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GREHA

Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860, number 16677 of 1956

Design and the Classical Indian Tradition

The Indian sub-continent has given rise to a design ethos which is rich with meaning and delight. The expression of this permeates our entire culture, from our ancient cities and buildings to the crafted objects which are part of our everyday existence.

Our contemporary environment seems poised to negate the world engendered by the classical tradition. Design education and practice today have taken a position which is dominated by a fascination for modern technology and keeps a distance from our ancient beliefs and tradition.

There is, however, a growing interest in Vaastu and the benefits which may flow from the application of this classical science to the planning and design of our habitat. Consequently there is an increasing number of "vaastu pandits" who are sought after by the public eager to pay generously for their 'professional' advice. Concurrently the formally organised professionals like architects, urban planners and designers, interior designers, etc, are closing their ranks to denounce this classical science as a fake, or at best a set of superstitious beliefs. Such a polarisation tends to obscure reality and inhibit evolution of ideas.

In order to enlarge our understanding of the classical tradition, and to redefine its relevance to contemporary design thinking, we are holding a two-day workshop in New Delhi. The workshop will be conducted by Sashikala Ananth, an architect and Vaastu expert based in Chennai, alongwith Jogi Panghaal a product designer, and Ashish Ganju an architect, both practising and teaching in India and Europe.

Date : 13 and 14 November 1999
Venue : INTACH, 71 Lodi Estate, New Delhi
Participation fee : Rs.400/- for students
(for both days) Rs.800/- for others

We are inviting all those interested in participating to register as early as possible, since the attendance will be limited to 60 persons. A post-workshop document recording the proceedings will be published and distributed free-of-charge to the participants. You can register by sending your request, accompanied by a crossed cheque/demand draft for the amount of the fee made in favour of

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and sent to C-170 Defence Colony, New Delhi 110 024. Students should send a photocopy of their identification card with their payment.



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Sashikala Ananth

Sashikala Ananth holds a degree in architecture from the School of Architecture, Madras University. She has spent the last fifteen years assimilating traditional knowledge and exploring its field application. A recipient of the Asoka Foundations Scholarship for innovative contribution to the field of Architecture, she was also part of a team that made the 1991 award winning film, A Shilpi Speaks, that explains the tradition of the sculptor, and has published a book, The India Tradition of Design based on Vaastu Shastra. She is also the author of the Penguin Guide to Vaastu: The Classical Indian Science of Architecture and Design.

Ananth is a student of Shri Ganapati Sthapati, a leading authority on Vaastu Shastra and has also translated his text on iconometry into English. She has studied the Vaastu texts extensively and has worked with traditional artisan communities. She lives in Chennai where she works on Projects incorporating the wisdom of Vaastu in creative and harmonious ways with the modern lifestyle.



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GREHA wishes to act as a platform for promoting dialogue between students and teachers of architecture who are looking for alternative viable methods of architectural education. We invite students and teachers of all educational institutes to bring to our forum their ideas regarding our endeavour.

GREHA is a non-profit organization registered with the Registrar of Societies, Government of India. It started as an informal forum for discussion of issues affecting the architectural community in the early 1980's and was formally registered on 12th May, 1986.

The main objectives of the society are:

1. To establish and run School/Colleges to impart Architectural education.
2. To establish and maintain centres for research in the field of Design, Architecture, Environment Planning and Technology.
3. To set up libraries or museums and collect books, publications, literatures, models, designs, drawings and other information.
4. To print and publish Books, Journals, Papers, and other material to help disseminate knowledge and impart education.
5. To organise and conduct conferences seminars, lectures, tours, demonstrations, exhibitions, and other programmes to impart knowledge.
6. To cooperate and collaborate with other similar institutions, whose activities fall within the objects of the society.

The founder members of the Society are B.B.Chaudhuri, Sheba Chhachhi, M.N.Ashish Ganju, A.Katakam, A.B.Lall, A.G.K.Menon and K.L.Nadir.

The Society has taken initiatives in the areas of Design Education, Conservation, and Urban Planning. It was responsible for setting up the TVB School of Habitat Studies, New Delhi in 1990. Members of GREHA formed the core faculty with M.N.Ashish Ganju as the founding Director. The society has been revitalised in 1998 with the inclusion of several new members.