



ESG REPORT 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE
BY ARCHITECTS IN THEIR PRACTICES

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01. SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Sri Lanka Institute of Architects is a leading professional organization in Sri Lanka and the Asian region. It has focused on improving architectural practices and education over the years, contributing significantly to the development of architecture and raising industry standards.

The Ceylon Institute of Architects (CIA) was founded in 1956 by a group of foreign-qualified architects who met to create a constitution. This group included members of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The first meeting occurred on September 11, 1957, with twelve architects in attendance. The CIA aimed to become an allied society of the RIBA and achieved this status in 1960, growing its membership to 30. The Ceylon Institute of Architects was incorporated as the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) by an Act of Parliament, called the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Law No.1 of 1976 and subsequently, it was amended in ACT. No 14 of 1996.

At present, we have more than 1800 architects and over 600 Practices. We are proud to note that we have seen a lot of improvements in the industry and have played a great role in contributing to the development of architecture as well as the raising of the standards in the country.

02. OUR APPROACH TO ESG

1. As an institute;

CSR projects

The Board of Architectural Education of the SLIA organize an annual Student Jamboree. As a featured event, a social responsibility project is organized annually. In December 2024, the CSR project took place at the H/Weliwewa K.V. Sooriyawewa. The school classrooms, main hall and the library were colour-washed, and books were donated to the school library.

The CSR project focused on gaining exposure to core values and developing a solid understanding of social responsibility by participating in community service activities and working as a team to achieve a common goal. In doing so, they could make a difference by using their knowledge and problem-solving skills with limited resources to find solutions. These social activities allow students to nurture a sense of social conscience and develop ethical values, attitudes and beliefs towards social responsibility.

Research Series

The Board of Architectural Publications at the institute conducts a research lecture every quarter focused on architecture and related subjects within the built environment. These lectures aim to share knowledge with members and encourage them to exchange their ideas and experiences. This initiative fosters a stronger culture of knowledge sharing both within and outside the institute, promoting increased engagement among members. The diversity of perspectives leads to the generation of new ideas and approaches in architectural, educational, and professional contexts.

Continuing Professional Development

The Professional Affairs Board of the institute conducts a Continuing Professional Development series every quarter, focusing on subjects related to architecture and the built environment. This series of lectures has fostered a culture of knowledge sharing among members, promoting the exchange of evolving skills and technologies. Additionally, these events ensure that important information is communicated among institute members, cultivating a collaborative environment that enhances problem-solving in education, architecture, and the built environment.

Introducing E-Publications

In 2023, the Board of Architectural Publications at the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects introduced E-Publications as part of a new initiative. Many have raised concerns about the ecological impact of traditional print publishing. In this context, digital publishing has emerged as a sustainable alternative, offering environmental benefits and new opportunities for the board.

This initiative has enabled the institute to reduce the number of printed copies and achieve long-term cost savings by eliminating expenses related to printing, distribution, and waste management.

The institute collaborated with Media Services (Private) Limited to successfully launch a flipbook hosted on their website, further minimizing resource usage. Digital publishing has also allowed the institute to develop a digital audience, reaching members working abroad and enhancing reader engagement.

For readers who prefer physical copies, the institute prints the necessary number of copies, thus reducing waste. We believe this initiative aligns with global sustainability goals, contributes to efforts against climate change, and helps protect the planet.

By embracing digital publication, the institute has enhanced its reputation, attracting eco-conscious readers and advertisers.



Solid Waste Recycling

The SLIA separates waste before disposal for garbage truck collection. This initiative has helped educate the staff and members on the importance of environmental protection.

Plastic-Free Zone at SLIA

All single-use plastic bottles have been phased out of the institute effective from 2025. Employees are encouraged to use bottles and containers made from recyclable materials.

This initiative aims to educate staff on reducing exposure to harmful substances that affect health while raising awareness of environmental impacts. The council and staff are committed to pursuing a more sustainable approach in the future.

Energy Saver Practices

The institute has implemented an energy-saving initiative by replacing all incandescent lights with energy-efficient lighting. This change has significantly reduced energy expenses. Additionally, creating a comfortable work environment has positively affected staff morale and mental health, contributing to improved mood and overall well-being.

Additionally, the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects conducts lectures, awareness programs, and religious activities in collaboration with the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka.

03. OUR ALLIANCES WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

The institute has allied with the following authorities to work towards development and sustainability.

The Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka (GBCSL) & the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA)

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka (GBCSL) and the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) took place on 24th August 2023 with the purpose of collaborating in promoting and establishing environmental sustainability and sustainable development in Sri Lanka.

Dengue Preventive initiatives with the Health Ministry

The Institute has been involved in the Dengue Prevention initiative led by the Health Ministry of Sri Lanka since 2014.

We collaborate with the health ministry in conducting awareness programs aimed at eliminating mosquito breeding grounds in construction sites and built environments. These programs are designed to improve health conditions and lifestyles while educating participants on how to prevent mosquito breeding grounds.

Chamber of Construction Industry of Sri Lanka (CCISL)

The CCISL serves as the exclusive representative for the construction industry, with a primary focus on fostering a safe, high-quality, sustainable, and eco-friendly built environment.

The CCISL stakeholder forum includes all parties involved in the construction industry, such as consultants, contractors, suppliers, and representatives from both government and non-government organizations. The CCISL prioritizes environmental security and social well-being, as well as the overall health of the industry.

The SLIA plays a significant role in all activities related to the CCISL. Additionally, a new proposal for a special award scheme is under consideration, aimed at recognizing projects that incorporate green practices.

Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA)

Construction Industry Development Authority was established under the Development Act 33 of 2014. Architects, Engineers and Quantity Surveyors are recognized as qualified personnel at the CIDA. Architects represent all boards, sub-committees and activities.

CIDA offers prominence to sustainable building projects encouraging sustainable practices at the national awards scheme. The local contractors' international projects and local contractors' local projects for sustainable practice in architecture and design are considered for the awards scheme. The SLIA is a key player in CIDA activities.

Urban Development Authority (UDA)

SLIA is a key stakeholder in the development of UDA (Urban Development Authority) plans and guidelines in Sri Lanka. For over eight years, SLIA has played a leading role in the preparation of these development plans and guidelines.

The UDA prioritizes environmental practices and social well-being. Under the latest regulations, green buildings are encouraged in all government and semi-government structures, with the private sector also urged to adopt similar practices.

SLIA fully supports the publication and implementation of these regulations and endorses the recent amendments proposed by the government.

Condominium Authority

SLIA is represented in the condominium authority. All designs, constructions, and management practices for condominiums adhere to green and sustainable principles, promoting eco-friendly, user-friendly, and livable condominiums in Sri Lanka.

As a government body, SLIA plays a crucial role in approving these applications and providing support for sustainable practices.

04. Practice in Architecture

Members are informed about the general regulations and guidelines related to sustainable practices, urban development, and relevant outcomes from government authorities, all of which are communicated through the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA).

The SLIA has over 600 practices registered, and all practitioners adhere to sustainable, eco-friendly, and livable lifestyle regulations and guidelines.