

BE THE CHANGE

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'Change' inevitably doesn't creep in when asked to, but rather when the realisation to change dawns upon. The realisation to change at the right time, at the right juncture of events and at the right scale is crucial for any kind of progression; change is not something we do, but it is something that we allow.

When Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world", he referred to each one of us, in our own space, our own time frame, our own capabilities. Times keep changing and with it, they bring a complete set of revolutions, in our lifestyles, in the way we react, in the way we work and how quick we work (the technology revolution!). Architecture, an embodiment of society's values and aspirations has also been on a journey where 'change' has moulded its path, tried to enhance its direction giving it a deeper meaning and has opened up avenues for it to make the society develop further. Contrarily, it can be the changing face of architecture too which is responsible for the change in lifestyles today.

While a dramatic change has been noticed in the profession, change has made its impact in the practice itself. While diverse technology, a variety of materials, new trends, amazing forms, robust structures, floating buildings, the politics of space, building in the space, the onset of a new generation of architects with radical thoughts has created a stir in the built environment, the vocation of architecture itself has also branched out in its allied and interesting sub fields, namely, architectural journalism, architectural photography, landscape architecture, genetic architecture, film architecture etc. The practice and the entire process itself has undergone a revolution. Collaborations with international firms and the process of outsourcing, the level of documentation in offices, the plunge from drawing boards to the MAC, and a one room low profile office to an office that let's its employees enjoy and design—these are the many changes one has been witnessed to, in the professional practice.

So much is changing in architecture making it all the more complex...But is it all heading in the right direction? Evidently, an emphatic no in case of India. Commercialization is eroding the very essence of architecture. We are still soul-searching for the identity of Indian architecture, we are still comprehending how to implement the latest technology in a manner which will retain the sanctity of our own culture. We still have loads of construction issues, we still don't know what 'green and sustainable buildings' are, we are plagued with the disturbance in the ecological balance. We are still not aware how to provide housing for the changing and increasing population on this commodity called 'land', and we are still fathoming how to let this huge a population comfortably walk/drive on the Indian roads. With the ever-increasing number of architectural schools in India, we are still thinking of streamlining architectural education.

Let's begin today and BE THE CHANGE that takes into cognizance the changing environment and act and react accordingly. Let's make our imaginations bigger and better than our circumstances and BE THE CHANGE that promises us that whatever amendments we make today, are going to have a positive outreach till posterity. As architects and builders of today's and tomorrow's society, let us BE THE CHANGE that will give the common man a better place to live and breathe in. Whether the exterior changes are sudden or perceptible, let us BE THE CHANGE which seeks to understand them through dialogues and adopt them. Let today BE THE CHANGE when we begin to critically cultivate a design thinking, or in all probabilities rethink where architecture as a profession or a practice has headed...LET's just BE THE CHANGE!