ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Exploring Heidegger’s Fourfold through Architecture-Dwelling for Fictional Characters

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• Abstract (300 words):
BNU-RHSA admits around seventy students to 1st of 5 B.Arch. Program. Our aim in Year I is to introduce them to the noble challenges of architecture through awakening their sense of curiosity and habits of reading, drawing, and tactile modelling aimed at discovering the essence of Praxis, Poiesis, Techne and Phronesis. The academic session of Spring 2020 posed an unexpected unprecedented challenge through the pandemic which led to search for pedagogical alternatives without compromising the academic foci of the current professional degree programs.

At RHSA the First-Year design studio with all its accoutrements, especially pedagogies, has been committed to awakening the students to the true meaning of the concept of Dwelling. The real task is how to make them unlearn the associations of “dwelling as a rented or owned accommodation by the road with a car parked in front or a garage door and replace it by the fundamental experiential-phenomenological manifestations of Light, Space, Gravity and Time through assigned readings and small theoretical challenges resulting in drawings and models. The primary challenge for teachers
remained the introduction of the act or desire of ‘Dwelling’ philosophically. The academic link had been offered by Albert Hofstadter ‘Poetry, Language, Thought through which Martin Heidegger’s fourfold concept of ‘Building Dwelling, Thinking’ primarily served to guide us through this trajectory in helping building an intellectual framework as justification of the term “dwelling” in its various meanings. Gaston Bachelard’s Poetics of Space and Merleau-Ponti’s Phenomenology of Perception also got assigned as a reading.

Fourteen fictional characters created by six master short story writers S H Manto, G Abbas, A Hameed, Y Adeeb, G Maupassant, O Henry were introduced as Dweller- Clients in search of their respective dwellings as drawn imaginations in the RHSA four-fold of Light, Space, Gravity and Time and at the same time aspire to understand thoroughly Heidegger’s Four-Fold of Earth, Sky, Divinities and Mortals. asserting its place in the corresponding story and its unique character as the Dweller.

Each phase was revealed to the student step by step through online means and the assignments were collectively shared on a common virtual platform which was accessed by faculty and students both. The proposed paper explores the trajectory of this virtual online studio through detailed stages and analyzes the challenges as well as opportunities in this new format of unavoidable, distance learning...

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

Gulzar Haider is the Dean and Professor of Architecture at Razia Hassan School of Architecture, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Pakistan. Private, non-profit, “First Liberal Arts” University in Pakistan. Emeritus prof. (2004 – now), Former Director, professor (35 years) School of Architecture, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. Professor and Head, Department of Architecture, College of Architecture and Planning, King Faisal University, Dammam, Saudi Arabia 1977-1978. Gulzar Haider did his BSc Engineering (Civil), West Pakistan College of Engineering and Technology from Punjab University in 1958 (later University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore). He got Fulbright Scholarship in 1961 and did M.S. Engineering, B. Architecture, Ph.D., from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Gulzar Haider worked an Associate, DANA A/E, Architects, Engineers and Planners, Chicago, USA. He was a Design Consultant to eleven different architectural practices in USA and Canada from 1979-2005. Designed ISNA Headquarters, Plainfield, USA: 120-acre development near Indianapolis, USA. He also addressed an international Conference on Islamic Environmental Ethics and delivered a lecture on the “Future of Muslim Ummah”, July, 1987. He has also been invited by the Ministry of Education, Government of Malaysia, to lecture at various institutes and universities. He lectured on the topics of “Cosmology and Islamic Architecture”, “Architectural Aesthetics”, and “Environmental Ethics”.

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