



one of the most memorable phases of my life has been learning and playing badminton with sourabh. every early morning at an impossible time for me to wake up for anything else. and after a tiring session we would talk about work, plans, things to do and how to do them. from visions about life to fundamentals about work. i only learnt then, that he is always, always thinking forward, positively. he always knows what's to be done next and what's after that. has been a workaholic. obsessed for some weird reasons about getting everything right, perfect and fast. for a few months i even remember him looking like rip van winkle with a long beard that was only to be shaved once he had completed his thesis. one can thank me partially for the completion of that task.

for archohm success and growth is inevitable as sourabh sets out to achieve it in everything. archohm has grown faster than anyone could have thought, but if i were to say, its not grown fast enough for him, or even grown enough for him. there are still lots of targets to be achieved, goals to be accomplished and every aspect of this company's work to be made smarter, more technically creative, profound and unique.

I wish archohm all the success.

dev rishi.

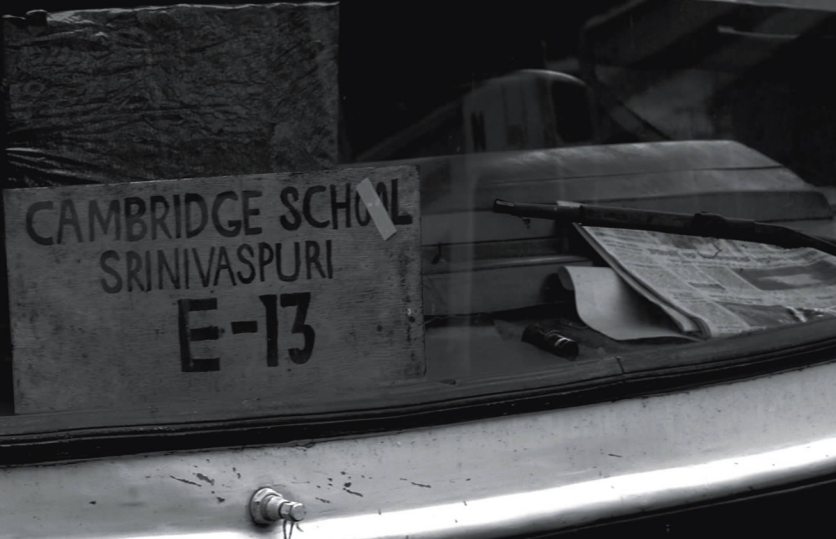
dev rishi, a very dear friend and member of the archohm family as he was an outsider party to all the insides of archohm with long conversations and debates. from enjoying a common sport to helping in thesis to travels in london, dev has been a very positive entity associated with us.

this is the bus route number of cambridge school, srinivaspuri, new delhi which used to take two 13 year old boys amongst others to and from school. the route was long, nearly 1 hour 15 min from the start to the end literally meandering through the whole of south east delhi. it was possibly the longest route that could have been devised for a point to point distance of not more than 8 km. but at that age who cared or complained!!

the bond between the two boys from the same batch; both new to the bus route started with a brief introduction between themselves in october 1988. the two used to hit to talking from the minute they entered the bus with topics ranging from the school syllabus, the teachers, the principal, the performance of the indian cricket team, the world this week and even the grammy / oscar awards. the conversations were interesting & enriching for that age and to top it all never allowed boredom to set in during the hour long journey.

during summers, once all the teachers got down; with a request to the bus driver and conductor like all other kids on the bus they also would run to get an orange bar or for a sip of cool water at any shop offering such facility. the four to five years of regular trips twice a day, saw in the bus the various rounds of antakshri, the fight to grab the window seats, the cold wars amongst other fellow school kids, reprimands to the senior students by the teachers for standing on the footboard of the bus, a kindergarten kid flying through the bus holding on to a tree branch etc...

the interaction between the two kids continued even after they finished school. they continued to meet off and on despite their varied academic interests. one went to pursue his interest in science and architecture and the other in commerce. it was pure destiny that after one of them started an architecture practice under the name archohm, they met again and he asked the other to join him. the answer could not have been otherwise and here they are almost after 20 years of acquaintance with seeing and helping each other through the thick and thins of life and business. the journey which started with the bus journey of e-13 is now running aboard the entity archohm. no marks for guessing the two kids being discussed.....SG and MM.



CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL
SRINIVASPURI
E-13

they say dreams are not the ones which you see while asleep, but they are the ones which don't let you sleep.

quite similar was my situation when i was dreaming about building a world class school in ranchi. it was not difficult to meet architects who had the experience of building schools. but it was difficult to meet someone who could fit into our vision and 'who had not designed a school earlier'. it was a pinch more difficult to find that someone, on a flight.

this is how my association with archohm started, purely 'air bound', which also meant, building our school in the air, and then pinning it down to our beautiful 42 acre campus.

archohm prides itself on being excusably late with the drawings, projecting themselves as the most affordable architects in the country, while in reality they are sometimes more expensive than the buildings themselves, getting 'firangs' to work on projects, and serving the best edible bites during work.

but a client like me, feels proud about the passion and dedication with which they deliver projects. and that is what is most important when you are building your dreams.

it has been a happy journey for me to associate with archohm professionally and also to find a friend in sourabh. in my personal view, i have no doubt in my mind that sourabh shall very soon become a name to reckon with in the field of architecture.

art, in any form, rubs smooth. so has happened with me. i scarcely looked at architecture as a form of art, but over the years i almost miss being a trained architect myself. it is as pure and indulging as a work of art. it is bliss when you see your creation resting carelessly on the ground, whispering those sweet nothings in your ears, 'thank you for giving birth to me'.

archohm has all the ingredients for becoming a world class architectural and related service firm. my only advice to their team is to go a little slower. i love speed, but i also believe that speed sometimes kills. archohm has very rightly invested in people; their team is happy, motivated, charged and well lead.

with my sincere best wishes, i offer my prayers and the best of luck to the entire archohm team to realise their dreams.

amith baja.

a client financially but far more a friend. clearly archohm's favourite client where working is a journey of exploring and experiencing together. shared visions and values make this a very precious relationship.

my association with archohm is almost a decade old now and there are many a memories to cherish, of times which were difficult, challenging, creative, argumentative, exciting, enthralling and the list goes on.

dnd flyway was the first toll road project of repute in india, which changed the way people looked at toll plaza and tolling, including yours truly. that is where archohm and i started our journey in our endeavor to create some truly different toll plazas in the country, archohm with a motive to create a niche in the fast unfolding opportunity whereas i had decided to pursue a career in o&m for the balance years of my professional career.

youth brings in vibrancy, colour, passion, drive, innovation, modernity, futuristic approach and above all enthusiasm to do something different, while keeping the functionality, purpose and cost and time as the nucleus for any design, archohm is truly a young brigade in a hurry to change the world.

"while we are halfway through the detail design phase of a project it is already dated, as so many newer ideas would emerge while designing that if we keep improving it, we will never be able to finish it" said sourabh during one conversation on a flight from hong kong. this signifies archohm's ongoing creativity and burning desire to deliver the best to its client.

the most striking feature of working with archohm is that they step into the client's shoes to think and feel like him to succeed in delivering what a client actually needs. there are hardly any gaps between client aspirations and delivery. and when it comes to toll plazas, they only need to be given three parameters viz...., traffic, available land and budget. give them a couple of weeks and sure, a design option to exceed your expectations is guaranteed. there have been times when archohm has actually helped improve operational efficiencies as well with their think tank working overtime to look beyond the obvious.

at larsen and toubro limited, toll plazas and archohm are inseparable. all our toll plazas after 2005 have been designed by archohm be it panipat, dharmapuri, jadcherla, palanpur, swaroopganj, vadodara etc and there are a lot more in the pipeline in the near future.

manoj dave. client.

'negotiation tables are best places to start relationships' was a statement i had heard from 'one' gentleman in 2001, eight years since then, he is a great client and close friend who proved it right as well. archohm shares a great rapport with larsen & toubro infrastructure development team courtesy this 'one' gentleman. from innumerable trips to sites, including china and malaysia, design discussions and arguments on projects to sharing the learnings on the world of tolling in india, mr. manoj dave's contribution to archohm has been phenomenal.



'mohan, go and light your bulb' was a defining moment in one of the all time good, well meaning and well made movies: swades.

It took us back by a few years on our visit to 'bargitola', a village in the depths of Jharkhand; a state which separated from Bihar in the hopes of improving with its own identity but far from any improved governance yet. the capital, Ranchi, has an affluent niche society courtesy of the mineral rich lands. Jamshedpur, the Tata town, Bokaro and Rourkela, the big steel plants where industrialization was an early phenomena and an 'engineered' society was an obvious by product. a fair mix of money and meat (cerebral quantification).

two digit kilometres and a couple of hours away, exist villages with no services. from roads to records, from power to sanitation, urban India has had no impact on this 'remote' rurality. obviously there was no hope for power as there were no cables and conduits. water was an almost dried well away and sanitation was not even a concept. village men were hardly to be seen, after the age of ten and before the age of 50. they were taken by the Naxalites as an almost accepted factual reality.

unprepared as we were, we gathered our resources and put together our contribution to this village which had abundance of sun and lack of amenities. we managed to get some solar powered units that could support a bulb for every household. we lit our share of bulbs and returned to our human settlements. as they say, seeing is believing. It took us by storm as we came back into our protected and comfortable domains.

at Archohm in the next ten years, with our skill sets and exposure, we wish to make ourselves a more socially responsible organization.