

With architecture, came the examination of ornamentation – and the development of iconography and the role of the Quran and Hadith were discussed. It became clear that interpretation of the texts by various clergy were crucial to the way that Islamic visual culture and iconography shaped. Monuments such as the Dome of the Rock were looked at for what was allowed and appropriate to be used as decoration. For example, trees and architectural motifs have been used extensively on the site, and that led to other monuments following suit. Prof Flood also highlighted how seemingly minor features get used prominently in newer construction. Watching the development of the 'arabesque', he questions the motivation behind many decorative elements, like the stucco work – if it had meaning or was simply visual appeal? Its in the interpretation of the Quran and the Hadith that the rules of visual art comes up – reading the no-figuration rule as a push to finding metaphors with visuals or the ideas that the representation must happen in "form of trees" have led people to create many interpretations, some in a literal fashion, others in abstraction,

whether it's with calligraphy, or decorative elements like the beehive patterns. The interpretation also feeds into the treatment of figures in manuscripts, like the rubbing out of faces, or sticking pins into the eyes, or palimpsests, like turning faces into flowers, as Prof Flood, illustrates with an Ottoman manuscript. He addressed this re-doing of paintings, and the motivation behind it, where the rubbing of the figure can be seen as an act of devotion, and an attempt to preserve 'modesty' of those represented. Prof Flood explained the prohibition on animate objects being represented in the context and how this proscription is followed by artists and patrons. He explains paintings are representations, and the 'rooh' cannot inhabit them, making them 'fake' and an attempt at cheating God on the Day of Judgement. In addition to examining the arts of the book, the lecture series also explored the objects and materials, from relics and religious souvenirs, numismatics and objects of personal use, robes for example. Prof Flood analysed the ideas of gifting, merging the ideas of barkat and

a form of darshan in the Islamic context of royalty, the hierarchy and symbolism of a gift of robe, worn by the monarch/king, and reading the politics of these objects, and the way these materials travel. Numismatics made for keen study, to trace the history of influence, deciphering the text, whether its names of rulers, or quotes from the Quran and looking at locations of production. Influence and stylistic analysis illustrated the ways in which ideas and image travelled. The journey of Islamic art carried on to the modern and contemporary, where the role of technical reproducibility and the effect on image making and consumption came to the fore, the treatment of statues of Egypt, for example. Prof Flood discussed contemporary times, from the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas, the statues of Saddam Hussain in Iraq and ideas that contemporary artists pick and work with extensively. This brought the conversation of the past two weeks to our tangible world – one that we can associate with. With catchy lecture titles, cogent arguments and visual and textual evidence, we moved seamlessly

between times and art history, discussing mimesis and mobility, the body and its representation, calligraphy and arts of the book, understanding how identity and aniconism plays out, creating not only a narrative of Islamic art, but also a sense of understanding the motivation and meaning behind the act and manner of creation. By looking at a plethora of sources, bringing the complexity of creation and consumption of images, animate and inanimate, through transculturalism and iconoclasm, Prof Flood presented a thought provoking lecture series, that encouraged the participants to think not only of the meanings of art works and monuments but also metaphors, the migration of ideas and visual culture. While Dr Finbarr Barry Flood tied his arguments neatly and lucidly, he left the audience with a long list of places to visit, manuscripts to see, histories to explore, and a reading list to pursue. He opened the gates to an Islamic past we are all aware of but hadn't explored enough.

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## ACETECH Felicitation and Gala Networking Night

The jubilant faces of the architecture, construction and design industry come together for a night of celebration and to acknowledge the works of the industry pioneers. ABEC Exhibitions and Conferences Ltd is a market leader in the exhibition and conference space. ACETECH, its flagship exhibition, is held across all major cities in India and it aims at bringing people from the construction, architecture and design industry together under one roof. ACETECH offers a unique marketing vantage in this digital world that we live in — the opportunity to meet, connect and build rapport with current and prospective customers. The exhibitions are immensely popular in the industry circles. In order to aid and boost trade, ACETECH promotes the exhibition and collateral events and invite the trade commissioners and confederates from all countries to promote strong bilateral ties. The promotion of the exhibitors is not just restricted to the four-day exhibition, but it is a year-round effort through the means of ACETECH's other properties such as Design Wall, Connect, International Lighting Summit and The Global Green Summit. The concurrent conferences i.e. ILS and GGS held during the four-day exhibition offer a strong speaker line-up that draw interested visitors to the event. One of the highlights of the event is the ACETECH Felicitation And Gala Networking Night that

brings industry pioneers and head honchos on the same dais. To celebrate and accredit innovation and technological breakthroughs, the biggest names from the industry are invited to be a part of this momentous night to acknowledge and honour the pioneers, the trendsetters, the talented and the brilliant minds from every facet of the architecture, construction and design industry. Held at the incredible Sahara Star, Grand Sapphire Ballroom, Mumbai on the 6th of November 2014, The Felicitation & Gala Networking Night was truly an evening to remember.

A high-spirited evening Hosted by the talented actors Kabir Bedi and Mandira Bedi, the evening took off on a wonderful note showcasing the glimpses of the Economic Times ACETECH Exhibition, India's largest trade fair on building materials, construction, architecture, design and innovations. The resplendent evening offered guests an opportunity to interact with industry bigwigs in order to exchange quick business tips and connect with them on a personal-professional level. Sumit Gandhi, Event Director, ACETECH spoke about the memorable evening: "We are extremely glad to have had this opportunity of organizing an evening that recognised great work and honoured the esteemed dignitaries for their contribution towards the Architecture, Construction and Design



industry. ACETECH as a brand believes in promoting and evolving its associations, and this night is one of the entities that strongly portrayed its beliefs and displayed immense respect towards its clients, associates and endorsers. ACETECH relentlessly works with one vision that is to offer a brand new proposition in order to create a profitable initiative and an opportunity that directly or indirectly augments productivity in business to its maximum bounds. The Felicitation and Gala Networking Night was something akin a star-studded event illuminated with the presence of the crème de la crème of the industry. India's mainstream visionaries, respected builders, architects, designers, construction and product manufacturers had graced the occasion with their esteemed presence. Various renowned builders, interior designers, and the HNI's were also present on the other side of the podium on this night so as to socialise with their industry counterparts in the formal soiree.

The Esteemed Event Partners The ET ACETECH editions boasts of over 1,600 exhibitors across India who came together to showcase latest products and technologies available in the market. This year, the Felicitation and Gala Networking Night was organized by ACETECH in association with Roca Bathroom Products Pvt Ltd; a leading bathroom products company with a celebrated legacy of over 100 years. As the Title Sponsor, the brand gave new meaning to elegance and design. Roca Group is a pioneer when it comes to sanitary ware solutions in the realm of building and construction. All their products and processes are steeped in the brand's core values of design, innovation, sustainability and well-being, which put them firmly ahead of all competition. Roca's pioneering status is reflected in the creation of highly-versatile products which are easily adaptable to the habits of consumers all over the world. Roca also showcased few of their premium bath and sanitation collections at the exhibition.



Speaking of their association with ACETECH, Pau Abello, Managing Director, Roca Bathroom Products Pvt Ltd said, "We are pleased to partner with ACETECH. The scenario in the industry is very positive especially on the back of initiatives such as the Make in India Programme that will facilitate investment and encourage best-in-class infrastructure for the construction and architecture industry." The venue of the Felicitations and Gala Networking Night created a relaxing getaway for all industry leaders to unwind, exchange pleasantries and ideas. "The ACETECH Felicitations and Gala Networking Night is a wonderful way to connect with industry leaders in areas of building and interiors," adds Mr Abello. "The who's who of the architecture, design and construction industry is present at the event, giving everyone a great chance to get together in a light-hearted way while building business connections that can lead to mutual benefit for business and knowledge-sharing."

The event beautifully tied up with Roca's brand communication that reflected in its state-of-the-art ambience. "We intend to be a part of such platforms that recognise and celebrate people from construction industry. We look forward to be a part of ACETECH in 2015 as well," affirms Mr. Abello.

The Felicitations and Gala Networking Night was powered by Joy Developers and the other supporting partners for the evening were Prince Pipes as Co-Sponsors, NITCO Tiles as Silver Sponsors, Acme Group as Associate Sponsors, Godrej Construction as Sustainability Partner, PixelTek as Innovation Partner, Audi Mumbai South as the Luxury Automobile Partner and DOMUS as Knowledge Partner.

#### The showstoppers

The entertainment for the evening saw fantastic performances by the Tron LED – Skeleton Dance Crew which captivated the audience and illuminated the setting with their smooth blend of technology and dance. Singer Ankit Tiwari put on a breathtaking performance that summoned an encore several times. And the rib tickling stand up performance by Comedian Vipul Goyal left the crowd rolling in laughter.

Top industry pioneers and architects were felicitated at the grand evening for their contribution towards the construction, architecture and design industry.

Mr. Nigel Austin, Managing Director, Arup India was felicitated by Advisor Shri Ashish Shelar, MLA, Mumbai BJP President; Mr. Vipul Chheda, Director, Prince Pipes & Fittings and Mr. Jayant Chheda, CMD, Prince Pipes & Fittings. Mr. Nigel Austin has over 15 years of multi-cultural and multi-location experience and over 10 years' experience in Asia. He has been responsible for the design and management of a wide range of projects across a variety of industry sectors and advises clients entering Asia, particularly China. Currently, he is the Managing Director for Arup India having rejoined the company to develop the firm's business in India. Ar. Chris Bubb, an Architect and Partner with London based firm Foster + Partners was felicitated by Advisor Shri Ashish Shelar, MLA, Mumbai BJP President and Mr. Bhavin Soni, Director, Joy Developers. Based in London, Ar. Chris Bubb leads a team of over 150 architects in projects ranging across residential, hospitality, retail, exhibition, workplace, education, landscape and public realm. His forte lies in designing buildings which respond to local climate, culture and construction techniques. His work has been exhibited at the Royal Academy on several occasions and he was responsible for the first skyscraper in Saudi Arabia, the 700 metres India Tower in Mumbai and Foster + Partners' entry for the new National Museum of History in Bihar. With over twenty years' experience with the Practice, he has designed buildings across five continents.

Ar. Claudio Bellini, Principal Architect, Atelier Bellini was felicitated by Advisor Shri Ashish Shelar, MLA, Mumbai BJP President; Mr. Vipul Chheda, Director, Prince Pipes & Fittings and Mr. Jayant Chheda, CMD, Prince Pipes and Fittings. Ar. Claudio Bellini founded Atelier Bellini, an innovative design studio with special interest and an original approach on the relationship between new technologies and the creative processes. In 1998, his revolutionary new office furniture system, TW Collection (Frezza),



introduced a completely new vision in the contemporary office landscape. Since then, his extensive production of innovative projects in this area has deeply contributed to anticipating behaviors and trends in the working environment evolution over the last 15 years. Today, his firm is recognised as one of the most influential European studios and it is active within several fields of design, and has received international design awards, among which are the prestigious Red Dot, IF and Good design award.

Architect Bobby Mukherji, Principal Architect & Founder of Bobby Mukherji & Associates was felicitated by Mr. Pau Abello, Managing Director, Roca Bathroom Products Pvt. Ltd. & Architect Claudio Bellini, Principal Architect, Atelier Bellini. Ar. Bobby Mukherjee heads his eponymous firm and lends his acumen to architecture, urban planning and interior design domain spanning across various hospitality, commercial, residential, recreational and aviation segments. With expertise in luxury, his unrivalled vision and planning brings uniqueness to projects that he undertakes. He is a graduate from The Academy College of Architecture, Mumbai, who earned his wings overseas before returning to make a difference in India. He is the youngest amongst 10 alumni students felicitated for their achievement in the area of design and architecture. With over 20 years of industry experience, his designs have won him many accolades.

Architect Sanjay Puri & Architect Nina Puri, Principal Architects & Founders of Sanjay Puri Architects were felicitated by Mr. Pau Abello, Managing Director, Roca Bathroom Products Pvt. Ltd., Architect Claudio Bellini, Principal Architect at Atelier Bellini and Mr. Madhusudan Lohia, Chairman Merino Industries (Merino Group). Evolving innovative design solutions, contributing to sustainability and creating spaces that revolutionize the way they are experienced form the essence of the Sanjay Puri Associates' design philosophy. This mandate has allowed the firm to create a diverse portfolio and with 72 people now, they are currently involved in the design of over 100 projects in 40 Indian cities, Spain, Montenegro, Mauritius and the UAE.

The firm has won over 47 international and 63 national architecture awards including The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture & Design's International Architecture Awards, The World Architecture Festival Awards for three consecutive years, the World Architecture Community Awards, U.K and the Hospitality Design Awards, New York. The architect duo Sanjay and Nina Puri continue to inspire their firm to propel their quest for creating innovative design solutions that are sustainable on a larger scale.

Mr. Munish Doshi, Managing Director, Acme Group was felicitated by Mr. Vivek Talwar, Managing Director, NITCO. Under Mr Doshi's leadership, the Group has grown manifold in terms of sales turnovers and asset values. His extensive knowledge in real estate business and rich experience in Land Acquisitions, Business Development, Sra Projects, Strategic Property Planning, Redevelopment Projects, Restructuring Operations, Public Relations, Collaborations And Joint Ventures has aided the company's growth. He has also been a very active member and a treasurer of the MCHI-CREDAI Thane Unit.

Mr. Nayan Bheda, Managing Director, Neptune Group was felicitated by Mr. Vitek Goyal, CEO Pixeltek. Mr. Nayan Bheda is a first generation entrepreneur who has built his organisation on foundations of sound strategy, streamlined processes, innovative thinking and an uncompromising attention to detail. He has been instrumental in completing projects of a total area of 8 million sq ft and managing ongoing projects of a total area of 27 million sq ft across all income brackets including the high-end luxury to the low-cost category. Mr. Narsi Kularia, Managing Director, Narsi & Associates was felicitated by Mr. Pau Abello, Managing Director, Roca Bathroom Products Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Madhusudan Lohia, Director, Merino Industries Ltd (Merino Group) and Architect Claudio Bellini, Principal Architect at Atelier. The eponymous firm spearheaded by Managing Director Mr. Narsi Kularia is one of the leading companies in the Indian interior fit-out industry for over two decades. The firm runs an ultra-modern manufacturing unit at Mumbai equipped with cutting-



edge technologies to manufacture high quality furniture and have earned a reputation for excellence in providing a package of services ranging from concept to execution. The firm is a preferred choice for

leading architects, PMC's and clients. Apart from winning several awards and accolades, Rajasthan Udgosh Patrika had conferred the prestigious 'Interior Icon' upon Mr. Kularia in 2012.

## Architects Call For Evolving Sustainable Humane Habitats

Rizvi College of Architecture, Mumbai hosted the 17th International Conference on Humane Habitat (ICHH) 2015 from January 31-February 2, at the college premises. Mr. Nirmal Deshmukh, CEO, Dharavi Redevelopment Project inaugurated the conference as the chief guest. Ar. Rusi Khambatta, ex President Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) suggested that we should adopt the idea of EcoCities to transform our settlements, Prof. Madhav Deobhakta Past President, World Society of Ekistics (WSE) proposed the principles of Ekistics should be applied in finding practical solutions to problems of human settlements. Prof. Uday Gadkari President, Council of Architecture appreciated the efforts of IAHH in organising the 17th ICHH 2015. Prof. Anil Nagrath, Secretary General, IAHH welcomed the guests and recommended adoption of affordable housing norms. Prof. Akhtar Chauhan, President, IAHH and Convener ICHH 2015 called for evolving our cities as sustainable humane habitats. The 17th edition of ICHH focused on the application of principles of Sustainability and Humane-ness on the actual practice and design of Architecture and Urbanism, the conference attracted a roster of distinguished speakers from India and abroad. As was clearly laid out in the talk by Prof. Frank Llyons, visiting scholar from the University of Bath, England and the Co-Founder of the Bristol-based practice Humane Architecture, any sustainable form of Architecture has to dwell on the noumenal or 'spiritual' dimension of space-making, if Architecture has to fulfill its role as being relevant to a particular society, and being of value

to the universal values of love, joy, participation, dignity and respect that form the bases of community and social engagements. This idea was reflected in the talk by Pune-based Architect, Educationist and Writer Prof. Narendra Denge, who spoke of the necessity to assimilate diverse aspects or fragments, what he called 'aggregates' – into a holistic and synthesised entity, something that can only be achieved through deep reflection, silence and engagement with the situation, so that there is a reduction in the states of 'conflict' – that prevents man from seeing the world as a unified whole to which he needs to necessarily respond. This need for synthesis was brought out in the talk by Prof Akhtar Chauhan, Director of the Rizvi College of Architecture, Mumbai that hosted the conference. Chitra Vishwanath from Bangalore – an architect who engages a lot with earth as a building material – while showing her rich body of work, mentioned that the human dimension of architecture evolves from the ecological aspects and not the economic aspects. True sustainability will minimise ecological costs, in her view, and thus will ensure the amicable co-existence of man and nature – something that is threatened by the view of Modern man as an autonomous being – a product of 20th century rationalism and science. Speaking in a similar vein, architects Parul Zaveri and Nimish Patel spoke of the importance of sustaining the country's diverse crafts traditions. After agriculture, building crafts and traditional arts occupy the second position in terms of occupation country-wide, and the current trend of importing and using 'international'

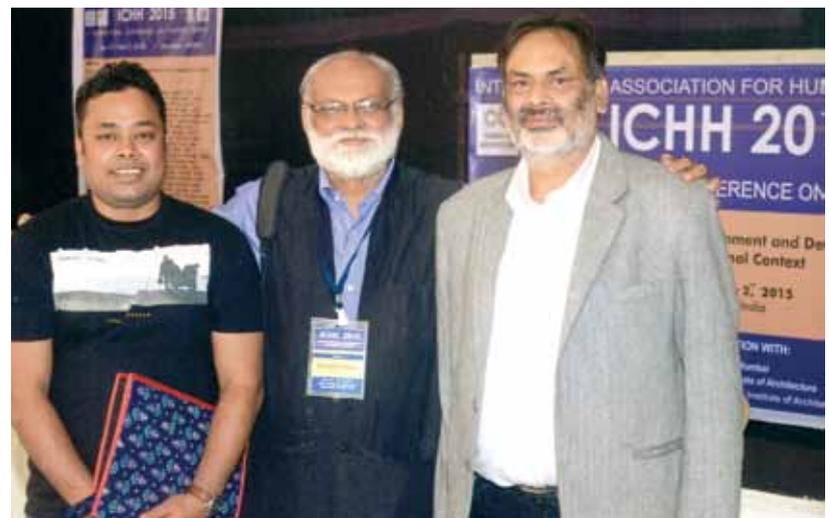
### Channeling Brand Needs through ACETECH

ABEC Exhibitions & Conferences Pvt. Ltd. organises several exhibitions across varied industry verticals ranging across lifestyle, travel & tourism, oil & gas, education, real estate, building materials etc. ET ACETECH is an initiative undertaken and organised by ABEC Exhibitions & Conferences Pvt. Ltd. to propel the building industry across new horizons by simply bridging the gap between its components. It is the largest pan-India industry exhibition facilitating the development of Architecture, Construction, Engineering, Innovation, Design and Building Materials. Being the largest expo in Asia, ACETECH serves as an ideal platform to exhibit, exchange, invest and progress at an expeditious pace. Since its inception in 2006, the company has accomplished a grand scale of operation, with national as well as international associations to

its credit. ET ACETECH is a pioneer and a frontrunner for construction industry specific tradeshows held across the country. It is one of the most ambitious expos and is a league of its own. During the days of the expo, there are numerous conferences held concurrently, primarily in Delhi and Mumbai, such as The Design Mock Up Studio, The Global Green Summit, The International Lighting Summit; Grand Stand Awards; ACETECH Connect; The ACETECH Design Wall, the ET ACETECH Glass Intertech. In retrospect, ACETECH is not just a tradeshow but also a holistic approach to lifting the face of the building industry by hosting a list of allied events and concurrent knowledge forums parallel to the prime focus.

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## NEWS



products is threatening the livelihood and persistence of these traditions. As such, they proclaimed, it is the responsibility of the Architect and the Client to ensure that there is an impetus to local crafts and materials, and thus the empowerment of local craftsmen. Other speakers of note included noted Historian Prof Nalini Thakur; Dean of

the Jamia Milia University, Delhi, Prof S M Akhtar; noted Toronto-based Iranian scholar Dr Parvin Ghaemmaghami; Architects Ashish Ganju and Sanjay Prakash from Delhi; distinguished architects Christopher Benninger from Pune and Brinda Somaya from Mumbai, and the increasingly important Chennai-based architect Biju Kuriakose, an alumni of the Rizvi