



DA Propagates Baker's Sustainable Architecture

Development Alternatives (DA) was invited to an international seminar on Sustainable Habitat, held as part of the 'Laurie Baker Birth Centenary Celebrations 2017-18' from 4th to 7th March 2018 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. An initiative by the Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development (COSTFORD), Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies (LBC) and the Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala, the seminar aimed at disseminating Laurie Baker's vision of sustainable architecture and his 'architectural principles of environmental sustainability'. It provided a forum for sharing of experiences by architects, engineers and building material enthusiasts who are pioneers in rural housing. DA shared its propositions for the 21st Century, and debated ideas with the younger generation of architects. Through a series of sessions based on various thematic discussions, special lectures and an open forum, the three-day event examined the state of architectural education in taking forward the principles of holistic sustainability in habitats. The seminar also held an exhibition, 'Enduring Legacy of Laurie Baker', wherein DA got an opportunity to showcase its work in the field of sustainable habitat. It displayed a large product portfolio - machines, material samples and prototypes - which created much interest and learning for the visitors. Another major contribution was from Zeenat Niazi (Vice President, DA), as one of the panelists for the thematic discussion, 'The Challenges of Rural Housing'. A short paper was also presented and disseminated, in order to enable an informed discussion with the participants.