GRASSROOTS

Solace of a Soothing Shade in the Oppressive Heat of Day

INTRODUCTION

Since the inception of human civilization, the one constant throughout history has always been that, building structures has been an exclusively social event, unlike other activities such as hunting or farming which could be done without an escort. But when man fully embraced his greedy nature, a vast gap in power and wealth formed between humans. And this has been the case for the past 5000 years or more.

Picture a large mall being built in a busy and bustling urban neighbourhood in India. A common sight, in full public view, would be hundreds of people undertaking back breaking tasks over 10-hour shifts, often frail or with blisters and sweat, basically malnourished. Now guiding our view further around this nefarious sight, one would spot blue sheets draped over timber poles, which look like they could tear any moment; with smoke and soot escaping from one of its openings, most probably from a *chulha* being tended to, tirelessly, by a woman who is also trying to take care of her children running around in a frenzy, among debris which may or may not be falling. All this while incessant cries from babies could be heard while they are left unattended, because if their parents don't mix this batch of concrete and carry it up to the tenth floor by sunset, they might not be able to receive their daily wage. Such is the life of a fellow human who trades a significant part of their energy, time and life to erect structures that may or may not be helpful to themselves or their community.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE
ANNUAL NASA DESIGN COMPETITION | 2021-22
GRASSROOTS

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UVCE, BANGALORE

GRASSROOTS

NASA

With an estimated approximate of over 45 million workers employed in the construction sector, these faceless and voiceless folk often recruited from remote villages or urban slums are taken advantage of, and face constant atrocities beyond the common occurrence of workplace accidents. In a profit-based economy, that's dominant over most of the neo-liberal countries, the bureaucrats deem basic rights for blue collar workers as unprofitable. In the 21st century, when the construction industry is booming more than it ever did, the technology used to push the physical limits of construction is being heavily invested on, while the human resource who are equally, if not more important to the industry are constantly abused, mistreated, and misrepresented. Architects, engineers, and designers are in many ways guilty of this transgression against their own fraternity, side-lining an entire community working to erect their visions.

One of the ways, in which property owners and government officials get away infringing on the rights of this vulnerable community, is by recruiting nonlocals, who have virtually no power over foreign terrain. For a peculiar species such as humans to unite, they require a sense of belongingness to each other, or any familiar face or symbol or image that they can latch onto. Humans look back to their origins for feelings of comfort and familiarity. But for a nomadic and vastly diverse mix of population like construction labourers, it would be significantly difficult to unite for a cause. Providing this community with welfare schemes and security policies, while very much needed, do not help them in significant ways to take back their rights bereaved off them, for many generations. If only one symbol, one abstract entity, or one emblem could bring their hands together...

OBJECTIVES

. To engage the students in a bold effort to bridge the lifestyle gap between construction labourers and their employers, and giving back to the construction sector in meaningful and responsible manner.

. To introduce the students of architecture the sensitivity and thoughtfulness that must be present while designing structures to help the voiceless and the marginalized.

. To guide the architecture fraternity through the path of self-discovery and rekindle their relationship with the people who bring their dreams and concepts into reality.

. To engage the students into a thought process that goes beyond form, function and detail; and one that involves deep symbolism and culture building.

PROGRAMME

Find any existing project undergoing construction employing a sizeable workforce. Relevant data gathered must be concerning the work force, their background and their lifestyle, rather than the work or the project they are employed at.

Through means of artistic expression, paint a picture depicting the entire reality of the low wage labourers.

Design a mobile settlement to shelter these construction labourers of the medium scale project. The design must be collapsible and easily employed over a variety of terrain, stages of construction and weather conditions. The design, most importantly, must address the core problems concerning safety, security, privacy and right to dignified lives for the labourers. The design units must be able to adapt to various iterations of arrangement that would be called for at different points in the construction process.

Beyond providing a roof over their head, what labourers desperately need is a reason to unite and resist exploitation. Thus, the design must, in many ways, give them a voice and a uniting call for change. This can be achieved either through forms, engravings, imagery or composition.

SITE

Participants must choose any existing construction project (medium scale), that involves 4,000 to 6,000 labour hours or estimated 1 to 2 years to finish amassing, which is also long past its beginning stage of construction. The construction project should preferably reside more or less 20 families working on the site.

The work force could include a mix of regional migrating workers from all over India, settling for couple of years in and around the site of construction.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

- The documentation of site should be expressed within a maximum of four 16:9 slide presentation for documentation.
- Site study and other prerequisites for the design with one slide as a mandate, illustrating the 'site situation' through photomontage or any other creative methods.
- A manual booklet that would guide the labourers to (re)assemble the house unit, quickly and efficiently, expressed within a maximum of six 16:9 slides.

JUDGEMENT CRITERIA

- Relevancy of the documented data.
- Cost effectiveness achieved in the design.
- Flexibility of the design.
- Efficiency of the materials used
- Measures in design towards unifying and empowering the community.
- Efficiency of the booklet in visually communicating the assembly process laymen.

PRIZE MONEY

Prize money of 1 lakh INR is allotted by NASA India, and it will be divided according to the number of the Citations and Special Mentions.

IMPORTANT DATES

Release of brief – *13th October 2021, Wednesday, 18:00IST*

Registration deadline – *5th November 2021, Wednesday, 18:00IST*

Query deadline – *3rd November 2021, Wednesday, 18:00IST*

Submission deadline – *24th November 2021, Wednesday, 18:00IST*

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Failing to comply with any of the guidelines may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the executive council.

- **Maximum Three (03) number of entries can be submitted per unit.**
- The format of the sheets attached in the brief is only allowed.
- Sheets file size should not exceed **25Mb,** maximum size for Authentication and Declaration Letters is **5Mb**.
- The scale is left to the discretion of the participant(s) to the condition that the scale should be in the metric system and all the drawings should be clear and legible.

GENERAL TROPHY GUIDELINES

- All text should be in English.
- The file name should strictly be the registration code itself.
- The format of the sheet should contain a square box of 25mm*25mm at the bottom right-hand corner, next to the NASA INDIA logo which should have the unique registration number allotted to the participants after registrations.
- Manually rendered entry should be scanned at least in 300*300dpi (dots per Inch) resolution.
- The soft copy (non-editable format) of the sheets, and if any, report/video link, along with authentication letter, declaration letter and any other required documents prescribed in the submission requirements should be uploaded on the website by the submission deadline.
- The soft copy file of the sheets should not be corrupted or incomplete or in low resolution.
- It is mandatory to produce the original copy of the Authentication Letter for each entry (entry code should be mentioned if allotted) with the name of participant(s) and stating the unit will abide by whatever may be the final results and also agree that this entry is a property of both the institute and NASA India.
- The Authentication Letter should be signed by the HOD/Principal/Director.
- It is mandatory for the colleges to produce the original copy of the Declaration Letter for each entry (entry code should be mentioned if allotted) signed by the participants stating the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copy- rights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, jury process and the results.
- The Prize Money Authenticating Letter signed by the Director/ Principal / HOD in the college letter-head specifying the account details (Account Name, Account Number, Bank Name, IFSC Code, PAN attached to the account) in which the money is to be credited for each entry (entry code should be mentioned if allotted) shall be collected at a later stage.
- 30% of the prize money shall be deposited as TDS to the Income Tax Dept. of India and can be taken as rebate in ITRs.
- The working files in editable formats of the Shortlisted Entries should be submitted to the Council, failing which, the submission requirements would be deemed incomplete leading to the prize money being withheld.
- Shortlisted Entries with manual hand-done sheets should submit the content in a word document, failing which, the submission requirements would be deemed incomplete leading to the prize money being withheld.
- Any misconduct such as exposing identity through college name/ stamp participant(s) name or college code on the sheets will be disqualified.
- Registration, queries, and submission shall be through the website only - https://nasaindia.co/Trophy/Index
- The Participants shall be registered through the website prior to the submission and the list should concur with the Authentication and Declaration.

SHEETS & NASA INDIA LOGO GUIDELINES

Failing to comply with any of the guidelines may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the executive council.

- The sheet template to be followed is available at:
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yZUuCIVhEqHXie9s3KEVHezDWGPSMDqv?usp=sharing
- NASA India Internal Logo shall always be placed on the right-hand bottom corner of the sheet.
- NASA India logo should not be merged, overlapped etc. with any sort of text, graphic, image, etc.
- NASA India logo should be in true black with a perfectly white background.

MODERATOR

Ar. Prajwal Prabhudeva, Studio VOWEL
Any form of communication from the participants to the Moderator/Authors/Jurors will lead to disqualification.