



National Association of Students of Architecture  
Mohammad Shaheer Landscape Trophy 2024-25  
Exclaim!



## About NASA India



The **National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA, India)** is the world's largest architectural student-run organization. Founded in 1957 with just seven colleges, it has grown to include **over 350+ colleges** and **more than 66,000+ students**, making it a significant voice for architecture students across India. The association aims to provide a platform for learning and interaction among students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

NASA India **functions as a non-profit and non-political organization**. It is officially registered under the Societies Act of 1860, with its headquarters at the Department of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi.

NASA India organizes various events, programs, and competitions throughout the year. These include partnerships with organizations like HUDCO, GRIHA, and CPK for design trophies. There are **11 design trophies** in total, with the Annual NASA Design Competition being the flagship trophy and offering students a platform to showcase their creative talents and design innovations. We have partnered with the Council of Architecture, India for the Student of the Year trophy as well.

The **association's flagship event is the Annual NASA Convention (ANC)**, the world's largest gathering of student architects. This event attracts over **4000+ students** participating in workshops, masterclasses, and programs led by more than 200 esteemed architects. Additionally, there are regional Zonal NASA Conventions held in a year.

NASA India's initiatives extend beyond traditional academics. The summer-winter school programs offer immersive experiences that enhance students' practical skills and broaden their educational horizons. The "Insider" initiative allows students to engage directly with experienced architects, gaining insights into office management and professional practice. This interaction fosters mentorship and provides valuable guidance. The Louis I Kahn Documentation series aims to preserve and disseminate architectural knowledge by documenting significant but often overlooked sites.

NASA India **hosts programs both nationally and internationally**, in countries like Japan, Sri Lanka, the USA, and South Korea. These experiences provide students with enriching learning opportunities and enhance their networking capabilities.

The **NEXUS** is an informal meeting ground where students can form bonds, share ideas, and collaborate. It emphasizes learning, mentoring, and networking, allowing students to showcase their talents and develop new ideas with peers from around the globe. We have also expanded into podcasts with our Spotify exclusive, The Archade.

For more information, you can visit NASA India's website - <https://www.nasaindia.co/> Our social media pages are [@wenasaindia](#) and [@mynasaindia](#) on Instagram; on [LinkedIn](#). Do check out our spotify originals [The Archade](#) and [Youtube Channel](#).



## Exclaim! - Our Annual Theme

***Choose between being a goat in a herd or the king of the jungle as a lion.***

I believe that most of us choose architecture as the path to break away from the conventional routes of engineering and medicine. It's a pursuit fueled by the desire to showcase one's unique ideas, creativity, and innovation. Many of us carry dreams of designing landmark buildings in the cities or villages where we were born and raised, making pursuing this lengthy professional program.

However, the obstacles that a student architect faces in India are sadly numerous. These includes the demanding nature of the course, navigating through assessments that balance creativity and innovation, limited exposure to professional practice within a six-month timeframe, inadequate or nonexistent compensation for interns, and witnessing unhealthy working conditions.

Yet, for aspiring architects in India, the road is riddled with challenges. From the intense demands of the course which eventually bounds creativity and innovation between juries, the journey is far from easy, limited exposure to professional practice within a sixmonth timeframe, inadequate or nonexistent pay for interns, and witnessing unhealthy working conditions adds to the struggle.

In the face of such obstacles, many find themselves questioning their choices and seeking alternative paths. It's not uncommon to see architecture graduates ending up in IT roles and other such irrelevant platforms.

***Did they choose to be a lion only to find themselves relegated to the role of a goat?***

With the staggering pace of urbanisation and its consequential social and environmental concerns, the necessity for architects is indisputable. However, do we possess sufficient awareness of architecture within the *grassroots* of the society? Can we *envision* architectural education as accessible and affordable for all? Will our curriculum provide enough autonomy to both institutions and students to ensure the quality of architectural education in India?

I call upon all members of the National Association of Students of Architecture to participate in the assemblage with like minds and deliberate upon the array of prevalent issues and potential solutions. Together let's **Exclaim for reform** and ensure a brighter future for the architecture fraternity in India!



# Introduction

## THE TWO MILE LINEAR LANDSCAPE

**LANDSCAPE** as a term is largely imagined in two diametrically opposite ways – one is the natural landscape – that is largely left undisturbed by designers as well as users and appreciated for its visual beauty and biodiversity. And the other is the manicured landscape where all elements in the design are strongly curated and designed to meet the needs and demands of the users.

These curated landscapes, especially those in the private realm, do not engage with the general public. They are gated, restricted to the owners and one has to pay (or avail of the related use, for example, book a stay in a resort) to enjoy and participate in these spaces. Over time, this has led to the impression of landscape design being an elite profession – associated with farmhouses, high-end residential complexes, resorts, multinational companies, etc., but disconnected from society.

There are public parks and gardens, but they are few and far in between. Most of them have ticketed entries and restricted timings. Many of them are neighbourhood scale parks and a perceived sense of ownership by the immediate locals also tends to make these spaces less inclusive and accessible to all. The present trend in Indian metropolitan cities of podium parks located 4 and 5 stories above ground level restricts the use of these play spaces to their residents and are completely disconnected physically and visually from any public realm.

But everyone needs spaces to play, to walk, to socialise, to be by themselves, to gather, to step out of houses and workplaces. This need is not defined by age, ability or financial status, it is universal. The spaces that serve this need may or may not be defined parks and gardens – they are simply **LANDSCAPES FOR ALL**. If we look closely at our cities, we will see that nearly all of them offer opportunities to weave in some active and passive greens and blues, parks and gardens into the streets and alleys, waterfronts and infrastructure. The city too craves for breathing spaces, biodiversity and social spaces. **This brief urges you to seek and find these possibilities...to carve out open spaces, to link existing greens, to create a mosaic of the grey, green and blue elements of the city.**

As architects and landscape architects, we are a community of design professionals trained to analyse and understand the needs of varied stakeholders in any project. If we have to make a positive impact as a profession, if we have to **EXCLAIM FOR REFORM** and NOT appear as the elite designers who only design exclusive built environments and landscapes, we have to work in tandem with people of all strata in society. Our design approach needs to be participatory, inclusive, locally relevant as well as sustainable.

A **LINEAR PARK** is an outdoor area that connects landmarks, parks, or open spaces for passive or active recreation. As the name suggests, the park's shape is typically much longer than wide. Linear parks exist in many different contexts - along riversides, coastal areas, or **inserted in the urban fabric** - and represent a very particular type of public space that evokes the idea of a vector and, consequently, the sense of movement. However, they can provide more than just activities and programs associated with mobility, proving to be an appealing solution to the lack of spaces for leisure, contemplation, and relaxation in the most varied urban situations. More importantly, they actively contribute to lessening the effects of climate change, help regulate water flow patterns and **foster biodiversity**.

Common linear park categories include:

- Waterfronts: Parks along natural/manmade water features like nalas, rivers, canals, lakes, or the ocean.
- Repurposed Highways or Railways: Parks created from closed or abandoned streets, highways, railroad tracks, or elevated train lines.
- Greenways: A seamless park system linking other larger parks

Aside from more opportunities for active recreation such as walking, cycling and jogging, linear parks help the community by:

- Providing more access to green and open spaces
- Allowing parks to be accessible to more people
- Drawing visitors to other parts of the community they may not typically visit
- Getting more people outdoors and together for tighter community bonds
- Making abandoned sites useful again
- Allowing for business opportunities along the park
- Increasing nearby land values
- Helping create **nature-based solutions** for flooding, run-off pollution, and other environmental issues urban areas face



Image courtesy: <https://nclurbandedesign.org/linear-parks-a-linear-path-to-greener-cities/>

Longer than they are wide, linear parks take people on **a journey through the city**. They can be as short as a few blocks—even the expanse of a single bridge—or as long as several miles, but linear parks differ from traditional green spaces thanks to their proportions. They often serve as a link in a city's plans to boost alternative transportation, a thoroughfare carrying pedestrians and cyclists. In traveling from one block or neighbourhood to the next, people see the city through a different lens when they use a linear park. This is especially true because many linear parks are repurposed from elevated historic rail lines or highways, transforming infrastructure into a space for recreation.

Although the difference between a linear park and a trail or bike path can get a bit confusing, linear parks aren't only used for transportation. The parks have overlooks, playgrounds, art installations, and places to picnic; these are **spaces that encourage both movement and relaxation**. And because it is nearly impossible to carve out large open spaces for parks in dense cities, linear parks are an excellent way to add green space to urban areas. Their long and winding shape can provide greater access to parks for more residents, and boost real estate values and **encourage a sense of belonging and ownership within the local community**.



# The Task

## The Challenge

The participants are required to identify a stretch of 2 to 4 miles (3 to 6 kilometres) within the confines of a city (or an urbanised area of a town) and **map the existing open spaces, natural features and streets** and conduct a complete analysis (morphological, perceptual, social, visual, functional and temporal) of the site and identify the possibilities of **weaving a linear park into this fabric**.

## The Design Intervention

Bearing in mind the key objective of creating a linear landscape that links the city to its people, improves its microclimate and enhances the biodiversity, the students are required to prepare a detailed design brief that addresses the needs of all the stakeholders and **develop a comprehensive landscape master plan** for the linear park.

The site for **detailed design** can be as small as 200 sqm (can be larger, depending on the design program for the selected section). The emphasis should be on creating a safe, inclusive, sustainable, universally accessible design for all age groups. Weightage will be given to intervention ideas that address **climate change** issues, look into **nature based solutions** and are designed for **universal access**.

## Submission Requirements

The project should be expressed within **TWO (2) A1 size sheets**.

The panel/s should be of a resolution not less than 300 dpi and should be printable.

The submission **MUST include a Design Concept Note of not more than 200 words** along with the sheet to understand the design better. (Font - Century Gothic 12 point size)

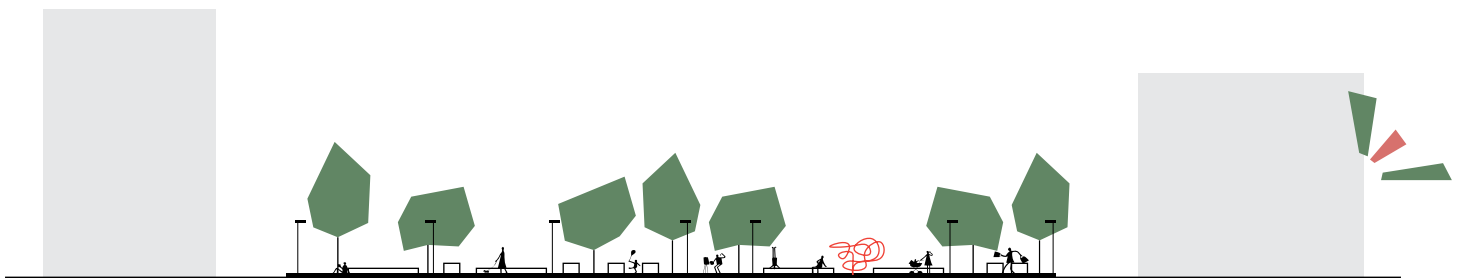
- The mode of presentation (plan, sections, views, sketches, photographs etc.) is left to the participants. Choice of scale is up to the participants, provided everything is clearly legible.

- All text should be in English.

- Manually rendered entries should be scanned at 300dpi resolution.

## Checklist for submission

1. Online Submission of Sheets in form of PDF of **not more than 10MB**
2. Online Submission Submission of Design note in PDF format of **not more than 10MB**
3. Original Copy of Authentication Letter **not more than 10MB**
4. Original Copy of Declaration Letter **not more than 10MB**
5. Editable Format of the Sheets (Applicable if shortlisted)





# Guidelines

## Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation criteria will include (but not be limited to) the following key points:

- Selection of site and site analysis
- Design Intent and Program
- Quality of the Central Idea or Concept in the proposed Landscape Design and the ability of the proponent to explore and to develop thoughtful, functional, planning and design concepts consistent and supportive of creating a responsive open space for all living beings as well as sensitivity to existing processes and systems on site. *Due weightage will be given to considerations of climate change issues, nature based solutions and universal accessibility*
- Ability to clearly communicate the proposed ideas in drawings, images and words

Note: There will be no set evaluative weighting to each of these criteria. The jury members will use their best judgment in selecting winning proposals based on each participant's demonstrated ability to meet all of the above criteria,

## Evaluation Format

The evaluation shall be done in 2 stages, in the following manner:

Stage 1: Closed jury of all valid entries, selection of top shortlisted entries

Stage 2: Open/Closed jury with the ten shortlisted teams. The jury may be online or in-person.

## Sheet & NASA India Logo Guidelines

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

- 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.
- **Sheet Template to be followed is available in the drive link -**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bpJNUb7cWb3kutBCzhdst0Zo0F0FMQmr?usp=sharing>



## Important Information

- **Maximum (4) participants Per Entry** for 67th Year MSL Trophy.
- **A participant can submit only one entry, whether as part of a group or individually** for 67th Year MSL Trophy.
- No limit to the number of entries per unit for the 67th Year MSL Trophy.
- Queries to be put forward through trophy page on the website (<http://www.nasaindia.co>).
- **Registration should be done by the Participant in NASA India website before the registration deadline. One Participant can register one team & its members.**
- Registration of the trophies will be final and cannot be changed or withdrawn henceforth.
- Late Registration & submission will not be entertained, henceforth the defaulters shall be disqualified.

## General Submission Guidelines

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

- All text should be in English.
- The projects should use the decimal metric system and contain a metric graphic scale in order to enable publication in reduced formats. The format of the sheets should clearly mention the name of the trophy followed by the year i.e., "MOHAMMAD SHAHEER LANDSCAPE TROPHY 2024-2025"
- 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.
- 10MM White margin is to be left on all sides of A1 sheets.
- The scale is left to the discretion of the participant(s) to the condition that the scale should be in metric system and all the drawings should be clear and legible.
- Manually rendered entry should be scanned at least in 300\*300dpi (dots per Inch) resolution.
- **The soft copy (non-editable format) of the sheets 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 of the unit. Failing to which the entry will be strictly disqualified.**
- 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.
- **Authetication & Declaration formats to be followed are available in the drive link -**  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mschiSd0GIM4gjzg5914bdkUi54ZzluS?usp=sharing>
- The Prize Money Authenticating Letter signed by the Director/ Principal / HOD in the college letterhead specifying the account details ( Account Name, Account Number, Bank Name, IFSC Code) 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.
- 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 high quality scans (min. 300\*300dpi) along with the content in a word document 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.
- Any misconduct such as exposing identity through college name/ stamp participant(s) name or college code on the sheets or the video will be disqualified.

# Important Dates



Release of Brief:

**8th August 2024, Thursday**

Registration Deadline:

**31st August 2024, Saturday 1800 Hrs IST**

Queries Deadline:

**28th August 2024, Wednesday 1800 Hrs IST**

Submission Deadline:

**18th September 2024, Wednesday 1800 Hrs**



Prize money of **1 Lakh  
INR/1198.36 US Dollars** is  
allotted

The prize money will be divided according to the number of Citations and Special Mentions based on the jury.

# Prize Money



# Moderator

## ISOLA (Indian Society of Landscape Architects)

**The Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA)**, a professional body of Landscape Architects, was established in May, 2003. The Society has over 500 members from different states of the country and some from across the world. It has a presence across the country through 10 regional chapters. The Society is at the forefront in creating awareness about the fast-emerging profession of Landscape Architecture and promoting and enhancing the professional excellence among its members in India. It conducts a biennial conference, publishes conference proceedings, recognizes excellence of professional and student works through the ISOLA awards, collaborates through events, activities and initiatives with allied professionals on issues of national and local concerns and is working through its Education Board to strengthen professional education through recognition, mentorship and training programs.



**The Indian Society of Landscape Architects (ISOLA)** collaborates with the **National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA)** on the **MOHAMMAD SHAHEER LANDSCAPE TROPHY at NASA**. This brief has been set in keeping with our objectives of increasing the awareness of the profession of landscape architecture among the undergraduate students of Architecture. We hope to receive entries of a quality that do justice to the memories that we have of our mentor and guide Professor Mohammad Shaheer.

### References

<https://productiveparks.com/linear-parks-their-importance-and-maintenance-considerations>  
<https://www.archdaily.com/957586/landscaping-on-an-urban-scale-12-linear-park-projects>  
<https://archive.curbed.com/2017/6/22/15847062/high-line-urban-linear-park>  
[https://www.theplan.it/eng/whats\\_on/linear-parks-four-urban-havens-for-enjoying-nature](https://www.theplan.it/eng/whats_on/linear-parks-four-urban-havens-for-enjoying-nature)  
<https://questionofcities.org/linear-parks-hold-power-to-transform-cities-and-be-climate-warriors/>

**Carter Road Promenade, Mumbai**  
**One Green Mile, Mumbai**

### All the best!

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