

B. ARCHITECTURE

THEORY OF ARCHITECTURE – I (AR6102)

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE – DEFINITION, DISCIPLINE & ORIGIN

Lecture - 1

Definitions of architecture:

How we define the architecture. We can start with a simple definition of Architecture; Architecture is the Art and Science of Designing Buildings. But is it really just about buildings? Take this picture for instance. This building is essentially about the space that is created inside. In this other example from Gothic architecture, you will see; there is this tall vast space flooded with beautiful lights inside the cathedral which is the main aim of this architecture hence, we ought to redefine architecture, stating that, It is the Art and Science of designing Spaces.

The question we come across is this, is it all about the spaces within/ inside a building? We can find our answer in the next example, 'the pyramids of Egypt'. These pyramids don't have any big space inside the building, rather a small space; it is all about creating this beautiful space outside the pyramid.

This building is another example within our own country. In this building also, there is no space inside the building at all. So architecture is about, creating a meaningful architecting space outside the building. Hence, we can define it once again; Architecture is the Art and Science of designing Spaces, both inside and outside the building. The moment we talk about space outside the building, nature comes into perspective.

Every building built, has a beautiful natural environment around it, it also has an artificial environment inside it. There has to be a beautiful harmony between the two; inside and outside natural environment. There are architects who have created this harmony. For instance, the image above is the building called 'falling waters' designed by Frank Lloyd wright, brought

the harmony between the man made architecture and the beautiful nature surrounding it. So now, we can redefine the definition of architecture, stating that, ' Architecture is the Art and Science of designing Built environment.'

Discipline of Architecture:

Discipline of Architecture involves in it. How do we call person, who design the architectural is called architect also we have to clarifies architecture.

Architecture can mean two things; the built product which is the architectural building and it also means the activity of designing. Hence, it means both the noun and the verb.

Is architecture a Scientific Activity or an Artistic Activity?

Architecture involves, the sciences regarding,

- The building construction,
- Nature
- The people who are using the building
- People surrounding the building who can also be termed in general as Society.

Science regarding the construction:

Even if one is constructing a small building, an architect must be aware of how a particular material will react to the nature surrounding it. For instance; the architect must understand how does gravity act, the wind forces act etc.

The building is not simply a building but it involves the NATURE surrounding it as well for instance; the heat surrounding a building, the ground on which it is sitting etc. The architect must understand the forces of nature surrounding the building.

An architect must understand the climate in a particular region. Only a good architect knows the differences that are to be kept in mind while constructing a house in Rajasthan and a house in Tamilnadu (top to bottom). Such aspects of science must be kept in mind.

An understanding of the Users/People in the building:

For instance, when an architect has a building for an artist/poet, it is completely different when compared to a building being constructed for a business man. An architect cannot construct a very good building, without understanding the characters using it.

An architect must also have a clarity about the people around the building as well, the society. A building in a place must be able to respond to people around the building as well to maintain harmony between the two. From the above, it is understood that architecture is primarily an Artistic activity. Every architectural problem is a design problem which doesn't have a single solution. Every solution can possess links to several ways to the process of designing. So, in the choice of designing, the architect has to be very creative in his decision so that the outcome is very beautiful and artistic for example, if you take the scientific production of a car, The car is scientifically analysed and designed very beautifully solving all the functions but it is mass produced and being used at different places by different characters. However, architecture doesn't work like this, since it isn't a commodity like a car. Architecture is subjective, it has to be approached to, in a very artistic manner. Hence, we can conclude with the following;

- Architecture uses the philosophical wholeness of humanities.
- The logicalness of science.
- The imagination of art
- The resources of technology.

By using all these four aspect of architecture becomes complete.

Profession of Architecture:

Profession of Architecture itself so has get a better understanding of field of architecture. How does an architecture office looks like who all works in architecture office. Is architecture carried out by just one person? No, obviously, architecture is team work. It involves many people who work with the chief architect. This image shows a very famous architect, Frank Lloyd wright, sitting and discussing with his junior architects and other special

consultants about the architectural design. We will now look at the people who are involved in an architectural team, who are all involved in the building/ construction team.

An architectural team involves the following;

- Client
- Contractor
- Structural Engineer who makes sure the building is stable.
- MEP - Mechanical Electrical Plumbing
- HVAC - Heating Ventilation Air conditioning
- PMC - Project management

All these people help make sure that the architect's vision has come true in its physical sense. Architecture can be diversified into different fields like; Landscape architect, Interior design and Urban designer. Landscape architect concerns himself with the open spaces around the building and inside the building. An Interior designer is concerned about the beautification and decoration of aspects within the building itself and an Urban designer comes into play when architecture has to be designed in the scale of the city or an urban scale. This is the entire vast range that architecture has developed or grown up to.

Architect and the Client:

An architect has to sit, take time out to listen to his client, his interests, his spacial requirement he has to understand financial capacity of the client and he also has to understand the psychological needs of the client. Hence, one needs to perceive both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the client.

After all this is done, an architect has to think it over, conceptualize a perfect architectural design so that it is a very good building. There will be cases when the client doesn't understand unless the architect explains why such a process or plan should be undertaken, so that the building will be really good. However, this can also happen with regard to the client, the client might be more well informed than the architect and in such cases, the architect must put aside his ego and carry out a good job.

For instance; back in Ancient India, the client/ the patron of architecture has always been well known. Take Taj Mahal for instance, the architect is not well known but the client was and is. With regard to present history, take Kalakshetra campus in Chennai, here the actual client was the famous dancer and pioneer, Rukmani Arundale, she had a great vision about bringing up the profession of Bharatnatyam all across India, make this an educational campus for dance and art, she collaborated with architects and made into a very beautiful space. Such beautiful architecture is possible only when the client is the visionary of the project. One can now understand that an Architect has to collaborate with the client, Professionals and Consultants.

In our country, the profession of architecture is governed by the Council of architecture. In fact, there is also an act that has been passed in the parliament regarding the architecture profession, since it requires a lot of responsibility.

Origin of Architecture:

Origin of architecture but asking the question. How architecture might have originated in the history. In the previous session we saw about how architecture is presently there. Now we have to see how it might have originated. This image is a representation of small settlements in Nilgiris, this didn't involve any specialized architecture or architect, only the people of the community itself got together and built their houses. However, if their communities were to grow, this is not possible for instance, the Roman and Greek civilization had grown to such a large level that people couldn't build their homes and other buildings themselves. Hence, people began to be assigned for such activities. Specialized profession of architecture was given birth to, during this period of time. People eventually began writing books and other treatises regarding architecture. For example, the ten books of architecture was a book written by Vitruvius during the Roman Augustus Caesar's rule. This book discusses about all the aspects of architecture; the construction, the people who use it and also, most importantly about, how an architect must be educated. So you can understand how architecture was 2000 years ago, the history continues. Architecture profession was even present during the period of renaissance. For example, if you look at the city of Florence, there were great architects like Michael Angelo and other great architects were present during this period. They were established

architectural institutions that were teaching architecture along with the arts of sculpture and painting. During the renaissance and even after the renaissance, Architecture was known to be a very competitive field. There were many competitions that were announced and people were competing for it. So far we have seen how the architect profession has evolved in history and before we have seen how the architecture profession presently in our country.