

Tribute to Prof. Prabhakar from Shishir Raval

I came to meet and know late Mr. Prabhakar Bhagwat in 1982 (seems long ago) when I had an opportunity to work on the Gujarat state cricket association's cricket stadium design in Motera, Ahmedabad. He was the project landscape architect and I was a newly minted landscape architect working with the architects of the stadium based in Vadodara.

Since then till we last met at a meeting organized by Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation in Gandhinagar a few years ago, I remember him as a person with unique charm and intense involvement in all aspects of landscape architecture. His expansive experiences in both academia and professional practice, spanning our vast country and across continents, will perhaps remain unmatched. Whenever I used to visit from the USA, I made time to visit his office in Ahmedabad. Though I never had a chance to work with/under him, occasionally I had some good, direct and indirect, opportunities to interact and talk with him. I am grateful for those moments.

When I met Deepa Maheshwari, his long-time student and colleague at CEPT, for the ISOLA AGM last year, soon after his passing away, I said, "a big tree fell on CEPT campus recently... it is so sad." She looked puzzled till I mentioned quickly that I was talking about Prof. P. Bhagwat.

From the Timbi quarry restoration to cricket stadium to shaping hearts and minds of many in landscape architecture and life, Prof. P. Bhagwat has left an indelible mark on our beloved discipline and challenging profession. Like many, I mourn silently for the loss we suffered due to his demise. May his soul rest in eternal peace. May we cherish and keep learning from his memories and contributions.

With regards,

~Shishir