

Editor's Notes

It was not until the 1970's that architects as well as clients began to sense a loss of cultural identity in the post war built-environment, began to search for a new expression to reflect their own nationality and local culture. The search for a new expression was primarily motivated by a sense of reconstructing a community architecture based on lessons from the past, although the society continued to disintegrate into individualism. This new search did not mean to bringing the past into the present day realities but to bring about a continuity with the past and took various forms of Historicism, Regionalism and Symbolism. The graduates of our department who began to practice architecture after the Liberation War of 1971, absorbed various influences of this new global concern along with abstract Modernism of the west. By the end of 1980's it became gradually apparent that most of these global attempts to address the issues of culture lacked intensity and clarity and became superfluous.

The idea that cultural development is a key feature of the all encompassing development of communities has recently been increasingly recognised. Cultural identity now appears as a major historical driving force pointing to future directions for meaningful development. The understanding of culture is a complex process and therefore demands serious attentions with scientific objectivity to history, people, climate, ecology, economics and technology. Our society although consists of a vast majority of illiterate population is not simple. It is divided into a complex amalgam of political thoughts ranging from nationalism, socialism, liberalism to religious fundamentalism. With this complex character and motivation of our society architects need to bring about an architecture which is environmentally socially and culturally responsible and at the same time humanistic.

The 12 articles provided in this issue written by authors with particular expertise have raised various issues and also attempted to answer many questions. Materials in these writings are the result of intensive studies and research as well as the free expression of intuition. Together, these writings, have attempted to form the very basis of architecture.

The articles printed here were submitted on time and this issue of the journal was due to be published much earlier. I apologise on behalf of the Editorial Board for failing to publish the journal on time and for causing inconvenience to many. I also apologise for the printing mistakes and particularly for not being able to provide the necessary references to all images and pictorial documents provided in the articles.

I express my regards to all the technical member who reviewed the articles and advised suggestions to each author. I also express my gratitude to all the members of the Editorial Board for their labour and services without whom the issue would not have seen the light.

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