

Report on Panel discussions on May 27, 2016 at Sir J.J. College of Architecture between 3.00 p.m.-6.00 p.m. on *Reviewing the 'Role of Architects and Opportunities' within the changing global scenario'*

(A)

- The 'Indian Institute of Architects' has planned to organize monthly lectures / panel discussion series between May 2016 - April 2017.
- The launching event of this series was on May 27th, 2016 at Sir J.J. College of Architecture to deliberate on 'Role of Architects and Opportunities' within the changing global scenario.
- The intent was to have a participatory panel discussion between Architects across varied sectors to share their experiences and prepare a framework/strategic plan to overcome challenges faced due to the current global scenario.
- Studied interactions help hand holding to create a platform to canvas role of architects and explore opportunities to expand ambit.

(B)

- Opening Remarks were given by Ar. Milind Sambhare, Chairman, Brihan Mumbai Centre, IIA.
- The first Panel discussion was moderated by Ar. Prof. Rajiv Mishra, Principal, Sir J. J. College of Architecture, including an array of panelists, who are Architects and working in Public & Private sector, who were as follows; Ar. S. Landge (UDD, GoM), Ar. S. Gavande (MHADA- A), Ar. Joshi (MHADA), Ar. S. Gokhale (ex-CIDCO), Ar. R. Kulkarni (HOK), Ar. A. Patel (DB Realty).
- The Second Panel was moderated by Ar. U. Athvankar, (IIT-Mumbai) and the Panelists included, Ar. R. Dhar (CIDCO), Ar. A. Ghangurde (Ex-MMRDA), Ar. S. Sawant (Workspere Architects), Ar. A. Patankar (Siddhivinayak Constructions Pvt. Ltd).

(C)

- There were deliberations on what Architects can do to increase their ambit & role. Some panelists felt that Architects preferred being designers and did not engage in understanding of government policies. Some Architects who have become planners etc. feel that additional qualifications helps for more opportunities and broadens role.
- It was felt by one of the panelists that Architect should join public sector which will improve the quality of inputs in public sector and also raise the general standard of the Architectural fraternity within such organizations.
- Panelists also felt that Scrutiny of plans submitted by Architects can be done by Engineers, however other panelists felt that Architect scrutinizing such plans can have better understanding of such schemes.

- Architects must imbibe additional skills than traditionally attached to Architects like Management skills, Financial feasibilities, Project Management Consultancies.
- Diversifying from core subjects may provide for additional opportunities.
- Architects can play active role in policy making with the understanding Governance.
- Architects cannot suggest policy which suit some profit making proposals as Government always devises policy based on equality for all.
- There are various other allied fields like Transportation planning, product designing, Research into which Architects can venture.

(D)

- For procurement of Architectural Services, though it is categorized as Consultancy or Services, normally the terms & conditions are like Contractors with EMD, Performance Guarantee etc.
- Most of the panelists felt that bidding for Architect cannot be based on quoted fees.
- For appointment of Architects, Architectural Competition to be held and Council norms can be followed or COA can devise norms as per updated requirements which will also include computation of fees for professional services. Request for Proposal on QCBS basis cannot be justified for Architectural services.
- Negotiation for professional fees cannot be encouraged.
- The set of jury also needs to be defined.
- Architects need to adhere to professional ethics as this is also a major reason why certain stringent norms need to be imposed on the profession.

(E)

- Many panelist felt there is no dearth of jobs as long as population is growing , housing will always be required. Given the Government policy of housing for all there will be many opportunities.
- Architects should get themselves acquainted with newer software skills especially on design testing.
- Architects must engage themselves in pre & post occupancy testing.
- “Architect” word needs to be elevated to branding. Today common man may just not know this profession like they know Doctors & Lawyers.
- We need to work towards establishing the value we create through our work, in the minds of clients and public at large.
- Architect doesn’t exert to read & understand notifications hence have limitation.
- Due to use of software have lost touch with sketching etc.

(F)

- As Architects we are groomed to design for human habitat. We diversify & change as per circumstances. The need of the hour is to boost smart alliances and finding a way further.
- We are required to project ourselves as leaders with real leadership skills and not just induce leadership ideas.
- Traditionally Architect was leader of team but in today's day & time to accept leadership it is necessary to imbibe a lot more skills than in the past.
- We are required to experiment, test and improve our work. The difference between individual opinion & knowledge needs to be differentiated. Knowledge is usually tested & confirmed. Forecasting future and risks attached with such situations and accordingly preparing ourselves is very much necessary to survive & be successful.

(G)

- There are various things which need to be included in the syllabus of Architects, however some panelists felt that introducing too many subjects at graduation level may deviate students from core subjects.
- Students are not exposed to services & opportunities in Public Sector. Their role models are limited to design Architects only.
- Qualification of B.Arch is like basic qualification of MBBS in Medical Science.
- Architects are required to do specialization/ Post graduation. Options considered are Business Management, Finance Management, Project Management, Construction Management.
- Marketing of services is also an area which is required to be worked upon.

(H)

- It was decided to formulate different committees to look after various issues related to Architectural profession and architects to be requested to volunteer on different committees.
- Preferably, we should conclude our findings & conclusions along with recommendations to concerned Authorities within six weeks.

(I)

- Vote of Thanks was given by Ar. Arvind Wadke- Chairman, Events & Program Committee.