



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

THE NEWSLETTER OF GCA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



DR. VANDANA SEHGAL

Dean and Principal,
FOAP, AKTU

It's almost 27 years since I joined GCA as a lecturer. The ambience of this campus, the teacher-student relationship, the commitment to making this college grow, among everyone, made me part of this family. As a teacher, I am grateful to every student that I have taught and in the process have learnt a lot from him/ her. I would always be filled with awe when the design submissions came or the history presentations were displayed as they always thought beyond my comprehension. Today, these very students are making a name for themselves all over the globe, contributing and making a difference and in the process, this institute basks in their reflected glory.

As The Principal and Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Planning, erstwhile, Government College of Architecture, I take great pride in saying that this institute, is steadily growing in terms of students strength, faculty strength, Campus learning environment and resources. I know you share my pride in what we are doing and where we plan to go.

We are living in world that is driven by technology.. and the professionals of today are expected to be conversant with latest modes of documentation and drafting, data analytics, hands on digital workshop techniques. Today we at FOAP have laboratories equipped with the latest equipments and software to give our students the best.

I want to thank all of you for the amazing support you have always extended to your alma mater. We strive to make you proud of us as much as we are of you! ▶



From the President's Desk

ATUL GUPTA

December 12, 1983. About 11:00 AM. there was a lot of excitement in the air. It was our first day in our college and it was the time of the First Lecture in the college.

We all were sitting in the lecture hall, introducing and getting introduced to each other.

The door opened with a soft creak. A tall man with broad shoulders, white hair hanging short of shoulders walked in. Two more followed him. There was a pin drop silence. No, he was not at all scary but there was an aura around him which lead us to believe that he means business.

“Good morning! Welcome to the profession of Architecture. You are privileged lot to have been selected to pursue this noble profession. This is one profession where your work will be there even after you leave the world. You will have the opportunity to be read and remembered in history like the other greats like Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright” were his opening remarks. A long pause followed. The excitement & motivation was already induced. Being a part of History – too good. But he had different plans. His long pause broke and he started again... “But, none of you will be Frank Lloyd Wright & Le Corbusier, they were born Architects and you will be trained Architects.”

Dreams shattered. He has elevated us ... made us fly and grounded in just two minutes straight. That was just a small glimpse of the Legend called Prof. D.C. Thapar.

He didn't stop... more was to come.

“Agreed that you will not become FLW or Le Corbusier but you have an opportunity... bigger, much bigger than that. You can become yourself and people can read you as they read FLW. So better take your training well, work hard and do well. Have a successful carrier ahead.

I am sure, this reflects the feel and spirit of GCA. To continue the journey that started with our orientation day, the journey of togetherness and friendship I invite you all on board to reconnect. This newsletter will be the platform to share our Journey, Experiences, Memories ... Please feel free to CONNECT and RECONNECT!

Atul Gupta

A proud GCAite. ▶

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Editor's Note

Sharing Your Experiences

By Architect Babika Goel



Recently, a friend questioned me about the types of articles that we would include in each GCA Alumni newsletter. Will every issue have its own theme and will the newsletter tie the students of the Government College of Architecture and its larger alumnus family together? I assumed that you, our readers, might also be interested in my response.

The alumni of the Government College of Architecture, Lucknow are this newsletter series' heart and soul. So they will be the ones who will share the experiences that reveal their passions, their pursuits, and the purpose they've found in their lives.

All articles will run one common theme: they will be about individuals who have used the skills they learned here in the Government College of Architecture in meaningful ways, whether to rethink and address social challenges, broaden public discourse on important issues, or simply to make a difference in their communities. Because the alumni are involved in almost every field and line of work, in almost every location on the planet, the experiences we cover will have an infinite range.

As the editor of the Alumni newsletter, I took advantage of every opportunity to connect with a diverse range of alumni over the last few months. Each one I met was inquisitive, intelligent, and passionate about their chosen path. That's when I realized that this is how our alma mater molded us. In this and the forthcoming series of our newsletter, I intend to draw attention to this connection between us all, which will ultimately make us feel proud, loved, and unified.

And for every student who leaves this institution, we the alumnus will make absolutely sure their relationship with it continues—sharing here how they are making a difference in their corner of the world.

Revising and editing of this newsletter has been for me a pilgrimage to my inner self with memories pouring back and forth. However, in this process it is possible that at places I may have failed in the cold-blooded punctiliousness about the syntax and punctuation, expected of an editor. For such lapses I seek forgiveness of the reader.

To send your experiences, email at- gcaaa07@gmail.com

O! Poet,
Walk through me.
....a poet is a being
who spells poetry.

He buys from
many hearts
their harvest
and carries his goods in
unspoken chambers
within the
silent taverns of
seven hopes
only to weave
the latticed-warbles of
pulsating emotions
and
kaleidoscopic visions
of trust and life.

To many it appears
that the poet works
in silence
but he is only motionlessly
tendering and
creating
journeying as a being
that does not die
but moves from
body to body
mind to heart
from many to many
only to re-establish
the unity of rhyme and
rhythm.

Walk through me
O! Poet.

~ Sufi Benam
(Anand Khatri)

Anand Khatri (B. Arch. GCA 1993, M.Arch Conservation SPA 1996) Founder and Director of Urban Village Charitable Trust, Conservation Architect, is a Professor at AIT SAP. His policy on inclusive cities is accepted at T20, 2022 and his research focus is on urban informalities, village transformation, and localization of SDGs. He is backed by almost three decades of professional and academic experience in architecture.



PANKAJ JAISWAL
1997

GCA FOSLA

It's so uncommon these days though, but back in those 1990's years of GCA, FOSLA club was so popular and thriving with new members each day that can put the big whatsapp group of these days to miniscule.

May have been established a few batch earlier to ours of 1992, exact year not known, Presidents were from final year batch and having enlisted maximum crushes in their prime and thus appointed unanimously with full trust of the 100+ members.

The tradition continued and flourished further with the establishment of Girls Hostel next door to Boys Hostel in 1992, with Sweet, Elegant, Tall, Princess and Hot girls contributing most to our Association.

It's worthwhile to mention here The 1992-97 batch of 20girls (and with just 14 boys!) had the maximum potential to frustrate so many of our seniors, and undercover junior boys alike, who found most soothing respite becoming members of FOSLA soon after they crashed out of their crushes!

FOSLA - Frustrated One Sided Lovers Association, was the most popular organization in the GCA Boys hostel evenings.

The rules of the association were quite simple. Beside passing the eligibility criterion, which is quite obvious, it was important that the so called Family people were never allowed membership and were always looked down with suspicion, just to protect the integrity of its members.

FOSLA had its meeting in the wee hour of the evenings whenever there was a power cut. Members started accumulating outside the TV room on first floor of Boys hostel and in no time crowd swelled up. A Court was set up on parapet to resolve the issues of our Young FOSL of 1st/2nd year. The Judge, rather Judges, were those with maximum crush listings. No wonder the term 'धरतीपकड़' was coined and bestowed on those with maximum crushes. 'दिलजले' was the obvious title for aspirants and 'आतंकवादियों की प्रेम कहानीयों नहीं होती' was the common console.

More often the experienced 3rd/4th year FOSLA members acted as Love Gurus and gave their best perspective to load them with Plans and Elevations to figure out their Isometric which they themselves had never been able to crack. The senior most patrons of the Association were also present to anyone desiring closed door consultations.

But much to the disappointment, and sometimes delight too, of our young FOSL's the court was adjourned and meeting dispersed as soon as the power restored, as FOSLA always had public meetings only in the sheer natural darkness, thus keeping the prospects of the FOSLA alive for ages to come.

Dedicated to All members past and presents.

*Regards

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THE BOLD LOOK
OF KOHLER

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P 5/25 D.D. Puram Bareilly

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EC MEMBERS PROFILE



President
ATUL GUPTA - 1988

He graduated from the Government College of Architecture in

Lucknow in year 1988. He has bagged many national architectural competitions including the prestigious "National Open Competition for Housing" organized by The Delhi Development Authority and the Sub District Centre for YEIDA. He has been a member of IIA national Council and Secretary General of Archi Design Awards. Past President of U.P. Architects Association, he has served on Academic Councils of various Architectural Institutes.



Vice President
AR. ANUPAM MITTAL - 1994

A practicing Architect of 1994 batch & Director of ARINEM, is a

leading consultant with clients from Corporate, State and Central Govt. Departments with a team of 150+ technical staff & working on the re-developments of more than 30 railway stations in India other than his several iconic projects in the segment of Housing, Commercial, Institutional, hospitals etc.



General Secretary
VISHAL GULATI - 1996

He is a second generation architect from the 1996 batch. His

work has been recognised at various forums for his involvement in architectural, landscape, and interior projects of various scales. As a devoted and proud alumnus, he has contributed to the formation and growth of the GCAAA. Before becoming GCAAA's general secretary, he served as treasurer.



Jt. Secretary
SHASHANK MISHRA - 2001

He graduated from the Government College of

Architecture in Lucknow in 2001.

With over 20 years of experience in design and planning, he has worked as a consultant on a wide range of projects, including Group Housing, Institutional, Office Complexes, Hospitals, and others.

He is currently the Principal Architect of SRIJAN Architects Pvt. Ltd. in Noida.



Treasurer
AVINASH GANGWAR - 2002

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in architecture in 2002.

He has done real estate surveys and feasibility studies, as well as construction projects such as Group Housing, Industries, Hospitals, and residences as a Partner at Architects Avenue.

He has vast experience in design, project management, and site supervision for a variety of construction projects.

MEMBERS:



ANURAG KHANDELWAL - 1995

He graduated from the Government College of

Architecture in Lucknow in 1995 and earned a postgraduate degree in construction and project management from CEPT Ahmedabad in 1998. He is an accomplished academician and environmentalist who practices eco-friendly sustainable architecture. He was the former Vice President of UPAA and the President of the Architect Association of Agra.



DR. MOHIT KUMAR AGARWAL - 2000

He earned his P.G. from CEPT Ahmedabad, his Ph.D. from AKTU,

and his degree in architecture from the Government College of Architecture in Lucknow in 2000. Currently working as dean of BBD University's School of Architecture and Planning, he is the Dean at Amity University Chhattisgarh. He is Secretary, ITPI U.P. Chapter, Executive Member, U.P. IIA, Director Architecture at Snow Fountain Infra Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow, Member of the Board of Studies and Advisory Board at Various Schools of Architecture in Uttar Pradesh.



SHIPRA SINGH - 2008

Shipra Singh earned her architecture degree from GCA in Lucknow and

her master's degree in product design from NID in Ahmedabad in 2011. A gold medalist, and an ambitious designer, she created the multidisciplinary design firm Studio0522 in 2016.



ANUPAM - 2013

In 2013, he graduated from the Government College of Architecture in Lucknow, and in

2018, he completed a postgraduate degree in urban and regional planning. Since 2019, he has been working as an assistant professor in the faculty of architecture and planning at GBTU Lucknow.



ANJANEYA SHARMA - 2011

Anjaneeya Sharma is an Assistant Professor at the AKTU Faculty of Architecture and

Planning. He is a landscape architect with a doctorate from India's IIT Roorkee. He works on the conservation of landscapes. As a result of his PhD, he is involved in raising awareness and preserving the identity of the Gardens of Bundelkhand through research publications and on-site workshops.



DEVESH MANI TRIPATHI - 2003

He works as the Principal Architect at Icon Architects and holds a postgraduate

degree in landscape architecture.

He is currently a consultant to UHM District Hospital, associated with the Gomti Nagar railway station construction project, Medical College (Saharanpur), Agricultural University, and has over 19 years of experience providing Architectural Consultancy for various Residential, Commercial, Hospital, and Courthouse projects.



PAWAN BHATT - 1999

He obtained a B.Arch (Gold Medalist) from G.C.A Lucknow in 1999, and an

M.Arch (Gold Medalist) from Gateway College of Architecture in Sonipat in 2013.

He has designed and refurbished a wide range of commercial buildings, hospitals, public housing complexes, schools, and individual residences as the Principal Architect of Pawan Bhatt Associates.

He has published articles and conducted research on topics such as sustainability, green buildings, and his project concepts.



PRASHANT PAL SINGH - B.Arch 1997, GCA Lucknow

He has been a practising architect for the last 25 years as the Principal

Architect and Founder of Abhikarm, providing architectural consultation and project management consultancy to various public and private sector organisations. as a pioneer in rainwater harvesting projects, He has facilitated rainwater harvesting in commendable projects. He is involved in the betterment of impoverished and has done slum rehabilitation.



VISHAL MITTAL (GCA -97)

In 1997, he earned a bachelor's degree in architecture.

He has accomplished large scale housing,

commercial, township, and tall building projects as the Cofounder of M/s Space Designers International.

Many tall buildings, up to G+65 floors, have been designed and completed by him. He has planned a number of huge townships, some of which are over 700 acres in size.



DR. ARUN RANA - 1995

He received his B.Arch. from the Govt. College of Architecture in Lucknow in 1995, his

PG in Construction and Project Management from C.E.P.T. Ahmedabad in 1997, and his Ph.D. from Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi in 2012. He has spent the last 23 years as the Jt. General Manager (Projects) at HUDCO (a Government of India enterprise). He has provided financial assistance to various state governments and their agencies, housing boards, development authorities, and so on. He is a visiting professor/jury member/examiner at several universities. He has 26 papers published at various levels in national and international journals.



DR. HARISH TRIPATHI, Architect

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1993. He completed his PG and his Ph.D. from

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He is involved in the design of a wide range of commercial, institutional, hotel, residential, and industrial projects in India and around the world as the principal architect (Arhta) Architect Harish Tripathi and Associates, New Delhi. ▀

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THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**



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An Afternoon by the River



Late one Sunday afternoon, our new Bengali neighbour knocked at the door. I was trying to get a well-deserved afternoon siesta on a holiday after a long week. I was definitely not amused by the knock. But Charu aunty, with her joyful demeanour and endearing

personality, has a way with people, and all my fuss evaporated after exchanging pleasantries.

She needed someone to take her to Jhulelal Park near the river. *Basant Panchami* had just passed and *Saraswati ji's* idol had to be immersed in Gomti River as culmination of the divine festival. Her driver had fallen ill and twelve-year-old Dev, of course, couldn't be entrusted to drive. Recollecting the awesome taste of *sondesh* I had feasted in her house that auspicious day, I consented to be her chauffer. After all, I could also witness this idol immersion business that everyone was indulging in nowadays, irrespective of caste or creed. Getting irredy in ten minutes and instructing the servant about the dinner menu, I took my car out. I placed a huge wad of newspapers on the seat to avoid soiling the new seat cover and set out.

With *Saraswati ji* in our rear seat and Dev in tow, we drove to the ghat at Jhulelal Park, next to the Gomti River. Steering down the incline, I parked in the ample space right next to Gomti. A sudden stink enveloped us. *Is this how the river smells now? Haven't been here for quite some time*, I thought. Feeling mildly guilty about being so indifferent to our city, we moved towards the four docked boats. The owners were so pleased to see us, and immediately took hold of the statue of goddess and heaved it onto one of them. Charu aunty, finding it difficult to get on the unstable, poor-looking boat, almost took our boatman off balance. I fared

– The Author, Dr. Ritu Gulati, a CEPT University doctoral candidate and GCA alumnus, specialises in Lucknow's traditional and vernacular architecture. She has been an Associate Professor at her alma mater for the last 23 years, and she is passionate about energy efficiency and sustainability. She oversees the PhD and Masters programmes at the institute, as well as the Consultancy and Research Cell. She has received numerous awards for her work in academia, research, and practise, and has been recognised at numerous prestigious forums.

slightly better and we both took our positions holding *Saraswati ji's* tightly as if we would drop her before the designated target.

Seemingly affected by the sight and smell of Gomti, Charu aunty went *orre baba* repeatedly in her native dialect. Apparently, our oarsman needed just this to start pouring out his woes, and the journey to the centre of the river and back was humoured by our boatman Suresh who began enjoying some well-deserved attention at last. Having a lineage of boatmen along Gomti for the last three generations, he was now almost on the verge of breaking down. "Do middle-aged motherly women propel such outbursts?" I wondered, even as Charu aunty being the soft-heart she is, gently prodded him about his condition, which seemed financially derelict.

This is not the *Sham-e-Awadh* the world knows of, he rued. No one is there to appreciate it any longer. Earlier, foreign tourists would pay well in addition to tips, for being their informal tourist guides. But now his livelihood was largely dependent on idol immersion which was not so well paying. Moreover, the must-do tour of Gomti was dwindling due to its miserly condition. What's more, staying at the ghat for 12 hours a day without work and good food was affecting Suresh's health in addition to the financial loss.

Despite my premeditated aloofness, I got drawn in the conversation and also made a feeble half-hearted attempt to encourage him about this being a temporary phase and with the on-going riverfront development completed, he would be much sought after. It sounded

shallow, even to my ears, and Suresh almost scoffed at my reluctant idealism. He alleged that conditions had fast become miserable in the last forty years and he had no plans to bring his kids to this place. In fact, he was getting them trained as mechanics with his meagre income. After all, what had this river given him after so many years of labour and dedication? Surely his experience had given rise to such cynicism. Suresh had a valid point; he, whose ancestors having taken the Nawabs and royalty on this preferred mode of movement, was now staring at a rotting and dying channel, almost becoming a backyard to throw our garbage in.

But really, this is a transient phase, right! Charu aunty staunchly reminded us. In all probability, Gomti would be revived in a year and would assume even more glory than before. Every city has to go through a phase of derelict and disorganization as it is re-building, and in this case the worst was already over, and it was on the road to renewal. After all, what was pleasure without some pain?

The shining optimism in her voice found a way to affect Suresh who became animated, as he asked if she really thought so. Of course, she continued, " *Tum dekhte jao. Ab tumhare din phirne wale hain. Hum agle saal aayenge to tum bahut khush hoge.* " Narrating tales of religious epics where good always won over evil, she actually ridiculed our scepticism. Positivity and conviction does rub off and it gives people reasons to hang on just a little bit more.

Suresh seemed half cured with this confident gleaming hope. By then, we were back to the Ghats and this time, he smiled when we were ready to depart. "*Phiraanajaroor bhauji*", he said. Charu aunty had struck a chord and like goddess *Saraswati* she promised to return with happiness and prosperity. I was feeling kind of left out and a bit foolish in this conversation between an illiterate and a semi-educated woman, who were both suddenly buoyant and optimistic about the future. Was excess education converting me to a cynical pessimist? Retrospection was needed.

While we drove back in silence, each of us was in varied moods. Charu aunty humming to herself after her successfully completed mission of delivering *Saraswati ji* to her destination; Dev, bored and craving for his video game at home, and me, assessing revelations of the afternoon. Almost afraid to voice it, fearing rejection from my analytical brain, I was also fervently wishing that next *Basant Panchami* brings the desired happiness for Suresh and his family. This was probably my way of saying a prayer for a city that has forever been in transition and rebuilding. ▶

ABOUT THE BOOK

The People Place Project is an initiative that explores text as a tool of place-making and fosters a spirit of city consciousness. In partnership with Penguin Random House, it has publications on varied cities like Ahmedabad, Shillong, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. People called Lucknow is a compilation of stories narrated from various walks of life from this culturally and architecturally rich city. The author has penned a story of the River Gomti; the lifeline of Lucknow through the eyes of a boatman and his plight in this fast transforming city called "An afternoon by the river".

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The corona virus pandemic had made it feel as if the world had come to a standstill. Due to widespread social distancing, the college was unable to celebrate the silver anniversaries of twobatches1995 and 1996.

Let us have a glimpse of their togetherness-then and now.



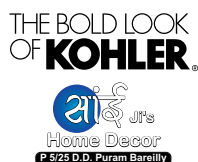
▲ The vibrant, brilliant class of 1995, the togetherness alive and vibrant.

◀ The batch of 1995-laughing smiling loudly with memories that will never fade

▼ "They graduated in the year 1996, but those memories they have carried forever."



WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM:





▲ This batch recently visited the campus, secretly wishing that they could return back without having to attend classes.

▼ This year we celebrate the silver jubilee of batch 1997



Allow the Universe to reach you

The great man thinks, and you and I also think. We think too but our actions do not harmonize with our thoughts.

Let's say we want to be fit and for that; we need to get up an hour before our normal daily schedule and exercise but we don't. We want to go out to the nearby park and rid ourselves of all the daily stress through nature walks but we don't. We want to start the gym and cut off fat from our bellies but we don't. We want to do it but our bodies do not follow. Full of frustrations about our incapability we drown in pools of negativity. Anger and frustrations channel out from our system and attract more negativity. We don't want to shout at our subordinates or our kids or maybe at our spouses, or near and dear ones but we do. Our mind does not follow the peace we so much want and instead serves us with excuses. Blaming someone or another for the cause of happening, and we spin into what we want to avoid- Jealousy anger gossip, and whatnot. Not realizing that it's our mind that we cannot control. If only we find the means to control our minds, we will realize how positive things build around us. That's what great men accomplish. While we accomplish what we think only by degrees. This is the only difference.

What we perceive as a goal is essentially something we have noticed and aspire to accomplish for ourselves. Whatever we think is our goal someone somewhere has already achieved it, we are not imagining something new we are just wanting it desperately for ourselves. Day and night we think of it and we imagine ourselves having achieved it. How happy we look to ourselves, but the goal is still there and daily we live it but are doing nothing towards it.

Detach from the goal and focus on the process. All great men achieve by doing just that. What we do every day or better still every hour, or every minute is more important than what the result is, the result will follow.

Interestingly, the power of detachment as described by Shree Krishna in the Shrimad Bhagwad Gita is this. ▶

- Architect Babika Goel
is a | Book coach | Fiction Author | and
Speaker. Her dedication to Advaita -
Principles & Practices is unwavering.

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