

## **PROF. MOHD. SHAHEER**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 1948 -28<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

It has been a rather unfortunate year for the Indian Society of Landscape architects, we as a fraternity are coping with the indispensability of a stalwart, visionary, guide and most of all our well-wisher.

Prof. Shaheer was an institution in himself, a guru to most India educated landscape architects. I call him an institution because he was unique in his excellence of design expression as well as intellectual thinking, a combination not in the least usual in our context. This expertise and depth across subjects has left its footprints on intellectual and design terrain as a legacy of exemplary landscape projects, insightful articles and generations of inspired and conscientious students turned practitioners.

The decades of his engagement with the Post graduate department of Landscape architecture, SPA Delhi, as Professor and then Head were indeed golden years. Under his guidance, the department was a probing, creative and an exciting place of learning. And this I can say with authority as I had the good fortune of being one of his students then. There are many others who will also vouch for that and consider themselves fortunate to have been under his watchful eye. He inculcated in his students the rigor of practice, the need to consistently deliver quality in everything one did. As a teacher he spawned an entire generation of landscape architects who believe he has had a major role in shaping their thinking and practice. He inculcated the true spirit of a Guru in wanting to disseminate his knowledge freely and repeatedly with all who went to him for advice. For generations we have considered it a badge of honour to have studied under him. We salute the Teacher that he was to all of us.

Beyond education, his contribution to the Landscape profession in India has been enormous. A landscape architect of rare distinction, his works have inspired and influenced the entire landscape community. His projects serve not just as benchmarks, they are indeed role models for practices throughout the country. He played a significant role in bringing recognition and dignity to the profession, be it as a member of the Delhi Urban Art Commission, or for penning down the code for landscape for the National building code, or as the author of landmark public projects across India.

As a fraternity, ISOLA, remain forever indebted to Prof. Shaheer. He was not only our founder member, but had been an invaluable guide and mentor to the Society, shaping in many ways how we have grown. It is indeed difficult to think of ISOLA without him. As our 'go to in distress' person, he helped our nascent community in many moments of quandary and in much of our decision making. His sharp comments and nonpartisan views helped us see things with clarity. The benchmark of ethical values that he set, have today, to a great extent, brought ISOLA to the respect and recognition it elicits in the profession today. As President of ISOLA, I pledge to follow the path he so clearly defined for us. We stand united forever guided by his intellect and spirit.

It has been an enriching journey with a legend. Though we will miss his presence, his essence and spirit will continue to guide and mentor us. We individually, professionally and as a fraternity aspire to deliver to the high standards he had set out for himself.

Thank you, Prof. Shaheer for letting us have the honour of walking alongside you for a brief moment in time as you charted your journey across the Indian terrain.

***Rohit Marol***

ISOLA President  
(December 2015)