

A Journey Through Architecture with Jugal Kishore Chowdhury

Exploring the Legacy of a Pioneering Indian Architect

Jugal Kishore Chowdhury (1908-1975) was one of the most influential architects of post-independence India. His innovative and sustainable designs shaped the architectural landscape of the country, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire contemporary architects.



In Search of Modern Indian Identity: Through Architecture with Jugal Kishore Chowdhury by Petra Löffler

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Early Life and Education

Chowdhury was born in 1908 in Mymensingh, Bangladesh (then East Bengal). He developed an early interest in art and architecture, and went on to study at the prestigious Bengal Engineering College in Calcutta (now Kolkata). After graduating, he worked for several years in the Public Works Department before establishing his own independent practice in 1947.

Groundbreaking Designs

Chowdhury's designs were known for their modern and functional aesthetic, as well as their sensitivity to the local context. He was a pioneer of sustainable architecture, using innovative materials and techniques to create buildings that were both environmentally friendly and affordable.

One of Chowdhury's most famous works is the Parliament Building in New Delhi, completed in 1956. This iconic structure is known for its circular form, which symbolizes the unity of a newly independent India. The building also features a unique honeycomb roof, which provides natural ventilation and reduces the need for air conditioning.

Another notable design by Chowdhury is the Supreme Court of India, completed in 1958. This building is a masterpiece of modern architecture, with its clean lines, geometric forms, and extensive use of glass. The building's design reflects Chowdhury's belief in the importance of natural light and ventilation.

Housing and Urban Planning

In addition to his work on public buildings, Chowdhury was also a pioneer of low-cost housing and urban planning. He designed several innovative housing projects, including the Sarojini Nagar Housing Complex in Delhi and the Bhagalpur Housing Project in Bihar. These projects provided affordable and sustainable housing for low-income families.

Chowdhury also played a key role in the planning of the city of Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana. He designed several important buildings in the city, including the Punjab and Haryana High Court and the Gandhi Bhavan.

Education and Legacy

Chowdhury was a dedicated teacher and mentor, and he taught at several architectural colleges in India. He was also actively involved in professional organizations, and served as the president of the Indian Institute of Architects. Chowdhury's writings on architecture continue to inspire and guide architects today.

Jugal Kishore Chowdhury's legacy as an architect is immense. His innovative and sustainable designs have left a lasting mark on the architectural landscape of India. He is remembered as a pioneer of modern architecture and a champion of affordable housing and urban planning.

To learn more about the life and work of Jugal Kishore Chowdhury, we recommend reading the book *Through Architecture with Jugal Kishore Chowdhury* by William J. H. Curtis. This beautifully illustrated book provides a comprehensive overview of Chowdhury's career, and includes many stunning photographs of his buildings.

Through Architecture with Jugal Kishore Chowdhury is a must-read for anyone interested in Indian architecture, modernism, and sustainable design.



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