

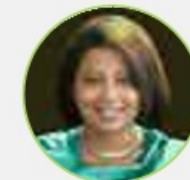


the indian review of
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**IFJ IS GENIUS, THANKS TO
THE GENIUS WITHIN.**

ifj dialogue



Is it really over ?

this strange *annus horribilis* that went by the innocuous number 2020. Everybody agrees that we cannot be the same person stepping out of 2020 as we were blithely stepping into it. The learnings ranged from 'never wearing tight jeans again' to 'climate change is real'. One of the bigger issues thrown into relief is the work of architects who plan buildings and spaces, as if Earth matters, (with apologies to Schumacher); those who have said no to the bright and shiny, eschewed *Satuario* for compressed earth, and truly walk the talk of sustainability.

Discussing this with Ar. B V Doshi, he said he felt hypocritical writing on sustainability while the poor were dying as they walked back to their rural homes; that there was no point in people like us, or glossy, stylish magazines like IFJ writing about it. He said sustainability in its barest form, was human sustenance and human life, suggesting that I look at a whole different slew of work. As always after a conversation with the only person I call Guruji, it gave me pause. I then struck off those LEEDS-box-ticking projects on my list, and followed his advice, focusing on people who were living exemplars of sustainability at work, some quite unsung.

This then is our big edition of the year, on a single topic of importance. We have covered the high-tech and the vernacular; not seeing a dichotomy but rather appreciating technology as the driver of a new a tech-rich model of sustainability.

Now that we're done with 2020 there is a faint flicker of hope that 2021 will be the year of redemption. That all those plans will finally fructify and that we will bring the learnings of this terrible year with us, to the table of dreams.

After the learning of the year and re-wiring our brains, that flicker of hope speaks to a relearning of old values. A re-thinking of what's acceptable. A re-definition of normal. And that now sung-out phrase: the new normal. At the end of our time, we will have understood whether or not we did learn lessons of value or whether we went back to the bad old ways. But I did say 'hope' did I not ?

Your friends at IFJ wish you the realization of those hopes, dreams and plans in the year ahead. Good wishes for the new year!

I look forward to hearing from you.
Please send your thoughts to me at edit@ifj.co.in