• Paper / Proposal Title:
Expression of Death in Architectural Space: A Study in Poetics

• Author(s) Name:
Ghaina Sabir Malik

• University or Company Affiliation:
Beaconhouse National University

• Abstract (300 words):
What is the purpose of Architecture? If someone were to think about it, what is the purpose of any form of Art, it is only to make us more fully aware of our being in the world both mentally and physically. It is about trying to make our self-more conscious, more fully aware of being in time and space. And the existence of death is something which implements the same thing. What does death do? When the reality of death occurs it changes us in ways no one can possibly imagine. The reality of it when occurs, penetrates within, causing our true hidden selves to emerge. But what happens? How things change for that self, how the spaces change and within those spaces, light changes, its warmth changes, the air changes, how that architecture metamorphoses.

In this paper architecture is being used as a mode of expression to express a poetic idea of death in architectural space as a spatial builder, awaking the embedded imaginations and hidden elements buried in that space, experiencing transformation. The paper is divided into three main phases, the phase I being the research in which various expressions of death are studied thoroughly in modern times in order to
understand the views relating death, its importance, its place in the world and finally the translation of it through various expressions and forms. In Phase II, [T.S Eliot’s “The Waste Land” (1922)] is studied in reference to the meaning of death, concluding to form a spatial definition of death. The final phase revolves around building a relationship between death and space through a performative/poetic text, based on a specific understanding that is achieved through the research extracted from the first two phases i.e. in the form of “The Five Frames”, which further forms the premise of the final constructed “Five Spaces”.

These resultant five spaces are the explorations of the spatiality of death scrutinized through the medium of sculpture, explaining the changes through their forms from one frame to another transforming in a journey towards their true hidden meaning. These spaces live on the translation of the spatial understanding of death experienced in the poetic text and act as an idea for the people to experience, to understand the metaphysical presence of death on a spiritual level for only then can one truly understand the real meaning of life dwelled beneath the layers.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Miss Ghaina Sabir Malik studied B.Arch. at Beaconhouse National University graduating with a distinction in thesis. She began her career initially by participating in a workshop at AA School of Architecture in England exploring small scale community-engaged design build projects. She volunteered for Daachi foundation (A non-profit organization) a set up by a team of dedicated volunteers to guard and promote the country’s heritage. She also worked as a research analyst for the project DAACHI village (currently under construction) which would be built on building practices which are sustainable (e.g. energy efficiency, use of non-toxic materials, recycling of black water) and would be a major component of the built environment.