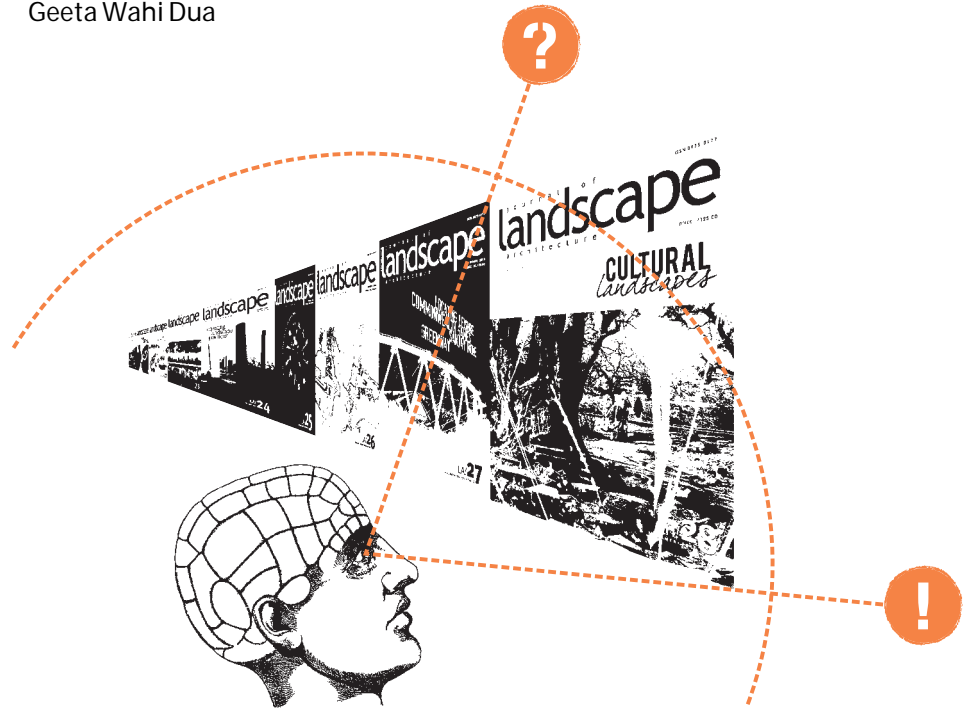


Geeta Wahi Dua



MIRROR

While starting the LA! Journal over ten years ago, our long term goals were somewhat unclear, and even our immediate objectives were a bit blurred. However, that the landscape architecture profession in India needed such a platform was what brought it into existence. And once it did come into existence, that it should carry on, became absolutely clear in our minds.

Therefore, with all the doubts and apprehensions of venturing into the new field of editing and producing a regular professional publication, we carried on. As happens in every new endeavor, after years of struggling with finances (there was no dearth of content), and with a little wisdom, intelligence and confidence that we gained with our experience, the journal finally found its feet. It now addresses and features land-

scape architecture in practice and academia in a professional, cultured and organized way. Gradually it has attained a level of credibility where it can be referred to by any professional or interested person for serious discourse on landscape architecture, mainly in context of India.

Since its inception, it has been our effort to make the journal intellectually stimulating with thought provoking articles, features, demonstrated good projects and discourse to create a future path for thinking and practice. There is a conscious effort to make it much more than a conventional professional magazine. At times, the journal has received comments of being too inclusive that is catering to other professions such as urban design and architecture on the one hand, while being too exclusive, with not enough emphasis on common interests such as garden design, on the other. It has been criticized for being too academic and limited and thus, at the same time not serious enough.

The journal reflects what *we* are, what we think about the subject, about the practice, what it is and what it should be. Its uninterrupted journey of a decade is proof enough that it has never lost the faith of its subscribers and supporters

that increase with each issue. However, it is important to self examine and reflect on creative work that one does for a long period, especially in public domain. It is good to question one's own work not for self assurance but for improving it for the future and to prevent any kind of intellectual and creative stagnation. New answers and responses give us fresh perspectives to look at the part of the world and projects that we are engaged in.

Some pertinent questions crossed our minds. Is the journal fulfilling its role of a responsible print media for professionals? Is it addressing the right issues? Is it intellectually stimulating? Is it making a positive difference somewhere and serving its purpose? Is it helping landscape industry in a positive way to reach out to professionals and vice versa? With a decade of publication behind us we therefore invited formal comments about the journal from three eminent personalities from different backgrounds. The responses were mixed, each one unique in its reflections.

When Gautam Bhatia calls for "broad unlauded leaps of the imagination, to spring the surprises for larger imaginative initiatives", or when Prof. D. Fairchild Ruggles hopes for the journal to "become the catalyst for pushing landscape architects to thinking more reflectively about their practice and its impact on not just the client but human society as a whole", or when Nachiket Patwardhan expects the magazine "to hold the wheels firmly with both hands and drive the vehicle instead of reporting and commenting on other people's speed, driving skills", we know there is plenty of more work to do.

We are extremely thankful to our reviewers for their time taken in reviewing' past issues. We have noted all their suggestions and will definitely keep them at the forefront of our minds while charting the future course of the journal. We hope that you, dear reader, will in turn, offer your own suggestions as to where you think we should go next. After all, it's your journal.

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