

RABINDRA J. VASAVADA ARCHITECT FIIA FRAS

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Rabindra Vasavada, Architect has been involved in practice and academics in architecture since mid-sixties with his base in Ahmedabad. He graduated with B. Arch. in first class from The M S University of Baroda, Baroda, India in 1965. He did his post-graduation in architecture and planning at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen Denmark during 1973-74 as a DANIDA National Scholar.

He worked as an assistant to Prof Louis Kahn when he established his site office at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM A) Campus in June 1969. He worked on the IIM A project till mid 1973 when most of the work on school complex was over. In 1976 he joined School of Architecture in Ahmedabad as an Assistant Professor and worked there till 1986. Until 1998 he worked as a visiting faculty at CEPT. He has taught there in various capacities and in many other Schools of Architecture in India and abroad. He was invited as a Visiting Professor to teach at the at the Institute of Construction and Design University of Innsbruck, Austria in 2007. He has worked as a Ph D Adviser and examiner with universities in India and abroad. During his tenure at the School of Architecture, he worked as a Research Fellow on a research project with the Lightweight Structures Research Institute, Stuttgart Germany with Frei Otto during 1979-83. During 1982, he spent time working at the Institute of Lightweight Structures at Stuttgart University, Stuttgart to work with Dr Frei Otto on this research project.

In 1986 he left his full-time teaching position and concentrated on his own practice and research. He worked on several architectural as well as Conservation projects during this period and established himself as an architect- researcher. He has been a research scholar with American Institute of Indian Studies at Varanasi, Indian National Science Academy, History of Technology division New Delhi, German Research Council, Bonn at the University of Heidelberg and with Project for Indian Cultural Studies, Franco-Indian Research, Bombay. His research interests since 1970s have been in historic cities, temple architecture and water structures with special emphasis on historic construction.

In 2007, he was invited by CEPT to formulate and commence a post-graduate Programme in Architectural and Settlement Conservation, of which he was appointed as a Professor and Head. He also started a Centre for Conservation Studies to work in the fields for awareness, advocacy, and professional consultation. He continued this position till May 2014 to honour his contract. In 2010, he was assigned the preparation of the World Heritage City Nomination Dossier preparation work by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, which he carried out through with his team at the Centre for Conservation Studies, CRDU at CEPT University. He oversaw this entire project between 2010 and 2017 and worked on it until the time World Heritage Committee inscribed the city as the first Indian city on World Heritage city list on July 08, 2017, at Kraków in Poland. Later he was instrumental in establishing the Ahmedabad World Heritage City Trust to manage the World Heritage City and was appointed as its Advisor.

Since 2017 he has returned to his practice and research and has been a consultant for heritage conservation efforts in India. He has been adviser on faculty Development Programmes in many Institutions in India, besides being a member on their Board of Studies and Academic Council. He has been on several National Committees for Archaeological Survey of India, National Monuments Authority, and National Disaster Management Authority as an expert member. He has worked as a project consultant for Archaeological Survey of India and INTACH New Delhi. He is currently Chairman – Academic Council, INTACH Heritage Academy, INTACH New Delhi. He is Convenor of Gujarat Chapter, INTACH.

He is Life Member of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Saurashtra *Itihas* Sabha. He has been a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He is Life Member of GRIHA, an NGO in Delhi, working in the field of Housing and Architecture. He has published many papers and contributed to publications and edited volumes in India and abroad, besides delivering number of public and institutional lectures. He has extensively travelled in India, Nepal and across UK, Europe, Russia, Australia, Japan, Middle East, and Brazil.