

Sri Lanka
Institute of
Architects



Country Report

2009/2010

ARCASIA 2009

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
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CONTENTS

- 1.0. Brief History
- 2.0. Current Office Bearers / Executive Committee
- 3.0. Membership Strength up to 30th June, 2009
- 4.0. Budget
- 5.0. Chapters/Branches
- 6.0. General Meetings
- 7.0. Legal Status of the Institute
- 8.0. Registration Authority of Architects
- 9.0. International Affiliations of the Institutes
- 10.0. Major Activities during the last one year
- 11.0. Publications/Exhibitions
- 12.0. Awards and Design Competitions organized by the Institute during the last one year
- 13.0. Key Issues Faced by the Profession and Architects
- 14.0. Resources of the Institute
- 15.0. Plans for the Future
- 16.0. Any other pertinent issues

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
(A Brief Overview of SLIA - 2009 / 2010)

1.0 BRIEF HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES

The Sri Lanka Institute of Architects was formed on 17th September 1957, with a Constitution for functioning as an affiliate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Architectural Education in Sri Lanka commenced in 1961 as a tertiary level course of study at the Institute of Practical Technology, Katubedda. Although there had been a technical level course in Architecture conducted at a Government Technical College, this is the first professional level course established in Sri Lanka. Until then, the demand for architects in Sri Lanka had been met by training them in foreign countries, mainly UK and Australia. In 1976, the Institute was incorporated under the “Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Law No. 1 of 1976”, enacted by the National State Assembly of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to enable it, to carry out and fulfill its aims and objectives more effectively. The above Act was amended in 1996 paving way for creating an Architects Registration Board with powers to register persons qualified to practice the Profession of Architecture in Sri Lanka.

The general objectives of the Institute are to promote and advance the study, practice and application of, and research in, architecture and its kindred subjects, and the arts sciences connected therewith. The SLIA is also entrusted with the control of admission, and prescription of the qualifications and disqualifications of the members of the Institute and the Architectural Licentiates, and Architects, registered under the ARB.

To do all such acts and things are as necessary for, or incidental or conducive to, the attainment of the above objects. The operations of the Institute were streamlined and the SLIA Secretariat received ISO-9000 Certification, in February 2003.

2.0. CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Arch. Chandana Edirisuriya, FIA (SL)	President
Arch. Jayantha Perera, FIA (SL)	Immediate Past President
Arch. Ranjan Nadesapillai, FIA (SL)	Senior Vice President
Arch. Prof. Chitra Weddikkara, FIA (SL)	Vice President
Arch. Harsha Fernando, FIA (SL)	Honourary Secretary
Arch. M. M. G. Samuel, FIA (SL)	Honourary Treasurer
Arch. D. H. Wijewardene, FIA (SL)	Honourary Assistant Secretary
Arch. Ajith Ranasinghe, AIA (SL)	Honourary Assistant Treasurer
Arch. Bernard Gomez, FIA (SL)	Chairman – Board Architectural Education
Arch. Jayampathy Herath, FIA (SL)	Chairman – Professional Affairs Board
Arch. Russell Dandeniya, AIA (SL)	Chairman – Board of Architectural Publication
P.P. Arch. Dudley Waas, FIA (SL)	Chairman – Board of Management
Arch. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya, FIA (SL)	Council Member
Arch. Michele Fonseka, FIA (SL)	Council Member
Arch. A I. Kumarage, AIA (SL)	Council Member
Arch. Jagath Bogahawatte, AIA (SL)	Council Member
Arch. S W J H Dharmasena, AIA (SL)	Council Member

Archt. W M P Wijetunga, AIA (SL)	Council Member
Archt. Dilummini De Mel, AIA (SL)	Council Member
Archt. C. P. Samarasinghe	Registered Member in Council
Archt. Janaki Hettiaarachchi, AIA (SL)	Chairperson Kandy Chapter

3.0 MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH UP TO 30TH JUNE 2009

Types of Membership

The SLIA has seven categories of membership namely, Honorary Fellow, Fellow, Associate, Registered Member, Graduate Member, Student Member, and Honorary Member. The Fellows, Associates and the Registered Members are the only Corporate Members who have voting rights in the Institute.

Current Membership (as at 30th June 2009)

Category	Number	Annual Fee (LKR/US \$)
Honorary Fellows	04	-
Fellow Members	89	3,000.00 (US\$ 30.00)
Associate Members	701	2,000.00 (US\$ 20.00)
Registered Members	03	2,000.00 (US\$ 20.00)
Graduate Members	121	1,000.00 (US\$ 10.00)
Student Members	46	250.00 (US\$2.50)
Honorary Members	02	-

4.0 BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

The funds of the Institute are collected from the following sources.

- 4.1 Annual Subscription from Members.
- 4.2 Annual Exhibition (Trade and Products)
- 4.3 Regular Donors and Sponsors

The Accounts of the Institute is audited by a private Audit Firm namely, M/s. Amarasekera & Co., Chartered Accountants of No. 12, Rotunda Gardens, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.

5.0 CHAPTER / BRANCHES

One Regional Chapter namely, Central Province (Kandy) is currently in operation.

6.0 GENERAL MEETINGS

The SLIA has three Quarterly General Meetings during May, August & November and the Annual General Meeting is held in February each year.

To coincide with every AGM, the SLIA organizes the Annual Sessions, which includes the Inauguration, Banquet, National Conference on Architecture, Members' work and Trade Exhibition. 'Fellowship Night' etc.,

7.0 LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE

The Sri Lanka Institute of Architects was established by an act of parliament titled ‘The SLIA – Act No.1 of 1976’ of the National State Assembly. The Architects Registration Board was established by SLIA Amendment Act. No.14 of 1996 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to register Architects as eligible persons to practice the profession of Architecture in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, there are three categories of Registered Architects – namely ‘Chartered Architects’, ‘Architects’, and ‘Architectural Licentiates’.

8.0 REGISTRATION AUTHORITY OF ARCHITECTS

Members are registered under Architects Registration Board (ARB) as per the SLIA Act No.14 of 1996.

9.0 INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

The SLIA is a Member of the following International Architectural Organizations.

- a). CAA
- b). UIA
- c). ARCASIA
- d). SAARCH

10.0 MAJOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE LAST ONE YEAR

10.1 Annual Sessions 2009

The Annual Sessions 2009 consisted of the Inauguration, 27th National Conference on Architecture, Exhibition of Members’ Work and Trade held from 4th to 08th of March 2009.

With the guidance and co operation of Archt Jayantha Perera – President, Archt Chandana Edirisuriya – Senior Vice President, Chairman Exhibition Committee, & Chairman National Conference Committee, the other Council Members, the Staff of the Institute, the distinguished Guest Speakers, Session Chairmen at the Forum, Panelists, Stall Holders and Sponsors concluded on a successful note.

The Annual Sessions were inaugurated by Guests of Honour Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena – Minister of Urban Development & Sacred Area Development, Hon. (Mrs) Ferial Ashraff – Minister of Housing & Common Amenities and Hon Dr Rajitha Senaratne - Minister of Construction & Engineering Services.

Special Awards were conferred on the following at the Inauguration of the Annual Sessions 2009.

Honorary Fellowship – Archt. Prof. Lal Balasuriya

Honorary Membership – Archt. Ole B. Larson

Special Award of Excellence in appreciation for life time contribution to enhance the built and natural environment in Sri Lanka

Vidyajyothi Archt. Ashley de Vos, FIA (SL)

10.2 National Conference

The National Conference, under the Chairmanship of Archt. D. H. Wijewardene on the theme 'Architecture - doing MORE with LESS', was held on 05th of March 2009 with Honourable Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources as the Chief Guest. The key note speaker at this event was the internationally renowned Ar. Karan Grover, who was the first Architect to design a Platinum Rated Green Building outside the United States.

The conference was enlivened by a host of internationally acclaimed Guests Speakers which included Eng. Mario Seneviratne, Current Secretary General of the World Green Building Council and Archt. Indika Samarasinghe who designed the first Platinum rated Renovation of a Building outside the United States for Brandix in Sri Lanka. The focus of their presentations was the significance of further encouraging the development of the green building initiative in Sri Lanka.

1.3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 07th March 2009 at the Committee Room 'A' of BMICH.

11.0 PUBLICATIONS / EXHIBITION

The SLIA also publishes a Year Book in February each year, containing information of its Members and Practices and the information regarding the Institute.

The SLIA Journal "**THE SRI LANKA ARCHITECT**" is a quarterly English Publication which has gained much recognition locally and internationally. The Institute also publishes a Quarterly Journal in Sinhala called "**Vastu**". The work of the Architects is well-recognized and the Institute has a prestigious image in the Country.

Decisions of the Council are conveyed to the members through the news letter "**HERALD**" and another news letter named "**Sanvada**" is circulated strictly among members giving the opportunity to write their opinions on matters of common or personal interests.

A bi-annual internationally referred Scientific Journal "**Built Environment**" is also published, and the State Organizations have praised the high standard of this journal. In addition to the above publications, SLIA also keeps the membership updated on all International and local events of interest through regular Circulars.

EXHIBITIONS

An Architects' Work Exhibition was held for the first time in the City of Negombo which is a town North of Colombo. A Trade Exhibition with the participation of around Fifty Trade Organizations in the Building Industry was held concurrently 05th to 07th January 2008. This was organized by the Architects practicing in the region with the collaboration of SLIA.

12.0 AWARDS AND DESIGN COMPETITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE INSTITUTE DURING THE LAST ONE YEAR

12.1 Design Award – Excellence

Archt. Palinda Kannangara	–	Personalized Housing
Archt. Sanath Liyanage	–	Personalized Housing

12.2 Design Award – Merit

Archt. Prasanna Jayalath	–	Personalized Housing
Archt. M M G Samuel	–	Education & Research
Archt. Nela de Zoysa	–	Product & Interior
Archt. Sanath Liyanage	–	Product & Interior

12.3 Colour Award – Merit

Archt. M. M. G. Samuel
Archt. Kumudu Munasinghe
Archts. D. K Nalaka Krishantha

12.4 Architectural Publication Award

Prof. Harsha Munasinghe
Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe

12.5 Architectural Research Award

Prof. Harsha Munasinghe

12.6 Young Architect of the Year Award

Archt. Russell Dandeniya
Archt. Sagara Jayasinghe

12.7 SLIA Annual Product Awards

SMS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd	(Merit Award)
AP Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	(Merit Award)
Three Singhe Industries (Pvt) Ltd	(Merit Award)

12.8 Innovative Trade Stalls

Royal Ceramics Lanka PLC	(Award of Excellence)
Amtrad Ltd	(Merit Award)
“Lee” The Furniture Company (Pvt) Limited	(Merit Award)
JAT Holdings (Pvt) Limited	(Merit Award)
Naveen Ceramics (Pvt) Limited	(Merit Award)
Foto Design	(Merit Award)

12.9 Innovative Display Panels (Members Exhibition)

Thisara Thanapathy Architects	(Award of Excellence)
M M G S Architects	(Award of Merit)

13.0 KEY ISSUES FACED BY THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE

Some key problems faced by the Architects and the Profession in Sri Lanka are set out below.

- a. There are foreign architects practicing in this Country without registering themselves with the Architects Registration Board and without collaborating with local Architects. The situation has worsened with the invasion of foreign architects after the Tsunami, where the many NGO's who have come into construct houses for the Tsunami affected.
- b. The Institute of Construction Training and Development (ICTAD), a semi government organization, established about ten years ago has been given powers to upgrade the Construction Industry. Under the aegis of ICTAD, a draft Bill has been formulated and is due to be presented in Parliament to establish a Construction Industry Authority, with powers for all types of consulting services relevant to Construction Industry.
- c. Other professionals and Professional Bodies have sprung up poaching into traditional territories of the Architect (eg. Project Management, Interior Design, Urban Design).
- d. The design and build type of contract is being promoted by the government for treasury-funded buildings recommended criteria for evaluating bids, give a low priority to design in building projects.
- e. Major Government projects are still being awarded to government construction agencies who also offer in-house Architectural Services, thereby depriving the private sector of such opportunities.
- f. Government Agencies actively encourage fee bidding among Architects.

14.0 RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

The SLIA functions from its own Head Quarters Building at No.120/7, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo.

The Financial Resources of the Institute are mainly derived from:

- a). Annual Subscription of the Members
- b). Bank Interest on the Fixed Deposits
- c). Annual Sessions & the Exhibition
- d). Regular donors & sponsors

15.0 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The SLIA proposes to be engaged in the following activities in the future:

- a. To expand the public outreach program by hosting regional seminars and exhibitions.
- b. To give publicity to architecture and the practice of architecture through both the print and electronic media.
- c. To implement the Corporate Plan incorporating Members to cushion the impact of WTO liberalization practices.
- d. To lobby Government Institutions to enforce the laws pertaining to "Qualified Persons" in the building industry, and to adopt the UIA Policy Directive on cross-border practice of Architecture.
- e. A program for young Architects to develop as professionals and to gain more recognition in the community is being implemented.

- f. To enhance the Continuing Professional Development Programmes, focusing on the impacts of global trends.
- g. To introduce additional documentations to educate the public regarding the practice of architectural work through Board of Architectural Education.

16.0 ANY OTHER PERTINENT ISSUES

16.1 Continuing Professional Development

Five CPD Events were held during 2008/2009 with fair attendance. The brief details of the CPD'S held were as follows;

- CPD (1) **'Green Architecture'**
13th June 2008 at HNB Towers Auditorium at 5.30 p.m.
- CPD (2) **'Miracles of Steel'**
22nd August 2008 at BMICH – Committee Room B at 5.30 p.m.
- CPD (3) **'Community Healing and Integration Through Architecture'**
18th November 2008 at HNB Towers Auditorium at 5.30 p.m.
- CPD (4) **'Architect's Role in Strategic Concept Generation'**
23rd January 2009 HNB Towers Auditorium at 5.30 p.m.
- CPD (5) **'Ensuring a Successful Project Deliver'**
17th July 2008 at HNB Towers Auditorium at 5.30 p.m.

16.2. RIBA Accreditation Visit to City School of Architecture

City School of Architecture (Colombo) Ltd formerly known as Colombo School of Architecture have been considered for candidate status by RIBA Accreditation Panel.

16.3 SLIA Representations (Local)

16.3.1. Organization of Professional Associations (OPA)

Archt. Jayantha Perera- IPP, Archt. Harsha Fernando – Hony. Secretary and Archt. Pradeep Fernando are representing SLIA.

Archt. L. T. Kiringoda was re elected General Secretary at the OPA for the 02nd time.

16.3.2. National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)

Archt. Harsha Fernando appointed as a Member of the Council for Persons with Disabilities.

16.3.3. Chamber of Construction Industry (CCI) – (Council)

Archt. Jayantha Perera, FIA (SL) – Immediate Past President

16.3.4. Institute for Construction Training Development

Construction Excellence Award Scheme Committee

Archt. Jayantha Perera, FIA (SL) – Immediate Past President
Archt. Asoka Widanapathirana, FIA (SL)

Steering Committee on Publications

Archt. Ranjan Nadesapillai, FIA (SL) – Senior Vice President
Archt. Harsha Fernando, FIA (SL) – Hony. Secretary (Alternate)

16.3.5. Sri Lanka National Arbitration Centre (Board of Governors)

Archt. Ranjan Nadesapillai, FIA (SL) – Senior Vice President

16.3.6. University Grants Commission

Archt. Chandana Edirisuriya, FIA (SL) – President

16.3.7. Ministry of Construction & Engineering Services (National Advisory Council on Construction)

Archt. Chandana Edirisuriya, FIA (SL) – President

16.3.8. UDA Planning Committee

President and SVP are representing the UDA Planning Committee.

16.4 SLIA Representations (Foreign)

16.4.1. Architects Region Conference Asia (ARCASIA)

Immediate Past President Archt. Jayantha Perera was elected Deputy Chairman Zone A and Archt. Prof. Chitra Weddikkara was elected Deputy Chairman ACAE at the last ARCASIA Conference held in Busan, Korea.

16.4.2. South Asian Association of Architects (SAARCH)

IPP Archt. Jayantha Perera was elected Chairman of SAARCH 2009 in March 2009 in Colombo.

16.4.3. Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)

Archt. Rukshan Widyalkankara serves as a Vice President Region IV.

16.5. SLIA Participation in Overseas Events

16.5.1. Union of International Architects - The XX111 UIA World Congress of Architecture 29th July 2008 – 03rd August 2009

SLIA Office Bearers 2008 / 2009 and other Members participated at the XX111 UIA World Congress of Architecture 2008 in Torino, Italy.

Archt. Jayantha Perera, FIA (SL)	–	President
Archt. Rukshan Widyalkara, FIA (SL)	–	Immediate Past President
Archt. Chandana Edirisuriya, FIA (SL)	–	Senior Vice President

16.5.2. Italian Tour – 10th to 20th October 2008

A Tour of Places of Architectural Interest was organized for Members during 10th to 20th October 2008 to Rome, Siena, Florence and Venice.

16.6. Amendments to SLIA Regulations

SLIA is in the process of studying the amendments to the existing Regulations of 25th October 2005.