

News Release
24th August, 2008

Obituary notice:

Aditya Prakash, Architect and Painter (Le Corbusier's associate in Chandigarh, India.)

An associate of Le Corbusier's in Chandigarh, architect, academic, painter and theatre enthusiast, Aditya Prakash died on Aug 12, 2008.

Born on March 10, 1923 in Muzaffarnagar, India, Aditya Prakash was on his way to Mumbai by train to perform a play ("Life never retires") when he suffered a heart attack. He was cremated on August 13, 2008 in Chandigarh. His ashes were immersed in the Ganges at Haridwar on August 21, 2008. He is survived by his wife Savitri, and his three children Chetna, Vandana and Vikramaditya.

Aditya Prakash, Architect

Aditya Prakash studied architecture at the London Polytechnic, becoming an A.R.I.B.A. in 1951. He joined the team of the Chandigarh Capital Project on 1st November 1952 where he worked with Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew. He worked closely with Le Corbusier on the design of the School of Art, Chandigarh in the mid-1950s. In 1961-62 he adapted the same design for the Chandigarh College of Architecture.

Aditya Prakash helped define the characteristic visual identity of Chandigarh as a modern city by creating the "frame controls" of the several of the markets and housing types. He also designed the petrol pumps and the some of the major cinema theatres of the city (Jagat, Neelam and KC.) Some of his other projects in Chandigarh are the District Courts, Central Scientific Instruments Organization Hostels, the Treasury Building, the Central Bus Stand, Military Rest House, Central Crafts Institute, the Jang Garh, Indo-Swiss Training Center and the Cable Factory. His most significant project in Chandigarh was the Tagore Theater which was constructed to celebrate Rabindrnath Tagore birth Centenary in 1961.

From 1963-1968, Aditya Prakash was the Architect of the Panjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. At this time he also designed the campuses of the Agricultural Universities in Hissar and Palampur.

From 1968 to 1982, Aditya Prakash served as Principal of the Chandigarh College of Architecture, Panjab University, Chandigarh. As an academic, Aditya Prakash was an early advocate of urban ecological design, or "self-sustaining settlements." He described Chandigarh's planning as 'escapist' and published several papers and three books advocating extensive recycling, mixed use developments, development of the informal sector, integration of agriculture and animal husbandry into the urban system, and rigorous separation of motorized and all forms of non-motorized traffic.

The Indian Institute of Architects awarded Aditya Prakash its Gold Medal in 1996.

Aditya Prakash, Painter

Aditya Prakash painted for two to three hours every morning. Though he studied art at the Glasgow School of Art, Aditya Prakash really began to paint under the influence of Le Corbusier in Chandigarh in the 1950s. An early interest in intersecting the Modulor with free-flowing curves, evolved into a style exploring Indian birds, animals and figures within a modernist idiom.

Aditya Prakash served two terms as President of the Chandigarh Lalit Kala Academy. He exhibited in several major cities in India. His paintings are in private collections throughout the world.

See: adityaprakashpaintings.blogspot.com

Amongst his diverse interests, notable was a informal discussion group that he anchored, that met once a month continuously for 36 years in the homes of its members.

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