



Newsletter

SONA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOL.3

Sept 10, 2021

SONA

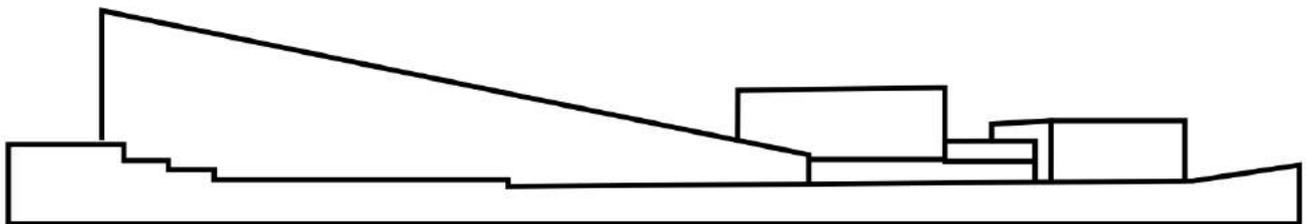
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2021

October 30-31,
Kathmandu



The Architectural Response to Global Challenges

Sustainable Development Goal Post-COVID19 Pandemic



www.convention2021.sona.org.np

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President's Message

The establishment day of SONA is just a couple of months away. We are trying to gear ourselves with some very important events to mark the 31st Anniversary, this year. The 14th EC with my able team has come forward to make things happen here. SONA had never celebrated the event maybe due to many non-intentional reasons. But we together with the consent of the Council of Presidents of SONA; it has been proposed to have this SONA Day celebrated as a regular event, each year on 14th Kartik.

The SONA Day falls on 31st October this year, and we have a series of events to mark the occasion. These are listed as:

•A two day (30th/31st) International Conference. We have sent invitation to all our friends / fraternity associates in ARCASIA & UIA, and will be continually following up. The event will be primarily online or at best hybrid.

•SONA Architectural Award. This is being initiated to recognize the work of Architects through contributions in many building projects/complexes since the establishment of SONA. These are for 2 categories of building units/complexes of <1000sqm OR >1000sqm. I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Sudarshan Tiwari for taking the lead, here.

SONA Award For Architecture 2021

In order to honor and recognize the achievement of architectural excellence in practice and in keeping with its noble objective of further developing and supporting the profession of architecture in Nepal, the 14th Executive Committee (2021-2023) of the Society of Nepalese Architects - SONA - is pleased to announce the institution of the SONA AWARD for architectural excellence. The SONA AWARD hopes to be a hallmark beginning of a new era of recognition and celebration of architecture in Nepal.

The key objective of this award is to recognize the excellence and quality achieved in a built architectural project in terms of architecture's defining principles and dimensions of human

•SONA Design Competition 2021. Under our Social Responsibility we have decided to float invitation for design competition "Children's Center for Differently-abled". I would like to thank Ar. Arun Dev Pant for taking the lead, here.

Awards night will be held on 31st October and will be made with physical participatory attendance and online too.

Again to initiate the celebration activity we have also along with the Ministry of Science & Technology have established an essay competition on "Science in Architecture". This is entirely for students in architecture and holds a prize money as well.

Various sub-committees have been organizing webinars nearly every week. I thank the sub-committees in having such confidence with students to have them anchoring the events. This is how we build leadership qualities.

ARCASIA and a number Institutes therein: PAM/IAP/IAB etc. have been organizing some important zoom webinars, too. There topics are very meaningful and interesting to draw larger audience. This is something we may take up, in the near future. The UIA also had a meeting of Zone 4,

purpose, aesthetics, and technology; story-telling, innovation, and imagination; services, energy, and ecology and/or contribution to localism, regionalism or globalism as the case may be.

SONA, through this very notification, is calling for appropriate nominations of eligible building and architecture projects for the SONA AWARDS - for Architecture 2021.

The SONA AWARD will be awarded annually and presented as a key event in the SONA ANNUAL DAY celebrations. All buildings built in the territory of Nepal after 1990 (SONA Establishment Year) and before the end of 2021 are eligible for nomination.



recently; where we also spoke about our plans/programs. As advised by the UIA Secretary General we shall be soon sending recommendations for commissions and working programs.

Dear colleagues and fellow architects, the lockdown in Nepal has been lifted and we may feel relieved and happy to be able to move around. Yet we must be very careful as the virus is still very much around and can take a wild turn. Thus, Take Care and Stay Safe.

Ar. Rajesh Thapa

President
14th Executive Committee

SONA AWARDS for ARCHITECTURE 2021

October 30-31, Kathmandu

CALL FOR NOMINATION
Submit your built project

Submission Deadline
October 15, 2021
awards@sona.org.np

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Category A: A building with total built up area less than 1000 sq. M.

Category B: A building with total built-up area more than 1000 sq. M.

SONA International Convention

"Architectural Response to Global Challenges"

October 30-31, Nepal.

The world is changing fast and unexpectedly. The new global challenges of today are complex than of yesterday and challenges of tomorrow are waiting with unprecedented actions. The recent pandemic has taught a global lesson and our priorities and societal edifices have changed a lot. Challenges of pandemics are coupled with impacts of disasters as landslide, flooding, and earthquakes. Being stuck inside a house for almost 2 years has given us more time to re-think our habitat and surroundings. In this background, architecture as the most dynamic and responsive entity of art and creativity holds the pinnacle of responsibility and inevitability to the changing global scenarios.

The visible impact of climate change, social inequality, depleting resources on the economic and social structures of society is imminent. It is in this unparalleled scenario, architecture as a responsible practice is becoming more relevant than ever. From temporary shelters to isolation blocks, physical distancing in covid to integrated housings for addressing global poverty, architecture as a creative art addresses many global problems.

The recent publication by UIA "An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustain-

able Development Goals" in reflection to the responsibility of architects to address the global challenges, explores the abundance of already existing architectural solutions and guidance for new architecture, for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through the historical timeline of Architecture as an evolutionary art in reflection to the social, economic, and environmental responsibility, architects have proved their relevance through their creativity and ingenuity. Historical evolution of architecture practice has justified the response of the architecture of that period to its contextual challenges.

The Vitruvian tripod description of architecture as utility, strength, and beauty was challenged by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc and later followed by the modern philosophy of "form follows function". The priorities of architecture response have changed over the evolution of society in its environmental and economical context.

Be it the austere approach of modern architecture after the 1940s or socially conscious approach after the 1970s or climate-responsive architecture in the 21st century, architecture has evolved

through the challenges. Even during the pandemic period, architecture in its most minimal form has evolved in interior spaces, acoustic isolations, or even creating a WFH (work from home) environment at residential spaces.

In the longer run, such impressions shall be reflected in architecture normally.

It is in this perspective; SONA intends to put the theme of "Architectural Response to Global Challenges", to take the discourse of architecture practice, research, and academics as a reflection to global challenges like pandemics, climate change, disasters, and social inequality. As they say- "Only creativity can save the world", the role of social leadership through the architecture practice is the utmost need of today.

The conference aims to take the lead through the discourse of architecture in its global context beyond general practice. The critical review of present-day architecture in its reference to past and point of departure shall be the axis of the conference. The themes of the conference under this wide topic are open for interpretation and shall comprehend the wider discourse of architecture practice and theory.

SONA Design Competition

The Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) is pleased to announce a social initiative in the form of an architectural design competition that will help in the establishment of a center for differently-abled children as envisioned by the Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal (SCINN). This facility will be the first of its kind in Nepal and will provide an enabling environment for the children to live, learn and play with dignity and help create an environment to allow them to fully explore their potentials. This competition will be based on the SONA design competition guidelines that have been developed to ensure the free and fair participation of its members. It is hoped that all institutions, governmental or otherwise, will follow this standard for procurement of works through design competitions. SCINN has appreciated the fact SONA is taking the initiative to organize the competition and have expressed their interest in awarding the design work directly to the winner or in conjunction with a winner nominated design office with sufficient experience in the field if and when funds are generated for the project.



SONA
DESIGN
COMPETITION
2021

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Children's Center for the Differently-Abled
Spinal Cord Injury Network Nepal (SCINN)
Gokarneshwor Municipality-4, Jagadai, Kathmandu.

Submission Deadline
October 15, 2021
competition2021@sona.org.np



Webinar on "Future of Cities : Possibilities of Sustainability"



SOCIETY OF NEPALESE ARCHITECTS
PRESENTS

SONA WEBINAR SERIES

FUTURE OF CITIES: POSSIBILITIES OF SUSTAINABILITY

DATE: 16:00 ONWARDS
AUG 20, 2021

JOIN: ZOOM ID:
890 2175 1127

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t /SONA2047
i /SOCIETYOFNEPALESEARCHITECTS

SPEAKER



DR. ZEBUN NASREEN AHMED
PROFESSOR AT BUET, DHAKA
BANGLADESH

MODERATOR



AR. PRAPOOJA KC
ARCHITECT/ HERITAGE ENTHUSIAST

On 20th August 2021, SONA committee on Green and sustainable architecture organized a webinar titled "Future of Cities: Possibilities of Sustainability" with Architect-Professor Dr. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed as the speaker for the session. The session was viewed on zoom as well as live-telecasted on the official page of SONA.

Architect-Professor Dr. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed has been teaching at the Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, in Dhaka, since 1988, from where she got her B.Arch. degree. She completed her M.Phil. in 1987 from Sheffield City Polytechnic, UK, and her PhD in 1994 from De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. Her area of specialization for both these degrees was on aspects of building-climate interactions, particularly focusing on the thermal and luminous environments. She has numerous publications in reputed journals and proceedings around the World, and has presented her work in several countries. Dr. Ahmed is a core member of the Green Architecture Cell at the Department of Architecture, BUET, and also teaches in post graduate architecture program. She is currently chairing the Green Architecture and Sustainability Committee of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh. She has made contributions in ten books and was one of the authors of the revised Ban-

ladesh National Building Code, that has recently been adopted as code for all building activities in Bangladesh, by the Government. As an Architect, Dr. Ahmed is also involved in the practice of Architecture in Bangladesh and has designed several residential and commercial buildings. She was also the Lead Architect for the National Liberation War Memorial at Mujibnagar, Bangladesh commemorating the site of the first swearing in of the Government of Bangladesh.

The webinar "Future of Cities: Possibilities of Sustainability" revolved around the idea of way forward for any cities mainly discussing about what should be the form and nature of cities of the future. Interesting topics like cities Vs environmental issues, climate change, changed lifestyle, problems caused by urbanisation were discussed during the webinar. Similarly, the session also included brief statistics about exponential urbanization along with changed paradigms in smart cities involving IoT - Internet of Things - Core technology of Smart City.

IoT involves an AI integrated system to solving and managing problems from a different radical perspective. The changed paradigm in smart cities include intelligent, interconnected cities that uses technology to improve the life of citizen. The webinar also focussed on certain problems like: Sustainability issues (urban ag-

riculture, clean energy etc), housing problems, IoT needs, Crime management, traffic management, changed population structure, collaboration between stakeholders, that needs to be addressed to before achieving a sustainable city.

The session also discussed about urban influx where the good news of exponential urban growth was highlighted. The positive side being: living standard/styles of a poverty stricken populace is not usually high, they already belong to a culture of recycling and maintaining horizontal balance with the nature among others. The presentation ended on a note that "New and Advanced technology" can help the journey towards sustainability that involves environmental and policy change as the challenges of development.

The later part of session, involved a question answer session, where discussion was mostly based on whether IT or technology should be given the upper hand in our livelihood or not. The speaker delivered her thought as it should only be a medium of upliftment of the society but should not be considered as a factor for doing so. Lastly, the session ended with an appreciation speech by the chair of Green and sustainable architecture committee, Dr. Sanjay Upreti.

Webinar on "The Cultural Heritage of Himalaya: in Tsum and Nubri, Manaslu Conservation Area, Gorkha, Nepal"

On 13th August 2021, SONA sub-committee on architecture education organized a webinar series by **Ar. Sonam Lama** on the title "Cultural Heritage of Himalaya: in Tsum and Nubri, Manaslu Conservation Area, Gorkha Nepal".

Ar. Sonam Lama is an architect and urban planner with an interest in sustainable and resilient communities. He is also a recipient of Hubert H. Humphrey fellowship from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA. A native of Tsum valley, he is the founder and director of Tsum Nubri from 2015-2020, a non-profit organization which worked in architectural planning, designing, overall supervision on reconstruction of earthquake resistant two schools and three health posts in Tsum and Nubri, Gorkha District. He has a wide range of national and international work experiences and is also involved in research, documentation and advocacy of cultural heritage in the Himalayas and settlement planning of newly emerging towns.

The session started with a welcome note by Ar. Sunita Subedi, vice-president of 14th executive committee of SONA. Ar. Sonam Lama started his presentation with a background of his research area followed by the methodology he adopted to document the cultural heritage of Tsum and Nubri listed in Manaslu conservation area. During his presentation, he explained different typologies of heritage that reflects the area's cultural richness.



The poster is for a webinar series presented by the Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA). It features the SONA logo at the top, which includes the text 'SOCIETY OF NEPALESE ARCHITECTS' and 'SONA 2047'. Below the logo, the text reads 'SOCIETY OF NEPALESE ARCHITECTS PRESENTS SONA WEBINAR SERIES'. The main title of the webinar is 'THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HIMALAYA: IN TSUM AND NUBRI, MANASLU CONSERVATION AREA, GORKHA, NEPAL'. Two speakers are listed: Ar. Sonam Lama, an architect and urban planner who was a Humphrey Fellow at MIT from 2020-21, and Rishna Thapa, an architecture student at Khwopa Engineering College. The poster also provides social media handles for SONA (Facebook: /SOCIETYOFNEPALESEARCHITECTS, Instagram: /SONA2047, and Twitter: /SOCIETYOFNEPALESEARCHITECTS), the date and time (5:00 ONWARDS AUG 13, 2021), and a Zoom ID (899 8767 1388).

He also raised concerns regarding the highway construction in the name of development will ruin the valleys authenticity and traditional way of life. Further, he highlighted that through this research, the benefit was better understanding of cultural heritage of Himalayan region and increasing awareness among policy makers, media and community people which was useful during the reconstruction aftermath of 2015 earthquake.

Presentation was followed by question and answer session in which attendees actively participated resulting in fruitful discussion. The session ended with the comment and conclusory remarks by Ar. Rajesh Thapa, President of SONA. The webinar was moderated by Rishna Thapa, an architecture student from Khwopa Engineering College.



Manaslu Conservation Area (pic : www.nepalvisitors.com)

Profile on Ar. Matsyendra Lal Kayastha

Architecture is to create art for people's use and a basic necessity.

- Ar. ML Kayastha



Ar. Matsyendra Lal Kayastha, was the third SONA president back in 1995-1997. He is the chairman and co-founded "Mr. & Mrs. M.L. Kayastha & Associates Pvt. Ltd." with his wife, Architect Mrs. Chandralekha Kayastha, the First Lady Architect of Nepal. The duo got married while studying architecture from Baroda and set out to establish the private practicing architecture firm in 1976, which stands today to be an introductory firm to define architecture practise in Nepal.

For the last four decades, the firm has been working full time with Experienced and Qualified Architects, Engineers, Designers, and Technical Manpower, Equipment, and Office Facilities. The firm has been dedicated to the development of Nepal through Architectural and Engineering Services. Over the years, the firm has had numerous opportunities to work with various Departments of the Government of Nepal, Tribhuvan and Mahendra Sanskrit Universities, USAID, UNDP, The World Bank and Asian Development Bank, NABIL Bank, British Embassy, Kathmandu-Metropolitan City Office, Corporations,

Paropakar Maternity Hospital, B & B Hospital, NGOs, INGOs and other private agencies, after being selected through pre-qualification of consultants, technical proposals and design competitions.

His journey to being an architect started with a scholarship opportunity, "I was asked to name the famous architect behind Chandigarh's planning, I promised them to be like him though I had no idea who he was" he laughs and explains how he got into the University.

Architecture is to create art for people's use and a basic necessity. Following the principle of Vitruvius, "Utility strength and beauty" Mr. Kayastha and the team has been able to design more than 100 buildings. To practice Architecture one must be willing to learn lifelong. Every new project comes with new challenges and the time demands it's identity hence you need to be innovative. Co ordination is required, no matter how good the design is we need support of other technical fields like civil engineer electrical engineer.

He smiles, "I am more than happy to be an architect and to be able to have good income with it as a pioneer of contemporary architecture here in Nepal. Strolling around the Kathmandu valley makes me happy as I see the buildings we built. It's more than satisfying."

Success isn't defined by hard work solely. Luck and opportunity is to be acknowledged and grabbed at the right time alongside knowledge and creative sense. Having said this, Mr. Kayastha expresses his gratefulness to his lovely wife who elegantly handles and leads the firm till today while claims himself to be lesser involved in architecture as of now.

SONA was formed with a purpose, to introduce architecture and to bring together architects. He strongly suggests we have standard fees for architecture practice and make laws to protect low pay that develops unhealthy practices and work together to expose architecture.

(Based on interview with Ar. Angel Shrestha)

RIBA International Awards for Excellence 2021

Royal Institute of British Architects has announced 16 exceptional projects which have been awarded RIBA International Awards for Excellence 2021.

These projects from 11 countries, ranging from large urban masterplans and infrastructure schemes, cultural centres, hospitals and memorials to private residences, form the longlist for the RIBA International Prize 2021.

(Source: www.architecture.com/awards-and-competitions-landing-page/awards/riba-international-awards)



Alila Yangshuo
by Vector Architects for Landmark Tourist Investment Company



Amorepacific Headquarters
by David Chipperfield Architects Berlin for Amorepacific Corporation



Artists' Retreat at Pittugala
by Palinda Kannangara Architects for J C Rathnayake



The Polygon Gallery
by Patkau Architects for The Polygon Gallery



Msheireb Downtown Doha Masterplan
by Allies and Morrison with Arup and AECOM for Msheireb Properties, a subsidiary of Qatar Foundation



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice
by MASS Design Group for Equal Justice Initiative



James-Simon-Galerie
by David Chipperfield Architects Berlin for Stiftung
Preußischer Kulturbesitz rep. by Bundesamt für Bauwesen u. Raumordnung



Lianzhou Museum of Photography
by O-office Architects/Jianxiang He & Ying Jiang for
LIANZHOU FOTO Office



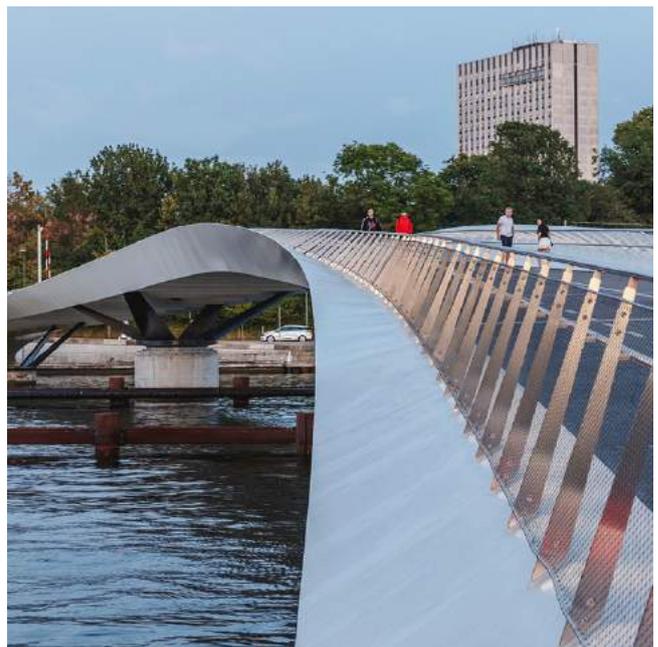
Dongziguan Villagers' Activity Center
by gad for Changkou Town Government in Fuyang District
of Hangzhou



Renovation of the Captain's House
by Vector Architects for private client



Modern Art Museum and its Walkways
by Atelier Deshaus for Shanghai Eastern Bund Investment
(Group) Co. Ltd



Lille Langebro
by WilkinsonEyre with Urban Agency for Realdania Byg
A/S



Expansion of the University Hospital of the Santa Fe de Bogotá Foundation
by El Equipo Mazzanti/Giancarlo Mazzanti for Fundacion Santa Fe de



Kohan Ceram Central Office Building
by Hooba Design Group for Kohan Ceram



Friendship Hospital, Satkhira
by Kashef Chowdhury/URBANA for Friendship NGO



Tai Kwun - The Centre for Heritage and Arts
by Purcell, Herzog & de Meuron and Rocco Design Architects Associates Limited for The Hong Kong Jockey Club

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



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