



MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN ARCHITECTS

e - ENVIRONMENT AND MULTIMEDIA

On a rainy Friday, we started from Ar Vijay Kale's home in Edgewater and reached New York by train. We were late for our 7.30 am meeting with Ar Valentine Lehr. We called him and asked if we could come AT 7.45am. Valentine made it at 3.00 pm, because he wanted to spend enough time with me. Vijay had already pumped fame into my name.

We roamed around and moved to other appointments with Ar Sudhir Jambhekar of Fx. Fowle Arch. Inc. Here we were much before the expected time. We reached the floor but could not find the door bell or handle of the door. We banged on the nearby door and saw Sudhir appearing in the door frame. Surprise ! He was there early and preparing for the meeting with me.

Sudhir talked about the on-going projects, likely projects, failed projects and also about the projects they won. Their works are spread all around the world. An architectural magazine from Korea has published a 'Sudhir Jambhekar Special' issue in his honour.

Finally, I asked my main question. "Would you accept some of my students for professional practice. ?" Pat came the reply "Yes !" So those of you who are reading this can think of going to Fx Fowle Arch Inc, USA for your PP.

Later we moved on to S.O.M. to meet Architect John Ostland. It took us some time to move through the 60000 sft office. They have a special model room /workshop. All the projects are manufactured to a miniature scale and that too to a finished detail. To achieve the required results, they have laser cutting machines for different materials used for the models. They also have a huge material library that helps to finalise the specifications.

After S. O. M., we again moved back to Valentine's office via Ground Zero and New York Stock Exchange. When we reached Valentine's office, we were dripping ! But his warm hospitality made us comfortable. Later, we went through his projects. The future projects included the tall '1947' buliding in Karachi and a 750m (2500 feet) buliding in Dubai. The work has already started on the Dubai project but the height is not disclosed yet. Valentine looks after all the electro-mechanical systems. His earlier work included 'Taipei 101'

Mr. Valentine Lehr is also busy with a project in India -a 300 m (1000 ft) tall building at Mumbai. After meeting these celebrities we came back to Vijay's home in Edge water & relaxed.

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After the invention of the printing press, it is the advent of multimedia that has changed the way we learn and comprehend. Integration of multiple media such as visual imagery, text, audio, video, graphics and animation together multiply the impact of the message.

Multimedia differs fundamentally from the conventional media like slides and films. While conventional media are linear (one event follows another in a sequence), multimedia is non-linear; it has the capacity for branching in different directions and establishing linkages between different sections or components of the programme.

Dr. B. N. College of Architecture has embarked on an ambitious project of harnessing the power of multimedia, and using it to add value to content and quality of architectural and interior design education imparted in the institute. The genesis of this project lies in the vision and revolutionary idea of Principal Anurag Kashyap, to convert BNCA into a e - Environment enabled campus.

As a part of this endeavor, three core projects have been identified & are being implemented in a phase wise manner.

1) Implementation of Web Based Content Management System : A web based content management system is a dynamic web site for the college which is updated by multiple users. Every faculty member and administrative staff member has been allocated a certain domain on the web site related to their area of work which they would update and edit with the click of a button. Ease of use and simultaneous updating of data would keep the web site up to date constantly. The most important consideration while designing this CMS is its open structure. Features can be added as and when required to the web site as the needs of the institute change and evolve.

2) Implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution : The ERP solution will streamline all systems and processes involved in daily administration of the institute and make the data available to concerned persons on an any where - anytime basis. The ERP solution is divided into 12 modules, each designed specifically to assist and enable smooth system of operation for all departments such as accounts, administration, student information, time table generation, question papers generation, marks sheet and records generation, student monitoring, teacher monitoring, inventory management and online payment gateway access.

3) Creation of e - Learning Courseware : Multimedia and Flash based E learning courseware to supplement existing teaching aids would be created. An array of such courses would be hosted on BNCA's e - Learning platform www.bncalearning.com. These courses can be accessed by bonafide students of the college online and also by students who enroll for distance learning and continuing education courses.

These projects would be implemented in a phasewise manner. For further information and details regarding the projects, please contact abhijit_murugkar@bnca.ac.in

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◀ screen-shot of www.bnca.ac.in, the web portal for B.N.C.A.