एसियाली वास्तुविद् सम्मेलन

17TH ARCASIA FORUM & 34TH COUNCIL MEETING

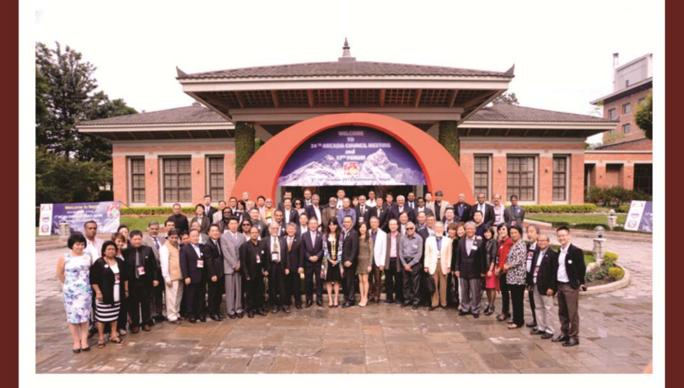## SPIRITUALITY IN ARCHITECTURE
&
IMAGE OF THE CITY

5th to 10th OCTOBER, 2013

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

arcasia
Architects Regional Council of Asia

SONA
2047

SUBMITTED BY:

SOCIETY OF NEPALESE ARCHITECTS, SONA

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1. PRE FORUM PREPARATION

1.1   Committee Formation

Various committees were formed on 25.12.2013 under the chairmanship of Ar. Bishnu Panthee of ARCASIA Forum-17 Steering Committee. The committees with respective chairman are as follows:

1.1. Finance – Chairman Ar. Bishnu Panthee
1.2. Program and Planning
    1.2.1.   Thematic Committee – Chairman Dr. Prof. S.R.Tiwari
    1.2.2.   Event Hosting and Ceremonies – Ar. Rajesh Thapa
1.3. Secretariat – Chairman Ar. Gyanendra Devkota
1.4. Production – Chairman Ar. Prajwal Hada
1.5. Operations – Chairman Ar. Arun Dev Pant
1.6. Awards
    1.6.1.   AAA – Chairman Ar. Debesh Raj Bhattarai (Convener of AAA)
    1.6.2.   Students' – Chairman Ar. Devendra Nath Gongal
1.7. Exhibits – Chairman Dr. Bharat Sharma

ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013 production committee was responsible for the design of ARCASIA Forum-17 logo, letter head, registration kit (pen, bag, notebook, registration ID holder and memento) and the major backdrop and other banner designs.

Thematic committee after numerous reviews selected Prof. Charles Correa as the Keynote speaker. After the second call for paper the committee also selected 12 international and 5 national speakers.

ARCASIA Architecture Awards Committee held the awards jury in China during the third Office Bearer meeting to select the 7 Gold Medallist and 24 honourable mentions and mentions.

3rd Office Bearer Meeting

Under the convener ship of Ar. Devendra Nath Gongal, National/International Students' Awards Competition concluded successfully with the selection of 3 winners under each level.

1.2   Official Partnerships

1.2.1.Partnership was formed with Government of Nepal through Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) and Department of Urban Development and Building Construction.

The MoUD agreed to officially support SONA to host ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013 by providing financial assistance along with Security & Immigration facilities for the foreign delegates of the Forum.

1.2.2. Gandaki Travels & Tours was selected as Official Travel Partners for ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013. The Gandaki Travels agreed to oversee all the travel arrangements, local and international as per need of all the delegates of the Forum.

1.2.3. Grand Bank Nepal Limited was selected as the official bank for ARCASIA Forum-17.

1.3   Venue

1.3.1. Soaltee Hotel Crowne Plaza was selected as **Official Venue** for ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013. Almost all the ARCASIA Forum-17 events was proposed to be held in Soaltee Hotel and all the office bearers, official delegates and speakers would be accommodated there.

1.3.2. For two day special dinner - Newari Nite and Nepali Nite, Patan Museum and Wanjala restaurant were selected with the view to promote Nepal's culture and hospitality.

1.3.3. Army Officer's Club was selected for the Friendship Nite Dinner.

1.4   Sponsorship

Various companies like ROCA, Airtech, Berger, Nepatop, Panchakanya etc committed for the sponsorship of the ARCASIA Forum-17 as Platinum, Major & other sponsors.

1.5   Registration

Orientation program in DUDBC

1.5.1. In order to promote the Forum and draw more participants, ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013 orientation program was organized at DUDBC with the kind support of DUDBC where all the architects, non architects, teaching faculty members were the invitees in the presence of media.

1.5.2. Meeting with HODs of the Architectural Departments of all the Colleges along with eminent architects of Nepal was also held to encourage greater participation in the ARCASIA Forum-17.

Meeting with Head of Departments

1.5.3. Numerous press meets were organized and various media agencies also joined hands with SONA to promote ARCASIA.

Press Meet

1.5.4. Further to reach wider group, official website www.arcasianepal2013.com for ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013 was launched and online registration was opened.

1.5.5.The registration fee structure for was as:

A. International Delegate

- Architect - $300
- Spouse - $150
- Student - $225 (25% Discount)
- Group – For every group of 10, one shall be free

B.National

- Architect – NRs. 5,000/-
- Student – NRs. 3,750/-

1.6   Post Forum Event

Ar. Deepak KC in coordination with HK Institute of Architects Committee for Social Responsibility took upon the task of organizing a Half Day Symposium on Universal Access and Universal Toilet Design for Nepalese Architects and the Students at Radisson Hotel as Post ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013 event on 10th of October.

ARCASIA Forum-17 steering committee held numerous formal and informal meetings for the preparation for the Forum.

Pre ARCASIA Forum Meetings

1.7   Forum Preparation Review Works

President Tan Pei Ing and Ar. Ishtiaque Zahir Titas (Committee Chair, ACPP) visited Kathmandu from 31.08.2013 to 03.09.2013 for the inspection of the ARCASIA Forum-17 preparation. They visited all the venues and reviewed the final schedule of the forum.

ARCASIA President Kathmandu visit Pre Forum

2. WELCOME DINNER

On the 4th of October, 2013 SONA had organized a small welcome dinner for all the delegates who had arrived early for the meetings at the Malhar Hall of the Soaltee Crowne Plaza. It was a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones. Further, ARCASIA Forum-17 Steering Committee team got to meet the ARCASIA team before the start of the event.

Welcome Dinner

3. 4TH OFFICE BEARER MEETING

4th Office Bearer Meeting

The attendees of the 4th Office Bearer Meeting were:

    i.   Tan Pei Ing (Current ARCASIA President)

    ii.   George T. Kunihiro (Immediate ARCASIA Past President)

    iii.   Swarup G. Koney (Zone A Vice President)

    iv.   Edric Marco C. Florentino (Zone B Vice President)

    v.   Xu Zongwei (Zone C Vice President)

    vi.   Alvin Lim Hai Seah (ARCASIA Honorary Secretary)

    vii. Tan Kim Yan (ARCASIA Honorary Treasurer)

The agenda of the 4th office bearer meeting was to discuss on the topics, which were to be addressed during the 34th council meeting of ARCASIA. The issues discussed during the office bearer meeting were as follows:

3.1   ARCASIA's Funds & Account

- The Honorary Treasurer explained the total income of the ARCASIA from the subscription of the individual member institutes and the sponsors.
- The Treasurer explained the total expenditure and mentioned the amounts due from different member institutes.
- ARCASIA is registered under the Philippines law for banking purpose, thus ARCASIA funding has been following the Philippines Banking law.

3.2   Issues

The President of ARCASIA, Ar. Tan Pei Ing, explained the issues that were to be addressed in 34th council meeting.

- Heritage book
- MOU's signed with UIA, AIA, AUA, MASA, ACE, CAA, AHA
- Bylaws
- Logo of ARCASIA
- Website of ARCASIA
- Documentary video of ARCASIA

3.3. The President proposed a policy to invite the Presidents of International and Regional Organization that may not be ARCASIA Members to attend ARCASIA meetings. The Office bearers agreed to a modified version of the proposal.

3.4. The meeting discussed the bylaws of ARCASIA.

3.5. The Vice President of Zone A, Ar. Swarup G. Koney, presented the proposal of Bhutan to be the member of ARCASIA. He proposed an ARCASIA secretariat be built in any one of the member countries.

3.6. Vice President of Zone B, Ar. Edric Marco presented status reports on Cambodia, Myanmar and North Korea as potential ARCASIA member nations.

3.7. Zone C Vice President informed the status of North Korea on being the member of ARCASIA.

4. COMMITTEE MEETING

4.1 ARCASIA COMMITTEE FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION (ACAE)

ACAE Meeting

The 34th meeting for the ARCASIA Committee for Architectural Education (ACAE) held on 5th of October comprised of delegates from the eighteen member countries. The agenda discussed different issues and important school projects initiated in these member countries. The meeting discussed and accessed the individual country reports as well as key issues put forth by delegates of each of the member countries.

A letter had been sent out to the president and ACAE delegates on 29th July requesting to update the information in Country Report Matrix Format by September 31st, 2013 at the latest. The content of the Country Report was required to include the history of architectural education, the institutes of architects, a summary of the architectural school program, key issues in architectural education, future plans, the potential for a student exchange program between countries and student internship program conditions. The major prerequisite for a Bachelor in architectural was decided to be an architecture course to be taught over a course of 5 years, minimum.

4.1.1 Issues raised by country delegates:

- Bangladesh brought forth the issues of initiation, the accreditation system and different universities running architectural courses.

- Nepal put forward the issues of architectural course in Nepal. People's needs are changing fast however, the way of learning and teaching has not changed and the course hasn't been updated. Nepal's lack of budget for research and student exchange despite its rich cultural heritage was expressed as a concern. The delegation proposed SONA act as a platform to promote such activities.

- Vietnam provided a report on a festival they held (National Festival for Architectural Students) where students participated in design competitions and shared social activities.
- Singapore shared the progress of their program where architecture students are paired with practicing architects. As well as promoting vigorously promoting green architecture, Singapore expressed the importance of teaching students to adapt to the needs of today's society, and learn to practice for their societies.
- Hong Kong discussed how architecture cannot be merely about design. They launched the discussion as to why the field of architecture today is vast and incorporates many more concerns besides design.
- Korea KARB, now responsible for licensing architects in Korea put forth their opinion on the importance of renewing an architects' license to practice every five years.

4.1.2   **Nomination:**

Two members were nominated for the position ACAE Deputy Chairman (2014-2015):

- Prof. In- Souk Cho (KIRA)
- Ar. Nuno Soares (AAM)

4.1.3   **ACAE Projects:**

The Committee meeting discussed and followed up on ongoing projects of the ACAE. The meeting also discusses the responsibly of host and participating institutes, and the possibility and conditions for an inter-nation student internship program.

- ARCASIA Architectural Timeline Chart.
- ARCASIA Architectural School Directory
- Student Jamboree and Competition Manual
- ARCASIA Architectural Research Journal
- Paperless ACAE Meeting
- Cross Border Internship
- Virtual School of Architecture
- Student Interactive Link

4.2   ARCASIA COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (ACSR)

The 2nd ACSR meeting, held in Kathmandu on the 5th of October 2013 comprised of delegates from ALACE, ASA, ASC, HKIA, IAB, IAP, IIA, KIRA, PAM, SIA, SLIA, SONA, and VAA. UAP, IAI, JIA did not have any representatives present during the committee meeting.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by the committee Chairman, Ar. Joseph Kwan. The presentation summarized the contents of the first ACSR meeting, held in Bali, Indonesia in 2012. The seven core aspects of social responsibility, according to Ar. Kwan are as follows: Human Rights, Labour

ACSR Meeting

Practices, Environment, Fair Operating Practices, Consumer issues and the Community.

4.2.1 **The Objectives discussed:**

- The importance of social responsibility.
- The role of ARCASIA architects in Social Responsibility related issues.
- Compiling of resources.
- Publication on natural disaster.
- A group of Emergency Architects to help in natural disaster
- The ACSR symposium on Architecture and Social Responsibility to be held on the 10th of October 2013. The symposium was to comprise of two segments: Universal Design and Accessibility; Design for Natural Disasters.

4.2.2 **Actions and progress following the first ACSR meeting in 2012:**

- Preparation of ARCASIA documents on disaster related design, prevention, reduction, and management.
- Capacity building workshops
- Practice of building inspection schemes to ensure structural safety
- Plans for cultural heritage regeneration

4.2.3 **Presentations**

4.2.3.1 *India presented "How we are responsible to architecture and not to architects" as India's basis for CSR. Topics presented were:*
- Responsibility towards the client, society, and nation
- Reduction of corruption
- Optimization of resources
- Reduction of global warming
- The need for curriculum based programs
- Research towards healthy living
- Distant education
- Ongoing CSR projects
- Flood relief (Uttarakhand)

4.2.3.2 *Vietnam presented Activities and progress of the Vietnam ACSR chapter:*
- Participation in social discussions with the Vietnamese Government
- Housing design competition for typhoon and flood affected areas
- Enhancing education and awareness
- Spreading awareness for design for natural disasters, and creating a healthy living environment
- Future Plans -
  i. Develop Architecture law
  ii. Continue to spread awareness

4.2.3.3   Laos's ACSR actions in the last year comprised of plans to improve the education system and spread awareness about architecture amongst the general populace.

4.2.3.4   Bangladesh presented different means by which students and have attempted to uplift the less privileged demographic of the population by travelling to the rural areas of the country.

4.2.3.5   Singapore presented Activities and progress of the Singapore ACSR chapter:
- The promotion of eco- friendly design by the means of donations to charities and community projects
- Garden City Fund - Plantation program
- Universal Design mark - Green mark
- Design with safety in mind
- Promotion of the use of timber as opposed to steel

4.2.3.6   Pakistan shared their bamboo designs, which have been known to resist floods and seismic forces. The Pakistani delegation expressed an interest for the exchange of different technologies and implementation in the member countries based on the requirement of each nation. Other Activities discussed were:
- Green building design concept in Pakistan
- Reconstruction strategy
- Use of local skills and techniques

4.2.3.7   Thailand gave a presentation on how they have provided assistance to disabled people in public areas such as temple, hospital, and beaches by constructing easy access roads for them. The government provides 50- 60 % of the funding to improve pre-existing buildings.

4.2.4   **Action plan for next year:**

- Disaster relief – India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, Vietnam, Pakistan, Japan, China
- Barrier free (Accessibility) – Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore
- Education – Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Laos
- Charter – Hong Kong is to lead
- Emergency Architects ARCASIA
- Universal design Centre – Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan (design code)

4.3   ARCASIA COMMITTEE FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (ACPP)

The ACPP Committee meeting, conducted by the chairman of ACPP, Ar. Ishtiaque Zahis Titas was held on the 5th October 2013.

4.3.1   **Review:**

The meeting reviewed the report presented on the Oct 31, 2012, Bali, Indonesia. The issues under discussion included:

- Issues of hazards of professional practice (India)

ACPP Meeting

- CPD and its relevance to the present and the future practice.
- Compulsory internship and work experience before the time of graduation and registration for professional practice
- Mobility of architects and practice in a host country i.e.
- Collaborations and partnership
- MRA'S
- Plurilateral approach
- The committee is to meet twice a year

4.3.2.   Member countries presented the method of practice employed in their native countries. The discussion focused on number of years required to become an architect, experience, licensing exam and its criteria, and the total number of architects present in each of the member countries.

4.3.2   ACTION PLAN for 2013-2014:

Member countries gave presentations and discussed on the ACPP Action Plan for **2013-2014.**

4.3.2.1   *Index for an ARCASIA Practice Manual / Hand Book*

The practice manual consisted of following:

- The Profession
- The Practice
- The Project
- The Person
- The Papers

4.3.2.2   *Approval of an update for the ARCASIA Practice Data / Standard Format for ACPP Country Report 2013*

4.3.2.3   *ARCASIA CPD Guideline*

ARCASIA standard for MRA: Proposed and discussed guidelines for regional programs and discussed mutual recognition of architects across borders. The ARCASIA MRA'S (in reference to the profession of architecture) should be 'mutually advantageous to all'. Further discussions included:

- Cross border internship.
- Mobility of Architects and Practice in a Host Country.
- Collaborations and Partnerships.

4.3.2.4   *Registration:*
- Required education qualification to be eligible for registration: completion of a 5 year B. Arch program
- Discussion on the length of work experience required for registration
- Professional examination required for registration

4.3.2.5   *Fee/ compensation structure:*

It was decided to have a fee calculator. The minimum fee was to be a standard fee that gradually increased as one's position, and experience increases as well.

4.3.3   Future of ACPP:

The committee discussed how the ACPP may contribute/ what role the ACPP might play in the future (discussions included how the ACPP may look like in 2020). Some of the near future decisions included:

- ACPP   members were to commit and participate in the ACPP for two consecutive years
- Decided the next ACPP meeting is to be held in February 2014 in New Delhi, India (reference to the Bali proposal of biannual meetings).

The ACPP Committee meeting concluded with the proclamation of the aim to bridge the gap between the global and locals by 2020.

4.4   ARCASIA COMMITTEE ON GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE (ACGSA)

The meeting for the ARCASIA Committee on Green and Sustainable Architecture (ACGSA) was held on the 5th of October. The meeting comprised of speaker, Ar. Ashwin Kumar, the Chairman of the Green Assemble Committee; Ar. Frank Kee Lee, the vice chairman of the Professional Building Council; the Vice president of the Architect and Civil Engineering institute, Pakistan; the Past president of SIA; the future Chair of the Committee; Ar. Sudarshan Raj Tiwari, representing the SONA thematic committee; Ar. Sakar Shrestha.

The agenda discussed were as follows:

- Agenda member institutes update on green and sustainable architecture (45mins)
- Action plan on ACGSA Initiatives (60mins)

ACGSA Meeting

- Short term review
- Mid term review
- Long term review
- Proposal for ACA 2014 (30mins)
- Election of Deputy chair who will take over Chair in 2015/2016 term (15 mins)
- AOB (15mins)

4.4.1   Issues:

- Election of the Deputy Chair to take over as of June 2014
- Green Architecture in Schools: Ar. Tiwari put forth the suggestion to introduce green energy practices in some of the school projects
- LEED: Upon discussing LEED, it was suggested that sustainable development depends upon a nation's life style. Sustainability should be more focused on ecology rather than merely energy

4.4.2   Issues raised by different member countries:

4.4.2.1   *Bangladesh has been formulating a process to work on green building tools, a project they hope the World Bank shall finance.*
- Bangladesh is aware of LEED Platinum
- Although Housing and building research as not progressed in the last 40 years, Bangladesh believes itself capable of handling the 'Green' issue.
- It was acknowledged that as LEED is an international rating tool, it would be a challenge to implement the system to both commercial and residential building.
- Nepal proposed introducing the Malaysian LEED system (GBIS: Green Building Insensitive Skin)

4.4.2.2   *Nepal raised a question whether cultural Heritage aspects could truly be addressed and preserved in green architecture. A reference provided was the Malaysian green rating tool, which does not address cultural issues.*
- Green energy should respect local originality, cultural practices, solar studies, etc.
- Politics is a strong motivator as to how buildings are shaped.
- The energy problem that has arisen in Nepal is the inefficient use of western technology. Western technology in conjunction with designs sensitive to shadow castings, wind factors, lighting and safety can create more efficient buildings.

4.4.2.3   *The Japanese delegation presented on the recent natural disasters which were impairing the development of mankind. The discussion focused on Global warming and construction and how Southern Japan construction shows a lack of concern for severe temperature control. The Committee discussed how the building form might be used to shield from the climate in southern Japan.*

4.4.2.4   *Thailand: The Thai delegation presented on the New Bangkok City Planning Code – June 2013. The major issues put forth:*
- The promotion of Green building: Buildings are to use green materials, follow the TREE system (Thai rating tool, with a 20% buildable area), and aim for HSBC Green Library platinum certification.
- 50% of all open spaces are to be Green Spaces
- The promotion of mass transportation
- The construction of affordable housing, low housing condominiums allows for 20% more buildable area
- Promotion of rainwater retention: every 50m^2 of site area should have a provision to collect 1m^3 rainwater.

4.4.2.5   *Singapore: From 2012 green design has become mandatory in Singapore. The public worked with the government, and as a result, developers now must comply with the green rating tool comprising of key elements such as: 70% passive day lighting, natural ventilation, orientation and CFD (in case of high density, the design should consider the shadow it casts upon its neighbours).*

4.4.2.6   *Hong Kong: The HKIA aims to promote a Green, Healthy and Liveable city. The HKIA aims to positively influence the air quality, waste management, the rationalization of their bus route,*

reduce vehicle emission, reduce food waste, revive sustainability and subsidize and collaborate with the recycling industry.

- The HKSAR Government Environmental bureau, a Green NGO, using the Hong Kong blueprint for sustainable resources (2013-2020) is opening up an area for local housing as the lack of availability and high cost of land.
- Promote a bonus scheme to promote use of solar panels
- BEAM, a group of green building professionals are promoting the 'Hong Kong 2030' campaign: a high density energy saving charter that aims to save 30% energy, study wind pattern, and livability in high density areas.
- The SB13 Regional conference (2012-2013), a part of the Green movement took place in September 2013
- A Green school competition, focusing on green landscape, basic fundamental design, took place in 2012 (the Green building Award), which aimed to raise awareness about carbon footprints, ozone depletion, as well as the theme of 1 planet

4.4.2.7   *The Mongolian delegation presented on how large companies have been affecting the underground water; big mines are causing the destruction of open water resources. Public awareness has become an important step in promoting sustainable development. Mongolia has been promoting green energy in the form of hydro-energy and wind-energy.*

- 50% of the energy consumed in buildings and industrial buildings are produced in power stations, which is a leading cause of pollution.
- The government wishes to promote industrialization, which would exacerbate the pollution as more energy is generated.
- The Green movement in Mongolia hopes to pass an incorporated policy, a two-stage process where performance must match design.

4.4.2.8   *India: India has come to the age of Green design.*

- The delegation presented both India's green buildings as well as controversial buildings such as:
- Antilla Mubai, the largest tallest 'living building' in the world, is a controversial eco-project due to the high-energy consumption of the building.
- The ITC Sonar, Kolkata is to obtain certified emission redactions (CERS) issued under the aegis of the United Nations framework.
- Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Center, Hyderabad, is a LEED platinum building that incorporates natural lighting, recycles wastewater for irrigation used to control the temperature and the reduction of visual pollution.
- The Green Legislative Assembly, Tamil nadu is the first LEED gold senate.
- Suzlon is a LEED accredited urban village complex in South India that studied Mughal complexes for lighting, water.
- Bio Wonder: Kolkata's first building where the USP is green
- IIT Campus, Jodhpur sits on a 200-hectare desert like rocky plateau. The design allows for direct sunlight through the roof however this design could be implemented successfully in places such as Nepal. The building uses the courtyard system and deep balconies to help in energy conservation

i.   The Green revolution on Campus: the Indian delegation has prepared a concept design for green campuses where the heat exchange is to be placed underground.

ii.   The use of CFC free equipment in an array of projects.

iii.   A certain percent of energy used in projects must be green energy, i.e. solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, etc.

4.4.2.9   *The Pakistani delegation presented on the 5th ARCASIA Roundtable on Sustainable Approach to Design and Construction. The next round table is to be held in Dhaka. The Intention of the Roundtable is to create a platform that promotes interaction between the different Institutes of Architects*

5. 34TH COUNCIL MEETING

34th Council Meeting

Delegates from all eighteen-member institutes were present in accordance to the ARCASIA bylaws for 34th ARCASIA Council meeting. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by the president of the host institute, The Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA), Ar. Swarup G. Koney followed by a program schedule brief by Ar. Rajesh Thapa.

The minutes from the 33rd Council Meeting was presented to the Council. The ARCASIA president, Ar. Tan Pei Ing provided the 33rd Council Meeting's agenda before the Council for adaptation and presented a report and updates on Council activities and future plans.

5.1   The President's report

The report included:

- The Official handing over of presidency from Ar. George
- Meeting with Office Bearers and Committee chair meeting – 3 meetings had been held
- Zone B meeting: held at Bangkok, Thailand
- Zone C meeting, Weihai, China
- President's visit to Kathmandu (31-08-13 to 02-09-13)
- New ARCASIA website, QR quote
- Official ARCASIA Facebook page
- President of ARCASIA's Facebook page
- The ARCASIA Awards for Architecture
- Architecture Asia Magazine
- Supporting magazine – Building Investment (Malaysia)
- The ARCASIA Documentary Video (updated version)
- Participation in events organized by member institutes

5.2   ARCASIA Zone-A report

- Report on activities conducted by SONA in the last year apart from the preparation for ARCASIA 2013.
- Country report on Sri Lanka

5.3   ARCASIA Zone- B report

- Zone B meetings were held in countries under Zone-B for maximum participation
- Discussion on the participation during these various meetings

5.4   ARCASIA Zone- C work report

- Pending issues from the 33rd Council meeting were discussed

5.5   Registration of ARCASIA as an Organization and the ARCASIA Logo

- The ARCASIA logo has an error, thus the need for amendment was expressed
- ARCASIA has, as of now, not an officially registered organization, and must be registered soon.
- The Philippines was given the responsibility to obtain the copyright for the ARCASIA logo, a task that must be completed in the next few months.

5.6   ARCASIA Media Promotion

- A documentary of ARCASIA was presented with the objective to unite nations, maintain professional contact, education development, research, technical improvements and recognition.
- An appeal to record the ARCASIA documentary in the languages of the member institutes in order to promote ARCASIA in each nation was made.
- Elaboration on the new website of ARCASIA

5.7   Potential additions to ARCASIA

Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Brunei expressed the desire and put forth proposals to become new member countries of ARCASIA.

5.8   Country Reports

5.8.1   China:
China declared they are not opposed to Taipei joining ARCASIA as a member

5.8.2   Hong Kong:
Presented on plans to promote architectural education in Secondary school, as well as promote sustainable design, sustainability and social responsibility

5.8.3   India:
- India reported that 200 programs are conducted every year. Their membership had reached 20,000 student memberships, 60,000 professional architects, and 350 architectural schools.

- The delegation announced that the annual National Convention is to be held on 27th - 29th December 2013.
- The Indian delegation presented their flood relief work with the government of Uttarakhand.

5.8.4 Indonesia:

- Indonesia reported that Indonesia has 3000 Professional architects registered and 100 architectural schools.
- The Indonesian delegation expressed the desire to promote green and sustainable architecture.
- The delegation announced that their International architectural festival is to be held on December 1 -8 2013.

5.8.5 Japan:

The Japan delegation presented on the following topics

- Promotion of a better-built environment.
- 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo and the subsequent preparations
- The role the architect must play to obtain a sustainable society
- Barrier free design in Tokyo
- Architecture for Humanity

5.8.6 Laos:

Delegates reported on the actions of the ALACE, founded in 2004

- The ALACE conducted a study tour
- An ALACE organized a fair on the 22nd February 2013 and conducted a conference on the 21st- 24th February 2013
- The ALACE provides updates to all its members every 2 months
- The ALACE is soon to launch the organization's website.

5.8.7 Macau:

Discussed the event the organization conducts on the World Architect's Day

- Conducting tours for the event
- The organization conducted a 'Green Architecture' program
- The focus of the Macau delegation was on the Education Committee

5.8.8 Malaysia:

The major issue put forth during the presentation by Malaysia was the organization of the upcoming ARCASIA Congress and events.

- PAM has begun training architects for the event
- Housing has become an issue of concern as it accommodation has gotten very expensive
- Breakdown of funds:
- Malaysia: $ 83,910
- Fellowship fund: $ 1,233

- Income: $ 86,214.5

5.8.9   Mongolia:

The Mongolian delegation presented on the following topics:

- The organization held a conference for women architects in September 2013
- The UMA constructed a new 9 story building this year.

5.8.10   Nepal:

Nepal discussed the commencement of this year's SONA (Society of Nepalese Architects) student awards.

5.8.11   Pakistan:

Pakistan gave a presentation on the 5-day intensive teaching campaign held in Islamabad, where 16 schools participated. Other issues addressed were:

- The reorganization of the BAE
- Recapitulation of the issues discussed during the 5th ARCASIA Roundtable on Sustainability in Architecture and Construction held on the 1st October 2013
- Architectural event the BAE has planned for the next year
- Discussed the possibility of sending and hosting architectural interns

5.8.12   Philippines:

Philippines discussed events that take place on during the National Architectural Week held in the 2nd week of December.

5.8.13   Singapore:

Singapore discussed sustainable professional fees, reduction of business costs and the awarding of upcoming year's Green Architecture Award

5.8.14   South Korea:

The South Korean delegation presented on the following topics:

- The qualifying examination for the professional architects license
- The details of the exhibition to be held on the 23-26th of October 2013
- The Organization's budget:
- 2013: 4.83 million USD
- 2012: 4.37 million USD

5.8.15   Sri Lanka:

The presentation by the Sri Lankan delegation focused on Architectural education. Their presentation discussed:

- Increasing International Relations.
- Establishing closer relationship with the Sri Lankan government
- Convince the government to give priority to national architects as opposed to foreign architects.

- An annual conference is to be held in 2014

5.8.16   Thailand:

The Thai delegation presented on the following topics:

- The planning and participation of the annually organized Architectural exhibition
- Budget: $10 million (USD)
- 28 participating schools
- Put forth the proposal to host the 18th ARCASIA Forum, 2015

5.8.17   Vietnam

The Vietnamese delegation presented on the following topics:

- Future plans to promote the Architects Training Club.
- Continuation of studies on rural housing

5.9   Issues discussed and amendments made during the 34th annual ARCASIA council meeting

- A report on Architecture Asia was presented
- The ARCASIA Awards for Architecture (AAA), an architecture award aimed to promote Asian architecture and architects was discussed. The ARCASIA Awards for Architecture is to be rebranded to raise the prominence of the award and the vision behind it; the AAA is to be elevated to be more prestigious.
- The ten award categories were decided upon. The results were to be announced during the Award Presentation on the 8th October and the winning projects would be exhibited.
- A memorandum of understanding between ARCASIA and AIA (American Institute of Architects) was proposed.
- Future plans for ACA (Asian Congress of Architects) and Forum were discussed and accessed.
- The Council decided, in order for a nation to become a member of ARCASIA, the country must send an application to the President of ARCASIA with details about the institute. The applicant institute must be a professional body, a national institute, and represent at least 50 architects. The institute shall be accepted if it receives over 2/3rd of the council member votes.
- (Bhutan Institute of Architects, BIA) was accepted by the Council to be the member of ARCASIA.
- As the host country, Nepal representatives provided a brief on the different SONA committees.
- HKIA, Hong Kong has offered to host the 37th Council Meeting, 2016. This is to mark the 60th anniversary of the HKIA.
- The ASA, Thailand and the IIA, India put forth proposals to host the 36th Council meeting and the 2015 forum. IIA received 8 votes and ASA receive the majority, with 10 votes. The ASA has been chosen as the host of the 2015 forum in Ayodhya, Thailand.

5.10   Emendations

- The President and Vice president of ARCASIA should hold high posts in their respective national institutes, although it is not necessarily to be president of the institute.
- ACAE – Delegates are to serve a 2 years term
- The magazine, 'Architectural Asia' is to be published 4 times a year
- The award ceremony is to happen in Kuala Lumpur, during the ACA's 16th Exhibition, along with lectures. The first MOU was signed in 2006
- The ACA is to become active in Architecture for Humanity
- It is need to stress the importance of ARCASIA to the UIA
- A good relationship has been established between ARCASIA and the AIA
- There is a probability for an ARCASIA Young Architect's Forum
- Any MOU must be thoroughly discussed in the ARCASAIA council before signing.

5.11   Further Topics of Discussion

- The MOU between ARCASIA and AIA was shown in detail and discussed upon.
- An MOU between has been signed between ARCASIA and the AUA.
- The MOU between ARCASIA and the ACA received no response
- No MOU has been signed between ARCASIA and the CAA
- A new policy to show hospitality towards the organizations that have in been hospitable to ARCASIA was instilled.
- The 2-year cycle for ARCASIA Awards for Architecture has been restructured to a 1-year cycle.
- The Category for Social Responsibility was added
- Sikka and Roca were the sponsors for the AAA 2013
- ACKA is to take place in June 2014
- Bhutan (BIA) was accepted as the 19th member of ARCASIA
  i.   75 architects (69 architects registered)
  ii. 50% architects graduated from abroad in the last 5 years
  iii. There are currently no architectural schools in Bhutan (Unanimously accepted)
  iv. Bhutan is to be under Zone –A
  v.   Bhutan is to pay $200, the smallest yearly subscription fee
- The 15th Asian Congress of Architects report was accepted.
- Ar. Swarup G Koney, the Chairman of SONA, provided a report on the Report on the 17th ARCASIA Forum.
- The ARCASIA president Tan Pei Ing presented a token of appreciation to the SONA Chairman, Swarup G. Koney
- SONA was officially thanked by Ar. Joseph Kwan (HKIA)
- PAM presented a documentary on the ACA-16

5.12   The 2014 ARCASIA Congress and Council meeting

The 2014 ARCASIA Congress and Council meeting is to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June 2014

- Malaysian Airlines is to provide a 30% discount for the international delegates.

- The is to be a 15% discount for delegates who register early
- Special programs have been organized for delegates and their families.
- The congress is to include a Student Jamboree
- Malaysia and Pam encourages the participation of students of Architecture.
- The Convention is to be held at Barrier free center
- Architex – 14- is able to accommodate 32,000 visitors regularly
- Professional Registration fee: $300 USD
- Students Registration fee: $200 USD
- Official delegates: free

5.13   Committee Reports

5.13.1   ACAE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT (2013)
- There are 585 schools from 17 countries (ASD)
- Explanation of Student Jamboree and competition Manual. ACAE has received 19 submissions from students from 10 countries
- Reported on the progress and status of the ARCASIA Architectural Research Journal (ARJ)
- Cross Border Internship proposals
- Possibility of a Virtual School of Architecture
- ACAE is to host a 2 week long workshop beginning March 2014 themed 'ARCASIA Pavilion'
- The creation of a Student Interactive Link (SIL)

5.13.2   FELLOWSHIP MEETING REPORT (2013)

The Fellowship committee currently comprises of 150 eminent architects

The major issue raised by the Fellowship committee was – 'How do you see ARCASIA progressing in the future?'

- What improvement should ARCASIA make in the future?
- How is ARCASIA to work with international organizations?
- Should ARCASIA become more involved in Asia economic and trade between nations?
- The fellowship fund: $123.93
- PAM is to sponsor the next fellowship meeting

5.13.3   THE ACPP COUNCIL MEETING REPORT (2013)

23 delegates from 13 countries were present. The Key issues the ACPP Council reported upon were CPD, the design competition and MRA.

- The ARCASIA standard for MRA is Fly in and Fly out, this should be stopped
- Plans for ACPP in 2020: ACPP wishes to bridge the gap between Global and Local:
- Go Local = GLOCAL
- Commitments and Continuity of Participating: ACPP members are expected to serve 2 consecutive years
- There are to be 2 ACPP meetings a year
- Next meeting is to be held in India, tentatively in February 2014

5.13.4 ACGSA COUNCIL MEETING REPORT (2013)

- 19 representatives were present in the meeting. The Council decided ARCASIA is to lead and assist in the measures to heat the space
- ACGSA provided the latest update on the Green Building Index

5.13.5 ACSR COUNCIL MEETING REPORT (2013)

Action plan for year 2013-2014

- Disaster relief – India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, Vietnam, Pakistan, Japan, China
- Barrier free (Accessibility) – Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore
- Education – Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Laos
- Hong Kong is to lead the charter
- Effective establishment of Emergency Architects ARCASIA
- Universal design centre – Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan (design code)

5.14   Nominees and elected post holders

5.14.1 PRESIDENT OF ARCASIA

Nominees:

- Ar. Batjav R. (UMA)   - 1 vote
- Ar. Professor Lalith De Silva (SLIA)   - 2 votes
- Ar. Sathirut Nui Tandanand (ASA)   -15 votes

Elected: Ar. Sathirut Nui Tandanand (ASA)

5.14.2 Deputy Chairman (ACAE)

Nominees:

- MS. Cho IIn Souk (KIRA)   - 9 votes
- Ar. Nuno Soares (AAM)   - 9 votes

Elected: Ar. Nuno Soares (AAM)

5.14.3 Deputy Chairman (ACGSA)

Nominees:

- Mr. Cheong Yew Kee (SIA)   - withdrawn
- Ar. Qazi M. Asif (IAB)

Elected: Ar. Qazi M. Asif (IAB)

5.14.4 Deputy Chairman (ACPP)

Nominees:

- Ar. Thirilogachandran (PAM)   - 1 vote
- Ar. Shin, Chun Gyu (KIRA)   - 17 votes

Elected: Ar. Shin, Chun Gyu (KIRA)

5.14.5   Deputy Chairman (ACSR)

Nominees:

- Ar. Datin Norwina Mohd Nawawi (PAM) - 2 votes
- Ar. Rita Soh (SIA)   - 16 votes

Elected: Ar. Rita Soh (SIA)

5.14.6   Deputy Chairman (FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE)

Elected: Ar. Lee Chor Wah (PAM)

5.14.7   A Committee, UIA is to be formed in 2014 led by SIA and PAM

The 34th ARCASIA council concluded with SONA expressing appreciation to the President of ARCASIA, Tan Pei Ing.

34th ARCASIA Council Meeting Closing

6. SAARCH MEETING

The SAARCH meeting was conducted on the 7th of October 2013. Issues discussed were as follows

- Member countries are to send the committee nominee's names by the 1st week of November.
- SAARC has not been able to maintain diplomatic relation with Afghanistan. Afghanistan is out of contact
- The committee has decided to upgrade and update the SAARC manual.
- They are having a very good newsletter plan to follow up and create closed group on Facebook.
- Next SAARC meeting may take place in Nepal or Pakistan.

Saarch Meeting

7. DINNERS

7.1. On the 6th of October, a dinner was organized by SONA at the Patan Museum for the council members. Newari Nite started with traditional Newari welcome with Vermillion Tika and flowers to each diner. The food was served in typical Newari style with performers playing live Newari music on the background. The dinner was authentic Newari cuisine.

Dinner at Patan Museum

1.1. On the 7th of October, the dinner was organized by Kathmandu Engineering College (KEC) at Wanjala Restaurant for the council members. Nepali Nite also started with various performances by traditional artists. This dinner offered typical Nepali cuisine.

Dinner at Wanjala

8. FORUM PROCEEDING

On the 8th of October, the 17th ARCASIA Forum, 2013 was attended by invited guests, dignitaries and

Total foreign delegates: **273** (Including Office Bearer – **12**; Council Member – **35**)

Total National delegates: **232** (Architects – **178**; Students – **54**; DUDBC – **22**; MoUD – **7**)

8.1   Welcome and Opening Session

- The President of ARCASIA, Tan Pei Ing opened the architectural exhibition of the 17th ARCASIA forum at the Soaltee Crowne Plaza.
- Before the arrival of the Chief Guest, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, the President of the Republic of Nepal, Nepali dancers presented welcome dance, ARCASIA and Member county flags were displayed and ARCASIA Documentary was also showcased. Then as Nepal's cultural presentation, a video featuring Nepal's 7 world heritage sights was presented as glimpses into the Nepali cultural heritage.
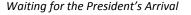

ARCASIA President opening the exhibition

Waiting for the President's Arrival   *Welcome dance*

- Arrival of Chief Guest, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ram Baran Yadhav, the President of the Republic of Nepal. Hon. Dr. Yadav was greeted at the venue by Reception Members and escorted to the stage as the chief guest.

- The President of the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA), Ar. Swarup G. Koney gave the welcome address presented the dignitaries and Chief Guest with Khadas and bouquets, as a gesture of gratitude and respect.

Reception of the President of the Republic of Nepal

Inauguration of the 17th ARCASIA Forum by the President

- Ar. Kishor Thapa, the Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development addressed the national and international delegates. His speech focused on the Ministry of Urban Development's vision to make the city clean, and spiritual place. He proclaimed spirituality is based on faith. He addressed the Nepalese Tourism Motto and National Pride that has been branded, Naturally Nepal.

- Ar. Tan Pei Ing, the President of ARCASIA, gave the opening address. She discussed humanity in terms of spirituality and architecture and its link to humanity and culture. Further contents of her speech included Disaster Management initiative ideas for sustainable architecture, and the sharing of values, policies and ideals.

- Chief Guest, Hon. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav recognized the ARCASIA Awardees (Gold medal recipients). The Award categories were as follows:
  - Residential Buildings
  - Public Amenities Buildings
  - Industrial Buildings
  - Conservational Projects
  - Social Responsible Architecture
  - Sustainability -> multi-functional community houses

Best building design award winner   *AAA 2013 awards winner*

- Address by Hon. Minister Chhabi Raj Pant, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure & Transport and Urban Development. Mr. Pant addressed the rapid Urbanization of the city, and the Bagmati River Cleaning Project. Mr. Pant stated that spiritualization is the search of one's soul for peaceful co-existence and human dignity.

- Address by Chief Guest, Rt. Hon. Ram Baran Yadav, President of the Republic of Nepal. Dr. Yadav expressed gratitude towards the Society of Nepalese Architects for the organization of ARCASIA, an event he believed would open Nepal to its neighbors. He expressed the views that it is time for Nepal to refine our culture; architecture must relate to nature. He made an appeal to the intellectuals of Nepal, professionals and participants to work to preserve and respect nature.

- A Token of Appreciation was presented to the Chief Guest, Rt. Hon. Ram Baran Yadav by the ARCASIA President, Ar. Tan Pei Ing and the President of the Society of Nepalese Architects, Ar. Swarup G. Koney.

- Mr. Bishnu Panthee, the Chairman of the ARCASIA Forum Steering Committee 2013 gave the Vote of Thanks.

The President of the Republic of Nepal observing the Architectural Exhibition

8.2   Presentation Session

Technical Paper Session

8.2.1   Day 1: 8th of October

- Ar. Devendra Nath Gangol, SONA introduced Keynote Speaker, Prof. Charles Correa.

Keynote speaker Prof. Charles Correa

- The Keynote Address by Prof. Charles Correa began with a quote by Christian Noberg-schulz, form the book Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture - 'A Place represents that part of truth that belongs to Architecture'.

- Highlights from Mr. Correa's presentation were as follows:
  - Form follow climate and architecture as a metaphor
  - Discussed the bill of rights for Housing. A good housing development consists of
  - Pluralism
  - Space open to the Sky
  - The plan must be Incremental
  - Malleability – Ability to change with the client's needs
  - Equity – the sizes of the houses must be comparable
  - Disaggregation
  - Encourage Participation

- Ar. Tan Pei Ing, the President of ARCASIA presented a Token of Appreciation to Keynote Speaker, Charles Correa.

- Paper Presentation Session I started with the introduction of the speakers by Session Chair Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel. The Speakers were given 15 minutes to present, followed by a panel discussion.

Dr. Jagadish C. Pokharel chairing the 1ˢᵗ Session

- Paper Presenters/Speakers were:
  i. Ar. Rashika Abeyawardana & Pabalu Wijegoonawardane
  ii. Ar. Ansary B.S.
  iii. Ar. Fischer J.K.
  iv. Ar. Anju Malla
  v. Ar. Xu Zongwei

Speakers No. 1: Ar. Rashika Abeyawardana and Pabalu Wijegoonawardane:

Spirit of a Building, Entrance, Threshold and the Image of the City

The focus of the presentation was:

"I confront the city with my body; my legs measure the length of the arcade and the width of the square; my gaze unconsciously projects my body onto the facade of the cathedral, where it roams over the mouldings and contours, sensing the size of recesses and projections; my body weight meets the mass of the cathedral door, and my hand grasps the door pull as I enter the dark void behind. I experience myself in the city, and the city exists through my embodied experience. The city and my body supplement and define each other. I dwell in the city and the city dwells in me."

- Pallasmaa (2012)

Cities should also have the ability to heal and recharge the energies of its inhabitants.

What we invite into our buildings affects what we could give out to our surrounding. The energies we invite into our buildings become very important.

The Universe is created from five elements Pancha Maha Bhutha: Water (Apo),

Fire (Thejo), Air (Vayo), Earth (Patavi) and Space (Aakash).

Speaker No. 2: Ar. Bikash Saud Ansary:

The CBDs of Dhaka: Changing Perception, Vocabularic Transformation and Continuing Challenges

"Let civility be re- translated through architecture."
CIVILITY is a sociological construct, the spirit of social- bondage, in a good-citizenry-attitude. The transformation of CBD's of Dhaka city was analyzed from the Mughal period. The Mughal had been in favor of CIVILITY 'in their custom, this we can decipher in architectural manifestations. The Mughal era was a visual delight - breathing civic amenities for the celebration of CIVILITY, a vivid depiction of a vibrant notion of CIVILITY in the then informal CBDs. 1st formal 'CBD' at Motijheel was held and formation of 'DIT' in 1956. Dhaka Improvement Trust invited the eminent foreign Architects such as: Tigerman, Paul Rudolph, Constantine Doxidias, Richard Neutra to work in Bangladesh.

"TSC" of Dhaka University, a cultural hub, ever vibrant, gave birth to many National Political Discourse During 1971, our great Liberation War. It is a wonderful expression of CIVILITY in civic urbanity. Students & public meeting, seating discussion, rehearsal of Cultural Practices, Dramas, Dances, Recitation, Public Addresses. Changing Perception are all transformations of the Vocabulary in the realm of 'CIVILITY'.

Speaker No. 3: James Karl Fischer:

The Identity, Civility and Spirituality of Bird-friendly Design

The focus of Mr. Fischer's presentation were the Creation of Space(s) in Service, Guide Regulation(s) in Service and Articulate Concepts/Teach in Service

MODERN ARCHITECTURE should deal with following things:
- Design Bird-friendly Architectural Space(s)
- Create Bird-friendly Architectural Regulation(s)
- 3.Teach and Engage Youth in ARCASIA Nations to 'Save a Billion Birds'

MODERN ARCHITECTURE CONCERN

- Creation of Space(s) in Service
- Guide Regulation(s) in Service
- Articulate Concepts/Teach in Service
-

THEORY OF SERVICE
- Spirituality Begins with Gratitude
- The Perfect Gift cannot be returned
- Cautionary Exchange: Involves Promises Given in the Interest of Another

He explain that without Biodiversity, Ecological Resiliency shall ultimately fail; Sustainability efforts are pointless without biodiversity
Cultural Capacity: - Intellectual Engagement with Arts, Sciences and Architectures
Vital Capacity: - Environmental quality including agriculture, recreation and public health
Economic Capacity: - Influence Decision Making Processes

"GOODS AND SERVICES" PROVIDED BY ECOSYSTEMS INCLUDE:
- Provision of food, fuel and fiber
- Provision of shelter and building materials
- Purification of air and water
- Detoxification and decomposition of wastes
- Stabilization and moderation of the Earth's climate
- Moderation of floods, droughts, temperature extremes and the forces of wind
- Generation and renewal of soil fertility, including nutrient cycling
- Pollination of plants, including many crops
- Control of pests and diseases
- Maintenance of genetic resources as key inputs to crop varieties
  and livestock breeds, medicines, and other products
- Cultural and aesthetic benefits
- Ability to adapt to change

Speaker No. 4: Ar. Anju Malla:

Spirituality in Architecture

Indoor ambiance and outdoor environment, the co-existence of man with nature and its abundance, the balance of give and take is synonymous with the peace of mind and tranquility in the surroundings.

Within the confines of a residential complex, a lush green front lawn, regardless of the size, functions as a relaxing spot. Greenery, a connection to nature is very import for the sense of peace and tranquility.

In terms of built space, we see no boundary walls - the front yard of one dwelling links up with that of the other, the continuity of this space itself manifests the strong existence of "WE" feeling.

Speaker No. 5: Ar. Xu Zongwei:

The Issue of Art and Aesthetics in Architecture

Ar. Xu Zongwei provided explanations for art and aesthetics in Architecture.
> **Part One: Artistic Character of Architecture**
> **Part Two: Specialty of Architectural Art**

- Finite in Creation
- 2.Mandatory in aesthetics
- Immobilization of architecture
- Space in volume
- Ecological in construction
- Pragmatic nature of architecture
- Consumptive in operation
- Renovation of architecture

The session Chair, Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel presented a Token of Appreciation to all the speakers and the Organization Committee presented a Token of Appreciation to the Chair. Day 1 of the 17th ARCASIA Forum closed with ARCASIA Architecture Award 2013 ceremony and dinner.

AAA 2013 pre dinner cocktail

AAA 2013 Cerermony

AAA 2013 Dinner

8.2.2   Day 2: 9th of October

- The Second Session of the 17th ARCASIA Forum, held at the Soaltee Crowne Plaza on the 9th of October 2013 was the continuation of the events that took place on the 8th of October 2013. The Second Session commenced with the introduction of the speakers by Session Chair, Ar. Surya Bhakta Sangachhe. The Speakers were given 15 minutes to present, followed by a panel discussion.

Ar. Surya B. Sangachhe chairing 2nd Session

- Paper Presenters/Speakers
    i.   Ar. Aurora B Panopio
    ii.   Ar. Sabina Tandukar
    iii. Ar. Sultana Zakia Rahman
    iv.   Ar. Jayandra Dhowj Sunuwar & Ar. Mamata Guragain

Speaker No. 1: Ar. Aurora B Panopio:

Philippine Catholic Church and Spatial enculturation; Adaptation, integration and transformation of Quiapo and Antipolo churches

"Architecture, the highest form of art and culture that reflects the tangible heritage in structures, is the most expensive and the most effort filled art, traversing several disciplines in its expression. Early architecture was forced to develop in the Philippines in an attempt."

Ar. Panopio began her presentation with the goals for the origin of the Philippine Church

- The first aim was to colonize the Philippines and take part in the spice trade.
- The second goal was to use Philippines as a medium in trading with other neighboring countries such as Japan and China.
- The third goal was to Christianize all the inhabitants of the Philippines.

Baroque churches in the Philippines have a distinct character; simple aesthetics, created by materials used during the era of construction give the churches a "rustic appearance."

The liturgical space of the church is a venue where the community may experience the sacredness of the liturgy. The two principles used in the planning of liturgical space are the sacred dimension of space and the community's needs and activities.

The space formed by these rites is divided into two main areas:
- Sanctuary (Altar and Sacristy)
- Nave (assembly area).

The other spaces include the Blessed Sacrament chapel (adoration chapel), baptistery, reconciliation room (confessional) and the sacristy. Thus, these Filipino churches are spatially

dynamic, continuously changing and expanding with the expansion of faith and the user's changing lives.

Speaker No. 2: Sabina Tandukar:

Water Architecture and the Spirit of Place

Spirituality is related to the embodied experience of a place, which addresses all our senses and strengthens the idea of being-in-this-world. Hiti (water conduits) and Jahru (Spigot fountain) are social elements dispersed across the city, whose basic utilitarian objective is to provide drinking water to the urban dwellers.

The context of these Hitis and Jahrus were never only of geographical importance but also of social and cultural value. The Hitis are a remarkable achievement, their success attributed to its utilitarian and artistic dimension as well as its spatial location in an urban context. They have become important foci binding the whole community around it. Hence these Hitis and Jahrus can be taken as "life-enhancing" art and architecture.

Speaker No. 3: Ar. Sultana Zakia Rahman:

The Body, Mind and Soul in Architecture Connecting Spirituality with the Physical

Most Asian cities of today, heavily burdened with population growth and global urbanization, lack the adequately balanced support system to hold them together as well as the connectivity of humans and nature; we constantly disconnect ourselves and our built environment from nature.

This disconnection is not technical but spiritual; we must incorporate that missing dimension in our daily lives. We are part of nature, part of spiritual dimension. If we destroy nature and the natural qualities of human life, we in fact destroy ourselves, lose our spiritual magnificence and hamper the balance required for perfect living. On the other hand, if we respect nature and the spiritual essence of nature, we are actually respecting ourselves. We are one half of a two-way relationship between Nature and man - we take from nature and thus we must give back.

Speakers No. 4: Ar. Jayandra Dhowj Sunuwar and Ar. Mamata Guragain:

Historical Eclecticism Veiling and Revealing of Identity

'Traditional architecture' is not a texture coat that is applied to a surface of a building but the efficient use of technology and space, intimacy with the material, thermal comfort, weather proofing, durability, reflection of the lifestyle, and love of art and the craft.

Pervasive lure of the 'traditional architecture' has developed into a historical eclecticism enabling us to maintain a unique Nepali identity and resist the onslaught of architectural globalization.

This presentation indicates that the work of foreign architect is more driven by the respect

towards the culture and terrain, whereas the locals seems to have successfully fused modern function and 'traditional architecture', but are still nervous that they might be perceived as less of a Nepali. Ultimately this trend of historical eclecticism has triggered a serious debate on identity and modernity, a topic that must be addressed by the new wave of architects, competently and honestly.

Session 1 concluded when the session Chair, Ar. Surya Bhakta Sangachhe provided a Token of Appreciation to all the speakers and The Organization Committee presented a Token of Appreciation to the Chair.

- Session 3 commenced after the Tea break, when Prof. Jib Raj Pokharel, the third session Chair, introduced the speakers. Just as the previous sessions, each speaker was given fifteen minutes to present, followed by a discussion panel.

Prof. Jiba Raj Pokharel chairing 3rd Session

- Paper Presenters/Speakers
     i.   Ar. Leah M. Punongbayan Dela Rosa
     ii.   Ar. Aimi Ramizah Roslan
     iii.   Ar. Rezwan Sobhan
     iv.   Ar. Poonam Shah

Speaker No. 5: Leah M. Punongbayan Dela Rosa:

Pinoy Folk beliefs: Understanding the influence of indigenous faith on the identity of Filipino vernacular spaces.

Beliefs Affecting Vernacular Spaces
- Respect for the Land
- Space planning
- Informal boundaries
- Multi-functional, compact spaces
- Decorative motifs
- Orientation and forms

The aforementioned beliefs envelope vernacular spaces and brings a sense of spirituality and life, greater meaning and depth, personality and character to the users and to those who appreciate and learn from them. They serve as a deeper reflection of the folk beliefs that may be considered rational or irrational, acceptable or not by modern societies.

Speaker No. 6: Ar. Aimi Ramizah Roslan:

Restoration of Malaysian city identity: case study of federal territory of Putrajaya

Dr. Mahathir Mohammad the 4th prime minister of Malaysia is regarded as Malaysia's 'father of modernization'. Faced with a congested Kuala Lumpur, he wished to build a world-class city and offices for his government. He then choose the site 'Prang Besar' which met all his set requirements and renamed the site, replacing the rather negative connotations of Prang Besar (Prang= war, Besar = big), with the relatively more positive, Putrajaya (victorious prince)

Putrajaya took seven years to be completed. Upon completion, Putrajaya generated a new methodology of urbanization in Malaysia; an instant, well-planned city was built in less than a decade.

Putrajaya consists of all the core components of Malaysia i.e. Nationalism, Capitalism, Islamic, Populism and Authoritarianism. The main influences for the development of Putrajaya are as follows:
- Influences
- Foreign influences
- Malay vernacular
- Islamic architecture
- Mahathirism

Speaker No. 7: Ar. Rezwan Sobhan (Co-authors - Ar. Kawshik Saha, Ar. H.M. Nahyan):

Cultural Transitions: Morphological Study of Sylhet City, Bangladesh from the Perspective of Spiritual Ethnicity

Sylhet city is known as the spiritual capital of Bangladesh, but religious spaces and holy artefacts are the part of the common people's day-to-day life rather than a segregated sacred place of worship.

This research redefines how that spirituality produces and reproduces sacred artefacts and spaces as part of urban morphology through a process of transition. Simple observation and historic interpretation led to the conclusion that spirituality is made more sustainable through a process of transition. This study put forth a new paradigm of spiritual ethnicity in terms of Architecture and Urban Design; an innovative approach to redefine the urban morphology of the Sylhet city for future researchers and historians.

Speaker No. 8 : Ar. Poonam Shah:

Civility in Durbar Squares

Nepali architecture has a unique identity; it is neither confined by local norms nor by bounded design principles. This is best witnessed in the three Durbar squares of Kathmandu valley. These three sites share the same functions such as royal adobe, trade and commerce, cultural and religious activities, social gathering etc.

Although the development of the three cities has been organic, these sites are composed in human scale, highlighting history, drama, composition, attraction, spirituality, and universal appeal.

These Durbar Squares are good examples of civility, spaces that have weathered the test of the time, vibrant civil space. These spaces, with all the aforementioned positive qualities may prove to be good models for future development comprising of informal and all-inclusive designs.

Session 3 concluded when the session Chair, Prof. Jib Raj Pokharel provided a Token of Appreciation to all the speakers and The Organization Committee presented a Token of Appreciation to the Chair.

- Session 5 commenced after the Lunch break, when the fourth session Chair, Ar. Kishor Thapa, the Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development, introduced the speakers. Each speaker was given fifteen minutes to present, followed by a discussion panel.

Ar. Kishor Thapa chairing 4ᵗʰ Session

- Paper Presenters/Speakers
    i.   Ar. Yoshihiko Sano
    ii.   Ar. I Nyoman Gde Suardana, Nova Kristina
    iii.   Ar. Monayya Zafar
    iv.   Ar. Sarosh Pradhan

Speaker No. 9: Ar. Yoshihiko Sano

Possibility of religious architecture in urban design: cases in Japan

Beginning with spiritual scenes from the history of religious architecture in Japan, this presentation discussed how whether one spiritual place is small or large, it will form the personality of each city and empower its denizen's actions.

A small shrine in private house or office building connects people to precious spiritual places, an idea that has been explained the history of religious architecture in Japan.

The synchronized forms seen in the Shinto and Buddhism: Nikko-spiritual complex involves temples and shrines in the forest and refer to the enlightened history of religious architecture from different case studies such as:
- Roman Catholic Tokyo Maria Cathedral and
- The Reiyukai Temple

Speakers No. 10: Ar. I Nyoman Gde Suardana, Nova Kristina

Spirituality in Balinese Architecture

Spirituality in Balinese architecture is shown by the various meanings and symbols that exist in the physical spaces and buildings.

GROUPING OF BALINESE ARCHITECTURE
- Architecture for Residence
- Architecture for Holy Place
- Architecture for the Other Building

Balinese architecture contains a spirit that ensures human life quality continues in with security, peace and tranquillity. The ethnic Balinese community has a spiritual consciousness and a very close relationship between the microcosm and the macrocosm.

The high quality of Balinese architecture is shown by its harmonious relationship with the community seen during daily human activities, both of profane and spiritual nature.

Speaker No. 11: Ar. Monayya Zafar

Spirituality in Architecture; Architecture and the Image of the City

Although, the aspect of spirituality in the region was not a matter of direct concern for the architects of Islamabad, it was indirectly addressed with regard to concern of the environment, plan settlement of the civilians and representation of religious, government and public buildings.

Through a narrative of the development of the city over time, this presentation served to address the factors of spirituality that cater to civility and its impact on the image of the capital city as a representation of the Nation

Speaker No. 12: Ar. Sarosh Pradhan

Spirituality in Architecture…Identity within the Nepalese Context

Art, architecture and craft, Nepalese are blessed with rich pockets of cultural heritage along with the geographical uniqueness that continue to remain a source of inspiration for an observer striving for meaningful architecture with a sense of place and balance. Spirituality in architecture is about finding a balance and direction between our inner and outer space. Maintaining one's local identity shows respect; even as one takes learns and adopts global practices, one should try to keep one's local thinking and action. Spirituality is about finding the balance and direction within own space.

Session 4 concluded when the session Chair, Ar. Kishor Thapa provided a Token of Appreciation to all the speakers and The Organization Committee presented a Token of Appreciation to the Chair.

Upon the distribution of the Tokens of Appreciation, Prof. Sudarshan Raj Tiwari introduced the four Session Chairs who presented a on the topics of the sessions they conducted.

The President of ARCASIA, Ar. Tan Pei Ing concluded the forum, which ended at 16:30, 9th October 2013.

Plenary Session Panel

Plenary Session Chair Prof. S.R. Tiwari   *Secretary of MoUD Ar. Kishor Thapa*

Token of appreciation from ARCASIA President to Mr. Sambhu KC

Token of appreciation to ARCASIA President from Plenary Session chair Prof. S.R. Tiwari

Closing of Presentation Session by ARCASIA President

8.3   FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

The friendship night began at 18:00 at the army club, Kathmandu Nepal. This program celebrated the closing of the 17th ARCASIA Forum and the 34th ARCASIA Council Meeting. The Friendship Night also included a 'Handing over of the Flag' ceremony.

A night of interactions, The Friendship Night included performances from all the member countries. A great platform to introduce the member countries to one- another's cultures, the Friendship Night was a wonderful success.

Friendship Night

9. POST FORUM ACTIVITY

9.1   Half Day Symposium on Architecture and Social Responsibility

9.1.1   Brief:

Event: Symposium on Architecture and Social Responsibility; Universal Access & Design for Natural Disaster and Universal Design- Public Toilet for all Design Competition

Host: ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (ACSR)

Facilitated: Hong Kong Institute of Architect (HKIA) and Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)

Financial Support: GEBRIT- ARCASIA Corporate Partner

Core Implementing Team of the Project: Ar. Deepak K.C (Coordinator), Ar. Rabita Rajkarnikar, Ar. Sagun Sthapit, Ar. Niraj Maharjan, Ar. Rikesh Shrestha, Ar. Amit Bajracharaya, Ar. Ajaya Silwal, Ar. Subash Phuyal and Ar. Yazma Rajbhandari under the direct supervision of Ar. Joseph Kawan, president of ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility(ACSR)

Venue: Hotel Radisson, Lazimpat Kathmandu

Date: 10th October 2013

Invited Speakers:

Universal Design and Accessibility: The first session was chaired by Ar. Rajesh Thapa. The Speakers were Ar. Abu Hena MidZia Uddin (Bangladesh), Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit (Nepal), Dr. Bijaya K. Shrestha (Nepal) and Mr. Birendra Raj Pokharel (Nepal)

Design for Natural Disaster: The second session was chaired by Ar. Joseph Kwan. The speakers of the second sessions were Ar. Renato Heray (Philippines), Ar. Shoeki Kurakawa and Ar. Noriuki Okabe (Japan), Ar. David Tong (Hong Kong), Ar. Smith Obayawat and Ar. Sandhya Janardhan (Singapore)

 Number of Participants on the Symposium: 125

Second Part of the Programme: Universal Design- Public Toilet for All Design Competition Prize Distribution Ceremony

Total Number of Participants: 49 (17 from professional Category and 32 from students category)

Final results of Design Competition:

Professional Category: Mr. Neeraj Maharjan (1st), Ms. Sushmita Shrestha Ranjit & Ms. Salena Sangachhe (2nd) and Mr. Bijay Singh (3rd) with consolation prize for Ms. Sunita Manandhar & Ms. Kripa Shakya and Mr. Gaurab K.C

Student Category: Mr. Toran Prasad Pandit (1st), Mr. Satyendra Raj Bhattarai (2nd), Ms. Kusum Bajrachraya (3rd) with two consolation prize for Mr. Sandip Shrestha & Ms Smriti Shrestha and Mr. Simal Shrestha

9.1.2   Detail Program:

The post event of ARCASIA FORUM 17 of 10th October was divided was divided into two parts:

i.   Symposium on Architecture and Social Responsibility on the theme of Universal Accessibility and Design for Natural Disaster and,

ii.   Design competition-Universal Design-Public Toilet for all Prize Distribution Ceremony.

9.1.2.1   FIRST PART: Symposium on Architecture and Social Responsibility; Universal Accessibility and Design for Natural Disaster

The program was started at 9:00 am, after finishing the registration time 8:30 am to 9:30 am, by lighting the PANAS by ARCASIA president Ar. Tan Pei

ARCASIA President Lighting the PANAS

Ing and was followed by welcome speech of SONA president Ar. Swarup G. Koney. Addressing the programme, president of ARCASIA, Ar. Tan Pei Ing, said that the concept of Public toilets for all is aimed at advocating responsible architecture. It also demonstrates how an architect can make difference to everyone's life in particular those relating to the disabled people.

"All of us at some stage of our life will experience some form of disability and our profession contribute to equality amongst people by facilitating the basic rights of people to have access to shelter, facilities, work, education and culture without discrimination," she said. The whole program was nicely hosted by Ar Yazma Rajbhandari.

After the opening ceremony the first session was started on the theme of Universal Design and Accessibility. The first session was chaired by Ar. Rajesh Thapa and the speakers were speaker Ar. Abu Hena MidZia Uddin (Bangladesh), Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit (Nepal), Ar. Deepak K.C (Nepal), Dr. Bijaya K. Shrestha (Nepal) and Mr. Birendra Raj Pokharel (Nepal)

Ar. Rajesh Thapa chairing the first session

As a first speaker, senior journalist Kanak Mani Dixit said that along with the transformation of urban environment, the Urban Ministry should also focus on proper accessibilities along with necessary provision for the disabled people. After Kanak Mani Dixit, Ar. Deepak K.C (coordinator of the event) shared his experience faced by person with disability due to the inaccessible built environment in Nepal.

Dr. Bijaya Kumar Shrestha, who is an urban design expert, informed about the child, gender and disabled friendly School toilets in Nepal, and shared related to planning designing and implementation. According to Dr. Shrestha, the government should develop legal and institutional mechanism including found allocation for implementation of school toilets that are child, gender and disabled friendly. "There is a lack of proper policy in the rural areas as there is only one toilet for more than 10 students," he said

Participants of the Symposium

Architect Abu Hena Ziauddin from Bangladesh said that it is important that the built up environment should be barrier-free and must be adapted to fulfil the need of all people equally.

"As a matter of fact, the needs of the people with disabilities coincide with the needs of the majority and all people are at ease with them. As such planning for the majority implies planning for people with variable abilities and disabilities." he said. According to him, implementing barrier-free access is an important as one of the basic human right in the design process neither in building design nor in urban design. The process is to create or set up standards as code of ethics.

"Accessibility for the disabled and barrier-free access is the Universal Design that is the essential part of design process," Ziauddin said

The last speaker of the first session was Mr. Birendra Raj Pokheral, a visually impaired leader and past president of National Federation of Disabled People (NFDN). He spoke on the topic of Basis of Disasters Risk Reduction: Early Warning Systems for Person with Disability. During his speech he shared how the issues of person with disability can be addressed and current government policies, the hurdles and the major role that should be taken by both government body and different stakeholders to address the situation of person with disability particularly in the context of Nepal.

After the first session there was 15 minutes coffee break and second session was started at 11:00 am.

The theme of the second session was Design for Natural Disaster which was chaired by Ar. Joseph Kwan, chairman of ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (ACSR).

Ar. Joseph Kwan chairing the second session

The first speaker of the second session was Ar. Renato Heray (Philippines), who shared his experience and design solution of mobile shower faced after the grate tsunami. He also **informed how the design solution was** successfully incorporated to facilitate the issues of persons with disability in Philippines after the tsunami.

During the programme, Ar. Noriyuki Okabe a Japanese architect informed about the architect's role in disasters. According to Okabe, architects are expected to propose desirable reconstruction plans to the communities and to mitigate from natural disasters as well. Meanwhile, Architect David Tong chairman of Hong Kong Architects registration Boards, informed about Hong Kong's post quake reconstruction support work in Sichuan Province, China.

Ar. Smith Obayawat (Thailand) interestingly shared his own practical design solution for the flooding, and later he also addressed the sense of urgency he realized to incorporate the concept of Universal Design in his own design in future to come.

The last Speaker of the session was Ar. Sandhya Janardhana (Singapore), an official representative from Architecture for Humanity, centred her presentation on the role of architects and communities in building and rebuilding in a responsible and sustainable manner.

 She shared how the Architecture for Humanity around the globe playing vital role to find the better solution in needy zone challenged by both natural disaster and political crisis.

Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit Receiving Token of Appreciation   *Speakers and Jurors*

9.1.2.2   SECOND PART: Design competition-Universal Design-Public Toilet for all Prize Distribution Ceremony.

The design competition was one of the most challenging parts of the entire project. There were a lots of important and interlined activities associated behind the scene, the failure to address one could hamper the entire project, like finding the effective methods for spreading the announcement of design competition to right audience, motivation to students and professional, giving timely and accurate information, confidentiality of the selection process, arranging the suitable time and venue of highly busy jurors both from national and international was both challenging and unpredictable jobs. The design competition was made possible after more than

3 months hard work by entire team. At last, in spite difficulty and challenge, all the hard work was well paid after receiving the total 49 final design submission; 17 from professional category and 32 from student category.

Exhibition of shortlisted Designs   *Design Exhibition*

The jurors of the design competition were,
  i.   Ar. Tan Pei Ing (President of ARCASIA)
  ii.   Ar. Swarup Gurung Koney (President of SONA)
  iii. Ar. Joseph Kwan (ACSR Chair/ Universal Design and Access Expert)
  iv.   Ar. Kishore Thapa (Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development)
  v.   Ms. Amrita Gyawali (Disability Right Activist/Leader)

The total prize money was Rs 230,000/- (Two Lakhs Thirty Thousands Only) plus certificate and memento.

The starting of award distribution ceremony program began with awarding the token of appreciation to all national, international speakers, jurors of Design Competition and to all the volunteers and organizing team. The certificate was jointly awarded by ARCASIA president, Ar. Tan Pei Ing and SONA president, Ar. Swarup G. Koney.

After distribution of token of appreciation and certificate, the most exciting part of the event was started by announcing the winners of the design competition. The first prize from professional category was won by Ar. Neeraj Maharjan with cash prize Rs. 50,000/- , Certificate and memento.

Mr Neeraj Maharjan, winner of Professional Category

Mr. Toran Prasad Pandit winner of student Category

Meanwhile, Ar. Sushmita Shrestha Ranjit & Ar. Salena Sangachhe and Ar. Bijay Singh won secured second and third prize with cash prize Rs. 40,000/- and Rs. 30,000/- with certificate and memento respectively. Two consolation prized was given to Ar. Sunita Manandhar & Ar. Kripa Shakya and Mr. Gaurab K.C. They also received Rs. 15,000/- with certificate and memento respectively.

The first prize from student category was won by Mr. Toran Prasad Pandit with cash prize Rs. 25,000/- , certificate and memento. Meanwhile, Mr. Satyendra Raj Bhattarai and Ms. Kusum Bajrachraya secured second and third prize with cash prize Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 15,000/- with certificate and memento respectively. Two consolation prized was given to Mr. Sandip Shrestha & Ms Smriti Shrestha and Mr. Simal Shrestha. They also received Rs. 10,000/- cash prize with certificate and memento respectively.

The award of professional category was distributed by ARCASIA president Ar. Tan Pei Ing and award from student category was distributed by SONA president Ar. Swarup G Koney.

Winners of Design Competition with Jurors

Project implementing team

Ar. Deeoak K.C receiving certificate of appreciation from ARCASIA president

Guest at appreciation Dinner

Finally the appreciation dinner was organized by Ar. Joseph Kwan, chairman ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (ACSR), to all the national, international speakers, jurors of design competition and entire team of organizing committee at Wunjala Moska Restaurant, Naxal.

9.2   Architectural Tour

Post ARCASIA Forum-17 event Architectural Tour to historical city of Bhaktapur started at 12 noon on the 10th of October, 2013 from Kwopa Engineering College. The college had organized a small presentation on Bhaktapur Municipality and a buffet lunch at the college premises. Extending their hospitality a little further, they also presented all the tour participants with a souvenir, a locally made cap to the gentlemen and locally made purse to the ladies.
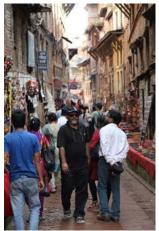

Welcome Program at Kwopa Engineering College

After lunch, the tour group was divided into smaller groups. A local guide (courtesy Kwopa Engineering College) was assigned to each group and in their leadership, the tour started from Chyamasingh Gate, east of Bhaktapur and headed toward the west, appreciating the traditional architecture and local history along the way.

Bhaktapur Lanes

The next stop was the Dattatreya temple square. Following the significance of the Dattatreya temple, the tour headed towards a monastery (Pujari Matha), just beside the temple with exquisitely carved peacock windows. These famous windows took everyone's breath away. The artistic facades of the monastery full of latticed windows and engraved columns made it difficult for the guides to pull everyone out of that lane.

Dattatreya temple square

Only the promise of more amazing sights got them moving.

And when they reached the Taumadhi Square and caught sight of the 5 tiered Nyatapol Temple, everyone was awestruck. After a lot of admiration and wonder, the tour headed towards the last stop the Bhaktapur Durbar Square. It was the icing on the cake and the highlight of the ancient arts of Nepal. The square with various temples grouped around a 55-window palace, the golden effigies of the kings perched on the top of stone monoliths, the guardian deities looking out from their sanctuaries, the wood carvings in every place — struts, lintels, uprights, gateways and windows, was a perfect and most charming setting to end a wonderful tour of the historic city of Bhaktapur.

Taumadhi Square

Bhaktapur Durbar Square

ANNEX

1. *Annex I – List of ARCASIA Forum-17, 2013 delegates*

2. *Annex II – Interview with Joseph Kwan (Excerpt)*

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH KWAN (EXCERPT)

Architect Joseph Kwan spoke with Terence Lee of the **The Himalayan Times** Perspectives about the role of architects and socially responsible structures.

Architect Joseph Kwan, educated at the Queensland Institute of Technology, Australia, has had over 34 years of Architectural experience in a number of nations – Australia, the UK, France and now Hong Kong. Ar. Kwan, the Chairperson of the ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility specializes in accessible built environments, and works towards making Hong Kong more accessible for the disabled as well as the elderly.

Ar. Kwan, during his conversation with Terrance Lee shared his insight on topics such as the traction social responsibility is gaining in the region, and the role an architect may play in changing the policies to make infrastructure universally accessible. Ar. Kwan proclaimed that indeed social responsibility is gaining momentum; architects are awakening to the obligation they have to benefit society and not merely their 'rich' clients. He provided pragmatic solutions to aid the environment, such as, using local materials and technologies, which are not only are environmentally aware, but also support the locals. Policies for universal access are lacking, no doubt. Ar. Kwan hopes that governments, NGOs and professionals soon, may adopt an ARCASIA charter on Social Responsibility in all eighteen of the member countries.

Ar. Kwan ended the conversation reflecting on the positive impact the 10th October 2013 ARCASIA Symposium on Architecture and Social Responsibility had on a country such as Nepal. Kathmandu, with is apparent lack of accessibility has a great deal of room for improvement in this avenue, and with the Society of Nepalese Architects willingness and effort, there great potential for not only the spread of awareness for universal access issues, but also designing for natural calamities. The design competition for the Universal Design: Public Toilet for all made both the student population as well as professionals aware of the needs for universal access. Ar. Kwan expressed hope that these winning designs may be used as prototypes by the government to promote Universal Access.