The Indian Institute of Architects, Northern Chapter (IIA-NC) has been debating on the issue of architectural education for some time, and this seminar is an outcome of these debates.

Today, the architectural profession in our country is facing a problem of ‘plenty’. Graduates of architecture (approx. 25,000 every year) are flooding the profession. Our numbers are expanding rapidly. In the last five years we have added as many architects as we had in the ninety years since 1919 when the profession was established in India. This total is likely to double in the next five years.

While the nation is poised to invest heavily in infrastructure, offering our profession unprecedented opportunities of growth, there is a widening gap between what architecture students are learning and what they should be learning. This gap between architectural education and expectations of the architectural profession from these graduates needs to be recognized. Architectural practices
who absorb them are finding it irksome to have to ‘train’ fresh graduates in even elementary architectural knowledge. Graduates in turn are complaining that they do not learn much at school that is professionally useful. So, with a view to prepare the new professionals of tomorrow, we need to deliberate upon this urgent issue. To fill the gaping void of profession-education partnership, we need to elicit some serious responses in terms of reforms in the architectural education framework.

Further, wherein architectural practices are becoming financially more competitive and technologically challenging with every passing year, client expectations are getting increasingly fueled by international exposure and spread of technology and information through the internet. Our inability to service this need is pushing clients to seek more-informed international architects, irrespective of the fact that many a time their proposals or designs are unsuitable in the local context. Also, there is an increasing tendency, both in the government and the private sector, to appoint overseas architects to design major projects. This raises the question ‘Is our vast resource pool not good enough?’

Our profession today needs enabled graduates to face and counter this challenge, and our architectural education must facilitate this. Unfortunately, since our graduates are not adequately equipped, they seem unwilling to adopt an entrepreneurial career as an architect in India, and instead they seek placements in MNCs and BPOs where they are offered better wages for low-profile work.

In this scenario, three very glaring lacunae have emerged, and need to be addressed immediately:

1. The ratio of number of trainees seeking architectural practices in the country where they can be trained is more than four to one.

2. Most of the recent graduates without attaining practical knowledge in the field are being absorbed back in the academia as masters or doctoral students, and later as teachers for the mushrooming architectural education industry.

3. Many graduates, after their first brush with real-life practice, desert the profession altogether, resulting in colossal national wastage.
We at IIA NC, along with the academia, recognize these issues and strongly feel the need to address them and bridge the gap at the earliest.

The Indian Institute of Architects, Northern Chapter's objective of the seminar is to deliberate and draw forth views from a wide spectrum of professional architects, academicians, clients, employers, consultants, and other users of the professional architectural services in respect to the quality and relevance of architectural education today. It is proposed to deliberate on the issue during the following three sessions and then share the findings with all stakeholders, be it academicians, professionals or concerned authorities for further action at their end.

**SCHEDULE**

**REGISTRATION** : 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM

**INAUGURAL SESSION** : 9:30 AM

**TECHNICAL SESSION-01** (10:15 AM to 11:45 AM) : Architectural Education - Turmoil & Dilemma

  a. Growing number of qualified architects - Boon or Bane for the Industry?
  
  b. Heavy dependence on Google – Is it a threat to innovation?
  
  c. Lack of adequately qualified faculty - A cause of concern for the future of the profession
  
  d. Audience participation

**TECHNICAL SESSION-02** (12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM) : Architectural Education - Challenges & Opportunities

  a. Changing face of Architectural Practice - An introduction to current opportunities
b. Impact of emerging opportunities in Practice on Architectural Education

c. Architectural Research - Its role in preparing fresh graduates to compete with international talent

d. Audience participation

TECHNICAL SESSION-03 (2:15 PM to 4:00 PM) : Architectural Education - Road Ahead

a. Coming together of academicians and professionals for acquiring adequate information and imparting knowledge

b. Innovations in Architectural Education to create a better talent pool.

c. Contribution of the Profession in Educational Research

d. Audience Participation.

Distribution of Certificates of Participation : 4:00 PM

SPEAKERS

1. **Prof R K Pandit**, Principal, Deptt of Architecture, MITS Gwalior

2. **Ar Rajnish Wattas**, Former Principal, Chandigarh College of Architecture

3. **Prof Jaimini Mehta**, Hon Director, Center for the Study of Urbanism & Architecture, Vadodra, Gujarat

4. **Prof Sudhir K Jain***, Director IIT, Gandhinagar, Gujarat * Confirmation Awaited

5. **Ar Neeraj Manchanda**, Practicing Architect, Neeraj Manchanda Architects

6. **Prof Sanghamitra Basu**, Associate Professor in the Department of Architecture & Regional Planning, IIT Kharagpur, India
7. **Prof Neeraja Lugani Sethi**, Dean, University School of Architecture & Planning, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

8. **Ar Milind Chitale**, Practicing Architect

9. **Ar S K Das**, Practicing Architect

10. **Ar Romi Khosla**, Practicing Architect

11. **Ar Goonmeet Chauhan***, Practicing Architect. * Confirmation Awaited

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**CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION**

Please confirm your participation as a delegate by dropping us an e-mail to *iiancdelhi@hotmail.com* with your

- Name,
- Address
- Phone No. (mobile)
- E-mail address

Since there are no charges for the Seminar, it is essential that you send in your confirmations early.