

The design competition on water-efficient design was promoted to engage students of design in an exercise of studying water as a depleting resource and devising technical, social and design-based systems of managing this precious commodity. The response to the announcement has been encouraging and the schemes presented by the different teams suggest that if this talent is harnessed and guided in the direction of sustainability we would have brand ambassadors who would spread awareness and professionals who would be sensitive designers too.

We thank all the participants who displayed immense enthusiasm in their interactions with us and the time and effort spent by them would stand them in good stead in helping them formulate their design philosophy as they grow into their roles of designers in a few years.

The competition saw a total of 207 registrations and 54 submissions.

And the winners of the first stage are:

1. Nupur Risbood from APIED Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand.
2. Dipanjan Das and Shashank Jain from SPA New Delhi
3. Shivani Sathpathy and Debadutta Parida from CET Bhubaneswar
4. Florina Dutt and Subhjit Das from Jadavpur University, Kolkata
5. Sangeeta Kumari and Abhaas Kumar from ABIT Cuttack
6. Himanshu Raj and Neelam Verma from MNIT Jaipur
7. Shruti Mehrotra and Smriti Mehrotra from Symbiosis Institute of Design, Pune
8. Varshapriya Radhakrishnan, Aditi Bidkar from Symbiosis Institute of Design, Pune
9. C. Vishnu Priya from Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai
10. Anuj Bhajanka and Avinash Chirania from Guwahati College of Architecture, Guwahati
11. Shivkumar Shrikant Ranbhor and Zarine Hoshang Jamshedji from MMM College of Architecture, Pune
12. Arun Karthik. N and Srisundar. S from Thiagarajar College of Engg. Madurai
13. Badrinath K and Prerna Aggarwal from IIT Roorkee
14. Probash Kumar Biswas and Tirthankar Sarkar from Jadavpur University Kolkata.
15. Sakshi Jain & Suruchi Shah from Vastukala Academy and TVB School of Habitat Studies, New Delhi.

Jury Feedback:

The jury found the process of evaluation an interesting and heartening experience. A thorough appraisal of all the entries elicited the following comments and feedback from the jury:

1. The teams have explored various possibilities of water-efficient design and the range of problems chosen by teams from different locations calls for documentation of the same.
2. There has been an earnest effort on the part of most teams to provide for simple solutions that are executable.
3. There is insufficient presentation and analysis of data and facts that are required to support each design.
4. There is inadequate attention paid to social aspects of design. It is imperative for a design solution to be in tandem with social systems for the solution to be sustainable.
5. Appropriate case studies would have been good stepping stones for workable solutions.

All the winning teams will be sent individual feedback from the jury and would be required to work towards the second stage of submission which is scheduled for the 7th of June 2008. Specific inputs on the format of submission will also be sent to the winners shortly. The finalists will be expected to present to the jury on the 21st of June 2008 at Bangalore.

Invitation to all the participants to attend final presentations:

All those who have sent in submissions are welcome to witness these presentations which will be coupled with presentations on sustainability by some senior professionals in the field. We will arrange for accommodation for the outstation students but travel costs will have to be borne by the respective teams. We look forward to a confirmation of attendance from your side by the 15th of May so that the necessary arrangements for accommodation for the nights of 20th and 21st June may be made.

The jury comprised of the following eminent persons:

1. Ms.Chitra Vishwanath - She graduated from CEPT, Ahmedabad in 1988 and since 1990, she has been practising as an architect working solely on ecological architecture. Hers is a small setup with six more architects and engineers. To date, they have been able to situate close to 300 ecological projects of varying scales and this is a certainly a noteworthy achievement. Ar.Chitra Vishwanath believes in walking the talk.
2. Ms.Suhasini Ayer Guigan - A graduate of the "Delhi School of Planning and Architecture" Suhasini Ayer has been living in Auroville since 1985. In 1987 she and a few friends established the "Auroville Centre for Scientific Research" to work on applied research in appropriate building materials and technologies, water management, alternative energy and solar passive architecture and planning. They work together on various demonstration/research and commercial projects integrating successfully and unsuccessfully these sustainable developmental principles both within and without Auroville in collaboration with other agencies / individuals in the India who are motivated by the same aspiration.
3. Mr.Georg Leuzinger is a Swiss Architect, an outdoor sportsperson with a strong character streak to respect and safeguard natural resources in life generally. He is practising since 15 years in Bangalore but his first journey to India brought him to Gujarat in 1986 for a student exchange program. The harsh seasons in north-west India combined with depleting resources and galloping environmental degradation around the uncontrolled developing urban areas brought it to the fore that any architectural and planning work is inseparably linked with establishing a healthy respect for nature and all natural resources against the onslaught of purely exploiting development. The Bangalore practice of L&S Architects now deals with institutional and industrial projects striving for elegant and "lighter solutions" in all respects of material use and environmental impact of construction, maintenance and operations during their life cycle.
4. Mr. D.N. Ravi Shankar currently holds the post of Executive Engineer Wastewater Management Division of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board. He holds a post graduate degree in environmental engineering and has 25 years of experience in the field of water supply and wastewater disposal/reuse. He trained in USA in "Solid and liquid waste to energy" conducted by 'International institute of Education' Washington and training given by M/S Black and Veatch International. He is the joint secretary for "Environment Association of Bangalore". He has worked as an official consultant from BWSSB to several institutions in Bangalore, including Bharath Electronics Limited, Karnataka Golf Association, Carewell Technologies, Indian Airforce etc.
5. Mr.Vishwanath is an urban and regional planner. He plays the role of advisor to Arghyam and is with The Rainwater Club.

We, once again thank you for your enthusiasm and look forward to more such associations in the future.