Indian Architect and Builder (IA&B) Forum’s event “Structure, an essence of Architecture” in association with U.S. Green Building Council saw an evening with over 90 architects and 120 structural engineers in Delhi on 11th December. The attempt was to create discourse about structure not as a specialty but as a prerequisite of all actions, specifically creation in architecture, with a special address to design, innovation and sustenance. The evening began with a welcome note by Mr Yatinder Suri, who highlighted and appreciated the idea of bringing structural engineers and architects together on this platform for a sustainable future.

The guest of honour was Mr Mahendra Raj, who after lighting the lamp with the other panelists gave a lecture about the importance of collaborations between engineers and architects. He also posed questioning thoughts to the architects and engineers to invigorate awareness. The distinguished panelists were Mr Mahesh Tandon from Delhi, Architect Ashok B Lall from Delhi, Dr V V Nori from Mumbai and Architect Gurjit Singh Matharoo from Ahmedabad.

Structure and design being their forte, the speakers presented and discussed various facets of the issue, each with their own ideologies and concepts about how to translate structural ideas to architecture or vice versa.

Mr GopalaKrishnan and Mr Manish Garg presented their ideologies representing the works and concepts of their respective companies as industry partners of the event, to further strengthen the ideas of Structure and Design.

Mr Mahendra Raj’s presentation spoke about the ideals followed of structural design through the years in various projects across the world anchoring the facts that a true synchronisation between the two will lead to creating awe inspiring structures. Through his projects he entailed how resources in terms of material and site parameters as well as history could be sustained with a conscientious effort from its creators to respect nature and all she presents.

Mr Mahesh Tandon through the firm’s journey, succinctly covered every aspect of the building industry’s approach (or the lack of it) to creating effective construction of structures especially bridges. He also discussed in detail the use of concrete as an essential material in the building processes, time limitations and about client participation and political influences.

Mr Gurjit Singh Matharoo through a very humorous medium put forth many situations of client influence, structural design elements and architecture combining to make honorary structures. Through his presentation he illustrated how interesting conversations with the engineers and the clients can be turned out to create unique spaces.

Mr Ashok Lall through illustrative examples of his own projects described how sustainability amalgamated with thoughtful structures could and should be achieved in projects of all scales. He demonstrated many examples of such an event of collaborations in many of his designs.

Clinical and academic in content, Dr V V Nori spoke of the volatile nature of norms and regulations laid out by the authorities of the industry. At the same time, he proposed a feasible solution to reform and resolve fundamental loopholes in the system.

Hosted by IA&B Sub-editor Meghna Mehta, an interesting discussion amongst the panelists and the audience followed the presentations. The audience participated in an engaging discussion with the panelists, questioning, discussing and putting forth their concepts on matters of the earth.

The evening concluded with talks about the importance of collaboration of structural elements and designing and innovating for sustenance in the future over dinner. The evening saw eminent architects from the city Delhi and many students from SPA Bhopal.
interact and discuss the core ideas of Structure being an essence of architecture, putting forth what the future holds for us.

In the world of construction, buildings have the capacity to make a major contribution to a more sustainable future for our planet. Add to this the fact that for the first time in human history over half of the world’s population now lives in urban environments and it’s clear that buildings have become vital cornerstones for securing long-term environmental, economic and social viability.

Durable construction aims to meet present day needs for housing, working environments and infrastructure without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs in times to come. Rigid construction involves issues such as the design and management of buildings; materials performance; construction technology and processes; energy and resource efficiency in building; improvement to existing contextual conditions; interdependencies of landscape, infrastructure, urban fabric and architecture; flexibility in building use, function and change; and the dissemination of knowledge in related academic, technical and social contexts.

We are thankful to our industry partners, Main Partner: U.S. Green Building Council, Associate Partner: Everest Pre-Engineered Buildings, Cocktail & Networking Partner: Outokumpu India Pvt Ltd, Support Partner: Tata Strucutra and Knowledge Partners: Indian Association of Structural Engineers and Consulting Engineers Association of India.