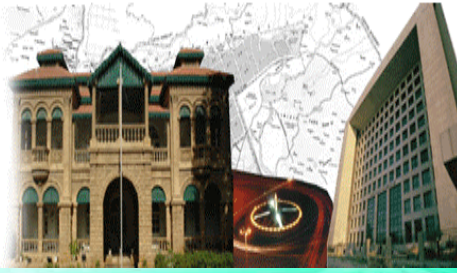


25 Years
(1983-2008)
PAKISTAN COUNCIL OF
ARCHITECTS AND TOWN PLANNERS
(Ordinance IX of 1983)



E/Newsletter

PCATP REVIEW

QUARTER JULY 2010 – ISSUE # 005

Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) is a statutory body established by the Government of Pakistan under the Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners Ordinance 1983 (Ordinance IX of 1983) to regulate the professions of Architecture and Town Planning in Pakistan.

Dear Readers,

We are really delighted to inform that our E/NEWSLETTER has completed its first year and we are happy to present the 5th issue of this quarterly digital publication. We thank you so much for all the support you give us and hope to have the same in future as well.

As a responsible professional body, the Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) is committed to protecting the environment of Pakistan. The Council believes that by taking care of the environment we are taking care of ourselves. If we destroy it, we are only destroying ourselves.

A research conducted by the World Bank, warns that environmental degradation is a serious threat that certainly undermines Pakistan growth prospects. It is estimated that nearly 40 percent of the country's irrigated land is water-logged, and 14 percent is saline; additionally, forest and rangeland production is also at risk. The per capita use of timber in Pakistan is lowest in the world; however, the declining rate of woody biomass is the second highest in the world. Furthermore, the ongoing energy crises in the country have also intensified the consumption of firewood in rural areas of Pakistan.

There is no denying that poor natural resource management and high population growth have a negative impact on the environment in all parts of the country. Unplanned development and urbanization has caused degradation, therefore, environmental issues have become more conspicuous in urban areas of the country. It is a fact that population growth, population density and infrastructure are the greatest challenges of recent times. With the growing awareness of our need to preserve the environment, architects and town planners must join the other concerned professionals to develop new solutions of threatening environmental challenges.

Once again THANK YOU for all the words of encouragement.

With my best regards I remain,
Yours sincerely
Amir Murtaza
Editor-E/Newsletter

Call to Reject High-Density Development Board Bill

Expressing their concerns over the passage of the Sindh High Density Development Board Bill, 2010 by the Sindh Assembly, city architects and town planners have appealed to Governor Dr Ishratul Ibad Khan not to give his assent to the bill and refer it back to the assembly for reconsideration. It is important to mention that on 31st May 2010, the Sindh Assembly unanimously passed the Sindh High Density Development Board Bill, 2010, which will identify and earmark high-density zones in the urban centres of the cities in the province.

Speaking at a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Monday, the representatives of the city architects and planners termed the bill a conspiracy against the city and also requested Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah to review the bill in the interest of the city and future generations.

Ar. Akeel Bilgrami informed that in 2008 the government had constituted a committee of eminent architects headed by Ar. Yawar Abbas Jilani to seek their advice for determining high-density zones in the city. Ar. Bilgrami said that the committee after consultation with all stakeholders in the city, including representatives of the citizens' organizations, submitted a report and a presentation was also given to the governor and the chief minister.

In its report, the committee had recommended that a supra Planning & Physical Development Authority be set up which could take all land-controlling agencies and service providers on board to devise a plan for the city. Ar. Bilgrami added that two months back the authorities concerned had consulted them regarding the creation of the Sindh High Density Development Board while it was being deliberated by the standing committee on the urban development, headed by Munawwar Ali Abbasi, of the Sindh Assembly.

He said that a draft bill was finalized with mutual consultation and it was proposed that besides the government authorities, all stakeholders and professional bodies should also be made members of the board. However, the bill passed by the Sindh Assembly was quite different from what he called the consensus draft, as no professional body and stakeholders other than the government were made the member of the board.

Plnr. Masood Jafri said it appeared to be a conspiracy against Karachi as there was no one to guide the board. Ar. Ejaz Ahd said that elected representatives did not have expertise in town planning and for this they had to consult experts.

Ar. Bilgrami suggested that a committee should be constituted with 50 per cent representatives from the government and 50 per cent representation from professionals in order to safeguard the interests of the masses. He regretted that the Bill has been passed without public representation. He also suggested that a body comprising consultants should be constituted for guidance. A large number of architects and town planners were present during the press conference.

Raj Architecture: IAPEX 16th – 18th April, 2010 Expo Center Karachi

The Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP) has been successfully organizing IAPEX for last six years. The IAPEX 2010 was held at the Expo Center Karachi from 16th till 18th April 2010. The event had provided a great opportunity to business sector to showcase their products and explore new trade opportunities. The event also offered the professionals, academia and thinkers to debate on pressing issues of recent time and presents viable solutions.



IAPEX 2010 showcased traditional and contemporary building materials and finishes, hardware, building, home decore, furniture, fixtures and fittings, garden tools and impliments and many other building & home related products manufactured in Pakistan and the Asian region.

One of the conspicuous segments of the IAPEX 2010 was the forum on Raj Architecture. Experienced and immensely talented architects such as Ar. Yasmeen Lari, Ar. Moyena Niazi, Ar. Sajjad Kausar, Prof. Annila Naeem, Ar. Tariq Alexander Qasir, Ar. Ashley Dec Vos, Ar. Habib Fida Ali and Prof. Abu Sayeed Mostaque Ahmed had presented thought provoking lectures/presentations on the issue of Raj Architecture.



PCATP Offers Full Support to Implement Ministerial Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan

The Chairperson of the Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) in her letter to Mr. Syed Gulzar Hussain Zaidi, Joint Engineering Advisor (JEA) & Chairman, Ministerial

Working Group Ministry of Housing and Works, congratulated the Ministry, Consultant/s, and Group Members to develop a highly important and valuable Ministerial Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Pakistan, in the light of Hugo Framework of Action (2005-2015).

Ar. Shama Usman, Chairperson PCATP, stated, "I, as a member of Ministerial Working Group (MWG) on DRR, was absolutely impressed to see the dedication and commitment of other members of the group to formulate plausible strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Pakistan. I have no doubt that such strategy will greatly benefit the country in future. On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP), I would like to offer our all possible support for the proper implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in the country."

Dr. Soofia Tahira Ozkan Arrives at NED University

Eminent architect and educator, Professor Dr. Soofia Tahira Ozkan arrived at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, to conduct the Advanced Architectural Design Studio and a theory course titled Green Architecture: Concepts and Applications from June 2010 at the Architecture and Planning Department. Dr. Ozkan is a faculty member at the Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara and has been an active scholarly figure for a long time. She is also a recognized academician in the architectural circles of Pakistan. Dr. Noman Ahmed, Chairman Department of Architecture and Planning NED University observed that Dr. Ozkan's contribution to the M. Arch. Programme at NED shall be vital to provide a new perspective to the students in the post graduate degree course. He added that NED University and METU have signed a memorandum of understanding, which facilitates the exchange of faculty and scholars.

Meeting for Independent Council of Town Planners in Islamabad

According to an email, circulated by Plnr. Aftab Mohammad Khan, it was informed that a meeting was held in on 12th June 2010, in Islamabad regarding the preparation and creation of a separate Council of Town Planners. Plnr. Aftab Mohammad Khan, Chairman of the committee constituted for the creation of separate Pakistan Council of Town Planners, informed that the participants of the meeting welcomed the initiative and assured their full support.

Response on the Creation of an Independent Council of Planners

We are pleased to publish the following letter of Plnr. Nadeem Khurshid on the creation of separate council of town planners

Respected Mr. Aftab Mohammad khan:

Sir, It is indeed a great effort from your end to strive for an independent Council for Town Planners. I am really grateful to you and other fellows, for being kind enough to respond my earlier emails. Sir, as we know, most of us, may not be able to see you and other fellow committee members in person at Islamabad as you have mentioned in your mail. I would request you to enable us to know more about this issue while responding to some of queries, as still a bit unclear to me and other fellows;

What expectations do we have from our proposed independent council for planner, which we really have failed to achieve at PCATP? Whatever we have failed to achieve at PCATP is due to a joint council?

What makes us essentially to leave PCATP's platform other than our past commitment of being separated after an initial period of ten years from 1984 onwards? Is that the only reason?

How much time this process will take to create this proposed council? As we guess, it is not a matter of days and weeks. It may take longer than that and may need tedious efforts to get it accomplished. What plans do we have for it?

Is there any need of Parliamentary Approval (ACT or Ordinance to be passed by the parliament) and for this purpose, what is our future strategy?

Total number of Architects in the country is around 4000 out of which 3100 are registered with PCATP while only 220+ Planners are registered (having valid registration) out of 700+. Despite our efforts during the last one year we couldn't make fellows to get their registration renewed back to PCATP. Do these fellows feel like to have an independent council or something else prohibits them to get their registration renewed with PCATP? How could we survive with such a small number?

At the time PCATP was formed, as far as my knowledge is concerned, there were only three institutions teaching Architecture and 2 Planning. Now in year 2010 Planning institutions still stay around 2 and architectural educational institutions has risen around 8. Is that also a failure of PCATP? This eventually gave tremendous rise to Architects strength at PCATP and we lost our strength even by staying out of PCATP.

For the past many years, only a few Planners (number must be in single digit) have been attending PCATP's AGMs. Do we have any record of their contributions at AGMs? Is there any failure on the part of PCATP alone? Are not we equally responsible for being inactive since long?

There are few other examples of joint councils of professionals working successfully. As per the record of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) in 2009, the Council has a majority of about 127,000 Doctors and a minority of 8,100 Dentists; however, the Council is protecting the rights of both professionals.

In the end, I must appreciate if we take every fraction of planners' community (either active or inactive) on board while making such an important decision about their professional future.

Wishing you very best of luck
Planner Nadeem Khurshid

Seminar on Urban & Regional Planning, NED University Karachi

The fifth seminar on Urban and Regional Planning was held on 8th May 2010 at NED University of Engineering and Technology's main campus. The event was organized by the Department of

Architecture and Planning of the University. The theme of the seminar was, “Urban Planning in Market Economy Situation”. Dr. Noman Ahmed, Chairman of Architecture and Planning Department, welcomed the guests and participants of the seminar. He provided a brief background of previous seminars and the intellectual output generated from each event. Dr. Asad Sayeed from Collective for Social Science Research, Karachi was the keynote speaker. He explained the need of urban planning in a dynamic market situation across the globe. Mr. Sultan Ahmed Chawla, President Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his speech, he praised the University management for taking up this vital topic for deliberation. Mr. Chawla was of the view that planned and organized development of our cities and settlements can tremendously contribute to the efficient performance of economy of the country. Prof. Dr. Shamsul Haque, Pro-Vice Chancellor, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi gave the presiding remarks.

The First Technical Session was chaired by Prof. Dr. S.F.A. Rafeeqi. On this occasion, Dr. Wantanee Sontikul, Assistant Professor, Institute for Tourism Studies, Macao and Ms. Masooma Mohib Shakir, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University, presented their papers. Four papers were presented during the session. The panel discussion was led by eminent architect Mr. Arif Hasan and Dr. Anila Naeem of Architecture and Planning Department.

The Second Technical Session was chaired by Ar. Fariha Amjad Ubaid. Mr. Farhan Anwar of SHEHRI-CBE, Karachi, Ms. Suneela Ahmed, Assistant Professor NED University, Ms. Sameeta Ahmed, Lecturer NWFP UET Abbottabad, Mr. Ravindar Kumar, Assistant Professor, NED University Karachi presented their papers on the occasion. Ms. Asiya Sadiq and Dr. Wantanee Sontikul were the Panelist for the session.

Brainstorming Session on Environment at IAP House, Karachi

A brainstorming session, “what can we do to collectively make our environment and buildings more comfortable, sustainable and green?” was held at the Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP) on 22nd May, 2010. A large number of architects participated in the meeting.

Ar. Samar Ali Khan welcomed the participants and informed that the meeting aims to build consensus to initiate Pakistan Green Building Council. He suggested that it’s a high time that architects must formulate and initiate a group and start working to achieve their desired goals. He informed the participants that the paper presented as guideline for the meeting is prepared by Ar. Fariha Amjad Ubaid and these guidelines will serve as starting point to initiate the endeavors. The core components of the proposed program are: awareness raising and capacity building; networking, partnership and linkages; documentation and curriculum building; appreciation awards and increased outreach; and institution building.

The meeting was informed that the proposed initiative will serve as catalyst to bring much desired change with the involvement of all stakeholders. It was added that the initiative must not be considered as an architectural meeting but the focus on our aspirations to act in more socially responsible manner.

This meeting must be served as founding stone and the participants have to decide that what would be the future line of action. It was observed that the meeting provides a good foundation

to initiate Pakistan Green Building Council. It was remarked that immediate policy reforms are required to achieve concrete results; furthermore, popularization of the issue will help educating the common men. Therefore, there is a need to work at policy and programme level.

It was observed that there is no need to reinvent the wheel; the core issue is to take affirmative steps in right direction. It was remarked that Pakistan's neighbors have done sustainable efforts to improve the environment. It was, however, added that Pakistan is also heading towards a right direction. It was suggested to establish a separate council to popularize the green and the council must develop linkages with regional and international entities. It was added that besides establishing the council, a core committee should be evolved to facilitate the council to achieve desired results.

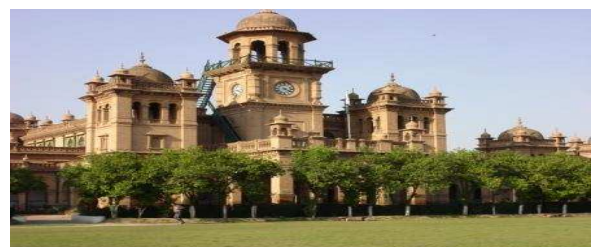
It was observed that green is not a color but a state of mind, the society at large must adhere to green. It was recommended that the concept of green should not be linked only with buildings. The architect community must set their bench marks and look green beyond the present definition that is only associated with buildings. It was further suggested that focus must be on built environment and the issue should be discussed at the, proposed, committee level. The committee should act as an independent entity and involve individuals, from different strata of the society, and institutions, mainly working on one of the most pressing issues of present time; environmental degradation.

It was observed that traditions and cultural norms play significant role in shaping up people's choices about the green architecture. A participant remarked that conservation is essentially a cultural issue rather than technical. It was suggested that green projects should be initiated; as such initiatives will help to achieve the targets. In her concluding remarks, Ar. Fariha Amjad Ubaid observed that the meeting covered all relevant issues and added that given suggestions will help to evolve future strategies to achieve the overarching goal - how to make our environment and buildings more comfortable, sustainable and green - of the endeavor.

SAVE Jamia Masjed of Islamia College, Peshawar

President Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP), Ar. Shahab Ghani Khan expressed his concern over the ongoing work at the Jamia Masjed of Islamia College Peshawar. He offered his full support and vowed to protect the structure of the historical mosque.

Meantime, Ar. Tahir Khattak, member PCATP Executive Committee, also showed his grave concern on disastrous conservation of the main building of Islamia College University, Peshawar. Ar. Khattak informed that instead of any qualified conservationists, only local contractor were available to supervise and respond. The PCATP Executive Committee Member appealed the professionals and general public to come forward and protect the historical heritage of Peshawar.



Eighth Issue of NED-JRAP Published

We are very thankful to Dr. Noman Ahmed, Chairman Department of Architecture for providing the following for E/NEWSLETTER

The eight issue of Journal of Research in Architecture and Planning has been published. It is important to note that JRAP is the only journal in architecture and planning which is recognized by Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and listed in Ulrich Periodical Directory. The copy of NED-JRAP is available at the Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi.

This volume of JRAP focuses on architectural practice. Wisdom, knowledge, acumen, competence, ideas and more goes into the making and shaping of the built environment around us. The architects and other allied professionals have a sizable role to play in the realm of this vast enterprise. Contents of this journal address several dimensions of practice and architectural applications through different exercises, contexts and people. Twentieth century saw the launch and completion of ambitious capital city building exercises. The city of Islamabad in Pakistan was a foremost mention. The paper by Professor Abdul Rehman documents and analyses the significant aspects of the professional ideas and input contributed by international architects of repute and stature. The author has critically appraised the various schemes, designs and proposals by this assorted community of professionals who had a significant role to play in shaping the emerging city. The paper by Architect Taimoor Khan Mumtaz addresses a rare facet of architectural application that is the contemporary manifestation of traditional architecture. With a focus on Islamic architecture and its examples, the paper delves deep into the geometrical tenets and parameters which embellish the external space and add comfort to the utilitarian aspects of buildings from yester years. The author has underlined the text by citing practical examples where this branch of knowledge was applied in the actual respect.

Professional practice around heritage buildings and sites often trigger debates and controversies. The tale of additions to the Lahore High Court building has made the core case study of the paper by Ghafer Shahzad. After a step by step analysis and review of the process, the paper offers insightful lessons for all concerned to be learned. Professor Arif Qayyum Butt has attempted to address the issues pertinent to housing provisions for the low income groups. The narrative excerpts from various initiatives in the past and contemporary times to draw conclusions, some of which are worthy for further exploration. Emerging times have made the interface of technology and design approaches a useful union. The papers by Shabnam Nigar, Lubaina Soni and Nazia Iftakhar highlight the multitude of dimensions which have become common place in architectural practice in the prevailing times. Isar Kamran touches upon the aesthetic rendering of space in correlation with attributes of application. Two book reviews are also part of this issue.

Upcoming International Events/Conferences

The Planned World: Urban, Rural, Wild (5-7 August, 2010) Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

The planned world is the world that surrounds us: in our cities, countryside, and wilderness. How do we conceive of that world through our culture, society, and technology, and how do we relate to that world as urban planners, architects, designers, policy planners and analysts, cultural commentators, artists, writers, critics, musicians, etc.? Some questions that might be addressed include: What is the relation between the different elements of the planned world? How is society organized in the planned world? What social issues arise? What is the cultural response to the planned world? The conference will gather together researchers, scholars, students, and practitioners to address these questions and others pertaining to the topic.

Organized by: Simon Fraser University, Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Conference

Website: <http://www.interdisciplinarythemes.org/conferences/index.php/PW/PW>

2010 Shanghai International Architectural Forum (14 August, 2010) Shanghai, China

The conference is inviting well known architectural experts from China and overseas to submit abstracts for presentation and also calling for participation. Government policy makers, building developers, designers, project manager, material suppliers, consultants, educators, students and people who are interested in architecture industry from around the world are invited to this annual conference to discuss the current architectural situation and its trends. Abstracts selected will be edited and published in the "Forum Abstract Collection". The topics for abstracts are as the followings: Expo Series Architecture, Global Architectural Development, City Construction Planning, Green Building Implementation Strategy, Building Energy saving, and Environmental Protection etc.

Organized by: Shsun Education, Tongji University

Conference Website: <http://www.shiaf.org/>

International Conference 2010 on the Constructed Environment (17-19 November, 2010) Venice, Italy

The conference will be held in Venice, Italy from 17-19 November 2010 in conjunction with the 12th Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale (la Biennale di Venezia), directed by Kazuyo Sejima and titled People meet in architecture. This conference will explore the forms and functions of the constructed environment during a time of dramatic and at times disruptive change. The conference is a cross-disciplinary forum which brings together researchers, teachers and practitioners to discuss the past character and future shape of the built environment. The resulting conversations weave between the theoretical and the empirical, research and application, market pragmatics and social idealism. Participants may choose to submit written papers before or after the conference for possible publication in the peer reviewed The International Conference on the Constructed Environment. Virtual participants also have the option to submit papers for consideration by the journal.

For details, please visit conference website: <http://constructedenvironment.com/conference-2010/>

Fun-Time: Selected Jokes

Wife or mistress?

An architect, an artist and an engineer were discussing whether it was better to spend time with the wife or a mistress. The architect said he enjoyed time with his wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship. The artist said he enjoyed time with his mistress, because of the passion and mystery he found there. The engineer said, "I like both." "Both?" Engineer: "Yeah. If you have a wife and a mistress, they will each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and you can go to the lab and get some work done."

I want them both back after lunch...

Three men: a project manager, a software engineer, and a hardware engineer are helping out on a project. About midweek they decide to walk up and down the beach during their lunch hour. Halfway up the beach, they stumbled upon a lamp. As they rub the lamp a genie appears and says "Normally I would grant you three wishes, but since there are three of you, I will grant you each one wish."

The hardware engineer went first. "I would like to spend the rest of my life living in a huge house in St. Thomas with no money worries." The genie granted him his wish and sent him on off to St. Thomas.

The software engineer went next. "I would like to spend the rest of my life living on a huge yacht cruising the Mediterranean with no money worries." The genie granted him his wish and sent him off to the Mediterranean.

Last, but not least, it was the project manager's turn. "And what would your wish be?" asked the genie. "I want them both back after lunch" replied the project manager.

Correct solutions wins a \$1000....

An engineer, a mathematician and an arts graduate were given the task of finding the height of a church steeple (the first to get the correct solution wins a \$1000).

The engineer tried to remember things about differential pressures, but resorted to climbing the steeple and lowering a string on a plumb bob until it touched the ground and then climbed down and measured the length of the string.

The Mathematician layed out a reference line, measured the angle to the top of the steeple from both ends and worked out the height by trigonometry.

However, the arts graduate won the prize. He bought the vicar a beer in the local pub and he told him how high the church steeple was.

Reader's Response

We are extremely grateful to our readers for their appreciation, feedback and suggestions on the Fourth Issue of our E-Newsletter. Your response helps us to improve the publication. Many thanks. - Ed.

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