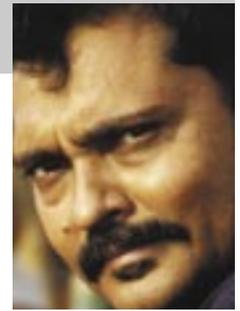


# Does your room have a window



**RAHUL GUPTA**

It is a single glass window separated by horizontal wooden strips but my eyes always managed to find a comfortable spot to see through the lowest one. Taking chances, I would try and sneak glances as often as possible, to look outside the window.

Apart from the greenery, there were two Asoplav trees and my eyes invariably rested on the one which was quite close to the classroom. It was a handsome tree with leaves that seemed fresh and green round the year which was a stark contrast to the dark brown trunk of the tree. When the leaves swayed with the mild breeze, my senses danced inside the otherwise closed room. Every day, this was one wait that made my going to the school worthwhile.

During class breaks, I would rush and sit under the tree. Leaning against the tree trunk, I would pull up my knees and close my eyes, oblivious to all other sounds, I would slip in quick dreams.

The tree and I made good friends but our days seem numbered. Soon I had to leave school and it seemed to be a painful separation. Touching the leaves, and hugging it one last time, I bid farewell.

I was too young, barely out of the 4th standard, when I packed my bags and left the school carrying with me only this memory, which is sketched so vividly in my senses till date.

Pakistan was a new country but resplendent with greenery. I soon forgot everything and fell in love with the new city of Islambad. There were beautiful flowers all around and tall trees reached the sky. In the backdrop, the hills of Margalla seemed awe inspiring.

Three years, three new schools, and three opportunities for finding new windows all offering different views; I was in constant delight. I somehow managed to get the last row, next to the window in all these years and quickly made friends with the world outside. I found varied trees, some nearby and a few in the far distant wondering. Somehow my thoughts wandered off to the Asoplav tree that I had behind, wondering if he missed me as much as I missed him.

In the quick succession of years, I made and left behind many tree friends and continued growing with many more in life.

The view from my window had widened and offered many different worlds. It was a world within a world and I grew with beautiful memories. Somewhere I belonged there, with them.

Little realizing, windows and I got inseparable. Wherever I went, I wanted to be next to one. Over the years, rooms changed so did the views, but I never lost the zeal to look out of them. Like a child, they continue to excite me till date as I imagine what I will see outside the four frames.

I ran with the sun, traced the water droplets on the window

**I guess we all need a window and you need to create your own, a place where you would like to belong.**

pane, eyes soaked the green stretching to the horizon, waving hands to the children, I sat inside chasing the shadow of the clouds as the mountains seem to rush towards me.

With passage of time, I felt the need to be out there with the world where I felt, I belonged.

One morning when the sun was smiling silently, I left my job, wanting to own my sky. Walking out of the window, I embraced my world, where we had grown together. Dismantling my home and literally selling my possessions, I undid everything I had build up only to start all over again.

I am designing landscapes now and the window is back. This time I am on the outside, wondering what view to offer to the person inside. My experiences of views from inside the room gave me the confidence to design. A few different trees in the distance offering varied colors, changing with seasons. An overhang of a creeper peeping around the edges of the window, beautiful flowers greeting you in the morning, I design with passion.

I was lucky to go back to Pakistan, after almost 30 years. Luckily I managed to sit in the classrooms of two schools and looked out, just as I had so many years ago. Most of the trees were still there and I hugged and thanked them.

The windows taught me a few important lessons –

1. Find Inspiration- there is inspiration all around us, in the ordinary and in the mundane. Develop the eyes to find them.
2. Go beyond the obvious – be curious, explore, seek what lies beyond.
3. Take the Challenge – With a confident step, embrace your challenges. Make them your friend and grow together.

I guess we all need a window and you need to create your own, a place where you would like to belong. It takes a lot of hard work to be beyond what you see through the frames. It is about finding inspiration from things and events around us to form lasting relationships. It is somewhere about doing what is important to you and loving every moment of it.

It is providence that the Asopalav tree and I breathe in the same city. Sometimes I go and stand under it and in his shadow we become one. It is difficult for me to share our silent conversations. I look at the classroom from outside and the memories of the gentle breeze that came through the slightly opened windows of my life touch me as I dream on.

Go ahead – dream, seek and surrender.

Will you look outside the window today? [CC](#)

**(The author runs his own company by the name 'Inova Naturals', an expert in landscape designing. He also works as an adjunct faculty member at Pearl Academy)**