

Architecture Alumni Association of BUET ARCAAB

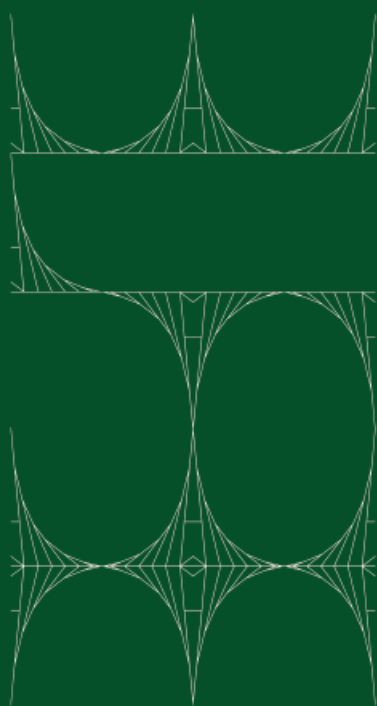
A R C A A B Q U A R T E R L Y

AQ 02

2019-2020

9th EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

PUBLISHED
MAY. 2021



9th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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C O N T E N T S

EDITOR'S note / **01**

PRESIDENT'S message / **02**

News / **03**

Events / **08**

Interviews / **24**

In Memoriam / **29**

Credits / **36**

EDITOR'S note



Dear Alumni,

It has been a time of great uncertainty for all of us. At personal, professional and social levels, this has been a crisis that we have never witnessed before. Some of us have gone through the tragedy of losing dear ones, some have fought an exhaustive battle with the dreaded coronavirus, while some are having to take care of others in a similar crisis. In the middle of such upheavals, the first casualty has been the state of normalcy and everyone is striving to do the best under the circumstances. We wish all our fellow alumni good health, fortitude, optimism and tenacity in the individual battles that each may be going through.

The second issue of ArcAAB Quarterly reaches you considerably later than its regular arrival schedule. Compared to pre-Covid period, the activities of ArcAAB have been relatively few and limited - mostly online. Among the overwhelming number of obituaries, there has also been some outstanding good news concerning our alumni and alma mater. We have tried to document all of them here in our pages. In keeping with our policy of attempting to strengthen bonds, we have featured interviews with alumni from across the generations. The members of our Editorial Committee have strived hard during the crisis to bring this issue to fruition. We expect that the third issue of ArcAAB Quarterly, which may also be the last one in our editorial tenure, will reach you very soon. When it does, we hope and pray that the days will be better than they are now. Let us all be attentive to the health safety instructions, retain positivity, but try to avoid becoming 'positive' by all means.

Le Corbusier's post World War II years saw an elaborate implementation of a flurry of ideas, both lyrical and brutal, that were generated during the architectural suspension imposed by the war. In whatever ways possible, let us attempt to utilize this slower-than-usual period to reflect and re-imagine the spaces that have become normal for us. Let our post-pandemic designs triumphantly showcase the lessons we are learning through tragedies now. Here's to the future!

Ar. Mamnoon Murshed Chowdhury

Editor

ArcAAB Documentation and Publication Committee

Alumni of '86 batch

PRESIDENT'S message



Dear Alumni of Department of Architecture, BUET,

Greetings from the President's desk of ArcAAB. We are passing through the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Many of us have suffered or lost loved ones, our deepest condolences and prayers are with everyone to pass through this difficult time with safety and care.

In continuity of the inaugural issue, ArcAAB Documentation and Publication Committee announces the second edition of the AQ (ArcAAB Quarterly). The ArcAAB Quarterly brings to you news, activities and information. I, on behalf of the EC, congratulate and express my sincerest gratitude to this Committee for their relentless effort in publishing the periodical during this difficult time.

Our two-year term is nearly coming to an end. Despite the adversities of the past one year that limited our physical activities, ArcAAB has maintained an online presence through various events and activities for our alumni. A total of 7 subcommittees involving 58 ArcAAB members worked hard and chalked out fantastic work programs that will guide as the foundation for events and activities for future.

Next year, the Department of Architecture at BUET will celebrate the 60-year anniversary. Precedence left behind by our educational, social and cultural programs by the subcommittees will help ArcAAB immensely to build up programs and initiatives for the celebration and events in the coming years.

To build a firm financial ground for ArcAAB for the welfare of the alumni, some admirable initiatives are planned. We are grateful to everyone for their time and effort. We have an upcoming event through an online platform to welcome the two batches - 2013 and 2014 - as new members of the alumni association. Our database of all members and online digital directory is still in progress. The registration process with the Govt. of Bangladesh is also in progress. Due to the ongoing social distancing, we are continuing our work rigorously through virtual media. Your active involvement with these activities will build up stronger bonding among the ArcAAB family.

Last but not the least, I remember with great sadness the members of our alumni we have lost to the pandemic. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I pay homage to the eleven wonderful lives that were cut short by Covid -19 and the demise of ArcAAB's most beloved immediate past General Secretary Akhil Akhter Chowdhury Shipon left a permanent void in our community. May their souls rest in peace.

My sincerest gratitude to all the ArcAAB members, those who have participated in various online events. My sincere felicitations to the members who received various awards in recent times. I also congratulate the winners of the 50 years of independence celebration poster design winners and the participants. The details of activities and news are presented in this publication.

With warm wishes. Please stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ar. Ishtiaque Zahir Titas'.

Ar. Ishtiaque Zahir Titas. Hon FAIA
President , ArcAAB
Alumni of '83 batch



photo courtesy : DoA, BUET

Dr. Shayer Ghafur takes over as the new Head of the Department, DoA, BUET

Professor Dr. Shayer Ghafur, a decorated alumnus and educator of Department of Architecture, BUET, was named as the new Head of the Department on 26 July 2020. Dr. Shayer Ghafur finished his B. Arch from Dept. of Architecture, BUET in December, 1989 and joined as a faculty in December 1990. He completed his PhD from Oxford Brookes University as a Commonwealth Scholar in 1997.

His field of interest is interdisciplinary discourse with special focus on resilience, housing- urbanism and bridging between pedagogy and praxis.

The academic program of the Dept. of Architecture has been continuing through online platforms during the ongoing pandemic. The Dept. has successfully completed its first undergraduate and postgraduate online term education and examination under Dr. Shayer Ghafur's leadership.

ArcAAB wishes Dr. Ghafur every success and hopes that our alma mater will reach new heights during his tenure.



Architect Mustapha Khalid Palash awarded Bangladesh Pratidin award on their 12th Founding Anniversary

Nineteen eminent personalities in different fields have been honoured for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields on the occasion of 12th Founding Anniversary of Bangladesh Pratidin, the highest circulated national daily of the country. The recipients have been awarded with crests, citations and a cash amount of one lac Taka each. The Award Ceremony was held at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the capital on 15 March 2021.

Being an architect with enormous capabilities and commendable humility, Mustapha Khalid Palash has made everyone proud as one of the recipients of the award among the top notch nineteen celebrities of the country. The famous architect cum artist, Mustapha Khalid Palash has been continuing his contributions as an architect, artist, singer and a musician since long.

An alumni of the Department of Architecture BUET, he completed his graduation in 1988 and remained there as a faculty till 1998. Currently he is considered as one of the leading architects of Bangladesh.

His designs have been established as landmarks in different areas of Dhaka. Besides performing the role of an architects, he feels quite comfortable to perform the role of an artist. He is also the Founder and Editor of the Quarterly Art and Architecture Magazine DOT. With his parallel performances in all facets of passion, he has been keeping his marks persistently for the present and the generations to come.

ArcAAB congratulates him on his latest achievement and wishes him good health and prosperous future.





photo courtesy : ArcAAB

Architect Marina Tabassum honored with Doctorate Degree at Technical University of Munich (TUM)

Marina Tabassum, Principal of Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA) and Director of Academic Program at the Bengal Institute of Architecture/Landscape and Settlements, received the honorary title in recognition of her independent and sustainable architectural works of significant societal value.

Due to travel restrictions for the ongoing pandemic, the awarding ceremony took place online on 9 December 2020, and was broadcast via Facebook event. TUM Dean Prof. Andreas Hild, TUM Vice President Prof. Juliane Winkelmann and Prof. Dr. Andreas Lepik awarded the Doctorate Degree to Architect Marina Tabassum in presence of a huge online audience from home and abroad.

Architect Marina Tabassum completed her B.Arch from Department of Architecture, BUET in 1994. She founded MTA in 2005 after her 10 year partnership as the founder partner of Urbana. As described in her website, MTA started its journey in the quest to establish a language of architecture that is contemporary to the world yet rooted to the place.

Marina Tabassum has been awarded with numerous prestigious national and international awards over various phases of her career. One of the most prestigious awards she received till date is the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2016) for designing the Baitur Rouf Mosque in Dhaka. She has also worked as an educator in various universities and institutions in many countries, i.e. Australia, Bangladesh, Netherlands, to name a few.

INSPIRING Women AWARD

Celebrating Women of Bangladesh
Voice Vision Vivid

INSPIRING FEMALE STARTUP
HONORABLE MENTION

FARHANA RASHID
Founder and CEO
Bhumijo Limited



Architect Farhana Rashid Tonu awarded for Inspiring Female Start-Up

Women In Leadership (WIL), an endeavor of Bangladesh Brand Forum, awarded Architect Farhana Rashid Tonu the Inspiring Women Award (Honorable Mention) in the category of Inspiring Female Start-Up on 24 March 2021.

Architect Farhana Rashid Tonu, with her innovative venture 'Bhumijo', has been working on one of the most crucial issues of our country - inequity in public toilet facilities. Bangladesh Brand Forum recognizes her passion for acknowledgment of the existing problems and for providing a complete solution program with the Bhumijo team.

Alumna Farhana Rashid Tonu completed her B.Arch from Department of Architecture, BUET, Batch of 2003. Later she pursued her Masters in Sustainable Urban Planning and Design at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden. She has been awarded with Acumen Fellowship (2020), International Youth Urban Professional Award (2020) and many more for her unique work goals and achievements.



photo courtesy : Mir Manzurur Rahman

Mir Manzurur Rahman appointed as the new Chief Architect , Department of Architecture, Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Alumnus Ar. Mir Manzurur Rahman took office as the new Chief Architect of Department of Architecture, Ministry of Housing and Public Works on 28 January, 2021. He took over the prestigious position from Ar. Shameem Aminur Rahman, also from our alma mater.

Arch. Mir Manzurur Rahman completed his B. Arch in 1991 from Dept. of Architecture, BUET. Later he pursued his Masters in GIS & Infra-structure Management at ITC, Enschede Netherlands. The ArcAAB family wishes him success and all the best in his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF A TITAN

BASHIRUL HAQ


LIVE WEBINAR SESSION in ZOOM by ARCAAB
19:00 hours BD time, 18 April, Saturday 2020

June 24
19
42

All log in at 6:45 pm (ZOOM system check)
Session in order 7:00 pm-8:30 time.

7:00pm - Welcome note
7:05 pm - A Short presentation on BASHIRUL HAQ'S work and life
7:15- 7:30 pm - Disjointed Discussions
7:35- 8:30 pm - Open mic session for guests
8:35 pm - Vote of Thanks
8:50 pm - Session Ends.

Meeting ID: 875 1331 5424
Password: 855860



ARCAAB

ARCHITECTURE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF BUET

poster courtesy : ArCAAB

IN MEMORY OF A TITAN

A webinar commemorating work and life of Ar. Bashirul Haq

Architect Bashirul Haq was one of the most prominent figures in the history of architecture in Bangladesh. With an esteemed career spanning more than four decades, he touched the lives of many through his work, words and teaching. Our community sadly lost a pillar with his demise on 4th April, 2020 at the age of 77. Due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, we were unable to pay homage to our beloved architect in an appropriate manner. Hence ARCAAB arranged an online webinar commemorating Architect Bashirul Haq, his works and philosophies.

The webinar was open to all and was conducted via ZOOM on 18 April, 2020. His contemporaries, students and colleagues were invited to share their heartfelt messages and memories in the first part of the webinar. This was followed by an open mic session for everyone to participate and impart their experience with Ar. Bashirul Haq. The webinar was attended by more than hundred audience from home and abroad. It was a privilege for us to have Ar. Bashirul Haq's wife Professor Firdous Azim and his two sons' virtual presence in the webinar. Dr. Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed, Ar. N.R. Khan, Ar. Bayejid Mahbub Khondker, Dr. Nasreen Hossain, Ar. Kazi Nasir, Ar. Ehsan Khan, Ar. Dipu Didarul Islam, Ar. Marina Tabassum, Ar. Saiful Haq were a few among the audience.

The webinar started with an introductory speech from ARCAAB President Ar. Istiaque Zahir. In his speech he mentioned Architect Bashirul Haq as someone who inspired generations of architects, motivated students in many universities, touched upon thousands of lives and contributed to the development of the country and its society. He added, Ar. Bashirul Haq stands tall as one of the brightest beacons of the architectural profession in this region with his profound wisdom and inimitable humility. Ar. Istiaque Zahir then invited Ar. Adnan Morshed for a short presentation on Bashirul Haq Sir.



photo courtesy : Al Amin Abu Ahmed Ashraf (Dolon)

Dr. Adnan Morshed's visual presentation was titled "Learning is remembering". He said that Ar. Bashirul Haq was a pioneer of modernism in the 70's, in the postwar era of Bangladesh. According to him, the best way to remember somebody honorably is to learn from him, hence the title. He questioned Bashirul Haq's attachment to his birthplace, B. Baria, as his frontier apprehension. In his presentation he covered many aspects of Bashirul Haq's life, his education, the cities he studied in, his inspirations and narrations in building design. He tried to explicate the underlying poetry in Bashirul Haq's projects- Architect's own residence, his village home, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Bhaban and some more of his renowned works.

Ar. Adnan Morshed elaborated the philosophy and strategy behind the infamous use of brick and geometric patterns in Bashirul Haq's projects, which became his signature style.

Ar. Nahas Ahmed Khalil was invited next to share his thoughts to the audience. He started off where Dr. Adnan Morshed left, what to learn from Ar. Bashirul Haq. He mentioned Ar. Bashirul Haq was a very international personnel in terms of skills and personality, yet deeply rooted to his Bengali self.

He wasn't lured by the then trendy architectural style, rather he took the responsibility of the time and place, in context to our country.

Despite having great international exposure, his humility and sensibility was something that had always guided the architects in Bangladesh. We still think, design and work based on the strong foundation that Ar. Bashirul Haq had laid with his work, discipline and choices, said Ar. Nahas Kahlil.

Next, Ar. Saiful Haq stated that he felt grateful for the times he got to share with Ar. Bashirul Haq. He recalled his first visit to Ar. Bashirul Haq's office in 1977, at Dhanmondi and was fascinated by the way an architect's office functioned. He started his office when there was political unrest in the country and He was very much aware of the context. He used to address Dhaka climate, material, and combine geometrical patterns, which showed how he was very clear about his architectural thoughts and visions from the very beginning of his career.



photo courtesy : Bashirul Haq & Associates Ltd.

Ar. Saiful Haq continued the session by reminiscing various projects and Ar. Bashirul Haq's vision behind them. He wrapped up his dialog by citing Ar. Bashirul Haq's design is free of any redundancy.

In Ar. Bashirul Haq's memory, his famously designed Kalindi Apartments at Indira Road will remain open for all the architects and students to visit, Ar. Ishtiaque Zahir stated at this point. A committee has been made to protect this landmark building and he also mentioned that the stakeholders would like to preserve it as it was designed.

Late Ar. Bashirul Haq's wife, Professor Firdous Azim, followed up the conversation with a different and personal point of view. She shared that, Ar. Bashirul Haq was very conscious of the relationship between different forms and expressions in art. In the early years of their marriage,

Memories of Bashirul

He would ask her to read T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" to him, and he was fascinated by the form and structure of this epic poem.

He used to say that in order to break something, one has to know it very well. Structure and form were very important to him and he would even look for it in his favorite poem "Song of Myself" by Walt Whitman.

He did not believe in postmodernism, yet he would like to explore the deconstructive postmodern form in Salman Rushdie's "Midnight Children". He had an eye for detail; we find that in his designs, in his buildings, in his meticulousness, and it was always present even in a simple city walk. She thanked everyone for the tributes and the shared memories. She concluded by hoping that we will hold on to Bashirul Haq's legacy by learning from his work and take it forward.

After the keynote speakers, the mic was made open for everyone. Dr. Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed took the floor and recalled Ar. Bashirul Haq said that one should hold on to luck and own it. Ar. Mamnoon Murshed Chowdhury remembered a time when Ar. Bashirul Haq referred their office to one of his clients and it gave them a great moral boost.



photo courtesy : Bashirul Haq & Associates Ltd.

Next Ar. Ehsan Khan discussed an award ceremony, 3 years back, where Ar. Bashirul Haq was awarded with "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his contribution in Bangladeshi Architecture. HE received the award saying that he was very glad for the socially and environmentally conscious young architects.

He felt the field of Bangladeshi architecture is in good hands, especially how they were generating movements through their works.

Ar. Shahida Sharmin Disha shared her experience of working for Ar. Bashirul Haq. She mentioned that He was not a people pleaser and He deeply believed in his own design and methods. He was a very humble, friendly person who was always open to new perspectives.


Ar. Iqbal Habib conveyed his gratitude towards Professor Firdous Azim for always keeping their home open for the students and the architects. He also said that Ar. Bashirul Haq had set an example for the architects of the new generation with his humble lifestyle.

Ar. Emu Farhana Sharmin said that she first met Ar. Bashirul Haq when she was in class 9. She added that, He was a person averse to publicity, he was very humble and besides being such an eminent architect, he was a wonderful human being.

Ar. N. R. Khan recalled his memories with Ar. Bashirul Haq said, He always inspired everyone not only to be a great person, but also to be a great architect. Ar. Jalal Ahmed shared his experience of going to Ar. Bashirul Haq's office in Indira road and his fascination for the working drawings in that office. His office was a go to destination for their younger selves.



RETROSPECTING MUZHARUL ISLAM

			
Suvo Sovon Chowdhury Architect, Partner Studio Morphogenesis	Sarawat Iqbal Teshla Architect, Partner Roofliners - Studio of Architecture	Mohaimen Islam Assistant Professor, DoA, BUET	S.M. Rumman Masrur Chowdhury Architect, Partner Chorcha Shapajog Lecturer, DoA, UAP
			
Rashid H Chowdhury Principal Architect Dehasar Works	Mohammad Tahajbul Hossain Assistant Professor DoA, BUET	Dr Adnan Morshed Professor, Catholic University of America Session Moderator	Nusrat Jahan Men Graduate Student Doctor of Design Program Harvard GSD
<p>Saturday 26th Dec. 2020 8.00 PM HEPNO, D- 825 2036 2106 RAMCODE 1234</p>			<p>Architect Nurul Rahman Khan PhD, FIAB Session Moderator</p>
<p>Architecture Alumni Association of BUET</p>			

poster courtesy : ArcAAB

WHISPERINGS OF THE MASTER : Shapotyachariya Muzharul Islam interpreted for today

While the collaborators in his architectural endeavors have described him with terms such as 'uncompromising' and 'unforgettable', those who had been fortunate enough to be Architect Muzharul Islam's apprentices love to define him by his 'humanist' approach and 'fearless' attitude in upholding beliefs and pursuing goals. The pioneer architect of Bangladesh, political and cultural activist and philosopher, widely accepted as the founding father of the Bengali Modernism in architectural style, also has deep influence over the psyche of young professionals' of today. This has been expressed in a lively online discussion program arranged on the occasion of Muzharul Islam's 97th birthday by the Education Committee of ArcAAB held on 26th December, 2020.

The program titled 'Retrospecting Muzharul Islam' was a part of a series of events arranged and planned by ArcAAB up to the 100th birth anniversary of Muzharul Islam in 2023, involving experts and young professionals to spread his legacy of work and philosophy. Suvo Sovon Chowdhury (Batch-2001) (Architect, Partner, Studio Morphogenesis Ltd.);

Rashed H Chowdhury (Batch-2002) (Principal Architect, Dehsar Works); Sarawat Iqbal Tasha (Batch-2003)(Architect, Partner, Roofliners); Mohammad Tahajibul Hossain (Batch-2005) (Assistant Professor, DoA, BUET); Mohaimeen Islam Badhon (Batch-2005)(Assistant Professor, DoA, BUET); S.M. Rumman Mashrur Chowdhury (Batch-2009) (Architect, Partner, Chorcha Sthapatijog; Lecturer, DoA, UAP) and Nusrat Jahan Mim (Batch-2006) (graduate student, Harvard University Graduate School of Design) were invited as speakers of the program moderated by Adnan Zillur Morshed (Professor, Catholic University of America) and Ar. Nurur Rahman Khan (Batch-1983) (Architect Partner, Tania Karim N R Khan and Associates).

Not only the built form, his mediation on Bengal landscapes, lifestyles, philosophies and politics reflected in his planning and design solutions throughout the 60's and 70's makes him still very relevant

The President of ArcAAB, Ishtiaq Zahir Titas welcomed the participants and launched the session by stating the importance of critically exploring Muzharul Islam's work and philosophy as he led the way of flourishing a characteristic style of architecture for the Bengal delta. Not only the built form, his mediation on Bengal landscapes, lifestyles, philosophies and politics reflected in his planning and design solutions throughout the 60's and 70's makes him still very relevant.

The two-hour long discussion was executed by two renowned educators and researchers, Ar. N.R. Khan from Dhaka and Ar. Adnan Z. Morshed from Washington D.C. who presented different aspects of Muzharul Islam's work, life and philosophy that are well known among those who study the master and asked specific speakers to reflect on those in the context of today's practice and academia.

Essence of the persona and the architecture of Muzharul Islam

For Ar. Suvro, the unique character of Muzharul Islam's architecture is that they create a conversation with the context and user rather than to impose a strong message. He calls the master 'a great deductionist' who created 'simple but not simplistic' spaces, achieved 'clarity and finesse' through richness of 'nuances'. The most important teaching for Suvro himself is that, 'human intervention' in a creative process makes all the difference and that collaboration among different creative fields is crucial for successful architecture.

Ar. Rumman believes that the individual Muzharul Islam is responsible for the characteristic architecture he produced. The time has come for an unbiased enquiry about his 'intentions' and 'processes' which would not only benefit the architects but also be beneficial for the society as a whole.

The 'totalitarian' approach towards context and aesthetics is the most important teaching from the body of his works

Decolonization is the central theme of Muzharul Islam's works, according to academic Tahajibul. The 'totalitarian' approach towards context and aesthetics is the most important teaching from the body of his works.

Academic Mohaimeen acknowledged that Muzharul Islam studied from the west and then created the basis for working in and with the native context which laid the path of confidence for the following generations of architects in Bangladesh.

Mindful reading for an Architect

Professor Adnan introduced the issue of mindful reading of which Muzharul Islam was a strong advocate. When he asked whether the young professionals appreciate a close relationship with books, and whether the academic curriculum encourages and guides students to read enough, the current reality of abundance of internet-contents and image-biasness were brought forward by the speakers. Ar. Rashed expressed his frustrations about the poor time-management common in the lives of young professions and the pressure of staying informed of too many things in too little time span. In order to curate self-development through mindful reading, a certain work-life balance is crucial which can be an important lesson learned from the example of Muzharul Islam.

The same dilemma is true for the academia where students are allured by the instant access of image-based information through the internet and shuns away from actual books. The institutional curriculum cannot guide them directly to read books for self-development. Academic Mohaimen stressed on more intensive integration of theory courses with design studio courses so that students can learn to orient and position themselves in the 'context' from the early stage.

learning from 'reading' cannot be solely an individual's private endeavor anymore, it should be re-defined in accordance with realities of our time

Architect Nusrat Jahan Mim opined that learning from 'reading' cannot be solely an individual's private endeavor anymore, it should be re-defined in accordance with realities of our time. Different strategies were proposed by the speakers to enable students and professionals to become enriched from the documented version of knowledge, such as, study-groups, master-classes, more and more translation of foreign books into mother-tongue etc.

Knowing one's own country

Ar. N. R. Khan mentioned that to really 'see' one's own native land and be acquainted with the people and landscape was always important to Muzharul Islam. On this point, Ar. Tesha shared her team's standpoint and understanding of being a 'patriot' by being attentive and sensitive to the surrounding context rather than only to the project site. Ar. Rumman shared his appreciation of local knowledge and skills in design solutions rather than imposed egoist prescriptions from the educated consultant. His understandings are deeply influenced by Muzharul Islam's working philosophy coupled with his own experience of working in remote regions of the country. He stressed on contributing as architects in the small towns of the country, where unplanned investments of the middle class for the city's built environment lack the attitude of symbiotic-coexistence or 'bhodrota' - a term coined by Muzharul Islam.

When Ar. N.R. Khan brought up the famous saying of Muzharul Islam on being a global-man to become a true Bangali, the speakers shared different opinions about the meaning of being a 'Bangali'.

Being a Bangali

When Ar. N.R. Khan brought up the famous saying of Muzharul Islam on being a global-man to become a true Bangali, the speakers shared different opinions about the meaning of being a 'Bangali'. Ar. Rumman said, in order to grasp the picture in its wholeness a distant gaze is necessary. Muzharul Islam got to experience that distant gaze during his stay in the contrasting landscape and culture of America and Europe and formed his idea of the Bangali identity which is not something local but a universal identity.

Ar. Mim said, where in most cases advancement results in submissiveness of the native cultural values, Muzharul Islam was able to integrate and make a connection of multicultural exposure with the authenticity of Bangali-ness.

According to Architect Suvro, Muzharul Islam introduced 'new' built form on the native landscape yet had been able to create an undeniable dialogue between the architecture and the Bangali context.

Is fearlessness outdated?

The strength of Muzharul Islam's character as fearless mediator of complex contradictions is reflected in his architectural endeavors that are diverse in treatments and style. It is also evident in his political and social pursuits. Resolving contradictions was inherent in his effortless mannerisms to achieve the greater good. In response to Ar. N.R. Khan's question whether the new generation will be even more fearless, speakers were strategic in their answers. The information super-highway induced culture of instant communication, virtual reputation and the hardcore individualism were identified as the reasons behind the sense of detachment and lack of the sense of security.

As collective goals and values have taken the back-seat where competition and individual excellence are glorified, today's intellectuals are inclined to be politically correct at all cost rather than to differ in opinion or take a contradicting standpoint fearlessly.

Which three things would be introduced by Muzharul Islam if he were the Head of the Department of Architecture at BUET !

Ideas for curricular reform based on Muzharul Islam's ideals

At the end, Professor Adnan invited ideas from each of the speakers for curriculum reform through a brain-teasing question, saying, which three things would be introduced by Muzharul Islam if he were the Head of the Department of Architecture at BUET ! Specific ideas and propositions were put forward by the speakers, which brought the lively discussion program to a fruitful end. They were;

Introduction of 'visiting school courses & workshops' where students will learn experimental forms of architecture in diverse format & context outside the campus

Multi-disciplinary courses with more focus on arts, crafts and hands on experiments

Introduction of multiple full-length on-site studios in rural settings

Stressing on theoretical understanding of architecture of Bengal

Enabling inter-departmental collaborations with engineering and social studies disciplines

More intensive and extensive history and social studies courses

Setting a goal of producing graduates who will be able to 'connect' with the world and adapt state of the art technologies to create our own 'Bangali version'.

More intensive 'professional ethics' course with higher credit-hours to train future architects as accountable professionals upholding the Bangali identity and patriotism in the truest sense.

**50 years of Independence
Poster design competition
FOR STUDENTS + ARCHITECTS
of DoA, BUET**

JURY PANEL
Ar. Mubasshar Hussain
Chairman of the Jury
Ar. Mohammed Emran Hossain
Ar. Rashed Hassan Chowdhury
Ar. Reesham Shahab Tirtho

<p>SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT</p> <p>POSTER DIMENSION : 425 mm x 700 mm SUBMISSION FORMAT : JPEG (300 DPI)</p> <p>SUBMISSION ADDRESS : arcaabbd@gmail.com</p> <p><small>* File size must be within 5 MB * Mention Participants name and contact no. in the mail body * Do not Mention Participants name / contact no. in the poster</small></p>	<p>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</p> <p>25 MARCH 2021 SUBMIT BEFORE 14:00 HRS <small>_Local Time</small></p>
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**RESULT ANNOUNCEMENT
ON 26th MARCH at 00.00 HRS**

**50
YEARS OF
INDEPENDENCE
50**

Architecture Alumni Association of BUET **ARCAAB**

poster courtesy : ArcAAB

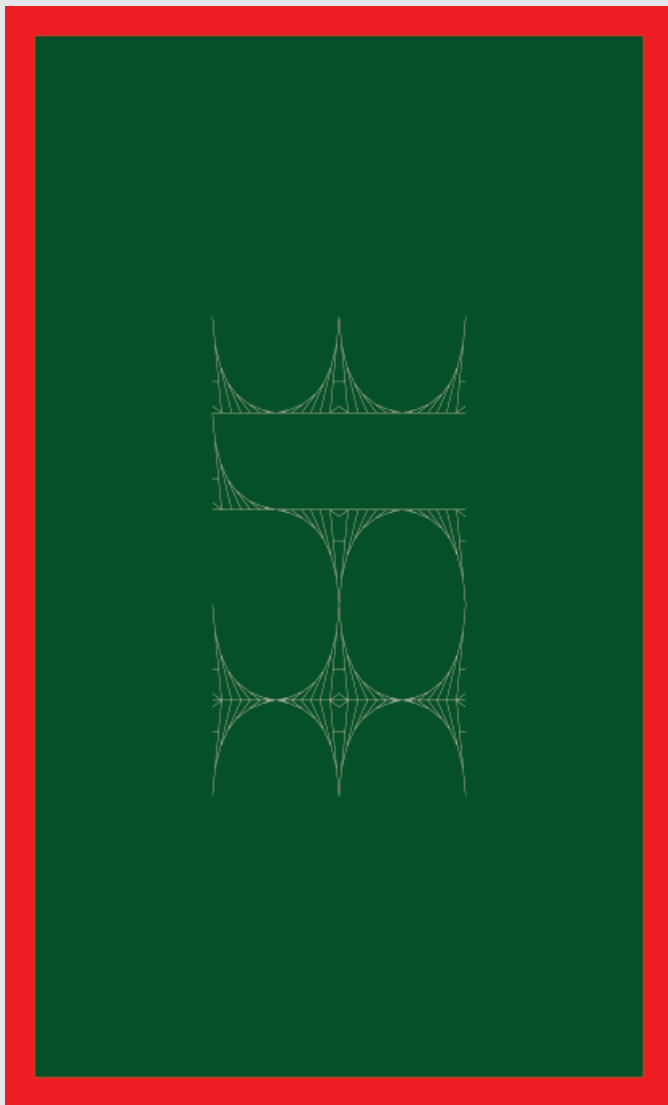
Poster design competition celebrating 50 years of independence

A poster design competition was arranged by ArcAAB on the eve of 50 years of Independence of Bangladesh for the students and alumni of Department of Architecture, BUET. A total 15 submissions were received within the deadline on 26 March 2020.

A four member jury panel was formed with Ar. Mubasshar Hussain, Ar. Mohammed Emran Hossain, Ar. Rashed Hassan Chowdhury and Ar. Reesham Shahab Tirtho. Ar. Mubasshar Hussain presided over the jury proceedings. The decision of the Jury is printed in full below.

Words from the Jury

The jury extensively scrutinized the submitted entries. There were 15 proposals and unfortunately we were unable to find a single entry with brilliant and interesting idea. Presumably, it was the insufficient time allocated for the design submission. We took serious consideration primarily on two grounds: it's a poster for celebration of a national event with utmost intensity and this poster design is proposed by the students & architects from the most prestigious institution of Bangladesh. As per our review, these entries lack to match that high expectations from the Jury to align with those two considerations. However we are selecting a couple of entries which have potentiality to portray the expectations and hence we are "commending" them here:



Commendation A (According to submission Serial)

Submission No. : A50S1 : Zakir Ahmed Opu

Juror's Citation:

This entry is abstract and took a minimalist approach to describe the theme of the competition. The idea of "50 years" with the shape of "স্মৃতিসৌধ" (in a "sketchy tone"); is interesting but it lacks to depict the idea of celebration. The color selection for the poster is very basic green and red, but it could have explored other possibilities to play with color arrangement and assignment; keeping the initial idea of "স্মৃতিসৌধ, 50 and abstraction".



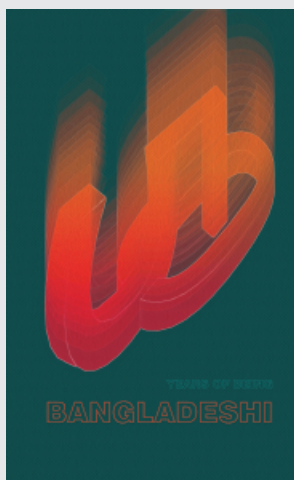
Commendation B (According to submission Serial)

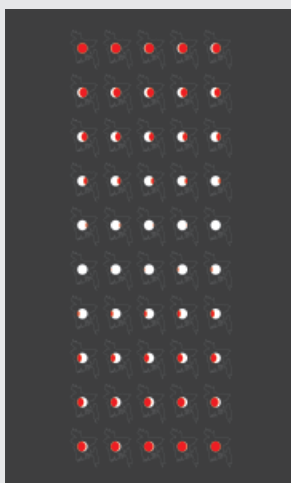
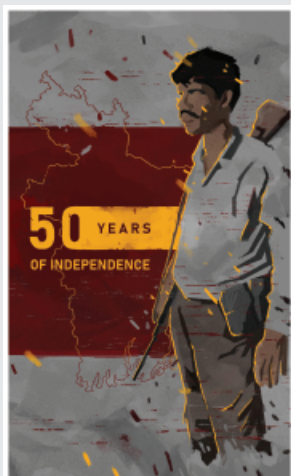
Submission No. : A50S9 : B. M. Tahammul Kabir

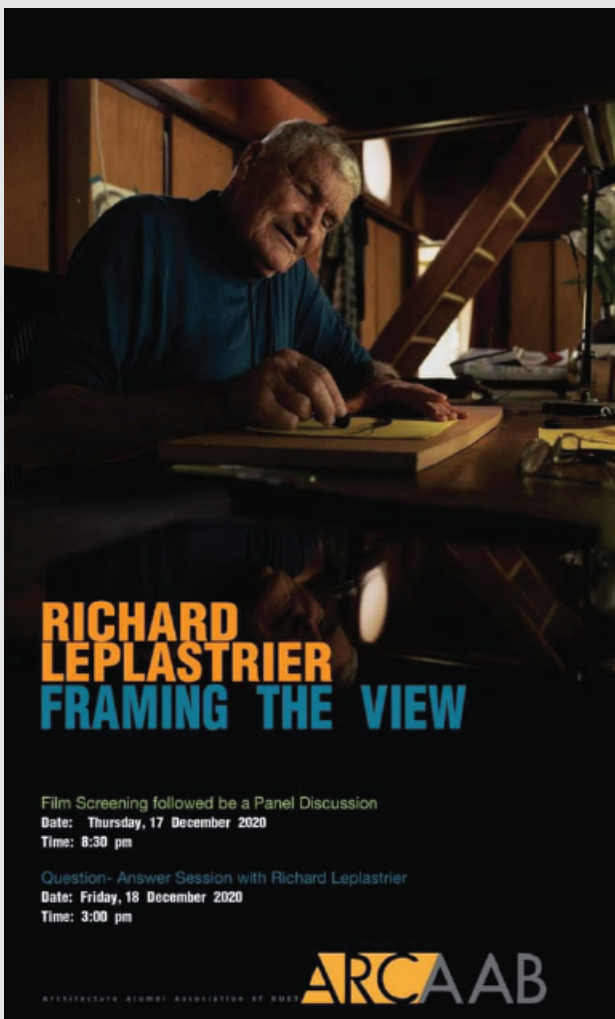
Juror's Citation:

This entry took a retro appearance but re-introduced a good old important unresolved dispute of "বাঙ্গালী vs বাংলাদেশী". In last 50 years it might not get resolved, but we assume; we (as a nation) tried to address it through different initiatives. But after 50 years it reminded us again, the urgency to come up with a solution/ commitment for making a nation with integrity and cohesiveness. The subtle satire nature of the proposal by faded "সবাই" and the asterisk marked note " শর্ত প্রযোজ্য" is not to ridicule our efforts of making such a nation but to remind ourselves with a satirist gesture."

Other Submissions :







Film screening followed by panel discussion and online Q&A session with Ar. Richard Leplastrier

As a part of the academic development endeavour process for the alumni, ArcAAB Educational Sub-committee announced an online event- "Special Screening of the Movie 'Richard Leplastrier: Framing the View'", followed by a discussion between distinguished panelists. The event on 17 December 2020 was followed by a Q & A session with Richard Leplastrier on the following day on 18 December 2020.

Richard Leplastrier is a seminal figure in Australian architecture and architectural education. He eschews publicity and his built works are secret treasures to be discovered only by those privileged enough to be introduced to them.

His sensitivity to issues of culture and place and his accumulated wisdom in the design and making of architecture is gently revealed through his tutorial sessions in the design studio.



photo courtesy : Leigh Woolley

He was awarded the Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1999, he was recipient of the 2009 Dreyer Foundation 'Prize of Honour' in Denmark and he was recipient of the 2004 'Spirit of Nature Wood Architecture Award' in Finland- other recipients of this award include Renzo Piano, Peter Zumthor, Kengo Kuma, José Cruz Ovalle and Bijoy Jain. In 2009, Leplastrier was elected an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

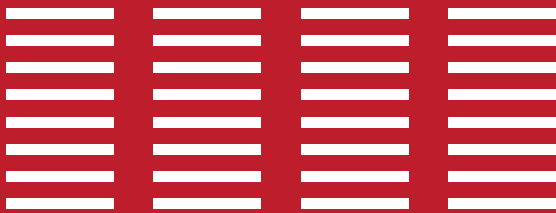
In 2011, he received the Australian National Honour 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service to architecture and as 'an educator and mentor'. He received an Honorary International Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2015. Richard Leplastrier was until recently a Professor at the University of Newcastle Australia and is one of the principal 'masters' of the Architecture Foundation Australia master classes.

After the screening of the film, a panel of distinguished architects of Bangladesh – Ar. Ehsan Khan (Principal Architect, EK Architects), Ar. Khandaker Hasibul Kabir (Assistant professor , DOA BRAC university) and Ar. Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad joined the discussion session. It was moderated by the Member Secretary of the ArcAAB Academic Cooperation Committee Ar. Marina Tabassum (Principal Architect, MTA).

President of ArcAAB Ar. Md. Ishtiaque Zahir Titas (Principal Architect and Managing Director, VIITI Sthapati Brinda Ltd.) also joined the event. The panelists expressed their views on the works and philosophy of Richard Leplastrier, its impact on the academic field and on the young architects of the current generation and future. Ar. Mohammed Emran Hossain (Principal, Architect Emran and associates) , Ar. Saiqa Iqbal Meghna (Architect & Partner, SthaNiK Consultants and Studio Morphogenesis Ltd.) and Ar. Nurur Rahman Khan (Partner, TKNRK) participated in the discussions that followed.

On 18 December 2020, ArcAAB the alumni was greatly delighted to have Richard Leplastrier for a Q & A session. This was moderated by Ar. Marina Tabassum and more than 30 alumni participated in the spontaneous and animated online event.

ArcAAB expresses deep gratitude to this great architect Richard Leplastrier and also to the team that worked hard in arranging the event.



An Interview with



photo courtesy : The Daily Star

Ar. Luva Nahid Choudhury

Luva Nahid Choudhury is an alumni of Batch '81. She is currently the Director-General of Bengal Foundation. An acclaimed singer and avid art aficionado, she is also a member of the governing board of BRAC and heads ICE Media and Bengal Publications.

Reminiscing Plinth Life

Your favorite place or space from campus life

The plaza in the ground floor of the Faculty building

The person[s] from your student days who had influence on you to become the person you are

One person whom you met in campus that molded you as the person today
Shamsul Wares, Perween Hassan, Iftekhar Mazhar, Abu H. Imamuddin - all of them my teachers and they who continue to inspire.

If you could travel back in time to your student days, would you live it differently?

No, I think it was very well spent.

Who were the persons you used to hang out with? Do you still hang out together?

Unfortunately, we are not in touch.

If you are given power to change/ introduce one thing to the department, what will it be?

I would bring the building to its original state - remove all the extraneous structures, gates and grilles, restore the openness.



photo courtesy : The Daily Star

Perks of the Profession

The weirdest request or comment from a client ever faced?

I was shown a scene in a Hindi movie (on VHS in the late 80s) where an actress was making a dramatic entry while descending a large curved stair, and I was asked to design something similar in their rather small drawing room !

Compared to the time when you graduated, is this a better or worse time for you personally as a creative professional?

In many ways it's a better time as there are more opportunities for work. There are more schools, more teachers and better avenues but I wonder if we are able to offer to the students a humane, conscious and culturally responsive understanding of architecture that should be at the core of our education.

In your journey thus far, did music and architecture influence each other?

Very much! I count myself fortunate to have had teachers and mentors who early on instilled a broad sense of how architecture and design are intrinsically tied to the arts.

Interviewed by : Mamnoon Murshed Chowdhury

An Interview with Suvro Sovon Chowdhury



Architect Suvro Sovon Chowdhury is an alumnus of Dept. of Architecture, BUET, batch 2001. He is the founding partner of Studio Morphogenesis Ltd. And Sthanik.

Reminiscing Plinth Life

Few lines to describe plinth-life ?

There are mainly two aspects that I associate with Plinth. Firstly, I was a student of Udayan School and we didn't have a playground there. So we used to share the field within Sir Salimullah Hall. During 1992-93, there were frequent political clashes in the area and the roads near S.M.Hall were blocked. In times like that, we used to play in the open ground floor area of Udayan School. When I first came to Plinth, it gave me the similar vibe, a familiar feeling like my school days.

The other fascinating aspect about plinth was that people from all parts of lives come to Plinth - seniors, juniors, students, even teachers from other departments . It was an ideal place of interaction and stress relief for me. In summary, Plinth was like an estuary, where all the rivers meet to fall in the sea. For me, it expanded from Shahbag to Showari Ghat.

Your favourite place or space from campus life.

Plinth was definitely one, another most favorite place would be the little open space between BUETPS and the BUET cafeteria. We used to gather there around 4-5 PM, after class time. I was actively or passively involved in many protests during my early years in BUET. We used to prepare write-ups on students' demands or expected changes on BUET Constitution and formulate many other movements. Seniors and a few teachers used to come there to guide us. All these took place in that little corner behind the auditorium - it holds lots of memories from my youth.

One person whom you met in campus that molded you as the person today.

I would like to describe the person without mentioning his name. He was one of our design teachers from 1-1 studio and also a renowned designer During our first mid-term, I was in a bad situation with my work and my study was a bit of a mess. One day, the mentioned teacher and I had a walk from BUET gate to the red brick buildings of the teacher's quarter and we talked for a long time, not particularly about studio projects. Amongst many things that he had said that day, one had a deep impact on me at that point of time and left a mark on my mind. He said that upon entering into the university, we often forget about the fact that we are adult individuals as well, we forget to function as a grown-up matured person sometime, besides being a student. .

If you could travel back in time to your student days, would you live it differently?

I would definitely live it differently. We could have been more open minded. Although we had become “university” students, we used to stay confined in a box or a mold. We hadn’t explored enough out of our comfort zone. For example, our campus is inside the Dhaka University premises, many types of activities take place here all year round. I could have simply attended a sculpture class with Hamiduzzaman Sir at Charukola or had interacted with Nisar Hussain Sir or others of that caliber. I would do this differently and would communicate with more people out of my bubble.

Who were the persons you used to hang out with? Do you still hang out together?

I still hang out with the friends that I used to during student life. At this stage, it feels like I should have hung out with many others. I feel that there were some people whom I should have interacted but somehow that never happened. I wish I had talked to them when we had the moment. Half of my batch mates are abroad, so the rest of us have become close knit.

If you are given the power to change or introduce one thing new to the department, what will it be?

I think multi-faculty interaction and collaboration is very important, we have to open-up more in terms of learning. Different faculty, professionals and social workers should be given easy access to our studios. Professionals need to visit the studios on a regular basis. There should be more conversations between the students and the professionals. I also think there should be fabrication workshops in our department that are easily accessible to students and professionals – who can work together, learn from each other and invent new things.

Perks of the Profession

The weirdest request or comment from a client ever faced!

Most of the requests that I get from the clients seem weird to me. That can be a reason for me being uncompromising to reality sometimes. Once an engineer requested me to render a painting of his house in water color, as I was quite handy in this medium. The building had already been built, not sure if any architect was involved in the process. After seeing the photograph of the building, I had to explain to him that as an architect, if I paint a picture of his building, it wouldn’t look like what it is in reality. I couldn’t reconcile with various parts and proportions of that built project, so I had to pass.

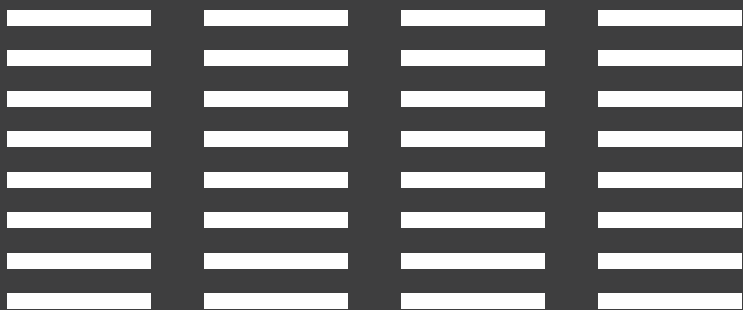
Your favorite software or tool to design?

One of my very favorite methods or practice was to make my models with clay. I had some wooden tools to sculpt with. With time, I couldn’t continue this process, although I have preserved some old clay models at home and in office. Other than that, right now I use Rhino as a drawing tool with a Grasshopper plug-in.

How do you define an architect’s job?

To me, repetition is not architecture. Architecture gives us a chance to go out of the box and monotony with every project. I like to introduce something new with every project, try to innovate or curate some new solution. I also try to redefine the typology of a project if necessary. I study the context of the project and redirect the purpose towards a greater need. Re-evaluation of every aspect, thinking and delivering something new is architecture to me.

The original interview conversation was in Bangla. This version has been abridged and translated by Fawzia Bhuiyan.





IN LOVING MEMORY OF AKHIL AKHTER CHOWDHURY

Sazzadur Rasheed

President, 8th Executive Committee, ArcAAB.

Akhil Akter Chowdhury, who was also known as Shipon, passed away on 09 October 2020 after getting infected by the novel coronavirus. May his soul rest in peace. His sudden demise has brought a huge loss to the architecture society of the country. It's hard to believe that he is no longer with us.

Shipon enrolled at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in the year 1985, two years after we did. His presence and leadership caught our attention from the very beginning. He played the vital role in the arrangement of the silver jubilee program of the Architecture Department which was held at that time. He reflected his merits by participating in various programs which focused on helping students to earn their basic rights and he was also elected as the General Secretary of the Student Association of the department.

1982-1989 was a tumultuous period during which all students were involved in the anti-autocracy protests. Even the students of BUET took part in these protests and Shipon played a pioneering role in these protests.

Right before the 1989 protests, I graduated from BUET and entered my professional life. At that time, we slightly drifted apart. But once he also entered professional life, we grew closer again. During this time, Shipon and 3 of his friends established a firm and got involved in various projects. Occasionally they would visit me at my office to seek my advice, even I would visit them to see how they were coping with their work. They were facing problems but Shipon wouldn't give up so easily. They started working for the development of land and succeeded with flying colours. As a result, their organization Suvastu became famous throughout Bangladesh. At this point, Shipon and the others were quite busy with their work, so once again a distance was created between us. Everything seemed to change with time.

Shipon withdrew himself from Suvastu and created a whole new organization which was named Suchana. Right at that time, we grew closer to Shipon again. He invited us to participate in many of his activities like visiting his village homes and festivals. The various programs which he organized fascinated us and we also took part in those programs. His organizing skills and leadership enabled him to rise up as the leader of ArcAAB. Furthermore, he took over the responsibility as the General Secretary of the 8th Executive Committee.

ArcAAB was quite stagnant at that time. So Shipon stepped up and put a lot of effort to create an active environment and he succeeded in doing so. ArcAAB gained a lot of importance and it was because of Shipon.

Shipon's untimely departure is disheartening and shocking for me and all of the other members of the 8th Executive Committee. We all pray that his soul rests in eternal peace. Our condolences to his family.

• • • •

স্বপ্নচারী বন্ধু শিপন!

- রেজাউর রহমান

প্রয়াত বন্ধু আকিল আক্তার চৌধুরী শিপন ছিল আমার খুব কাছের প্রিয় মানুষ এবং ঘনিষ্ঠ বন্ধু। আবার একই সাথে একটা সৌহার্দ্যপূর্ণ দূরত্বও ছিল বটে। চাঁদের সৌন্দর্য আকর্ষণ অনুভব করতে যতটুকু দূরত্ব দরকার ঠিক ততটুকু দূরত্ব বজায় ছিল তেমন কোন হিসেব না কষেই। কৃষ্ণ পক্ষের বিরতির পর আবার শুক্লপক্ষের পূর্ণিমার মতো মাঝে মাঝে দেখা হতো ওর সাথে জীবন প্রকৃতির আনন্দ আয়োজনে। তাইতো রবি ঠাকুরের 'আজ জ্যোৎস্না রাতে সবাই গেছে বনে' শিপনের সবচেয়ে প্রিয় গান ওর আহ্বানে প্রায়ই আমাকে গাইতে হয়েছিল আমাদের গান আড্ডায়। এখন যেন এ গান হয়ে উঠেছে আমার স্মৃতিতে নিবিড় নিভতে বন্ধুর দেখা পাওয়ার আত্মিক উপায়। এটা টের পাই তখন, যখন এ গানটা গাইতে যেয়ে বুকের ভেতর মোচড় দিয়ে চোখ দুটো ঝাপসা হয়ে আসে।

১৯৮৪ সনে স্থাপত্যের প্রথম বর্ষে ভর্তি হবার সময় দুই একজন বাদে প্রায় সবাই ছিলো আমার কাছে নতুন অপরিচিত। কিন্তু প্রথম দিনের সাক্ষাতে শিপন আগবাড়িয়ে পরিচিত হয়েছিল আমার সাথে। তখন ওর সপ্রতিভ আলাপচারিতা আর বন্ধুত্বের উদারতা দেখে মুগ্ধ হয়েছিলাম। মনে আস্থা জেগেছিল প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্যাম্পাসের নতুন পরিবেশে সবার সাথে সহজেই খাপ খাইয়ে নিতে। সেই থেকে ওর সাথে আমার পথ চলা শিক্ষাজীবনের সব ধরনের উদ্যোগ আয়োজনে। আমাদের ৮৪ ব্যাচের তথা স্থাপত্য বিভাগের যেকোনো আয়োজনে শিপনকে দেখেছি নেতৃত্বের জায়গা থেকে একনিষ্ঠ এবং দৃঢ়চিত্ত হয়ে কাজ করতে। এজন্যই ওর প্রতি আমাদের সবার আস্থা ছিল অকুণ্ঠ, নিঃসংশয়। প্রথম বর্ষ থেকে পঞ্চম বর্ষ পর্যন্ত নির্বাচিত তিন জন শ্রেণী প্রতিনিধির অবধারিত একজন হয়ে নেতৃত্ব দিয়েছে আগাগোড়া। শুধু তাই নয় চতুর্থ বর্ষে গিয়ে স্থাপত্য বিভাগের ছাত্র সংসদের নির্বাচিত সাধারণ সম্পাদক হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেছে সুচারুরূপে।

কি না দায়িত্ব পালন করেছে শিপন, সে হোক শিক্ষা বিষয়ক হোক সংস্কৃতিবিষয়ক কিংবা ভ্রমণ আয়োজন। মধ্য ৮০'র দশকে আমাদের পাঁচ বছরের শিক্ষা কার্যক্রমের পরিবেশটা ছিল রাজনৈতিকভাবে আন্দোলন ও সাংস্কৃতিকভাবে ভীষণ গতিময় আর জীবনমুখী। স্বৈরাচারী শাসন থেকে গণতন্ত্রের উত্তরণের তীব্র আকাংখার সময়। ইউকসু নির্বাচনসহ তখন প্রতিটি অঙ্গনেই শিপনের দৃষ্ট পদচারণা ছিল সচেতন এবং আপোষহীন। স্থাপত্যের সৃজনশীল শাখার ছাত্র হিসেবে আমাদের প্রায় সকলেরই মাথায় কিছু না কিছু আইডিয়া ঘুরপাক খেতো। কিন্তু তাকে বাস্তবায়ন করতে কাউকে না পাওয়া গেলেও শিপনকে পেতাম সর্বাগ্রে। সেই প্রথম বর্ষের আমাদের সবার চিত্র এবং ভাস্কর্য প্রদর্শনীর প্রথম উদ্যোগ শিপনই কাঁধে তুলে নিয়েছিল এবং যা সম্পন্ন হয়েছিল সুচারুরূপে। তারপর একে একে রজতজয়ন্তী উৎসব, স্থাপত্যের ভর্তি গাইড পরিসর ২ প্রকাশনা, চতুর্থ বর্ষের ভারতে শিক্ষা সফর, স্থাপত্য উৎসব, বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন প্রত্নতত্ত্ব স্থান পরিদর্শন, আরো কত কি যার প্রতিটিতে শিপনের উপস্থিতি এবং নেতৃত্ব ছিল সরব।

বন্ধু শিপনের কাজের ধারা ছিল যেমনি সৃজনশীল এবং পরিশীলিত তেমনি পরিপক্ব। এ কথা বলার সাথে সাথে মনে পড়ে গেল পঞ্চম বর্ষ থিসিস প্রজেক্ট নেওয়ার ক্ষেত্রে আমরা যখন হিমশিম খাছি। প্রজেক্ট নির্দিষ্ট হওয়ার পরেও সাইটের স্কেল অনুমান ঠিক করতে দিশাহারা তখন শিপন রূপলাল হাউজ এর কনজারভেশন এন্ড রিভাইটলাইজেশন প্রজেক্টের ১/৮ স্কেলে ডিটেইলের কাজ করছে। অবশেষে সবার আগে মডেল, ড্রয়িং এবং রিপোর্ট শেষ করে সফলতার সাথে জুরি বোর্ড পার করেছে।

স্থাপত্য পাশ করবার পর যখন আমরা অনেকেই কি করব ভেবে পাচ্ছিলাম না, তখন শিপন আমাদের ব্যাচের বন্ধু পলাশ, আবিদ, জুয়েলের সাথে মিলে তৈরি করলো নতুন ভাবনার অ্যালুমিনিয়াম ফ্রেমের বিভিন্ন ডিজাইনের আসবাবপত্রের ল্যাব 'উদ্ভাবনা'। লালমাটিয়ায় একটি আর্ট গ্যালারি তৈরি করে চিত্র প্রদর্শনীর আয়োজন করল।

এরপর সবাইকে চমকে দিয়ে সেই ৯০ দশকের মাঝিমাঝি যখন স্থপতির আবাসন ব্যবসায় সেভাবে যুক্ত হয়নি তখন তরুণ বয়সেই ওরা ঝুঁকি নিয়ে প্রতিষ্ঠা করল 'সুবাস্ত ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিমিটেড' নামের আবাসন প্রতিষ্ঠান। বেশ কয়েকটি সফল আবাসন তৈরীর পর সারাদেশে সাড়া ফেলল 'সুবাস্ত নজর ভ্যালি' নামে সেই আলোড়ন সৃষ্টিকারী প্রজেক্ট তৈরি করে। যা ছিল বাংলাদেশের আবাসন শিল্পের ইতিহাসে একটি বড় মাইলফলক। পরবর্তীতে শিপন সুবাস্ত থেকে বেরিয়ে একাই তৈরি করল 'সূচনা ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিমিটেড' নামের আরেকটি আবাসন প্রতিষ্ঠান।

যেকোনো কাজ করবার আগে ওর থাকতো পূর্ব পরিকল্পনা এবং নির্দিষ্ট কর্মপন্থা যার উপসংহারে থাকতো একটা দারুণ চমক। বন্ধুবৎসল শিপনের তেমনি কয়েকটি আনন্দ আয়োজনের কথা মনে পড়ছে। একবার ২০১৪ সনে ও আমাদের কয়েকজন শ্রদ্ধেয় শিক্ষক এবং বন্ধুদের গ্রীষ্মের ফলের দাওয়াত করল ওর বাড়ি মুন্সিগঞ্জের ভবানীপুরে। সকাল থেকে সন্ধ্যা অবধি প্রতিটা মুহূর্ত আমার স্মৃতিপটে জ্বলজ্বল করে এখনো ভাসে। আতিথেয়তার এমন আন্তরিক কান্ড আমার জীবনে কখনো দেখিনি। বাড়ির উঠানের গাছের ছায়ায় লম্বা টেবিল পেতে আম জাম কাঁঠাল কলা লিচু এমন কোন ফল বাকি ছিল না সেদিনের সকালবেলার ফলাহারে। তারপর ছায়া সুনিবিড় সেই গ্রামটি ঘুরে ঘুরে দেখে ফেরার পথে গাছ থেকে পাকা আম পেড়ে খাবার আনন্দ সে দিয়েছিল। গল্প আড্ডা শেষে মধ্যাহ্নভোজের তালিকা দিলে লেখাটি শুধুই বড় হয়ে যাবে। ভোজন শেষে একটু বিশ্রামের পর নৌকায় ঘুরে বেড়িয়েছি বাড়ির কাছে ইছামতি নদীতে। পড়ন্ত বিকেলে গরম দুধ আর মিষ্টি খেয়ে বাড়ির কাছে ইছামতি নদীর ধারে বসে মুক্তকণ্ঠ গান গেয়েছি 'দখিন হাওয়া জাগো জাগো, জাগো জাগো সুস্ত এ প্রাণ'। সে এক অপূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা! সেদিনের সেই সকাল সন্ধ্যা দেখেছিলাম, অনুভব করেছিলাম ভবানীপুরের নিসর্গবাসে শিপনের নিখুঁত ভাবনা বুননে। আবারও সিরাজদিখানের বালুচরে ওর নির্মিত প্রিয় 'মেঘনীল' রিসোর্টে সপরিবারে কয়েকজন ঘনিষ্ঠ বন্ধু আর আমাদের সবার প্রিয় শিক্ষক ওয়ারেস স্যার মিলিত হয়েছিলাম ২০১৯ এর শীতে এক ছুটির দিনে। যেখানে শিপন ফিরে পেতে চাইতো শৈশবের আনন্দময় দিনগুলোকে। সেখানে তৈরি করেছিল সবজি বাগান, ফুলের বাগান, ঝাকে ঝাকে উড়ন্ত পায়রাদের পরিবেশ, মাছ চাষের পুকুর, ঘুড়ি উড়ানোর আয়োজন আরো কতো কি। সেদিনও আমাদের দিনটা শুরু হয়েছিল শীতের নানান মজাদার পিঠা দিয়ে। মধ্যাহ্নভোজের আগে জায়গাটা দেখতে দেখতে কিশোর বেলায় ফিরে গিয়েছিলাম কিছুক্ষণের খেলাধুলা আর হাস্যরসে। পড়ন্ত বিকেলে মেঘনীলের প্রশস্ত উঠানে বসেছিল গান কবিতা আর কথার পসরা। সেদিন শিপন তার কবিতার ঝাঁপ নিয়ে বসেছিল, পাঠ করেছিল উজার করে একে একে অনেকগুলো প্রাণবন্ত কবিতা। সেদিন আবিষ্কার করলাম একজন নিখাঁদ প্রকৃতিপ্রেমী কবিকে।

তারপর একুশের বইমেলায় তার প্রকাশিত প্রথম কাব্যগ্রন্থ 'বৃষ্টি ভেজা কান্না' হাতে পেয়েছিলাম। ভেতরের পাতার একের পর এক কবিতা পড়তে পড়তে হঠাৎ চমকে গিয়ে আবিষ্কার করলাম আমাকে নিয়ে শিপনের লেখা একটি কবিতা! সে কবিতায় প্রকাশ পেয়েছে আমাদের আত্মিক সম্পর্কের আভাস, যা পড়ে বুকের ভেতরটা কেন জানি হু হু করে উঠেছিল কি এক অজানা আশঙ্কায়। এমন আরেকদিন লাইভ টেলিভিশন গান আড্ডায় আচমকা শিপনের ফোন পেয়েছিলাম একটি গান গাইবার অনুরোধ করে। সেদিনও আমি আপ্ত হয়ে ছিলাম, চোখ জলে ঝাপসা হয়েছিল ওর বন্ধুতার আন্তরিকতা দেখে। কিন্তু ওর প্রিয় রবীন্দ্রসংগীতটি 'আজ জ্যোৎস্না রাতে সবাই গেছে বনে' যে বিচ্ছেদের গান! আবারও সেই এক অজানা আশঙ্কায় মনটা ভারী হয়েছিল গানটা গাইবার সময়। অবশেষে অকালে অবিশ্বাস্যভাবে ঠিকই হারিয়ে ফেললাম প্রিয় বন্ধুকে চিরতরে অসীমের মাঝে।

ওই যে বলছিলাম শিপনের সব কাজই ছিল নিখুঁত পূর্ব পরিকল্পনায় সাজানো। তাইতো এখন গভীরভাবে খেয়াল করে দেখি শিপন পার্থিব জীবনের বৈষয়িক গণ্ডি পেরিয়ে নির্মাণ করে গেছে অপার্থিব স্বপ্ন ভুবন। যেখানে জীবন্ত হয়ে আছে বন্ধু শিপনের সব স্মৃতিগাথা। যে ভুবনে দেখা মেলে সুদূর বালুচরে 'মেঘনীল'। যেখানে তুমুল বর্ষায় ভেসে আসে কানে 'বৃষ্টি ভেজা কান্না'। বন্ধু, জানিস তোর প্রিয় গানটি আমি আর গাইতে পারি না, কণ্ঠ কেবলই বাষ্পরুদ্ধ হয়ে আসে। কেন যেন মনে হয় জ্যোৎস্না রাতে বাইরে না গিয়ে তোর অপেক্ষায় জেগে থাকি, কখন আসবি মায়াবী আঁধার ঘরের কোণে।

Marina Tabassum

Second Vice-president , 9th Executive Committee, ArcAAB.

If it wasn't for Shipon bhai, I don't know if I would be in architecture. I told him so many times I owe it to him. He would always shy away with a smile. It breaks my heart that there was nothing we could do to bring him back. Gone too soon. .

After my poor HSC result, my parents got worried that I wouldn't be able to sit for the Engineering admission test. My cousin, who was studying Chemical Engineering in BUET was asked to find an architecture student who could give me some coaching for the architecture admission test. That's how I met Shipon bhai. He was a second year student then. But, looking back, my first lessons in dots and lines and composition was learnt from Shipon bhai. I was confused and desperately searching for a direction in life. Through his encouraging words and appreciation of the work I produced, I learnt to become confident and to my utmost surprise found my passion and it was crystal clear, it was architecture for me and nothing else. He was my first mentor in architecture, a wonderful human being, ever smiling.

I thanked him every time we met over the years. But, today, I am not only filled with gratitude but also immensely sad that I lost a brother. His life was cut too short by this dreaded pandemic. We don't know how many more of us will fall victim to the pandemic. We can only pray, for those who are alive and for those who we lost.

May we all remember Shipon bhai as a kind, generous human being and pray to almighty for forgiveness, peace and eternal Jannah for his departed soul.

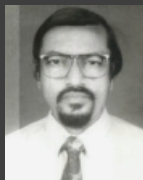
• • • •

IN MEMORIAM

In memoriam of all the alumni we have lost since the birth of this premises, we pay our deep respects.



Ar. Mizanur Rahman
(passing batch 1979)
Departure : 1st August , 2020



Ar. Nazir Uddin Ahmed
(passing batch 1969)
Departure : 19th August, 2020



Ar. Sayed Shahed Mahbub
(passing batch 1978)
Departure : 8th October, 2020



Ar. Akhil Akhter Chowdhury(Shipon)
(entry batch 1984)
Departure : 9th October, 2020



Ar. Salahuddin Ahmed Saleem
(passing batch 1996)
Departure : 20th November, 2020



Ar. Md. Mozaffar Hossain Mollah
(passing batch 1968)
Departure : 19th December, 2020



Ar. Dewan Mahbub Hasan
(passing batch 1979)
Departure : 7th January 2021



Ar. Md. Shamsul Haque
(buet 1972)
Departure : 16th January 2021



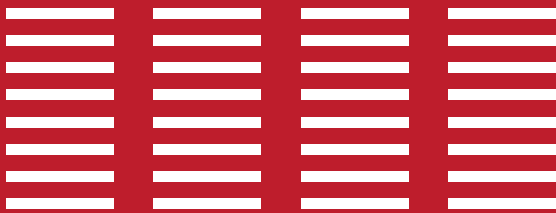
Ar. Shah Altaf Hossain
(passing batch 1979)
Departure : 7th April , 2021



Ar. Masum Kabir
(passing batch 1977)
Departure : 8th April , 2021



Ar. Saleh Mohammad Hasib
(passing batch of 1982)
Departure : 13th April 2021



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