



नेपाली वास्तुविद् समाज  
**SOCIETY OF  
NEPALESE ARCHITECTS (SONA)**

# **COUNTRY REPORT**

SONA 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee

The 44<sup>th</sup> Arcasia Council Meeting and Arcasia Forum 22  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  
14-16 Jan, 2025

## 1 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

*Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)* is the professional organization of the architects of Nepal, established in 1991 by a group of enthusiastic architects who represent the government, the private sector, and the academia. The main objective of SONA is to protect the rights and responsibilities of Nepalese architects and promote the profession of architecture in Nepal. SONA has grown over a period of 33 years from a small group of architects, concentrated in Kathmandu Valley, to a nationwide organization with a total membership of 1816 individuals. SONA has been registered as a professional organization in the District Administration Office, Kathmandu and abides by the rules and regulations of the government strictly. SONA has established its own office space at the Churchill Complex, Sundhara, Kathmandu in 2011, supported by fulltime secretariat for day-to-day administration works. SONA was a member of South Asian Association of Architects (SAARCH), Architect's Council of Asia (ARCASIA) and Union of International Architects (UIA). SONA's long-term goal is to establish a distinct identity of architects in Nepalese society by establishing architectural value in the society, and expand its membership and coverage throughout the country. It encourages the community of architect's in Nepal to provide quality service with high level of integrity and also strives for promoting an architectural character that suits our culture, geography, and demands of the modern society. It will continuously work towards the establishment of Architect's Council in Nepal similar to Nepal Engineering Council. SONA and will actively engage in strengthening the network with regional and international associations of architects with the objective of exposing Nepalese architects with international architectural trends.

## 2 CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS OF THE INSTITUTE

The 15<sup>th</sup> executive committee was elected under the chairmanship of Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi on the occasion of 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly ceremony of SONA held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at Hotel Himalaya, Pulchowk, Lalitpur.

From the official election at the 28th Annual general meeting 11 members were elected through voting by the architect members of SONA. The new team officially took their oath at the hand over program and began their journey with SONA. Through weekly meetings, discussions and the new president's visions, plans were made to expand the Executive committee and make it more inclusive by adding architects from 3 different Sectors i.e. from Government Sector, Private Sector and from the Academic Sector. But according to the SONA Legislation only a committee of 11 members was possible so steps were taken to make amendments to the legislation. Through Special General Meetings and consultations with architect members and legal team, amendments were made to increase the committee member from 11 members to 15 members. The new members officially joined the team on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in a small program held at the SONA office. In total the SONA Executive Committee has 15 members starting from the 15<sup>th</sup> EC.

The members of the 15<sup>th</sup> executive committee formed are as follows:

**President:** Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi

***Vice-Presidents:***

Ar. Yekraj Adhikari (Government)  
Ar. Bhuwaneshwori Parajuli (Professional Practice)  
Ar. Dilli Ram Sapkota (Academic)

***General Secretary:*** Ar. Arjun Basnet

***Dy. General Secretary:*** Ar. Abhishek Mananda Bajracharya

***Treasurer:*** Ar. Lokendra Acharya

***Members:*** Ar. Astha Acharya

Ar. Sujan Silpakar

Ar. Srijana Koirala

Ar. Ruchi Bajracharya

Ar. Kaushal Shrestha

Ar. Nishaj Kunwar

Ar. Pragya Pradhan

### **3 CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH**

As of December 2024,

**Current Membership**

<i>Total Members</i>	1813
<i>General Members</i>	1266
<i>Life Members</i>	540
<i>Associate Members</i>	1
<i>Honorary Members</i>	6

#### **3.1 Types of Membership**

**General Member**

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

**Life Member**

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

**Associate Member**

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

**Honorary Member**

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

#### **4 BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE**

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

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

#### **5 CHAPTERS AND BRANCHES**

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

With the initiation of Pokhara Chapter, we had a public exhibition at Prithvi Chowk, Pokhara on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. This is the first ever activity of SONA outside Kathmandu valley and also the first of this kind to be organized by SONA chapter.

#### **6 ANNUAL MEETING**

*Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Various Annual Sessions*

The AGM and Annual Sessions are generally held in autumn of each year. The 29<sup>th</sup> AGM of society of Nepalese architects was held on January 11, 2024 at Alice Receptions, Gairidhara, Kathmandu Nepal.

In the AGM, general secretary Ar. Arjun Basnet presented the annual update of SONA to its general members whereas the treasurer Ar. Lokendra Acharya shared financial update of the executive committee.

#### **7 LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE**

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

#### **8 LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECT IN THE COUNTRY**

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

## 9 ARCHITECTS' REGISTRATION AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY

At present, Nepal doesn't have a Council for Architects to recognize and certify a graduate architect. Hence, it is being undertaken by the Nepal Engineering Council (NEC), a government body which is responsible for all the legal registration procedures. The 15th EC has started afresh with the required legal paperwork to apply for a separate architect's council and advocacy for the same is also in full force. The letter has already been dispatched from Ministry of Urban Development to Ministry of Finance, where it requires approval. Then after, the process shall be followed towards Ministry of Law.

## 10 INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

- SONA became a member of ARCASIA (Architects Regional Council Asia) in 2002 AD.
- SONA is one of the founder members of SAARCH (SAARCH Association of Architects) (1991). For now, since SAARC is inactive, we are not able to work on the umbrella of SAARCH. Hence, we are trying to work out a different mechanism to have activities in the SAARC region and SONA has started discussing with the institute presidents of different countries in this region.
- SONA is a member of UIA (International Union of Architects) as of August 2017.

## 11 MAJOR PROGRAMS

*(2023, October – 2024, Dec)*

### 11.1 Arcasia (ACA), Boracay Philippines (Sep16-24, 2023)



In all 27 delegates that included architects, accompanying person and students participated in this mega event from Nepal. Papers by Nirakar Shrestha and Prasamsa Pokhrel were also selected for the presentation. Projects by Ar. Prabal Thapa and Ar. Alex Shrestha were also displayed in the event. SONA's cultural performance was awarded the best performance at Friendship Night.

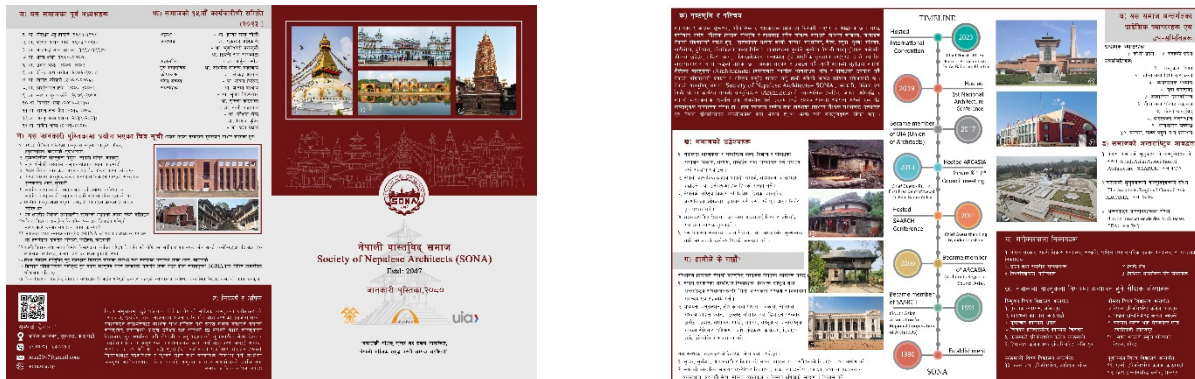
### 11.2 Earth Bag Construction workshop & Lecture (6<sup>th</sup> October, 2023)

SONA in collaboration with GOOD EARTH GLOBAL, organised a hands-on training on Earth Bag Construction at Gokarna House Restaurant, Chhetrapati, Friday, October 6, 2023

### 11.3 Introduction brochure of SONA

When it comes to the general public and the politicians of Nepal, they are relatively unaware about architecture and the types of works done by architects. To be honest architecture is regarded as engineering and sometimes even we find ourselves giving introduction as engineers

as people don't understand the word architect. Thus, realizing the need for a brochure of SONA, the 15-executive committee discussed and designed it and then shared with the general public and government officials as well at various programs.



### 11.4 Public Exhibitions

The first public exhibition was organised on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023 in the premises of Kasthamandap as the pre-event for the upcoming 33rd SONA DAY celebration! There were a lot of visitors that included the inquisitive general public, architecture students, member architects, officials from Kathmandu metropolitan city, DUDBC/CLPIU, City Planning Commission and other professional societies. The next public exhibition was organised outside Kathmandu valley in Pokhara, Gandaki Province in coordination with SONA Gandaki chapter on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Similarly from 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> February 2024, additional two public exhibitions were done in Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu.



### 11.5 SONA Day (2023 & 2024)

SONA Day was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, at Lainchaur Banquet, Kathmandu, to mark the 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA). The event was attended by SONA members, former presidents, and guests from different professional societies, including NEA, RUPSON, SCAEF, IDEA and SEANEP. The grand celebration was also marked by the courteous presence of Honorable Minister Sita Gurung (Ministry of Urban Development), Honorable Senate Ar. Aman Maskey, Bagmati Province, Deputy Mayor Sunita Dangol (Kathmandu Metropolitan City), and Deputy Mayor Ar. Rajani Joshi (Bhaktapur Municipality). The event included various competitions related to design, followed by an award ceremony for SONA Architecture Excellence and SONA Thesis of the year award. The event concluded with a musical program by SONA members, and a cocktail fellowship to share experiences and upcoming possibilities. Public exhibition was organized on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2023 at the premises of Kasthamandap, Basantapur Darbar Square, Kathmandu as the pre-event of SONA Day celebration.

SONA Day for this year was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, at Alice Receptions, Gairidhara Kathmandu, to mark the 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA). We also had a panel discussion on the theme “Nepalese Architecture Past, Present and Tomorrow”



### 11.6 SONA Architecture Excellence Awards (2023 & 2024):

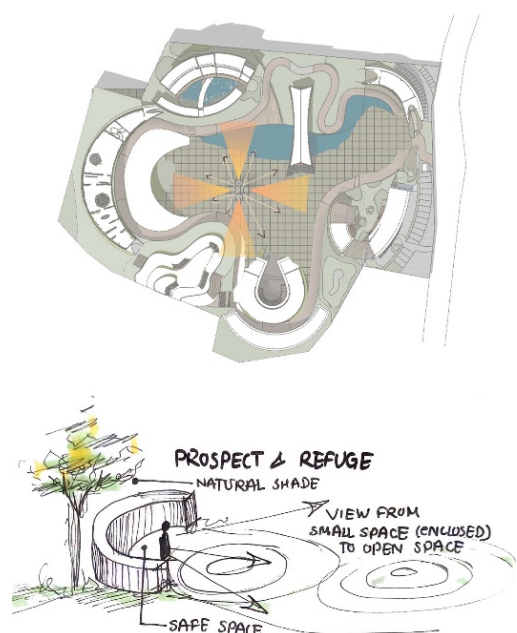
SONA organized the Architecture Excellence Award for the third time in a row, as part of the SONA Day celebration, with the aim of recognizing the outstanding works of architects. The winners for residential category was Ar. Naresh Maharjan, Kapasara Studio bagged the Interior Design award, Ar. Rakshya Rayamajhi won the award for commercial/hospitality/health sector and Sarosh Pradhan and Associates took away the award for the refurbishment project category.

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

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

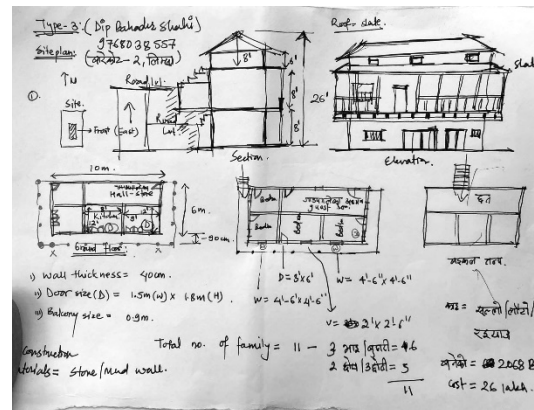
### 11.7 SONA Thesis of the Year Award (2023 & 2024):

This year SONA decided to hold a thesis competition between all the colleges of Nepal. The objective of the SONA Thesis of the Year award is to provide an opportunity for the final year undergraduate students of architecture to showcase their potential and ideas in the national platform provided by SONA. SONA believes that this award opens a route to the knowledge exchange of architecture colleges in Nepal thereby enhancing the architecture education in the country. Sajan Lama of Himalaya College of Engineering was acknowledged with SONA Thesis of the Year award for 2023. This year's SONA TOY 2024 was bagged by Kreepa Timsina from Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk campus.



## 11.8 Response to Jajarkot Earthquake

SONA Committee for Social Responsibility (SCSR) and SONA Committee for Young Architects (SCYA) join hands together for the immediate response for Jajarkot (District in western Nepal) Earthquake. The meeting included Ar. Navin Devkota, SCSR Chair, Ar. Suraj Khanal, SCSR Advisor, Ar. Sugandha Subedi, SCYA Chair, along with 15th EC members. The agenda for the meeting was primarily how SONA can help the earthquake affected communities as the quick response towards emergency shelter. Ar. Sugandha Subedi and Ar. Madhusuda Subedi visited the affected the site from 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 for week collection necessary information and conducting inventory work.



## 11.9 MOU with Architecture Schools

SONA Committee on Architecture Education (SCAE) organised an interactive meeting with the Coordinators and Department Heads of Architecture of different Architecture Colleges. The objective of the meeting was to foster collaboration between SONA and Architecture colleges. There were discussions on advancing education standards, encouraging research practices, facilitating student internships, promoting cross-country learning and enhancing collaborative engagements. We already have MOUs with three colleges so far.

### 11.10 Orientation Program on Public Procurement of Consulting Services

The program organized by SONA Committee of Professional Practice (SCPP) was highly interactive, with discussions on the details of public procurement in consulting services. The participants were mostly young architects aspiring to gain additional knowledge in public procurement. Engineer Shikhar Lama, (senior divisional engineer, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction), Ar. Monica Maharjan (Architect at DUDBC) and Ar. Damodar Acharya (Managing Director, A-Not Architecture and Architects) were the key speakers from the public service and private practice respectively.



### **11.11 Visit to the Minister of Urban Development Minister**

A request letter has been submitted to Honorable Minister Sita Gurung, Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD) on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, for the appointment of at least one architect in every municipality for the holistic approach in settlement planning and development. The letter also focuses the important role of an architect in the society for the better built environment. There was also a discussion about the necessity of Architecture council in Nepal which will safeguard the professional ethics in the country.

### **11.12 SONA BEEN Trainings**

#### ***Gandaki Province***

Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) in collaboration with BUILDING Energy Efficiency in Nepal (BEEN), a project funded by European Union under the Switch Asia Grant Program conducted a 3day training program in energy efficiency in buildings from 19th February 2024 to 21st February 2024 of Design MSMEs (Architects and Civil Engineers) from Gandaki Province at Hotel Landmark, Pokhara.

#### ***Bagmati Province***

SONA, in collaboration with Building Energy Efficiency in Nepal (BEEN- Project) successfully conducted a 3-day training session from 21 - 23 April, 2024 on the concept of energy efficiency, parameters and strategies of Energy Efficient Building Design, and the enhancement of skills for architects and engineers in creating energy-efficient building designs for the Designers working under Bagmati Province in Kathmandu

Similar Training was conducted (15-17 September 2024) for 29 participants (24 architects and 5 civil engineers) from Bagmati province, Kathmandu. The session covered various aspects of energy-efficient building design and demonstrated resource-efficient tools, techniques and materials. Also, another training was conducted in Sauraha, Chitwan of Bagmati Province from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

#### ***Lumbini Province***

SONA, in collaboration with Building Energy Efficiency in Nepal (BEEN- Project) conducted a training from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10th May, 2024 on the concept of energy efficiency, parameters and strategies of Energy Efficient Building Design, and the enhancement of skills for architects and engineers in creating energy-efficient building designs for the Designers working under Lumbini Province in Bhairahawa.

Similarly, another training was conducted from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 for 19 participants working within various municipalities across Nepalgunj, Lumbini province, Nepal. The session covered various aspects of energy-efficient building design and demonstrated resource-efficient tools, techniques and materials. The session also highlighted the simulation and case study analysis of under construction building in Nepalgunj, which uses various energy efficiency measures. The building was technically assisted from BEEN.



### 11.13 Workshop on Gender Inclusivity in Architectural Design

SONA subcommittee of Women Architects in collaboration with different architectural colleges all around Nepal is organised a one-day workshop on gender inclusivity in architectural design on the occasion of International Women’s Day 2024. The first workshop was successfully completed in Pokhara Engineering College from Gandaki Province in 29<sup>th</sup> of February, 2024. Second such workshop was organized at TU, Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk campus together with the department and Association of Students of Architecture (ASA) in Lalitpur, Bagmati Province on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.



Similar workshops were conducted among the architecture students of Kathmandu University on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024, among the students of Khwopa College of Engineering on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 and in Nepali Engineering College on 25<sup>th</sup> April in Bagmati Province. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 2024, this workshop was held among the students of Purwanchal Campus, Dharan in the Koshi Province in the eastern part of Nepal.

The students were then divided into three groups, each group were assigned a washroom at each floor at the Department of Architecture. The main task was to analyze the inclusivity in the toilets and then redesign and propose an inclusive toilet for the same. It was believed that this workshop will empower architectural students to apply gender-inclusive design principles in their practice and contribute to creating more equitable and accessible built environments.

#### **11.14 Third National Conference on Architectural Trends and Heritage: Panel discussion by SONA**

SONA coordinated a panel discussion on "Social, Cultural and Economic values of Heritage Conservation" on 3rd National Conference Architectural Trends and Heritage organized by Khwopa Engineering College on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

#### **11.15 Orientation Program on Scope of Architectural Profession and Practice in Nepal**

Ar. Raju neupane and Ar. Rajendra Khatiwada from Government Sector, Ar. Tirina Manandhar and Ar. Shirshak Baniya from Private sector and Dr. Ar. Bindu Shrestha from Academia were the key speakers for the program. All the speakers discussed the broad scope of architecture, starting from the foundational aspects of the profession. They provided insights into various career paths within the field, illustrating potential opportunities by showcasing their own work and experiences.

#### **11.16 Xavier Academy Design Competition:**

SONA co-organized a design competition with Xavier Academy for their new building at Lazimat, Kathmandu. This competition also sends out a message in the society that architects have a very vital role to play when it comes to design any kind of building. This will definitely help our profession to thrive in the society. The competition opened up on 2 June 2024 and closed on 16 July, 2024. The competition was strictly held under SONA design competition guidelines. Having received 38 proposals by the last day.

The results as below:

1st Position: Little More Studio

2nd Position: Kalpasara Studio

3rd Position: Line Works Architects JV D.  
Architects and Associates

4th Position: Arc Architects and Engineers  
Pvt. Ltd

5th Position: Ar. Anil Bhattarai



### 11.17 SONA Futsal



On June 15th, 2024, Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) organized a futsal tournament and this event marked a preliminary activity for the 15th SONA executive committee. There were participants, including SONA executives, architects, volunteers, and students, were part of this dynamic gathering. The tournament featured eight teams, consisting of architects and architecture students. It followed a league format with two groups, each comprising four teams. Following spirited matches, Royal Design Studio secured the championship title for the third time in a row, and team ERC bagged the runner up trophy. The winning team and the runner up team received the trophies and also the cash prize of Nrs. 12000.00 and Nrs. 6000.00 respectively.



### 11.18 SONA-NFDN Workshop

Society of Nepalese Architects joined hands with National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) on educating architecture students about Universal Design which is very integral, not only in public/institutional buildings but also in open parks, streets, and roadsides. The first workshop was held in ACME Engineering College on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and at Himalaya College of Engineering on the very next day. Similar workshops were conducted at IOE, Pulchowk Campus and Kathmandu Engineering College on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and 5<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024 respectively.

### 11.19 SONA-SCINN Workshop

Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal (SCINN) with the support of DRF/DRAF in association with Society of Nepalese Architects, CIL Kathmandu and NIDWAN conducted a half day workshop on Universal Design with stakeholders on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2024.

The purpose of this workshop was to have a meaningful collaboration where the user group, designer group and the implementation group could come together to work better for everyone.

### 11.20 Green Building Guideline Nepal

The Green Building Guideline Nepal is a comprehensive set of standards and recommendations for sustainable design and construction practices in the country. Developed through a collaborative effort between the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction

(DUDBC), the World Bank, the SCGSA under SONA, the guideline aims to promote environmentally responsible and energy-efficient building practices in Nepal.

Two consultation workshops were held on April 26 and November 25, 2024, to gather input from stakeholders and ensure that the guideline reflects the needs and priorities of the Nepalese construction industry. Overall, the Green Building Guideline Nepal represents a significant step towards sustainable development in the country. This guideline can help to create a more sustainable and resilient built environment for future generations.



### 11.21 SCGSA advocacy for ERA guide

SONA has been working to promote an Environmental Responsive Architecture Guide in Nepal. Through this research and advocacy efforts, coupled with the development of the Green Building Guideline, there is a possibility of a comprehensive Green Rating System for Nepal. This progression highlights how SONA’s initiatives are building upon each other. SONA's work on the Green Building Guideline has laid the groundwork for a more comprehensive and impactful Green Rating System. This evolution reflects SONA's commitment to advancing sustainable architecture in Nepal.

### 11.22 Seminar and Workshop by Ar. Sajid Bin Doja

SONA Committee of Architecture Education (SCAE) organized a half day seminar and workshop on the topic Heritage Sketching and story of Mud and Thatch. Associate professor Ar. Sajid Bin Doza from Department of Architecture BRAC University Bangladesh was the key to this event that took place at Himalaya College of Engineering on 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 2024.

## 11.23 SONA Archbuild Expo 2024

SONA co-organised the Archbuild Expo 2024 with Global Business Reconnect from 5-7 December, 2024. The event was inaugurated by Acting Prime Minister Honorable Prakash Man Singh. We also had Dr. Baburam Bhattarai (Life member SONA and former Prime Minister of Nepal) speaking at the event. The expo focused on panel discussions, material exhibitions, architecture project exhibitions and works by students. The panel discussion by eminent professionals from different field was based on the theme “The Architect and the Town”. The keynote speech on the theme was given by Prof. Sudarshan Raj Tiwari. There were also three sub themes: i) The design practice: relevance, resources and results; ii) Educating the new generation of Architects & iii) Planning for a better tomorrow. The visitors were mostly from the design and construction industry. We also had foreign delegates from Arcasia region visiting the expo and even as speakers. Arcasia President Ar. Saifuddin Ahmed from Malaysia, Vice President of Institute of Architects Bhutan Ar. Rebecca Gurung and President of Architects Association Maldives Ar. Ali Shareef were one of our distinguished guests, Ar. Ishtiaque Zahir Titas from Bangladesh, Ar. Chitra Viswanath and Ar. Kavi Jain from India were the key speakers in addition to prominent national speakers.



## 12 ARCHITECT SPEAKS SERIES

### 12.1 Lectures by SONA Committee on Green and Sustainable Architecture (SCGSA) and SONA Committee on Architecture Education (SCAE)

Senior Ar. Prabal Thapa sharing his experiences regarding Green design approaches with the students at the Acme Engineering College, Purwanchal University on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. Another episode was held in Khwopa College of Engineering, Purwanchal University on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. Ar. Alex Shrestha presented various green technology used in his projects. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2023, Ar. Sakar Shrestha and Ar. Kusum Bista gave talks on Green and

Sustainable Practices and Architecture and Health, respectively at the department of architecture, Kathmandu University. Similarly, the joint committee organized another episode of architect speaks series at Cosmos College of Management and Technology, Pokhara University with the presentation by Ar. Sonam Lama on sustainable emergency architecture and green and sustainable practices in the mountain region of Nepal. Last but not the least, Joint architect Speaks Series was organized at Himalaya College of Engineering, on 1st June, 2024 where Dr. Santosh Shrestha presented on materials and technology in green practices and his experience within the same domain.

### **12.2 Architect Speaks Series: SONA Committee on Social Responsibility (SCSR) and SONA Committee on Architecture Education (SCAE)**

Architect speaks session on Karnumayas of Kathmandu valley: Chwo baha Dyo and Bunga Dyo by two young and dynamic Architects Shristina Shrestha and Alina Tamrakar was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2024 at Institute of Engineering, Thapathali Campus, Tribhuvan University. The interactive talk was followed by interesting question answer session.

### **12.3 Architect Speaks Series: SONA Committee of Young Architects (SCYA)**

SCYA organized the architect speaks session on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 Young speakers Ar. Yash Munankarmy, Ar. Anjana Tiwari and Ar. Sunish Kumar Lakhe gave wonderful and inspiring presentations and shared their experience running an architectural firm and working on various projects.



### **12.4 Architect Speaks Series: by SONA Committee of Young Architects: Experience sharing by Ar. Bisma Sami Askari , Chairperson (ACYA)**

This event was organized to bid a warm farewell to the chairperson of the ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (ACYA) for her successful tenure. The program aimed to honor her achievements and reflect upon the challenges encountered during her term. The event lasted for 1 hour and 30 minutes, with around 100 participants from across the globe, mostly young architects from Nepal, who aspired to sharpen their skills by engaging in different events

organized by the SONA's Young Committee.

### **12.5 Architect Speaks Series: MAKING “Timeless Architecture”**

Ar. Ponni M. Concessao from India, talked about their much-elated project Secretariat building of Hyderabad and many of their projects, their concepts and philosophy in our Architect Speaks series on 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2024. at Taragaon Next, Kathmandu.



### **13 SAARCH REVIVAL MEETING**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 2024 SONA conducted a SAARCH revival meeting under the leadership of President Iswar Lal Joshi and PP Ar. Kishore Thapa, who is the incumbent SAARCH Chair in hybrid mode. Ar. Dilummini De Mel, (senior vice president SILA, Sri Lanka), Ar. Ali Shareef (President AAM, Maldives), Vice President of Institute of Architects Bhutan Ar. Rebecca Gurung (vice president, IAB, Bhutan) were physically present. Ar. Debatosh Sahu, ( IIA, India) Ar. Fawad Suhail Abbasi (President, IAP, Pakistan), Ar. Jahangir Khan (past president, IAP, Pakistan) and Ar. Aby Sayeed M Ahmed (President, IAB, Bangladesh) attended online. The meeting was attended by other representatives of SONA including past presidents Ar. Sworup Gurung Kone and Ar. Anju Malla Pradhan. Past Chairman of SAARCH Ar. Devendra Gongal also attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to discuss ways to revive regional sharing and cooperation.

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

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

## **14 SONA in international fronts**

### **14.1 Meetings attended by the President**

President Iswar Lal Joshi attended IIA's international conference of woman architects and meeting of the presidents of institutes of Arcasia Zone A in Bhubaneswar India from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

### **14.2 ARCASIA Sub-Committee Meetings**

Treasurer Ar. Lokendra Acharya also the coordinator of SONA committee of Young Architects attended the Arcasia Committee on Young Architects (ACYA) roundtable meeting in Malaysia on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024.

## **15 KEY ISSUES FACED BY NEPALESE ARCHITECTS**

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

## **16 RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE**

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



## **17 SONA FOR ARCASIA RESOLUTIONS**

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

## **18 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

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

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

## **19 AGENDA FOR ARCASIA COUNCIL**

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