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9TH ISOLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DELHI 2014

Speaker Profiles

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mr Ashok Vajpeyi

Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi is a Hindi poet, essayist, literary-cultural critic, apart from being a noted cultural and arts administrator, and a former civil servant. He was the Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi, India's National Academy of Arts, Ministry of Culture, Government of India from 2008 to 2011. He has published over 23 books of poetry, criticism and art, and was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award, India's National Academy of Letters, in 1994 for his poetry collection, Kahin Nahin Wahin. He has also published works on literary and art criticism.

He is widely recognized as an outstanding promoter of culture and an innovative institution-builder. Over the years he has worked tirelessly to enhance the mutual awareness and interaction between Indian and foreign cultures. His poetry has been translated into Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Urdu, Rajasthani, English, Polish and French.

He has also been decorated by the President of Republic of Poland with the outstanding national award 'The Officer's Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland' and the French Govt. by the award of 'Officier De L'Ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres'.

In his poetry his main preoccupation has been to explore themes such as love, home, nature, arts and mortality. As a critic, he has underlined the abiding value of literature in its intellectual toughness, moral responsibility and self-questioning, upholding the view that literature offers 'the other reality, the other republic of imagination'.

Mr. Vajpeyi set up the renowned multi-arts centre Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal; has been the first Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University (set up by Govt. of India); and was Director General of the National Museum, New Delhi, the Vice-Chairman National Museum of Man, Bhopal. Until recently he was the Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. He has been the writer in-residence at Jamia Millia Islamia University and a fellow of the K K Birla Foundation.

He is also visiting Professor in Goa and Jawaharlal Nehru Universities.

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KEY NOTE ADDRESS

Mr Feisal Alkazi

Celebrated theatre director Mr. Feisal Alkazi has been capturing the country's imagination with his colourful, honest, obstinately desi brand of theatre for the past 35 years. After majoring in Social Science, he continued work as a social worker, founding NGOs like Ankur and Sanjeevani (where he worked as a counsellor) to address current social concerns. His theatre has been influenced by this social consciousness and his plays always raise questions relevant to our times. The plays raise issues that the audience is forced to think upon, even after they have left the auditorium.

Mr. Alkazi is also the author of some immensely popular children's books like *The Danger Within: An Activity Book on Occupational Health Hazard*, *Naina's Village*, *The Raindrop*, *Chilka Lake Adventure*, and more. His book "*Rang Biranga Rangmanch*" published by the National Book Trust has sold 30,000 copies.

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SESSION I: REGION

Dr Vandana Shiva

Dr. Vandana Shiva is a physicist, philosopher, environmental activist and anti- globalization author and a Social Justice Activist.

Trained as a physicist with a PhD in philosophy from the University of Western Ontario, Canada (1978), she shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore. In 1982, she left Bangalore to set up a participatory, public interest research organization called Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy in her home town of Dehra Dun, in the foothills of the Himalaya.

She founded Navdanya (“nine seeds”) – a women-centred movement to protect biological and cultural diversity – in India in 1987. She has since become a leading proponent of community food security, organic farming, seed-saving, and women’s involvement in agriculture.

Dr. Shiva is one of the leaders and board members of the International Forum on Globalization and the alter-globalization movement. Her record has been that of the totally committed, very productive and effective activist-advocate-intellectual. As an activist she has co-ordinated, supported and learned from grassroots networks on a wide range of issues across India. As an advocate, especially in international fora, she has proved one of the most articulate spokespersons of counter-development in favour of people-centric, participatory processes. As an intellectual she has produced a stream of important books and articles, which have done much both to address and form the agenda of development debate and action.

Dr. Vandana Shiva is a recipient of several awards for her work in human rights, ecology and conservation including Order of the Golden Ark, Global 500 Award of the UN, Earth Day International Award, the Lennon Ono Grant for Peace and the Sydney Peace Prize 2010. Time Magazine identified Dr. Shiva as an "environmental hero" in 2003, and Asia Week has called her one of the five most powerful communicators of Asia.

Dr. Shiva currently based in Delhi, has authored more than 20 books.

Prof Amita Baviskar

Dr. Amita Baviskar is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. Her research focuses on the cultural politics of environment and development. Her first book *In the Belly of the River: Tribal Conflicts over Development in the Narmada Valley* discussed the struggle for survival by Adivasis in central India against the construction of a large dam. Her subsequent work further explores the themes of resource rights, subaltern resistance and cultural identity. More recently, she has focused on urban environmental politics, especially bourgeois environmentalism and spatial restructuring in the context of economic liberalization in Delhi. Her latest research examines changing food practices in western India in relation to the transformation of agrarian environments.

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Dr. Baviskar has edited *Waterlines: The Penguin Book of River Writings*, *Waterscapes: The Cultural Politics of a Natural Resource*, *Contested Grounds: Essays on Nature, Culture and Power* and *Elite and Everyman: The Cultural Politics of the Indian Middle Classes*. She has taught at the University of Delhi, and has been a visiting scholar at Stanford, Cornell, Yale, SciencesPo and the University of California at Berkeley. She was awarded the 2005 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies, the 2008 VKRV Rao Prize for Social Science Research, and the 2010 Infosys Prize for Social Sciences. She studied Sociology and Economics at the University of Delhi and received her PhD from Cornell University in 1992.

In her talk, Dr Baviskar will discuss how ecological and social limits to capital exist, and occasionally prevail, in liberalized India, drawing on her work on the Yamuna in Delhi and on the Vedanta mining project in the Niyamgiri hills in Orissa.

Dr Bret Wallach

Dr. Bret Wallach is a distinguished American cultural geographer and professor at the University of Oklahoma. He graduated from University of California, Berkeley with an A.B. in 1964, M.A. in 1966, and Ph.D. in 1968. He taught at the University of Victoria, Pennsylvania State University, University of California, Riverside, and University of Maine at Fort Kent.

A MacArthur Fellow, he has authored three books: *Understanding the Cultural Landscape*, *Losing Asia: Modernization and the Culture of Development* and *At Odds with Progress: Americans and Conservation*.

His work began with an interest in the descriptive economic geography of the rural United States, an interest that evolved into a focus on the impact of federal policy on the American landscape. Over the last 30 years, however, his interests have spread overseas, primarily to Asia but also to Europe and Africa. One result of this overseas work was his book 'Losing Asia'. The book focused on India and the development of irrigation, agricultural research, and integrated village development during the British raj and early years of independence, but its theme was the aesthetic toll taken by the European rationalism underlying rural development in the traditional world. Wallach continues to explore the diffusion of European ideas.

He has been a grantee of the American Council of Learned Societies, ALO/USAID, and the Graham Foundation. He has also held an Indo-American Advanced Research Fellowship, a Gilbert F. White Fellowship, and two Fulbright scholarships.

Dr Wallach will talk about how the world made for money, is the visible face of a modern economy, and it has largely replaced the more traditional world, whose cultural landscapes we might say were mostly made *with* money. Are we then destined to live in a world almost entirely made for money?

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Prof. Samir Mathur (Moderator)

Prof. Samir Mathur, graduated from the Masters program for Landscape Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA after earning his Bachelor in Architecture from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. His landscape design practice 'Integral Designs' has been involved in a variety of projects ranging from Sustainable City Master Plans, Landscape Heritage precincts and a wide spectrum of projects.

He is also associated with academics, teaching at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. Landscape related research is an intrinsic part of the studio. He has presented research papers at various International and National venues. His work on landscape and master planning of cities was presented as a paper on 'Greenways in India' at the Fabos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning at Amherst, USA last year.

Prof. Samir Mathur is a panel member at the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) constituted by the Ministry of Urban Development. He is an International member of the American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA) and is an Executive Committee member at the Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA), Delhi Chapter.

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SESSION II: CITY

Dr Narayani Gupta

Dr. Narayani Gupta is a consultant with INTACH, after she retired as professor of history at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She is the author of *Delhi Between Two Empires*, co-editor of an annotated edition of Percival Spear's *Delhi: Its History and Its Monuments*, co-author of *Delhi Then and Now* and *Beato's Delhi*, and advisor for *Delhi: The Built Heritage: A Listing*. A founder-member of the Conservation Society of Delhi, she was a member of the Delhi Urban Art Commission and is a member of the Indian Council of Historical Research.

Dr. Neera Adarkar

Dr. Neera Adarkar is a practicing architect, an urban researcher and an activist based in Mumbai. B.Arch from Mumbai University, she completed post-graduation from IIT, Mumbai. She has been recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the urbanism department of KU Leuven, Belgium.

She is at present running a joint practice under Adarkar Associates, a firm engaged in architecture, planning, conservation and urban research. Dr. Adarkar's work emerges from deep concern of social, urban and gender issues. She has been a visiting faculty in Academy of architecture, Mumbai over the last three decades. She is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, IIT Bombay, 2013 and is a member of the Government appointed Committee of Experts for Dharavi Redevelopment. She has co authored with Meena Menon '*One Hundred Years One Hundred Voices: Oral History of Millworkers of Girangaon*': which presents testimonies from residents of Mumbai's mill districts. Dr. Neera Adarkar edited an anthology : '*The Chawls of Mumbai: Galleries of Life*' (2011), in the hope to preserve the histories of the spaces the working class created, lived and protested within the unique housing typology.

Closely linked with the issue of Textile mill lands and the mill workers' Union in the city of Mumbai, she was one of the conveners the Mumbai Peoples' Action Committee, a coalition of citizens' groups. She is one of the founder members of the Women Architects Forum which in the early nineties revisited the architectural discipline and the built environment at large with a gender perspective. Dr. Adarkar has contributed articles in many publications and has delivered lectures at universities and conferences in Mumbai, Delhi, New York, Chicago, Berkeley, Cornell, Leuven, Columbia.

Mr Shyam Khandekar

Mr Shyam Khandekar was the founding partner and Chairman of BDP.Khandekar in the Netherlands. He was also the first Chairman of BDP in India till 2012. Since 2013 he heads his design practice ICONS/NL which works in India and the Netherlands.

Shyam Khandekar has degrees in Architecture (IIT.Kharagpur), Urban Design (University of Manchester,England), and Urban Planning (Technical University of Delft,Netherlands), and was recipient of the Government of Netherlands' International Fellowship in 1973. He was also

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awarded the Fritz Schumacher Travelling Fellowship by the University Of Hannover, Germany, in 1978.

Mr Khandekar has nearly four decades of multi- disciplinary professional experience in different parts of the world, including design projects in the Netherlands, Belgium, England, the Middle East and India. He has written and lectured extensively on his design practice and principles at many international conferences and universities (including at MIT in Cambridge USA; Oxford in the UK, SPAs in Delhi and Bhopal and IIT in India; and Delft, Eindhoven and Amsterdam in the Netherlands).

He has been responsible for many of BDP.Khandekar's benchmark designs including the large scale urban redevelopment project of Paleisquare in s'Hertogenbosch; the award-winning residential Monnikenhuis in Arnhem, and the internationally acclaimed Nirlon Knowledge Park in Mumbai.

In order to contribute to a better understanding of making our cities more liveable, Mr Khandekar has also recently founded a magazine called MY LIVEABLE CITY, which is seen on display next to the LA Journal table.

Mr. Minesh Parikh (Moderator)

Mr. Minesh Parikh is the current honorary Chairperson of ISOLA, Delhi chapter. He studied architecture and landscape architecture at SPA, Delhi. He worked with Prof. Ravindra Bhan before joining Masters Programme in Landscape Architecture. While at Prof. Bhan's studio he was involved with the designing of Shakti Sthal and HUDCO Place Housing. Later, while working with Mr. Satish Khanna, he led the design teams which dealt with New Tehri Town project & a bouquet of Oberoi properties.

Mr. Minesh Parikh co-founded NMP Design with Nandita Parikh in 1994. This firm has successfully completed large scale and interesting projects in diverse locations across India and challenging sites in Kabul & Kathmandu. Prominent projects like The Laburnum , The Ivy & Uniworld City in Gurgaon ; Jay Pee University in Solan ; Infospace in Noida; ITC Golf course in Gurgaon, Shantigram Golf course at Ahmedabad and Kabul Serena Hotel at Kabul carry the hallmark of his design sensibilities, meticulous detailing and professional commitment to the field of landscape architecture.

Mr. Minesh Parikh has sustained a collaborative partnership with an accomplished American landscape architect, M. Paul Friedberg for over 15 years now. This collaboration ensures that the working of NMP Design conforms to the best international practices in the industry.

For over a decade Mr. Parikh has been engaged in academics as a visiting faculty at the Department of Landscape Architecture at SPA, Delhi, guiding the students thru research, documentation and design exercises. He is an avid traveller & a voracious reader.

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SESSION III: PLACE

Prof Jan Woudstra

Prof. Woudstra has been teaching landscape architecture and history at the University of Sheffield since 1995. He studied landscape design, horticulture and conservation at Frederiksoord, Netherlands, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and at the University of York. He worked as a landscape architect and historian with Travers Morgan in London, contributing to some of the largest conservation schemes of the time, including the restoration of Chiswick House Grounds and the reconstruction of the Privy Garden at Hampton Court Palace. The last-named project was completed by his practice Environmental Design Associates in 1995. He was also Honorary Editor of Garden History from 1998 to 2005.

Prof. Woudstra completed his PhD entitled 'Landscape for Living: Landscape theory and design of the Modern Movement' in 1997 at the Department of Geography at University College London.

He will talk about 'the notion of landscape and how this evolved into the pursuit of the genius of the place'. His talk establishes the need for place, and reviews some examples of landscape architects who in their career have taken special care in highlighting specific character. These examples not only consider physical character; archaeology, landform, plants, built features, aspect and situation, but also the more phenomenological aspects, including history, which reflect human concerns and endeavor in the fundamental relationship between man and place. It highlights the increasing relevance of place in a globalized world subject to climate change.

Mr Sanjay Bhattacharya

Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharya graduated from the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata. After a stint in the advertising world in Kolkata he moved to Delhi where he worked as freelance designer. A successful exhibition of his water colours in Delhi made him change direction towards the art world. He has painted in oil, water colour, and acrylic; and has in recent past indulged in sketches. He is best known for his water colours and oil works.

Mr. Bhattacharya has participated in many national and international shows and collaborated with artists, musicians, theatre personalities for many of these. His work has found a place in many noteworthy public and private collections in India and overseas. These include the World Bank and Parliament House in Delhi. One of our most successful painters, he has held solo shows at major art centres in the country including the Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai. He has been the recipient of the AIFACS Award and the Sahitya Kala Parishad Annual Exhibition Award. In 1988, his works were also featured in the Biennale in Ankara

Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharya's paintings are absolutely realistic, photographic in their recording of detail and mesmeric in effect. The paintings often focus on middle-class homes and areas of Calcutta with exquisite detail and nuances of light and shade. They hint of the drama which revolves around people's lives. His landscape paintings also show a similar treatment.

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Prof. Mohammad Shaheer

ISOLA Medal 2012 recipient Professor Mohammad Shaheer studied architecture and urban design at the SPA, Delhi from 1965 to 1972, and then landscape architecture under a Ford Foundation fellowship at Sheffield, England. After a two year stint in Northern Ireland, he returned to Delhi in 1976. He was on the faculty at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi from 1976 to 2003, as Professor and later Head of the Department of Landscape Architecture, a role in which he is widely respected as a dedicated and thoughtful teacher who has guided and taught an entire generation of landscape architects.

Prof. Shaheer has been practicing landscape architecture for over three decades, and his firm Shaheer Associates has successfully participated in the landscape design of large public open space and heritage projects in Delhi, Lucknow and Kabul, apart from many private commissions throughout India. His work includes significant projects such as the Memorial to Rajiv Gandhi at Sriperumbudur, Mr O.P. Jain's Sanskriti Kala Kendra, New Delhi, environmental improvements to the historic gardens of the Humayun's Tomb precinct in Delhi as well as the rehabilitation of Bagh-e-Babur, Kabul – both of these for the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

He is deeply interested in writing on landscape and related topics. He has served on national level government committees concerned with environment, conservation and city planning, and was a Member of the Delhi Urban Art Commission from 2005 to 2011. He is currently engaged in integrating heritage, ecology and public recreational use in a design proposal for New Delhi's historic Sunder Nursery.

His project Sanskriti Kala Kendra in New Delhi received the ISOLA Landmark Award 2012, and in 2014 he received the Hudco Award (First prize) in the Landscape category for the design of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Park at Lucknow (2006).

Mr. Pankaj Vir Gupta

A member of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Pankaj Vir Gupta is a licensed architect in the United States, and a registered member of the Council of Architects in Indian. He received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Virginia, and a Master of Architecture from Yale University.

Mr. Gupta is a partner at Vir Mueller Architects. He has lectured, and taught at several universities including the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, the University of Texas in Austin (McDermott Visiting Professor in Architecture), Arizona State University, and the University of New Mexico. He is a founder of Reading India, a study-abroad program for architecture students, exploring the architecture of ancient India and contemporary India. He is co-author of CITYNOTES - a monthly column devoted to urban issues published in Mint.

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Jayant Dharap (Moderator)

A landscape architect and sculptor with over 26 years of experience, Mr. Jayant Dharap is the founder and principal of 'Forethought Design Consultants' based in Pune, India.

He started his career working with the eminent landscape architecture firm Shaheer Associates in Delhi. In his current capacity, Mr. Dharap has worked on residential, commercial and environmental projects. His pre-occupation with cartooning, doodling and sketching during his college days developed into a keen interest in sculpting. He likes to work in metal and enjoys doing environmental sculptures.

Mr. Dharap has won many awards for his professional work including the JIIA Award for Landscape Design (The Meadows Resort, Aurangabad), the AESA Beharay Rathi Award (Clover Hills Club House, Pune) and the AESA Industrial Category Award (Bilcare Research Center, Pune).

He is a gold medalist in the Master of Landscape Architecture programme at the School of Planning and Architecture (New Delhi)

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SESSION IV: PERSPECTIVES

Mr Abhay Wadhwa

Trained as an architect, Mr. Abhay Wadhwa discovered his true calling of lighting design working backstage at a part-time theater gig while studying at the JJ College of Architecture in Mumbai. He pursued a Master's of Science Degree in Lighting from the Lighting Research Centre (LRC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), NY where he remains an adjunct professor since 2003. For the following Six years, Mr. Wadhwa worked at several Boston and Manhattan lighting design firms, collaborating on high-profile projects such as the illumination of the George Washington Bridge and other landmarks.

He founded AWA Lighting Designers in 2002 in SoHo area of New York City, NY. Today it is an international design firm with 25 professionals working across four offices operating in New York, South Asia, and the Middle East. They work internationally on a wide range of projects, including those that address issues that marginalize a large proportion of the world's population. Mr. Wadhwa is committed to taking a "poetic" approach to lighting even on large-scale projects, one that enhances significant points of focus and reveals subtle architectural details and rhythms. His focus remains on both high design content and green/sustainable systems. His recent projects include the Dubai Sixth Crossing Bridge (world's longest single-arch span bridge), Singapore Mission in NY, Cyber Hub in Gurgaon, and the World Trade Center in Bangalore.

Mr Wadhwa's talk will examine the variations in lighting concepts that respond to the local culture and climate. A given culture's position in the global economic development cycle is often reflected in its use of lighting in urban, night environments. In this world that becomes flatter by the day, one could find similar looking buildings in Song Do, Saigon, Salalah and Shanghai. However, striking a balance between regional differences of culture and climate, and globalization is often a challenge.

Mr Kishore Pradhan

Mr. Kishore Pradhan acquired his degree in 'Bachelor of Architecture' in 1966 and worked with Architectural firms in Mumbai until the year 1969.

In June 1969 he was awarded French Government Scholarship to pursue higher studies. Mr. Pradhan lived in Paris from 1969 to 1972 while studying Landscape Architecture at Versailles. The firm Kishore D. Pradhan, Architectural and Landscape Consultant, was established in year 1972 after Mr. Pradhan returned to India from France after successfully obtaining the Diploma in Landscape Architecture and has since associated with various prestigious clients in India, with an impressive and exhaustive list of projects to the firm's credit.

"All throughout his career Mr. Pradhan has followed an uncompromising professional attitude. He believes that when in competition with people with flexible values, you may suffer momentarily. However, in the long run it is beneficial as people consider you trustworthy and dependable. To be gifted with good design ability is perhaps a matter of luck but a good professional behaviour is definitely in one's control.

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In a professional field, trust and respect by the clients and ultimately by the society are your valuable assets which cannot be handed out but are to be earned with one's own behaviour."

Mr Nimish Patel

Mr. Nimish Patel studied at MIT, Boston, with a specialization in Urban Settlement Design in Developing Countries, and also has a Diploma in Architecture from CEPT, Ahmedabad. He established Abhikram, meaning initiation in Sanskrit, an Architecture, Interiors, Conservation, and Planning consultancy firm in 1979 with Parul Zaveri. He has spent the 33 years of design practice in pursuit of responsible architecture focusing on the conservation of resources and conservation of our built and cultural heritage. Abhikram has won design awards for work on educational, residential and public buildings, as well as for conservation work. Their project to restore the Chanwar Palkhiwalon-ki-Haveli was recognized as an Excellent project in the 2000 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards.

Mr. Patel is a core team member of the Whole School Development Plan carried out by Ministry of Human Resource Development and a Member of the Panel of Sustainability, Bureau of Indian Standards for the upcoming National Building Code. He is a Member of the INTBAU India Committee of Honour (IICoH), the IICoH Representative on Board of INTBAU India, and on the Editorial Board of StonEdge.

He has officiated as Member of the Jury for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Awards 2001 to 2004 & 2007 to 2009 & 2012 at Bangkok. He has lectured widely, nationally and internationally, has been a visiting faculty at CEPT for Architecture, Urban Design & Planning, and has also taught at the Masters of Built Environmental Programme at UTS, Sydney, Australia.

Mrs. Savita Punde (Moderator)

Mrs. Punde is the co-founder of Design Cell and the principal designer for landscape design and site planning projects. She has been practicing landscape architecture for over twenty five years with great expertise in master planning and design for myriad landscapes at different scales. Mrs. Punde completed her Architectural studies at Academy of Architecture Mumbai and then pursued her Master in Landscape Architecture from School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi. She is currently visiting faculty at the Department of Landscape Architecture SPA, New Delhi. She is also a member of evaluation panel for TERI GRIHA - a non-profit agency evaluating green buildings.

She has served as President of ISOLA from 2008 to 2010 and is a very active member of both national ISOLA as well as the Delhi Chapter.

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PANEL MODERATOR

Mr Jagan Shah

Mr. Jagan Shah is an architect, historian and urbanist with a sustained involvement in training new generations of architects, urban designers and conservationists. He studied architecture and architectural history and theory at the School of Planning & Architecture, the University of Cincinnati, and Columbia University in New York.

He has served as Director of the Sushant School of Architecture in Gurgaon and taught at the School of Planning & Architecture from 1998 to 2007. From 2007 to 2010, he was Chief Executive of Urban Space Consultants, providing consultancy in policy formulation, spatial planning, heritage conservation, transportation and livelihoods development.

Mr. Shah is the author of Contemporary Indian Architecture 2008, co-author of Building Beyond Borders 1995, and co-editor of Round: a collection of seminal Asian texts on architecture. He is also a founding member of the Modern Asian Architecture Network.

He is currently Director of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi.

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INSTALLATION

Mr Vibhor Sogani

An alumnus of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India, Mr. Vibhor Sogani's experimental and research oriented work may be seen in the design of products, exhibitions, graphic design, and retail design. He started the Office of Design and Development based in Delhi in 1993 where he has worked on diverse and offbeat projects as varied as designing and developing the first Go-Karting tracks in the country and upgrading copper craft in Kashmir for the Government of India to redesigning passenger compartments for Mumbai suburban trains in conjunction with Germany's largest railway manufacturers, De Consult and the Indian railways.

He is however, best known for the 'Sprouts' installation located in the landscaped area between the flyovers at AIIMS crossing in New Delhi. An initiative of the Delhi Government, it is India's largest Public Urban Art project and an iconic Delhi sculpture. The bud-like shape of the 40 feet high, 100 feet wide sculpture signifies growth, progress, and is a reflection of Delhi as a world city. Though modern in its form, Sprouts is in harmony with the greens surrounding it, and fills onlookers with positive energy.

For ISOLA 2014 Conference Mr. Sogani will showcase landscape-driven installations inspired from nature from the same series.

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CULTURAL

Guru Shovana Narayan (Padmashri)

A retired civil services officer, Guru Shovana Narayan is India's most celebrated Kathak Guru, a maestro widely acknowledged for blazing new trails for the dance-form. She has spearheaded and staged several collaborative works with nationally and internationally renowned dancers and musicians and has been the creative director-choreographer of several international events.

Ms. Narayan is a painstaking teacher and acclaimed thinker, author and researcher as well. She has authored 12 books and numerous articles on dance. She is also a visiting lecturer at several universities in India and abroad.

Ms. Narayan has been conferred with numerous awards, outstanding among which are the Padmashri Award for excellence and outstanding contribution in 1992; the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1999-2000; the Delhi Government's Parishad Samman; the Bihar Gaurav Award; the OISCA award in Japan and the CNN IBN Guru-Shishya Award.