ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

- Paper / Proposal Title:
  The art of Transformation

- Author(s) Name:
  Saman Malik

- University or Company Affiliation:
  Beaconhouse National University - Pakistan

- Abstract (300 words):

  Virtual education is a new lifestyle that we are all adapting as teachers and students. It is a new way of communication, conceptualization and execution of ideas. For some its working brilliantly while the others are experiencing its hardships, nonetheless it is the time of change that has made every individual tech-savvy. We as teachers have to find new interesting avenues to keep the intellectual stimulus alive among students who are experiencing the mundane routine of online education. Constantly staying at home is building its own set of frustrations amongst everyone.

  Architecture education is a route where constant peer learning environment is fundamental. Perpetual interaction of classmates and tutors in design studio is didactic for learning and producing more, be it under pressure or sheer competition, nevertheless strives one to excel. Working from home in an environment that is none stimulus, makes things a lot more challenging. Every house has its own circumstances, living conditions, space constraints, unfortunately many students do not even have their own study space to get away from house mayhem and delve into the project. Virtual education particularly studio projects has its own set of challenges that students are facing,
particularly due to lack of appropriate pedagogical environment. However, in my personal experience, theory segment of the architectural education is much rigorously taught and conveyed through virtual classroom. It is much easier to grasp student’s attention, they can take notes and records lecture at their own ease in their own environment.

Virtual education has undoubtedly opened up a lot new avenues in terms of global classroom and distant peer learning. It has made the new education system much more informative and lucrative instilling more exposure, ideation and conceptualization. The new education system is not just confined with in the brick and mortar of one’s university but has has gone far beyond to every part of the world. Few subjects and fields that are highly compromised due to this pandemic are travelling, which is the best way of learning specially in architecture. Urban design and town planning, that primarily takes place when teams get together and work on one big idea. But at the same time, this pandemic is making students and teachers do all those things they have not done before, like immense amount of research, writing papers, doing publications. The education psychology is pushing everyone to step out of the comfort zone and conquer the world without stepping out.

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

I am an Assistant Professor at Beaconhouse National University, I have done my B.Arch (2011) from Beaconhouse National university and M.Arch in Urban Design from Glasgow School of Art (2017). I practiced architecture for two years and got enthusiastic about teaching. I have been teaching for the past 7 years and plan to do it for the rest of till I can. I do delve into other art related practices like practicing interior design, freelance architecture projects, curating artworks along with being a professor. I am very passionate about leaning more constantly and transforming that knowledge to my students in every capacity.

Teaching in this time of Pandemic has taught me a lot in terms of organization, self discipline and self motivation. I have taught theory courses as well as architecture studio virtually and experienced its own set of benefits and setbacks. I also conducted a studio project called “Urban Pockets in Global Pandemic” in summer 2020 where the students had to learn about urban pockets to foster social cohesion yet follow social distancing. I am currently teaching 5th year architecture studio and advising 8 thesis students a long with a theory course Professional Practice for 4th year architecture students.