

DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

Every human being craves for comfort, pleasure, convenience and beauty over and above the basic necessities of life. Everyone needs time out; if for no other reason than to experience life. Caught in the fumes passing by an industrial area – craving for fresh air; the traffic snarls / jams with no proper pedestrian way to walk; the dirty, soggy public toilets on one hand while ample use of natural wood in furniture thereby making it an expensive commodity - almost out of reach of a common human being and also forgetting our concern for "Preserve Planet Earth"; Designers need to brain storm. Good architecture can sometimes be destroyed if it is not matched by good interiors while some most mediocre pieces of architecture can still be made to look good if the interiors are well designed. They are the two sides of the same coin; hence we coin them here as "Designers".

In overcrowded cities; there normally is a woeful inadequacy of functional open spaces where people could go and may be play out their frustrations. Further, there are always slums that diminish the aesthetics of the skyline of a city – cannot there be planned mass dwellings for the economically challenged? The railway stations, the bus stops, the public parks, the public toilets or the lavishly designed malls – are they easily accessible by the physically challenged or the differently abled?

Design is a joyful adventure. Whether one is designing a home, a public space, a building, planning a village or town, creating a more ergonomically designed chair or a bicycle; design is an activity that affirms life. It is a vital force, shaping the way we live and think. When talking about design, the words on everybody's lips are functional and space efficient but can we add "Socially responsible or Socially concerned" to the design definition and then think about the Design for the future. Attitudes have changed

but so have expectations and requirements.

Some of the catch phrases of Modern Architecture are "form follows function" which was first used by sculptor Horatio Greenough & then came "less is more", while Frank Lloyd Wright said, "Less is more only when more is too much" but then Robert Venturi added "Less is bore". Modernism was soon considered repetitive and drab. Stylistic elements of the past were superimposed on the buildings of the present and thus the word "Post Modernism" was coined.

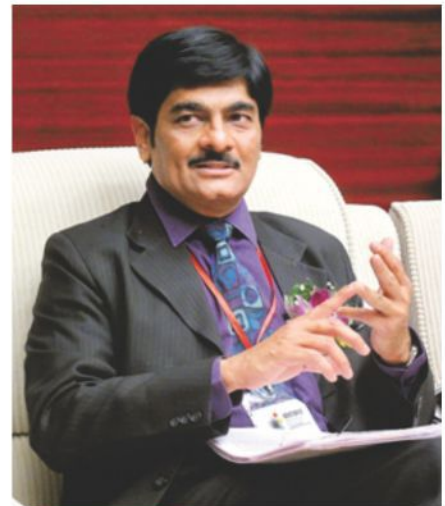
Architecture, however, is the only creation which is used, abused, misused, overused, loved, hated, abandoned or enjoyed by a large number of people who either reside in it or work from it or visit it or may be simply look at it. But, like the stream of water that flows continuously changing its course, changing the momentum and at times changing the direction perhaps leaving a message for us that "Change is inevitable it is the direction that counts".

With "Cybertechnology" almost ushering into all the professional fields, how does one keep our deep rooted Indianism – its rich heritage, aesthetics in design etc. from being engulfed by technology?

Do you agree that today's designs are more a flow from the click of the Computer mouse than from the flow of a Designer's pencil?

A very senior architect once made a statement, "Architect might design a very modern, trendy, beautiful building but if it is not in harmony with the environment, geographical conditions and of course with the community i.e. in short the cityscape gets abused." The senior architect further added, "I call this as "urban barbarism".

Architects must understand and have, "Humility towards nature; Humility towards history, tradition and the built environment; Humility towards mankind; Humility towards



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our own profession". If, Ethics is to be understood and practiced, then, we through our designs have to become agents of social change – that would in turn improve the quality of life that we lead. Can our designs contribute to sustenance of universal values of communicating, sharing & caring? Can the beauty of our designs emanate from our symbiotic concern & love for nature? If, it does, then, they would become holistic, value based designs leading to the architecture of belonging, architecture of caring, architecture of honesty, architecture of spontaneity and simplicity.

May I conclude that by practicing high ethical standards may we have...

- In our thought faith,
- In our word wisdom,
- In deed courage,
- In life Service

And so may our profession always grow.

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