

## **PROBLEM OF ARCHITECTURE AS AN ESSENTIAL ART**

Shamsul Wares\*

Architecture is an art. This is the basic theme, the skeleton, around which an architect should build his own standard of work, thought and feeling.

Art is the work of man in contrast to the work of nature. A good architect concerns himself deeply with the understanding of man and nature. In this pursuit he verifies and analyses all possible variables; rejects and chooses his work components. This never-ending process in which he is constantly involved to construct his perception, is his experience and through the richness of his experiences he builds certain standard. An architect through his work and experience explores himself to know himself, his extent and ability. And thereby he labours, suffers, and exerts his ability to establish new standard in his field of work; he in fact establishes new standard in the field of man's creative power.

Architect's creative activity is his art and art is only concerned with the result. To achieve this result he consciously arranges the components of his art object, recognises the human need that must be satisfied, chooses the techniques and materials most appropriate in the solution of the problem and sensitively organises the various elements into a satisfying whole. This elaborate process including the product is design. The drawing as the means of design is the abstraction of the reality. This reality is the result, the architecture, the art. The common man is concerned neither with art nor with the design process, he is usually concerned only with the function. Function involves an indication of efficiency achieved. But this particular aspect is not sufficient to complete architecture. A work of art consists of two other major aspects form and content. The duel between form and function is long over, Each has established its equal importance in architecture. Form refers to the physical components of man's environment, components which appeal to his senses and thereby are the basis for the perception of his physical environment. Content is the meaning, emotional or intellectual, conveyed by the artist. While the architect works with these aspects together, the client usually evaluates the design from the view point of the functional aspect only and as a result fails to understand the interactions of component design forces and the result as a whole.

Man's work, probably every work, requires logic and intuition in varied proportions. A bicycle demands more of logic in its making and a piece of poetry calls for more of intuition in its composition. Architecture is probably the only branch of knowledge where logic and intuition work in equal proportion. By logic, architect makes his structure strong, protective from rain and sun and suitable for performing day-to-day activities and by intuition he makes the physical environment visually pleasing and effective to satisfy psychological and spiritual needs. Architect works in this manner in all his solutions. Logic is built by study, research and analysis; and intuitionary process springs from the perception of nature, understanding of human aspirations and from the unknown.

---

\*Assistant Professor, Dept. of Architecture, BUET.

Architect works from nothing. When he begins his project he begins from nothing and when he completes his project he ends in something. He creates something from nothing. Through this something created, he wants to tell the society something about the universe, about the nature, about the man or about himself. When the common man can understand some of the architect's original intents in the work, it becomes easier for him to appreciate the work and thereby the society gains in fruitful group interactions.

An architect broadly works for the society. But he is immediately concerned with his client. Next to client he is concerned with himself and other architects. When he concentrates all his efforts on the functional aspect only he can satisfy his client. With this apparent success he can gain popularity amongst the commons. But if he continues to do so, the built environment loses the quality to satisfy the psychological need of a society and as a result becomes lifeless. Probably with this fear for an eventual dead environment, Paul Rudolf declared "Any fool can design a functional building". Architect can satisfy his client without doing anything meaningful to a society. But this is not enough, he must be present in his work. He must satisfy himself and standardise his work for other architects. If individuals, society and the government is conscious of the pragmatic values of the physical environment of a nation, architects can work with greater freedom and choice for better life.

An architect's knowledge of the immediate past forms his contemporary mind. His cognition is based on knowledge of events and memories of personal experiences. The socio-economic and political changes, the technological innovations, scientific discoveries and changes in attitudes, ideas, thoughts and values—all these influence him and he in his turn makes his contribution in the social evolution for progress.

Architect like any other artist is lonely in his world. Though he usually works in a team, he has tremendous power to stay alone and to wait. He waits all his life for the realization of something, something unknown and mysterious, something great and that is his art. Frank Lloyd wright had to wait for 12 years before he got a chance for creating a building like the Guggenheim Museum since he first conceived "Space in Motion" within a giant spiral interior. Infact, he could have waited for eternity for the realization of his vision. Art is architect's aspiration, frustration and god.