



INHABITING NATURE

BRIEF

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?

1. CHALLENGE: The Competition invites the architectural fraternity of students and academics to Design an 'Everyday Institution' - ranging from built form, landscape, 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, objects and models that sensitize their impact on the environment and demonstrate a ground for experimentation for the future of communities that inhabit nature harmoniously.

2. SITE: Participants shall intervene on a site in the urban/rural and geographical context of their choice. They may even choose to put forth designs that are site less or imaginary.

DETAILS

STAGE 1: Online Registration of entries starts on the 10th of July, 2017. For more details visit us at www.aditya-arch.edu.in/events/idc

STAGE 2: Online Submission of entries begins on 13th of August, 2017. Last Date for receiving entries is the 29th 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 5th 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 invited to present their work during the festival and shall thereafter be felicitated with the prize amount.

SUBMISSION STUDENT CATEGORY

- 1. 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.
- 2. REPRESENTATION OF IDEAS:**
 - a. Participants can choose the adequate drawing scale to communicate their design scheme effectively.
 - b. They can provide any number of Architectural drawings sufficient to describe the scheme.
 - c. Pictures of Scaled Models, Computer generated 3D-Views, Renders, etc.
 - d. Diagrams, hand-made sketches and other Representational material.

ACADEMICIAN CATEGORY

Essay / Article: A 1500 word essay/article supplemented with images/diagrams and drawings. The essay would be the writers unique standpoint based on an interpretation of the brief.

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

JUDGING CRITERIA

- The jury will analyse entries on a number of factors including originality, innovation, form, sustainability and also on how your design has-
1. Addressed the key elements of the brief.
 2. Evolution of the idea in terms of your argument for the intervention.
 3. Representation of the ideas.

TEAMS

Participating Teams shall comprise of a maximum of 5 students and a minimum of 1 student. Participating teams of academia shall comprise of a maximum of 5 members and a minimum of 1 member. **(VERY IMPORTANT NOTE)** Participants should NOT reveal their Identity or College name by any means in their Presentations. Participants will be identified by their UNIQUE IDC Code

ELIGIBILITY

1. 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.
2. The Competition is open to all members of the architectural academia, including Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Visiting Faculty and Teaching assistants. Academics may even choose to Collaborate and work in groups.

AWARDS

STUDENT CATEGORY

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

- 1st Place - RS. 1,00,000/- | \$1550**
- 2nd Place - RS. 70,000/- | \$1000**
- 3rd Place - RS. 50,000/- | \$750**

Citations - Certificates shall be awarded to 4 Exemplary entries.

ACADEMICIAN CATEGORY

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

- 1st Place - RS. 25,000/- | \$400**
- 2nd Place - RS. 15,000/- | \$250**
- 3rd Place - RS. 10,000/- | \$150**

Winning entries will be published in ACA's COA approved publication for 2017-18. Citations - Certificates shall be awarded to 2 Exemplary entries.

CONTACT US

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JURORS



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MALAYSIA
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Ar. Andy Chong



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Jaisim - Fountainhead
Bengaluru, INDIA



Ar. PK Das
PK Das and Associates
Mumbai, INDIA



Ar. Vikas Dilawari
Vikas Dilawari Architects
Mumbai, INDIA



Ar. Jamshed Banaji
Banaji and Associates
Mumbai, INDIA

Alex Wilson, Green Development, 1998



ACA'S 5th INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION

START DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 13 AUG 17 | LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 01 OCT 17