



SOCIETY OF NEPALESE ARCHITECTS (SONA)

Churchill Complex, China Town, Sundhara

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4262252

sona2047@gmail.com || www.sona.org.np

Country Report for

Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)

15th Executive Committee

July 2022-September 2023

Table of Contents

1	A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE.....	4
2	CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS OF THE INSTITUTE.....	4
3	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH	5
3.1	Types of Membership.....	6
4	BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE.....	6
5	CHAPTERS AND BRANCHES.....	7
6	ANNUAL MEETING.....	7
7	LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE.....	7
8	LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECT IN THE COUNTRY	7
9	ARCHITECTS' REGISTRATION AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY.....	8
10	INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE.....	8
11	MAJOR PROGRAMS.....	8
	(2022, August – 2023, April).....	8
12	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND INITIATIVES.....	9
12.1	Procurement and Office Management (Workshop).....	9
12.2	DSMC/SONA Design Competition:.....	9
12.3	Low Cost House Design Competition:	9
12.4	ERA workshop.....	9
12.5	SONA Design Competition of Urban Bus Stand:	10
12.6	Khulamanch Parking	10
12.7	Solidarity with Architects at MOUD.....	10
12.8	SONA Legislation Amendment.....	11
13	SONA DAY.....	11
13.1	SONA Architecture Song Competition	12
13.2	SONA Architecture Excellence Awards:	12
13.3	SONA Thesis of the Year Award:	12
14	ARCHITECT SPEAKS SERIES.....	13
14.1	A Journey with Wolfgang Korn	13
14.2	One day symposium on modern architecture of Nepal.....	13
14.3	ArchIn Program	13
15	SONA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2023.....	14
15.1	Roundtable Meetings	15
15.2	SAARCH revival Meeting.....	15

16	SONA in international fronts.....	15
16.1	Meetings and Events attended by President and General Secretary.....	15
16.2	ARCASIA Sub-Committee Meetings.....	16
16.3	UIA Copenhagen Participation:.....	16
17	SUB-COMMITTEES	17
17.1	SONA Committee on Social Responsibility (SCSR)	18
	ACTIVITIES	19
17.2	SONA Committee of Green and Sustainable Architecture (SCGSA).....	22
17.3	SONA Committee for Architecture Education (SCAE).....	25
	ACTIVITIES	26
17.4	SONA Committee on Professional Practice	29
17.5	SONA Committee on Young Architects	29
	ACTIVITIES	30
	Architect Speaks:	30
	SONA Futsal Tournament:	31
17.6	SONA Committee on Women Architects.....	31
17.7	SONA Committee on Policy and Council Advocacy.....	34
17.8	SONA Committee on Architecture Research.....	34
17.9	SONA Committee on International Relationship.....	35
17.10	SONA Committee on Communication, Outreach and Publication	36
18	SONA ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, 2023.....	36
19	KEY ISSUES FACED BY NEPALESE ARCHITECTS	37
20	RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE	37
21	SONA FOR ARCASIA RESOLUTIONS.....	38
22	PLANS FOR THE FUTURE	38
23	AGENDA FOR ARCASIA COUNCIL.....	38

1 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) is the professional organization of the architects of Nepal, established in 1991 by a group of enthusiastic architects who represent the government, the private sector, and the academia. The main objective of SONA is to protect the rights and responsibilities of Nepalese architects and promote the profession of architecture in Nepal. SONA has grown over a period of 33 years from a small group of architects, concentrated in Kathmandu Valley, to a nationwide organization with a total membership of 1689 individuals. SONA has been registered as a professional organization in the District Administration Office, Kathmandu and abides by the rules and regulations of the government strictly. SONA has established its own office space at the Churchill Complex, Sundhara, Kathmandu in 2011, supported by fulltime secretariat for day-to-day administration works. SONA was a member of South Asian Association of Architects (SAARCH), Architect's Council of Asia (ARCASIA) and Union of International Architects (UIA). SONA's long-term goal is to establish a distinct identity of architects in Nepalese society by establishing architectural value in the society, and expand its membership and coverage throughout the country. It encourages the community of architect's in Nepal to provide quality service with high level of integrity and also strives for promoting an architectural character that suits our culture, geography, and demands of the modern society. It will continuously work towards the establishment of Architect's Council in Nepal similar to Nepal Engineering Council. SONA and will actively engage in strengthening the network with regional and international associations of architects with the objective of exposing Nepalese architects with international architectural trends.

2 CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS OF THE INSTITUTE

The 15th executive committee was elected under the chairmanship of Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi on the occasion of 28th Annual General Assembly ceremony of SONA held on 12th April, 2023 at Hotel Himalaya, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The members of the 15th executive committee formed are as follows:

President: Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi

Vice-President: Ar. Yekraj Adhikari (Government)

General Secretary: Ar. Arjun Basnet

Dy. General Secretary: Ar. Abhishek Mananda Bajracharya

Treasurer: Ar. Lokendra Acharya

Members: Ar. Astha Acharya

Ar. Sujan Silpakar

Ar. Srijana Koirala

Ar. Ruchi Bajracharya

Ar. Kaushal Shrestha



15th Executive Committee after being elected.

After the endorsement of SONA legislation amendments in July 2023, two more vice presidents and two members were nominated for the 15th executive committee. These names proposed by the 15th EC was endorsed in presence of the Advisory committee consisting of the Past Presidents on 28th August, 2023. The additional names are:

1. Vice President (Professional Practice): Ar. Bhuwaneshwori Parajuli
2. Vice President (Academic): Ar. Dilli Ram Sapkota
3. Executive Member: Nishaj Kunwar
4. Executive Member: Pragya Pradhan

In total the SONA Executive Committee has 15 members starting from the 15th EC.

3 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH

As of September 2023,

Current Membership

<i>Total Members</i>	1689
<i>General Members</i>	1180
<i>Life Members</i>	502
<i>Associate Members</i>	1
<i>Honorary Members</i>	6

3.1 Types of Membership

General Member

A Nepalese Citizen who has completed Minimum Bachelor's degree or higher degrees in the field of Architecture from Tribhuvan University (T.U.) or other universities recognized by T.U. can be eligible for a membership of SONA.

Life Member

The person who has been a General Member for five consecutive years with his renewal dues cleared can apply for Life Member. The person who has been a General Member for twenty-five years and renewed all his dues can be declared as a Life Member by the Executive Committee.

Associate Member

Foreign citizen, who has completed minimum Bachelor's degree or higher degrees, in the field of Architecture from T. U. or equivalent, living in Nepal and working here for more than 5 years can apply for Associate Member. Such membership should be approved by the Executive Committee, as per the laws and acts of SONA.

Honorary Member

The Person who has actively participated to highlight the goodwill and preserve the rights of the society; worked for the goodwill of architecture and architecture profession nationally and internationally; well renowned 'Public Figure' can be awarded as an Honorary Member.

4 BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

SONA being a voluntary organization, annual revenue is mainly collected by:

- Membership – new, annual membership and life member
- Organizing various Events small, medium, and large scale from the sponsors.
- Sponsorship from Annual Official Paint Partner
- The accounts of the organization is duly audited annually by a private Audit Firm.

5 CHAPTERS AND BRANCHES

SONA has been focusing on major metropolitan areas in the country beyond the capital city and Kathmandu valley. We have recently reached out to other municipalities as well, to try to establish chapters and have succeeded in opening up 2 chapters. One in the eastern region in Biratnagar which is in Province 1 and the other in Pokhara in the mid-western region in Province 4. With federalism in the country, we now have 7 provinces and we intend to have a chapter in all provinces in the near future.

Under the SONA sub-committee on chapter coordination and formation chaired by Past General Secretary Ar. Sudeep Sharma Paudyal and coordinated by 14th EC Member Mimang Hang Kirat is exploring the possibilities in establishing regional chapters in different provinces.

6 ANNUAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Various Annual Sessions

The AGM and Annual Sessions are generally held in autumn of each year, however 28th AGM of society of Nepalese architects was held on April 12, 2023 at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur Nepal. The AGM elected us, the 15th Executive Committee of SONA

In the AGM, then general secretary Ar. Apil KC presented the annual update of SONA to its general members whereas then treasurer Ar. Pranita Sharma Pandey shared financial update of the executive committee.

7 LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE

The Society of Nepalese Architects is registered in the Kathmandu District Office of the Government of Federal Republic of Nepal' as a non-profit and non-governmental organization. SONA is now registered in the "Social Welfare Council of Nepal".

8 LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECT IN THE COUNTRY

A graduate with a 5 years Bachelor's degree in Architecture is certified as an Architect by Nepal Engineering Council (NEC). However, for almost a decade, SONA is advocating for a separate legal entity, Architect's Council for Nepal.

9 ARCHITECTS' REGISTRATION AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY

At present, Nepal doesn't have a Council for Architects to recognize and certify a graduate architect. Hence, it is being undertaken by the Nepal Engineering Council (NEC), a government body which is responsible for all the legal registration procedures. The 14th EC has started afresh with the required legal paperwork to apply for a separate architect's council and advocacy for the same is also in full force. The letter has already been dispatched from Ministry of Urban Development to Ministry of Finance, where it requires approval. Then after, the process shall be followed towards Ministry of Law.

10 INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

- SONA became a member of ARCASIA (Architects Regional Council Asia) in 2002 AD.
- SONA is one of the founder members of SAARCH (SAARCH Association of Architects) (1991). For now, since SAARC is inactive, we are not able to work on the umbrella of SAARCH.
- SONA is a member of UIA (International Union of Architects) as of August 2017.

It has been actively participating in the events organized by SAARCH, ARCASIA and UIA. Past President (13th EC) Ar. Anju Malla Pradhan was elected as the council member of the UIA. Along with, other members were also selected in respective positions at UIA Commissions. Likewise, SONA Sub-committee is also actively participating in coordination with ARCASIA sub-committees.

11 MAJOR PROGRAMS

(2022, August – 2023, April)

SONA primarily focused on the issues mentioned below with work divisions under the different thematic committees. Such thematic sub-committees are in alignment with the sub-committee of ARCASIA and a few more added to work on contextual challenges of SONA in the national context.

12 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND INITIATIVES

12.1 Procurement and Office Management (Workshop)

SONA conducted a workshop 10 September 2022 focused on accounting and administration, contract agreements, and procurement for new and establishing architects. Led by professionals in each field, the workshop covered internal office management, legal complexities, and business acquisition modalities. Around 25 architects participated, and certificates of appreciation were distributed at the end. The program was recorded and later uploaded for the future purpose to younger architects.

12.2 DSMC/SONA Design Competition:

SONA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dhangadi Sub Metropolitan City to organize a toilet design competition. The competition aimed to encourage architects to design sustainable and innovative toilet facilities that could be implemented in public spaces. The MOU was a step towards promoting public-private partnerships to create better facilities for the community. In the closing program, we are planning to award the winners who shall get prize amount of 1.25 lakh and 75 thousand rupees.

12.3 Low Cost House Design Competition:

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity Nepal, SONA organized a competition for students enrolled in a bachelor's in architecture program in Nepal. The competition focused on designing low-cost houses. SONA also provided moderation for the competition.

12.4 ERA workshop

Society of Nepalese Architects Committee on Green and Sustainable conducted the ERA Workshop on 25th December 2022, Alice Conference, Bakhundol, Lalitpur, Nepal. The Green Committee chair of the 14th EC Dr. Sanjaya Uprety moderated the discussion, while the program started with a presentation by Ar. Prapooja KC and Ar. Barsha Shrestha regarding the work progress on ERA Guidelines and Green Rating system worldwide, respectively, and moved on to the panel discussion phase. The panelist were Dr. Sudarshan Raj Tiwari, Ar. Ujjwal Man Shakya, Ar. Prabal Shumsher Thapa, Ar. Suman Meher Shrestha and Ar. Sameer Ratna Bajracharya. The event concluded that research and development is a crucial requirement for the ERA Guideline, and discussed the need to revise the scope and scale of the guideline. During the event, Ar. Bibhuti Man Singh, the past president of SONA was invited to provide his comments on the panel discussion and share ideas for the way forward, as Ar. Singh had

led the committee and the project for a very long time. Finally, the event concluded with closing remarks by the chair and president of SONA, Ar. Rajesh Thapa, extending Christmas and New Year greetings.

12.5 SONA Design Competition of Urban Bus Stand:

SONA organized a social initiative in the form of an architectural design competition for the Urban Bus Stand in Kathmandu or other areas. The competition aimed to highlight the importance of urban public transportation and its role in creating more livable and prosperous cities. The bus stand was emphasized as an important component of public transportation and a potential ingredient for a vibrant city. The competition was judged by Ar. Sweta Shrestha, Ar. Sanjaya Pradhan, and Ar. Prajwal Hada. The winners were Mr. Anush Maharjan and Mr. Anubhav Maharjan for the first position, Hyphen Construction Pvt. Ltd. for the second position, and Ms. Kabita Ghimire, Ms. Aarju Mali, and Mr. Yugantar Paudel for the third position. The winners were awarded during SONA international convention 2023 on January.

12.6 Khulamanch Parking

Society of Nepalese Architects expressed its concerns about the proposed car parking facility and water recharge pit in Khula Manch. SONA emphasized the historical and cultural significance of the open-air theatre and the potential negative impacts the project could have on the natural ecosystem, local environment, and community. We also pointed out the potential disruptions to the groundwater table and recharge system, which could lead to water supply issues. We urged the KMC to conduct a thorough geological study and consider more sustainable solutions to address traffic issues, such as improving public transportation options. Finally, We called for the KMC to engage with a variety of experts and stakeholders to ensure that any potential projects are considerate of the community and the environment.

12.7 Solidarity with Architects at MOUD

SONA showed solidarity with architects at MOUD working in the building and architects sub-group against the decision of the Government of Nepal to include the Department of Local Infrastructure under the Ministry of Urban Development. SONA believed that this decision would interfere with the expertise of architects and expressed concerns about the generalization of expertise in the policy and implementation of building, housing, and urban infrastructure with other departments. We emphasized the need for a deep study of the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of urbanization to understand the multi-dimensional issue of urbanization.

SONA requested appropriate decisions be made to develop the expertise of architects and ensure professional development by informing stakeholders of their solidarity with the demands raised by all the architects at the ministry. We also express our gratitude to Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and Ar. Hisila Yami, for their support from a political level in raising this issue.

12.8 SONA Legislation Amendment

As soon as we, the 15th EC took office, we proposed to amend few clause in the SONA legislation. The main reason behind the amendment was that we wanted to make the EC more inclusive by including representation from the Government, Private Sector and Academia. Hence, the proposal was made to elect three vice presidents instead of one representing all the three sectors. In addition, we also proposed to have two more EC members to create more vibrancy to encourage younger generation of architects. Hence, we called in for a Special General Meeting as per the existing legislation for the amendments and completed the procedure in July, 2023 and ensuring approval from the District Administration Office of Kathmandu. With the endorsement, we completed the EC by nominating two more vice presidents and members, as per the suggestion of the advisory committee of Past Presidents and elected 15th executive committee members. The EC now has fifteen members in total. From the 16th EC, all the members will bear office through the electoral process.

13 SONA DAY

SONA Day was celebrated on October 31, 2022, at Hyatt Place, Kalimati Kathmandu, to mark the 32nd Anniversary of the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA). The event was attended by SONA members, former presidents, and guests from different professional societies, including NEA, RUPSON, SCAEF, and SEANEP. The event included various competitions related to design and music, followed by an award ceremony for SONA Architecture Excellence and SONA Architecture Song Competition. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, a musical program by SONA members, and a cocktail fellowship to share experiences and upcoming possibilities.

13.1 SONA Architecture Song Competition

SONA organized a song competition focused on architecture, and the winners were announced as follows:

- Nikita Shrestha - VASTUKALA
- Dipgest Katuwal - SANSKRITI
- Priyanka Karn. - A STORY BEHIND JOURNEY OF ARCHITECTURE.

The competition aimed to celebrate the role of architecture in society and showcase creative expressions of its impact through music. The winners were selected based on their ability to convey their message effectively and creatively through their music. SONA appreciated and congratulated the winners for their efforts in creating inspiring pieces of music.

13.2 SONA Architecture Excellence Awards:

SONA organized the Architecture Excellence Award for the second time in a row, as part of the SONA Day celebration, with the aim of recognizing the outstanding works of architects. The awards were presented in two categories: below 1000 sq. m. and more than 1000 sq. m. The winner of the below 1000 sq. m. category was "Brick House 01" designed by One Line Architects. The winner of the more than 1000 sq. m. category was "BougainVILLA-Apartment" designed by Mathema Partners. Both projects were recognized with the SONA Awards for Architecture Excellence 2022.

The Architecture Excellence Award initiative by SONA has been a great source of encouragement for architects and architectural firms in Nepal. It provides them with a platform to showcase their innovative designs and creative ideas, and in turn, receive recognition for their hard work and dedication. Moreover, the initiative has also helped to promote the importance of architecture and design within the community, raising awareness about the role that architects play in shaping our built environment. It has encouraged students and aspiring architects to pursue their dreams and strive for excellence in their work.

Overall, the Architecture Excellence Award has been a positive step towards promoting the architectural profession in Nepal and recognizing the contributions of architects to society.

13.3 SONA Thesis of the Year Award:

This year SONA decided to hold a thesis competition between all the colleges of Nepal. The objective of the SONA Thesis of the Year 2023 award (TOY SONA 2023) is to provide an opportunity for the final year undergraduate students of architecture to showcase their potential

and ideas in the national platform provided by SONA. SONA believes that this award opens a route to the knowledge exchange of architecture colleges in Nepal thereby enhancing the architecture education in the country.

14 ARCHITECT SPEAKS SERIES

14.1 A Journey with Wolfgang Korn

The Society of Nepalese Architects organized a program called "Architect Speaks" featuring Conservationist Wolfgang Korn. Korn, with more than 5 decades of experience in Nepalese architecture, has a wealth of knowledge to share with the conservation society. During the program, Korn shared his life and experiences in Nepal, providing insights into the country's rich architectural history and the challenges faced in preserving it. The program was a valuable opportunity for architects and enthusiasts to learn from Korn's experiences and contribute to the preservation of Nepal's architectural heritage.

14.2 One day symposium on modern architecture of Nepal

SONA organized a symposium on modern architecture of Nepal at Hotel Radisson, Lazimpat on August 19th, 2022. The aim of the symposium was to revive and document what is known but not talked about enough about modern architecture in Nepal. The discussions focused on understanding the factors that shaped modern architecture in Nepal, including institutional, political, social, civic, educational, and artistic influences. The symposium attempted to shed light on the history, growth, and contemporary practices of modern architecture in Nepal and the client's perspective in architecture development. The keynote speaker, Ar. Biresh Shah, along with other speakers discussed the development of architecture in the Kathmandu valley by Carl Pruscha and L. I. Kahn and how it was influenced by the technology available at the time and the regionalism in architecture. The symposium also included critical discussions on contemporary architecture and the future of architecture in Nepal.

14.3 ArchIn Program

The Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) organized a successful program titled "ArchIn Discussion with Experts" on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in Kathmandu. The program had two sessions that aimed to create awareness among architects and engineers on vital issues. The first session discussed "Architecture & Tourism – Appreciation, Impacts & Challenges," where experts and panelists spoke about the role of architects in building attractive tourism in the

country. The session was moderated by Ar. Sarosh Pradhan, and Ms. Lisa Choegyal, an International Tourism Marketing and Product Development Consultant, delivered the keynote address. The second session discussed "Natural Disasters - Turkey/Syria Earthquake Uttarkhand Sinking and is Nepal prepared?" which aimed to raise awareness among architects and engineers about applicable building codes and heritage site protection. The session was moderated by Er. Amod Mani Dixit, and Dr. Inu Pradhan Salikhe delivered the keynote address. The event was jointly organized by SONA and KNP-Nerolac and was well received by the participants.

15 SONA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2023

SONA International Convention 2023, held on 19-20 January, focused on the role of architecture in creating the identity of contemporary cities. The convention was aimed at examining the challenges faced by architects in shaping the character of modern cities, which are changing from traditional hierarchies and functions to unguided growth and commercial speculation. The convention had three sub-themes, each examining different aspects of urban development, such as the identity of traditional and modern urban spaces, the role of architecture in defining the identity of the city, and the sustainability of traditional building technology in the urban context. The papers presented at the convention analyzed and assessed the changing conditions of cities and provided insight into the issues that need to be addressed. The convention also featured discussion sessions on urban planning challenges, urban heritage, and identity preservation, and featured presentations from experts involved in urban planning, governance, and architectural design. Overall, the convention was a valuable opportunity for architects, planners, and policymakers to explore innovative ideas and solutions to the challenges faced by contemporary cities.

The Convention was a truly global event, with over 40 international participants hailing from 12 different countries, as well as more than 300 national attendees. The level of participation was truly impressive, leaving a lasting impression on all those who took part. Notably, the Convention was graced by the presence of distinguished personalities such as the UIA President, ARCASIA President, SAARCH Chair, UIA Zone 4 Vice President, and Past Chair of SAARCH, who all attended the meeting.

15.1 Roundtable Meetings

SONA (Society of Nepalese Architects) facilitated three roundtable meetings focused on promoting green and sustainable architecture, enhancing professional practice, and supporting young architects at the time of the SONA International Convention 2023. These meetings brought together all five sub-committee chairs of ARCASIA, making it a mini gathering of ARCASIA members. The discussions showed great promise in promoting cross-national architecture practices and strengthening the architecture community as a whole.

15.2 SAARCH revival Meeting

On 18th January 2023, SONA conducted a SAARCH revival meeting under the leadership of PP Ar. Kishore Thapa, who is the incumbent SAARCH Chair. The meeting was attended by representatives from SAARC countries, including the Past Chair Ar. Devendra Gongal. The objective of the meeting was to discuss ways to revive regional sharing and cooperation.

The revival of SAARCH shall help in reestablishing connections among architectural associations in the South Asian region. It shall provide a platform for architects to share their experiences and knowledge, and to learn from each other. The revival of SAARCH shall also help in fostering a sense of unity and collaboration among the architectural community in the region.

Overall, the SAARCH revival meeting led by SONA has helped in reviving regional sharing and cooperation among architectural associations in the South Asian region.

16 SONA in international fronts

16.1 Meetings and Events attended by President and General Secretary

In the beginning of the tenure, President Iswar Lal Joshi attended the XXIXth General Assembly Meeting and the UIA World Congress of Architects, in Copenhagen (Denmark) on 2-6 July 2023. The president attended council meetings, thematic meetings, along with other forums representing SONA.

The president along with the General Secretary also attended the Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival, the main event of the architectural calendar in Malaysia organized by PAM (Malaysian Institute of Architects), from 26-29 July. Among other participants from SONA

were Life members Ar. Sahidi Joshi and Ar. Shreesti Lohani. The president also attended Presidents' meet from Arcasia Zona A in Maldives from 18-19 August.

We've regularly updated the vital information to our fellow members through emails and social media post regarding the programs happening in ARCASIA and UIA.

16.2 ARCASIA Sub-Committee Meetings

Multiple meetings are attended by sub-committee's chair and observers in various ARCASIA Sub-committees. Meetings of young committee, education committee, social responsibility committee, green and sustainable committee and professional practice committee are regularly held in monthly or bi-monthly. General Secretary Ar. Arjun Basnet also the coordinator of SONA committee in Architecture Education attended the Arcasia Committee on Architecture Education (ACAE) roundtable meeting in Malaysia on the 27th of July, 2023.

16.3 UIA Copenhagen Participation:

In July 2023, a delegation of 23 architects and students from Nepal, representing SONA, participated in UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen, Denmark. Past president of SONA & UIA Council Member Zone IV Ar. Anju Malla Pradhan



Pradhan, life member of SONA Ar. Sameer Bajracharya and Treasure 14th EC, SONA & member, Community Architecture UIA, Ar. Pranita Sharma Pandey made wonderful presentations and panel discussions representing SONA.

17 SUB-COMMITTEES

The ten thematic committees were reformed under the leadership of prominent architects of Nepal, where 5 sub committees are in aligned with the ARCASIA Sub-committee.

1. SONA Committee on Architectural Education (SCAE)

Chairperson: Ar. Sanjay Upreti
Co-Chairman: Ar. Sweta Shrestha
Coordinator: Ar. Arjun Basnet (General Secretary)

2. SONA Committee on Policy and Council Advocacy (SCPCA)

Chairperson: Ar. Rajendra Khatiwada
Co-Chairman: Ar. Raju Neupane
Coordinator: Ar. Astha Acharya (Executive Member)

3. SONA Committee on Green and Sustainable Architecture (SCGSA)

Chairperson: Ar. Sakar Shrestha
Co-Chairman: Ar. Pranita Sharma Pandey
Coordinator: Ar. Ruchi Bajracharya / Sujan Silpakar (Executive Member)

4. SONA Committee on International Relationship (SCIR)

Chairperson: Ar. Suraj Rajkarnikar
Chairperson: Ar. Swarup Gurung Kone
Coordinator: Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi (President)

5. SONA Committee on Communication, Outreach and Publication

Chairperson: Ar. Subik Kumar Shrestha
Co-Chairman: Ar. Anil Bhattarai
Coordinator: Ar. Kaushal Shrestha (Executive Member)

6. SONA Committee on Professional Practice (SCPP)

Chairperson: Ar. Arun Dev Pant
Co-Chairman: Ar. Sher Bahadur K.C.
Coordinator: Ar. Pragya Pradhan (Executive Member)
Ar. Nabin Ghising (Ex. Officio)

7. SONA Committee on Social Responsibility (SCSR)

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Ar. Rajesh Thapa
<i>Co-Chairman:</i>	Ar. Suraj khalal
<i>Coordinator:</i>	Ar. Abhishek Mananda Bajracharya (Executive Member)

8. SONA Committee on Research (SCR)

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Ar. Ram Prasad Suwal
<i>Coordinator:</i>	Ar. Arjun Basnet (General Secretary), Ar. Sujan Silpakar (Executive Member)

9. SONA Committee on Young Architects (SCYA)

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Ar. Sugandha Subedi
<i>Co-Chairman:</i>	Ar. Sabin Maharjan, Ar. Anup Chhetri
<i>Coordinator:</i>	Ar. Lokendra Acharya (Executive Member)

10. SONA Committee on Women Architects (SCWA)

<i>Advisors:</i>	Ar. Jharana Joshi, Ar. Sarita Maskey, Ar. Poonam Shah, Ar. Anju Malla Pradhan, Ar. Neelima Basnet, Ar. Jeeta Gurung
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Ar. Uma Devi Sangachhen
<i>Co-Chairman:</i>	Ar. Dristi Manandhar
<i>Coordinator:</i>	Ar. Srijana Koirala (Executive Member)

17.1 SONA Committee on Social Responsibility (SCSR)

The SCSR is mainly formed to sensitize, aware and advocate in conservation and preservation of architecture, architecture heritage, while sensitizing and contributing to the society through various volunteer works. This committee has the following set of objectives:

- To encourage and promote in preservation of architectural heritage along with intangible heritages associated with it.
- To conduct various workshops and carry out activities in relation with Understanding of native architecture, materials, disaster risk to create self-sufficient, resilient architecture and settlements.

- To involve in various awareness program about architecture, role of architects and impact of architecture in the society.

ACTIVITIES

1. Design competition for Urban Bus Stand:

The Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) announced a social initiative in the form of an architectural design competition for the Urban Bus Stand, proposed for the urban areas in Kathmandu or other areas. Urban public transportation is an important part of urban infrastructure construction. With the rapid development of the urban economy and the continuous expansion of the urban landscape, the role of public transportation in the development and operation of cities has become increasingly prominent. The bus stand is an important and essential component of public transportation. The main characteristic of bus stand is their convergence function, because they serve as important nodes of transfer between different modes. These nodes are the focus of passenger activity, which is a potential ingredient for vibrant city space. The competition was judged by Ar. Sweta Shrestha, Ar. Sanjaya Pradhan, and Ar. Prajwal Hada. The winners were Mr. Anush Maharjan and Mr. Anubhav Maharjan for the first position, Hyphen Construction Pvt. Ltd. for the second position, and Ms. Kabita Ghimire, Ms. Aarju Mali, and Mr. Yugantar Paudel for the third position. The winners were awarded during SONA international convention 2023 on January.



2. Design competition for Universal Toilet Design in collaboration with Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City:

SONA co-organized the Universal Toilet Design Competition with Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City on October, 2022. A 5000 sq.ft-site was provided by the city just adjacent to the City Mayor’s office which already had a public toilet but didn’t meet any universal design guidelines. City Mayor and his officials were on official visit to Kathmandu when they came across the SONA-Arcasia public toilet in Patan and were very much impressed with it so they immediately contacted SONA to have the same kind of toilet in their city too. So SONA was asked to organize a design competition for the Universal Toilet Design. Overall 14 entries were received and 6 entries were chosen for the final presentation. After the final presentation, the top two designs were decided with a couple of meetings with the City Mayor. Little More Studio was the winner and a joint group of three young architects (Sagar, Sabin and Nijjal) were the runner up in the competition. Currently the winner’s design is being constructed at the site.



3. Catalogue for Universal Public Toilet Design:

Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) in collaboration with UN-Habitat Nepal published a catalogue for Universal Public Toilet Design (UPTD) in April, 2023. The financial part of the publication was managed by UN-Habitat while technical part was managed by SONA. The 70-page catalogue consists of design guidelines with typical samples of the UPTD for different regions of Nepal like Terai (Plains), Hills (Terrain) and Himalayan (Mountains).

Typical designs reflect the vernacular architecture of region with the local technology. The proposed designs are well equipped with sanitary pad vending machine, sensory lighting system, and tactile tiles for visually impaired people, bio gas plant, and rain water harvesting system, solar for lighting are some of the green technologies adopted.



4. Architect Speaks Series: Cycle in the city

On September 1st, 2023, Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) in collaboration with Nepal Cycle Society organized Architect Speaks Series “Cycle in the City” advocating for the importance of infrastructure for cycle and the safety of cyclists. Ar. Rakesh Maharjan (General Secretary, Nepal Cycle Society), Ar. Baburam Bhattarai (Member, City Planning Commission, Past SONA Vice President), Ar. Navin Devkota (Chairperson, SONA Committee for Social Responsibility) were the main speakers and was moderated by Ar. Kiran Joshi (Executive Member, Nepal Cycle Society). We also had Senior Advocate Satish Kharel who spoke about the legal aspect of cycling.



17.2 SONA Committee of Green and Sustainable Architecture (SCGSA)

The SCGSA was conceptualized as a permanent committee under the Society of Nepali Architects (SONA) to encourage sustainable building practices in Nepal. It encourages the green building design practices to improve the quality of life of residents and occupants, reduce GH emissions and energy loss in buildings, and conserve energy through energy efficiency and promotion of renewable sources of energy. SONA, continuing its endeavors towards achieving the goal of sustainable building practices in Nepal has the following objectives:

- To encourage and advocate Green and Sustainable Building Agenda among Practicing Architects and Engineers.
- To formulate Guidelines for Green Building and Sustainable Architecture through various workshops and series.
- Sensitization of Green and Sustainable Agenda in Building Design.

SONA Committee of Green and Sustainable Architecture Structure

Chairman Ar. Sakar Shrestha

Co-Chairman Ar. Pranita Sharma Pandey

Coordinator Ar. Ruchi Bajracharya, Ar. Sujan Silpakar

Members:

Ar. Anu Maharjan

Ar. Astha Panta

Ar. Barsha Shrestha

Ar. Bimal Prajapati

Ar. Binaya Rajan Shrestha

Ar. Nirajan Shrestha

Ar. Nishaj Kunwar

Ar. Safal Shrestha

Ar. Sameer Ratna Bajracharya

Ar. Udvashi Puri

I. Plan of Action of 14th SCGSA:

The 15th SCGSA of SONA under the chairmanship of Ar. Sakar Shrestha has set forth three long- and short-term goals and three objectives and list of activities for the years 2023 and 2024. The goals, objectives, and list of activities are formulated in line with the sustainable development goals in building sectors. It includes, among others, the preparation of different guidelines for integrating green design, energy efficiency, and sustainable agendas in building design in Nepal. It also includes promotional, sensitization, and information dissemination activities. The details of the plan of action of the 15th SCGSA are given below:

Goal 1: Preparing of GSB rating system incorporating ERA and EEB manual with consideration of health and well-being and culture.

Objective 1.1:

- a. Continue preparation of Draft for a Comprehensive Green & Sustainable Architecture Rating System with an approach in study, philosophy and practice in context for Nepal with its' Varied Climatology, Geography and Topography addressing to positively impact People's Health, Safety, Natural/Social Environment, Heritage, Socio-Economy, Ecology
- b. Preparation of Final ERA guidelines

As Nepal is a composite climate country, each zone must be dealt with individual research and produce guideline for energy efficiency as per the Zone.

Goal 2: Encourage and Advocate Green and Sustainable Building Agenda among Practicing Architects and Engineers

Objective 2.1

- a. Paid Training Workshop
- b. Paid Training Workshop alternative (green) building materials

To make the professionals, students as well as the community in both small and large scale, this is a major target we have set to make a sustainable present as well as future combining the ideas with AEPC, experts, academia and material producers. This target will be fulfilled in the leadership of the Chair, SONA representative and experts.

Objective 2.2

- a. Advocacy for integrating ERA, EE, and sustainable principles in building design

- b. Organize Green Building Design Competition
- c. Green Building Design Implementation

SONA signed an agreement with BEEN (Building Energy Efficiency in Nepal) in an attempt to advocate the above-mentioned goals enhancing capacity of Building-MSMEs (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) to transform their services and products towards EE building designs, construction and/or retrofitting) increasing awareness of Building-MSMEs and end users to create market system for the promotion and use of EE building design.

The targeted Building MSMEs include architects, designers, real estate developers & builders, contractors, door window fabricators & installers, brick & block manufacturers, HVAC designers & installers, insulation material suppliers and RE suppliers & installers. Similarly, the project will raise awareness of end-users on EE measures and resource efficient building materials to create demand for EE design and services.

Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) in collaboration with BEEN seeks to finalize the training packages and roll out of training programs for Design-MSMEs (Architectural Firms, Consulting Firms, Engineering Firms engaged in building designs) in three targeted project provinces of BEEN. The training guideline draft has been discussed with a validation workshop in the presence of senior architects from SONA on the 11th of September, 2023. Training of Trainees will begin on the 19th of September and trainings to practicing young



architects in energy efficiency will begin then after.

Goal 3: Sensitization of Green and Sustainable Agenda in Building Design

Objective 3.1:

- a. Sensitization
- b. Publications
- c. International Exchange Program + partnership building

Several Webinars and Seminars has been conducted and will be conducted to achieve the above target in collaboration with Government offices, Private Sector and Green Companies. Publications is a major tool that will be given from various Academic Institution, professional guilds, DUDBC, Green Material Companies and International Organization.

17.3 SONA Committee for Architecture Education (SCAE)

SONA committee for Architecture Education aims to sensitize the educational institutes (Faculty Members and Students) to participate in SONA's reform initiatives and to create a synergy between academic domain of SONA and architectural institutes improving the quality of educational environments. Architecture education and practice has come along a long way. Architecture schools, students and professional societies should work together to improve on the architecture education as per the change in time. This will possibly bring different capacities and knowledge and will benefit from more effective and meaningful collaborations. The objectives of the committee are:

- To work closely with architecture colleges while creating a conducive environment to exchange knowledge, experience and expertise within or outside the faculty.
- To build strong communication between the academician and other professionals through various workshops and series.
- To promote architecture student's engagement in activities of SONA.

SONA Education Sub- Committee Structure

Chairman	Ar. Sanjay Upreti (IOE, Pulchowk Campus)
Co-Chairman	Ar. Sweta Shrestha (IOE, Kathmandu Engineering College)
Coordinator Engineering)	Ar. Arjun Basnet (General Secretary SONA/ Himalaya College of

Members:

Ar. Anju Malla Pradhan
Ar. Sankalpa Pokhrel
Ar. Bishwodev Bhattarai
Ar. Jagdish Chandra Bhattarai
Ar. Yam Prasad Rai
Ar. Alina Bajracharya
Ar. Raghav Syandgen
Ar. Sunibha Kayastha
Ar. Sony Pandey
Ar. Barsha Shrestha
Ar. Samikshya Kandel
Ar. Sashi Kumar Mandal

ACTIVITIES

All Nepal Architectural Students Design Competition (Kaleidoscope)

Kaleidoscope is a design competition held yearly by Asian Paints Nepal Pvt. Ltd., a leading paint company in Nepal and is also the official paint partner of SONA. Students of Year IV



Part II (VII semester) in bachelors in architecture participates in this competition. The competition is modality is that each architecture colleges conduct internal design competitions amongst the students and best five from each college compete in the national round. There are normally around forty students participating in the national round. After a jury best fifteen are acknowledged with the best five being awarded in a trophy and cash prize. The award ceremony for this year was recently held on 27th of August, 2023.

Arcasia Committee on Architectural Education (ACAE) Roundtable Meetings

The ACAE Pre-roundtable meeting was held online on the 12th of June, 2023. The coordinator of SONA committee on architecture education (SCAE), Ar. Arjun Basnet participated. This meeting becsically focused to give more information on student competition and activities. ACAE deputy chairman, Joey Manalad shared the information of Arcasisa Students Design Competition 2023, Thesis of the Year (TOY) 2023 and Arcasia Students Jamboree. Additional information regarding Arcasia Students Tourism, Arcitalent 2023, ACAE directory, ArchitectKNOW, Arcasia Summer Camp, Little Architects Program and Arcasia Cross Committee Collaboration program where shared. Ar. Joey also shared additional information regarding the upcoming event ACA20 in Boracay, Philippines.

The ACAE Roundtable meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the 27th of July, 2023 in physical presence. The coordinator of SONA committee on architecture education, Ar. Arjun Basnet participated as a delegate and Ar. Shreesti Raj Lohani as the observer. The meeting began with the welcome speech by ACAE president Adj. Prof. Ar. Adrianta Aziz followed by the speech by Arcasia President Ar. Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed and president of PAM, Ar. Abu Zarim bin Abu Bakar. We had detail discussion on Arcasisa Students Design Competition 2023, Thesis of the Year (TOY) 2023 and Arcasia Students Jamboree. There was also discussion in nominating



jurors for the competition. Additional information regarding Arcasia Students Tourism, Arcitalent 2023, ACAE directory, ArchitectKNOW, Arcasia Summer Camp, Little Architects Program and Arcasia Cross Committee Collaboration program were shared. The concluding remarks were made by Past president (ACAE) Nuno Soares online.

These meetings not only help member institute to foster their students' activities but also helps to renew the relationship to the next level.

Meeting with architecture student representative from different architecture colleges:

In the beginning of the tenure of the 15th EC on the 27th of May 2023, the coordinator of SCAE, Ar. Arjun Basnet had a meeting with the student representatives from different architecture colleges regarding issues related to their participation in different SONA activities. Discussions were more focused on SONA and architecture students' collaboration in architecture exhibitions, student competitions and other activities. The students were also advised to organize different activities in collaboration with amongst the colleges and SONA would be the moderator.



17.4 SONA Committee on Professional Practice

SONA Subcommittee on professional practice aims to empower and strengthen the architecture practice and profession. The objectives are to promote and standardize architecture practice through various standards and guidelines and promote and elevate the professions through various trainings, workshops and knowledge exchanges.

SONA committee on Professional Practice structure

Advisor Ar. Poshan Thapa (Member, Nepal Engineering Council)

Chairman Ar. Arun Dev Pant

Co-Chairman Ar. Sher Bahadur K.C.

Coordinator Ar. Pragya Pradhan, Ar. Nabin Ghising

Members:

Ar. Mahendra Raj Khatri

Ar. Tonil Maharjan

Ar. Damodar Acharya

Ar. Sanjog Karmacharya

Ar. Sushmita Ranjit

Ar. Manish Manandhar

Ar. Sachin Maharjan

Ar. Monica Maharjan

Ar. Anjali Manandhar

Ar. Yazma Rajbhandari

17.5 SONA Committee on Young Architects

SONA committee on young architects in coordination with ARCASIA young committee is committed to delivering activities and actions targeting the young architects to promote them in architecture practice and knowledge exchange. The committee aims to engage, empower and mentor young architects by exchanging the knowledge and experience of young architects amongst themselves and with senior architects. The committee's objective is to encourage participation in SONA activities through various forms of formal and informal engagements

and mentor young architects in various dimensions as in professional growth and practice. The committee also aims to provide a shared platform for young architects to voice their ideas and innovations.

SONA committee on Young Architects structure

- Chairman** Ar. Sugandha Subedi
- Co-Chairman** Ar. Sabin Maharjan, Ar. Anup Chhetri
- Coordinator** Lokendra Acharya
- Members:**
- Ar. Reema Maharjan
 - Ar. Sabin Shilpakar
 - Ar. Sadar Bhandari

ACTIVITIES

Architect Speaks:

The Committee on Young Architects and 15th SONA executive committee organised the ‘Architect Speak Series’; on September 25, 2023. More than 145 architects and students participated in the event. The Speakers for the program were Ar.



Rahul Bajracharya, Director of Little More Studio; Ar. Toran Pandit, Director of Zero Dia Designs; and Ar. Suyog Kayastha, Director of Three Dots Architects. All of the three speakers explained on their journey from being an architecture student to starting their own company, about their team working together and described the design approach, approach towards

understanding the clients, challenges faced in design journey and how they overcame the challenges.

The speakers also explained their professional journey, major projects commenced and completed, which ranged from residential projects, commercial and institutional projects, restaurants, hotels, housing, apartments and resort projects. They also explained the concept behind those design, talked about how material, massing of forms, visualisation, color combination and importance of sketches during the initial design phase.

SONA Futsal Tournament:

On August 12th, 2023, Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) organized a futsal tournament and this event marked a preliminary activity for the 15th SONA executive committee. Roughly 100 participants, including SONA executives, architects, volunteers, and students, were part of



this dynamic gathering. The tournament featured eight teams, consisting of architects and architecture students. It followed a league format with two groups, each comprising four teams. Following spirited matches, Royal Design Studio secured the championship title, with Pulchowk FC earning a commendable second place. President Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi then presented trophies to both victorious teams during the trophy presentation ceremony.

17.6 SONA Committee on Women Architects

SONA is committed to recognize, appreciate and motivate the contribution of Women in Architecture and in this backdrop the SCWA committee is working actively in recognizing

women architects and promoting the conducive environment for female architects. The committee's objectives are:

- To identify and build a network among all the female professionals in architectural field, from both public and private domain of the country, along with the architectural students and researchers.
- To recognize the contribution of the female architects to Nepalese Architecture and make necessary provisions to honor their contributions.
- To motivate and provide necessary support to the Professional Architects and aspiring female architects to expand their abilities.

SONA committee on Women Architects structure

Advisor Ar. Sarita Maskey, Poonam Shah, Jharna Joshi, Anju Malla Pradhan, Neelima Basnet, Jeeta Gurung

Chairman Ar. Uma Dei Sangachhen

Co-Chairman Dristi Manandhar

Coordinator Ar. Srijana Koirala

Members:

Ar. Richa Dhungana

Ar. Rumi Singh Maharjan

Ar. Manjari Shakya

Ar. Ruchi Bajracharya

Ar. Rajani Shrestha

Ar. Astha Acharya

Ar. Sahera Shakya

Ar. Priyanka Karn

Ar. Yurika Ban

Ar. Kirti Rajkarnikar

ACTIVITY:

SONA Architect Speaks Series “Celebrating Women architects in different sectors and their works”

The committee on Woman in Architecture and 15th Executive Committee organised the 'Architect Speak Series' program on September 8, 2023 with an aim to enhance visibility of women in architecture and increasing their role in shaping the built environment of Nepal through network building, recognition of their contribution and supporting women into architecture. The program aimed to recognize, appreciate and motivate the contribution of Women in Architecture, by bringing together leading women working in diverse sector and celebrating their experience and achievements.

The speakers for the program were Ar. Sarita Shrestha Maskey, Former Joint-Secretary of Ministry of Urban Development; Ar. Rojana Joshi, Team leader, Interior work of Federal Parliament; Ar. Sujata Tuladhar, LEAD AP, Architectural Manager of KC Group; and Ar. Pragya Pradhan, Country manager of UN Habitat Nepal. All the speakers talked about their experience on studying architecture, returning back from abroad studies, starting their career



in Nepal from junior level to pursuing the leading position. They also inspired young and mid-career professional on following their dream, avoiding self-doubt and trying to be out of comfort zone to explore more in opportunities and professional avenues in life.

17.7 SONA Committee on Policy and Council Advocacy

The sub-committee has been working regularly in advocacy of Architect's council and is in regular coordination with the legislative organization related to architecture practice. The committee aims to carry out (identified) advocacy for establishing the Nepal Architects' Council through different stakeholders and available networks. The committee's objective To monitor the implementation of Architectural policies and guidelines formulated/ implemented by government. This committee also aims to sensitize the architectural professional groups, professionals and other allied groups identifying issues which instigates the architectural principles and profession of the country.

SONA committee on Policy and Council Advocacy structure

Chairman Ar. Rajendra Khatiwada

Co-Chairman Ar. Raju Neupane

Vice President (Govt.) Ar. Yekraj Adhikari

Coordinator Ar. Astha Acharya

Members:

Ar. Rita Kafle

Ar. Suman Maharjan

Ar. Janak Raj Joshi

Ar. Parikshya Singh

Ar. Asmita Khanal

17.8 SONA Committee on Architecture Research

To promote the architecture research in various sectors, SONA has initiated this committee to work in various themes of architecture research. The committee is extensively working in promoting traditional, vernacular architecture of Nepal in all parts of the country along with understanding the Modern architecture of Nepal through historical research after 1990s. The committee intends to promote research activities across the Nepal's vernacular and modern architecture in changing context and also promote architecture environment beyond the network of architects. The committee also aims to record, document and publish researches done in the field of architecture practice, academia and critics.

SONA committee on Architecture Research structure

Chairman Ar. Ram Prasad Suwal

Coordinator Ar. Arjun Basnet, Ar. Sujan Silpakar

Members:

Ar. Bal Bhakta Shrestha

Ar. Bhupendra JK Chand

Ar. Ojashwi Shrestha

Ar. Sadichchha Shrestha

Ar. Shital Babu Acharya

Ar. Apil K.C.

17.9 SONA Committee on International Relationship

The international committee is working collectively with the EC in establishing and promoting relationship of architecture fraternity of Nepal with international context. The committee will reach out to Nepali Architects residing outside Nepal and develop network to develop & expand professional understandings of architectural practice and identify key area of improvements in Nepalese context in coherence with international context.

SONA committee on International Relation structure

Advisor Suraj Rajkarnikar

Chairman Swarup Gurung Koney

Coordinator Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi

Members:

Ar. Anita Tamrakar

Ar. Anugya Pradhan

Ar. Pranab Man Singh

Ar. Stoj Shakya

17.10 SONA Committee on Communication, Outreach and Publication

All SONA's activities are regularly communicated to its fellow members through various medium, such as newsletter and websites. The committee works exclusively in conveying the information to the fellow SONA members and beyond the institutions. This committee will also regularly maintain the publication platform for output of various sub-committees and SONA Executives. Publication and Outreach committee is one of the most active and functioning committee at SONA. Ar. Kaushal Shrestha is responsible for the regular publication along with other volunteers.

SONA committee on Communication, Outreach & Publication structure

Chairman Ar. Subik Kumar Shrestha

Chairman Ar. Anil Bhattarai

Coordinator Ar. Kaushal Shrestha

Members:

Ar. Suman Dhakal

Ar. Udgam Lohani

Ar. Monila Shrestha

18 SONA ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, 2023

Theme: Creating the Identity of Contemporary Cities.

Location: Hotel Radisson, Lazimpat, Kathmandu

Date: Jan 19-20, 2023

SONA International Convention 2023, focused on the role of architecture in creating the identity of contemporary cities. The convention was aimed at examining the challenges faced by architects in shaping the character of modern cities, which are changing from traditional hierarchies and functions to unguided growth and commercial speculation. The convention had three sub-themes, each examining different aspects of urban development, such as the identity of traditional and modern urban spaces, the role of architecture in defining the identity of the city, and the sustainability of traditional building technology in the urban context. The papers presented at the convention analyzed and assessed the changing conditions of cities and

provided insight into the issues that need to be addressed. The convention also featured discussion sessions on urban planning challenges, urban heritage, and identity preservation, and featured presentations from experts involved in urban planning, governance, and architectural design. Overall, the convention was a valuable opportunity for architects, planners, and policymakers to explore innovative ideas and solutions to the challenges faced by contemporary cities.

The Convention was a truly global event, with over 40 international participants hailing from 12 different countries, as well as more than 300 national attendees. The level of participation was truly impressive, leaving a lasting impression on all those who took part. Notably, the Convention was graced by the presence of distinguished personalities such as the UIA President, ARCASIA President, SAARCH Chair, UIA Zone 4 Vice President, and Past Chair of SAARCH, who all attended the meeting.

19 KEY ISSUES FACED BY NEPALESE ARCHITECTS

Nepalese architecture fraternity is in a very peculiar stage. Architects in one hand are getting good jobs but in a larger context, the architecture job is not satisfactory. It is also very pertinent to mention that the Nepalese architecture is struggling to identify its own status on the ground. It is in this junction that Society of Nepalese architects is working towards the betterment of architecture fraternity, architect as an individual and practice.

20 RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

SONA owns a 500 sq.ft. fully furnished office space in the central part of Kathmandu. SONA is looking for some alternative infrastructure extension considering the need of the day. Soon after resuming office, our President, Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi have already initiated works to find a suitable space for SONA. He has been working on various plans which are still under discussion.

21 SONA FOR ARCASIA RESOLUTIONS

SONA, 15th EC is committed to all the resolutions that are unanimously passed through the council of ARCASIA. SONA has regularly participated in all the ARCASIA events and have contributed through all its knowledge and available resources through sub-committees and executive committee. ARCASIA is a platform for sharing information, updating on the scenario relating to architecture and getting to know each other in the wider arena from where there is lots to learn if given the interest as is visible through the five sub committees. It's all give and take so one has to be super active and aware of all that's happening and speak out. A silent observer is somehow lost in the crowd. So, we need to enthuse our members to interact during the committee meetings and ask questions, be heard and noticed as the voice of SONA.

22 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Along with further above-mentioned agendas, some of the major tasks that the executive committee intend to achieve are as follows:

1. Establishment of the Council of Architects- needs legislative endorsement from parliament.
2. Formalizing Council of Presidents (Past Presidents of SONA) through the AGM.
3. Establishment of well-equipped infrastructure of SONA with necessary amenities like having SONA's own office building with parking and space to rent out for its financial sustainability. SONA legislation has recently been amended to support this plan.

23 AGENDA FOR ARCASIA COUNCIL

1. Promotion of cross-culture knowledge through various professional and student exchange.
2. Establishment of Research fund from ARCASIA to promote indigenous knowledge of architecture in ASIAN Architecture world.
3. Promotion of Cross-national architecture practice, internship and training
4. Implementation of CPD