

The chit-chat Gets louder

From being a platform limited to few professions, Pecha Kucha Nights have evolved and see participation from professionals from other creative fields



An earlier Pecha Kucha meeting; A still from one of the presentation slides

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BACK in October 2009, when Mukund and Darpana Athale, founders of Sarvasva Designs, hosted the first Pecha-Kucha night in the city, it was just an idea of bringing some of the talented minds in architecture together to discuss and exchange views and presentations without taking up too much time. Over the years, the concept of Pecha Kucha Nights, which are about idea exchange through quick presentations in a chatty fashion, have spread over professions from different creative fields too like art, theatre, animation, sculpture, comic-book art, folk art, music and so on.

In short, the concept is a fuss-free format in which any given number of speakers could take the dias to share their presenta-

tion on any topic of their interest, for a maximum of 400 seconds. For instance, the latest Pecha Kucha Night saw participation by Aditi Despande, an architect and interior designer by profession but a dancer and musician at heart, giving an insight on how to experience space through dance. Other speakers includes author, playwright, actor and director Deepak Morris and Aditi Deo, head, The Doodle Factory to name a few.

"The presenter need not be a designer but rather have an interesting hobby, creation or knowledge that he/she would like to share. Each presenter is allowed 20 slides, each running for 20 seconds only- giving the presenter 6 minutes and 40 seconds of fame before the next presenter is up," says Darpana Athale, co-founder, Sarvasva Designs. The presentation can be a short film, poetry, a collection/hobby, travelogue, work/projects, research, historical information, tradition, culture, ideas/thoughts, issues relating to the city, environment, life; or any other interesting and creative aspect that one wishes to showcase- except a direct advertisement of the firm.

It is only now that the organisers are going all out to spread the word about the event. "There is a feeling that the event is on a revival but Pecha Kucha has always been a quiet affair. Except the initial launch in 2009, we have consciously not promoted it," says Athale, adding that despite being low-profile, the last Pecha Kucha Nights had attracted double the number of people they anticipated as the audience. "Every two months, we host a Pecha Kucha night at different locations across the city, depending on the expected audience," adds Athale.

The recent Pecha Kucha was held at Venture Centre, NCL Innovation Park, Pashan Road on Friday.

