

**Lecture Abstract**  
**WORKS BY STUDENTS: BASIC DESIGN**

**By: Miki Desai**  
School of Architecture  
Centre for Environment planning and Technology  
Ahmedabad, INDIA.  
Fulbright Fellow

The lecture will attempt to present students' work in Basic Design (First Year, School of Architecture, CEPT, Ahmedabad, India) of the past 20 years based on about 35 different exercises. The course taught by the author broadly aims at visual literacy and excellence in expressing and executing design ideas. Visual perception is explained through abstract elements as well as shapes with their three-dimensional ramifications. Objects with their qualities and characteristics carefully observed and drawn form the major basis for developing visual literacy. Also important is the making of objects, therefore exploration of different materials is undertaken to put together an idea. The heuristic method of learning has been emphasized and linear, non-linear as well as lateral thinking processes are encouraged. The focus is on ways of seeing, recording, analyzing, interpreting and expressing. Notions/concepts of creativity, understanding of design issues and expression are explored as a basic training for design. Visual language, environmental issues at micro/macro levels, anthropometrics, design requirements, program, criteria, etc. are understood.

On one hand the graphic and visual communications skills are developed while on the other are developed the basic skills to attempt architectural design. A number of media are explored while stressing on development of ideas. Three-dimensional expression through drawings and models is seen as a special skill. The basic design training for architecture is imparted through the environmental recording and analysis of ideas in the vernacular shelters. The exercises attempt to clarify as many fundamental concepts as possible in building technology, structures, etc. They also aim at gradually building up ties with architectural design while developing skills and attitudes.

