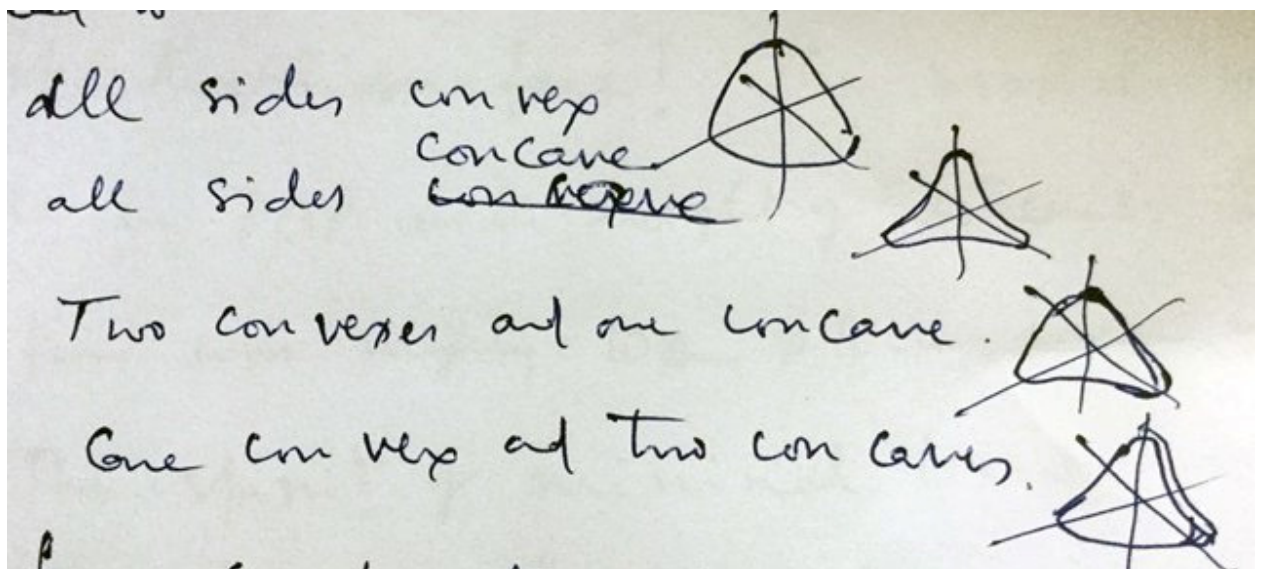


Memory Lane 2 – NID days-  
*Confronted with a Policeman in the mid night!*  
a g rao

It was a quiet night. Little chill touched you whenever the wind blew. Faint sounds of dogs barking at distant could be heard if you paid attention. But I was fully engrossed with the thought of the model I was carving in POP. With dry plaster it was not so much of carving than filing and sanding as the form takes shape. I was on my way to Navarangpura where we (myself and Bhandari) were staying. I was happy I could finish the form transition task. Kumar (prof. Kumar Vyas) had told us that some visitors will be coming on the next day! He wanted me to finish my model so that it can be displayed! This was a task in which we chose '3' end forms in different orientations and connected them with minimal form transition!

Form transitions were handled very professionally by Kumar! To start with we drew basic geometric forms with the radii at the end. Positive or negative curvatures were given to sides. With permutations and combinations of these curvatures we could generate several 'form units' based on the original geometric shape. For example a triangle with radii at the ends and with the convex and concave curvatures at the end lead to

- All sides convex
- All sides concave
- Two convexes and one concave
- One convex and two concaves



With four combinations triangle got exhausted. We could do same operations with square, rectangle, rhombus, parallelogram and trapezium. A circle was added to this! I do not know whether these were invented by Kumar or they came from Ulm!

A simple transition would be between any two basic forms chosen from the 'bank of forms' generated! The two end forms are put on a straight axis! The transition from one to another has to be minimal, to give a in crisp, tight surface! The models were made in POP with a height of 25 cms. Each end form was roughly 10 cm x 10 cm area wise!

The spirit of minimal transition was taken form 'Nature'! We were introduced to D' Archy Thompson's classic book 'Form and Growth!'. The transitions were worked out with a great precision. When correctly worked out, subtle parabolas could be seen! The eye has to be trained to see this. If parabola is not seen with a continuous line, it would indicate incorrect form transition! It was a great training. Prof Vyas would come and say, don't look in the tube light you would never see the lines properly! Use natural light!

*I taught the same basic exercise at IDC for more than 20 years!  
I developed a way of showing to students! We put a table lamp  
with incandescent light at one side. Kept the model on a rotating  
table and turned it slowly!*

***A parabola will appear like a magic when the light is  
tangentially kissing the POP model and revealing the beauty of  
minimal transition!***

*It is a great experience if you see it with a meditative mind! I  
found such a training initiates one to the 'sensitive world of Form!'  
It needs the passion of a sculptor! How else one can understand  
**Brancusi's 'bird'**,  
which is a land mark in the history of modern art movement!*

The next level exercise was transition between 3 end forms kept in different orientations! Two models, one made by me and the other made by Balaram( now

Dean of Faculty at DJ Academy) had come to a finished stage! He had used one of the end forms as a point(circle with minimal dimension!).

Both of our models were to be displayed for the visitors!

I realized later my model was looking like a beautiful neck of a woman, when one of the visitors asked me 'who was my model?'

I was in my thoughts, cherishing the completion of my model and did not see the policeman! He stopped me, "Kahjavuche?", " where are you going?". POP white dust was all over me,on my hair, clothes and chappals. I didn't know Gujrathienough to reply. I said, 'I am a student of NID at Paldi, in Hindi! For a while he did not believe! He was looking at me up and down, with little suspicion! Then I started speaking in English which I am sure he did not understand! But he realized that I am not a petty thief prowling in the night! By this time another police man, probably his boss came on a bicycle,"suche?" , 'what is it?' I told him in English I am from National Design Institute at Paldi and I am going home! He understood a little English! He said 'Let him go in' Gujarathi' to his junior. And I was let off!

Those were the days,you had no "ID'. You are an on the street and you are safe, even form Police!

I was back to my quiet walk on the silent night. Few dogs were still barking at distant!

*Next time I was stopped by a policeman in the night was on the streets of Chicago! That is yet another story!*

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