

# Editorial



**Guest Editor**

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**Apurva BOSE DUTTA, Author, Architectural journalist, Curator, Editor, and Educator**

Apurva Bose Dutta is an Indian author, award-winning architectural journalist, curator, editor, and educator based in Bengaluru, India. An alumna of the Chandigarh College of Architecture (2005), Apurva has taken a professional journey of 19 years that has seen global collaborations with architecture-design multimedia publication houses, firms, organizations, and institutions. Apurva works at the intersection of architectural design writing, curation, critique, discourse, communications, and thinking. She is passionate about writing, curating architecture-design content and discourses, and professional speaking, offers training initiatives in architectural writing, and consults for academic and professional platforms. Recognized for her pioneering work in architecture design writing and focussing on increasing the subject's visibility in India, Apurva has been invited by the Australian and Finnish governments to represent the Indian delegation of architectural writers as part of international media visits to Melbourne (2016) and Helsinki (2018). Author of *Architectural Inheritance and Evolution in India* (2023) and *Architectural Voices of India* (2017), Apurva is widely published and holds advisory positions with several renowned global architectural and design platforms.

Spaces and emotions are fundamentally connected. The impact of built spaces on human emotions has been realized over time; this special issue of *Architecture Asia* extends its consideration to an additional “typology” of space: that offered by the written word. Spaces, words, and emotions sit contentedly at the ends of a triangle, holding on to their distinctiveness while coexisting as a trio, complementing, affecting, and engaging with each other. The multiplicity of these three entities in terms of internal and external articulations with their constant transformations generates the premise for life to exist. This curated issue offers a window to the perspectives of and approaches to literary and built spaces and, consequently, their most absolute and intangible consequence: the emotion they elicit.

Written accounts by invited architects and academics attest to the mutual bond of writing, literature, and architecture, and how they influence and transform each other: the architectural structure camouflaged in writing, and writing serving additional forms of notation for built/unbuilt spaces while assuming the core of theory, history, and criticism. Presenting global perspectives and the history of writing and its evolution in the industry and mainstream media, the essays depict that writing and literature are foundational to architecture, and their lack leads to diminished knowledge, perception, and recognition of the latter. Considering the power of present-day's digital media, this introspection broadens the potential of writing and critiquing the built environment to every being, making them more responsive to their built world. A call for action is made—a “literary emergency” urging intellectual and critical writing that harbors a sense of “abstraction” and which can catalyze discourses relevant to the built environment.

Alongside, a curated collection of architecture and urban design projects across Asia adds to this literature and vocabulary. One could read these design interventions as literary texts to deduce how they, individualistic in their geography, typology, function, spatial exploration, articulation, and user profile, imbibe the core tenets of representing and safeguarding their nation's culture and heritage. Effectively responding to their client's and context's requirements, a common prevailing denominator underscores the designs' intention to engage with their users ardently.

The sparsely illustrated essays and abundantly illustrated projects assert the relevance of different mediums to communicate the art and science of building. It is time to decipher how to retain the balance between these diverse mediums of communication to comprehend, impact, and revolutionize the built environment efficiently.