

MAY 2009

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| S | 31 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| M | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| T | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| W | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| T | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| F | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| S | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |



One of the largest exhibitions of its kind outside of China. Milan's Salone di Mobile is a fixture that every interior designer aims at attending. Not just for the size, but more for the opportunity of seeing the latest trends from all across the world, all on display at a single location.

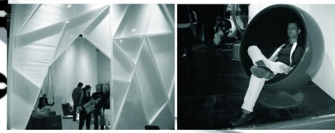
From the moment one reaches Milan- whether by air at Malpensa Airport, or by train, one can sense an air of expectation and anticipation. Every person you seem to meet is either a designer, or an exhibitor. I have met people from around the world here. Last year I met a Slovenian architect from Ljubjana, a Ugandan contractor and a businessman from Panama...an eclectic collection of nationalities if there ever was one!

From 12,000 odd visitors in 1961 (the year of inception), the Fair saw almost 350,000 visitors in 2008, of which fully two thirds were from outside Italy.

In the words of the organizers "Great projects, great displays and great crowds provide the basic ingredients for what is universally regarded as the key event par excellence at global level in the home furnishing sector" Each year the Salone Internazionale del Mobile- for that is its actual name- is accompanied by other exhibitions. This year the International Furnishing Accessories Exhibition as well as EuroLuce, the eagerly-awaited International Lighting Exhibition accompanied the Furniture Fair.

EuroLuce set the sectorial benchmark with its wide range and broad spectrum of goods that go to make up a unique lighting sector scenario: from light sources to domestic lighting, from technical illumination to urban illumination - embracing both technological and formal innovation.

SaloneSatellite, an unmissable event and great crowd-pulling catalyst, was held again this year, with a characteristic line-up of creative young talent at the service of businesses.



Sourabh of course has been a regular visitor to the fair for the past few years. A word of warning- a trip to this exhibition with him is fraught with perils- you will end up wandering up and down the fair ground from morning to late evening, lugging suitcases (yes, I am not joking) full of catalogues, after which you would travel into the 'centre' of Milan, look at myriad exhibitions, take in a meal, washed down with some beer or wine, and then return to your hotel room ready to crash. Only to be reminded that the next day's itinerary also needed to be fixed, etc... I am sure you've got the idea!

How safe are Tall buildings!

FEEDBACK: When lightning hit the world's tallest tower! For as long as half hour lightning hit the tower and the thunder sounded all over the neighbouring areas! Alok Srivastava Ex-Project Manager,Ranchi School. Please address all feedback to Alok@archohm.com



It's a privilege for me to talk about the east-west bridge in the anniversary issue of Archometer. My first memories of bridges are of rail bridges. Our train would rumble over them slowly as I sat wide-eyed, overawed by all that steel and the sound. My mom, meanwhile, would offer coins into the river flowing below and pray for a successful holiday trip.

When this project was introduced to me by Sourabh I was on cloud nine, because I was always fascinated by cables, tensile structures and bridges. The main thing is that this is the third extra-dosed bridge in India. The proposed alignment slightly deviates from the axis between the Rashtrapati Bhawan (President's House) and the landmark Akshardham temple. The total distance of the bridge is 575m and is spanned using 4 pairs of piers. Pedestrian paths and cycle tracks proposed on this bridge will act as viewing decks.

To be honest after working on the design for a while, we came to know that we were designing an extra-dosed bridge (EDB) and not a cable stayed bridge. The twist here was that no one in office knew what an EDB was. "Murali, I give you 1 week to do a thesis on EDB using all the resources we have" was the simple statement that complicated my next few days at Archohm. It would have been an impossible task without the two things at our disposal, one is the God spell 'Google' and the other is the Archohm library.

An extra-dosed bridge employs a structure that is frequently described as a cross between a girder bridge and a cable-stayed bridge. The name comes from the French word extradoses. A typical cable-stay bridge has a tower with a height above the deck at least half the span to the next support, since the cables are the vertical supports and must come at a relatively high angle.

After discussions we finalised four conceptual ideas.

The first was derived from India's national bird the peacock. The beak and head were the top part of the pier, the wings were the cables spanning out. The asymmetrical lighting design supported this concept.

The second concept was from a pin getting pierced through an object (water), the top of the pin glowing brightly just to highlight the head of the pier. And cables spanning parallel to each other.

The third concept came from a thought of huge verticals standing across the river and its faces glowing completely in flashy colors, the highlight in this concept is the pier, made of straight lines from external and internal faces with their own complexity in terms of curves. And to appreciate the verticals we decided to span the cables parallel to each other giving a bold clear appeal.

The final evolution of the concept came down to an image of an ink pens nib and played three dimensionally, options varied from pier design, cables, railing details to lighting and colour schemes.

My best moment in Archohm was when I was sent to give a presentation to the clients, a matter of great personal satisfaction and growth. Special mention of Sukesh of Antares Design for his timely and patient assistance in helping us in renders of various schemes.



S. S. Muralidharan- A versatile architect who is capable of conceptual design for projects of diverse nature, a hard and silent worker who knows his tools- that is the essence of Muralidharan.



Working experience has always been good with Archohm, they have grown a lot in the 6 years that I have been associated with them. The designs are good and look very pleasing. Archohm's ability to think outside of the box puts them in a class all by themselves.

The vision of the Delhi Gurgaon project design was to make a "wow" statement and I firmly believe this was achieved in the design of the IGI and the border toll plaza's. They provide a unique and refreshing design concept. The journey of the project was long and hard, lots of meetings took place to achieve the desired effects, materials being one critical component of the implementation, quality of workmanship also being a factor that could have been improved.



South Africa vs India: the tolling test series I have 20 years experience in tolling. 13 years in South Africa and the balance in India; I joined Toll Road Concessionaires as an electronic engineer and was fortunate enough to be able to work my way up. People who have played an important role in my progress are Ivan Muller, he once told me "you go where angels fear to tread", and this eagerness to learn about everything has played a positive role in my development. In India the person who afforded me the biggest opportunity of my career was Anhad Narula of DSC, for allowing me the opportunity to be able to "get the job done". My advice to Archohm is to continue to be dynamic and creative.

Almost a subtle lesson there on how architecture needs to lie low at times to let the inhabitants make the house a home.



Allan le Roux- a true well wisher who taught Archohm the tricks of the trade, toll plaza design, functionality and technically. Allan has supported us with deep insights and honest suggestions. South African tour of toll plazas and early morning breakfast meetings shall be cherished forever



'We have something special in the evening for you' was the brief for the finale to our days' itinerary at the Regent Lighting centre in Basel, Switzerland.

March was a hectic travel month that ended in a Swiss factory visit to one of the leading lighting companies. They explored the history and the future in lighting technology, understood the pioneering and award winning products and saw the passion and energy with which a very competent team was working as an integrated unit. The day long excursion ended and the 'special' surprise unfolded.

We were taken to the Herweg & Deibhorn's office and apartment complex. They are one of the world's premier contemporary architecture practices. The owner of the apartment personally gave us, "the Indian guests" a tour of the house and view to the premier office of architecture in Europe.

The offices were a generic, ever growing collection of buildings, residential blocks and factory sheds that were linked in as and when the office grew. The place was more a campus than a building, similar to the old city structure of interlinked streets and spaces. The most recent addition to the block was also the most exciting.

This was a small chunk of land, right on the river Seine, overlooking the entire Basel city. With special permissions and design solutions, a tall clean minimalist glass structure was constructed with the upper floor as a penthouse.

As one enters the lobby and lifts, a very monolithic wooden envelope marked the office to residence transition. The elevators, an extension of the same language took us to the penthouse. The house was a compact and clean naturally lit box of glass with minimal walls as room partitions, the art collections on the walls befit the spaces and the city views beyond. The master bedroom and the open bathroom was the pick of the spaces as one had a consistent, open yet private view to the city form the top. The final icing on the cake was the top floor party lounge and deck.

The simple place, almost too simple, was aptly and strongly complemented by the lights and furniture and books and art. Almost a subtle lesson there on how architecture needs to lie low at times to let the inhabitants make the house a home.



Sourabh Gupta- architect, designer aficionado, artist- who comes across as a power house of energy for those who work with him, and a source of wonder and amazement for those who watch- a man in a hurry...and a worshipper of Coubusier...now does that sound like a falling?

Dubai excursion: Kunal and Mohit planned a Dubai trip to expand the outsourcing horizons of Archohm. Mohit wanted the visa chose to extend the trip to Milan so as to qualify for the transit visa. He spent a couple of days in Milan to get back 25 kilos baggage, international courier agent of Archohm! Any takers for the job?!

Archolour 2 planning: Archolour two preparations to Spain and Portugal with 20 Archohm team members for the excursion is getting underway. The directors had a successful meeting with the Spanish embassy towards a preparation for the trip. Ideas is to initiate interaction with the Spanish, get into the skin of the place to absorb the flavour during the travel. The embassy has offered to probably organise a tea party to meet us and Archohm could perhaps make an exhibition on its return to share its experience.

SPA Competition: Archohm participated in the SPA Competition for their new building. Innumerable high quality drawings and endless brainstorming sessions went into compiling stuff for the same.

UPCOMING PROJECTS: Pedestrian pathways at Mukerba and Gazipur: It is easy to talk, hard to walk the talk. With our coverage in the Delhi Daily over the design and state of the footbridges, Archohm has taken the initiative to design a few design thoughts for its new projects at Mukerba and Gazipur to test its strength and belief!

Potholders: Insulating and flexible silicone that protects your hands from heat. Can be rinsed under the tap and are dishwasher- proof.

Formland Award 1997



Designprez 2008- Nominee Red Dot 2007

Citrus Press: Press the fruit gently into the citrus press. The plastic funnel filters out the seeds so that only the juice and pulp are left in the glass container.

Formland Award 1999 The International Design Yearbook 2001 IF Design Award 2002 The Gourmet Retailer Test Contest Winner 2003



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH: Sanjay Pundir first, Elizabeth Shaw second, Ashwini Bhatia ninth, Shahid Raza seventeenth, Mini Muradharan twenty third, S.P. Gupta twenty fifth

The Indian Flag seen amidst the German one. This was a special personal welcome which was bestowed upon Sourabh and S.P. Gupta when they went to visit the RZB Lighting factory in Bamberg.



have been trying to diet recently, it seems to be my only problem in life, the grand inheritance from parents and our own lifestyle clubbed with sensitive taste buds, foodies like yours truly need kitchens, that's where I want to focus this time, not the ingredients but the envelope.

kitchens, kitchen designs and kitchen construction is an art and an industry in itself, would like to highlight some of the best known ideas and design houses focused on this faculty of interiors and construction.

one could start with strato and milla, they take this as art, with no standardization, these are "by appointment kitchens", they take the kitchens as a design feature in itself you could build the entire house around.

bulthaup and boffi are the specialist engineers of kitchen, the back end research of storage systems, utility solutions and workstations are taken to the next level with intense study and design.

fashion in kitchen could be epitomized with porche working closely with pughen pohl and coming up with sleek design lines, making kitchens a centre piece, a pure sculpture.

hacker, the german technology and engineering give us a fair solution, keeping the economy and design balance.

minotti cucini in Italy have explored kitchen with a different material approach, minotti makes kitchen in stone, top to bottom, touch sensitive systems but no sensitivity materials, solid and sturdy.

closer home, indials have given a stainless steel solution to our households to counter the design and maintenance issues.

last but not least, I would bring attention to a stefan weberka design of lecta kitchens called a tree, wasn't it a german minimalist who said 'less is more'?

