



**Minutes for the 13th Annual General Body Meeting of the
INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
Held at Ahmedabad on the 8th of September 2018**

LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Executive Council Members

1. Sujata Kohli	Hon. President
2. Sridevi Rao	Hon. Vice President
3. Nidhi Madan	Hon. Secretary
4. Jitendra Pawgi	Hon. Treasurer
5. Rohit Marol	Past President
6. Avadhoot Kumthekar	Fellow Member
7. Shravana Reddy	Fellow Member
8. Swati Sahasrabudhe	Fellow Member
9. Asokkumar	Associate Member
10. Dwaipayan Bhattacharya	Associate Member
11. Anju Bareja	Mumbai
12. Bobby Sujansingani	Gujarat
13. Jasleen Waraich	Delhi NCR
14. Nina Chandawarkar	Bangalore
15. Narasimham.V.V.L.	Hyderabad
16. Vikas Bhosekar	Maharashtra

Kerala Conference LOC

17. Sebastian Jose

Other Members

18. Aditya Advani
19. Anuj Malhotra
20. Ashish Patankar
21. Bobby Sujan
22. Chandni Patel
23. Chhitiz Gupta
24. Deepa Maheshwari
25. Dhanashree Kulkarni
26. Harsh Goel
27. Janaki
28. Kishore Pradhan
29. Madhup Mazumder
30. Manjiri Mahajan
31. Minesh Parikh
32. Nandita Parikh

INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Registered under Indian Societies Act 1860 Sec. 21 No.: **Guj2557** & Bombay Trust Act 1950 Section 29 No.: **F9417**

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33. Priya Sharma
34. Priyesh Shah
35. Rucha Nangare
36. Sachin Jain
37. Sandip Patil
38. Satish Khanna
39. Savita Punde
40. Shilpa Chandawarkar
41. Shishir Rawal
42. Shruti Humane
43. Shweta Suhane
44. Shivika Jain
45. Tanvi Chaudhari
46. Vasanti Londhe
47. Yogesh Kapoor

Special Invitee

48. Rajnikant Trivedi CA

1. To approve the minutes of the last AGM held on the 19th of August 2017.

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and no comments had come in from the members. The minutes were approved by all present and accepted.

2. To approve and adopt the Audited Annual Accounts as approved by the Executive Council for the year ended 31-03-2018.

The auditor Rajnikant Trivedi presented the audited accounts of the Society to all members present and following are the salient points of the same:

- *ISOLA is in a healthy financial position and presently has funds of approximately 1.3 crores.*
- *It was a non-conference year so receipts were less. Expenses of rent has gone up.*
- *He explained that ISOLA has invested in FDs, and safer mutual funds with no risks, hence the interest that may come will be lower as compared to other mutual funds options, but definitely this is the best option. These are also the ones permitted by the government for charitable trusts.*
- *15.5% returns on investment in the second year of mutual fund investments. It was decided in a previous AGM that mutual fund interests will be reviewed every three years. Hence next review will be in Aug 2021.*
- *25 lakhs from Pune conference accumulated. No tax paid on it, as per provision of law. 8 lakhs spent.*
- *Financial discipline for chapter was encouraged. All the chapters have idle funds and need to create FDs. Delhi is a good example. Gujarat has 3 lakhs in a savings account. Some TDS penalty notices from prior years continue to come, those details are not available, and we have cleared all penalties for the same till date and hence, they are no defaults pending.*
- *Rajnikant Trivedi suggested a workshop be held for all chapter treasurers or one chapter representative each, since there are now eight chapters, to discuss and clarify all issues to avoid problems later and continue financial discipline. Develop financial systems that continue even though people keep changing.*

Questions regarding buying an office space was raised. There is a surplus of funds so the question was- should ISOLA diversify and take on an office space as an immovable asset.

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Discussions raised the cost and financial viability, options of taking a loan, the return on investment, capital appreciation and the risks associated with purchasing an office space or land.

Rajnikant Trivedi suggested not taking a loan and only allocating funds available to ISOLA, and buying an office instead of land. He suggested it is easier to purchase, but selling requires permission from the Charity Commissioner, this can be an issue if it is outside Gujarat. Space requirements change over time as well.

Rajnikant Trivedi to look at the options and revert with the pros and cons based on calculations of savings over 5 years. This will help to weigh the alternatives and enable decision making in this regard. One issue to be taken into consideration raised was that property purchase will tie up funds, particularly with biennial conferences and lesser earnings as a result. This would reduce funds available for research and/or publications or other such in the next few years. It was suggested that when the corpus increases further, this is done then.

After presentation by the auditor, the audited accounts were accepted and approved by all present.

3. To appoint the auditor for the current financial year.

This was unanimously approved by all present and Vibhakar Trivedi will be reappointed for the current financial year.

4. Condolence Message for Mahesh Paliwal

The proceedings began with a minute of silence to commemorate the life and loss of our senior member and colleague Mahesh Paliwal on the 30th of August 2018. We offer our deepest condolences to his immediate family as well as his extended family of colleagues and friends.

5. To adopt the Annual Report of the Society for the year ended 31-03-2018.

The Honorary Secretary read out the annual report of the Society and it was accepted by all present. The Secretary's report is a part of the minutes of this meeting for future record and reference.

6. To briefly present the annual reports of the Local Chapters by their respective chairpersons/representatives and to introduce the newly elected Chapter managing committees from Bangalore and Mumbai.

All chapter chairpersons gave updates on their chapter activities starting with the newest formed chapter-Hyderabad. Narasimham.V.V.L showed a short video of the chapter and its first event held in conjunction with an EC meeting in June 2018.

Vikas Bhosekar shared the goal of forming a Maharashtra chapter was to include all cities and towns across the state and Shruti Humane, chapter secretary walked us through the deliberations on events planned.

M. Asokkumar, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry chapter secretary promised a more active year for the chapter.

Bobby Sujansingani, Gujarat chapter chair described efforts to reach out to lapsed members and rejuvenate the chapter with a targeted membership drive to understand what do members want, followed by individual follow-up and paid events for non-members. He outlined a schedule for 16 events on topics relevant to landscape architects using domain experts and donors as resource persons. These will be spread over two years and called One on one. The first two events were hosted on Soils.



Anju Bareja shared details of the Mumbai chapter events including the SD Vaidya lecture series and walk and charcha satraa discussions, and the proposed events for the upcoming months.

Nina Chandawarkar presented the past and planned events of the Bangalore chapter -a lecture by Nilam Mistry, Landscape by Cezanne, outreach at 3-4 colleges and thesis open day. A core committee selected 11 finalists from 42 entries who presented and discussed their works at a public forum.

It was a successful event, with a young enthusiastic group driving it. Plans for the year include outreach and connect to the community through presentations and dialogues, reach out to local architectural community, a professional speaker series, professional skill building and walks, mentorship forum where established practices put up work and students and others can come and see and engaging in the city through metro station as exhibition space.

Jasleen Waraich introduced the new Delhi NCR committee and past secretary Madhup Mazumder presented the annual report of the Delhi NCR chapter. Events held this past year include Transit Oriented Design in shaping new urbanism and a competition in association in DDA. Another event is scheduled for later in the month on lighting. Walks will be held later this year. Based on the experience of the competition, it was decided that competitions should be held judiciously and not by chapters to avoid overlaps and redundancy. Issues and challenge of numbers was brought up. More communication is required. The first chapter newsletter received appreciation.

7. Update on the Annual Conference 2019 to be held at Kochi, Kerala

Sebastian Jose, conference convenor (and chapter treasurer) introduced the theme 'Re-Imagining Landscapes', speakers, workshops and details of the upcoming ISOLA conference in Kochi on February 15th and 16th. He shared images of the post conference tours and a short video. He described the chapter events held so far and introduced the new Managing Committee and Local Organizing Committee as well.

8. Education Board

Education Board convenor Swati Sahasrabudhe presented the summary of the EB activities including the EB groups, the meeting held at the previous AGM and plans for an upcoming workshop in October 2018 (to close all pending documentation including the eligibility standards for recognition). Work has not been started on the resource center, but discussions are on.

A Teachers Training Program was conducted in collaboration with CoA and supported by BNCA, Pune on Sustainable Campus Planning in February. Dr. Abhijit Natu initiated and led the effort. 45 participants from across India participated and seven ISOLA members mentored the Programme as resource persons. It was suggested that the same module could be taken up by regional chapters. Mumbai Chapter has initiated efforts with respect to the same. An MoU with COA is in process with respect to conducting such Training Programs in future jointly with COA.

Five institutes are in different stages of assessment for ISOLA recognition. Only one institution has submitted its documentation. List of documents required will be shared with all EC. The EB is following up with the same.

There are also plans to host a workshop with the IFLA APR accreditation coordinator and the EB. Discussions emphasised the need to close all pending documentation and guidelines.



**9. To appraise members of the EC agenda for the next year-
MoUs**

Sujata Kohli talked about an initiative (discussed in the EC meeting the previous day) to contribute to work to rebuild Kerala after the floods. And then reviewed the goals this EC had when it took office. One was to collaborate with institutions who teach landscape architecture, with allied organizations and with government authorities.

These initiatives took off with the hosting of EC meetings in conjunction with events in Pune (BNCA) and Hyderabad (JNFAU). The EC focused on signing MoUs with institutions to share resources, space and expertise and having collaborative events. The first MoU will be signed soon. Chapters were encouraged to connect with local institutions and continue these efforts.

The collaboration with government authorities is lagging. The EC alone cannot follow through here, and all members are encouraged to help with suggestions and initiatives in this regard. ISOLA needs to be an influence in policy decisions.

ISOLA Awards

ISOLA President informed members that awards convenor Savita Punde had suggested an e-jury this year after the experience of the previous year. Rohit Marol agreed that all jury members had reviewed the entries and only required a short discussion to finalize awards. It will result in a huge savings and also allows overseas members to be jury members. This was agreed to unanimously.

A proposal to host the awards every alternate year in line with the conference was raised. This is due to fatigue in energy and submission levels every year with not enough content generated annually. The thinking is that the quality and quantity would decline in a few years. An exception would be for student awards, which would be held annually. It was agreed to follow this biennial cycle following the next awards at the Kerala conference. The following awards will be with the next conference.

Competitions

Chapters conduct competitions, and due to conflicting schedules and multiple competitions, there is little interest. Jasleen Waraich suggested that ISOLA should have one competition. Delhi chapter competition lacked for the research required for a project of that type. Savita Punde suggested a common studio across these institutions ISOLA signs MoUs with. Content generated through an academic program will have more substantive work. For e.g., IUDI is hosting a competition for redesigning 7 colonies in Delhi, something along those lines. Shishir Raval reflected on his teaching experience and highlighted the number of competitions that are taking place. He said we need to think beyond now, to larger goals.

ISOLA has one student award in place. The Mohammad Shaheer Landscape Trophy at NASA is one undergraduate student competition organized. Nina Chandawarker questioned the goal of a competition. It represents the education and possibly the institution more than the students and improve the standards of the profession.

Minesh Parikh suggested young members need to be given a forum to develop their skills research and oratory. This has been done in the events held with EC meetings in the current year where most of the presentations were by younger members and may continue.

NASA Collaboration

To create an understanding and interest in undergraduate architects towards landscape architecture, we have been talking to the office bearers of NASA on different approaches to do so.



We are currently discussing the idea of having workshops at the Zonal NASA conventions through our chapters to introduce them to the profession at an interactive level. The first workshop will be held in Kerala in September. Since chapter members will be occupied with the conference, members were requested to volunteer to mentor the first workshop. Shishir Raval volunteered.

Student Members

There are 68 student members. Savita Punde inquired if we can give students who are from associated colleges' free membership.

Deliberations on this issue raised the importance of professional affiliation and students to have access, whether those not taking membership was due to inertia not money, if it would be a goodwill gesture or if free is not valued as much. Aditya Advani questioned if ISOLA ambassadors go to schools to talk about it. This has recently been started by the ISOLA president but is a required initiative.

Calendar of Events

Suata Kohli stressed the need for a unified ISOLA calendar of all activities. Have not succeeded so far, but is required, so that information of events and activities is widely available for others who may wish to attend. Dwaipayan Bhattacharya to set it up. And this might help generate interest in a chapter in the east as well.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct document will be circulated shortly, drafted by Rohit Marol and Rohini Venkataswami. Rohit informed members that it is in two parts –Code and Scale of Charges. The latter has not moved forward due to little response. Hopefully more inputs will be received from the wider membership- what is the work, quantum of work, time and fee charged? Tier 1 and 2 cities costs very different. Senior members have been consulted in the past, but more inputs are required. This will be an important document for young practitioners and also as a reference for all.

Working Groups

The EC intends to set up working groups with different agendas including - EC functioning, awards, finance, social media. These would function independent of, but report to the EC and establish continuity for a longer period and expertise too. All members are encouraged to volunteer to be part of these groups - as contributor, mentor or member.

IFLA

Vikas Bhosekar to set up a business plan for ISOLA, others with help. To enable us to set up research work, plan for the future initiatives and public engagements.

Public Initiatives

Public initiatives started this year Delhi in a small way, ISOLA added its voice to advocacy and citizen efforts to protect trees. City level interventions need to be done across the country. Shishir Raval has initiated a white paper on environment in light of coming elections, since election manifestos do not talk about land etc. and this should be addressed. What is our position and message?

Professional Issues

Nandita Parikh emphasized that a legal standing for the profession was urgently required. We know what's wrong but how do you set it right? She suggested that even competitions should require membership or even landscape architectural degree.

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Not immediately possible, as per discussions with Architect Sudhir Vohra in a prior AGM. In the meantime, we can increase visibility with authorities. All members to put their points forward and continue to stress. Minesh Parkikh proposed a team of ISOLA spokespersons to work with press and be given a budget for it.

ISOLA could create a cell to create a format for RFP. Dhanashree Kulkarni reflected on a project she worked on where there were many conflicts and no ecological content.

The meeting ended with ISOLA President thanking all members for attending.

Minutes of the Meeting by:

Nidhi Madan

Honorary Secretary, ISOLA