

**CONTEXTUALITY: TIME, SPACE AND PEOPLE**

With the end of 55<sup>th</sup> year, NASA INDIA has rebuilt its foundation and left a mark of tremendous excellence. Keeping it steady, we have now moved on to the 56<sup>th</sup> NASA, wherein our prime duty is to sustain its originality and uproot the odds remained. We aim at gradual growth of the association and with the advent of the 56<sup>th</sup> year we should nurture it accordingly to carry NASA towards greater heights.

Our conscience is relative to everything around, might it be the behaviour, mood, changing environment or built spaces and architecture. Originality is yet another relative aspect to our conscience that is diluted today; as there is no such eccentric milieu that survives, reason being the current mass that follows the trend in and out with utter mindlessness. In the present world scenario we need to change, but change does not mean you lose your foundation which is so powerful. Thus the contextual frame is one of the most influential of all when it comes to interrelation between architecture and surrounding spaces.

CONTEXTUALITY is thus the study of consciousness which is deeply connected to what we feel in and around. **It depicts base --- recovery with time---change considering the present need --- yet Original!**

As architects we must look into the following aspects that have been the elements of the theme: critical context, philosophical context, socio-historical context, the influence of the present, and the need for reason behind every form and function, the need to be yet original, and still to leave a mark / footprint, to create "solutions that last". Considering all these factors and thinking of what we do as an important role in the creation of a space; we have the belief that architecture and landscapes are made not just for it to stand out, but by the "QUALITY" of spaces that lies underneath a form.

**Contextual analysis in a longer run can also depict the interconnectivity between time, space and people.** Like a 50 years old *CHAWL* building where your grandfather used to stay might be fitting in that context but with time and need it must have now changed into a nuclear modular sort of design.

Also being contextual does not mean not being modern. It defines character-role-significance. Today, our role as an architect, who thinks about the present, someone who thinks about what our surroundings are, is thought of negligently, considering that our design or role is the most important part of the particular environment and that "WE" itself are the "CHANGE". We have been emphasized to not just fit in but to change what we see. This is why we see that a slum dweller or any person of a lower class given with what we think is a "WELL – DESIGNED" house may prefer to sell it for the day's money and go back to the slums. What we "need" is to change, yes but change that fits into our context, fits into the environment and what actually causes the change to happen. The milieu of the design and its importance is shown negligence compared to its importance in standing out, which is what is emphasized by many architects. But we need to rethink so that we take a step back and notice our **FRAME OF REFERENCE**.

Today, technology and building techniques can be combined to provide a solution. Understanding lifestyles, social awareness can also play a major role. Thus a context, can be an essence as well as just merely a perspective, yet make all the difference!!

I would thus sum up with a message that cut pasting can be an ESCAPE but no SOLUTION. For a better architecture understanding IN AND AROUND and being able to retain the value of the same in your design, keeping in mind the day to day advancement in the world with respect to technology and science is what will sustain as a real footprint. **Contextuality is thus the theme of the 56<sup>th</sup> NASA which shall continue to embellish the mark that was LEFT BEHIND!**

Regards  
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