

SUMMER  
2019

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VIJAY DHASMANA WITH THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE MANGARBANI FOREST WALK, OCTOBER 2018

EVENTS  
ACTIVISM  
LEARNINGS  
INITIATIVES  
COLLABORATIONS  
CONVERSATIONS  
OUTREACH  
WALKS  
ACADEMICS



# landscape matters

ISOLA DELHI CHAPTER | NEWSLETTER

With the sun blazing across the Northern plains and the days becoming long and languorous, ISOLA DC is stoked to launch the first Quarterly Edition of 'Landscape Matters' this summer: bringing to you, a round-up of the whirlwind year that has been for our Chapter. A lot happened these past twelve months – from supporting a citizens' movement for saving trees, holding seminars and talks, exploring forest and to attending conferences – it has indeed been a very busy year!

## ACTIVISM SAVE OUR TREES

### ADDRESSING TREE CUTTING

JUNE 2018

In June-July 2018, the issue of tremendous concern before us was of the **felling of over 14,000 fully grown trees for a proposed redevelopment project in South Delhi**. A Chapter meeting was called by the ISOLA President Sujata Kohli to deliberate on the alarming issue of a proposal to fell a large number of mature trees for the proposed redevelopment of seven GPRA [General Pool Residential Accommodation] colonies – Sarojini Nagar, Netaji Nagar, Nauroji Nagar, Kasturba Nagar, Thyagraj Nagar, Srinivaspuri and Mohammadpur - through NBCC and CPWD.

It was decided that ISOLA should take a united stand to support the spontaneous citizens' movements. As a body, ISOLA can strengthen the cause by providing technical information on issues pertaining to ecology, environmental design, urban design, and ecological planning that need to be addressed to create cities that are sustainable and resilient.

## PARTICIPATION BIOPHILIC CITY, SMART NATION AND FUTURE RESILIENCE IFLA WORLD CONGRESS SINGAPORE

JULY 2018



Organised by the **International Federation of Landscape Architects [IFLA]** and **Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects [SILA]**, the 55th IFLA World Congress was held in Singapore – the 'city in a garden', on 18-21 July 2018. The conference brought the industry together to reflect on the interaction between urban and natural environments. A series of keynote sessions with eminent speakers were followed by panel discussions

in the context of greening strategies within rapidly growing cities. It addressed emerging questions in the practice of landscape architecture through the themes of **Biophilic City, Smart Nation and Future Resilience**.

ISOLA's participation in the conference comprised of around a dozen members from different ISOLA Chapters with the largest contingent from the Delhi Chapter.







PANELISTS AT THE DUAC SECOND ROUNDTABLE

PROFESSOR BALDEV LAMBA WITH THE ATTENDEES AT HIS LECTURE IN SPA

## PARTICIPATION PUBLIC ART POLICY, GUIDELINES AND MASTER PLAN OF DELHI 2ND ROUNDTABLE

6TH DECEMBER 2018

In order to promote public art in the city of Delhi and to encourage it in the public realm as well as private domain of public use buildings, **Delhi Urban Art Commission [DUAC]** conducted a seminar on public art guidelines for Delhi. For a discussion on the guidelines, it organized its second Roundtable. Hardeep S Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State [IC] for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH & UA) was the Chief Guest.

Organised by ISOLA and DUAC member Samir Mathur, the Roundtable included presentations on guidelines formulated by the Commission on various city aspects were also made. Presentations on the works the Commission has done so far were also made, debating various issues in an effort to arrive at a common consensus.

## OUTREACH CONVERSATIONS STARTING DIALOGUES

JANUARY 2019



With a view to increase participation and interaction the Delhi Chapter has initiated a series titled **Conversations**. The aim is to start a **dialogue between members as well as student members to discuss how to make the organization more relevant to the profession and to address the expectations and aspirations of our community.**

These are meant to be conducted as 'Roundtables' to encourage free-ranging exchange of ideas to better understand our concerns and challenges to stay relevant and at the top in a rapidly transforming world. The first one in the series was held in January in School of Planning & Architecture [SPA], New Delhi. Young as well as senior participants brought up ideas and raised matters that will be refined further in the continued Conversations. Greater participation in citizens' issues, studio interactions between faculty and students, and need for an official Newsletter are some of the areas which the Chapter is already looking into.

## LECTURE ENGENDERING AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO THE TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

6TH MARCH 2019

SOLA DC Chapter organised a special lecture by **Professor Baldev Lamba** in collaboration with the Department of Landscape Architecture, SPA Delhi. An SPA Alumnus, Professor Lamba is based in the USA and has a diverse experience in architecture, landscape architecture, and education. He outlined the priorities and approaches for incorporating ecological principles in the teaching of landscape design and planning. He articulated the need for changes in the education and practice of landscape architecture as also in allied fields of physical planning and design.

The special lecture was well attended by around fifty students, teachers, and ISOLA members.

## WALK MANGARBANI FOREST ARAVALI FOOTHILLS

27TH OCTOBER 2018

SOLA's Walk Series continued with a walk led by environmentalist **Vijay Dhasmana** to **Delhi-NCR's last sacred grove—and now a threatened habitat—the Mangarbani Forest** in the Aravali foothills of the Southern Ridge. The walk witnessed enthusiastic participation as a motley group of citizens joined ISOLA members in a walk that had everyone climbing down check dams and walking up historic dirt-tracks. The thirty participants included people from different walks of life — architects and landscape architects, photographers, designers and artists as well as students.

More walks are being planned in the coming months.





| MADHUP MAZUMDER IN DISCUSSION WITH THE PANELISTS AT 'LIGHT | SPACE | DESIGN'



| PANEL DISCUSSION ON CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

## LEARNING LIGHTSCAPE DESIGN ONE-O-ONE

27TH AUGUST 2018

As the first event of its **Extended Learning Series**, ISOLA Delhi Chapter organised a technical presentation on designing with light in the landscape. It was curated by well-known lighting designers **Vinayak Diwan** and **Harmeet Singh Issar**, who took the audience through some of the basics of creating a meaningful experience in outdoor spaces using lighting. Vinayak, Principal and Founder-Member of *Lightbook*, a boutique design studio, discussed the various approaches to lighting design. He used the example of a residential project to explain how a lighting designer builds a custom-experience for the client while retaining the design objectives set by the architect.

Harmeet, an electronics engineer by training and Founder-Partner & Design Director at *Design Matrix*, elaborated further the role of a lighting designer and how a professional approach to lighting design can make design relevant and safer for users. He touched upon the critical aspect of light pollution in our cities and noted that removing unnecessary light spillage is as important as highlighting elements of design.

Madhup Mazumder, ex-Secretary, Delhi Chapter, moderated the panel discussion. Vinayak and Harmeet along with Akash from *LSI* had plenty of questions from the audience to field and points to elaborate upon. Evidently, it's a topic we all see the need to learn more about.

## EVENT CULTURAL LANDSCAPES SACRED LANDSCAPES OF INDIA

8TH DECEMBER 2018

Organised at INTACH, the session was preceded with a Chapter meeting for Delhi ISOLA members.

Cultural Landscape of a region is described as an 'intellectual landscape' – a landscape that consists of a collection of spiritual, cultural, and corporeal meanings ascribed to its geographical components through collective memory rooted in the place and shaping the ground in real world and real time. Such landscapes are always in active engagement with communities over generations, empowering and transforming nature and land, from physical to the metaphysical. These landscapes are then perceived as sacred.

The presentations in the event included **Ghats on the Ganga in Varanasi: A Sustainable Design Approach** [Prof. Amita Sinha], **Water and Sacred Landscapes in Ellora-Khuldabad-Daulatabad** [Dr. Yaaminye Mubayi], **Kanzhendzonga Associative Tibetan Buddhism Landscape [World Heritage Site]** and **Ajmer: Dargah and Cityscape, Pushkar: Brahma Temple and Sarovar** [Dr. Shikha Jain] and **Govardhan Parbat**, Studio Work M.L. Arch 2018 [Shubhangi Desai & Baitaliki Sarkar].

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion chaired by eminent conservationist Professor A.G.K. Menon.

## AWARDS



Eminent landscape architect **Satish Khanna** was honoured with the **ISOLA Medal 2017** which is the highest honour that ISOLA bestows upon a landscape architect whose lifetime achievements and contributions to the profession have had a unique and lasting impact on the welfare of the public and the environment. The winner for this category is identified through a process of nomination and jury selection.



In July 2018, Delhi Chapter member **Vina Verghese / VSPB Associates** received the **IFLA 2018 Outstanding Award** for her project **Eco-Restoration of Wazirabad Bundh** in the Social and Community Health category. The award was presented at IFLA World Congress in Singapore. She was also awarded the **General Design Award of Excellence, ISOLA Award 2018** at the Kochi National ISOLA Conference in February 2019 for the same project.



Delhi Chapter member **Kavita Jain** received a **Commendation in ISOLA Unbuilt Design Award 2018** category for her project **Riverfront Promenade, Kochi** at the Kochi National ISOLA Conference.



**Sujata Hingorani**, another Delhi Chapter member, was awarded the **WRI Connect Karo Award** for her project **Street Up-gradation of JM Road, Pune**. Connect Karo is part of a global series of events that WRI India organizes and hosts, to bring together leaders and policy makers committed towards designing inclusive, sustainable and equitable Indian cities.







| THE PRESENTORS AND ISOLA DELHI CHAPTER TEAM AT 'LEARNINGS | UNLEARNINGS' | ISOLA PRESIDENT SUJATA KOHLI AND ISOLA DC HONORARY CHAIRPERSON JASLEEN WARAICH ADDRESS THE GATHERING

## EVENT LEARNINGS | UNLEARNINGS

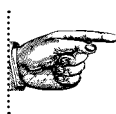
30TH MARCH 2019

ISOLA Delhi Chapter wrapped up the 2018-19 year on 30th March 2019 with the event 'Learnings | Unlearnings', where ten landscape architects from our city reflected upon their discoveries, inspirations and the mistakes that have informed their design processes. **Knowing what didn't work is often as powerful a learning as understanding what did.** The fast-paced presentations in a 'pecha kucha' format packed a punch. How does one re-examine the design of Islamic-styled landscape gardens in a campus when one looks at them through the lens of the Persian gardens of Iran? Can we learn from the movement of water on land as it leaves ridges and furrows in the soft earth, creating lines that ignite our imagination? This was an event that made us think about these and more.

## ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

30TH MARCH 2019

The Annual General Body Meeting for ISOLA Delhi Chapter was held along with the 'Learnings | Unlearnings' event. It was chaired by DC Chairperson Jasleen Waraich. DC Secretary Chhitiz Gupta, read out the Chapter Report. Jasleen, on behalf of the Management Committee, expressed her gratitude to all, especially the younger members. ISOLA President Sujata Kohli called for greater interaction within the Chapter members as well as student members by trying different formats of meetings including initiating round-table conversations and welcomed suggestions, comments, and recommendations to further improve participation and increase membership.



**Five verticals** have been launched by the Committee for better engagement with members:



**Communication & Outreach**

[Newsletter, Facebook, Instagram]



**Education & Membership**



**Events & Technicals**



**Walks**



**Advocacy**



**ISOLA DELHI CHAPTER  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Jasleen Waraich, *Honorary Chairperson*

Chhitiz Gupta, *Honorary Secretary*

Vina Verghese, *Honorary Treasurer*

Anita Tikoo, *Member*

Madhup Mazumder, *Member*

Sunny Aggarwal, *Member*

Fabeha Fatima, *Member*

Amit Bhattacharya, *Member*

**Join ISOLA Delhi Chapter in its initiatives and activities.** Members are requested to reach out to us with the verticals they wish to be engaged in by sending a request to our email: [isoladelhichapter@gmail.com](mailto:isoladelhichapter@gmail.com)

In the forthcoming months, do look forward to the quarterly issues of **"Landscape Matters"** – ISOLA Delhi Chapter initiative.

*The Delhi Chapter of ISOLA encompasses the Northern States of India. The purpose and passion of the Chapter is to work for the advancement of the landscape profession as an instrument of service in the public welfare through various means; advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. The Chapter holds events throughout the year that provide education and networking opportunities between members and also with allied professionals; offering every member an opportunity to participate and engage with the activities of the Chapter.*

*Year of Establishment 2010  
Number of Members: 164  
Current Term: 2018 to 2020  
Next Election: March 2020*

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