



Newsletter

SONA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOL.7

Feb 10, 2022



CALL FOR REGISTRATION **SONA MEMBERSHIP**

*All eligible candidates can register for SONA membership

Online: <http://sona.org.np/register> or

Email: all documents and Receipt fee Nrs. 2000 at sona2047@gmail.com

*All Fresh Graduates are eligible for SONA Membership
with subsidized membership fee of Nrs. 1000.

SONA
society of nepalese architects

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President's Message

December has been rather a quiet month for SONA after the hectic October and follow ups of November. In spite of this a talk program on Applied Psychology on Architecture on an online platform was possible. Ar Karel Smejkal from Czechoslovakia was the key presenter. A rather interesting hour and a half program was very well moderated by young architect Subhi. 14th Executive committee of SONA would like to extend HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022 wishes to each one of our fellow architect members, the students and all other fellow professionals in other similar professional societies, both here and abroad.

The number of members in SONA has increased many folds, and activities multiplied too. Although on major events volunteers were pooled in, to help; but with the increased work pressure on a single office staff, more office support is obviously required. We are planning for another two. The combination will be full time and part time.

The above is also necessary because we must plan for the International Convention 2022 of SONA in end of October, on our next establishment day celebrations. The whole world has been somehow fighting through the bitterness of the COVID pandemic. We were no different. Although we participated in or hosted events: most of them were on virtual or hybrid platforms.

There is therefore yet, a lot of work to be done and time is short. We have welcomed the appointment of Ar. Padma Mainalee as the new head of the DUDBC and with this we look forward that our relations with the government will be strengthened, and opportunities to work together will be available. Ar. Jeeta our EC Member will be preparing for possibilities of collaborations.

In January, 5th I had a chance to visit Pokhara chapter of SONA, where I met the chapter Chair Ar. Baburam Baral and thereafter the faculty at the Pokhara Engineering College at Phirke in Pokhara, viz. Prof. Ar. Rojana Joshi Principal, Ar. Pradyumna Adhikari the HOD and other 6 full time and part

time teachers in architecture. I also made a quick visit of the department and spoke to a few students as well. I have assured them of SONA's support in both professional and teaching platforms and was very keen to see this chapter becoming active.

On January 10th I was invited to attend to the Meeting of the UIA Region IV (Asia and the Oceanic region), where we have: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, DPR Korea, Republic of Korea, Macao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, presently. The Institutes/Associations in the respective countries are members, here. The meeting had the presence and deliberations by the UIAs: President José Luis Cortés, Secretary General Tan Pei Ing, Vice President Region IV Ishtiaque Zahir Titas, the Council Members of the Region, including our own IPP Anju (as Council Member) and Presidents of Member Institutes/Associations. Discussions mainly focused on

- Increasing membership
- The areas/themes in
 - o Culture & Heritage
 - o Affordable Housing
 - o Climate & Environment

•LOGO COMPETITION: 2022 YEAR OF DESIGN FOR HEALTH

In July 2021, the UIA General Assembly declared 2022 the "UIA Year of Design for Health". This commitment urges all UIA Member Sections to encourage architects and their clients to use evidence-based design to promote health in buildings and cities. The winning logo above is to be used for the branding and promotion of the UIA's year-long activities.

•Under the slogan 'AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTIVATION: REMOVING BARRIERS' Architects to promote the global debate on access to adequate decent housing at the UIA's International Forum in Madrid 2022. The International Union of Architects (UIA), Higher Council of Architects' Associations of Spain(CSCAE) and the Official College of Architects of Madrid (COAM), together with the collabora-



tion of UN-Habitat and the support of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, the Autonomous Community of Madrid and the City Council, are organizing the UIA International Forum Affordable Housing Activation: Removing Barriers (AHA Madrid 2022). This starts in January, with the objective to promote a collaborative and innovative framework that will mobilize international stakeholders with parallel events and will conclude with the Forum in Madrid, 18-20 May 2022. IPP SONA and Council Member Ar. Anju mentioned that she is also working on this.

• COPENHAGEN 2023 Sustainable Futures - Leave No One Behind The Congress, between 2nd -6th July 2023, in Copenhagen Sweden; invites architects and professionals from the building and planning communities to meet in Copenhagen to back the UN 17 Sustainable Goals, to innovate and discover sustainable solutions and to enable a leap forward towards accomplishing the goals by 2030.

• Presentations by Member Countries Institutes/Associations mainly presented on their activities

o The Union of Mongolian Architects (UMA) again extended invitation for the ARCASIA Forum and 42nd Council Meeting proposed for 4th - 9th September 2022 at Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Here, I would like to urge our mem-

bers to visit the UIA website: <https://www.uia-architectes.org> and the AR-CASIA website: <http://www.arcasia.org>; for any news/information and any upcoming events/competitions. Our own IPP Ar. Anju Malla Pradhan

as the Council Member will be a good source. Similarly you may catch up with the newly appointed Commission Members (2) and Working Program Members (11), from SONA, to the UIA fraternity. Finally again, the new vari-

ant Omicron is rapidly threatening us. Take Care and Stay Safe.

Ar. Rajesh Thapa
President
14th Executive Committee
Society Of Nepalese Architects (SONA)

Webinar on "Applied Psychology of Architecture"

On Dec 23, 2021 Society Of Nepalese Architects (SONA) organized a webinar on topic "Applied Psychology of Architecture". Ar. Karel Smejkal was the speaker for the session and Ar. Shubhi goyal moderated the event. Many architects participated the event through zoom. The event was also broadcasted live on official facebook page of SONA.

Karel Smejkal is an architect, writer, scientist and university teacher. Former Vice-Chairman of the Czech Architects Association (2017-19), Eastern Europe Director of the American Institute of Architects Continental Europe chapter (2022), head of the research team and founder of applied psychology of architecture at the Czech Technical University in Prague and co-founder and President of INSPIRELI AWARDS, the world's largest student architecture competition.

The webinar started with welcome speech by general secretary of SONA Ar. Apil KC where he welcomed the guest speaker and also briefed the topic for the session. After the short introduction of speaker by Ar. Shubhi Goyal, Ar. Smejkal started the presentation where he discussed about definition of the psychology of architecture, music and architecture, responsibility and architecture, personality of architects, the artistic value of architecture etc. At the end of the presentation Ar. Smejkal also talked about his book on Applied Psychology of Architecture.

The program was followed by short

question answer session. Official partner of SONA, Asianpaints also gave 10 minutes presentation on their product bathsense.

President of SONA Ar. Rajesh thapa concluded the webinar and ended the program with closing remarks.

SOCIETY OF NEPALESE ARCHITECTS
PRESENTS
SONA WEBINAR SERIES
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY OF ARCHITECTURE

Self-knowledge, Communication, Responsibility
BIG PICTURE

DATE 5:00 PM ONWARDS
DEC 23, 2021

JOIN ZOOM ID: 859 345 008 29

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AR. KAREL SMEJKAL, PH.D
INTERNATIONAL ASSOC. AIA
FOUNDER OF
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY ARCHITECTURE

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Ar. Binod Neupane is one of the pioneers of Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) and the profession of architecture in Nepal. Having played multiple roles throughout his career, Neupane stands as the guardian of the architecture fraternity and SONA itself.

Neupane completed his architecture degree from Belarusian Polytechnic University, Russia. Having enrolled into the course in pursuit of getting a 'technical' degree, Neupane was mesmerized when he realized that architecture is more than just 'technical'. He spent 6 years in Russia, working long hours in the studio and frolicking around the Black Sea or playing with snow during vacations. His stay in Europe helped him develop an understanding that architecture is a form of self-expression and therefore, an art form. He admired the way in which traditional and modern architecture come together, exist independently as a whole and complement each other in Europe, and he wished to apply the learning in the context of Nepal.

Neupane returned to Nepal during

the 1990s People's Movement. Fresh out of college, he wanted to make a difference and make development reach all parts of the country. Neupane joined the Town Development Fund as an architect/engineer in 1990 and retired as the Director of the Project Management and Technical Assistance Department (PMTA) in 2016. Neupane worked with municipalities across the country to create self-sufficient, financially viable and site-specific design solutions for various infrastructure projects. Neupane observed the working methods of international stakeholders involved in the project only to realize that architecture is a 'collaborative process'. Great architecture is not borne solely out of creative impulses, but also from sustained teamwork of architects, interior designers, landscape designers, engineers, contractors, draftsmen, investors and specialist suppliers. To implement this understanding into practice, outsourcing and collaboration was initiated in the Town Development Fund. Neupane believes handing over a part of the project to a third party specialized company not only prevents you from last minute

hassle but also gives you more time to focus on important details of the project while enjoying it. With the development of new technological sharing platforms, new opportunities have arisen for collaboration and he suggests all budding architects should make the most out of it.

Following his retirement in 2016, Neupane has been involved in the design, development and monitoring of various projects as the Team Leader. He continues to be involved in academics by teaching and working with the younger generation. What is your opinion of the younger generation's understanding of architecture? Neupane excitedly begins "...I am incredibly impressed by the younger generation today who are enthusiastic about architecture and willing to make a difference", but suddenly he pauses, thinks for a while and says with a sigh that students today try to incorporate technology to address the issue per say and focus on developing fancy 3D-visualizations and walk-throughs. He feels 'art' from 'architecture' is missing in their works.

(Based on interview with Ar. Binod Neupane by Ar. Shubhi Goyal)

Neupane laments the condition of architectural profession in Nepal. He says that the idea that shaped much of his early years- "Architecture: A form of Self-expression" has reduced to mere words used to sell designs and woo clients. The architectural expression and memory of Malla towns of Kathmandu Valley developed a specific understanding of the city for the onlookers. Art was expressed in its most abstract form. However, the present day dilapidated condition of Kathmandu Valley gives us a stark picture of how as architects, we have not been able to take a stand for our ethics and failed the profession as a

group. He believes SONA has grown to become a strong community, and we should collectively make efforts, educate common people and clients, acquire the support of the government and raise our voices against unethical architectural practices.

Neupane is of the view that being an architect is an interesting and creative career. But it doesn't come without its challenges. What Neupane has come to realize is that one of the major obstacles that most architecture students and architects bump into is time management- there is a lot to do all the time. It means wearing a lot

of different hats: you are part creative, manager, administrator, building permit expert and construction manager. While you may love architecture, the excessive burn out can have a drastic effect on your mental and physical health. Neupane suggests you should invest '1 hour' every day on yourself and indulge in self-care activities like exercising, reading, writing and even dancing for that matter. The positive outcomes of this approach are quite evident- one can look at him and say nothing but, "60 and Fabulous!"

Reconnecting Our Community | ARCASIA Student Jamboree 2021 Was Held Successfully

From October 29 to November 1, 2021, the series of activities for the 19th Asian Congress of Architects (ACA19) were held one after another after long-term preparation. Among them, ARCASIA Student Jamboree 2021 was the first to be held online on October 29. It attracted more than 100 students and mentors from the 15 member association of architects of ARCASIA.

As a traditional fixed part of the ACA,

the Student Jamboree tried the new form of online organization and interaction this year. It included two parts, namely thematic workshops and lectures by architects. It was convened by Li Yanbo, the convener of the Student Jamboree for the ACA19, a member of the Architectural Society of China (ASC) and associate professor from the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University. He set the theme "Reconnecting Our Community" for the workshop according to the

modern characteristics of cities and villages and the global situation under the impacts of the pandemic in recent years. The assignment was sent to the participating delegations one week in advance for preliminary preparation. As for the session of lectures by architects, leading architects and scholars in architecture were invited to give speeches and answer questions from the audiences. The activities for this year's student jamboree lasted three days

ARCASIA Student Jamboree 2021

Reconnecting Our Community

October 29th to 31st, 2021

The contemporary world is facing the common challenge that segregates us into atomic individuals. When people can't meet physically, digital and virtual technology is not strong enough to recover the gap caused by the isolation. Based on this theme, the brainstorming workshop of this Student Jamboree encourages students to open their minds and contribute solution(s) to enhance the ties among people and vitalize the interaction in the community, which performs like a therapy, curing the loneliness and igniting hope.

For more details, please go to: www.aca19shanghai.com

第19届亚洲建筑师大会
19th Asian Congress of Architects
Sharing & Regeneration
SHANGHAI 2021

Schedule

2021/10/29 Friday (UTC+8)
 Moderator: Ar. Li Yanbo
 12:45-13:15 Inauguration
 Address by Ar. Rita Soh
 Address by Ar. Wu Jiang
 Address by Ar. Li Zhenyu
 13:15-14:15 Lecture by Ar. Chris Hardie
 14:15-16:00 Workshop: groupwork of each team
 16:00-17:00 Lecture by Ar. Vinayak Bharne

2021/10/30 Saturday (UTC+8)
 Moderator: Ar. Zhou Minghao
 13:00-14:00 Lecture by Ar. James Wei Ke
 14:00-15:30 Workshop: groupwork of each team
 15:30-16:30 Lecture by Ar. Puay-peng Ho

2021/10/31 Sunday (UTC+8)
 Moderator: Ar. Wang Yiming
 13:00-13:40 Final Review and Poster Show
 13:40-13:50 Short Break
 13:50-14:30 Final Review and Poster Show
 14:30-14:40 Short Break
 14:40-15:20 Final Review and Poster Show
 15:20-15:35 Closing
 Address by Ar. Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat
 Address by Ar. Li Yanbo

Convenor: **Li Yanbo**
Associate Professor, The College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University
Director, PRC-India Community Promotion Center

Moderators: **Zhou Minghao**
Associate Professor, The College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University
Associate Director of Architecture Museum East China Normal University **Wang Yiming**
Associate Professor, The College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University
Associate Director of Architecture Museum East China Normal University

Opening Speakers: **Rita Soh**
President of ARCASIA
Managing Director
RSC Architecture Pte Ltd (Singapore) **Wu Jiang**
Associate Professor
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Director, The College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University **Li Zhenyu**
Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
Director of the Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University

Closing Speaker: **Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat**
Chairman of ICAAP

Lecture Speakers: **Chris Hardie**
Principal, Chris Hardie Architects
Chairman, National Council Architects
National Council of Architects, The City Centre Trust
National Council of Architects, The World Heritage Centre of Singapore, SG **Vinayak Bharne**
Principal, Bharne Architects
Chairman, National Council of Architects
National Council of Architects, The City Centre Trust
National Council of Architects, The World Heritage Centre of Singapore, SG
Architectural:
From High Art to High Activism **James Wei Ke**
Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
Architect
Architect
Time: Reshaping Space **Puay-peng Ho**
Principal, Ho Architects
Chairman, National Council of Architects
National Council of Architects, The City Centre Trust
National Council of Architects, The World Heritage Centre of Singapore, SG
To-ambler:
On Architecture of Relationships

ARCASIA
ARABIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
ASIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
CANADIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
CHINESE ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
EUROPEAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
INDIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
INDONESIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
JAPANESE ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
KOREAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
MALAYSIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
NEW ZEALAND ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
PAKISTANI ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
RUSSIAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
SINGAPORE ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
TAIWANESE ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
THAI ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
UNITED STATES ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
VIETNAMESE ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION
YUKON ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION

<https://www.arcasia.org/events/student-jamboree>

The UIA Year Of Design For Health Is Launched

The International Union of Architects has designated 2022 as the Year of Design for Health.

This initiative was launched on 4 February 2022 during a virtual round-table organised with the support of

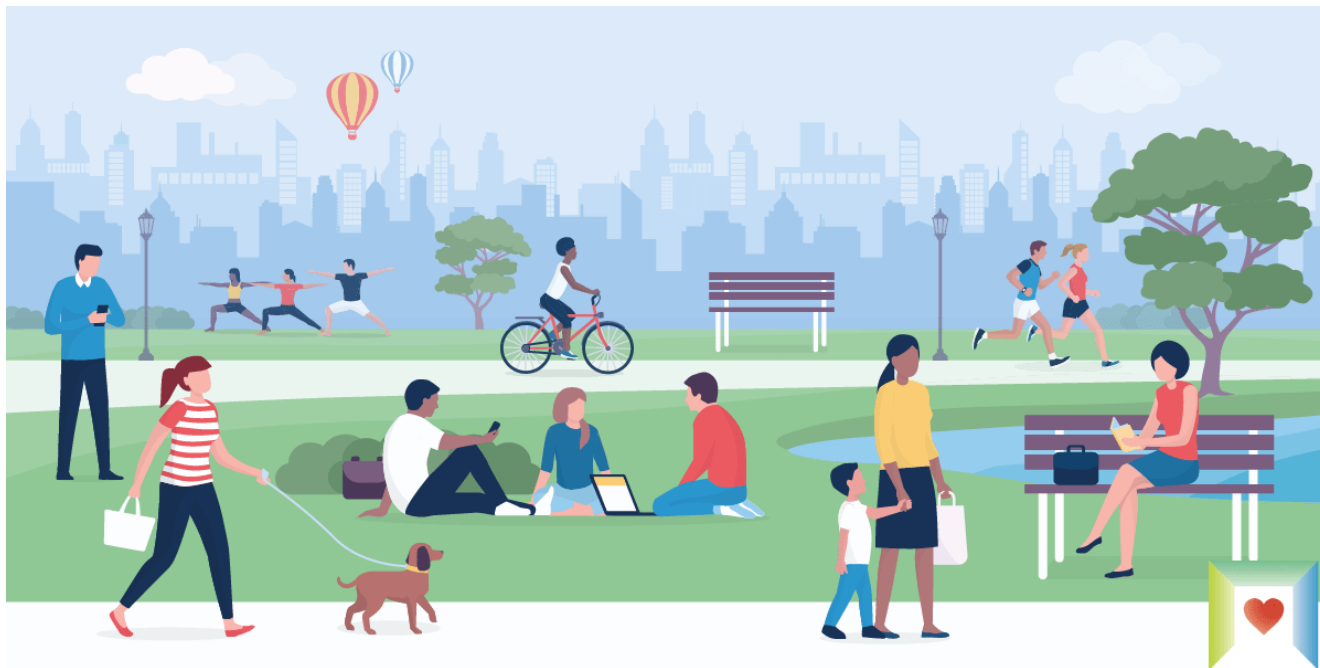
the World Health Organization.

Partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO)

The UIA partnered with the WHO to promote the Sourcebook "Integrating health in urban and territorial planning".

Developed in collaboration with UN Habitat, it is designed to guide decision makers towards developing cities planned and built with a focus on human and environmental health,

showing how an integrated approach to health can influence decisions on sectors such as housing, transport, energy, and water and sanitation.



<https://www.uia-architectes.org/en/news/the-uia-year-of-design-for-health-is-launched/>

Call for SONA Membership Registration

Society of Nepalese Architects requests all fresh Architecture graduates and all eligible candidates to register for SONA membership.

Fresh Graduates are eligible for SONA membership with subsidized fee.

The membership can be applied online at official website of SONA " <https://sona.org.np/>."

The form for the registration will also be available at SONA office, Chinatown complex, Sundhara.

SONA also would like to inform that all

If you have any suggestions or want to publish any contents please email to us.



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