

## Daily News/SLIA Housing Advisory Column

**Co-ordinated by Edward Arambewala**

**(Media Consultant SLIA)**

This weeks answers are given by Design Aid Panel and SLIA Council Member Architect Thilak Piyaratne.

### Architects public day

The Design Aid Panel Architects will be available for free advice on housing construction and related problems, to the *Daily News* readers on Friday from 9 am to 12 noon at The SLIA Office No. 120/7, Vidya Mawatha, Independence Square, Colombo 7.

### Questions and answers Thilak Piyaratne

Let your daughter decide any change

Sepali Munasinghe - Katana

**Q: I am building a house for my daughter who is studying in a US University and contemplating marriage. Last time she came here, she met an architect, bought a 20 perch building block on the advice of the architect overlooking a paddy field and went away after approving the sketch plan. She says she wants an open house with a lot of garden and floor slabs with openings in them to view the various parts of the house. The plan drawn by the architect is at three levels with each floor slab cut away with an open double car port and a verandah at ground floor and a terrace at first floor overlooking the**

**paddy field. My sister does not like the design and I am also beginning to think that the three storey idea is a costly one and that the living room should be at ground level. The architect says that the changes we suggest will destroy the house my daughter wants. I know I must listen to the architect but I am not convinced.**

**A:** The design has been done, not for you or for your sister but for you daughter who must have briefed the architect very well regarding her requirements and approved the sketch plans. If you were the client, most probably the site selection would have been different too. It is your daughter who will have to make any decision even to request a change, which is till possible as the design is still in the sketch stage.

Solutions you would not have imagined

G. Wijetunga - Battaramulla

**Q: My architect tells me that my ideas are too finely fended and that this does not allow him sufficient flexibility to give me the house I need. He welcomes criticism and my objections to his plans and is willing to re-do the plans many times but he says that I should not tell him how to accommodate my wishes. He says that it is his job to give me more than what I have dreamed of. Is this possible? I don't want to loose him. I have been to several houses he has designed and am satisfied. How do I tell him what I feel without upsetting him?**

**A:** You do admit that you are

satisfied with the work he has done for others. That itself is ample evidence of his capabilities. You can indicate to him what you wish to have but let the solution come from him. That is what an architect is trained to do and will have the capability to come up with solutions you would not have imagined.

There is ground movement

Ms. Chitra Mediwaka - Dehiwala

**Q: I have laid terra cotta tiles in my living room. The house is about 5 years old. Now the filling in between the tiles are coming of. Why is this happening? Can I refill them?**

**A:** Check whether this is happening only in a limited area or all over. The possible causes and remedial measures:-

1. The grouting (filling between tiles) has been done without removing the dirt from the gaps - Remove the grouting carefully minimizing the damage to the tiles and clean the gaps and re-do the grouting.

2. The grouting used would have been of an inferior quality. (poor missing, poor quality) Same as for above.

3. There is movement of the terra cotta tile itself, if it has not been laid & bonded properly. The loose tiles will have to be removed, the base chipped and cleaned, and the tiles re-laid properly and grouted.

4. There is ground movement - the cause for the movement has to be established properly and remedial measures taken accordingly.