National Seminar on Architecture: “CITIES AND CITIZENS”
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A National Seminar on Architecture “Cities & Citizens” was organised by Delhi Technical Campus at its campus at the Knowledge Park III, Greater Noida (U.P.) on the 13th and 14th March, 2015 under the auspices of the Sunshine Educational Society.

THE SEMINAR

Main thrust of the papers was intended to be The Human settlements which, from primitive to the most modern and elaborate have been built on three components: Nature, Man, and Society bringing with them the concepts of systems, networks and the Shell in which to live.

With a strong historical and cultural background, today’s cites possess multi-layered complex systems for sanitation, utilities, land usage, housing, and transportation which run on a society of citizens with culture, administrative, legal, and historical status based on local law and experience. The aim of the National Seminar was to bring experts from all the concerned fields including Architecture, Art, Ekistics, Planning and Administration on a common platform to discuss and disseminate about the issues in cites we live in or are creating for future.

As all human habitats become permanent settlements, co-existence of various cultures and generations of citizens with ancient cites like Varanasi and Madurai and proposed smarter cities, India, like many other countries, faces a humongous challenge to managing their growth. The seminar successfully turned out to be a platform where it was proved beyond doubt that active cross sharing of existing knowledge as well as development of future design philosophies and logistics can emerge for a positive future of the citizens of the world.
The Inaugural Session started with the recital of *Saraswati Vandana* by the students of the School, the National Seminar was inaugurated by the chief guest Ms Leenu Sehgal, General Manager (Planning) Greater Noida Development Authority, by lighting the traditional lamp.

The chief Guest was felicitated by the Chairman Shri Vipin Sahni along with Smt. Kiran Sahni. After which she was requested to address the gathering. Being a town planner with a huge experience, Ms. Leenu Sehgal gave an excellent impromptu speech covering most of the burning issues regarding cities and citizens today.
Hon’ble Justice Bhanwar Singh, the Director-General was also present to bless the School of Architecture, and spoke like a veteran architect in his well researched speech.

In his key-note address Prof. Satish Khanna touched very important issues of Human Habitats of urban India, based on his experience, both as an architect and a senior consultant to the Delhi Urban Art Commission.

After a short tea break, the National Seminar got into a serious technical mode with the start of its Technical Sessions.

Dr. Aruna Ramani Grover, Architect-Planner, Expert COA, consultant DUAC and professor of architecture SPA-D, presenting her paper “Water Use In Indian Cities: Problems And Prospects”
All the technical sessions were chaired by well-known personalities of the profession, which included:

1. Prof. S.K.Khanna, ex-SPA, New Delhi and a senior consultant to the DUAC
2. Mr Sudesh Prabhakar, Expert, Council of Architecture
3. Ms. Rekha Dewani, Chief Architect Wave Infratech and ex- NOIDA
4. Dr. Aruna Ramani Grover, professor SPA, New Delhi and member Heritage Conservation Committee
In the two days of presentations the seminar was packed with varied issues affecting Human Settlements.

The following list makes the wide spectrum of the discussion over the issue:

1. Prof. Avtar Singh: Structures of Regional Architecture: BUNDI - A Forgotten Glory

2. Dr. Aruna Ramani Grover: Water Use In Indian Cities: Problems And Prospects

3. Prof. Vikas Jain: Visual Communication: Building the Gap between Heritage and the Contemporary

4. Ar. Abhinav Garg & Ar. Charu Arora Mathur: Environmental Clearance for Sustainable Development of Cities in India

5. Prof. Tanushree Das: Managing Built Heritage through Public-Private Partnership

6. Prof. Harish Gupta & Ar. Akhil Gupta: Conserving Our Past for a well-organized Future

7. Ar. Sudesh Prabhakar: Cities, Culture and Effect Of Technology on Culture

8. Prof. Ashok Grover: The Indian City....For Who?

9. Ar. Tanya Gupta: SINGAPORE: A green approach for City Development

Participants posing for a photo during a break
Another paper, titled “Public Housing in Raipur: Analysing its fulfilment of the public needs” was received from Ar. ROHIT KUMAR, a faculty member of a Delhi-based Architecture School, who could not present the paper due to some unavoidable reason on his end.

The First National Seminar organised by the School of Architecture, Delhi Technical Campus turned out to be hugely successful and being well attended, it received a very positive response.

As the issue is currently a hot topical matter, the Chairman, Shri Vipin Sahni, Smt. Kiran Sahni, as well as Shri Aman Sahni, Vice-Chairman remained glued to presentations for long periods during the Seminar.

The School of Architecture got a very efficient support from the offices of the Director and the Dean of DTC. As expected the hospitality team took excellent care of the Patrons, the Chief Guest, Experts and the speakers presenting their papers.