

News and Views - 8

from a g rao

Mud gem 7

One should not waste one's life-time

thinking about problems!

One should solve them!

Recent Additions

- memory Lane 6 - Inimitable Design Maverick
Padmashree Dashrath Patel
- memory Lane 7 - Designer with a precision,
Benoy Sirkar and the story behind IA symbol
- aaduko maaduko - Expe Bamboo Workshop

My Thoughts

05th June, 2017

In March I was in Trikaipetta, Wayanad
(Kerala)

I reached late in the night (or morning
of 11th) at 1.30 a.m. after a long journey
from mumbai to Wayanad.

It was not exactly a surprise to find Siva-
raj, MD, Uravu Eco Links and Secretary,
Uravu still working, late in the night, giv-
ing final touches to the arrangements on
the first day!

Read more about '**Bamboo Log**'

Bamboo Log

- a grao

'Bamboo log' was a 'Seminar cum workshop' sponsored by several organizations supporting Tribal welfare, from 11-14, March, 2017. High light of the workshop was **two bamboo low cost houses** designed and built by Uravu, which were handed over to two users in presence of NABARD officials. The design and development was supported by INHAF (India Habitat Forum), an organization led by Architect Kirit Shah. On this occasion, Uravu also successfully projected Bamboo potentials. Bamboo furniture and House-designs by student-interns assisted by Uravu staff were also on exhibition.





Sivaraj introducing the Seminar and Padmashree architect Shankar

It brought in prominent people like the local MLA, District Judge and other Govt officials from State Govt, NABARD, etc. Technical sessions had reputed professionals like Dr. Seetha Lakshmi (ex FRI Kerala) well known for her book on Bamboos of India, Dr. Narasimha Murthy from IPIRTI, Shri. Sanjeev Karpe, MD, KONBAC, Shri. Justin Mohan, who headed Govt Project of building 50,000 houses in Srilanka in a record time, and many more!

I made a presentation on Innovations in Bamboo Craft products.

Uravu's organising ability in a remote village like Trikaipetta were outstanding.



Dr. Narasimha Murthy from Ipiri .
Kirit shah of INHAF in chair

Sessions on Bamboo Music on the evening brought in large local attendance!
At the dinner 'Local Tribal foods' got special space for first time!



Several issues related to policies were brought out during question hour.



Many students from design schools attended the Seminar!

This is when one realises that 'Design education' can be a driving force for the 'Future of a sane world'.

Can this small force contribute to check the mad general direction of Society whose sole aim seems to be to achieve 10% economic growth at any cost?

Design students come under constant conflict with their future life! On one side they look for jobs which gives them 'Security' to pursue the socially accepted role... having a car, a house, two children and getting caught in the inevitable cycle where we don't get time to question. But it has the sanction of middle class milieu from which they come from. On the other hand design schools and NGO's urge them to change the direction of the world into a 'sane path'! Sensitive young people are often caught in the conflict of these two directions trying to find a 'space' where they can live with ideals!

Alas! There are no easy answers or ready prescriptions. Young people with all their energy have to look at what thinkers like J. Krishnamurthy who says 'you are the world'.

Experiments in low cost Housing in Bamboo: URAVU in collaboration with INHAF(Indian Habitat Forum) developed and built two houses in Bamboo for low income groups! Architect Kirit Shah's energetic involvement brought in number of architecture students in to the design process. Studying the requirements of Tribal Community, understanding Bamboo Construction, concept generations, feedback, prototype building went on for an year!

I was present during the initial workshop with students!

It was nice to see a tribal community hall and two houses and an experimental structure coming out of the workshop. Bamboo furniture was also made . All these created an impressive mark on the visitor's minds.



Nabard official with Uravu team



Full view of bamboo low cost house



Side View



Front View

House in Detail



Inside detail



Roof tiles with bamboo support



Community hall - roof detail



Tree house next to Community hall



View from Tree house



Community Hall



Corrinne of uravu Eco Links in Community Hall



With integrated furniture the community hall acquires unique bamboo expression. Bent structural elements become part of furniture effortlessly!.





Open structure designed by a student of Shrishti



Possibility of filling with different elements makes the bamboo structure interesting





Furniture with a raw bamboo look has its own statement. Individuals looking for an unique craft identity find such designs very attractive and often are ready to take the trouble of transporting them at high cost. Art element overrides concern of high cost of transportation, maintenance, etc!





Chief guest(district judge) testing the bamboo furniture



IDC students who were in Uravu as Interns last 2years

- Shashank, Abhijit, Hirom, Sony, Nikhil
- Antik, Arnab and Arjun
- Shobha, Amey(this year)

Uravu has the unique advantage of working with big dia. bamboo..

With the production facility at Uravu , 5mm thick bamboo strips of 5cm width become available to make furniture.

For last 3 to 4 years Interns from IDC have been participating actively. the chair and stool at the top as well as leg rest have been developed by IDC students.

I have been playing a mentoring role for interns from IDC and other design Institutes.. Last year prof. Lance Rake and me were there for 4 to 5 days ,solving detailing problems of furniture designed by an architect for their resort.

Bamboo is a challenging live material to deal with. It would be a good idea for IDC to enter into a MOU with URAVU to bring bamboo furniture into urban Markets.



- I have written in earlier News letters : Design has to be understood as ‘Relay race’ where several individuals contribute to design and development activity. This is especially true in the areas like bamboo craft!
- Individuals do get identified with the design if they come out with unusual, creative solutions which work , not a mere variation which needs many iterations to make into a workable design!



bench designed for the resort



A simple chair and table is still very much looked for in Bamboo.

Details and technology has to play a bigger role. Flat surfaces for a chair to sit or for table top are not readily available. Better technology only can bring competitive materials to readily available ply wood and formica(melamine). Larger companies need to get into this business.

We are still dependant on hardware developed for wood for joints in bamboo! Great scope stares us for Innovation and production in these areas!

A quantum jump is necessary!
