

FRAMES OF POWER: CITIZEN MODELLING PERCEPTIONS OF SRI LANKA'S CONSTITUTION

Day 1: Public talks by Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran MP & Bhavani Fonseka, 5.30-7.00pm, 19 February 2020 (Wednesday)

**ICES Auditorium,
2, Kynsey Terrace,
Colombo 8**

**Free & open to
public. Seating
limited.**

Building on the critically acclaimed *Corridors of Power* project (corridorsofpower.org), *Frames of Power* is a pioneering & unique web platform for citizens to visually model & compare perceptions of constitutional power.

Democratic by design, *Frames of Power* helps expose & explore perceptions of political power, from acceptance to resistance.

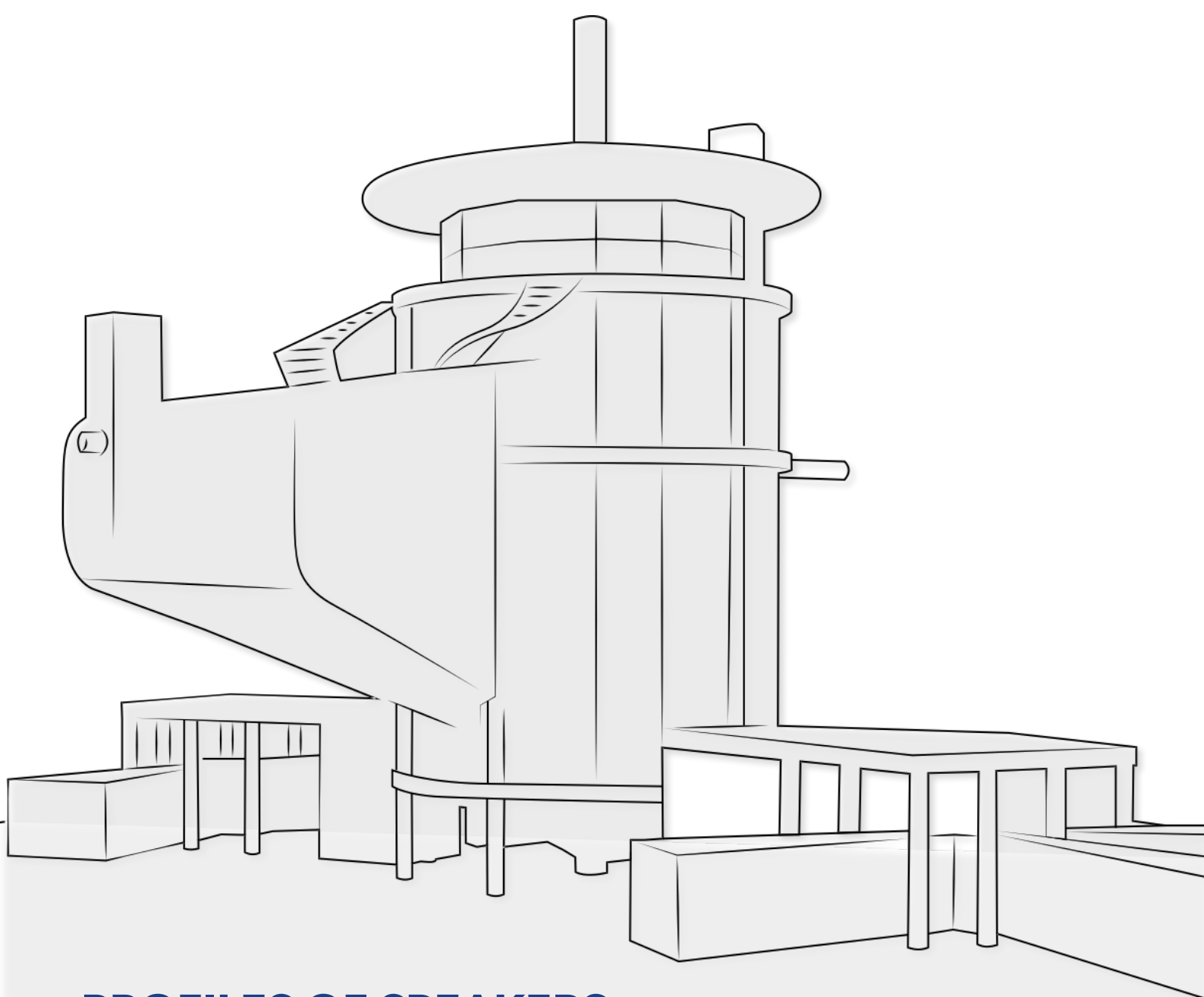
Conceived & produced by Sanjana Hattotuwa, the Founding Editor of groundviews.org, *Frames of Power* is a collaboration involving constitutional theorist Asanga Welikala & architect Channa Daswatta, both renowned in their respective fields of practice.

See framesofpower.org for more for details & to participate in the modelling.

Keynote by Hon. M.A. Sumanthiran MP PC will

explore the prospects of citizen-led constitutional reform juxtaposed against renewed interest in hyper-presidentialism & centralisation of political authority.

Respondent Bhavani Fonseka will interrogate, accessing over 15 years of committed legal activism, links between constitutional power, subjugation of citizens & Sri Lanka's liberal-democratic potential over next 5-10 years.



PROFILES OF SPEAKERS

Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran MP PC

M.A. Sumanthiran is a Sri Lankan Tamil lawyer, politician and Member of Parliament. He holds a B. Sc (Physics) from the University of Madras and an LL.M (Internet & Electronic Law) from Monash University. Sumanthiran was called to the bar in 1991.

Nominated as a National List MP by the Tamil National Alliance, he is a Member of Parliament from April 2010 to date. He serves on the Constitutional Assembly, Standing Orders & National Security Oversight Committees of Parliament.

He is also Chairman of the Public Finance Committee.

Sumanthiran has appeared in several landmark cases in Sri Lanka, including but not limited to appearing as Counsel for the Petitioner challenging the President's act of dissolving Parliament in November 2018 before a full bench of the Supreme Court. The case succeeded.

Sumanthiran has appeared in a number of other fundamental rights cases & is frequently quoted in the media on crucial constitutional matters.

Bhavani Fonseka

Bhavani Fonseka is a Senior Researcher with the Centre for Policy Alternatives, a think tank in Sri Lanka, with a focus on research, national and international advocacy and public interest litigation.

Her work has revolved around assisting victims and affected populations across Sri Lanka and legal and policy reforms. She is the editor of the book *Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka: Moving Beyond Promises* and is on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal on Transitional Justice*.

She was an adviser to the Consultation Taskforce on Reconciliation Mechanisms appointed by the Government of Sri Lanka in 2016 and a committee member that assisted in formulating the National Human Rights Action Plan for Sri Lanka for 2017-2021.

She was a Mason Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and an Eisenhower Fellow.



FRAMES OF POWER: CITIZEN MODELLING PERCEPTIONS OF SRI LANKA'S CONSTITUTION

Day 2: Public talks by Channa Daswatte & Iromi Perera, 5.30-7.00pm, 20 February 2020 (Thursday)

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2, Kynsey Terrace,
Colombo 8

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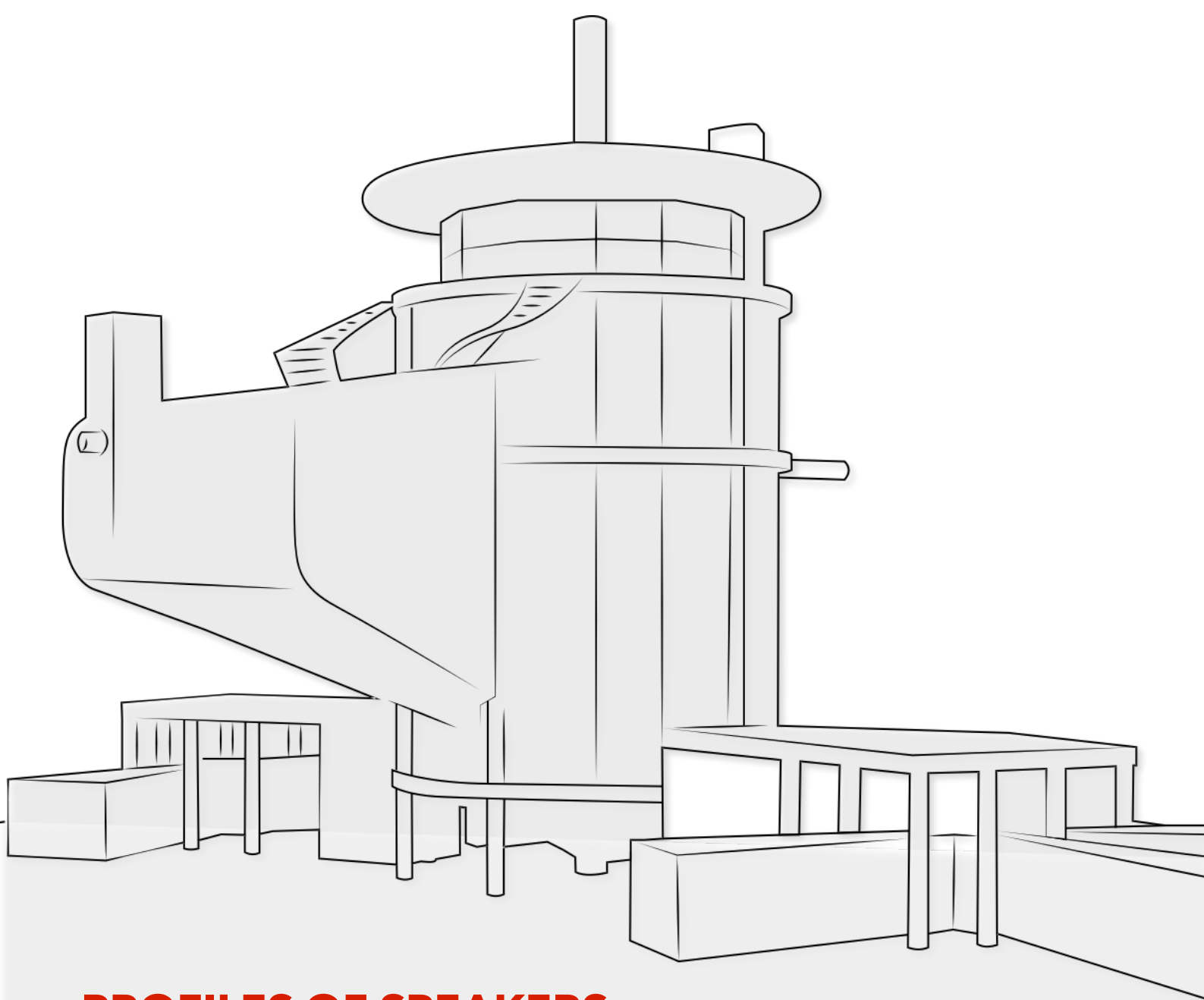
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Keynote by Channa Daswatte will explore the

intersection of architecture, design & the role, if any, of architects in both communicating and critiquing political power through spatial design.

Respondent Iromi Perera, using her significant experience of working with diverse communities displaced by insensitive urban development led by intransigent technocrats, will outline the real world impact of unbridled political authority.



PROFILES OF SPEAKERS

Channa Daswatte

Graduated in 1991 and joined the architectural consultancy of Geoffrey Bawa, and in 1998, founded MICD Associates in partnership with Murad Ismail. The practice makes architecture that is appropriate to site climate and culture using to advantage the materials of everyday construction.

Has been in architectural education since 1992 teaching at both the City School of architecture and the University of Moratuwa and continues to be a visiting tutor and examiner at both institutions.

The Author of several books including "Sri Lanka Style " with Dominic Sansoni and the "Colonial furniture in the Geoffrey Bawa Collection", he has also written and edited extensively in magazines and Journals.

From 2015 to 2019 he held the post of Chairman of the Galle Heritage Foundation. He is a trustee of the Geoffrey Bawa and Lunuganga Trusts and a founding committee member of the new Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art - Sri Lanka.

Iromi Perera

Iromi Perera is a Colombo based researcher and activist. Her work focuses on land rights, more specifically evictions and dispossession in Colombo, spatial justice, contested sacred sites, and eminent domain. From 2017 - 2019 she was a part of a five person multidisciplinary team researching Lahore and Colombo, and focusing on the ways in which infrastructure projects affect the lives of the urban poor.

In 2019 Iromi was a Commissioner on the People's Commission on Land initiated by the People's Alliance for Right to

Land (PARL) in Sri Lanka. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of The Asia Foundation and the Centre for Equality and Justice. Iromi was a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) from 2008 - 2017.

She headed CPA's survey research unit Social Indicator during that time and led over 20 national surveys and opinion polls.