

Global exposure programme at Singapore...



From 31st January to 7th February 2016, final year students of Sarvajanik School of Interior Design (Batch 2013) accompanied by faculty members undertook a **Global exposure programme at Singapore**. Learning began with observing the spaces, Installations at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal. Places like Clarke Quay, Suntech city, Fountain of Wealth, Law Courts, Merlion Park & Flyer were visited.

Students also visited ultra modern structures like OCBC centre, Art & Science museum, the Helix bridge and the CBD of Singapore with its towering structures designed by renowned architects.



The Star Cruiser Gemini took the entourage to Malacca, a UNESCO world heritage site. Students were delighted to see a mosque designed on the lines of a Sumatran Hindu temple, an ancient Chinese Temple with excellent wooden joinery, and a modern architectural marvel mosque designed to appear floating on water.

Students learnt how theories of climate, geography, culture influence architecture and interior spaces. Theories of the classroom were transmogrified into reality. The trip was a resounding success in opening, not just eyes and observations of students, but also their minds to newer ideas and understandings.

Congratulations... to SCET-Architecture Family

The **58th Annual NASA** (National Association of Students of Architecture) Convention 2015-2016 was hosted by Gijubhai Chhaganbhai Patel Institute of Architecture (GCPIA), VNSGU Campus, Surat during 31st January to 5th February and was **attended by 3000 students from 120 colleges across the Nation**. AAERT & the SSB, Faculty of Architecture, SCET, Surat, participated in various trophies and achieved remarkable success.

SCET-Architecture was awarded the **Reuben's Trophy** for the **11th consecutive time** for **Best Academic work done in the entire country**.

SCET-Architecture was also awarded second prize in **Laurie Baker Trophy** for designing **adoptive reuse of Heritage- Darbari Kothar at Bhavnagar**.



To,

Its funny how sometimes the people you'd take a bullet for...

...are the ones behind the trigger.

-Anonymous



'And let your best be for your friend...

*If he must know the ebb of your tide,
let him know its flood also.*

For what is your friend that...

*you should seek him with hours to kill?
Seek him always with hours to live.*

For it is his to fill your need...

but not your emptiness.

And in the sweetness of friendship...

let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures.

For in the dew of little things...

the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.'

-Kahlil Gibran



"Et tu brute... then fall Caesar"

Friendship Day, Valentine Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Doctor's Day as if this isn't enough, in colleges there is **Suit n Saree Day, Group Day, Rose Day, Balloon Day, Graffiti Day**.. the list goes on....!!

Most of my generation who were in school and college in the 70s, 80s and 90s don't recall celebrating any of these days. Not only was the idea foreign, to me it seemed absurd. **I didn't need to thank my mother or say flattering words to her on one particular day.** She, who always put her children before her, won't thank you from the family everyday. Rather Saying 'thankyou' to each other for the smallest favor, was the norm in my family.

Years went by and with each year was added one more special day earmarked for celebration.

I watched in surprise, as the cheery young flocked to the nearest Archies Card outlet sweeping up Friendship cards, flowers, teddy bears and balloons on all occasions. The Friendship Circus kept growing. Rain dance parties, Costume parties, DJ nights...the works.

As for me, I was glad to be spared the displays of exuberance, expressions of 'friendly' feelings, the "Muah Muah" of blown kisses with puckered lips, loud declarations of 'Best Friends Forever'.

In my heart, I was secure that I could count on my friends and they could count on me, not just to "hang out" but even "when the sky threatened to fall on our heads". We had lived some wonderful moments together. In school we laughed together with Asterix and Obelix, fought over the latest Agatha Christie, hugged each other when India won a cricket match, argued with teachers, fought with parents, in college we cried over broken hearts, giggled over glances, discussed Beauvoir, disagreed with Camus, quoted Keats, cursed Capitalism, mourned communal madness, performed plays on streets, sang with the Sufis, gave fiery speeches on Freedom of Press, loved lyrical Gibran, applauded Amitabh Bachchan, **We were in it all together....**

That's what friends meant, at least to me. In current times I find it difficult to fathom what friendship means to someone who boasts of five hundred friends on Facebook.

Undoubtedly friendship has many flavors, **to some it means skipped heart beats, for some it leaves a bitter aftertaste of pain, to some it is a stop gap arrangement, to some it reeks of selfishness, some see ulterior motives as the basis and some are naïve enough to label all friends as Bff...(Best friends forever..forever with a touch of eternity).** Poets have celebrated it, Bards sing of it, Epics immortalize it, Lyricists may revile it, The betrayed bemoan it.

We at the Editorial Desk, decided therefore to explore What friendship means to a 15 year old and a 70 year old? Is Friendship a matter of convenience?.....**Does true friendship exist???**

So we invited some eminent persons to share their views on friendship with us.

- Vahhbiz Engineer, Niraj Naik, Hardik Gandhi & Editorial Team

Opinions of eminent citizens on Friendship...



"Ye dosti hum nahi todenge... Todenge dam magar...Tera sath na chhodenge" is an extremely popular, highly trendy & well accepted ultimate song, to define friendship according to the ordinary Indian. But is it possible to get Jay & Veeru outside the films or stories; in real world in an era of race, competition, power, pressure, influence, manipulation? This is an era of I..., Me... & myself....Where Old parents are unwanted, Children are a burden and the human is self-centred; who can be a best friend to whom?

Friendship is indeed, a blessing. My good friends are great pillars of my life... Friendship has no age limit... A true friend loves you unconditionally... always understands you... It's a relation of love and affection towards other people... I am also very lucky in this matter of friendship, at the same time I am not a negative person.....but at this stage of life, I have above queries, worries, fears for future of Friendship in Indian culture, tradition and society.

- Mr. Rajni Marfatiya, Past Chairman, Sarvajani Education Society, Surat

A great Roman statesman Cicero said **"Friendship increases happiness and diminishes misery by doubling our joy and dividing our grief."**

"Friendship is more than a mutually beneficial interest, but it is more a celestial and pious bond".

"Friendship is that one ship which money can't buy"...

There are ample quotes on friendship. But I want to discuss three different friendships...

"Krishna-Sudama", "Ram- Vibhishan"& "Karna- Duryodhan".

Friendship of Shri Krishna and Sudama is a perfect example. Two human realise, appreciate, understand each other... and solve each others problem; without saying a word... is the most ideal friendship... a bench mark. And I want to talk about the friendship of "Karna- Duryodhan".

Karna was aware that Duryodhan is arrogant, egotistic, selfish and cunning. But he didn't forget the help given by his friend in a critical phase of his life, when he had nothing. At the same time he continuously warned, gave advice & tried to show the right path to Duryodhan. Basically a very good human, he destroyed or sacrificed his prestige for his friend.

At the same time Vibhishan left his own brother, his own family in their crisis for his friend Rama, for his principles, for his own moral values...

Who may be considered a best friend as per your view? I leave it to the readers.

- Ashit Gandhi, 1st Vice President, Sarvajani Education Society, Surat



Eminent Poet Coleridge said, **"Friendship is a sheltering tree"**

Thousands and thousands have written about Friendship in so many different languages and each one has a wonderful meaning. Someone writes, **"with every new friend a new world is born."** Friendship is a beautiful string which keeps the world of relationship alive. With advent of WA and FB the friendship has evolved in to a third dimension. I believe that True love can be eternal but the strength of relationship between two individuals, like all other things depend on circumstances.

With passage of time, possessiveness enters, let go attitude slowly evaporates, fault finding attitude creeps in and slowly love disappears. Friendship also needs care as plants need water. To end I cite this lovely Gujarati saying,

‘મિત્રતાના હસ્તાક્ષર કોઈ ઉઠેલી નથી શકતું, એમાં જોડણીની ભૂલ કોઈ શોધી નથી શકતું,

ખુબ સરળ હોય છે વાક્યરચના પણ પૂર્ણવિરામ કોઈ મૂકી નથી શકતું.’

- Mrs. Alka Mehta, Retired Principal, K.L.S. Khandwala Balaji Girls High School, Surat



Does true friendship exist?

In animal kingdom, Homo sapiens, is the only creature gifted with two specially developed organs - **Mind and Heart. When mind rules over the heart, relations assume selfish proportions.** At the most, it could become symbiotic, nothing more than that. However when a heart rules over mind, relationships develop. They may tend to look foolish but the foolishness could blossom in a tree of real feelings for other individual.

This feeling could be in form of like, dislike, love, friendship, etc. So to say feeling and friendship doesn't exist would be cheating yourself. Friendship could be of different nature. It could be selfish, it could be expectant or it could even be innocent.

It is this form of intricate feelings in our mind, that prompts us to ask the question, does friendship exist? When a girlfriend or boyfriend keeps your friendship for selfish material goal, a friend feels cheated. When a Sudama remembers his friendship with Krishna and goes to his palace, it is expectant friendship but when Krishna washes, Sudama's feet in front of his queens it is innocent. The reason is, Krishna wants to give and only give. Sudama, doesn't want to go his friend with begging bowl but still Krishna wants to praise and give, so he invents an incident of Sudama's visit to his palace.

- Mr. Himanshu Bhatt, Assistant Editor, Times of India, Surat

Friendship marks life even more deeply than love. Love risks degenerating into obsession, friendship is never anything but sharing....& believe me.. **if friendship is your weakness than you are the strongest person in the world !!!!**

- Prof. Rakhi Mehta, Head of Department, Chemical Engineering, SCET, Surat



Yes. True friendship does exist and I have been fortunate to have close friends who mean more to me than family, friendship which has transcended nationality, age and place. I cherish these friends and feel blessed to have them in my life for **I have learnt much from them. I take this opportunity to thank them.**

From the Khans (Nawab of Sachin family) I learnt Etiquette, Loyalty, Dignity and Importance of Dreaming Big...

From the Knapens, Werners, Dontjes... how to enjoy Life, creating happy times, fostering healthy family relationships through respect and openness...

From Mahesh Nagecha... self-discipline and emotional balance to overcome the toughest times.

From Nehal Desai... the power of self sacrifice, dedication and commitment with a passion.

From Bankim Dave... the importance of meticulous planning for goal achievement and communication skills for a positive impression.

From the Dsouzas... community concern and strong family bonds.

I name but a few though there have been countless friends who have touched my life.

But, in all these years I have also encountered **fake, fair weather 'friends'**, persons who turned their backs on me when I needed them the most. I hold no rancor against such persons, for **how else would I have become wiser and a better judge of character.**

From all these experiences, **I have surmised that true friendship can only happen between persons holding similar intellectual ideas, ethics, values, vision, emotional maturity and cultural upbringing.**

- Prof. Persi Engineer, Principal, SCET-Architecture, Surat



Yes, true friendship exists, but you must be lucky enough to have good friends in your life. Lasting friendship is indeed, a blessing. Good friends are great pillars of life. They help us to stand tall and erect in life. Friendship can make or break us. It can lead to good careers and proper living. It does not matter how often you meet your friends, but how much you care and feel for another in good times as well as in bad times. **True friendship is a great asset in life.**

- Prof. Nitin Vibhakar, Head of Department, Applied Science & Humanities, SCET, Surat

Does True Friendship Exist?

Expectation is a pain; so is true for any relationship. Yes, true friendship does exist. Like the air we breathe is experienced but not seen; friendship too is to be experienced. Like unpolluted, pure air which enhances the life span; a true friendship filled with commitment, love and unconditional relationship builds a bond leading to a Family. Unlike the compulsion of blood relationship; **Friendship is voluntary** – a choice; so it comes from heart, hence carries no obligation but a true bond. The epic too has the testimony of a true friendship which converts a small home into a Palace in return of a handful of "poaha" – childhood friends Sudama & Lord Krishna.

- Ms. Tejal Dave, Visiting Faculty, SCET-Architecture, Surat



Mother Teresa said, **"If you start judging people; you will be having no time to Love them..."**. A fact for Friendship too; Friendship is always true, how you commute relation and the approach creates either a bond or suspicion. Unlike various festivals and events, **Friendship is not to be celebrated**; as it is a continuous process and can be unending; therefore, **Friendship is to be experienced, to be felt, to be maintained.** In life there can be three kinds of friends; **friends for a reason, friends for a season and friends for a life time.** But true friendship is like Tom & Jerry; they tease each other, knock down each other, irritate each other but can't live without each other.

- Ar. Bankim Dave, Past National President IIID (Indian Institute of Interior Designers)

To Befriend or Not?

I don't believe you can actually be true friends with someone until you have lived with them, know what they want in life, how they move around, how they handle life problems, how they treat you, how comfortable you are with each other and for that matter even how compatible you are in terms of mentality and outlook towards life..

Personally I would like a friend who would double up as my personal psychiatrist and counsellor. I am fortunate in finding one such friend who hopes to specialise in psychiatry. Due to her training, she will remain non judgemental, will always be open to new ideas and will offer sound advice without getting unduly emotional.

- Murti Vimawala, 2nd year Student, Gujarat Adani Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhuj



In this virtual world real friendship does exist. However overtly it seems less.

It really depends on what you expect from friendship. That is the crux.

If we talk about Krishna and Sudama, that is an example of friendship in history and Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is at present times. Friendship remains, meaning changed.

तेरे जहान में ऐसा नहीं कि प्यार नहो.....जहाँ उम्मीद हो इस की वहाँ नहीं मिलता...

- Dr. Vijay Nagecha, Consulting Psychiatrist, Psychotherapist, Rajkot

