

Aditya College of Architecture's INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION 2017

INHABITING NATURE

"The idea of using development as an engine to protect open space, strengthen communities, reduce auto-mobile use and even restore damaged ecosystems is an exciting one.... It will require a paradigm shift to move society 'from thinking the best it can do is to minimize negative impact, toward a view in which development is seen as both contributing to the growth of healthy human communities while simultaneously restoring (not merely sustaining) the natural environment. '"

- Alex Wilson, Green Development, 1998

Historically we are able to trace human settlements that either integrated or coexisted peacefully with nature. The architecture of the river valley civilizations was a direct result of the yearly flooding cycle and how it was negotiated for sustenance and livelihood by its inhabitants. Likewise, Old Iranian cities like Isfahan & Shiraz, coastal towns of Kilwa in Tanzania and Teotenago in Mexico, all explored the city-nature relationship. At the level of buildings, we have effectively negotiated the climate and terrain to innovate systems that have had minimal impact on environment by leveraging natural phenomena. Around the world, the elements such as thick walls, *Jalis*, wind towers and Courtyards have been using temperature difference and wind-directions to optimize the air flow and provide passive cooling for the inhabitants.

From the late 18th century, growth of industry led to the birth of the modern city. For the first time, rapid development and urbanisation were witnessed around the world; as a large number of migrants moved from rural communities to the new cities in search of opportunity. Natural resources such as coal, petroleum and other fossil fuels were employed to accelerate this process; till date 80% of the world's energy needs are met by burning fossil fuels. This prevalent use of fossil fuels in recent years, has raised widespread concerns about pollution and long-term impact on the environment.

It is only in the 20th Century that various experiments and attempts began to emerge in a few parts of the world to address concerns over deteriorating environmental conditions and renew the relationship of man with nature. Letchworth (1903), laid out by Raymond Unwin was a direct manifestation of Sir Ebenezer Howard's concept of the Garden City. The town of Arcosanti, designed by Paolo Soleri explored the concept of *arcology*, which combines architecture and ecology. Elon Musk's Hyperloop, is an example where technology is being used to reimagine high speed transportation, thereby minimizing dependence on fossil fuels.

Sonam Wangchuk's *Ice Stupas* are a fine example where science and innovation are used to imitate natural systems and negotiate with climatic conditions to create artificial glaciers during the winters, which melt to provide water to carry out farming and other daily activities during summers in the mountain town of Ladakh, India. The mountain community has now come together to develop an institution that allows a space for conceptualising such ideas. One can also look at the example of the restoration of Timba quarry in Gujarat, India, where an ecosystem has been slowly revitalised to create a self-sustaining natural park by introducing flora and fauna into a barren region.

Each of these examples, are specific cases in which natural systems and mechanisms have been employed as 'engines for development'. However, to have far reaching effect on the global human settlement a paradigm shift is required.

Kavieh Samiei in his essay, "Architecture and Urban Ecosystems: From Segregation to Integration" argues that "*cities should be an extension of our natural environment. The health of biodiversity affects you. And what you do affects biodiversity. Everything we do either uses natural resources or returns them as waste.*" The question this poses to us, as architects and designers is if we can base our innovations and visions of 'healthy human communities' on a co-existent relationship

between natural entities and development?; And can these visions, then be actions and models that are more scalable, panoramic and trans-disciplinary in nature?

ACA's 5th International Design Competition therefore wishes to investigate various forms in which this co-existence manifests itself. Must we strive towards creating a symbiotic relationship with our environment? Should we mimic the systems available in nature to generate adaptable outcomes? Or is there a possibility to invent a completely new approach altogether to inhabit nature?

The Design Challenge

The Competition invites the architectural fraternity of students and academics to Design an 'Everyday Institution' – ranging from built form and landscape to urban renewal and systems - that responds to the city, town or country it belongs to, where communities led by dreamers, rebels, wanderers and mad scientists within us, come together to rethink, innovate and implement new ways of creating spaces and demonstrate a ground for experimentation for the future of communities that inhabit nature harmoniously.

STAGES

STAGE 1: Online Registration of entries on our website, <http://adityacampus.org/idc/>

STAGE 2: Online Submission of entries begins on 13th of August, 2017. Last Date for receiving entries is the 01st of October, 2017. All Submissions shall be made in PDF or JPEG format only. Submissions shall be made only through the Unique USER ID generated after registering on our website.

STAGE 3: Results shall be declared on the 6th of November, 2017.

STAGE 4: Post Declaration of results the winning participants would be invited to attend our Annual Festival "UDAAN" on the 15th of December, 2017. They will be felicitated with the prize amount and invited to present their work.

STUDENT CATEGORY

(Undergraduate / B.Arch Students)

- 1. SITE:** Participants shall intervene on a site in the urban/rural and geographical context of their choice.
- 2. DESIGN INTERVENTION:** The proposed design intervention could be ranging from built form and landscape to urban renewal and systems. As long as the chosen intervention fits the scope of the brief, the participants are encouraged to think on multiple scales.
- 3. ELIGIBILITY:** The Competition is open to all Bonafide Students from All Years of their Undergraduate Architecture course recognized by their respective State/Country Board of Education or by their Country's respective Architecture Schools Associations.

4. SUBMISSION:

Write-Up: A 500 word write-up covering the following-

- a. Description of your understanding and interpretation of the Brief.
- b. Your argument for the proposed intervention.
- c. The process & method of design.

Representation of Ideas:

- d. Participants can choose the adequate drawing scale to communicate their design scheme effectively.
- e. They can provide any number of Architectural drawings sufficient to describe the scheme.
- f. Pictures of Scaled Models, Computer generated 3D-Views, Renders, etc.
- g. Diagrams, hand-made sketches and other Representational material.

5. FORMAT:

- a. Submit (Upload) your entries using a maximum of 1 A1 sized sheet (Portrait/ Landscape is a choice you make) NOT exceeding a combined file size of 20 MB in PDF or JPEG format only, with the above submission specifications duly complied.
- b. A4 sized PDF consisting of the write-up NOT exceeding a file size of 2MB.

The format for the write up as per the following:

- c. **Font type:** Arial
- d. **Font size:** 11 for the matter and 14 for the Titles.
- e. A Bonafide Certificate from your College/ University/ Institute certifying your admission NOT exceeding a file size of 1 MB.
- f. All participant teams shall be given a Unique IDC code that you shall have to put in all your deliverables.

- 6. TEAMS:** Participating Teams shall comprise of a maximum of 5 students and a minimum of 1 student.

7. AWARDS:

Student entries at the IDC 2017-18 shall receive Certificates and a Prize amount as follows

1st Place: Rs. 1, 00,000/ - \$1500

2nd Place: Rs. 70,000/ - \$1000

3rd Place: Rs. 50,000/ - \$800

Winning entries will be published in ACA's COA approved publication for 2017-18.

Citations: Certificates shall be awarded to 4 Exemplary entries.

ACADEMICIAN CATEGORY

- 1. ESSAY / ARTICLE:** A unique standpoint based on an interpretation of the brief in relationship to the writer's micro context.
- 2. ELIGIBILITY:** The Competition is open to all members of architectural academia, including Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Visiting Faculty and Teaching assistants. Academics may even chose to Collaborate and work in groups.
- 3. SUBMISSION:** A 2500 word essay/article supplemented with images/diagrams and drawings.
- 4. FORMAT:** Submit (Upload) your entries on a maximum of ten A4 sized sheets, NOT exceeding a combined file size of 10 MB in PDF format only, with the above submission specifications duly complied. The format for the write up is as per the following:
 - a. Font type: Arial
 - b. Font size: 11 for the matter and 14 for the Titles.A Letter from your College/ University/ Institute certifying your association with them, NOT exceeding a file size of 1 MB.
- 5. TEAMS:** Participating teams of academia shall comprise of a maximum of 5 members and a minimum of 1 member.

6. AWARDS:

Academician/Faculty entries at the IDC 2017-18 shall receive Certificates and a Prize amount as follows:

a. 1st Place: Rs. 25,000/ - \$400

b. 2nd Place: Rs. 15,000/ - \$250

c. 3rd Place: Rs. 10,000/ - \$150

Winning entries will be published in ACA's COA approved publication for 2017-18.

Citations – Ceritificates shall be awarded to 2 Exemplary entries.

EXCLUSIVE YOUNG ARCHITECT CATEGORY

(Graduate / M.Arch Students and Recent B.Arch Graduates)

1. **SITE:** Participants shall intervene on a site in the urban/rural and geographical context of their choice.
2. **DESIGN INTERVENTION:** The proposed design intervention could be ranging from built form and landscape to urban renewal and systems. As long as the chosen intervention fits the scope of the brief, the participants are encouraged to think on multiple scales.
3. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Competition is open to all Bonafide Students from All Years of their Graduate Architecture (M.Arch / M.S Arch) course recognized by their respective State/Country Board of Education or by their Country's respective Architecture Schools Associations. Young architects, who have finished their undergraduate course in or after June 2015 are also eligible to participate.

4. SUBMISSION:

Write-Up: A 500 word write-up covering the following-

- a. Description of your understanding and interpretation of the Brief.
- b. Your argument for the proposed intervention.
- c. The process & method of design.

Representation of Ideas:

- d. Participants can choose the adequate drawing scale to communicate their design scheme effectively.
- e. They can provide any number of Architectural drawings sufficient to describe the scheme.
- f. Pictures of Scaled Models, Computer generated 3D-Views, Renders, etc.
- g. Diagrams, hand-made sketches and other Representational material.

5. FORMAT:

- a. Submit (Upload) your entries using a maximum of 1 A1 sized sheet (Portrait/ Landscape is a choice you make) NOT exceeding a combined file size of 20 MB in PDF or JPEG format only, with the above submission specifications duly complied.
- b. A4 sized PDF consisting of the write-up NOT exceeding a file size of 2MB.

The format for the write up as per the following:

- c. **Font type:** Arial
- d. **Font size:** 11 for the matter and 14 for the Titles.
- e. A Bonafide Certificate from your College/ University/ Institute certifying your admission NOT exceeding a file size of 1 MB.
- f. All participant teams shall be given a Unique IDC code that you shall have to put in all your deliverables.

6. **TEAMS:** Participating Teams shall comprise of a maximum of 5 and a minimum of 1 member.

7. AWARDS:

Winning entries will be published in ACA's COA approved publication for 2017-18.

Citations: Certificates shall be awarded to 5 Exemplary entries.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The jury will analyse entries on a number of factors including originality, innovation, form, sustainability and also on how your design:

- a. Addressed the key elements of the brief.
- b. Evolved the idea in terms of your argument for the intervention.
- c. Representation of the ideas.
- d. Uniqueness of the standpoint and its relationship to the writer's micro context.

NOTE

- a. All winning entries shall be invited to present at the IDC Seminar to be held at ACA on 15 December 2017
- b. Copyright for all material received as part of the competition, its publication and for the reproduction of content shall be solely with ACA.

CONTACT US

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S.No	Competition Stage	Date
1.	Submission of Entries Open	13 Aug 2017
2.	Last date of Receiving Entries	1 Oct 2017
3.	Jury	4 Nov 2017
4.	Declaration of Results	6 Nov 2017
5.	Awards Ceremony with Udaan	15 Dec 2017