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CASE STUDY

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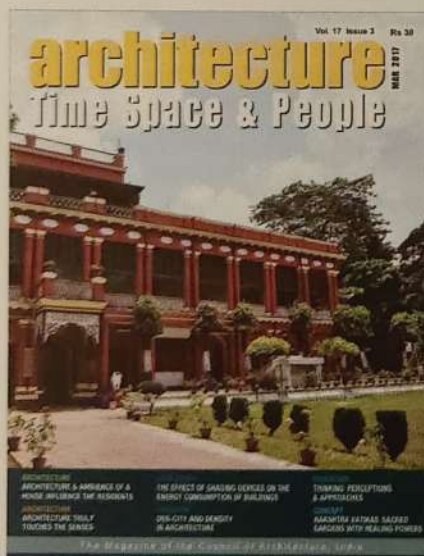


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K.P. Bhattacharjee

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DEN-CITY AND DENSITY IN ARCHITECTURE

Today's jungles are tall, dense and concrete

— Kanchi A.H. Parmar

We are all spectators of the growth happening in and around the city. It is rather interesting to investigate the reasons for such growth. We cannot help but smile on realizing that urbanization and globalization are all merely byproducts of the sprouting population.

***My canvas flaunted beautiful colours,** when the valleys forgot what green was.*

***The ships sailed to and fro,** when the fishes forgot how deep the water was.*

***The buildings grew taller, and taller,** without the forest knowing how short the bonsai were,*

***The bridges stood in elegance,** when the farmers consoled, how barren their fields were.*

***We closed our eyes to dream,** when our Mother Earth overcame her nostalgia; how beautiful she was!*



How can we relate a man with a parcel of land? A person gets engaged to a city or a piece of land because he gains something in return from it—wages or crops. Once the return

is hampered, attachment fades and migration is opted for.

Urbanization is that parameter of land, which is often judged in alliance with the population it holds. The term

'urbanization' is spoken of in many aspects, for instance, increase in infrastructure; expanding agricultural fields, housing for all and what not. The root which gives birth to these phrases is





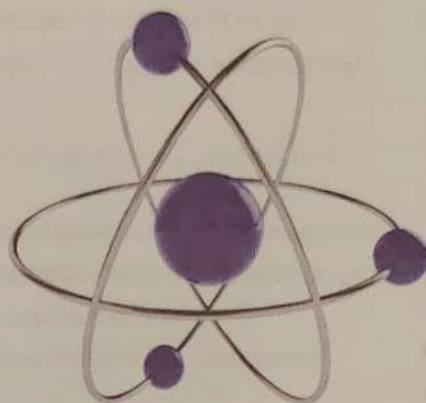
nothing but population— the vigorously growing and teeming population.

The population explosion flaunts the merit of development; architecture shapes itself in a creative mould. 'House for Trees' by Vo Trong Nghia Architects portrays an appropriate example of innovative contributions made in the field of architecture, to jog with the pace of urbanization.

"Cities in Vietnam have diverged far from their origins as sprawling tropical forests. In Ho Chi Minh City, for example, only 0.25 per cent area of the entire city is covered with greenery. An over-abundance of motorbikes causes daily traffic congestion as well as serious air pollution. As a result, new generations in urban areas are losing their connection with nature" quotes Ar. Vo Trong Nghia, the principal architect. (Archdaily, 2014)

When trees once sheltered us, they would never have imagined that we would provide them refuge one day. We know how green lands are easily baptized as green pockets; how green slopes are flattened on the top of our terraces. Today's jungle is tall, dense and concrete. Concrete skyscrapers, concrete humongous shopping malls, concrete commercial buildings, and the list keeps getting longer. The density of such den-cities raises demands, and such demands allow concentration of resources. More the resources, more the money traps; and money makes it a focal point, or to be more precise, a magnet.

***'An atom is the smallest unit of chemical elements possessing the properties of the element. Atoms can be split, but they cease to be atoms of the original element.'*⁽¹⁾**



'A human is the smallest unit of the world that understands the belongings of the earth. Humans can split, but they cease to be fragments of the original world.'

One of the most weighed hierarchies in existence is the hierarchy of land. When one square feet multiplies to become a city, architecture notates new styles. When pink, blue and yellow dominate in cities like Jaipur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, we understand what impact a city can display with each wall acting as an important fragment. When the density of buildings increases, we expect to view a unity in the urban-scape. For a few, breaking the monotony of the place sounds interesting, but they fail to discover that this monotony also proves to be a unity of its kind.

People discover and set new ideas in the frame. When ideas fuse in today's world, we call it globalization. Globalization is an illusory term for something being worldwide or rather universal. Although we have coined this word way back in time, the term seems to be of more importance today, when we have started relating it to trade, technology, medicine and above all, development. My grandmother says, "you kids are more advanced than we were, more fortunate than we were".

We always feel that we are advanced when we start comparing things with what existed before. When we start solving the calculus of this world, the product attained will involuntarily differ from what prevailed before. Hence, the term globalization is highly dependable on time. Time always has the main key.

Time has allowed us to give engaging nomenclature like smart farming, green revolution, smart cities. Well, the ancient Egyptians would also have considered their Shadufs² (water-lifting device for irrigation) as smart.

It's the time, and the ethos of the present and the upcoming generations, which will eventually mould the world and its architecture according to their spectra. If money regulates this too, time will merely be a spectator. If time demands discovery in architecture, it will be money that will watch ideas grow. Urbanization and globalization work hand in hand to bring about change.

It really doesn't matter if you add or multiply the digit 2 with itself; the product remains the same.

1. In 'The world of Science and Technology' (p. 114). *Reader's Digest*.

2. In 'Agricultural revolution' (p. 136). *Reader's Digest*.

Archdaily. (2014, June 20). Retrieved September 13, 2016, from <<http://www.archdaily.com/518304/house-for-trees-vo-trong-nghia-architects/>> □

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