

Power & Architecture

interplay between two disciplines

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Politicians and architects share one common prospect, which is to foresight and organize the urban mechanism. Without visionaries new terminologies to mankind could never have existed. People couldn't have relinquished their periodic needs without them. When two such visionaries converge, who belong to different creed, they tend to execute a design which is broader than human perspective.

ARISTOCRACY & ARCHITECTURE

Each honest calling, each walk of life, has its own elite, its own aristocracy based on excellence of performance.

– James Bryant Conant

Aristocracy is always been judged as a deaf wall, ineffective to examine the needs of people, but whenever it lends a manual connection to its subjects, the ethnic culture is developed. All ancient monuments we see in or out of the country are symbols of an individual or a religion and symbolize power. And when this power is deployed for social benefits, it can change the very urban fabric.

- The Prince Charles of Wales propagates neo – traditional ideas of Christopher Alexander and Leon Krier who have a very deep attachment with the built environment. Thus the Built fabric in England is excursively under the command of citizens, which was bridged by him, by influencing people's participation in their own cityscape. Being an outsider to architecture altogether, his contribution to it is more surprising and critical. Most important thing is to conceive that a leader sympathized and channelized the potential of the mass.
- Similarly another case where freedom is still a common social is-

sue is the Arabian Desert which was merely known for its sand and oil and became leisure hub of the world. Dubai's built facia was reinvented and skipped from mud to steel in last few decades when real estate interacted with bold aristocracy. When the gulf of Oman became receptive then, a mega structure doesn't remain a mirage in a desert and even sky was covered.

There are three roads to ruin; women, gambling and technicians. The most pleasant is with women, the quickest is with gambling, but the surest is with technicians.

– Georges Pompidou

- Above quote was be delivered after the completion of Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris which is a complex monument designed by Piano & Rogers, meant to address library, museum and music & acoustics research centre, which before usually functioned in erstwhile style buildings, but still irrespective of the mass hysteria on its 'high-tech architecture', during its construction, but recent estimation testifies that the machine a' cultiver is now been adopted and loved by the masses.
- Volume, space and light understood by many groundbreaker architects,

but the same prophecy was used to build the ground for the sinister empire of genocides. Albert Speer, Nazi architect, who crafted many of its rallies, constructed totalitarian regime, amongst Reich chancellery and zeppelin field stadium. His play of mass and light during the rallies had an eternal effect on its spectators, this interpretation of the further aspirations didn't stop there, they set up plans for the planning of Berlin, which was designed on an axes, enduring long avenues in which the focal point was set out to be 'The Great Hall', the biggest dome ever built, which displayed predated sovereignty of the third Reich.

The unconventional paradigm has always put forth the social body on test. Sometimes the masses or the governing body wins the campaign against the development. The following examples demonstrate how each of them supersedes each other for their idiosyncrasy.

- Crystal palace, designed by Joseph Paxton, London 1851, was meant to deal the great exhibition, which housed the green space which shifted typology from one to another, which turned into anarchy between the government and public. Government denounced it at the first place due to its glass & steel romanticism, but it appealed the masses for its new genetic beauty. With the help of mass & media, Paxton design was executed.
- Similarly École des Beaux-Arts culture was out dated, when fusion of two distinct art school in Germany, formed the Bauhaus. Bearing a hostile behavior to parent-age new isms, which were before destined to arise from Paris, those have change the mass perspective

for life. Walter Gropius, founder of the school, would have surely de-tested the idea of conceiving the school which was design to impart superior art skills and not an academy to evolve inhumane war machines. Dessau Bauhaus, Germany, which ocean-ed many river of art within itself, gave many tributaries of avante garde to society. With the shift of the regime, occupation at Bauhaus also altered its course.

DEMOCRACY & ARCHITECTURE

“Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.

– James Baldwin

“...It hits you on the head and makes you think. You may squirm at the impact but it has made you think and imbibe new ideas, and the one thing which India requires in many fields is being hit on the head so that it may think....” - Jawaharlal Nehru trying to convince his colleagues about his modern vision of India for which he raised the model city Chandigarh. But even still after 50 yrs it's been erected, we couldn't raise from slum culture. Instead of creating flawless solutions, we are trying to solve inherit problems.

In a country like India, where we have a capitalist economy, we can't expect real estate to venture in low cost housing. So to counterbalance the social rift, government introduces welfare schemes, which are usually named after the members of a stalwart political family, this designation process is also allotted to many airports, stadiums, universities, etc.,. But without political intervention, projects

like S.R.A. and mass housing for L.I.G. & E.W.S. couldn't be realized. Even after enormous collection of taxes, which are basically meant to develop the country, are still insufficient for providing shelter to the poor. Again, to compensate with the issue, government introduces private sector to develop these schemes on their behalf.

Another parody of our administration is the so called, Urban land ceiling act, which was meant to provide equity of land distribution in urban agglomerations, which would preclude the absorption of urban land as the asset of few individuals, but it turned out to be seismic disturbance. The government practiced fiercely to acquire land but dilated the process of allotment, even which was ill-conceived. So this act was re-appealed, due to the lobby effect under the pretext that it was obstructing urban development.

In India, democracy is the pseudonym of pending court cases without any traces. In-humane conditions in slums still persist and many development schemes play 'touch and go'

But nothing budes to safeguard vote banks.

And the preceding examples are the guidelines drawn from by the predecessors to the succeeding inheritors, to conceive a vision which would be cherished tomorrow. With correct conscience and attributes any society can be lead towards a better future.

So the buildings of future depend upon how we frame it today. ■

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