CONCEPT NOTE

SECURE BUILDINGS - Integrating Security By Design

(Conference for policy and design of comprehensive security in urban environments)

Shelter and Security have always been the most basic human needs and the primal factors for the origin of buildings and all disciplines associated with it. Most of the history & evolution of architecture and monuments has taken place in parallel to the developments in security techniques in any part of the world.

In modern times, the security challenges are different. The primary challenge is making a civilization actually and perceptibly secure. The rising crime rates, a baseline sense of fear and the general sentiment of helplessness, are today the new normal. There are debates and blame games pinning the government, the security agencies and many other psycho-social trends.But is there a role for design?

Against popular perception, the scope of the design fraternity is not limited to beautification and concealing the latest technological equipment. Security failure in any built environment is as much a design failure and design needs to factor in possibilities of security lapses. The interplay of these aspects of the built environment needs better understanding by the security community, design fraternity and all related stakeholders. Some pertinent issues:

1. Life safety and reduction of losses to property

- A reduction of the immediate and actual loss of lives due to crime/terror.
- Statistics indicate that failed buildings or its parts claim maximum lives. That implies that the very buildings which were primarily meant to protect, can instead be misused by miscreants for mass destruction.
- Design has been dealing with nature's uncertainties (seismic, wind etc.). The science can and must extend to withstand human irrationalities.This may be by defined guidelines or best prac tices.
- Minimization of losses to property and operations is the solution in the short term and towards the long term goal of an end to terror.

2. Statutory requirements for security in building installations

- The terror attacks of 26/11 in 2008 were an event that triggered a number of mandatory inclusions. Very often these are either not understood or dodged to just get by without due efficacy. Many a design may also provide something completely inappropriate due to lack of knowledge which can sometimes generate vulnerability in itself. So there is aneed for a thorough understanding of the need to comply scientifically with these stipulations.
- Most building construction in India is driven by real estate or infrastructure development. Market forces of space, aesthetics and commercial benefits have sidelined security to a statutory obligation. Rightfully, it should be a marketing attraction and lifestyle benefit.
- There are certain buildings that need to be designedbased on threat perception with focus on security. Factors to decide these andguidelines for the design of such buildingsmerits debate.

3. Efficiency and Ergonomy

- An allocated budget can afford much better security than the mere fulfilment of norms.
- Some of the installations actually generate vulnerabilities instead of reducing them.
- The current trend of overt security is making our neighbourhoods increasingly militaristic and fearsome. Security need not be visible to be perceptible.
- Embedded security through design implies a shift from the dependence on manpower and equipment towards a more comprehensive approach to crime prevention & detectionwith better effectiveness and budgetary benefits.

4. Crime prevention & Social engineering:

- Security priority is generally discounted against the probabilityargument; But India is one of the countries most affected by terror and crime against women, seniors and children.
- Security is an infrastructural imperative and a precursor to growth and investments.
- Design is today a tool for social engineering and overall governance. Globally, design is being debated for crime prevention, social inclusion and to comprehensively address anti-establishment ideology.
- Current and new security techniques and urban design impactsneed discussion and debate with expert insights of psychologists, social thinkers and other related experts.

Overall Objectives:

1. To initiate a multi-disciplinary dialogue for integration of present day security demands into the comprehensive design of the urban built environment.
2. To critically analyse our current strategies, learn from global trends and develop strategies for adoption in Indian applications.

Outputs:

a. Merits and demerits of the current system of design and security.

b. Alternate approaches, technology and practices.

c. Contextualization of international trends to the Indian socio-economic scenario.

d. Areas of immediate focus for efficient security and related norms.

e. A white paper with recommendation for policy formulation or amendments to be shared with relevant stakeholders.

Proposed participants:

- Designers including architects, engineers, project managers and services engineers like HVAC consultants etc.
- Policy makers like government, municipal corporations, Ministry of Urban development, Ministry of Home Affairs+ other ministries like Women and Child Development, Smart Cities Initiative.
- Promoters and owners of corporate houses, real-estate developers, hoteliers etc.
- Disaster management specialists in fire, terror etc.
- Academicians like psychologists, sociologist, criminologists
- Vendors of active security equipments /services for
    - surveillance&detection
    - Access control equipment including boom barriers, bollards etc.
    - Scanning equipment & devises
    - Manufacturers of Glass and other materials playing a role vis a vis security
- Project managers.
- Operators like Hotel brand chains