

AR. HABEEB KHAN
PRESIDENT

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Dear Friends,

These are exceptional times we are going through and I am sure this will not repeat in our life time-not ours atleast and I hope they don't in our next generation's as well. The COVID-19 pandemic has permanently altered our lives and has forced us to look at future with a new perspective.

For our profession, these are indeed turbulent times and I foresee more difficult times ahead. The only way we can tide over this difficult phase in our profession is to stay united, fight the adversities collectively and move forward together. I have been talking about this in Council's Outreach Initiatives across the country. Let us understand that we are a minuscule group of professionals, around 1 lakh or so, but most volatile, contradictory, paradoxical and egotistical. We don't hesitate to give legal notices to our professional bodies and regulatory authorities and we don't think twice before approaching ministries, government and courts of law. This has substantially weakened our profession and fraternity. There must be a reason for all this, but today's time demand solidarity and unity. We have to stop this. We have to not only learn and imbibe the culture of Unity in diversity, but actually live it.

There are pressing problems facing our fraternity. Employment to young fresh graduates, newer and viable professional assignments to our brethren, adequate admissions to our institutions, amendments to the Architects Act to consolidate architectural services and its cognate activities, work on capacity building of our academia, re-look at the way architecture is being taught in our institutions, address the issue of fakes and quacks, problems with multiple registrations, indemnity and insurance of professionals, reaching out to younger fraternity, build bridges and hold hands, are some of the few that are on priority of the Council. To do all this we need support of each and everyone of you. We need to collectively work together to achieve all this. I had the fortune of interacting with some prominent architects of our country and I present their views for your reference.

Pritzker prize winner and an Indian icon **Ar. B.V. Doshi** joins me in appealing and I quote *"These are strange times! Though extremely small and minuscule to the eye, the Corona virus has wrought havoc on our world which is unprecedented in our lifetime. The pain and misery caused is incalculable. It does not discriminate and affects all of humanity.*

However, it has also brought a message to us, to stay united, collaborate together, across nations, communities, across disciplines and have a unity of purpose and philosophy to preserve and renew our environment and profession."

Doshi Ji goes a step ahead wherein he asks us to unite across nations, communities and disciplines. Please read his last line carefully. Unless we do this and do this immediately, survival of our community will become difficult. Present time exhorts us to rise above our petty gains & selfishness and reinforce our regulatory authority to effectively work towards betterment of our profession.

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Ar. Dean D’Cruz from Goa, points out *“The architectural fraternity needs to regain its role in society as guiding lights in these trying times. Our holistic education enables us to see the bigger picture and innovate and adapt. This crisis is an opportunity to reinvent ourselves and move away from the typical practice of waiting for projects but instead proactively search for areas where our skills can be used to address new problems and opportunities. We need to act as a community for communities with sincerity and empathy...the rewards will follow quickly. We need to act as a community, putting our differences aside and our strengths together. We need to reach out to communities in need with professionalism, ethics and empathy bringing the title of Architect back to the honorable position it had.”*

Ar. Rajeev Kathpalia of Ahmedabad thinks *“At the beginning of this year, many of us would have made New Year’s resolutions. Even the ones that had not made any resolution would have imagined a future which largely followed a trajectory similar to years past. It seemed the world was set to move on as it had for the past many years. Along comes a microscopic virus and the very survival of us humans is at stake. Doctors, nurses, city governance and law enforcement officials are actively involved in managing the conflagration. Scientists and researchers across the world are desperately trying to find cures and vaccines. Despite the unprecedented havoc caused by the pandemic and the loss of loved ones for many, it is perhaps a symptom. A signal for changing our course.*

It is a time of uniting, coming together of us all, to imagine a future with a unity of purpose and philosophy to help renew our planet, our environment and our profession.”

In another interaction with **Ar. Christopher Beninger**, he had to say this *“The condition of our living environments, the situation of the profession nurturing living environments, and the education of the profession that designs and rationalizes our living environments are all under threat. Unless we stand together and act in a united manner, things will only deteriorate further. We need to avoid any action that diverts our energies toward mutual antagonism, and join together as one professional force, bringing logic and a rationale shaping our future.”*

I hope we learn from these learned minds.

The Council has a road map well drafted out and is on its way to achieve the goals drawn for itself. I am sure you would have noticed the changes coming in the way the Council is functioning now. We are more open, transparent and accessible. We are reaching out to all sections of our fraternity through various means. Simultaneously we are working on many fronts. We want to tell you that Council is You and that You are the Council. Please come forward and strengthen us and in the process we shall strengthen our own selves.

As your President, it is my sincere appeal to all my brethren in architecture to kindly give this a serious thought. Let us all come together for betterment of our profession and let us hold each other’s hands for securing the future of generations to come.

Sincerely,
Yours in profession



HABEEB KHAN