

From the President's Desk

SIA:



Architectural Education

Closing Notes

The previous two articles were meant to highlight the current status of the architectural education in the country. But, it is thought that the prevailing conditions of both the education and the practice deserve more than just highlighting.

We in SIA are of the conviction that the current programmes of most of the schools teaching architecture at present suffer deficiencies of one sort or another. This is clearly reflected in their final outcomes; rather poor standards of the majority of the graduates as judged from their performance in the graduating projects. Though several design projects may be of an excellent or at least acceptable quality, the written reports accompanying these projects mostly reflect a clear lack of understanding the values that these documents are meant to

convey. Care for presenting a beautifully coulored and well bound booklet, in the majority of cases reviewed, far exceeds the quality of the text. The role of the knowledge content mainly aiming to support the design decisions is extremely poor. Most of the deficiency is related to the students' weakness in both languages; English and Arabic. The problem in the former is now unanimous in the country and is related to basic schooling, but that of the Arabic is mostly due to the poverty of the architectural vocabulary in common use in Sudan. The few Arabic words and expressions now in use are predominantly of foreign sources; being borrowed from Egypt or from Syria, neither part of the students' mother tongues nor in common use of the trade market. That renders documents further alienated.

With a view to bringing this topic to a conclusion, the following points are raised for further discussions amongst the professionals and academics.

- The current curricula of all schools need be carefully revised and updated to accommodate the swiftly proliferating new ideas ,design techniques and building materials;
- Reliable sources estimate

that the current scientific knowledge is predominantly produced in English; this is estimated to amount to 80% .Thus, taking that into consideration, extra care for English language is becoming a non-compromising necessity.

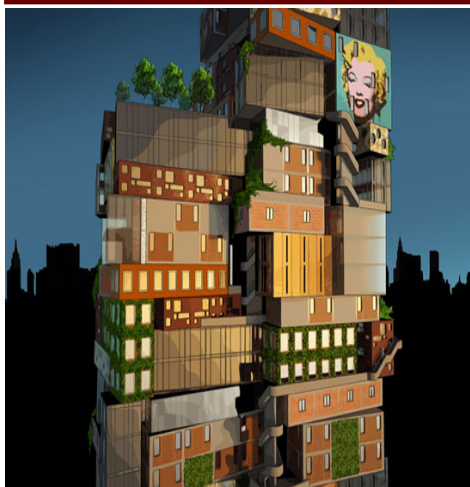
- The teaching personnel, together with the supporting staff, teaching facilities and premises are to be elevated to the acceptable accreditation standards, now well defined worldwide.

- Post graduate upgrading courses under the form of (CPD) are to be obligatory at acceptable intervals for renewal of practicing licenses. This is an act of consumer protection which is an integral part of SIA's mission towards the public. This type of approach may help safeguarding against the hazardous practices now very common with licensed architects and engineers signing drawings made by non-qualified individuals.

Buildings commercialized under these false signatures exceed by far those signed by qualified designers...Alas !!!

*Omer Siddig Osman,
SIA,President*

Architecture of the Month



MoMA tower

Manhattan based firm **axis mundi** has unveiled a conceptual alternative design for MoMA tower. Founder of the firm John Beckmann sees this as the time to rethink the tall buildings that have become synonymous with New York city's identity. 'instead of disguising the rich potential of towers that have a mix of uses, we looked for a way to express that diversity,' Beckmann noted.

The firm used parametric computer modeling software to test a wide range of possibilities. out of his iterative process they proposes a new way to organize and express tall buildings: the vertical neighborhood.

SIA 16: “Road Map”

The Council meeting held Saturday, June 27, reviewed and adopted the plan of work for SIA 16 term of office which was presented by the president. The main features of the plan are briefly explained below: -

- 1/ SIA is to look carefully into the prevailing status of Architectural Education in the country with a Life Cycle Assessment approach ; with a view to adopting a consumer protection role as specified in its constitution,
- 2/ with the same LCA approach ,SIA is to cater for the proper training of architects being newly graduated or in practice as need of updating professional knowledge arises,
- 3/ SIA is to initiate close surveillance of the code of professional conduct both of its membership and their clients as detailed in the constitution and byelaws,
- 4/ in close abidance with the abovementioned directives, SIA is to promote and ensure healthy ,mutual and reciprocating relations with the professional community worldwide through the regional and international architectural and related professional institutions. SIA’s aims and intensions of that effort is to enrich the experience of its membership at large and keeping abreast with the professional market requisites.

FULL MEMBERS

Since starting its term office November 2008, SIA’s **Committee of Membership and Training** has granted its full membership to 61 applicants; names are enlisted to the right. These new corporate members are warmly welcomed and are expected to be a positive element in promoting the role of the institute and to be fully committed to serve the objectives of SIA and abide by its Code of Practice.

SIA’s doors are always open for its members’ contributions, comments and constructive criticism. The corporate members represent the CORE of the organization; they are those who constitute the quorum in General and Special Meetings, and are those who are entitled to vote in passing all resolutions.

SIA’s Committee of Membership and Training conducts quite a thorough process to ensure the professional qualities of its new members including a personal interview on the 15th day of the month.



نزار عبد المنعم عبد الرحمن
نعيمية عبد القادر محمد احمد
نهي توفيق هاشم
احمد عبد الله محمد الحسن
البراء جلال الدين محمد عبد الماجد
بدر الدين احمد الجعلي محمد
جمال الدين برهان الدين عبد القادر
سعد الدين حسين البشري عبد الماجد
ضياء الدين سر الختم بشير
محمد عبد القادر علي محمد
محمد علي عامر محمد علي
محمد محمود زين العابدين
هند محمد احمد صديق
ياسر يوسف سعيد حمد الفيل
سلافه عبد الحفيظ

حسن صالح حسين
ابراهيم حسن مالك علي
آدم أجري عثمان
اسامة مامون البكري محمد
اشرف ابراهيم احمد موسي
النعمان جعفر الباقر
أمير سعد علي حميد
خالد حسن احمد محمد
خالد حسن محمد آدم
رفعت فتحي عبد الغفور قاسم
سلمي بابكر خليل الجاك
عبد الباقي محمد عبد الله الهاشمي
عبد الله سليمان محمد علي
عواطف علي شريف محمد
عوض الكريم نور الدئم عمر
كمال حسن محمد حامد
محمد ابكر آدم الضو
محمد علي أحمد جلي
منى محمد إبراهيم أبو سن
مني مصطفى الطاهر ابراهيم
هند عبد المنعم خوجلي عثمان
ابراهيم صديق محمد بعقوب
ابراهيم عبد الله الفضل

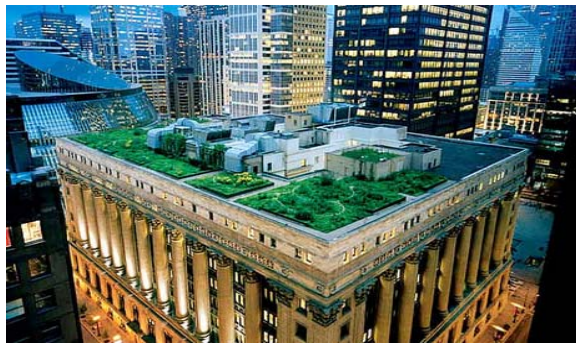


Urban Heat Island ...

Architects and researchers have started to seriously deal with the urban heat island phenomenon, widely known as UHI. Generally, an urban heat island (UHI) is a metropolitan area which is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas. The temperature difference usually is larger at night than during the day, and is most apparent when winds are weak.

The role of architects and planners are crucial in dealing with UHI and its negative impacts. The principal reason for the nighttime warming is thought to be that buildings block surface heat from radiating into the relatively cold night sky. Two other reasons are changes in the thermal properties of surface materials and lack of evapo-transpiration in urban areas. Materials commonly used in urban areas, such as concrete and asphalt, have significantly different thermal bulk properties (including heat capacity and thermal conductivity) and surface radiative properties (albedo and emissivity) than the surrounding rural areas.

Mitigation of the urban heat island effect can be accomplished through the use of green roofs and the use of lighter-colored surfaces in urban areas, which reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat.



The Green Roof Project at Chicago City Hall.

After an elongated forceful debate, which reflected unanimous agreement, Arc.Peace board released a strong statement addressed to the Israeli association of architects demanding expulsion of its members who grievously violate professional ethical standards by engaging in the design of illegal Jewish settlements in West Bank.

The statement was sent to the International Union of Architects with a request for a formal reply; to the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Peace Now, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, the Israeli journal Haaretz, Architects and Planners for Justice in Palestine in the UK, to the Indian Council of Architects, to members of Architecture Sans Frontières - International, and to media and professional organizations in many countries around the globe. Read the statement in newsletter no. 26, Arabic and English:

http://arcpeace.org/01_AP_home.htm

ARCH NEWS .. ARCH NEWS ..

AIA Small Project Awards 2009

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) have selected the 20 recipients of the 2009 Small Project Awards. The AIA Small Project Awards Program, now in its fifth year, was established to recognize small-project practitioners for the high quality of their work and to promote excellence in small-project design. This award program emphasizes the excellence of small-project design and strives to raise public awareness of the value and design excellence that architects bring to projects, no matter the limits of size and scope. Award recipients are categorized into three groups: Furniture/Fixture/Fragment, structures, and accessible design.



WEB REVIEW

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization which seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller, and invites people of all backgrounds to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat for Humanity has built over 300,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.5 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

Habitat for Humanity website: <http://www.habitat.org/>, provides a comprehensive review of the global efforts and approaches to affordable housing. The website also features a couple of model housing projects as a result of the collaborative initiatives, as well as an array of venues to volunteer such as the International Volunteer Program—IVP. On another hand, the website is linked to Construction and Environmental Resources department (<http://www.habitat.org/env/default.aspx>), which helps international Habitat affiliates build quality houses at the lowest possible cost.





Oscar Niemeyer

Enjoying the 102 years of life and professional experience, Oscar Niemeyer, the famous Brazilian architect, can still be seen at the drawing board. Despite being semi retired, Niemeyer welcomes his students from all the corner of the globe with the same enthusiasm that colored his young professional life.

Niemeyer was born in Rio-de-Janeiro in 1907, and grew up to be one of the important figures in the International Modern Architecture, and became known for his monumental structures. His fascination with the international style and its defendant Le Corbusier was evident. The thing

that he expressed clearly in his numerous writings. Such views were consolidated by working with Lucio Costa, who gave him the opportunity to work with Le Corbusier to design the Ministry of Education and Health building(1945) in Rio de Janeiro which became a landmark of modern Brazilian architecture. He, later, collaborated with Le Corbusier on the design for the United Nations Headquarters (1947-53) in New York, contributing significantly to the siting and final design of the buildings.

With all the confidence obtained from such experiences, the distinctive Niemeyerian style arose; the lightness of the curved forms created spaces that transformed the architectural scheme into something that was hitherto unknown; harmony, grace and elegance are the ad-

“I have always accepted and respected all other schools of architecture, from the chill and elemental structures of Mies van der Rohe to the imagination and delirium of Gaudi. I must design what pleases me in a way that is naturally linked to my roots and the country of my origin“.

jectives that are most appropriate to describe the work of Oscar Niemeyer.

In 1988, Niemeyer was awarded the famous Pritzker prize of Architecture. The award, although being late compared to Niemeyer’s achievements, was considered as a reactionary to some coming at the peak of the criticism that is focusing on the revealed flaws of the modern movement.

** all photos are from the Pritzker Architecture Prize’s website: www.pritzkerprize.com, re-*



Niemeyer

UN Headquarters, New York, US (1953)



Congress Brasilia, Brazil (1960)



Niteroi Contemporary Art Museum, Niteroi, Brazil (1996)

SIA 16 congratulates all its members of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Dr. Tallal Abdalbasit Saeed, Editor



We are also on the web!
www.sia-sud.org



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