in different localities and regions.
- Explore possibilities of making study similar to Sameep Padora in the context of Kolkata so that the building codes can be altered accordingly.

Environment and ecology

- Study on the wetlands of Kolkata and current developments taking place.

Industry Connect

- Production of a yearly handbook that showcases major technological advances in different segments of the building industry including building materials.

Fraternity Collaboration

- Exchange programs with architects of other cities.
- Collaborative work amongst architects- including international competitions.
- A special exhibition on the collaborative work curated by three top architects of Kolkata
- Conceiving more projects in the public domain and then seeking investment from public and government - protecting environment and ecology.



Glimpses of the Summit

BOOK LAUNCH

The program was held at Calcutta Rowing Club, on 21st of April, 2017(Friday). The program started with paying respect to late Ar. Monideep Chatterjee and late Ar. Sovanlal Bonerjee. Then the book Launch of “ARCHITECTURE: CREATING GREEN BUILDINGS AND SUSTAINABLE HABITAT”, authored by Prof. K.P. Bhattacharyya, followed by a Design presentation on “All India Competition based on PLVA (Permanent Low-cost Vernacular Architecture) by Ar. Sagnika Chakraborty.

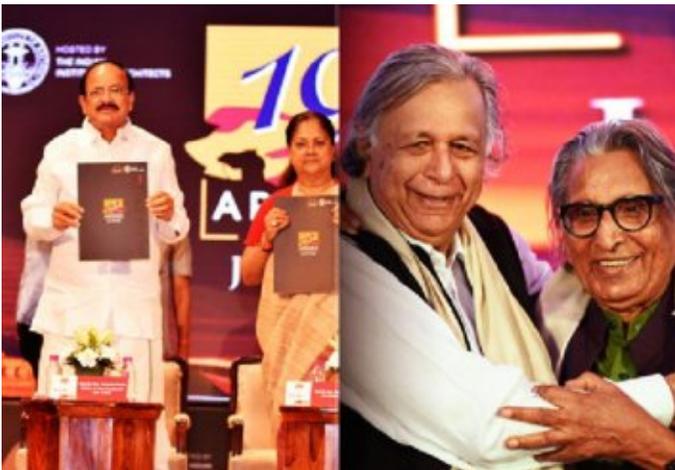


This was continued with two more Book Launch of “Kom Khorochey Gathita Gharbari” (Low cost housing), authored by Prof. Samaresh Mukherjee and “PERMANENT LOW COST VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE” published by Lap Lambert Academic Publishing of Germany on the Life Time works of Prof. Samaresh Mukherjee by Ar. Mainak Ghosh and Ar. Sonia Guha. Finally the event was ended with Fellowship & Dinner.

ARCASIA 2017, JAIPUR, INDIA

Eminent architects from as many as 21 Asian countries shared their knowledge and ideas on the theme of “Happiness Through Architecture” at a five-day mega event to mark the 19th ARCASIA Forum in the royal city of Jaipur in Rajasthan from 21st to 25th May 2017.

Legends of design fraternity – Architects B V Doshi and Raj Rewal – in their keynote address inspired the audience by sharing the experiences of their journey in



the world of architecture and designing. Stories related to their priceless contribution to the architectural fraternity enthused the delegates and participants to excel in the field.



Ar Debatosh Sahu chairing the meeting of Arcasia Committee On Green And Sustainable Architecture.



This Arcasia is of special significance to IIA WB chapter as Abin Design Studio won a special mention for ‘Pavillion of Canopies’ in the Social Responsibility Architecture category, and Ar. Runa Dasgupta’s Presentation highlighting the innovative works of 20 young architects of Bengal, which was very well appreciate by the audience.



Sketch by Ar. Abhijit Rakshit

IIA BANGIYA STHAPATTAKALA - An Exhibition of Architectural Works of Bengal

The West Bengal Chapter organised a three day exhibition of the work of our member Architects titled IIA Bangiya Sthapattakala 2017 held at Suresh Neotia Centre for Excellence, Salt Lake.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Painter and Member of Parliament Shri Jogen Choudhury and popular singer Shrimati Usha Uthup on 9th June. A book documenting the history of our chapter titled NOSTALGIIA was released by the Guests of Honour and all the past Chairpersons who were present. To commemorate World Environment Day the movie UNCOMMON SENSE on the Life and philosophy of Master Architect Laurie Baker was screened.

On 10th June, there was a workshop on Floral Art installation with close to 75 people participating to create a beautiful structure themed Fresh Air. This was coordinated by our member Ar. Monica Khosla Bhargava.



On the last day, there were presentations by three of our members Ar. Alokanda Mukherjee, Ar. Anirban Bhaduri Mandal and Sudipta Kr. Seal on their recent works. Ar. Sunil Ghosh who was felicitated by IIA for the Centenary Year as the senior most living member of IIA, was also presented his memento. This was followed by a musical evening featuring Singer Iman Chakraborty, Fellowship and Dinner.

FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT AS CHAPTER CELEBRATES FOUNDATION DAY 2017

Our Chapter chose to celebrate our Foundation Day – 12th May 2017 in a different way by highlighting the concerns on the East Kolkata Wetlands, a designated Ramsar Site. This was a direct fallout in line with the recently concluded Convention.

On this occasion, architects Ar. Ashish Acharjee and Ar. Abhishek Dutta set the tone for the discussion after remembering late Ar. Abhijit Sen, as her daughter shared her feelings. That followed the presentation by Dr. Dhrubajyoti Ghosh, who is the pioneer in the field and the main protagonist movement who termed 'East Kolkata Wetlands' and Ms. Dhruva Das Gupta from the Kolkata-based NGO, SCOPE (Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems.)

This discussion was on how Calcuttans are increasingly and meaningfully responding to the menace of vulgar destruction of the East Kolkata Wetlands, which is now a pride for the whole country for being flagged as one among two most outstanding wetlands in the world by the UN, for treating city wastewater using natural biological processes evolved by the local wetland community. There is a major shortfall in the task of conserving and protecting the East Kolkata Wetlands.

Professionals need to be sympathetic to the asking of protected area norms and compulsions. We need to recognize and protest against illegal encroachments and rampant change of land use on the EKW. We should take this knowledge from EKW to other parts of the country while designing sustainable cities.



Answer for Quiz AA 9

1. Residence of Ar. Frank Gehry
2. Tabiat Bridge, Tehran by Ar. Leila Araghian
3. Tulip Chair by Ar. Eero Saarinen
4. Ar. Jorn Utzon
5. Metropol Parasol, Spain by Ar. Jürgen Mayer

Professor Monideep Chatterjee (1938-2017)



Shri Monideep Chatterjee was an accomplished city planner, writer of several books and articles on Indian City planning, Professor and guide to innumerable students. He was a man of letters, with many abiding interests, the one closest to his heart was Calcutta's city planning and development. On which he wrote a book in Bengali on "Kolkatar nagar Unnayan".

Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1938, Professor Chatterjee started his journey in Architecture from erstwhile Shibpur BE College. After his graduation, he joined CMPO an organization which was tasked to plan and develop the Megapolis of Calcutta, where he was actively involved in planning the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, Chakra (circular) rail extensions and development of a new residential layout Bidhannagar.

He earned a Ford Scholarship to study City Planning in University of Madison Wisconsin. He returned with his Masters degree and great enthusiasm to apply the knowledge to the problems facing India's growing cities and towns.

He joined IIT Kharagpur in early seventies and started a City Planning course there, he soon returned to Calcutta to join the newly formed CMDA, an organization tasked with putting in place a sustainable, cohesive master plan for Calcutta City planning and development. He spent more than a decade in CMDA as Chief City Planner.

He joined Jadavpur University in the eighties and remained actively engaged in not just teaching students, guiding research scholars, also executing many projects for Metro Rail and other development agencies through The Centre for Human Settlements Planning, the one he founded.

This widely travelled professor, attended numerous international conferences to present his papers. Till his last day, he wrote untiringly about what he believed passionately in. He suffered from several health issues in the last years, but one could hardly tell from his bright smile. Nothing could deem his love for life, singara & kachuri.

Over all he was a loving son, husband, father and brother who will be remembered for his warmth and loving heart. We are proud to have him as his father, he exemplified that the greatest joy in life is living out your passion and living with both the mind and heart.

(IIA WB Chapter thanks his daughter Madhura Chatterjee for the obituary (edited). May his Soul Rest in Peace)

Ar. Sobhanlal Bonnerjee (1939- 2017)



Ar. Sobhanlal Bonnerjee's work spanning over five decades, encompassed a broad range of areas and interests. As a young graduate from Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur (1961) he started his career by joining the Construction Board, Government of West Bengal where he worked on several projects, including the Digha Master Plan. He was an Architect and Town planner educated in India, U.K., and The Netherlands. He has practised as a Consultant for the last 40 years, mainly in Kolkata, India. He was a visiting Professor in the Indian Institute for Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, and has studied the Kolkata Canals and presented a proposal for developing an Integrated multifunctional canal system in Kolkata Metropolitan Region. He continued working with the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation later on, through his own consultancy firm, S. Bonnerjee and Associates, and designed several tourist lodges, such as Mainak (Siliguri) amongst others. He was an avid traveler, and his work took him to several countries across the world. Between 1966 and 1970, he worked with well-known Architects James Cubitt and Derek Lovejoy in London, as well as the Town Planning Department of London Borough Council. His love for architecture was infused with a serious interest in town planning, particularly on inland waterways.

As a member of Centre for Built Environment, he presented his research on this topic at various international platforms such as the World Water Forum (Istanbul and Daegu, South Korea), River Symposium (Brisbane) and World Canal Conferences (Toulouse and Yangzhou). His major works span a wide range of buildings such as apartment blocks (Concorde on Purna Das Road, Kolkata); tourism centres (Nature Interpretation Centre, Tiger Hill); educational buildings (Carey Museum and Research Centre, Serampore); industrial buildings (several tea factories in north Bengal, including Runglee Rungliot); office and commercial complexes (Town Centre, Ziaganj). As principal architectural consultant with ARCHTECH Consultants (2006-2015), he worked on numerous prestigious projects such as the new Raj Bhavan, Gangtok; Cultural complex at Yangang, Sikkim and Adventure Tourist Centre in Uttarey, Sikkim. Sobhanlal Bonnerjee also planned the Kolkata Book Fair since its inception in 1976 till 2008. As an architect he was deeply committed to projects of social relevance, and was involved in the designing of one of the first cyclone shelters in the Sundarbans (Jharkhali).

OBITUARY

He had attended the WCC in Yangchow, China and in Toulouse, France and presented papers on that topic in plenary sessions. He also attended the World Water Forum in Istanbul, Turkey where, as team member of PIANC, he presented his ideas which were later published in a side line UNESCO publication. Last year he attended the World Water Forum in South Korea. He also presented in River Symposium, Brisbane, Australia and many others conferences in India. He is actively associated with the propagation of the idea of developing and building multifunctional waterways as integral part of planning of Cities and Regions. He has been a member of IWI for the last three years.

(IIA WB Chapter thanks his daughter Jayani Bonnerjee for the obituary. May his Soul Rest in Peace)

Ar. Abhijit Sen (1948 - 2017)



Abhijit Sen was an Architect and Urban Planner with more than 45 years of professional experience in the field of Urban Planning, Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscaping in Public and Private organizations/institutions.

A passionate professional, he pursued excellence in work and life.

His staunch belief that there is always good to be found in any dark spot guided his work, where there would be no stopping until he had delivered the best to his capabilities. He believed in teamwork, equality and the importance of respecting one's team members, it was a habit he practiced beyond the realms of his profession but in his personal life as well. His spirit and enthusiasm would often get transmitted to people around him, family, friends and colleagues. He had always been grateful for the experiences he got to share with his brethren, some of whom have remained close friends.

He completed his graduation in Architecture from Bengal Engineering and Science University in 1971, followed by a Master of City Planning from Indian Institute Technology, Kharagpur in 1973. In 1984 he earned a Postgraduate Certificate in Town and Regional Planning from Technical University, Szczecin, Poland. In 1995 he joined his wife as a partner in their firm 'The Designers', providing consultancy to various architecture and urban development projects till 2017.

His sudden demise leaves a void in the lives of his family and friends and the profession he so dearly loved, but his spirit shall continue to thrive in the lives he touched.

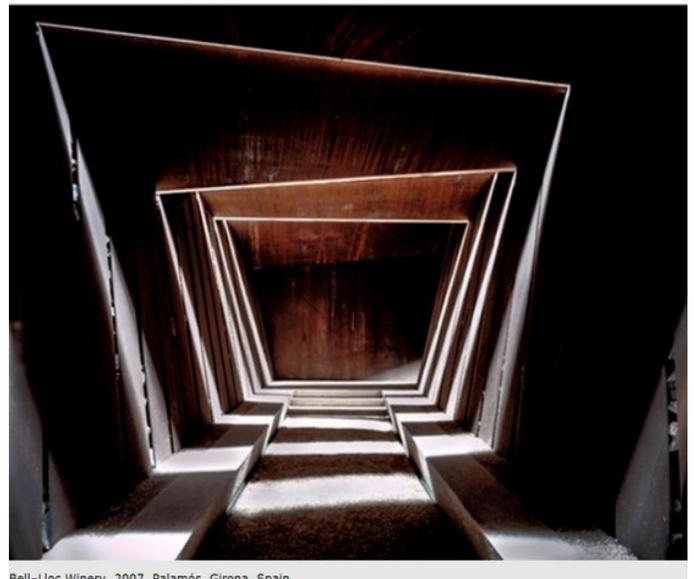
(IIA WB Chapter thanks his daughter Ar. Gargi Sen for the obituary. May his Soul Rest in Peace)

PRITZKER PRIZE, 2017

On 20th May, 2017 at a ceremony held at the State Guest House in Tokyo, the highest accolade in architecture, the 39th Pritzker Prize was awarded to the Catalan trio of Rafael Aranda, Carme Pigem and Ramon Vilalta to honor their talent, vision and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture. This is the first incident of the prize being awarded to 3 architects and the second instance of a Spanish architect winning the coveted prize after Rafael Moneo in 1996.



Aranda, Pigem and Vilalta founded their practice RCR Arquitectes in 1988, based in Olot located in Spain's Catalonia region. Their works ranged from public and private spaces to cultural venues and educational institutions, combined with their ability to intensely relate the environment specific to each site remains a testament to their process and deep integrity. In fact, according to a video published by the Pritzker Committee "We are used to 'reading' the place as if it spoke to us with its own alphabet – an alphabet established between the site and us" says Carme Pigem. And this deep understanding of their site adapted to the needs of the modern times awarded them with the Pritzker Prize, 2017.



Bell-Lloc Winery, 2007, Palamós, Girona, Spain

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