

16 | 17 | 18  
AUGUST '19

KURULA  
VARKEY  
DESIGN  
FORUM  
2019



# INTRODUCTION

Initiated by the students of CEPT University, Kurula Varkey Design Forum has been a platform for critical discourse on architecture and architectural education since its conception in 2001, through student projects as take-off points for the discussion. The forum is not a jury or a competition, but rather dialogic event to understand the diverse directions emerging in the discipline of architecture. The event has been honoured by architects like B.V. Doshi, Lucien Kroll, Juhani Pallasma, Anant D. Raje, Peter Rich, William Curtis, Channa Daswatte, Charles Correa, Kevin Low and many more through the years.

## THEME IDENTITY IN ARCHITECTURE

Buildings are physical manifestations of the political, social, and cultural environments in which they are situated. They tell stories about who we are as people and inform our sense of group or individual identity which has to do with gender, a region, a locality, ethnic group or a nation.

The concept of identity is fundamentally linked to how we situate ourselves in society. Moving towards a modern global world view, the sense of identity of a place is increasingly becoming questionable. Quoting Koolhaas from Venice Biennale 2014, "In 1914, it made sense, perhaps, to talk about 'Chinese' architecture, 'Swiss' architecture, 'Indian' architecture... One hundred years later, under the influence of wars, revolutions, diverse political regimes, different states of development, architectural movements, and technological progress, architectures that were once specific and local have become seemingly interchangeable and global."

This raises two important questions: **Has identity been sacrificed to modernization? In an era of globalization is the "where" of architecture becoming increasingly irrelevant?**

If we look at identity in architecture as a process of articulating the attributes that define a 'self', persons or buildings which are associated with real or imagined people and communities, then architects play an important role in articulating the identities of the groups concerned with the projects. All our choices of configuration, material, aesthetic, proportion and scale can be viewed as part of the project of identity formation. KVDF 2019 encourages participants to relook at how their projects contribute to the idea of identity in architecture.

# STRUCTURE OF THE FORUM

## MEMORIAL LECTURE

A seminal lecture held in the memory of Professor Kurula Varkey focusing on the future of architectural education and profession.

## ICE BREAKER SESSION

One on one conversations between the participants and the panellists about the theme in reference to participants' projects.

## CURATED DISCUSSIONS

Critical sessions where the participants begin by presenting their projects and with the help of the moderator, these projects are looked at through the lens of the theme '**Identity in Architecture**' in order to gain a larger perspective on contemporary architecture.

## DESIGN TALKS

Talks by the invited panelists in an informal setup to know more about their personal experience and journey in the realm of 'practice'

## FORUM EXHIBITION

Curated display of all the received entries.

# PARTICIPATION

## PARTICULARS

PHASE 1

- Undergraduate projects in Architecture from the 5th year (Final year/ design thesis) completed up till the academic year 2018-19 are invited to participate in the forum this year.
- There is no limit for the number of projects that can be submitted per school.

### SPECIFICATIONS

FOR SUBMISSION OF THE ENTRIES

The following should be sent as separate attachment through e-mail, for the submission of the entry:

1. Participation form with the student details filled in.
2. Passport size photograph(600x600 pixels)
3. A combined .pdf file with four A3 landscape plates (minimum 300dpi; maximum 20MB) that explain the project in the terms of the program, intentions, challenges, process and the final product through drawings, models or model pictures.
4. For identification and confidentiality, the bottom of the four A3 plates should include the name of the project and a randomly selected 6-digit-number (This 6-digit-number can be selected by the student and must be mentioned on the participation form that has to be sent by 10th June, 2019). The participant's name and the name of the institute must NOT be mentioned anywhere in the submission.
5. A written description (.pdf format) in an A4 (300-450 words) describing how the project relates to this year's theme of the forum i.e. "Identity in Architecture", highlighting design issues and response.(font 12 pt Calibri)

6. A written description in one A4 (500-700 words) specifying the brief and area statement (if required). (Font 12pt Calibri)

7. A representative image (.jpeg format; maximum 150 dpi; maximum 1MB; aspect ratio-1:1) that is the icon of the project and shall be used for previewing on the web site.

**All entries must be sent through mail to the forum in-charge, Faculty of Architecture, CEPT on kvdesignforum@gmail.com by 10th June, 2019. It will not be possible to register as participant at a later date.**

From the preliminary entries received, a panel shall select around 16-20 projects and the results will be announced on 17th June 2019. The students whose projects are selected will be informed and will be required to present their projects to the panel at the KVD forum at CEPT on 16th, 17th and 18th August 2019.

## SPECIFICATION FOR THE PRESENTATION OF SELECTED ENTRIES AT KVDF FORUM 2019 (16TH, 17TH AND 18TH AUG '19)

Specification for presentation of the selected entries at the KVD Forum 2019 (16th, 17th and 18th August 2019)

1. Maximum area given to each participant for pinning up the drawings will be 8'x4'.
2. The sheets should best explain the project **in relation to the theme** through drawings, illustrations, diagrams or any other means required.
3. Models can be used for presentation.
4. Overlapping or calendar format of sheets will not be permitted.
5. A separate written description, A4 portrait format (300-450 words) that includes a description of how the project relates to this year's theme of the forum i.e. "Identity in Architecture", highlighting design issues and response. (font 12 Calibri)
6. The project would be discussed only if student is present during forum.

## PARTICULARS

- Attestation of participation form and project reports/sheets from the head of the institute is mandatory.
- Only the selected projects discussed during the KVDF forum will be published on the KVDF website.
- Accommodation will be provided only to the selected participants from 16th August 2019 to 18th August 2019.
- Participants will be given a Certificate of Participation.
- Due to the limited budget, the student will have to bear the cost of travel.
- Please ensure that you have given a valid phone number and an e-mail ID so that we can inform you about the results of the selected entries.
- We suggest that all selected participants for the KVD Forum book their travel tickets to reach Ahmedabad by morning of 16th August 2019.



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# IMPORTANT DATES

10 JUNE '19

**Last date for sending  
in the entries**

Last date for sending  
filled-in participation  
form; duly signed and  
stamped by the Head  
of Department

17 JUNE '19

Announcement of  
selected entries

15 JULY '19

Resubmission of  
selected projects as  
per specifications of  
Phase 2

16 – 18 AUG '19

The Kurula Varkey  
Design Forum 2017  
at CEPT University,  
Ahmedabad, India.

