Abstract
Memory allows our connection to the world. Every aspect of our life, every experience that we have, no matter how mundane and ordinary it may be, is enveloped by the process of memory. It forms our identity as individuals, and it unites individuals together to form the identity of social groups. Memory forms the cocoon within which life exists. With memory having such a profound effect on human life, it stands to reason that it is as deeply connected to the field of architecture. Architecture, unlike any other discipline, has the inherent ability to mould human emotions according to it, hence creating a reservoir of personal and collective memories. Having accepted the existence of memory on a collective level, a question reiterates in mind: what role does memory play in the creation of architecture?
Memory creates meaning in life. It is through the sequential recollection of events that one sees life. Similar is its impact on architecture. Accumulation of collective memories over time allows for the creation of meaning in architecture. When applied to the scale of a city it leads to the formation of a unique identity, in turn enhancing the readability of a city.
While memory is a powerful tool in the creation of architecture, architecture too, at times, plays the subservient role: many a times, dictators have used architecture to instigate memories of a glorious past, to afford legitimization of their rule. Similarly, by immortalizing memories and paying homage to incidents in history through the creation of memorials and monuments, architecture is once again in the service of memory.

The link between architecture and memory brings to mind another important issue: that of conservation. While it is imperative to preserve our cultural heritage, complications arise with changing urban trends that need to be tackled in order for preservation to take place.

In conclusion it would be important to say that memory is the thread which connects the present with the future, with history being the guiding light. Memory provides continuity in architecture and can be used to infuse cities with their unique identity; hence memory here becomes the all-important tool is design.