

It is very difficult to come to terms that Sir is no more.

At a time when our lives were seeking to absorb not just knowledge but inspiration for growth as a human being, Sir was instrumental in nurturing our young minds.

I feel fortunate that I was his student. I want to share 2 out of many exchanges that we had in class.

1. At the very outset, he bulldozed the notion of inadequacy in my life when he responded to my dithering and agonised mind- "Explore your potential" and on another occasion, "Nobody is weak in anything. If you find something difficult, you just need to apply yourself harder so that you start understanding". Thus, he helped me to believe in myself and proceed with boldness, self-confidence and a sense of pride in my own creativity.

2. He asked us what we thought of India gate urban landscape. He wanted us to express an emotion we experienced when we were in that setting. "Uplifting!" That answer was what excited him. That day I grasped the meaning of "scale" in designed spaces. He went on to deconstruct the planning of the India Gate area landscape and the way we perceive Taj Mahal from the entrance to its compound.

Explaining "Scale" and "Site Planning" in a way that I felt awakened to these aspects. My mind expanded every time he delivered an interactive lecture or gave a crit. I was always mesmerised by the unlocking of the design methodologies, connected so beautifully with the human experiences and emotions.

He taught me to always strive to create uplifting design spaces... an ode to the underlying rhythm of life itself, making it manifest, to strike a chord in the human beings who wander in these spaces.

I learnt how to learn and perceive from Nature and places...

He helped me walk on my own...

With my deepest regard, to Sir Forever...

***Kavita Jain***

(January 18th, 2016)