Design Innovations in the Indian Context

GRIHA SUMMIT, New Delhi

G. Shankar

“Strip away all the ego in architecture and all the design theory, the hype, and the hot magazine articles, all we do is provide shelter. If you can’t do that, you can’t call yourself an architect.”
The key journey

Flow through the place.

INDIAN DESIGN

VALUE BASED ARCHITECTURE

TRUTH  HONESTY  PURITY

ECSTASY OF OBSERVATION
INTIMACY OF RELATIONSHIPS

INDIAN DESIGN

House not as a machine to live in....
But as a living organism
SPIRITUAL FACE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SPACE
AAKASHAM
FORM

TIME
KAALA
HERE & NOW

ENERGY
SHAKTHI
TUNED TO THE NATURAL ENERGY FLOW

SPIRITUAL FACE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BHAGYODAYAM – FUNCTIONAL UTILITY

SUKHA DARSHAM – AESTHETICS

RAMYA – A FEELING OF WELL BEING & CONTENTMENT
RESPONSIVE ARCHITECTURE

RESOURCES - land, material, technology

ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

CULTURAL TRADITIONS

TIMELESS PARAMETERS

• LOCAL AVAILABILITY
• LOCAL SKILLS
• ENERGY EFFICIENCY
• ECO FRIENDLINESS
• COST
• INSULATION
• EASE OF USE
• DURABILITY & LIFE
• STRENGTH
TIMELESS MATERIALS

MUD
LIME
BAMBOO

Timeless

- AVAILABILITY
- COST
- WORKABILITY
- LOCAL SKILLS
- AESTHETICS
- NO ENERGY
- ECO FRIENDLY
- ‘ENOUGH’ STRENGTH
Design Traditions in the Indian Context

Indian Vernacular Architecture - Philosophy

MAN

NATURE

HABITAT

DESIGN TRADITIONS

SCALE, DIMENSION & PROPORTION
DESIGN TRADITIONS

SITE & TOPOGRAPHY

DESIGN TRADITIONS

RESPONSE TO CLIMATE
RESPONSE TO CLIMATE

DESIGN TRADITIONS

Fenestrations

OPEN ENDED FORMS
DESIGN TRADITIONS

• CONSERVATION
• REUSE
• RECYCLING
Urbanization
Pace & Intensity
Promises & Challenges

Poverty
vs
Environment
Vs
Development
**Architecture in changing times**

**Space in Transition**

- Misunderstood space (Gallent et al 2006)
- A transition phase/edge which is largely placeless? (Qvistrom, 2005)
- Metaphor of the fringe as a ‘weed’ (Cresswell 1997)
- Battleground between urban and rural uses (Hough, 1990)
- “Landscape out of order” (Qvistrom 2007)

**Design Transitions: Adaptations and Innovations**

**Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas**

**Connectivities**

- Physical
- Electronic
- Knowledge

**Economic Connectivity** in villages
Design transition: Scale

CCDB, Bangladesh

Design Transitions: Adaptations and Innovations

NAYA RAIPUR
Chhattisgarh
Design Transitions: Adaptations and Innovations

Mahan Township
Singrauli-Madhya Pradesh
“Design is more than just the development of products for a market.

IT IS ABOUT

SPACE & PLACE
HOME & COMMUNITY
BODY & MEMORY
EARTH & SKY.
It is for people, for their whole lives”-
C. Davies