

BAMBOO

Timber of Future



Background:

My first experience with Bamboo was in 2005, after the devastating earthquake of 2005 in the North of Pakistan. Taking in concern the vernacular uses of the material, we built low-cost shelters for multiple uses in the earthquake zones. We experimented with different earthquake resistant designs. Although this limits my capacity to explore various designs but working with it taught me the nature of the material which can be of great potential and is neglected by contemporary architects. Pakistan is home to bamboo inherently stronger than its counterparts.

“Bamboo is vegetal steel” Simon Veleuze

I was always focused towards organic design even when I was studying at National College of Arts, the flow of the structure and the system is in perfect harmony with the environment but all we read was about stone, wood, brick and concrete, I love all these materials which do not give us much space to actually create in terms of funds and then eventually design. By living in a poor country we need to explore alternative material in order to build better responsible places. Bamboo not only provides us with cost effective structural solutions but also aesthetical opportunities for achieving a very unique form, feel, environment and an ambience.

Project: PIND – Food Court

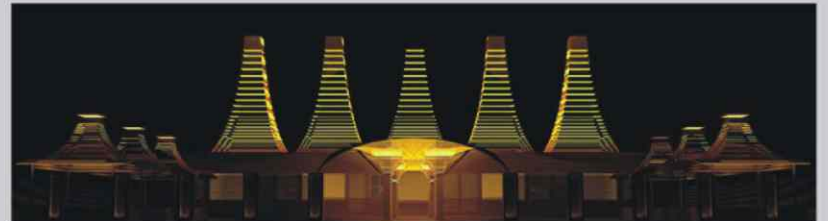
With the name PIND first thing that popped up was chimneys of brick burners found throughout this region, as the site being on main Grand Trunk Road, the structure had to be iconic for the fast paced cars to catch sight. The 40 feet high five chimneys make the 'Pind' Food court distinct; representing five different kitchens with different famous culinary specialties from our land, the rest of the structure was the transition from the main road to the five kitchens and open sitting space.

Finding the proper seasoned bamboo with the right kind thickness from head to toe on this scale was a task, we visited different fields of bamboo and finally found the ones required from Kasur, Punjab. Now was the time to train the local ladder making labour to understand the joinery, many left the work and there were days with none labour and we had to work on our own due to shortage of time. Finally we gathered a team. Everybody was given a task and they were working on it 12 - 16 hours a day. Everything worked out as planned a little back on schedule but we picked up pace and got stuck on the structure of the chimneys, imitating high tension wire towers we managed to build the chimneys up straight.

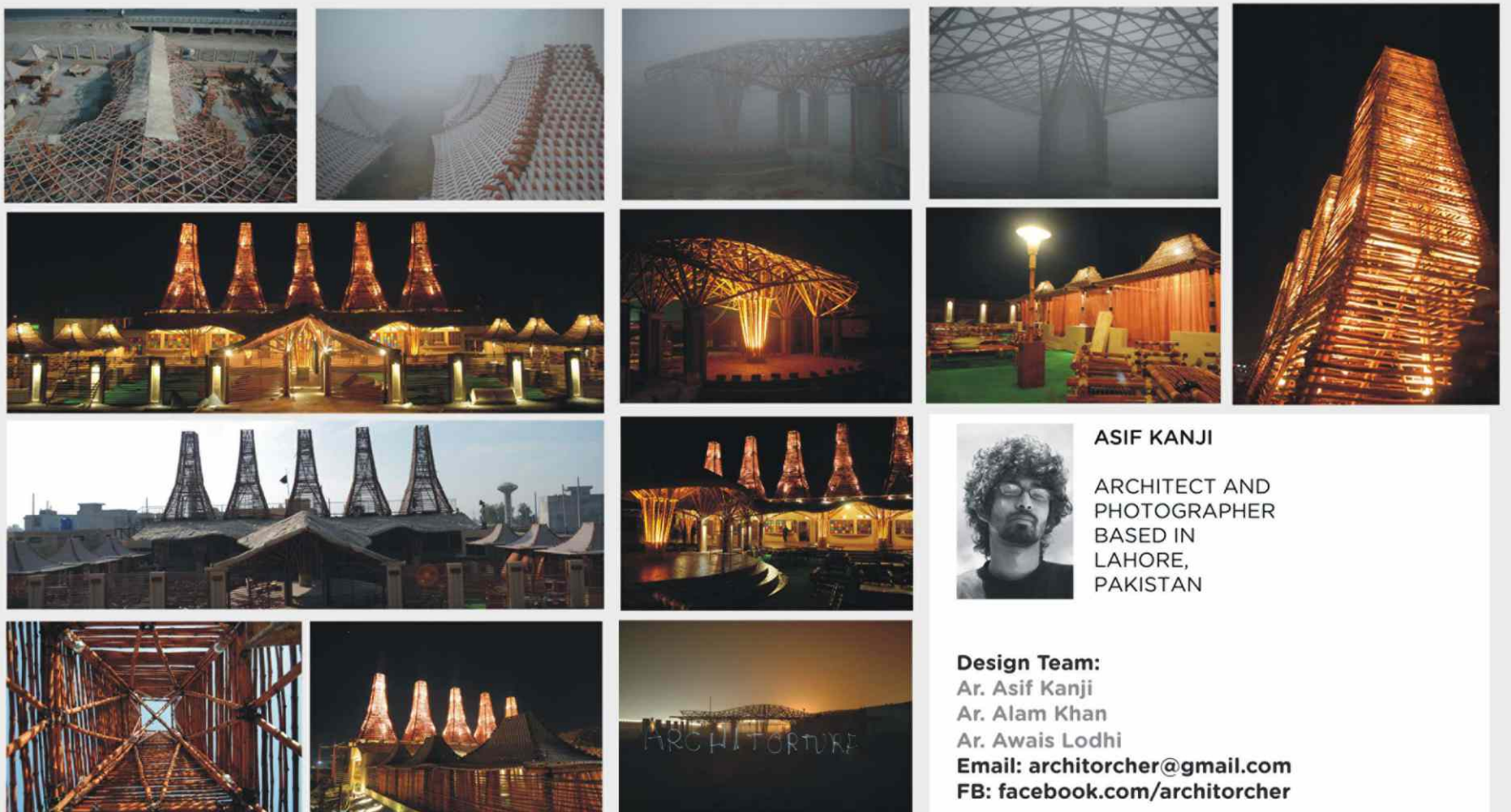
Pind Food Court is located on Grand Trunk Road [GT Road] near Kala Shah Kaku, 18 km from Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan. “PIND” is a Punjabi word meaning village. The Idea was to give the travelers of GT Road an exquisite village environment where they can enjoy a diversity of flavours. Construction took 59 days from 1st of December 2011 and was handed over on 28th of January 2012. It includes furniture, light shades and all the finishes.

To minimize wastage, products and fixtures like furniture, light shades, floor lamps etc. were designed and fabricated from the leftover bamboo. Even though I had worked with bamboo, this project taught me a lot about the character of the material. The traditional use of bamboo all around the tropical regions is a great example for green design. We need to induce bamboo in to our architecture to cope up with the scarcity of resource and energy available indigenously.

3D RENDERS



SITE PICTURES



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