

From Foundations to Finishing Touches

The Daily Star & Akij Ceramics have jointly organized "ArchiTalk"- a digital show where the country's most notable architects will be sharing their knowledge with the audience. The first episode of the show was held on "Basic preparation & primary rules of constructing a house". Mr. Rafiq Azam & Ms. Zannat Jui were the guests for the first episode, along with the host Ms. Shrabosti Das.



Architecture is more than just a functional art; it is the fusion of science and art, imagination and practicality that results in the creation of beautiful, useful and efficient structures. From towering skyscrapers to modest family homes, architecture shapes the world around us and influences the way we live, work and interact with each other. It's a discipline that not only serves the practical needs of shelter and protection but also reflects our personalities, cultures, and values.

An architect brings a unique perspective to the design and construction process, combining both artistic and technical skills to create spaces that are functional, beautiful, and sustainable. They are trained to consider not only the physical dimensions of a structure but also its context, purpose, and impact on the environment. By working closely with clients, architects can translate their vision and aspirations into a tangible reality, tailored to their specific needs and preferences.

Your personality portrays your identity, creativity and aesthetics mindset. For instance, your abode, or a commercial space, is not just a mold of bricks and stones! Rather, it defines your persona, disposition, and lifestyle. Thus, to give it a touch of enhancement, architects play a significant role in enhancing your personality, and bring forth fulfillment to your aesthetic approach towards building your home.

An architect's primary job or goal is to instill life to an empty space. An architect's contribution to all spheres of building a home, including the interiors and exteriors, is immense. With the aid of generating cutting edge ideas, an architect ensures your luxury and comfort of life. From selecting the tiles, sanitary wares to any aspect of your house, the aesthetic beauty of it purely depends upon the talent and effort of the architect.

The country-best tiles brand and the

"Super-Brand" award winner Akij Ceramics is the true reflection of the top-notch aesthetic sense of professional architects. When it comes to the production of any products such as tiles, sanitary wares and much more, Akij Ceramics has shown innovation, the touch of newness, and elegance, which glorifies your personage, and brings you in-fashion.

On this episode of Akij Ceramics & The Daily Star presents "ArchiTalk", it depicts the core essence and usage of architecture, and the technical issues associated with building your dwelling.

Architects have the ability to enhance a client's personality and bring fulfillment to their aesthetic approach towards building their home. They can help clients express their individuality and create a space that reflects their style, interests, and values. Whether it's through the use of colors, textures, or materials, architects can create a unique and personalized environment that resonates with the client's personality.

In addition to their technical and creative skills, architects also play a vital role in ensuring that a building is safe, functional, and efficient. They are well-versed in the latest construction techniques and technologies and can advise clients on how to achieve the highest standards of performance and sustainability. Architects can also help clients maximize their investment by designing a building that is flexible and adaptable to changing needs and trends.

Upon being asked, what are the legal terms and issues that need to be addressed by a client to an architect?, one of the guests, and the father of Green Architecture in Bangladesh, Professor Rafiq Azam said, "The Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) must strictly be followed while building a house. Not only that, the rules set by the government against fire-safety must also be

taken into account. Plus, the architect must be kept at all times during the process of building the entire structure, for in-detail supervision, who will report to the client whether the work is in progress in terms of the client's requirements."

Upon being asked the same question to another chief guest, an inspiration for young architects, Mrs. Zannat Jui said, "Firstly, the client needs to let us know the necessary details regarding the planning and procedures of building the house. Then, we, the architects, will come up with a proper plan regarding how to proceed with the architectural plan, which will abide by the necessary course of action so that the process doesn't create any adverse reaction towards nature. Then the client will submit the drawing to RAJUK, and after receiving their approval, we will move forward with the relevant working drawing."

Also when asked that how can the architectural materials be developed, and also how a building can be developed according to the eco-friendly guidelines, Mr. Rafiq said, "To comply with this issue, we cannot resort to our age old woods and bamboos, that we use to make houses in our countryside and villages. This is because the modern urban infrastructure consists of high-rise buildings, which will be very much prone to earthquakes and gusts and strong breezes, if constructed with fragile materials. Thus, we need to use materials such as bricks and exposed concretes, that are produced in our country, rather than importing. We can use these materials to infill the structures, making them very much durable and firm."

Q. Ms. Farzana Hoque asked if the previous window panes were better than the glass sliding windows we currently use, as glass sliding windows absorb more heat.

Ans: Old wooden windows were good, but due to increased demand for housing, using trees for windows is no longer feasible. Glass windows absorb heat, but using sunshades can solve this issue and save trees.

Mrs. Zannat Jui added that we need to focus more on our research efforts as other developed countries to ensure that we are not heavily depleting the oxygen level by unplanned usage of wood.

Q. Mr. Zarif Shawkat asked if there are any economical ways to keep our houses cool in the summer without using any air conditioning system.

Ans: It is a scientific fact that if we have south facing home, we will get enough sunlight in winter and ample breeze in the summer. This airflow will enter the home from the Southside while exiting from the Northside, keeping the house cool. And so, people wouldn't have to depend on the air-conditioning system. We can also use cross ventilation and shaded roof to keep our house cool.

Therefore, it is essential to have a well-designed house by a good architect.

Host: Shrabosti Das
Saree: Tangail Saree Kutir
Makeup: Persona
Jewellery: 6 Yards Story