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## TESTIMONIAL

I am privileged to be an alumnus of SPA-Delhi, the institution that has been instrumental in my career progression. I was enrolled in the M.Arch (Urban Design) program in 1990, which at that time was the only program offered by SPA-D and was much sought for, wherein only 10 students were admitted to the program. I subsequently pursued my Doctoral Degree in Architecture / Urban Design from the Dept. of Architecture. It was indeed a great privilege to have been mentored by some highly accomplished professors who took specific courses in their areas of expertise. SPA being a premium institution of the country, provided a great learning experience, blending the Academia and the Industry, to offer holistic learning to the students, driven by the process and not the product. Apart from the professional training, the pedagogy provided the opportunity to enhance communication skills, which developed the conviction to present ideas with very strong theoretical underpinnings. It has been the endeavour of the School to transform an individual into a complete professional as one graduates from the School. I am grateful to all my mentors who believed in our abilities and consistently supported us in all possible ways to fulfil our quest for knowledge, with orientation towards research. Besides pedagogical innovations, adopting new methods and approaches towards teaching and learning added great value in my career progression as a professional. The training and learning at SPA laid the foundation to establish my practice in 1990 and to further plunge into active practice after 1992, translating into a very satisfying and fulfilling professional experience over the last 34 years. The research driven approach as absorbed from the school became a significant methodology of our research driven practice wherein, we have been successfully able to meet the expectations of our clients by receiving multiple commissions by the same client, translating into over 150 successfully completed projects in the areas of Urban Design, Campus Design and Planning. Architecture, Healthcare facility planning, Institutional buildings, Corporate Offices and Corporate Interiors, Auditoriums and High-end AV integration etc. The values of integrity, ethics which we learned in the school became a way of life.

My passion for teaching was supported by my teacher and former Head of Dept. of Architecture, Late Prof. VP Raori, who offered me a Visiting Faculty position in 1992, and that association has continued for the past 32 years, with the opportunity to teach the Under-graduate and Post-graduate programs besides being a guide to four scholars pursuing Doctoral program. I currently serve as a Visiting Professor in Dept of Architecture and Urban Design. I am grateful for the opportunity extended to contribute towards the professional growth and development of the younger generation. Teaching is more than imparting knowledge; it is inspiring change, and nothing is more fulfilling than to be able to mould young minds and provide them the wings of knowledge to fly.

I take pride to be the alumnus of this prestigious Institution which was instrumental in transcending my career progression, thereby giving me the opportunity to deliver projects of varied scale, serve as an Expert member on several GoI committees, Faculty selection committees, Member of Board of Studies and heading two Schools of Architecture, apart from numerous research publications in National & International journals, and conferences. It was an honour to have been recognized as a Distinguished Alumni during the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the School in 2019. In all humility, I owe my career growth and little contribution that I have been able to make to education and the profession is attributed to my education and training at SPA. I aspire to contribute to the legacy of this great institution as long as I can serve.

Amit Hajes

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