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UPCOMING EVENTS

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

MURP PLACEMENT ROUND 2.0

Specialisation:Infrastructure, Housing, Landuse, Environment, Transportation
Total Students: 68

Placement Slot 1: 12-15 Feb & 19-24 Feb 2018;
Placement Slot 2: 12-16 March & 19-24 March 2018

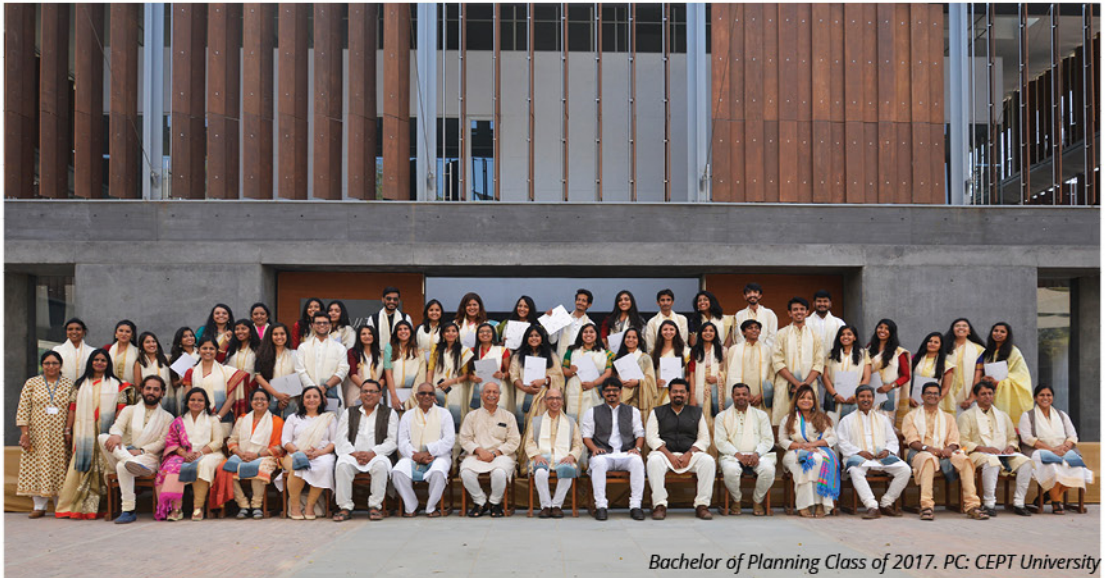
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CEPT CONVOCATION 2018 @ FP



Bachelor of Planning Class of 2017. PC: CEPT University

12th Convocation Ceremony

The 20th of January marked the 12th convocation ceremony at CEPT University. The academic batch of Bachelor of Planning (B.Plan), 2013-2017 and Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP), 2015-2017 officially graduated from the Faculty of planning when a total of 156 degrees were handed out.

The chief guest for the event was Prof. Alain Bertaud, a renowned urbanist and senior research scholar at New York University (NYU) Stern Urbanisation Project. The students were handed over their degrees by the Dean Prof. Vidyadhar Phatak and a welcome to the alumni family with the CEPT alumni identity card. Representing the two batches, Yash Jhaveri and Abhilaasha N spoke of their journey and in the multi faceted learning that CEPT in all its uniqueness had offered. The CEPT level excellence awards were handed to Anuj Nautiyal for Academic Excellence, Prachi Bandal for the Best Thesis and Ablilaasha N as the Most Distinguished Student. At the faculty of planning level, awards were handed for the Best Student as well as Best Thesis for each specialisation of MURP.

An aura of white, gold and pride beamed in Shrenikbhai plaza as the students marked another milestone in history and a promise of the years to come.

GUEST LECTURE @ FP

Lecture by Prof. Alain Bertaud

It was a coveted event in most planners' lives when one of the most eminent personalities in the field of urban planning- Prof. Alain Bertaud delivered a lecture at CEPT University on the 19th of January, 2018. He arrived at CEPT University to grace the Convocation 2018 as its Chief Guest.

Prof. Alain Bertaud is an urbanist and a senior research scholar at the New York University and has over 30 years of international professional experience in America, Europe, and Asia. His research focuses on the interaction between urban forms, real estate markets and regulations. Prof. Bertaud's lecture encapsulated his profound learning through his long career, and presented a gist of his upcoming book- 'Order without Design' which is based on the spatial analysis of 49 metropolitan areas around the world. Throughout the lecture, he stressed on understanding market forces as the key driver to urban form. The loss of credibility of the planning profession in recent times is the outcome of lack of this crucial understanding. Citing examples of various cities, he highlighted that the profile of urban densities is the function of market forces and not physical design-as is the popular notion.

He encouraged students to envision cities as labor markets when planning for its efficient functioning. Since labor markets allow flexibility for people to move around and change jobs, they add to the vibrancy of the city's economy. Thus, the prosperity of the city is directly proportional to size of its labor market and not its geographical size. The positive interaction between market and design yields successful cities. A planner's role is to facilitate the labor market- provide mobility and ensure affordability of land and housing through pragmatic policies.

Towards the end, he said that planners should develop quantitative indicators and base urban policy on clearly formulated objectives linked to those. Vision statements make sense only with real-time indicators. The lecture was an enlightening one for students. Prof. Bertaud also lauded CEPT for its rational outputs that made it stand out from other Planning Schools in India, hoping it would only grow better in future.



1. Prof Alain Bertaud delivering the graduation commencement address PC: Nancy Dixit; 2. Prof. Alain Bertaud delivering a gist of his upcoming book -'Order without Design' PC: CEPT University; 3. Students of MAAI Project Development Studio in National Ministry of Civil Aviation; PC: CEPT University

ACADEMICS @ FP

Aerotropolis Studio Project presentation to Ministry of civil Aviation, Delhi

Students of the Metropolitan Airport Aerotropolis Infrastructure (MAAI) Project Development Studio bagged an opportunity to present their studio output to the National Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt on 9th January 2018, adding to the repository of achievements that FP, CEPT proudly claims.

With what was started as an exploratory studio under the guidance of Prof. Saswat Bandyopadhyay and C K Koshy, Commissioner of Surat, the ten students of the MAAI Studio took to study the challenges of Surat Airport. Being one of its kind across the country, the studio aimed at arriving at practical, feasible solutions to the Surat Airport. Due to lack of continuity of land to be appropriated for the airport, the initial plan demanded a whopping 4500 acres of land for its construction. The students proposed an alternative wherein only 2700 acres of land was to be consolidated, thereby reducing the land requirement to almost one half.

Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra,

Chairman, Airport Authority of India (AAI) was highly appreciative of the outcome of the studio exercise and invited them to present the same to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in Delhi. Currently the work is archived with the Town Planning and Valuation Department of Government of Gujarat, where further work is promised to continue.

Capacity Building Workshop

CEPT University organized a two-day specialized training program from 17th to 19th January. This was titled as 'Urban Expansion through Town Planning Schemes' under the Capacity Building and Urban Development (CBUD) project in consultation with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

About forty urban planning professionals from several states and organizations participated in this program. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Sameer Sharma (Addl. Secretary, MoHUA), Mr. Paresh Sharma (Chief Town Planner, Govt. of Gujarat), C.K. Koshy (Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat) and Dr. Bimal Patel (President, CEPT University). The workshop began by an overview about town planning mechanisms in Gujarat by Dr. Bimal, followed by several hands-

on workshops and input lectures such as legal framework of GTPUDA, case studies of TPS, Infrastructure design and costing, Scheme financing strategy and commissioning of TPS.

According to a participant Ms. Vishakha Jha from Research Associate at National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA, Delhi), "The workshop within its framework nuanced the challenges faced by different states in formulating and implementing the TP scheme but left little scope for any hand on experience at this stage. Thus, leaving many states lost with their contextual complexities. The overall experience of the workshop was driven with positivity and enthusiasm ensuring all participants left with certain learnings that would be helpful in their own states."

EXTRA CURRICULARS @ CEPT

ROOTS 2018

24th January to 28th January witnessed Roots, the most awaited inter-faculty event of CEPT. The 4-day event was power packed with events ranging from student performance to the highly anticipated mela. Every event tickled the creative minds to bring the best out of them.

The first day of the event kicked off

with Metamorphosis which saw a series of band performances. It got the students grooving to the beats of heavy metal and old school music. The night ended on a patriotic note, as it marked the beginning of Republic Day. Day 2 added a new spark to the array of events. The band '2 Blue' travelled all the way down from Mumbai to bring electrifying Rock N' Roll music. The following day had the students on their toes as it was the day where students got to perform and showcase their talents in the most exquisite ways. The final day gave the students a platform to shell out their creative and culinary talents in the Roots Mela. Roots 2018 culminated with the drum circle, an event which brought all students together, dancing the night away to the rhythm of the hour.

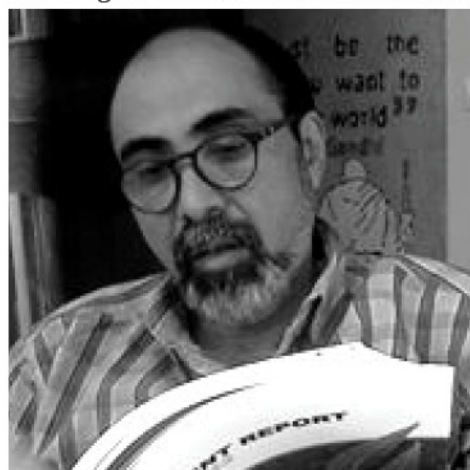
KNOW YOUR ALUMNI @ FP

Shravan Kumar Acharya

Shravan Kumar Acharya, batch of 1986, has over 25 years of experience in urban and regional planning. He currently holds a position of a Professor at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is an academician and provides advisory services to several organisations and institutes on varied development planning related issues.

AN: Could you kindly brief us your association with the profession?

SKA: After completing Planning, I joined *Development Alternatives*, New Delhi. They worked at the interface of people, technology and environmental sustainability issues and believed in the need for new institutional innovations to address governance challenges. Later, I worked in Sikkim



1. 'Urban Expansion through Town Planning Schemes'- Capacity Building Workshop PC: Yash Sugandhi;
2. Drum Circle ROOTS 2018 PC: Utkarsh Srivastava

for 3 years on Energy and Integrated mountain development strategies. I also worked with *CRY* in Mumbai on child right issues which involved advocacy and intense groundwork. Later I joined CEPT as a faculty and got involved in urban development, regional planning, EIA and other urban capacity building initiatives.

AN: Can you share your recent/on-going research work?

SKA: I have always been keen on understanding how cities transform, why cities decline and what strategies are followed in the US, The Netherlands, China, India and Vietnam to revitalise their cityscape. It is interesting to study the urban development activities in China and Vietnam where the State has played an instrumental role in shaping the cityscape.

Currently, I'm studying the inter-relationship between heritage conservation strategy and urban poor in Delhi – how urban heritage and conservation strategies become inclusive and less elitist in addressing the concerns of the urban poor. I'm passionately involved in studying urbanism issues in Sikkim and other Northeastern region for they hold unique environment, social structure and cultural characteristics.

AN: It's been decades since you graduated. But if you try to recollect, how was the transition from academics

to the profession and then to academia?

SKA: I don't see them as binary. I think too much of professional consultancy approach bogs one down to finding solution to a problem, for which, I believe research is very important. Teaching planning is very interesting as it gives better dimension to our understanding of the ground realities.

AN: Please share some of your non-academic experiences at CEPT.

SKA: There was a friendly relation between student and faculty. We had the freedom to be critical and contest ideas. The best part was the peer review and learning from students of other backgrounds. Taking collaborative decisions despite conflicts and contestations in the studio was an enchanting experience.

AN: What would be your message for the students?

SKA: I would ask students to be very critical in their approach to work. Question the premises on which the arguments and assumptions are based. Don't be egoistic and assume that if you have prepared the plan, you know everything. Be open to ideas and never forget to appreciate other people's voice. And, of course, have fun.

This newsletter is a student body initiative. For any suggestions, feedback and queries write to us at - fp.newsletter@cept.ac.in