



Fountainhead of - Life Light and Vision

In this article I am going to go to the fundamentals of this search for an identity with Light and vision. The Human becomes an active participant if stimulated by the Elements. For that to happen, the Senses must awake and be aware as also respond. The interaction between the Senses and the elements is what Human activity is all about. The built environment enhances this interaction by the intervention of the human thought.

Light and Vision

Thinking is the fundamental difference that Mankind brings upon this Living world. All other creatures innate, organic and animal only respond oriented beings. This ability to think makes one intervene with existence and act on it by modifying the present to something more complex. That which did not exist before undergoes metamorphose revealing characteristics that were not apparent. This brings life to these spaces and makes them an integral part of Human activity – passive and active. Here one must pause.

Of all the senses the Sense of Sight appears to dominate over the rest. Touch and Feel are very responsive but limits itself to individual behavior. Sound and the world of acoustical interaction again appear subjective and are personified by social structure. Taste the gastronomical science has an ethos all its own.

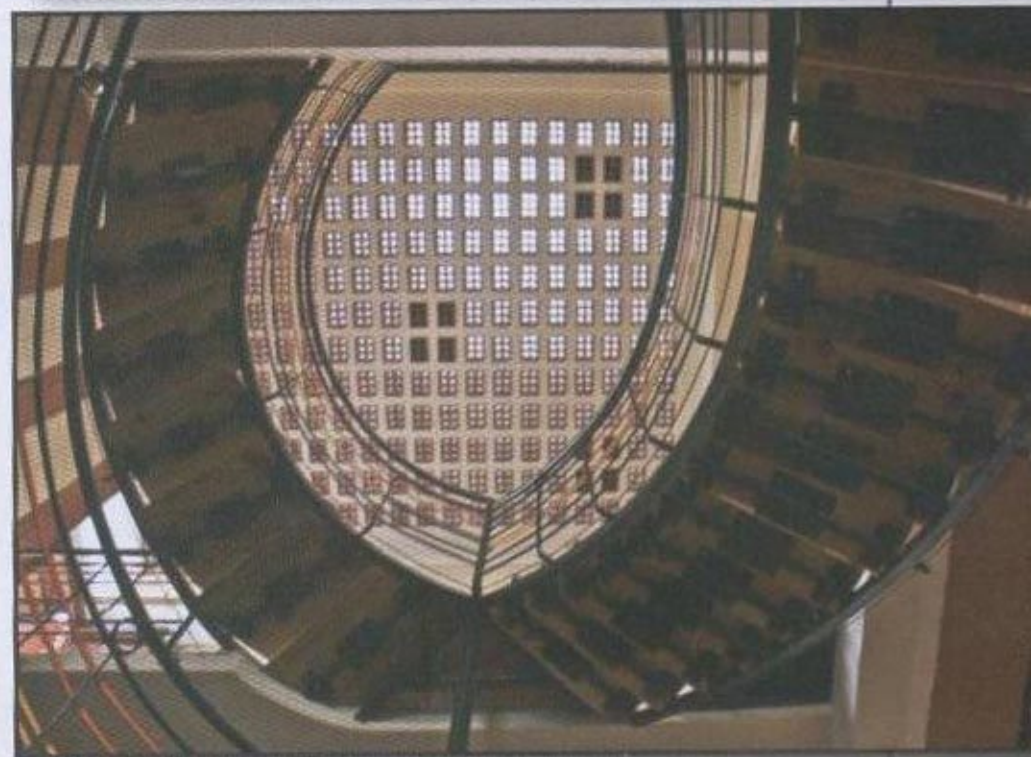
I leave these four others alone in a sense and concentrate towards that bright feature of Light which crowns all human behavior. I am not a physicist; a chemist but a professional searching in the abstract to detail certain aspects that can throw in a manner of speaking light on the light that makes my design of the built environment more meaningful and responsive to the subject and thus more colorful.

In the eyes of the architect all space is defined by time, which is movement and this is evident by the elements that become the defined by design. Now a short pause to look at the five elements, Water, Earth, Air, Fire and Ether, They follow an upward pattern. The Indian Mythology takes these as part of the Dasavatar merging the elements with the senses and from this a pattern of evolving life. This evolution from the simplest form of life to the highest is significant to understand from the aspect of this article.

The Senses and Elements have one vision in common. Light and Fire. Light does not comprehend heat, Fire does. Fire is limited in its physical form, light is not. Fire consumes the other elements to live. Light splits the eternity of darkness to make the other senses vibrant and alive. Thus in both life becomes the central core. This is a crucial aspect to take note. From here all aspects of architecture derive meaning and the purpose of its being. Here the observer poses the question how is light visible? Surfaces that respond by playing with planes and texture adds flavor. And all these demand a medium.

A Medium for the transition of light as also for reflecting and absorbing it to create the spectrum that makes for the vitality of space. What is the composition of this medium and why is it important to obtain the effect of a timeless surprise? The Intensity of light and its source both direct and indirect become factors upon which visual perception becomes an emotional content. Here with a smile I can state that Content and Context shine as polar stars. They are a Constant if one is to achieving anything of value.

I shall in a manner end this article which can cross volumes and yet seem only a light year. The immensity of Light and its focus in the domain of architecture is so intense that it demands a visionary perspective to comprehend an iota of knowledge in this subject. ■



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Prof. Krishna Rao Jaisim is Jaisim-Fountainhead. Encouraged by Sheila Tribe, his Design Professor at The School of Architecture (Madras), inspired by the likes of renowned icons, spirited away by Ayn Rand's Fountainhead, and interned under Architect Srikrishna

Chitale, Jaisim's incurable romanticism led to the birth of JAISIM FOUNTAINHEAD in 1970. He has created & recreated a spectrum of projects; written over hundreds papers and articles & serves on several boards and councils. He still continues to pursue the adventures of the built and unbuilt environment, searching and researching beyond the boundaries of time and space. In September 2011 Jaisim received the JK - AYA Chairman's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Architecture, the most recent addition to vast accolades.