Conduction of Two Days National Conference titled "URBANEX – Uniting Realms for Building Architectural Nexus" on 27th & 28th March 2024 by KL School of Architecture, KLEF, Vaddeswaram campus – Communication – Reg.

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Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 2:25 PM

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Subject: Conduction of Two Days National Conference titled "URBANEX – Uniting Realms for Building Architectural Nexus" on 27th & 28th March 2024 by KL School of Architecture, KLEF, Vaddeswaram campus – Communication – Reg.

Ref: KLEF/RO/Architecture/Workshop/2023-24   Date: 23-03-2024

<u>Orders of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor dt. 23-03-2024</u>

CIRCULAR

Sub: Conduction of Two Days National Conference titled "URBANEX – Uniting Realms for Building Architectural Nexus" on 27th & 28th March 2024 by KL School of Architecture,

    KLEF, Vaddeswaram campus – Communication – Reg.

Ref: Letter dt.22-03-2024 from Ar. A. Priya, HoD, KL School of Architecture

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This is to inform all Students, Faculty and Staff members about that KL School of Architecture, KLEF, Vaddeswaram campus is organising a Two Day National Conference titled "URBANEX – Uniting Realms for Building Architectural Nexus" on 27th & 28th March 2024.

EVENT DETAILS:

Webinar Date: 27th & 28th March 2024

Time: 9.00 AM – 5.00 PM

The relevant Brochure is attached herewith.

The Link for Registration is: https://forms.gle/1XDFXiSUcdF1nc9JA

REGISTRAR

Encl: Brochure

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Thanks & Regards

Dr. K. Subba Rao
REGISTRAR

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KL School of Architecture

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

URBANEX

UNITING REALMS FOR BUILDING ARCHITECTURAL NEXUS

DREAM DISCOVER DESIGN

March 2024
27th and 28th
Venue : New Seminar Hall
KLEF Campus
9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

SPEAKERS

About

Scan to Register

Report on National Conference

URBANEX – Uniting Realms for Building Architectural Nexus

Organized by: KL School of Architecture
Dates: 27th and 28th March 2024
Venue: New Seminar Hall, KLEF Campus
Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Introduction

The KL School of Architecture, under the umbrella of the prestigious D3 (Dream Discover Design) academic initiative, successfully organized a two-day national-level conference titled "URBANEX – Uniting Realms for Building Architectural Nexus" on March 27th and 28th, 2024. In collaboration with CREDAI and ISHRAE, the event brought together a vibrant mix of architects, academicians, researchers, and students, all passionate about delving into the unexplored territories of architectural expression—particularly the realm of Esoteric Architecture.

The thematic focus of URBANEX revolved around interpreting and reinterpreting architecture as a medium that transcends form and function. It explored mystical languages, sacred geometries, cultural symbols,
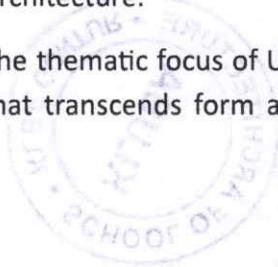
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spiritual narratives, and the integration of hidden knowledge systems in contemporary design. Esoteric Architecture, by nature veiled in symbolism and subtlety, was unwrapped and examined from multiple dimensions during this engaging two-day conference.

Curated with the intention to expand conventional boundaries of architectural thought, the event was convened by Ar. A. Priya, with support from co-conveners Ar. Kiran Kumar Bonda and Ar. Harshitha, and coordinated by Ar. P. Senthil Kumar and Ar. Virajitha L. The event also included a QR-based digital registration platform to engage wider participation and streamline access.

DAY 1: March 27, 2024

Inaugural Session

The conference was formally inaugurated with a welcome address from the convener and a ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The ambiance was charged with enthusiasm as faculty, students, and invited guests settled in for a day of exploration into symbolic, spiritual, and hidden meanings of design. The theme was beautifully introduced by the convening team, setting the tone for intellectual exchange and architectural introspection.

Session 1: Ar. Chetan Shivprasad – Kham Studio, Bengaluru

Topic: *Integration of Technology and Tradition in Biomimicry*

Ar. Chetan Shivprasad, a prominent figure known for integrating technology with traditional knowledge systems, opened the keynote sessions. His talk emphasized how biomimicry, inspired by nature's patterns and strategies, can be harmoniously aligned with traditional wisdom and esoteric philosophies. He presented case studies from his practice where design inspirations were drawn from ancient Indian symbols, sacred geometries, and environmental consciousness.

- He examined how ancient architecture inherently practiced sustainability, and how contemporary designs could realign themselves with similar values.

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- Chetan emphasized that design rooted in tradition can still be technologically advanced, pointing to architecture not just as shelter, but as a conduit of cultural memory and spiritual engagement.
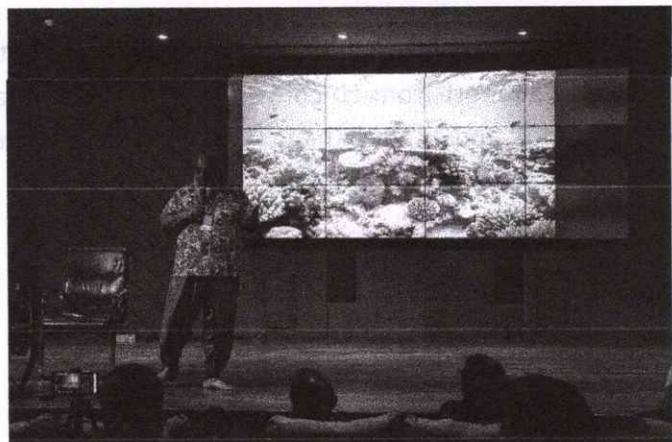
Session 2: Ar. Pingali Praveen – Hyderabad

Topic: *Exploration of Hidden Histories*

Ar. Pingali Praveen's session was a reflective and investigative journey into the invisible layers of urban settlements—particularly those shaped by faith, folklore, ritual, and resistance. He emphasized that many Indian cities are built over layers of unrecorded narratives that affect their spatial dynamics even today.

- His exploration into hidden histories was not just archaeological but also architectural—asking attendees to consider how stories influence the morphology of space.

- Using examples from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, he illustrated how urban voids, sacred thresholds, and forgotten structures can be rediscovered and integrated meaningfully into the urban future.

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Panel Discussion: "Unveiling the Urban Nexus"

One of the highlights of Day 1 was the panel discussion, which brought together esteemed practitioners and academics to discuss the broader implications of esoteric thinking in modern urbanism. The panel was mentored and moderated by Ar. Kiran Kumar Bonda (KL School of Architecture).

Panel Members:

- Ar. Chetan Shivprasad
- Ar. Pingali Praveen
- Ar. Radha Krishna (Practicing Architect, Vijayawada)
- Dr. D. Srinivas (Head of Architecture, SPA-V)

This discussion was a deep dive into how symbolism, ritual, and traditional patterns still shape people's interactions with urban space, even if invisibly. Dr. Srinivas brought an academic lens to the table, interpreting how architectural pedagogy can adopt these themes. Ar. Radha Krishna emphasized the importance of context and continuity, especially in a fast-urbanizing India.

Questions raised during the session included:

- How can spiritual dimensions be reinterpreted in secular spaces?
- Can hidden urban heritage be integrated into smart cities?
- Is there room for esotericism in modern zoning regulations?

The session saw active student participation, proving the relevance of these themes to the next generation of architects.

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DAY 2: March 28, 2024

The second day focused on emerging research, green architecture, experimental forms, and narrative-driven spatial design. Three speakers of diverse expertise led the sessions.

Session 3: Dr. Sandeepan Vajje – ISHRAE, Amaravathi Chapter

Topic: *Past, Present and Future of Green Architecture*

Dr. Vajje's keynote was a compelling overview of sustainable design seen through the lens of time, adaptation, and esoteric practices. He spoke about ancient Indian methods of passive cooling, sacred water management systems, and community-based planning, linking them to modern technologies like HVAC systems, green roofs, and smart sensors.

- His focus was on retrofitting ancient ideas into present contexts for future resilience.

- He provided measurable insights into how climate-responsive design was not just a modern invention, but a reawakening of forgotten knowledge.

Session 4: Mr. Sridhar Patnala – Stapati, Vijayawada

Topic: *Narratives and Ritual in Space*

Mr. Sridhar, an architect and artist, gave a highly engaging talk filled with visual storytelling and cultural anecdotes. He spoke about how rituals, whether daily domestic ones or large-scale public festivals, shape the function, form, and flow of architectural spaces.

- His projects emphasized spatial design as a medium of storytelling—where movement, pause, and perspective are orchestrated much like a performance.

- His concluding message: "To design space, you must understand the story that space wants to tell."

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Session 5: Ar. Aruna Sujith – Bengaluru

Topic: *Experimental Materials and Form*

Ar. Aruna Sujith brought a refreshing and futuristic take on form-making. While not directly about esotericism, her work explored how non-traditional materials like bio-resins, recycled composites, and adaptive skins can lead to new kinds of spatial experience—ones that stimulate the senses and provoke introspection.

- She shared examples where light, form, and materiality were used to invoke emotions akin to those evoked in sacred spaces.

- Her talk was a bridge between esoteric themes and experimental techniques, showing how form can influence feeling, even without overt symbolism.
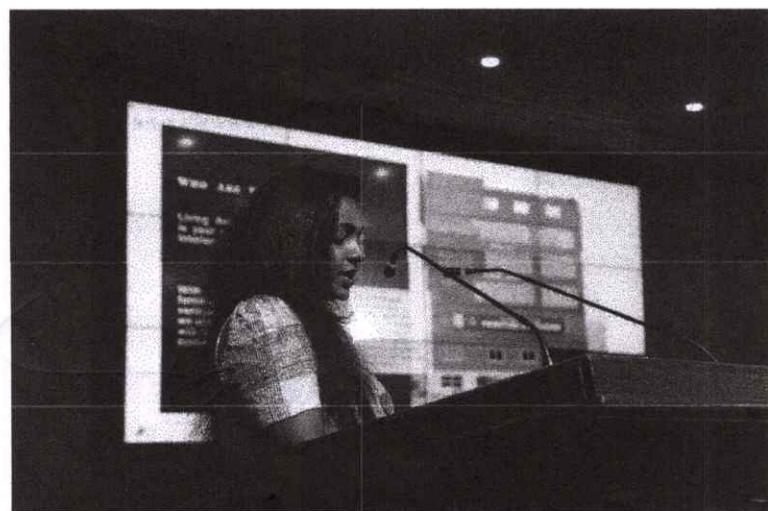
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Conclusion

The two-day URBANEX Conference served as a profound reflection on architecture as a practice rooted not only in form and function, but in memory, symbolism, belief, and consciousness. It succeeded in awakening a deep appreciation for the intangible yet impactful dimensions of space—what one might call the spirit of architecture.

Each speaker offered a unique lens through which participants could engage with esoteric concepts—from biomimicry and hidden histories to sustainable rituals and experimental materials. The panel discussion on Day 1 added depth by fostering dialogue among professionals across academia and practice.

The conference achieved its purpose: to unite realms—traditional and technological, rational and intuitive, ancient and futuristic. It encouraged students and professionals alike to question the visible and seek the invisible, to build not just structures, but meaningful spatial experiences that resonate with both people and place.

With vibrant participation, thought-provoking presentations, and active discussions, URBANEX 2024 has laid a strong foundation for further academic explorations and practical applications of esoteric and inclusive design principles in the architectural profession.

****

Ar. A. Priya,
HOD-ARCH, KLEF