

— spotlight —

BUILDING SUCCESS, BRICK BY BRICK

For Sheila Sriprakash, architecture is a splendid way of giving back to the society



convincing masons and worked extra hard to gain acceptance from workers," she says.

"I had to prove that I was just as good as my male counterparts, if not better," Sheila adds.

As a forerunner in environmental friendly designs, and a champion of sociologically sensitive planning, Sheila has two patents to her credit — one for designing a monolithic polyethylene chamber, a hygienic and leak proof alternative for drainage lines. The other patent was for designing a diversion chamber used to switch sewage from the toilet to an alternative dispersion pit for use in low cost rural sanitation.

"I have also worked on cost effective housing for the economically weaker sections of the society," says Sheila who is also devoted to social causes.

As someone who walks the tightrope between career and family responsibilities, Sheila believes in spending quality time with her children. "I see the buildings as my children too," she discloses, revealing the maternal instinct in her.

More than 50 per cent of Sheila's employees are women. "I empathise with them and find them easy to communicate with," she opines.

What is her message for aspiring architects? "Take your job seriously as it involves shaping the world. It is a fabulous chance to

give back to the society and we should not be complacent about it."

VARDHINI N.C.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Awards and honours are never easy to come by; and when they do, you cherish them all the more. For Sheila Sriprakash too, it has been one exhilarating and colorful journey, marking her career as an architect. She has the honour of being the only Indian woman architect chosen by the Leibniz University, Hanover, Germany and the University of

Valencia, Spain to exhibit her works exhibitions later this year. That Sheila has successfully balanced her professional and personal lives is a testimony to her dynamic nature. For all her achievements, it is evident that Sheila is someone who doesn't lose sight of her roots.

"When I established my office in 1979, I had to face the heat of discrimination. I had difficulty in

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