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The Future Architecture of India

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Abstract: The Architecture taking shape actually in the current world is a blended reflection of what architecture is being thought in schools and how the actual practices are going on for the execution of the same. Unlike much other fraternity's Architectural education mostly gets related to current technological aspects, simultaneously thinking of the future to come with diversity in technological application and innovations. While keeping track of the present and future, education also serves the knowledge of history and socio-economic changes from early civilizations to contemporary architecture. Reflections of such a long span of historical evolution with a vast coverage of geopolitical changes inculcated in the curricula create interesting Diversity.

Keywords-

Environment	Buffer zones	Minimalism
Sustainable	Sanitation	Low-cost housing
Natural resources	green buildings	Carbon footprint

1.Introduction

The Article emphasizes the impact at large on the architectural aspects specifically after COVID-19. Coincidentally The New Education Policy was also declared on 29th July 2020 by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The article incorporates the Changes, Demands, and needs of society which can be addressed to some extent through architectural education which comprises diversity and possible innovative approaches those are the prime areas of NEP

1.1 The present scenario

Sitting on the edge of a cliff, gazing at the array of mountains glistening in the sunlight, he thought "Nature is a gift to mankind".

On the other side of the world, tucked under a table on shaking grounds, fighting for life amidst the devastation, he thought, "Nature is a curse to mankind".

This is the complexity, command, and power of nature over mankind. On one hand, it lures you into its beauty and on the other hand, it carries the strength to destroy your life. The arrival of man on earth marked the beginning of a new conflict. The battle between mankind and nature is not recent. Through the pages of history, we have been experiencing the power of nature and the futile efforts of mankind to control it.

"But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself."

-Rachel Carson

We knew this from the start but never understood its meaning. The COVID-19 pandemic has once again pushed us to our boundaries and put us in a state of realization and self-introspection. The situation demands that we grow and develop, accepting our environment and not neglecting it. It is the harmony between humanity and mother nature that will sustain the human race. This concept should be imbibed in all fields of work, including architecture considering the present situation. The long tales of “environmental crisis” and stories of “saving earth” must become a reality.

1.2 Architecture till now

The construction industry account's for more than fifty percent of resource consumption. The amount of fuel utilized, pollution incurred and land consumed in construction processes like manufacturing, transportation, and maintenance is beyond comparison. The widespread and unrestricted use of concrete has rendered the landscapes empty and devoid of greenery. Concrete jungles have now become a part of our life, to the extent that we no longer see it's adverse effects and harmful consequences. This has been accompanied by technology and a wave of digitalization that has taken architecture to a new level of speed, precision and ease. Extensive use of glass and steel, precast concrete and advanced machinery has given a new face to buildings around us. Over the past few years, everything has become so fast-paced and rapid that we did not have a moment to sit back and think, “Is this right? Will this be the architecture of tomorrow? “So the question is, should we stop what we are doing?.... No, we just need to renew our methods of doing so. Architecture is versatile and the new possibilities are limitless. We just need to use creativity in the right direction.

1.3 Sustainable living-learning from the tribes

The roots of eco-friendly and sustainable living can be traced back to the tribal communities living in various pockets of the country. For many of them, nature is the basis of livelihood which is why they value it more than anything else. In a small village in Orissa, there is a group of women who live by collecting leaves from the forest, stitching them to make plates, and selling them to a local trader.

They live in the hope that if they can earn enough money, they will solve the problem of the water crisis in their village. They dwell in mud houses using wood and bamboo for structural integrity. For storage, they use pots buried in the ground for cool temperatures. They harvest their energy requirements themselves through solar and biogas methods.

They take everything from nature and also give it back, which is in contrast to cities where people consume natural resources with no fruitful return. Living amidst fancy technology and unlimited facilities, we are unable to identify the worth of the issue.

On the other hand, the self-dependent living pattern of the tribes naturally triggers a minimalistic and zero-waste approach. Every inch of nature is valuable to them, hence they use resources wisely and don't take them for granted.

Their simple approach to life can be an inspiration for future architecture and design. Utilizing the bare minimum and producing from remains can be the medium of construction processes.

1.4 People-centric designs and low-cost housing

“It is a shame that there are so many people without anything which can be called architecture. We as architects and professionals, highly trained are doing so little to meet this1.4 1.4 very great need. It is a shame that we allow these figures to increase.”

-Lauri Baker

There is an overall imbalance in the distribution of resources. This imbalance has been created by people and the whole of mankind is suffering from the consequences.

Low-cost housing and people-centric designs have become the need of the hour. Very aptly stated by B.V Doshi, “Social consciousness is an architect's duty.” Architecture is not only about iconic buildings and monuments; it has a much greater meaning.

There are people out there who do not have a roof over their heads, and who are completely exposed to the deadly virus. There are people living in unhygienic and unhealthy environments who are at a greater risk. Living within the safety of our homes, we often forget the struggles of people who don't have them. As architects, we have the privilege of helping them. We have the ability to provide everyone with clean living conditions for mental and physical well-being. It is our duty to do so. There are many renowned architects like B.V Doshi, Charles Correa, and Lauri Baker to name a few who have taken initiatives in this direction. They have taken the idea of low-cost housing and people-centric designs to an altogether new platform. It is not an alien concept; we just need to build upon these existing principles and ideologies.

1.5 Sustainability and minimalism

Many years ago famous architect Mies Van der Rohe coined the phrase "Less is more". This phrase has more relevance now than it had back then. Earlier it was a style of design, a typology of architecture...today it has become a necessity. Sustainability and minimalistic designs are slowly coming up and green buildings are gradually entering the skyline in many cities. But the problem that we face today is way larger than the efforts that are being put together. The situation is demanding a great change and a few steps will not be enough to make it possible. Everyone will have to take part.

1.6 Effect on the country

The effects of architecture on the country are much more than we realize or expect. Our honorable Prime Minister has taken up the goal of self-dependency and the self-sufficient use of resources and products. This concept when overlapped with architecture, produces sustainable buildings and green living spaces.

If these concepts are carried forward and put into practice, the construction industry will use less. Minimalism with respect to consumption and design will directly impact the environment and this indirectly will impact the nation.

The demands will decrease, pollution will drop, dependency on other countries will decrease and we will have more space among ourselves. The landscapes will become greener and living conditions healthier.

1.7 Effect on the people

This change will undoubtedly affect the nation on a large scale, but when viewed on an individual basis, it will also have a huge impact on the people. Proper sanitation and hygienic dwellings will ensure the health and physical well-being of people. The spread of infections and diseases will reduce and the surroundings will become cleaner.

When we are close to nature, we come closer to reality. The incorporation of green in buildings will also ensure mental peace which is equally important as physical health. When we are in direct or indirect contact with nature, we develop a virtual connection with mother earth which keeps us calm and grounded in our behavior.

With each new change and each new initiative, we gain the courage to face the unpredictable. The challenges are preparing and training mankind for a "new normal".

Conclusion

At large the conclusion here comes as Our Role. The future architecture of our country post-corona will discover a new side. Social distancing will demand an increased requirement of space in buildings and a more elaborate area program. The use of buffer zones in between functional spaces will be maximized to ensure isolation.

But these demands and requirements will have to be fulfilled in a manner that does not exploit nature. New developments will take place, but we have to ensure that they are in harmony with the environment. This is where our duty as architects comes into the picture.

Our designs will modify the conceptions of people and shape the nation in a unique manner. It is our duty to spread awareness regarding the same. We can start individually, but eventually, we will have to unite. If we come together with a common goal, we can create a new perspective of architecture, a new image for people, and a "new normal" which respects nature and respects mankind.

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