
FERNANDO MENIS HATCHING MUMBAI

L.S. Raheja School of Architecture always strive to impart a holistic education in the field of architecture, with this the school invited one of the notable architects – Ar. Fernando Menis to conduct a workshop. Fernando Menis is a reputed and well renowned architect specializing in largescale architectural projects like Convention centres, Churches, Residential Towers, Performing Arts Centres etc. His keenness in the later can be attributed to him completing his PhD in Acoustics at the age of 62 years.

Architect, Professor at the European University of Canarias and Chairman of the Laboratory for Innovation in Architecture, Design and Advanced Tourism of Tenerife, he also participates as a jury member, director of workshops, lecturer at Harvard, Columbia New York, ESA Paris, TU Berlin, Akbild Vienna and speaker in Architecture Festivals and conferences in Switzerland, Australia, Singapore, South Africa, Croatia, Italy, Colombia, India, etc.

After studying architecture in Barcelona, between 1981 – 2004, he teams with 2 other partners under the name Artengo-Menis-Pastrana. In 2004, he founds the practice Menis Arquitectos with headquarters in Tenerife. Independently or in co-authorship, Menis signs projects that are built such as: Insular Athletics Stadium (2007), Magma Art & Congress (2005), Swimming Pool in the River Spree in Berlin (2004), Presidency of the Canary Islands (1999) as well as new projects still in process: Auditorium Jordneki in Poland, Fuerteventura Congress Center, Aurum House in Taiwan, Taipei Residential Tower, Holy Redeemer Church in La Laguna. Several times awarded in the Regional Awards for Architecture in The Canary Islands, as well as National and international winner and finalist in the FAD and WAF Awards (winner of two categories in 2012), or the Spanish Architecture Biennial, he is often invited to participate in the Venice Biennale and other exhibitions at the Aedes Berlin (2006), GA Tokyo (2009) and MoMA NY which included the “Holy Redeemer Church” model in his permanent collection on 2013 (Fernando Menis Architects, 2020).

Along with an illustrious practise Fernando Menis Architects has also been actively researching since past 10 years- titled “Reason and Emotion”. The intent of this research is to try to make visible and update what is rightly being done from the past to the present in the field of architecture, given its vocation to integrate references related to science and technology on the one hand and to the nature and art, on the other hand, in different territories and geographical contexts. “Hatching” – is a title coined by Fernando Menis, which aims to study the effects of natural elements on the form and of relationships that may establish between formal mutations and the functionality of a architectural structure. Thus, starting from a basic geometric form, the cube, at first, students will perform computer simulations of the impact of wind, water and sun on it. In a second moment, the results of the virtual work will be analysed and valued. Finally, the models that should reproduce these effects will be built and will feature plastic materiality and marked expression.

Fernando Menis Hatching Mumbai-

The workshop as discussed by the Fernando Menis Architects and L.S. Raheja School of Architecture was conducted from 27th till 30th of January 2020. The brief of the workshop was made by Fernando Menis Architects as a continuation of their ongoing research and workshop series.

As part of pre-study for the workshop the participating students were given training on software as recommended. This was conducted by Alumni of the school, Ar. Tanuj Thomas P. and Ar. Shahram Randeria (graduated in 2014) and having had recently completed their Masters in Advance Architecture from IAAC university, Spain. Further these students along with the faculty members conducting the workshop made the prerequisite Blocks admeasuring a 15 cm³ as per the suggestion and brief received from Fernando Menis Architects.

As per the scheduled program for the workshop, Dr. Fernando Menis, interacted with the school's management on the 27th of January 2020 and interacted with the students of Bachelor of Architecture with a Presentation of his work titled "Reason & Emotion". An interactive Q&A session followed the presentation which was convened by Ar. Mridula Pillai and Ar. Anmol Warang. Ar. Priya Kanchan who introduced and initiated this workshop was present for the first day and helped in answering few of the questions on behalf of Dr. Fernando Menis.

The workshop "Fernando Menis Hatching Mumbai" commenced post the lunch and was attended by 28 students. The workshop was exclusively open to the students of L. S. Raheja School of Architecture (Faculty- B. Arch). The participation for the workshop was on merit basis and willingness to complete the pre-study criterion as suggested by Fernando Menis Architects and L.S. Raheja School of Architecture. This participation was completely free of any fee to the students.

The workshop was a great success with students presenting their work in various stages as part of the entire process and getting a valuable feedback from Dr. Fernando Menis and the faculty members Ar. Anuj Gudekar and Ar. Mridula Pillai who conducted the workshop. Few of these sessions were also attended by Principal Ar. Mandar Parab and other faculty members who were a good value addition helping the students to express their thoughts.

The Workshop dealt with students selecting a city within India as a site for the "Hatching", understanding and analysis its geographical and climatic data. Further the students modelled the cubes in the software- to understand its contextuality with this data, which was used to ***reason the emotion*** of the "Hatching" that was to be carried out as part of the intended study of the workshop.

These participating students then started the "Hatching" process i.e.- carving the blocks based on their understanding and perception of the results generated through the study. The resultant physical "Hatchings" were documented as a process and also physically tested for shade/shadow and wind analysis.

The final culmination of the workshop included the students compiling their respective work done over the 4 days (27th- 30th of January 2020) as part of the presentation which validated their understanding of the available data and emotions- physical form making, done as part of the "Hatching" done of the cubes through the reasons – simulations and studies.



Picture 1: Dr. Fernando Menis being felicitated by Ar. Mandar Parab, principal and Ar. Arvind Khanolkar- Design Chair of L.S. Raheja School of Architecture.



Picture 2: Ar. Anuj Gudekar- in charge of the workshop “Fernando Menis Hatching Mumbai” with the Dr. Fernando Menis , Ar. Mandar Parab and the participating students.



Picture 3: Ar. Mridula Pillai, Ar. Meghana Patil with Dr. Fernando Menis – evaluating the presentations made by the students for the workshop.