

BETWEEN THE LINES

STUDENT NEWSLETTER OF THE
CITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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HAPPENINGS

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30 AND THRIVING I

During the month of November 2016, CSA launched a series of events to commemorate its 30 Years of Excellence in Architectural Education in Sri Lanka. These included an Open Day exhibition, a special-edition Anniversary Publication, a dinner and a host of student activities. *Read more on Pg 3.*

ENGAGE : A FORUM

CSA faculty members Archt. Sadev Wittachy and Archt. Dimantha Weliange attended the 2nd Architectural Educator Forum at the Department of Architecture School of Design & Environment of the National University of Singapore on the 5th August 2016. Themed: "ENGAGE" It examined ideas in which real-life issues and learning opportunities are created from the collaboration between educators and parties outside the academia and across disciplines; As well as the importance of moving towards a more hands-on, collaborative and inter-disciplinary mode of education thereby bridging the escalating gap between design and construction, academia and practice, and architectural discourse and the social realm.

FROM PUNE WITH LOVE

CSA welcomed a group of 17 students and 2 faculty members from the Indira College of Architecture and Design in Pune, Maharashtra, India. They visited CSA on the 11th of November 2016 as a part of an academic activity-based exposure to international architecture. Their visit to CSA was the culmination of a nation-wide exploration and experience of Architect Geoffrey Bawa's works.

GRADUATION 2016

The annual Graduation Ceremony for Part I & II was held on the 14th of December at the BMICH. The Chief guest for the event was Prof. Malik Ranasinghe. The ceremony played host to the continuing partnership between CSA & UWE with the presence of Deputy Dean Mr. Tod Burton.

SILVER FOR ELEPHANTS



BY ROSHAN DE SELFA

The winners of the 2016 RIBA President's Medal were announced at a ceremony at the Royal Institute of British Architects in central London on the 6th of December. First awarded in 1836, the President's Medal rewards talent, promotes innovation, and encourages excellence in the field of architecture worldwide. This year 275 entries were received from 87 schools in 33 countries including Sri Lanka.

Our own Roven Rebeira was awarded a commendation in the silver medal category for his design for the "Center for Ethno-Elephantology: A cross-species design initiative". Roven, who received tutoring at CSA, is the first student from South Asia to receive a commendation for this award.

The Head of Education Projects of the RIBA, John-Paul Nunes sent his congratulations on this outstanding achievement, marking Roven's design as one of the best out of 275 entries and one of the only 3 entries which received commendations in the silver medal category.

RIBA also accredits the design tutors who guided the winning students. Final Year tutors Archts. Tamara Wijayapala and Samantha Piyasena also accompanied Roven to this Occasion.

"Congratulations to each of the medal winners. I am delighted to see the breadth of the talent from across the globe recognized through these awards, now celebrating their 180th anniversary. The students' ability to detail complex ideas and present them beautifully is outstanding. Tonight's winners are talent to watch- I can't wait to see what else they will go on to achieve" - Jane Duncan, President of RIBA



Center for Ethno-Elephantology, Udawalawe



RIISING SUN FOR RISING STARS



BY ROSHAN DE SELFA

Introduced by Nippon Paint, Japan in 2008 to inspire and motivate designers, the Asia Young Designer Award (AYDA) was held in Sri Lanka for the first time in October 2016. The competition, launched under the theme of, 'Be Bold, Be Free, Be You' encouraged many Sri Lankan students of Architecture and Interior Design to participate in this competition. Our very own Sandun Ekanayake and Pratheepan Kalaieesan won the Color Award and Gold Award respectively. As a result, Pratheepan will join the Gold Award winners from other countries participating in AYDA 2016, to compete for the Platinum Award at the Asia Young Designer Award Regional Learning Programme 2017 to be held in Indonesia.

TOUR DE SINGAPORA



BY ABIGAIL FERNANDO

During the month of August, five students from the City School of Architecture were treated to a tour of Singapore, organized as part of a continuous engagement between Akzonobel (Pvt) Ltd and CSA. Following a series of learning sessions conducted by renowned architect and visiting lecturer Nela de Zoysa, the students were selected for the tour following the completion of a detailed assignment on the topic of Colour. Five students, Ishani Amaratunga, Abigail Fernando, Meshari Fahim, Minuri De Silva, and Romein Keerthisinghe were selected. The study tour showcased some of the latest innovations from the company's flagship brand, Dulux. During the tour the students were given invaluable exposure to some of the finest examples of modern architecture including a personal tour of prominent landmarks that AkzoNobel had provided coatings solutions for, such as the Marina Bay Sands, Gardens by the Bay and Singapore's first UNESCO world Heritage site, the Burkhill Hall Botanical Gardens. The students visited AkzoNobel's regional headquarters, a certified green building considered an example on how bold and vibrant usage of color can be utilized as a powerful tool for experiential communication and finally given the opportunity to experience universal studios before heading back home.

FROM NIHAO TO SELAMAT DATANG



BY KHADIJA ZOEB

The Studio 5 batch trip is a milestone many of us can only dream of when in the 1st year at CSA; for in the way stand numerous crits, exams and the formidable CDP (so glad we're passed all that). Last year, the students of Year 5 were taken to Singapore and Malaysia.

Accompanied by the Head of School, Prof. Lal Balasuriya and his wife, Archt. Shiranee Balasuriya; first up was Singapore, with its clean and green urban cityscape. A full day workshop at NUS, including interesting lectures and informal student discussions, was an enlightening experience. Not to mention, it marked our first face-to-face encounter with a 3D printer! (fingers crossed that CSA will get one soon). The Urban Redevelopment Authority, ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands and Gardens by the Bay were some of the places we visited.

They say that certain places, people or instances in life can never be forgotten. Despite being just a passing entity amidst a plethora of experiences, they leave an indelible mark on our memory. Our tour guide in Malaysia is one such person – with his quirky accent and downright epic commentary, he kept us entertained for an entire week! (PS : ask Eddie Senior for an authentic impression). A tight schedule in place, we visited Melaka, Penang, Putrajaya (Malaysia's fancy new administrative city), KL Tower and of course the Petronas Towers – thank you to CSA for taking us right to the top! A day spent at Sunway Lagoon was the perfect ending to this adventure.

Two countries and bags of shopping later (shout-out to the dear lady at KL airport check-in for conveniently overlooking some overweight luggage), we landed in Colombo – tired but satisfied. The journey was indeed a memorable one; and we hope that students of CSA continue to get this opportunity to travel the world and experience different cultures and landscapes – which is indeed a necessary source of nourishment to a young Architect's soul.



30 AND THRIVING!

BY SHAHDIA JAMALDEEN

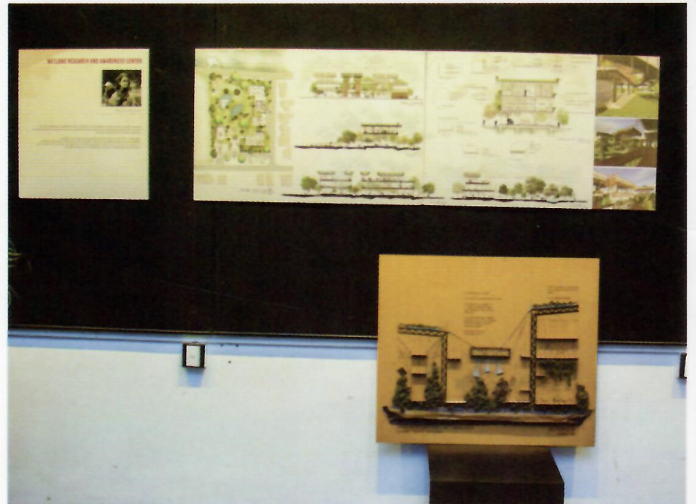
The City School of Architecture recently celebrated 30 years of architectural education by hosting the CSA Design Festival on the 05th of November 2016. The inaugural celebration included a number of stalls, student exhibitions and guest lectures which were attended by students, alumni and curious visitors alike. The event also marked the unveiling of the CSA 30th Anniversary publication as well as the first edition of the annual newsletter.

The festivities began with the lighting of the ceremonial oil lamp amidst tunes flowing from the Kiss FM radio stall. The gentle drizzle did not deter participants from visiting the numerous stalls; which included baked goods, trinkets and themed souvenirs. The studios held a plethora of activities designed to attract both older and younger visitors who had the opportunity to indulge in the student exhibition, gain information and clarification from the career guidance stall and take part in the giant Jenga set with frivolous abandon.

The student exhibition included design panels and models from various batches ranging from First years to Final year CDPs. The addition of beanbags and projected movies helped encourage curious visitors to relax and enjoy the dimly lit surroundings of the exhibition. The career guidance stall was manned by a rag-tag team of recent graduates, current students and lecturers all of whom provided advice and clarification on matters pertaining to the profession and degree. The games room mimicked the atmosphere of a student break room and allowed visitors to experience the camaraderie of university life through interactive games and installations.

The two-day design festival also boasted a (architecturally) star-studded line-up of speakers including; prominent Modernist Artist Prof. Jagath Weerasinghe, renowned Architects Madhura Prematilleke, Anjalendran and Channa Daswatte as well as popular academic figure David Robson. Each speaker elaborated on different topics of architectural significance, ranging from in-depth analyses of the relationship between Modernist art and design, detailed descriptions of personal projects and outlooks into the changing state of Geoffrey Bawa's designs.

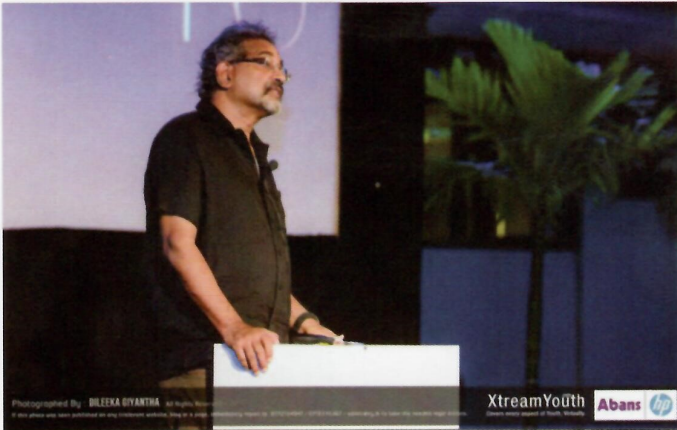
The events wound down with a slow set of tunes performed by musical duo Lasith and Rushinee, and signaled the finale of the inaugural 30th Year celebratory Design Festival. Will there be more to come? Fingers crossed in anticipation of the next 30 years!





'86 TO '16: A REVIEW

BEAUTY IS A STRAIT JACKET: A REVIEW



BY THAAIBAH RIZA

The lecture by Archt. Madhura Prematilleke, addressing the perception of sustainability and versatility, worked to demonstrate its relevance through a series of projects.

He spoke of the use of material that would typically be referred to as 'waste material', as architectural elements in his designs. His use of irregular pieces of glass could still be used as panels for doors and windows, whilst maintaining an aesthetically pleasing ambiance, is an ode to this.

In his design of the Jaffna Cultural Center, we grasp the notions of sustainability in all three of its dimensions. Though still unbuilt, the cultural center design includes an auditorium, cultural museum and a learning spire- essentially a net zero energy building. However, the space first gives prominence to a public square. He stated that the "public square is more important than the building that surrounds it". Therefore, the building is set to attract the casual pedestrian, thus hosting culture both in its formal and informal state.

Archt. Prematilleke also elaborated on the rights that people have over architecture. Ranging from, the right to fresh air and dignity to the right to hope and joy, this comprehensive lecture informed us of the responsibility of the Designer to the greater public.



BY RITCHELL MARCELINE

Some might argue that by the universal standard of beauty, everything is beautiful yet subjectively nothing can be beautiful.

Prof. Jagath Weerasinghe's address to the audience at the CSA Design festival was a collection of concepts on the confrontation of ideas, his practice and his personal belief culminating in the topic of 'what is good art' or 'how to buy good art'.

The understanding of what is good and bad tests the morality, standards, taste and ultimately what a person may stand for. The idea of good and bad generally influences the core values of a person's beliefs and these in turn are also affected by their surrounding culture, background and traditions in which they are steeped in. Therefore, Prof. Weerasinghe claimed, the arts are always a representation of ideals, culture, expression, politics, social dynamics and even rebellion.

Therein lays a strong statement of identity for all prospective and present Architects. The critical importance of the social context in our design process and the understanding of people and community are vital facts to consider when designing for communities. The talk opened a forum for the discussion of the representation of people, both artistically and architecturally.

OH, ZO DINNER?

BY NAFLAA FAHIM

The 7th of December was a festive evening for the CSA bunch as the students and faculty joined together at the OZO Colombo Banquet hall for dinner.

Good food, complemented by excellent music courtesy of the band "The Soul" provided the meat and ambiance for the night as the main event featuring a special fun quiz unfolded.

Hosted by Dumdum and Naflaa, the boisterous quiz covering art and architecture drew out the CSA team spirit and ended in prizes for the winners and good cheer for all.

This frabjous night saluting CSA's 30 year run, came to an end with revelry, dance, and a renewed appreciation for our colleagues and faculty.



A DESIGNER IN DEUTSCHLAND



BY IMAD ASMONE

Imad Asmone of CSA Year 02 Pt II, won the "Achiever of the Year" award at the Annual SLIA Sessions inauguration, 2016 and was selected for an all-expense paid tour to Germany by Akzonobel Paints Lanka (Pvt) Ltd to attend the World Architecture Festival held at the Arena Berlin from the 16th to 18th of November. Below is an account of Imad's experience;

"The festival theme "Housing for Everyone" featured a series of lectures, presentations, tours and events all centered on this topic. The festival stage held dedicated areas for book talks, introductory sessions by new practices and trade presentations as well as live critique sessions of more than 400 built and conceptual projects from around the world featured under several categories. These designs eventually stood to contend for the title of "World Building of the Year". This was the most active part of the festival and helped us learn a great deal on presentation and marketing methods.

Giants in the building industry such as Sir Peter Cook, Wolf Prix, Patrick Schumacher, Louisa Hutton, Ole Scheeren, David Chipperfield, Emre Arolat, Joe Neoro and Wong Mun Summ to name a few, were all part of the festival and added a touch of glamour. There were also student competitions, voting booths for architectural photography and publications stalls that held free magazines and books. The festive atmosphere was perfect for the wandering architect and three days flew by impossibly fast. We were not able to experience everything in and around the festival but felt like we had made the most within the time at hand.

Apart from the festival, Berlin was an interesting city to explore. It showcased a streamlined urban development with a vibrant mix of old and new architecture. The vast collection of museums and cultural spaces helped characterize the structure of the city; both intriguing the visitor's mind and invigorating the Architect's soul. Altogether, the experience I gained on this trip was invaluable and helped create some memorable life experiences. I thank all those who helped make this tour a success and I look forward to helping more students of CSA accumulate the same experience through such marvelous opportunities."

HELLO, HONG KONG!



BY MILINDRI PANDITHA

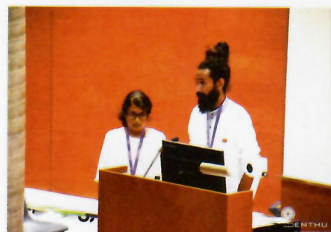
GROWTH AND DIVERSITY: THE GREEN AGE OF ASIA. This being the main theme of The ARCASIA Student's Architectural Design Competition 2016, our very own Sandeepa Vithanage of Part I Year III was more than excited to submit his design proposal of the Head Office Building for The Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority.

Sandeepa was able to attend the ARCASIA Student Jamboree which was held in Hong Kong last year. His design was shortlisted by the jury panel of ARCASIA and he participated as an Official Student Delegate nominated by the SLIA.

The event was held from September 26th to the 30th and is generally known as an opportunity for architectural students from ARCASIA member countries to gather and share experiences and exchange architectural knowledge amongst each other. Accompanied by Thilanganie Dabare of Year III and Shan Samuel of Year II, the three students representing Sri Lanka were able to experience the vivid cultures of the surrounding company and undoubtedly forged new international friendships.

Inevitably, the group visited many interesting places whilst in Hong Kong, including the tallest building in Hong Kong, the Sky 100, the 200-year-old Hakka Walled Village as well as the museum which provided authentic insight to Hong Kong's culture and history. The students also bore the privilege of attending the 17th Congress of Architects ACA17 conference and met the head of the International Union of Architects and Architects Regional Council of Asia. It was an overwhelming moment for them.

The Cultural Night helped display the talents of the young architect and the Sri Lankan delegates performed a traditional dance/act which was deemed one of the best performances of the night. They also performed 5 songs, both Sinhala and Hindi, contributing to a night filled with excitement, culture and delicious food. As the tour came to a close, and many friendships forged, the students exchanged their farewells and headed home with their heads held high and the notion that they are ONE UNITED ASIA.





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