

Conference organized by the Indian Institute of Architects, Northern Chapter on “ Contemporary Trends in Architecture and Urban Design” on 28th and 29th September, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Background

The Architectural professional practice, traditionally accepted as a “noble profession” with its practicing professionals often acquiring global fame by their tremendous capabilities to plan for the betterment of the Society they were a part of, has somewhere along the previous years been losing its ground due to, perhaps, a lack of adaptability to changing market dynamics of the Global Construction Industry.

Architectural Education is still patterned around the “noble profession” ideology and producing professionals who thereby need to “cope up” with the pressures of retraining in the current practices that are constantly adjusting to the pressures of globalization for their survival and growth.

While this can generally be seen as adding pressure to the lives of the fresh graduates, who join the profession in a state of half readiness due to the above gap end up getting frustrated in trying to adjust to the pressures of the contemporary architectural practices, it also forces the current practices to spend valuable resources including time and money to retrain these young graduates to absorb them in their practices.

However, since the changes in this age of technology are happening at an ever growing speed, any little defocus in trying to sort things on the way is costing a lot dear to architectural practices, thereby, making it difficult for them to adapt themselves and their team to the changing market dynamics of the Global Construction Industry. This hapless state is visible both in the cases of young practices as well as traditional practices that have been modelled on futuristic thoughts alike in the earlier days, have enjoyed the status of large design practices are now finding it difficult to retain their earlier status .

The profession today stands divided on the reasons for its “debacle” , since there is no consensus on the cause and effects of the changing market dynamics of the Construction Industry. This perhaps is the reason why there has not been a collective effort to deal with this problem that concerns all of us professionals.

The Conference

The Indian Institute of Architects, Northern Chapter recognizes the need to hold a conference bringing about a serious dialogue at the interface of Practice and Education with references to Ideologies, Methodologies and Future perceptions for evolving a method to deal with the changing market dynamics of the Global Construction Industry that at the moment is threatening to kill the noble profession of Architecture as most of us know it.

The seminar intends creating a discussion panel from all the partners supporting the Architectural Fraternity and shall include Eminent Representation from Architectural Practices, Architectural

Educationists, The Indian Institute of Architects to have a open dialogue on the above issue between the panellists and the audience.

This open dialogue is intended to create an awareness amongst the Architectural fraternity, the challenges facing our profession with a hope to develop a better understanding of them, for us at the Institute to initiate the required correction through a retraining or a CEP to make the task of practicing the profession easier for our members and in the bargain make a humble attempt to establish processes to regain the direction and stature of our “noble profession” in times to come.

The seminar shall be of interest to all associated with the Architectural profession in any manner including practices, education, industry and Society.

The Conference Format

It is proposed to hold the above discussions as series of moderated panel discussions between the practicing professionals & educationists to establish the trends prevalent, opportunities perceived and future readiness of the profession across three sessions as below-

Session – 01 :

Traditional practices - Experiences, Response to Changes & Perceptions for the Future

Session – 02 :

Current Practices - Experiences , Response to Changes & Perceptions for the Future

Session – 03 :

Future Trends in Practices

An open forum between the Practice & Educational Institutions for evaluating a methodology of retraining the practicing professionals at all levels to make the profession future ready for the above changes.