

Q&A October webinar on Modulating Light in Architectural space

- **What is the role of the locale daylighting climate? You mentioned how mathematical solar geometry is however depending on particular characteristics of local climate math's variate significantly**

I was talking about the mathematical precision of solar movement which can be tracked through solar charts of local latitude. Obviously the context and geology of the place will impact the approach to design in a big way. Hence I gave examples of Rajasthan having hot dry climate surrounded by deserts as against Kerala with hot humid climate surrounded by lush green. Depending on the local climate, the perception to light as well as approach to architectural design totally changes.

- **Can you speak to the health effects of light (color, intensity and contrast)? I find that too much contrast causes headaches and floaters in the eyes.**

Yes, I totally agree with you, hence we study how to modulate the light which has been traditionally achieved through different techniques of layering.

- **I appreciate the aesthetics of managing light but feel that a good use of technology is to overcome the otherwise harsh effects and to emphasize the desired effects and emotion.**

Yes, technology does give that added advantage after addressing the problem through design. While dealing with natural light, the variables you have to deal with are too many. Traditionally these variables were addressed through layers of courtyards, screens, operable shutters, louvres etc. However if the need is to have precise control over the environment, technology is the only answer.

- **Adjustable louvers and filtered light make sense to me, but so does smart glass that can be made more transparent or opaque or even change color.**

In tropics, especially in moderate climatic zones, most of our buildings are naturally ventilated where one has find ways to make structure breath. Smart glass allows control over light, however to control natural ventilation, adjustable louvres or perforated screens are of great significance.

- **Any discussion of Light Pipes?**

Light pipes are amazing where one can bend the light and illuminate a place.

- **How would you define the role of light, natural or intended at a city level?**

My talk was oriented towards modulation of natural light and for that; one needs an 'enclosure'. At city level , especially in tropics, it is about creating shaded public places and shaded streets to deal with harsh tropical sun as against large plazas of Europe that encourage ingress of sun rays in cold climate.

- **You talk about different qualities of light in space, would you like to comment on the emotive quality of light in the built environment?**

There is a strong connection between the quality of architectural space accentuated with light and emotions. We keep trying to strike that right balance between space and light to evoke emotions required for the designated function. This is something you keep learning and discovering as you move from one project to another.

- **Where can I study further on subjects like the light celebrations of the architectural buildings in India/Sri Lanka?**

Best way of learning is to visit and experience these places. Photographs can hardly do justice, as it is important to FEEL the transition of not only the light but also that of sound, smell, breeze, temperature etc.