

Theory of Architecture II

Lecture 1

Overview of Architecture - 1

So, to actually learn to represent, analyse and interpret the architectural experience holistically through live case studies, so we are going to go into a lot of case studies, examples of how different architects and different contexts historical context that have been done and then we are going to basically study how the elements of architecture, how the different ways of doing things philosophically they have approached this particular subject this multi-various subject how in different context still maintaining their historical contextual importance they have got into personal expressions like for example we have same language but different poets how do we do that so they coming to different the modes of expression, styles of expression, the form of expression these kind of things give them the individuality, so this is very important in architecture that's why even though that's why we seen that even though lot of architects use concrete but how they express in differently. So we have to see all these through our examples like yesterday's examples so right now I will be going taking you through what all the units that we are going to cover in this particular subject and I will be telling you what we are going to see in it so as a preamble you will get ready to actually get into the subject.

So, the Unit 1 will be Meaning in Architecture so this where we will see you architecture as a vehicle, so we are metaphorically speaking we are taking architecture as a vehicle as a tool to express ourselves just like any other language for example a painter uses paints and forms and colours on a 2 dimensional to bring his expression outside likewise architects use a 3 dimensional way of doing things from the users point of view or from the admirer's point of view or from any watcher's point of view or from the critics point of view so because it depends on the beholder so architects have to know how to use their language how to use their alphabets to put into you know a meaningful wholesome integral whole, so we are going to see architecture as a whole of a vehicle of expressing, symbolism and communication with illustrative examples I will have to stress on this word symbolism architecture as always been a very experimental and artistic exercise for architects rather than a scientific exercise, we know that science is a wholesome wholly dealt by the engineers we do have engineer structural as well as civil engineers they take part mostly and they

contribute mostly through their scientific inputs were as architects have the advantage of taking it to the artistic level to the next artistic level so what happens is basically the artistic expressions have been very important that is the difference between a text book and a poetry so what happens in text book is it directly conveys what has to be conveyed in a scientific manner were as in poetry take liberty to take it to the next level and it is meant for artistically minded people but it also elevates a common man to a different level by giving him a certain feeling so how are we going to do it is what we are going to see through illustrative examples. Let us go through it one by one and in Unit 2 we going to see the Architectural Character as in individual characters we are human beings you all have a physical even physical features we see twin brothers they are all born in the same moment and same father and same DNA almost but what happens to the character we see them characteristically different how? so, we going to see what really contains or constitutes this idea of character in architecture so this architectural character we are going to see through a style, architectural moment because what happens is one particular idea could you know understood and handled by different kind of architects from different periods of time or in a different set up of time so what happens when it becomes a movement so they take it further for example the gothic architecture, the renaissance architecture, the modernist movements and the expressionist movement and so on. So, we going to see different architectural movement and through illustrative examples across various periods in various countries or various locations in history, Unit 3 would be the Works of Architects without which we could have come till this level this is one of the most important body of works through which we actually learn how to do things because we learn from in poetry I am taking the example of poetry because easily understandable because we have been familiar with the word of poetry we have always been a country of poets in any language is enriched through the poetry so what happens there, poetry is a highest form of expression in literature, likewise in art the highest form is Architecture you must have heard thousand times about how architecture is mother of all arts so that the idea. So the works of architects so who are these architects we taking about who have been iconic, who have been productive in an extraordinary manner who had lot of character who had lot of philosophical interest and passion to express themselves which is what have taken architecture into its pedestrian level, so we going to see a lot of individual architects in generation in through a lot of generation in who those who have done exemplary works in architectural form

and architectural inspiration how they have inspired students or different architects from different spaces of different parts of the world and their philosophies, their ideologies how they changed from time to time it's not that we are not we are not all born genius we try with different context an architect like F L wright he is done he was considered a genius back in United States but when was taken into japan and new place a new like japan he stilled worked a lot and he really worked on the contextual local context and then he has given the best from his individual ideology so that form a great one of the greatest examples of architecture even today so likewise he see a lot of Indian architects going abroad they work in what is called a signature type of architecture where they carry their own personal ideologies which are brought out by their Indian sensibilities as well as for the local context so this is very important how to do this we learn from our theory or from examples from in this unit, so basically it's about the role about an individual architect what he plays through his works.

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Fourth Unit will be Analysing Architecture why do we have to analyse architecture so in order to learn the intensions behind the architect's works so sometimes we miss read architecture we think that it is meant for something else actually it is not it is on our part to learn about why it is so, so that's the idea of analysing architecture so we have introduction through modes of understanding architecture how do we understand things it's like you have a spectacle so through the spectacle or through a window you seeing a picture you seeing an image so what happens there is, it's not like your glasses or your spectacles or a window is influencing you but it gives you a way to understand things in order to contain the unwanted things, so through modes of understanding architecture in totality so basically we need to see in totality so it gives you different modes of understanding studied before the subject so understanding how case studies have used representational, analytic and interpretational tools we use the word interpretational like it is where the exact word is so we actually don't even understand but we also interpret them so we try to make it to the next level, you know that even in classic Tamil poetry we have one particular poetic verse but you have like three or four interpretations each gives you each may not give you exact meaning but it takes the reader to the particular meaning this what is called reading between the lines so this is what happens, so analysing architecture also becomes an important point of

view and it also helps you how to criticize the new views the new way of doing things and we have Experiencing Architecture the final unit this is understanding architecture in totality in terms of various aspects in this course first hand experiences, analysis again and interpretation. And experiencing architecture is about this is why we make in universities to make tours architectural tours where we go in first hand and understand what the real meaning is we have lot of elements of architecture as you have previously seen the different the principles of architecture that help you to make you to a new level axis, rhythm, harmony etc. and definitely the elements of architecture we see in historical architecture in India you go to different zones of India you will see a lot of new ways of expressing things so architecture even in contemporary architecture as well as in the religious architecture, historical buildings we see a lot of good examples out of that too, so experiencing architecture is one way of analysing it and interpreting it and taking it to the next level because what happens is we have two things one is a creation and other is the person who actually uses the creation there is a book on my table there is no point in having book on my table because once I understand it once I read it then I know how to react to it reaction is important that experience is important it that only takes the whole of the book or the poetry into the next level you need two people you need two hands to clap and make that sound so one is a creation the other is a person who perceives that creation so in order to perceive this creation we need all these units so that is what we are going to see in this theory of architecture is more of a philosophical way of doing things we know that theory of architecture does not give you formulae to achieve anything because there no particular formulae to achieve anything you know that there poetry in poetry there is no formulae nobody tells you that these what it is this what it is so that you can achieve this so that you there may be metric verses some languages have very strong metric units through which we have to do it in spite of that your creator has to take it to the next level so that is what we are going to see through architecture, it's a very huge subject but I have tried to take the best examples easiest examples, popular example so as to the students may understand it remember it and then definitely you know get inspired through it, so I have done my best through to do that.

Any way our university has given as some ways of understanding this through text books of course there is class room lectures of course there are architectural towards to take you to next level but definitely what happens is we have to have the readings I am appreciating this part because without reading architecture

about architecture an architect cannot take it to the next level, I see lot of students young students who do not have the habit of reading you know texts in architecture but they get stuck somewhere during the reading of different books which are mostly authored by architects this is best part about architecture because engineers or poets or technologist don't write about architecture, architects write about architecture because architects have the whole some idea about how it works so that is why our university has suggested us some books which are definitely written by some masters in their subject who have actually gone into this making of architecture and I will definitely have to go through this because this is going to help a lot of students I am stressing on this because this has helped me a lot to understand this particular subject and especially in your formative year as architecture student during the first 2 years this is definitely welcome a move to for you to not only refer but read a book in fact we should be reading all the books by the time you come out of architecture course you should have read at least like 40 books on architecture especially by the masters it will give definitely definite good idea to take you into the next level of understanding architecture and to create architecture so you will actually remove the unwanted part in your architecture you can focus on what really you strength in your character as a creator so I will be introduce you some of these books this will really interesting for you to learn from.

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So, Elements of Space making this is by an architect very prominent architect of India yatinpandya architect yatinpandya is based Ahmedabad and this book is released by foundation and by architect B V dhosi. He should be called pith mega of Indian contemporary Indian architecture this elements of space making is one of the finest book as I have read.

And this gives in the idea of context historical context in our country so this not only talks about the basic ideas of architecture but also how things are been used over the period of time in our country so definitely this is the wonderful book to read very nicely designed book this is squared book very nicely designed book by yatinpandya.

The next book is Analysing Architecture by simonunwin, simonunwin is one of pioneers in theories of architecture this book is definitely gives you profound way of understanding architecture for a new comer for a beginner and even as after all these years as an architect as an practicing architect and into academy

for me it gives you new insights that's a hallmark of classic that's why it becomes a classic because every time you read it, it gives you a new kind of interpretation and idea so this is a fantastic way of looking at architecture and analysing architecture by architect simonunwin is one real suggested books and yes as you can see worldwide reviews and definitely it's gone into the fourth edition now and I would just read one of this reviews by analysing architecture should become an essential part of all architectural education an informative guide to the powerful analytical tool of architectural drawing as well so it contains a lot of drawings and way of because through only drawing and designing one come into the creation architecture because that is a way we all understand that's the language we understand that is been an architect from India can go to japan or Thailand to even without knowing their language they can create what can be created so language of architecture is drawing so this book Analysing Architecture also stress on how to the drawing in way of expressing because it is about expressing anyway there is one more book by simonunwin this is Exercises in Architecture which I would suggest it is not in your list but I would suggest this because I gone through this, this is as you can see tag line it is like Learning to think as an Architect so how to think as an architect how to interpret it is it goes without seeing that you come from you know you become a creator as well as user creator and users so how to actually go through these two different ways of different forms of being beholder of architecture so exercises in architecture as well a fantastic book through.

And of course what we called the FSO the Form Space and Order by architect Francis D.K. Ching yes he is gone in to the fourth edition now I am sure that you have gone through this as your major guide in your first subject the theory of architecture 6102 in your first semester and yes you got CD edition as well these days its into the fourth edition now and professor ching had a lot of contemporary examples as well through his drawings and interpretations and it becomes bigger and bigger day by day because it such a vast subject and it gets very detailed as time goes.

This is another book by architect Leland Roth and Understanding Architecture and it really helps you to understand how it has been consciously because architecture being a conscious creation consciously used in history in the period of history so it's elements history and meaning again so how it gives meaning in different context so this is been a fantastic book and this is been reedited several times and I also heard that it's into the third edition.

Now, Professor Amanda Clark also has contributed to it and it has become bigger so definitely it gives you new ideas and new meanings into it. This is another book by architect Hensel Convey she is basically a botanist and landscape architect from UK and this book has been very well written from the public point of view so she is interpreted, she is analysed, she is analyse the works of lot of landscape architects and she is worked on public parks and public open spaces in urban areas in whole of UK and she has written this book with extensive idea this is one of the suggested books by our university this is really fantastic book.

This also another book which I would suggest which it is not in your list is What the Architecture Means it is connecting ideas and design so it is about how the vocabularies have gone into a different level and how it becomes totally you know whole some design part and then how they have been connected and it really this book really helped us to understand how even in simplified manner above with drawings and diagrams on what could make a product or a building more meaningful this not about design but this about architecture so it is also a fantastic book.

Now into References, so this is book is Poetics of Architecture is about theory of design of course this will be much more useful may it go into the upper level but this could be also used as reference book this is meant for higher studies but this is also could be meant for reference for view for to get the if you want to get into the next level, so poetics of architecture not poetics of space poetics of space is by it's a literary text which helps you understand how important a home is it's more of a literary text but this is poetics of architecture you should not confuse this two.

And Experiencing Architecture again this is also in the reference for the first semester I guess and the Steen Eiler Rasmussen and experiencing architecture this is one of the units actually speaking so based on that we have taken some influences from this book and this is also a really useful book in terms of theory of architecture.

You got Elements of Architecture which again ask you to go through the basics when you are basically using the alphabets it is again re seeing or re viewing your alphabets for making your product better.

How Designers Think the design process demystified like it is very important to understand intensions behind an architect because we know the details about

individual expression so individual expression definitely it is for which we need to understand what the architect was thinking what he was intending to do, architecture most of mostly it is an individual expression of course we have collaborative architecture so we have like we see three or four architects coming together and doing a creation that is possible when each of them take one particular discipline in to it so one person actually keeps on adding one person gives the concept one person takes the concept into the next level one person technologically adds another layer to it one person really gives a whole some contextual level to it like wise but it mostly is successful and is very achievable when it individual you cannot have three or four people writing one single poetry but in architecture happens because it is complex architecture can be a complex process because of the size of the project sheer size we know we see that lot of projects take an acre land 3 acres land 4 acres land so this is what happens.

So, Taking Architecture again so this will be the last book because we need to understand about how architects things, so we got lot of interviews about contemporary architects this helps you in understanding their ideologies.