



The idea of Leisure (the theme of ISOLA Annual Conference 2010 held in Goa) has more to do with a state of mind than the ways in which to achieve it. We may experience it in our daily routine: a few moments of bliss in a busy day at work, a stroll across a neighboring park, or observing birds in a pool. Leisure is a time when time itself is not at work. Places and means of leisure sited in our daily lives, where we live and work make them more relevant and meaningful rather than these becoming commodities for the use and pleasure of a few.

This issue of the journal presents articles that take the idea of leisure away from mundane representations of the subject in projects of resorts, hotels and getaway farm houses. Leisure and recreation often overlap. Two featured projects exemplify the role of city public parks as spaces for active leisure and recreation.

At Osho Teerth Park, the landscape and environmental design work is an example of how often defunct, ignored and so called useless open spaces can

be transformed in serene landscapes with sensitive planning and design that give a sense of pride to citizens.

South Delhi Greenway describes a city scale unique vision of linking and developing linear open spaces along the city drains and creating usable open spaces of different scales and nature for neighborhood areas. It is an attempt to bring leisure and recreation closer to the public realm.

After ASIAD 1982, the capital is gearing up for one of the biggest sports events ever held in the country, the Commonwealth Games 2010. With the construction and renovation budget in Delhi already exceeding Rs 15,000 crores for the event, urban development and infrastructure works are taking place in the city at an unprecedented speed. Some of the main projects under way include the construction of 10 state-of-the-art stadia to cater to approximately 8,000 international athletes and over 10 million expected visitors during the event; the Commonwealth village covering an area of 118 acres; over 24

new flyovers, streetscaping works; a new international airport to accommodate 34 million passengers every year; a public transport system of 3,775 new low floor buses and Delhi Mass Rail Transit Corridor (Metro rail) spreading across 193 kms in the city .

Such a massive development in a thickly populated city of a complex character has its own set of issues including the alleged nature of works, missing the opportunity to address serious infrastructure concerns of the city, overruling of serious environmental issues of building of Commonwealth Village on the Yamuna river bed among others. With this issue we are starting a series of special sections on the event for our readers about key urban development works, discussions with design professionals and officials of development agencies working on these projects and interactions with other experts and citizens concerned about the city.

Editors