

Conference Roundup

mAAN7 Delhi
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Keynotes

- **India: navel of the Asia's Mandala**
- Learning from India:
 - Indian Wisdom, Gandhi Ethic, Corbusian Logic
- Celebration of community life:
 - Unity in Diversity: absorbing, evolving, upgrading, sustaining, overlapping, discovering, adopting, merging, revering
 - Dignity, pride, self-reliance
- Sustainability:
 - Livability & Affordability: maximizing, saving, hybridizing, mixing, appropriating
- Concerns of the future:
 - Population growth and environmental impacts on future cities
 - Education of future generations of architects and planners

mAAN7 structure

- Presentations (4)
- Workshop (1)
- Panel Discussions (3)
- Roundtable (1)

Presentations 1:

The Knowing Modern Cities of Asia

1. Polycentric Modernism: “big M” as expression of freedom of the post-colonial world , and ethical conservation of Modern heritage in totality (Chandigarh)
2. Adaptive-reuse: preserving the character, revitalizing the vibrancy of the city (various cases)
3. Appreciating dialectical relationships between tradition and modernity, and different kinds of modernities (Tel Aviv & Jerusalem)
4. Integrating natural, ecological and cultural heritage through comprehensive landscape planning (Delhi)
5. Valuing modern urban planning and design heritages (Ankara)
6. Understanding the function of urban waterfronts in sustainable development (India)
7. Conservation management advocacy and action-plan: documenting, mapping, envisioning, planning, implementing - a collaborative approach (Calcutta)

Presentations 2: Participatory Process in Urban Revitalization

1. Participation in conservation is exploration of ways for professionals to learn and to be involved in the collaborative projects with the community
2. In interconnected ecological, material culture, social-economic networks and layers, design interventions should be equalized to social development; and vernacular typologies can offer sustainable ideas
3. Paradigm shift in conservation from exclusive to inclusive: holistic integration of culture and development, using tourism as tool for poverty alleviation by management of living heritage through public & private partnership
4. Imbuing holistic understanding of heritage to students and children by interactive play and immersive workshop
5. Possibility of invoking students and community participation in open source urban planning and design process
6. Reestablishing the relevance of craftsmanship and the guild system and ensuring their sustenance by information system, incentives, training, and certification.

Presentations 3:

The Asian Modern: Theories and Approaches

1. Issues on Asian Post-coloniality: contrasts of opposites (West vs East, Modern vs Non-Modern), “blurred” modernity, problems of categorization, continuous struggle of colonial legacy and modernity (India)
2. People’s heritage: hybrid layers and diversity of various legacies (physical, social, political, temporal), constantly under threat from modernization and development (Indonesia)
3. Looking from European eyes: mapping and structuring the unstructured inventory of modern legacies in Ahmedabad (framing, selecting, investigating, publishing guide book)
4. Advocating Industrial heritage: global and local shared heritage, deserved recognition and protection, now at risk globally and locally
5. Construction of identity (Taiwan): contestation of identities and transition processes, represented in architectural discourses and praxis (journals, competitions, awards, education, projects)
6. Introductory survey of natural, physical and cultural heritage (Emirates and Oman): potentials, risks, and recommendations
7. General survey on modern Architecture (Xian, China): shifting attention to inland cities, inclusive recognition of heritages, identification of problems

Presentations 4: Asian Experiences in Revitalization

1. Aesthetic Legislation (Chandigarh case): struggle between the aspiration to secure the iconic legacy of Modernism, and the ability to accommodate contemporary social-economic dynamics
2. Conservation Singapore way: developers friendly, driven by tourism and consumerism, accommodating changes, sanitizing infrastructure, physical restoration, functional reprogramming, enhancing accessibility and comfort, reinventing architecture
3. Case for conserving political heritage (prison in Ankara): authenticity, symbolic values, physical layering, part of intangible cultural landscape
4. Contesting modern public spaces (Jakarta case): from theatre for authoritarian regimes, to accommodation for corporate economy, into arena for civil society
5. Experimenting with fantasy (Macau): product of neo-liberalism/capitalism /consumerism/commodification/manipulation of culture
6. Success story of conservation and regeneration the old industrial structures and areas (Shanghai): dream, determination, tapping the energy and creativity of the youth.

Workshop:

Learning from architectural interventions in Modern Delhi

- The need of paradigm change in urban planning and management
- Linking nature & built-up, democratizing the city, breaking up boundaries, overlaying all layers
- Regenerating new metropolitan layers by reusing, recycling, creating, & linking sustainable secondary movement networks (metro and waterways)
- Conflict management by architectural interventions (linkages, patterns) in favor of reclaiming public domain
- Recognizing and incorporating capacity for co-existence & co-habitation in design intervention: linking & crossing across boundaries
- Recognizing the genius and the potential of the city to continuously growing and to be open to so many possibilities.

Panel Discussion 1: Learning from New Delhi – Metropolitan Modernity

- Appreciation of heritage through heritage walks for the community, to generate initiatives in heritage conservation
- Need of coordinated actions by authorities, planners, and architects to tackle real urban problems (preservation versus development, bureaucracy, population, traffic, infrastructure, etc.) to produce good and updated urban planning
- Availability of digital technology (e.g. multi-dimensional digital modeling) as integrated platform for planning, decision making, managing, and monitoring processes
- Recognition of the sustainable social development aspects of our contemporary cities (livability, human networks, quality of life, inclusive & accessible public places, etc.)

Panel Discussion 2: Learning from the modernist legacy of India

- Constructing an eco-experimental city (Auroville): environmental rehabilitation, securing a sustainable water management, integrating sustainable technologies (solar, biogas), inverted building process from inside to outside started from a symbolic centre, flexible but controlled development.
- The failure of modernist's imagination of an ideal city of Delhi: the rise of consumerism, of the middle class' post-nationalism, of gated-communities
- Exploration on the vocabulary of various selections of modern Architecture in India: "India-ness", Gandhi's values, creative learning environment, etc.
- Reflection of thoughts and imaginations through the legacy of Modernism in architecture practices: rediscovering of own roots and memories, moving away from Modernistic formula, coming back to own HOME.
- Re-examination of identity: continuous debate on "modernism" and "modernity", on the state of the "India-ness"

Panel Discussion 3: Indian Experiences in Revitalization

1. Aman Nath: Revitalizing India's recent indigenous and colonial architecture; adaptive re-used, reviving from waste to asset, converting challenges into opportunity, find purpose and the means will follow (Gandhi), authenticity = honesty; examples: The Neemrana Fort-Palace, Nayak House (Tranquebar), Hotel De L'Orient (Pondicherry), Bungalow on the beach (Tranquebar), Rajinder Kothi (Patiala), The Piralal Haveli, The Pataudi Palace (Haryana), Tijara Fort, etc.
2. Benninger Architectonics (USA): new capital Trashy Chhoe Dzong (Bhutan): Architecture drives democracy, heritage landscape mapping (links, alignments), understanding the essences of traditional architecture, comprehensive study of everything, merging the tripartite nature of democracy, modernity rooted in tradition
3. Abha Narain Lambah: "Devitalization" of living heritages (Mumbai): Challenges for conservation (population, rent control, dilapidation, redevelopment); paradigm shift - heritage not as monument; relieving building from pressures; recognizing all categories of heritages (non-monuments, mills, precincts); private & corporate patronages; citizen initiative; urban development regulation; urban signage & streetscape improvement.
4. Prasad Shetty (Mumbai): Paradigm shift from dichotomy (developments against heritage, glorious past against contemporary) to continuity; problem with heritage list: history of style
5. EFN Ribeiro (Delhi): heritage management and planning (Goa), natural + man made,

Roundtable: Educational Imperatives for modern Heritage

- mAAN's mandates (Macau 2002 and Istanbul 2005 declarations):
 - Sensitizing students and professionals to conservation issues, and to empower students today so they may become leaders tomorrow
 - Invoking inclusive discourse in Asian modernity: Asia-centric vs Euro-centric, local vs global
- Efforts to integrate heritage into the main-stream of Architectural education (SPA):
 - Learning modernity in the context of continuity, on-site study on design vocabulary, immersion on local settlements and environments, theorization of contextual history and architecture, connection to various networks and institutions, focusing on projects related to heritage sites, sharing information and publications, etc.
- UIA (Asia-Pacific region):
 - Special agenda to integrate cultural heritage conservation into professional architecture education
 - Forming strategic partnership with DoCoMoMo, ICOMOS, UNESCO, mAAN, etc.
 - Pushing efforts in accreditation and certification of architects on heritage conservation

Current challenges and needs

- Teaching Asian modernity in relation to Modernism and other **Modernities**; realizing that “history **IS** theory” (a way of seeing)
- Fixing the missing link in education system (growing process from child to adult): inculcating sense of time and space, exploration & appreciation of our heritage in the context of the built environment, to see history as **continuum**
- Change how history is taught, bringing **passion** into the subject, make learning history **enjoyable**, getting more inspiring & passionate teachers
- Find **new methodology** of teaching: not “history of architecture” anymore but using interdisciplinary “knowledge system approach”, from local to global perspective, bringing in cultural landscape dimension into heritage education (interdisciplinary site reading, understanding inter-relational nature of the context)
- Educating new generation of professional architects by instilling sense of **respect** to traditions, understanding the **rationality** behind form and spaces, proposing a more **sensible and sensitive** contemporary design interventions
- Encouraging **pro-active alternative educations**: organizing enrichment courses, connecting to all stake holders, advising formal institutions
- Creation of **demands** of heritage projects in the market to sustain heritage professionals
- Rather than giving prescriptive answers, give students **confidence** by hands-on exploration and openness to multiple ideas and possibilities.

Postscripts

- This has been a passionate gathering of new and old friends, being in significant location, talking on significant issue, happening at significant time
- Global representation: India, Bangladesh, Turkey, Israel, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, China, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Sweden, Canada, USA, etc.
- This has been an intensive and refreshing intellectual discourse on Asian modernity, by learning from Indian and other legacies and experiences from within Asia and beyond.
- Open questions on the future of Asian cities, Asian architectural education, and Asian modernity
- A reaffirmation of the mAAN's mandates, a continuation of mAAN's journey, and a regeneration for mAAN's future
- Rejuvenation of mAAN, passing the leadership to young-mAAN
- Looking forward to the next initiatives:
 - Finalization and proclamation of mAAN-DoCoMoMo-ICOMOS Joint Declaration 2009
 - Organization of mAAN8 youth workconference in Singapore 2010
 - Publication of mAAN Selects 2010
 - Planning of mAAN9 international conference in Seoul 2011
 - Opening bid for mAAN11 youth workconference 2012
 - Opening bid for mAAN12 international conference 2013



Thank you, India

See you in Singapore 2010
and in Seoul 2011

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