

July 20, 2020

Press Release

JMI organises Online Workshop on 'Cultures of Construction - An Approach to Handmade Architecture: Exploring Child-Centric Designs'

The Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organized a two-week long (4th July-18th July,2020) online workshop on 'Cultures of Construction – An Approach to Handmade Architecture, exploring child centric designs' conducted by the renowned architect Peeyush Sekhsaria and co-conducted by Iqtedar Alam, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, JMI.

Peeyush Sekhsaria is an architect by training and has a Masters in Earth Architecture from CRATerre France and an M. Phil in Geography from Sorbonne in Paris. He currently works in the development sector as a Disaster Management Specialist with the India Office of the World Bank.

There were over 90 registrations for the workshop by students and faculty members of architecture, civil engineering, geo-technological engineering & university polytechnic.

The workshop was inaugurated on the 4th July 2020 in the presence of Prof. Hina Zia, Dean, Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, JMI and Prof. SM Akhtar, Head of the Department of Architecture, JMI.

Prof. Hina Zia in her inaugural speech focused on the importance of handmade architecture in contemporary times and how the value and significance of such practices and techniques seem to be fading away with the rise of the modern materials. She also emphasized on the need of child-responsive designs and its importance in developing early childhood care and development centres around the country.

Prof. SM Akhtar talked about the importance of the theme of the workshop by citing examples from regions across the country and how a culture ends up shaping the construction in the way it is indigenous to the place and on how the architecture of a place is rooted in its regional practices.

The workshop was shaped around Peeyush's experience of working on the crèche program 'Fulwari-where little children flower' in the tribal blocks of Chattisgarh.

Fulwari, an ongoing Creche program of the Government of Chattisgarh run by State Health Resource Centre (SHRC) is spread across about 3000 crèches in 85 tribal blocks across the state with focus on core issues of addressing malnutrition.

After an initial phase of development, the involvement of other partners like UNICEF Chattisgarh also brought in aspects like early childhood development and parenting through specialized organizations like Centre for Learning Resources (CLR). At this stage people running the program felt that the spaces themselves need to be made child friendly.

The workshop tried building on the concept of child-friendly designs and the introduction of the design elements centered on child-development in the initial 03 years.

The discussions remained centric to handmade architecture, approach towards child responsive designs, concepts and contexts of cultures of construction, and the way forward. In one of the sessions, the organizers had the privilege of hosting Dr. Samir Garg, Executive Director of State Health Resource Centre (SHRC), Chhattisgarh, who emphasized on the importance design of spaces, and elements, and its impact on the health of children, and the community at large. He also talked about community participation and the role it plays towards health management, with examples from the Fulwari project.

The students were introduced to exercises based on anthropometrics, child development, malnutrition, handmade architecture etc.

The workshop ended on the 18th of July, 2020. A monograph is being planned to publish the learning and inferences drawn from the workshop.

Ahmad Azeem

PRO-Media Coordinator



Peeyush Sekhsaria is presenting

Peeyush Sekhsaria

1300 sand pits for children to play in.



Ilma Nafees



Shreya Bajaj




sidra khan



 Intekhab Alam




 Arsaba Khan




 NEHA REJI



 Sadaf H. Khan




 Mariam Habiba

 Peeyush Sekhsaria




 Hina Zia



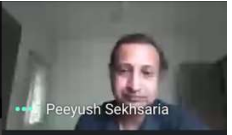
 Peeyush Sekhsaria



 Bhawna Dawra



 Sanchit Chauhan



- Gurdeep Singh Bagga
- Vibhav Tyagi
- Arsaba Khan
- Sadaf H. Khan