

REPORT

COLLISION

A PLATFORM FOR DISAGREEMENTS, June 2020



Name of the Event: COLLISION 2020

Place and Date of the Event: Google Meet, 22 June 2020

Organising Team and Collaborators:

Prof Dr Vibhuti Sachdev, Dean SSAA

Prof Amrita Madan, Professor, SSAA and Director, SSAA FacTOR

Aruna Bhardwaj, Associate Professor, SSAA, and Coordinator SSAA FacTOR

Srijani Hazra, Assistant Professor, SSAA, and Coordinator SSAA FacTOR

Parshati Datta, Assistant Professor, SSAA, and Coordinator SSAA FacTOR

COLLISION

"The beginning of thought is in disagreement - not only with others but also with ourselves."

— Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State of Mind: And Other Aphorisms*

Sushant School of Art and Architecture launched *COLLISION*, a platform that shuns absolute faith, absolute power and subscription.

COLLISION is a platform for disagreements (on various issues related to the disciplines of Architecture, Planning and Design) where we exercise our right to express, fight, combat, question, oppose, challenge and resist preset notions, dogmas and even linear thought processes. *We find a hard problem and talk about it... We leave the door open for solutions, insights, confluence, divergences – that which will allow us to challenge some more!*

COLLISION 2020 is titled **A HOME IS NOT A HOUSE**. It posits -

Does design serve construction or vice versa?

Where is the debate (can we innovate) in Building Construction Technology?

An ever-present debate in academics of architecture is of our responsibility towards industry, in so much as whether our graduates are ready to take on positions of responsibility in practices or

in projects – the real world. In academics, we argue that design is the place of fantasy while building construction technologies are where the real essence of architecture lies. In practice, we argue that we need to know how to design from a maker’s mind-set, and make real buildings. The push and pull between the two often expresses itself as a contest of time spent by the students on either one. The battle of wits that enfolds is not only not in the favour of education but, on the contrary, it indicates to students that there is a world out there where these two critical aspects might survive without each other, and do not have the same goal in mind – the making of well-rounded citizens of the discipline.

We segregate, and then, we struggle. In COLLISION 2020, lets talk, push, fight it out – WHAT IF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION WERE THE SAME?

Argument #1:

What: Does design serve construction or vice versa?

Who: A face-off between

Prof Sanjay Prakash, Principal Consultant, SHiFT, Studio for Habitat Futures

Dr Hocine Bougdah, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Westminster

When: 11.00am – 1.00pm, 22 June 2020

Where: Google meet link - <https://meet.google.com/qpw-aqgg-jqd>

Argument #2:

What: Constructing Buildings or Making Architecture: Where is the debate in the production of Architecture?

Who: A face-off between

Architect Suhasini Ayer-Guigan, Auroville Design Consultants

Amin Nayyar, Practicing Architect, Director, ANA Design Studio Pvt Ltd

When: 2.30 – 4.30pm, 22 June 2020

Where: Google meet link - <https://meet.google.com/oow-ovnb-pkg>

Join in through Google Meet or tune into Ansal University website for Youtube Live Streaming @ <https://ansaluniversity.edu.in/sushant-school-of-art-and-architecture/about-school/ssaafactor>

Open to: ALL as well as registered participants

Moderators and Instigators

Prof Dr Vibhuti Sachdev, Dean SSAA

Prof Amrita Madan, Professor, SSAA and Director, SSAA FacTOR

Aruna Bhardwaj, Associate Professor, SSAA, and Coordinator SSAA FacTOR

Participants and affiliations:

S.no	Name	Designation and Affiliation
External Participants		
1	Abhimanyu Bhatia	Visiting Faculty, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
2	Abhimanyu Sharma	Assistant Professor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra
3	Aditya Kumar Singh	Associate Professor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra
4	Alpi Jain	Independent practitioner
5	Amandeep Kaur	Assistant Professor, School of Architecture & Design, ITM University, Gwalior
6	Anahita Fotedar	Independent Design Consulatnt

7	Anupama Chawla	Visiting Faculty, SSAA
8	Anurakti Yadav	Assistant Professor
9	Digvijay Singh	Architect, Independent Consultant
10	Dilip Singh Kushwaha	Assistant Professor, Amity School of Architecture and Planning, Amity University, Haryana
11	Gaurav M Mathur	Head Of Department, Apex School Of Architecture
12	Gayatri Mangore-Bankapure	Assistant Professor, <u>Sinhgad</u> College of Architecture, Pune
13	Kapil Mathur	Visiting Faculty, School of Planning and Architecture
14	Krishn Mathur	Assistant Professor, Lovely Professional University.
15	Kshatriya Shailesh Ashok	Professor, RPET's Ramesh Phirodia College of Architecture, Ahmednagar.(MH99).
16	Kuntal Shah	Architect and Urban Planner at Affordable Housing Mission, Gandhinagar
17	Minal Palve	Associate Professor at Symbiosis School of Architecture, Urban Development and Planning
18	Mrinal G.Kashid	Associate Professor, MGM's JNEC, DEpt.of Architecture, Aurangabad, (M.S)
19	Navin Gupta	Assistant Professor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra
20	Parul Kiri Roy	Assistant Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
21	Poonam Upadhyay	Assistant Professor
22	B Praveen Kumar	Assistant Professor
23	Purva Mujumdar	Visiting Faculty, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
24	Raguraman.P	Associate Professor, Anna University
25	Rajesh Gaggar	Principal Architect Living Spaces
26	Rajeshree Gavhane	Assistant Professor, VIVA School of Architecture
S.no	Name	Designation and Affiliation
27	Rima Beya Fares	PhD student in Architecture at the University of Oum El Bouagui in Algeria.
28	Ritesh Agrawal	Professor, VIVA School of Architecture
29	S.P.Anchuri	Visiting Faculty and Practicing Architect
30	Shekhar Garud	Academic coordinator, PVP college of architecture, Pune
31	Sindhuree Iyengar	Assistant Professor, Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai
32	V. Selvaraj	Principal, KL School of Architecture, Vijayawada
Internal Participants		
33	Avitesh	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
34	Deepika Raina	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
35	Farah Ahmed	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
36	Madhur Prakash	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
37	Meenu Babu	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture

38	Mohd Anees	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
39	Neha Mallick	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
40	Parul Sharma	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
41	Piyush Das	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
42	Preetha Ravisree	Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
43	Pritam Lenka	Associate Professor, Sushant School of Design
44	Ramit Nahaar	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
45	Saloni Malhotra	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
46	Samruddhi Bhalerao	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
47	Saniya Siddiqui	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
48	Sanjay Kumar	Workshop Supervisor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
49	Srijani Hazra	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
50	Tanvi Manglick	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture
51	Tanya Agarwal	Assistant Professor, Sushant School of Art and Architecture

Audience:
Faculty of SSAA
Members of Academia and Profession

22.06.2020 A HOME IS NOT A HOUSE

COLLISION 2020

Drawing by François Dallegret from Reyner Banham's A Home is Not a House

argument #1
SHOULD DESIGN SERVE CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY?

A face off between Sanjay Prakash and Dr Hocine Bougdah
Time : 11:00 - 13:00 hrs
Link: <https://meet.google.com/qpw-aagg-jqd>
OPEN TO ALL

argument #2
WHERE IS THE DEBATE IN THE PRODUCTION OF ARCHITECTURE?

A face off between Suhasini Ayer and Amin Nayyar
Time : 14:30 - 16:30 hrs
Link: <https://meet.google.com/oow-ovnb-pkg>
OPEN TO ALL

SSAA PRESENTS JUNE COLLISION

SSAA School of Art and Architecture

ansal University

<https://ansaluniversity.edu.in/sustant-school-of-art-and-architecture/about-school/ssaaactor>

Tune into Ansal University website for Youtube Live Stream

SSAA

Links to video recordings on SSAA Live YouTube channel:

Session 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r13fSQIrxII&t=6374s>

Session 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tCi8djZE3Q>

Summary of the proceeding:

Dr Vibhuti Sachdev, Dean SSAA put across the agenda of Collision as the platform to bring to fore radically opposite views – of Vivaad as against Samvaad. Arguments are

Sessions: Two sessions were conducted – one from an academic viewpoint and one from the purview of practice. Speakers within the session were engineers, architects, architects-turned-engineers or engineers-turned-architects.

Session 1 Face-off between

Prof Sanjay Prakash, Principal Consultant, SHiFT, Studio for Habitat Futures

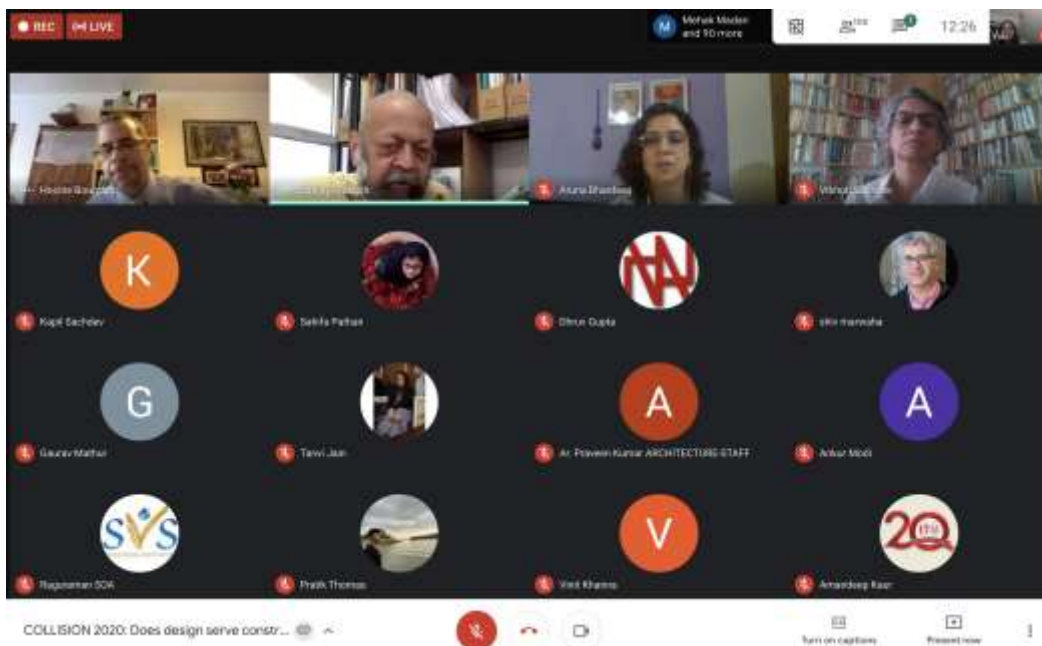
Dr Hocine Bougdah, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Westminster



Should Design Serve Construction Technology?

Dr Hocine Bougdah's well-articulated argument, that the experience of the occupant is penultimate, for the house to be the home illustrated the importance of the architect as the master of the creative process. His proposal that the structure has to be imbued with instances of self-impression, expression and with memories and experiences, was also well received by the participants and the audience. This and many such ideas were important counterpoints to Prof Sanjay Prakash's proposition that "without a physical realisation in materials, design has no meaning". Sanjay Prakash illustrated the idea that "architects need to think more like engineers to create great architecture" through your projects, which had a lasting impression on the minds of the attending students and teachers of architecture.

Other points discussed were Materiality through building construction and non-materiality of architecture through design, the divide between the processes and preoccupations between design and construction, where some are suspended, some are prioritised, the politics of material, technology and style and the absence of the client within the education process.



Session 2 Face-off between

Architect Suhasini Ayer-Guigan, Auroville Design Consultants

Amin Nayyar, Practicing Architect, Director, ANA Design Studio Pvt Ltd



Constructing Buildings or Making Architecture? - Where's the debate in BC?

Mr Amin Nayar's proposition that innovative architecture practice has to be the new norm provided another viewpoint to Architect Suhasini Ayer's approach; context-specific solutions as a means to reduce operational energy. While the debate laid to rest the misgivings about whether technological solutions can translate into environment-sensitive proposals, it also reinforced the idea of scientific inquiry into the making of architecture

Suhasini Ayer's humanitarian approach expressed the importance of the intangible correlations between society, culture, and design and development as epitomised by a sustainability of substitution and elimination. For her, the production of architecture is looking at the structure of society and its inevitable economics – clients, projects and other players - within which we function as architects and how we defined why and what we do within.

Whereas, Amin's approach was that we have to move beyond the idea that an architect will add value by simply doing a good plan (which he defined as a given) by asking the question - What do I bring to the table, that makes it that much better? This is achieved by bringing in experience from other facets of life. Production of buildings is where we need to focus and should not take away an iota of what you are doing as far as the design in concerned.



Accomplishment: The programme was highly successful and raised some critical points which can be looked into by the larger community of architecture pedagogues.

Panelist Feedback:

From Ms Suhasini Ayer-Guigan

Actually, I should thank you for providing me with the opportunity to share, network and communicate. Since 2018, I have been tentatively reaching out to some of the faculty in couple of arch colleges in Chennai to see if I could teach / mentor as visiting faculty but having been isolated both by choice and geography since 3 decades, it not easy to plug in. Also, many of these colleges seem to be so new that they are busy finding their own. So, opportunities like this are great and hopefully we collaborate further