



Country Report
2008/2009

29th ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING -2008
BUSAN, KOREA

Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
120/7, Vidya Mawatha
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka

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SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
(A Brief Overview of SLIA - 2008 / 2009)

1.0 THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE IN SRI LANKA

The Architects' activity is pivotal in Societies sense of its own reality. The Innovation in architecture reflects the values of the society in rapid transition. The phenomenon of satisfying various functional cultural economic needs over a period of time has led architecture towards an evolutionary process which has gone through many changes and remained architecture. Today, the conservation of the activities and social patterns that complement the Built Environment.

2.0 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.

3.0 LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY

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'.

4.0 REGULATIONS

The Institute is currently functioning under the Regulation gazetted on the 25th of October 2005.

The SLIA is in the process of reviewing the current regulations and a Committee has been appointed by the council to study and recommend areas that require amendments. Committee comprises –

President, Archt. Jayantha Perera FIA(SL)
 Senior Vice President, Archt. Chandana Edirisuriya
 Vice President, Archt. Ranjan Nadesapillai
 Hon.Treasurer, Archt. D.H. Wijewardena
 Hony. Asst. Secretary, Archt. D.B. Navaratne
 Archt. Lal Gamage, Member, SLIA

The Committee is hopeful of finalizing the report which will be submitted later to the General Membership for their concurrence before making it law.

5.0 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. Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants of No. 201, De Saram Place, Colombo 10 (P.O. Box 101) SRI LANKA.

6.0 REGIONAL BRANCHES

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

7.0 ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

There are only two institutions which offer courses of study in Architecture in Sri Lanka.

The Faculty of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa

- The Faculty of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa offers a five-year Degree in Architecture which leads to the B.Arch. The degree is recognized by the SLIA and RIBA for exemption from Parts I & II of their Professional Examinations.

Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (City School of Architecture (Colombo)Limited formerly known as the Colombo School of Architecture.

- Sri Lanka Institute of Architects offers a part-time lecture course leading to SLIA Parts I & II Professional Practice Examination of the SLIA.

The Colombo School of Architecture which was directly under the Board of Management of Sri Lanka Institute of Architects has now being converted to a Limited Liability Company with the controlling interests of 55% in the hands of the SLIA.

With the incorporation of the new Company to manage the School of Architecture, the long delayed Memorandum of Understanding with the Deakin University will now be pursued.

The Lecture Course for Part-III of the SLIA Professional Examination is conducted directly by the Board of Architectural Education of the SLIA. This is a part-time modular-

based lecture course where both University of Moratuwa graduates and SLIA Certificate holders are eligible to attend.

8.0 AGM/QGM'S OF THE INSTITUTE

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.,

9.0 OUTREACH PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTE

The SLIA organizes each year, in the month of February to coincide with the Annual Sessions, a **FORUM**, an Exhibition of Members' work, Architectural Students' work, and Trade Exhibition. The Annual Sessions - 2008 which was conducted during 20th February to 24th February 2008 recorded a visitor turnout of over 125,000 during the five-day period. To publicize these events which coincide with the Sessions, a special Supplement is published in the Daily Newspapers, which is usually followed by a post-sessional or mid-year Supplement.

"The Architect 2008" was inaugurated by the Hon Prime Minister of The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka .

The Theme of the 2008 Forum was "Architect The Initiator". SLIA was privileged to have Archt Ulrik Plesner of Tel Aviv who had a close association with Sri Lanka's foremost Archt Geoffrey Bawa .

in addition he has to his credit designing of several buildings which are landmark sites .- The Mega Mahaweli River Basin Township Development Project at Girandurukotte and The famous ,Polonthalawa Bungalow designed with Archt Geoffrey Bawa .

The other speakers and their presentations were –

Archt Kishore Trivedi –Dean Faculty of Archt .Saurashtra University Rajkot India
"The Celebration of Life :the Step wells of Gujerat

Archt Georg Zielke - Architekturburo Zielke, Germany

"First Steps : What Can be a Passive House in Your Region with Your Climate?"

Mr Rajive Sethi _Chairman Asia Heritage Foundation

A presentation based on his works to preserve Asian Craft Skills

Mr Christopher Silva –Director Studio Times Colombo ,Advisor Ministry of Environment

"Our Origin and Our Heritage"

Archt. Ashley de Vos – Principal Architect – ADV Consultants

"Architect the Initiator"

Archt. DH Wijewardene-Principal Architect DH Wijewardene Associates

"Architect the Initiator –The Sri Lanka Dilemma "

Archt. M M G Samuel - Principal Architect M M G S

" Architect the Initiator – Hopeless to Hope, Lifeless to Life"

9.1. REGIONAL EVENT- ARCHITECTS' WORKS EXHIBITIONS IN NEGOMBO

As part of the Outreach Program organizes Regional Exhibition in the Regions in a bid to promote the Profession of Architecture. 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.

- 9.2 REGIONAL EVENTS – workshop on Environment related regulations for construction activities with special reference to central region – Held in Kandy on 30th September 2008.

10.0. Annual Sessions 2008

Arch. Surath Wickramasinghe, a Past President of SLIA and a Past Chairman of ARCASIA was awarded the Gold Medal of SLIA at the recently concluded Annual Sessions of 2008. Arch. Ulrick Plesner, Keynote Speaker at this year's Forum was awarded Honorary Membership of SLIA for his services rendered in Sri Lanka.

11.0 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) Continuing Professional Development

Two CPDs were held during the period under reference the Theme of the Presentations made were:

- *Green Architecture
- *Miracles of Steel

12.0. ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS/AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

SLIA Awards 2008-

Excellence Award (Hotels and Tourism)

The Hunduran Fushi Resort Maldives-
Arch. Mano Ponniah

Merit Award (Personalised Houses)

The Bedsitter - Arch. Prasanna Jayalath

Innovative Display Panels -2008 (Members Exhibition)

Arch. Varunade Silva
Arch. Shantha Wijetinge
Arch. Peshali Perera
Design Avenue

SLIA Houses of the Year 2008

Arch. MMG Samuel
Arch. Russell Dandeniya
Arch. Sagara Jayasinghe

SLIA Young Architect of The Year Award 2008

Arch. Prasanna Jayalath

12.1 The Architectural Competition / Awards for Members

The Annual Design, Colour, Young Architect of the Year, Research & Publications, Roofing Awards and Best Student of the Year Award is made each year at the Annual Sessions.

The JK Cement Architect of the Year Award for the Year 2007 and Commendation Award were won by two SLIA Members.

13.0 INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

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

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

13.1 International Union of Architects (UIA)

SLIA plays an active part in the proceedings of UIA. However, none of our Members have held office at the UIA as yet. 105th UIA Council meeting was held in June 2006. SLIA seized the opportunity to discuss the strengthening of links with UIA in the areas of education, professional practice and research sharing of data banks etc.

The President SLIA Archt Jayantha Perera ,Immediate Past President Archt Rukshan Widyalkara,Senior Vice President Archt Chandana Edirisuriya and SLIA Member Archt Nela De Zoysa attended the 23rd UIA Congress held in Turin Italy in June this year.

13.2 Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)

The late Archt. Visva Selvaratnam, the late Archt. P. G. K. Fernando and Archt. P. Elmo J de Silva have held the post of Vice President of the CAA from time to time. IPP - Archt. Rukshan Widyalkara was elected as Vice President (REGION 4) at the General Assembly of Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) held in Melbourne Australia. SLIA made a successful bid to hold the CAA conference in Sri Lanka in 2010.

13.3 Architects Regional Council, Asia (ARCASIA)

The SLIA is a founder Member of ARCASIA and some of our members have held office at various times. The late Archt. Lala Adithiya was the Chairman of ARCASIA from 1983 - 1984. Archt. Deshabandu Surath Wickramasinghe was the Chairman of ARCASIA from 1997-1999. Archt. Prof. Lakshman Alwis was Chairman Zone C 2001/2002.

Archt. Dr. Locana Gunaratne was the Founder Chairman of ACAE from 1985-1988 and Archt. Prof. Lakshman Alwis was the Chairman of ACAE in the years 1994 – 1996.

Archt. L.T. Kiringoda was the Deputy Chairman (Professional) of ACAE -2002-2003.

Archt. Jayantha Perera was the Chairman of ACAE from 2004-2006.

ARCASIA 2007 & Forum -14 was held in Sri Lanka from 14-21st September 2007.to coincide with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects . Over 150 foreign delegates participated in this event which was a tremendous success. The national convener for the ARCASIA 2007 was Archt. Chandana Edirisooriya , The convener for Forum 14 was Archt.Madura Premathilaka and the Convener for ARCASIA awards was Archt.Devapriya Nawarathna. For the first time the ARCASIA awards are to be made in to a special publication.

13.4 South Asian Association for the Regional Co-operation of Architects (SAARCH)

The SLIA is a founder Member of SAARCH, which was formed in Colombo in 1991. India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka are the member Countries. Archt. Mihindu Keerthiratne, Past President of SLIA was the founder Chairman of SAARCH from 1991 to 1995 and Archt. V. N. C. Gunasekera, another Past President was the Chairman from 1998 – 2002.

The President, Senior Vice President and eight students from the Colombo School of Architecture and the University of Moratuwa attended the SAARCH Conference 2008 in New Delhi from 11th to 14th of March 2008. Archt. Prasanna Jayalath – Member SLIA made a presentation at this Conference.

14.0 KEY ISSUES FACING THE ARCHITECTS/ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY

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 ministry of Construction and Engineering Services, the Ministry in charge of construction has presented a draft Bill in Parliament to establish a Construction Industry Development Act, with powers to control the Construction Industry in Sri Lanka. SLIA was actively engaged in the drafting stages in order to ensure that the profession of Architecture will not be eroded. The Bill is expected to be law before end of the year.
- c. Other professionals and Para Professional Bodies have sprung up poaching into traditional territories of the Architect (eg. Project Management, Interior Design, Urban Design and draughting technologies ect.).
- 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.

15.0 RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

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

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

16.0 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.
- h. There are also plans to sign an MOU with a travel company for exclusive travel benefits for SLIA members.

17.0 The SLIA council (Session 2008 / 2009)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>
Arch. Jayantha Perera, FIA (SL)	President
Arch. Rukshan Widyalandara, FIA (SL)	Immediate Past President
Arch. Chandana Edirisuriya, FIA (SL)	Senior Vice President
Arch. Ranjan Nadesapillai, FIA (SL)	Vice President
Arch. H. Prasanna Silva, FIA (SL)	Hony. Secretary
Arch. D.B. Navaratna, FIA (SL)	Hony. Asst. Secretary
Arch. D.H. Wijewardena, FIA (SL)	Hony. Treasurer
Arch. M.M.G. Samuel, FIA (SL)	Hony. Asst. Treasurer
Arch. Prof. Chitra Weddikkara, FIA (SL)	Chairman, BAE
Arch. Harsha Fernando, FIA (SL)	Chairman, PAB
Arch. Bernard Gomez, AIA (SL)	Chairman, BAP
Past President Arch. Dudley Waas FIA(SL)	Chairman, BOM
Arch. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya FIA (SL)	Member-in-Council
Arch. Jayanath Silva, FIA (SL)	Member-in-Council
Arch. Muditha Premathilaka AIA (SL)	Member-in-Council
Arch. Russel Dandeniya, AIA (SL)	Member-in-Council
Arch. Ajith Ranasinghe, AIA (SL)	Member-in-Council
Arch. Indika Anil Kumarage AIA (SL)	Member-in-Council
Arch. Peshali Mandara Perera, AIA (SL)	Member-in-Council
Arch. Mohan Neligama AIA (SL)	Member in Council
Arct. GG Weerasinghe	Registered Member

18.0 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH

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 07th March 2008)

Category	Number	Annual Fee (LKR/US \$)
Honorary Fellows	05	-
Fellow Members	89	3,000.00 (US\$ 30.00)
Associate Members	668	2,000.00 (US\$ 20.00)
Registered Members	03	2,000.00 (US\$ 20.00)
Graduate Members	131	1,000.00 (US\$ 10.00)
Student Members	74	250.00 (US\$2.50)
Honorary Members	02	-

19.0 PUBLICATIONS

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. This name has now been changed to “**THE ARCHITECT**” with the signing of an MOU with a prestigious publisher in Sri Lanka. The Institute also publishes a Quarterly Journal in Sinhala “**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 in Sinhala “**Sanvada**” is circulated strictly among members giving the opportunity to write their opinions on matters of common or personal interests.

A bi-annual internationally refereed Scientific Journal “**Built Environment**” is also published, and the State Organizations have commended 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.

20.0 SLIA WEB SITE

SLIA now operates a fully online website. From July 2008 all circulars and information to members are communicated through the web site only. Apart from the general information of the institute that are accessible to public there is a members corner and a council members corner which are accessible only through passwords.

The web address is <http://www.slia.lk>

21.0 SLIA REPRESENTATIONS

21.1 Urban Development Authority

SLIA is already engaged in the committee to review and revise the Colombo City Development Plan.

21.2 Chamber of Construction Industry (CCI)

SLIA is a founder member of the CCI and participated at the “Exposition for the Construction Industry” organized by the Chamber of Construction Industry from **9th to 11th May 2008**

21.3 Ministry of Export Development & International Trade

(CEPA-Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with India & Pakistan)

The Department of Commerce (DoC) is in the process of organizing interactive dialog sessions between officers of DoC and Professional Associations. One of the key objectives of this initial session is to seek the various professional bodies on the assistance the Department of Commerce could provide through their Trade Commissioners, Commercial Councilors in promoting service sector in overseas.

Four senior members of SLIA have been nominated to represent SLIA on these committees.

21.4 National Advisory council on Construction

SLIA is represented by the president and the council is the main advisory body for the ministry of construction and Engineering services,

22.0 LIAISING WITH GOVERNMENT BODIES ON PRACTICE RELATED AFFAIRS

The possible professional issues that may arise with the implementation of CEPA were considered by the PAB. The relevant documents are being studied at present and there will be a meeting very soon in order to prepare SLIA recommendations on it.

PAB decided to have a link with Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration, where all state sector administrators are trained. Objective of such link is to educate them on the profession and professional practices. PAB decided to prepare a brief document, introducing the profession and the importance practice procedures.

PAB is planning to formulate a document to be submitted to the NPA (National Procurement Agency) on the procedure of the selection and the appointment of architects and the practice of architecture to be followed by the government and their affiliated institutions.

- **Preparation of Practice Manual**

In order to complete the task of compilation of a manual PAB is preparing guidelines on the structure and the scope of the same.

- **Implementation of SLIA recommended Fee Scale**

PAB has appointed a Committee to look into this matter and to prepare a proposal on the same. It was decided to compare the existing and proposed scales, with pros and

cons, which will be helpful to the general membership to have a clear idea on deciding for or against.

23.0 CONTACT DETAILS

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