

Omar Faruque
Outstanding Alumni Award
Texas A&M University

November, 2019



From Left: Wife Sabiha Faruque, Omar Faruque and Texas A&M University Architecture Dean Jorge Vanegas



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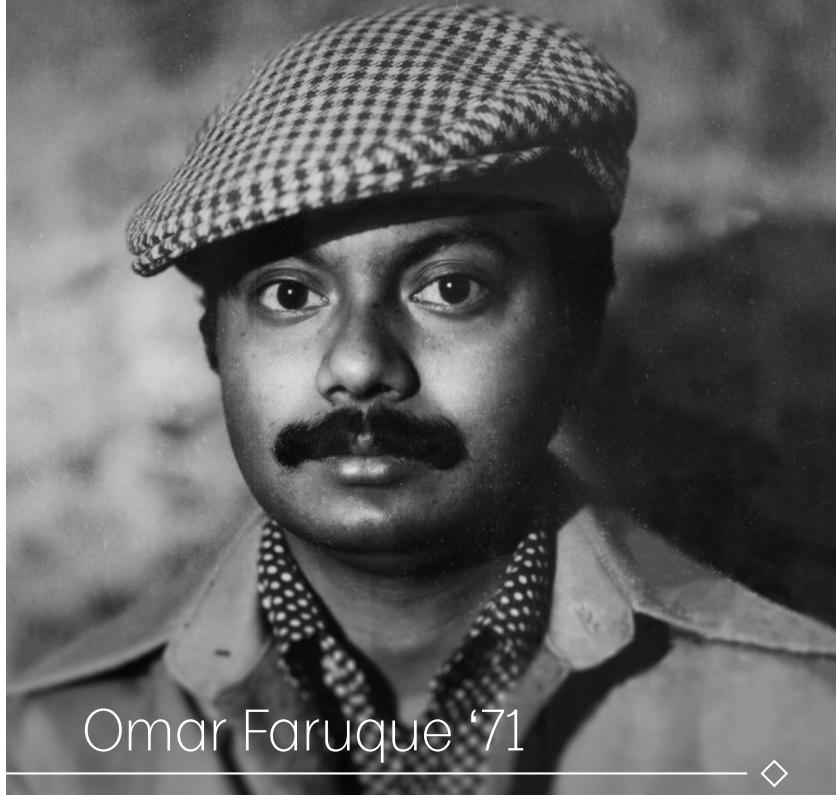
Omar Faruque '71
Department Head and Professor
Landscape Architecture
College of Architecture and
Environmental Design
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California



Acceptance Speech



A partial view of the alumni, faculty and the administrators of Texas A&M University during the acceptance speech



Omar Faruque '71

Having received a BSLA and M. Arch from Texas A&M University, Omar Faruque has been involved in architectural, landscape architectural and planning projects in Texas, Michigan, Indiana, and other states. In most of these projects, his approach to design has been integrated and holistic.

He was the Director of Design and Land Planning for Architectural Development Corporation of Dallas, and the Vice President and Director of Planning and Design for Archimetrics Inc, Dallas. In his

involvement with the first phase of the Flower Mount New Town near Dallas-Fort Worth area, he introduced a series of innovations, especially for the linkages and integration of the open space system into the fabric of housing and commercial districts.

Faruque's contribution in design education stretches over 45 years. After joining the Landscape Architecture Department at Ball State University, in addition to teaching the BLA program, he played an important role in establishing the MLA program. Having received promotions for his accomplishments, he became the youngest full Professor of that campus.

He joined the Landscape Architecture Department of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1989. Aside from revamping its design and design communication sequences, he led many teaching innovations, and serves as the Department Head. Cal Poly's BLA is one of the top undergraduate programs of the USA.

He has offered many workshops for universities, professional offices and organizations including AIA and ASLA. He authored *Graphic Communication as a Design Tool* published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company (now John Wiley & Sons). This theory book on design communication documents his pioneering research on graphic exploration for design decisions and is extensively cited by research communities worldwide.

Faruque writes novels, short stories and poems. His childhood interest in typography emerged into a passion for designing typefaces. He has designed over a dozen computer based roman and non-roman typefaces.

Acceptance Speech by Omar Faruque

Thank you for this honor although I am not sure that I deserve it, especially when I think of the caliber of the past honorees who brought so much distinctions to the College of Architecture and this great Texas A&M University. I also thank those who made this event happen.

Good evening to all of you: the faculty, students, alumni, past outstanding alumni, and all families and friends.

The sun, land, water and air are the precious resources of this planet. We, as planners, landscape architects, architects, and construction scientists and managers work with these resources regularly and closely in terms of their management, sustenance and improvement towards the noble goal of human use and enjoyment. That fact alone puts us at the pinnacle of responsibilities that we can neither negate nor neglect.

While the world is bewildered by the economic and political cacophony, and thereby becoming increasingly oblivion to human dignity and happiness, we the environmental design professionals have to provide the leadership through our work and actions. Must not we forget that by virtue of our professional responsibilities, we are the custodians and stewards of this planet and our thoughtful decisions do make an enormous difference.

In spite of its mess, this world is a mighty place endowed with the capacity to endure as well as with the human ingenuity and drive. Optimism, hard work and creativity can and will certainly win over. This is the challenge this community of professionals is faced with. I am sanguine, if we remain focused and optimistic, we can transform the face of this planet not only into more habitable and sustainable but into a pleasurable paradise for the generations to come.

It is with this optimism and determination that I accept this award.