

BRIEF CREDENTIALS OF AJAY KHARE
FOR
BERKELEY PRIZE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Khare, Founder-Director of School of Planning and Architecture Bhopal, is a well-known scholar in the field of architecture and remained a Fulbright Fellow at the United States of America and a Charles Wallace Fellow at United Kingdom. Ajay earned his doctorate from De Montfort University, Leicester, UK, on his work about early temples of Bengal. An architect and conservationist, educated at Lucknow and N. Delhi, Prof. Ajay Khare studied heritage conservation at York University. He started his career as a practicing architect and heritage consultant at Jaipur where he regularly took interest in dissemination of knowledge. Before joining SPA, Bhopal, Ajay was working as Professor and Head of Architecture at Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi for ten years.

Since August 2009, Prof. Ajay Khare is involved in establishing a new National Institute of Government of India called School of Planning and Architecture at Bhopal. It is a stand-alone university level institution devoted to teaching and research in the field of architecture and planning. The institute is committed to produce socially responsible architects and planners, and Prof. Khare emphasizes on using the social opportunity central India presents to the institute, for teaching and learning. As Professor of architecture, Ajay conducts design studio of third year of the five year Under Graduate degree program in architecture. The institute regularly conducts national competition on topical issues such as eco-sensitive design, barrier-free environment, inclusive design under the leadership of Dr. Khare. He has presented and published his work on inclusive design in many well known forums organized by HFES, AHFE and EDRA. Ajay is author of a widely acclaimed book 'Temple Architecture of Eastern India' published in 2005. He has edited many conference proceedings and written several articles, research papers and book reviews in national and international journals. He edits two internationally refereed journals called 'CONTEXT' as member of the board of editors, and 'SPANDREL' as Chief Editor.

Prof. Ajay Khare serves on many national committees and missions including member of Planning commission working group on Technical education for twelfth plan of India and represented the country in first ever Indo-US Higher Education Summit at Washington in 2011. Ajay is a member of All India Board on Architectural Education (AIBAE), which advises the Government of India about architectural education. He is also National Executive Committee member of ICOMOS.

In 2011, as Chairman of Centre of Human Centric Research (CHCR) at SPA Bhopal, Prof. Ajay Khare organized a National Students Design Competition on Universal Design for designing a rehabilitation centre. More than a hundred colleges offering architectural education in India participated in the competition and in the workshop organized at the end of the competition. This experience was presented in IAUD conference at Fukuoka, Japan where it was highly appreciated. Encouraged by the response from students across the country, CHCR once again organized the national competition in 2012 for making the World Heritage sites of India accessible for all. This was done in collaboration with UNESCO, Archaeological Survey of India and a national NGO. Ajay is currently supervising many research scholars conducting their work related with architectural education and cultural sites of India.