



## Programme

Venue: "Welcome Heritage Noor-Us-Sabah Palace Hotel",  
VIP Road, Koh-e-fiza, Bhopal

**31 August 2012 Friday**

0845 - 0930	<b>Registration</b>
0930 - 1015	<b>Inauguration and Keynote Address</b> Welcome Address by <b>Convenor, LOC</b> Welcome Address by <b>President ISOLA, Vice-President ISOLA</b> Address by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh Felicitations of Special Invitees Presentation of ISOLA Awards
1015 - 1100	Key Note Address by <b>Prof. Neelkanth Chaaya</b>
1100 - 1130	<b>Tea Break</b>
1130 -1300	<b>Session I : The City in Nature / Nature in city: Past and Present</b> Chair: <b>Prof. James Wescoat</b> Christopher Benninger Yatin Pandya
1300 - 1315	<b>Presentation sponsors</b>
1315 - 1430	<b>Lunch</b>
1430 -1700	<b>Session II: City –People–Water</b> Chair: <b>Ashok Lall</b> James Wescoat Farhad Contractor
1700 - 1730	<b>Tea Break</b>
1730 - 1830	<b>Interactive Session with Executive Council</b>
1930 - 2030	<b>Cultural Programme</b>
2030	<b>Dinner</b>



## 1 September 2012 Saturday

- 0700 - 0830 **Heritage walk**  
(by Prof. Savita Raje)
- 0930 - 1100 **Session III: Sustainable Cities,  
Safeguarding Resources for tomorrow**  
Chair: **Prof. Neelkanth Chaaya**  
Dr. Vikram Soni / Romi Khosla  
Padmashree M.N. Buch
- 1100 - 1130 Tea
- 1130 - 1300 Bimal Patel  
Ashok Lall
- 1300 - 1400 **Lunch**
- Session IV: **Panorama**  
Chair: **M. Shaheer**
- 1400 - 1530 Presentations on Different cities by some landscape architects  
5 - 10 minutes each by 5-6 nos.
- 1530 - 1730 Panel Discussion/ Closing Session  
Speakers, members from authorities
- 1730 - 1830 **Valedictory Function**  
Presentations of Certificates and Mementos by MANIT, Director  
Vote of thanks by Convenor, LOC

## 2 September 2012 Sunday

- 0800 - 1730 Tour to Sanchi, Bhimbetka  
Optional



## **Back ground Note**

### **The Place of Nature in tomorrow's City**

Though the value of natural elements in urban and rural environments, and the economic, social and environmental benefits they provide, is beginning to gain recognition, there is still a widespread lack of awareness of how important these assets are, demonstrated by the frequent failure to plan, design and manage them appropriately. Natural assets are often seen as separate entities — afterthoughts in the discipline of land use planning which gives priority to infrastructure at the expense of the natural environment. This approach fails to recognise the symbiosis between the quality and connectivity of natural assets with local environmental and economic performance. The result is a disconnected series of inadequately-managed natural elements which deliver far fewer public benefits than could be provided.

As we move towards the future, we should strive to replenish and revive nature that has already been lost and degraded in cities by poor planning in the past and begin to consider nature that already exists, in our planned city.

The seminar will focus on the issues and processes of integrating the natural environment into healthy sustainable urban centres from cultural, socio-political, and planning perspectives with examples from our cultural past and present.

The theme could be approached from various perspectives such as, Place of Nature in the Cities, History of City/Nature relations, Nature-Culture, Nature and the City from Ecological, Design, Artistic aspects.



## **BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR SPEAKERS**

**Professor Neelkanth H. Chhaya** is Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad where he was also acting Director for several years. He is widely respected as a distinguished educator, particularly in the areas of Urbanism, Theory and History, and Traditional Indian Architecture. Educated in Nairobi and Ahmedabad, he has been associated with CEPT since 1987.

His architectural practice has included landmark projects such as the Centre for Environment Education at Ahmedabad, noted for its environmentally sensitive site-planning, and the award-winning Udayan complex at Kolkata. His work emphasizes the adaptation of built form to social and physical contexts, especially landform and landscapes.

In the past he has participated as Professor at the Masters Programme for Architects from developing nations at Helsinki.

Professor Chhaya's advice on the subject of planning and architecture, especially of educational campuses, is often sought at the state and national level. Last year he served as a member of the international jury (with Dr. Martin Roth, Director, Victoria & Albert Museum, London and Ms. Roisin Heneghan, Heneghan Peng Architects, Ireland) for the evaluation of designs for the new Bihar Museum in Patna.

**Christopher Benninger** studied urban planning at MIT and architecture at Harvard where he later taught. He settled in India in 1971; as a Ford Foundation Advisor he helped found the School of Planning at Ahmedabad and continues there as a Distinguished Professor. He is a recipient of the Great Master Architect Award in India presented every three years; past recipients include Geoffrey Bawa, Charles Correa and Balkrishna Doshi.

His work addresses the complex issues of design, context, climate, materials, sustainability, and technology, whilst meeting the client's programme of functions. Award winning projects include the Mahindra United World College of India, the Samundra Institute of Maritime Studies, the "Suzlon One Earth" world headquarters, the National Ceremonial Plaza at Thimphu, Bhutan, and his own studio and residence "India House" in Pune. Major recent commissions include: the Azim Premji University at Bengaluru, the Indian Institute of Technology at Hyderabad, and the Indian Institute of Management at Kolkata.



**Dr. Vikram Soni** is a Professor of Physics at the National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi, India. He studied at the University of Delhi and later the University of California, for a doctorate in Physics. Since then he has taught and done research at Sussex University, UK from 1976 to 1978 and the University of Madras till 1983. In 1983 he went to the Institut de Recherche Fondamental at Saclay in Paris, followed by two years at the University of Regensburg in Germany and smaller stints at UC Berkeley. He then worked at the Institut du Physique Nuclaire at the University of Paris in Orsay, before returning to India as Professor at the National Physical Laboratory in 1989.

His work has mainly been in High Energy Physics and Astrophysics, where he has made seminal contributions in the understanding of phenomena ranging from the nucleon to neutron stars and from the matter-antimatter puzzle to evolutionary networks.

His other interest is public interest science that deals with non-invasive and preserve-and-use solutions to contemporary problems, particularly in relation to water resources. In this field his work is published in many scientific and popular journals. He is actively involved with the courts and government in a movement to protect living natural resources. The Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Delhi exists as a result of these efforts. The protection and moratorium on building on the floodplain of the river Yamuna followed from the novel natural water storage scheme proposed by him and co-workers.

**Romi Khosla** is well known for his research and writing on architecture and urbanism, and also for his professional work for more than three decades. Educated at Cambridge University and the Architectural Association London, his architectural commissions include large educational and recreational complexes.

He has served on the Aga Khan Award Jury as well as the Izmir City Revitalisation Competition Jury in Turkey. As a Principal Consultant to UNDP, UNOPS, UNESCO and WTO, he has participated in extensive Urban Planning, Revitalisation and Tourism Planning missions to the Balkans, Cyprus, Central Asia and Tibet. More recently, he has been asked to carry out an appraisal for the Delhi Master Plan 2020 by the Confederation of Indian Industry.



**Dr Mahesh N Buch** was born on 5th October 1934. He graduated in Economics from the Delhi University in 1954 and obtained his Masters Degree in Economics from Cambridge University in 1956. He also spent an year at the Woodrow Wilson School as a Parvin Fellow in 1967-68.

In April 2002 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris causa) by the Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, Bhopal (MP). Mahesh Buch joined the premier civil service of India, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1957 through a competitive examination. Thereafter he held a number of senior posts under the state government in the State of Madhya Pradesh and in the federal government. These include the posts of Collector and District Magistrate of a district, Director, Tribal Welfare, Secretary and Commissioner of the environmental group of departments including Town Country Planning, Housing and Forests, head of the Delhi Development Authority, Director General of the National Institute of Urban Affairs and Vice-Chairman of National Commission on Urbanization. He voluntarily retired from service in October 1984.

Dr Mahesh Buch is Chairman of the National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment at Bhopal, an applied research institution working in the field of settlements planning, forestation, environmental protection, watershed management, consumer protection and skill development. He has won the UNEP award for implementation of desertification control program in 1994-95, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 1998 and the Man of Vision Award instituted by the Hindustan Times in 2003. His main areas of concern are Town Country Planning, Housing, Forestation and Environmental Protection.

**Ashok B. Lall** works in the area of sustainability and energy conservation through research-in-practice over the past two decades. Many of his executed projects and research have been published in professional publications in India and abroad.

Educated at Cambridge University, and at the Architectural Association, London, he believes that architecture should express and enhance the culture of the place where it is practiced.

His firm Ashok B. Lall, Architects has won major architectural competitions and a number of awards for architecture. Three of the firm's projects have been nominated for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The firm's projects have been published in professional journals books to as illustrative examples of low-energy sustainable architecture.



**Dr. Bimal Patel** is a practising architect from Ahmedabad. He has over 20 years of professional consultation, research and teaching experience in urban planning and architecture. He is the Hon. Managing Director of Environmental Planning Collaborative, a not-for-profit professional planning and development Management Company which has been doing pioneering work in developing planning methodologies appropriate to the present Indian context. EPC works with various municipal corporations and urban development authorities in Gujarat.

He is a recipient of the World Architecture Award for the Ahmedabad Management Association building, the Best Practice Award from the United Nations Commission for Human Settlements, the Baburao Mahatre Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement from the Indian Institute of Architects, and the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India.

**Yatin Pandya** is an author, activist, academician, researcher as well as a practising architect, with his firm FOOTPRINTS E.A.R.T.H. A graduate of CEPT University, Ahmedabad he has a Masters degree from McGill University, Montreal. Yatin has been involved with city planning, urban design, Mass housing, architecture, interior design as well as conservation projects. He has written over two hundred articles in National and International Journals. Several books authored by him on architecture, especially "Concepts of space in traditional Indian architecture", and "Elements of space making" have been published internationally. He has also been involved in preparing over 30 video documentaries on Architecture. He has also been visiting faculty at National Institute of design and CEPT University and guest lecturer/critic to various universities in India and abroad. He has served as thesis guide to nearly 125 Graduate, Masters and PhD students and has lectured in fifteen countries and in about hundred fora. Yatin has won nearly twenty five National and International awards.

**Farhad Contractor** works with the NGO Sambhaav in arid regions of North India. Sambhaav coordinates voluntary community labour and provides the know-how for rejuvenating and restoring traditional water-harvesting structures and techniques. He has worked on traditional systems in Rajasthan, with Sambhaav on specific projects.