

My first meeting with Shaheer was in 4th year of architecture at BKPS College, Pune in 1995 when he was invited for a talk and introduction to landscape Architecture...

His statement" Don't try to be a landscape architect without becoming one" irked some and persuaded some to work harder for the entrance test and interview.

For the first assignment on play ground in the very first semester we had to design a super creative play area that's unique and yet workable.

When he came to my desk and i shared some of the initial ideas he said" **young lady every line you draw on the paper will be made on the face of earth. Understand the huge responsible you have as a landscape architect. Dont try to do pretty pictures. Let's leave it to the artists. The design must be creative, sensitive and yet practical. Feel for the space, imagine you are in that space"**

He encouraged me to draw eye level views of the project something we as architects normally did not do as we are so fond of Birds eye views.

Till date I never forget the responsibility I have and the effect my design will have on mother earth... The most profound statement anyone ever said to me and ever remained fresh in my head...

I am today as a designer all due to his strong foundations. He will always be remembered.

Raji Iyer

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