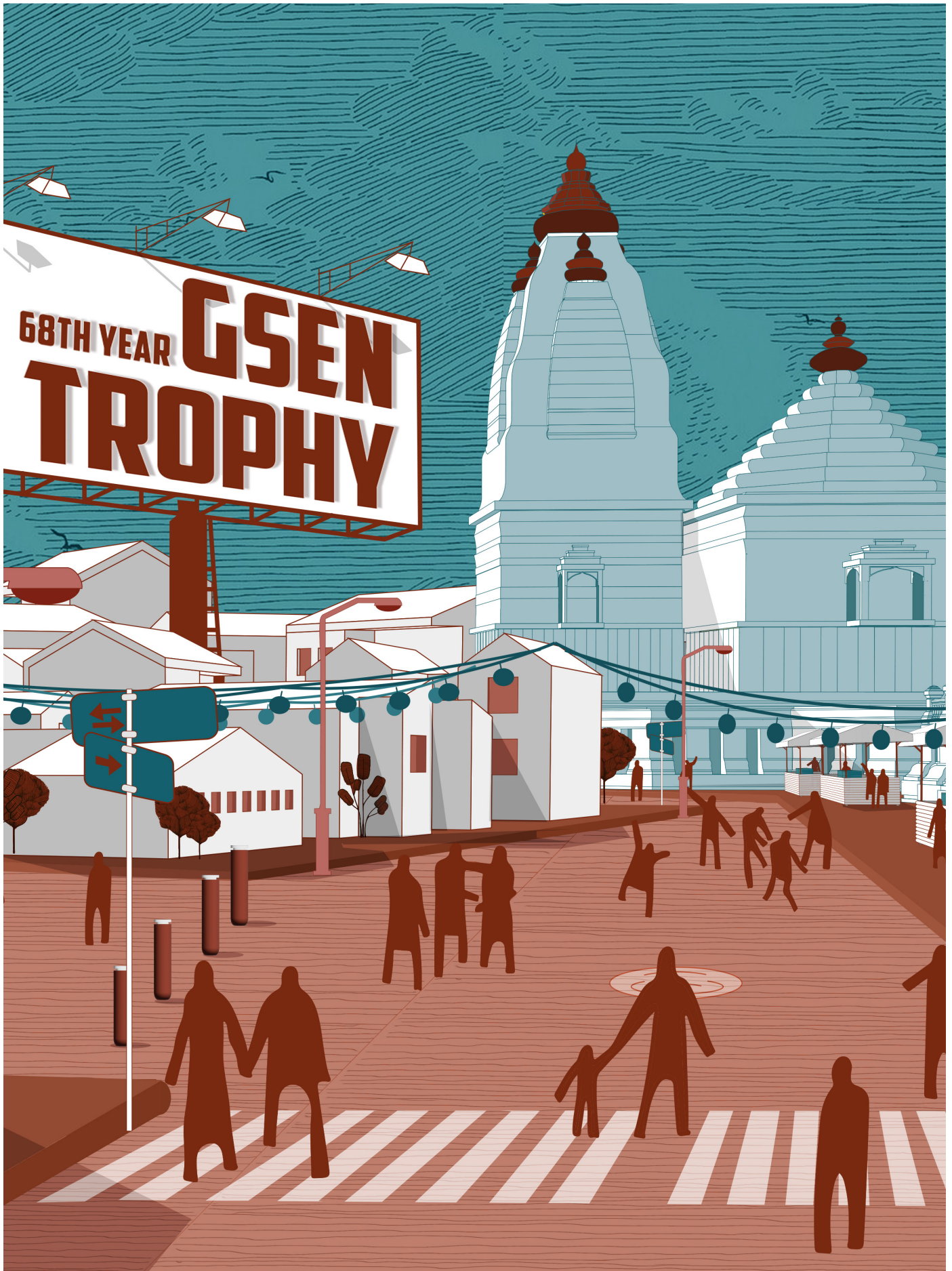




About NASA India



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 annually.

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.



Catalyse - Our Annual Theme

For nearly seven decades, NASA India has stood as a movement - built by students & led by students. As we step into the 68th year of our association's existence, I call upon the stakeholders to honour the legacy not by looking back, but by asking what we can spark next.

NASA India has always been more than just an association. It's been a force: a surge of youthful energy, ideas, voices, and action. This year, we recognise and compound over the force for what it truly is.

In the grand reaction of change, whether in our built environments, our learning systems, or the profession itself, we, the students, are the accelerators. With over 66,000 students across the country, our numbers are not just statistics. They are the untapped potential of a generation ready to shape what's next. This year, we reflect on the immense power of coming together - not just to participate, but to instigate. A catalyst doesn't wait for change. It creates movement, breaks inertia, and opens new paths. **NASA India today stands not just as a platform for learning and collaboration, but as an agent of impact - nationally & globally.** One that ignites bold conversations, challenges outdated practices, and pushes the profession toward more inclusive, ethical, and relevant futures.

So what does it mean to catalyse?

It means taking responsibility.

It means using architecture as a lens to rethink society, equity, and the future.

It means challenging what no longer serves us.

It means questioning the boundaries of architecture and expanding its purpose.

This is a call to all students, designers, thinkers, makers, rebels:
Catalyse conversations, communities & the future.

Because this is our moment in the reaction.
Let's use it to spark something irreversible.

Come, let's **CATALYSE** the reaction that serves the greater good!

Introduction

Living in the Pilgrimage: Rethinking Community and Tourism in Pilgrimage Towns



Leisure, food, scenic beauty, architectural wonders or devotion - the reason could be any, but Indians are travelling like never before. The country's booming tourism sector bears powerful testimony to this growth, evident in improved streets, enhanced public infrastructure, and upgraded hospitality facilities in many tourist places. These changes benefit not just the visitors but also improve the everyday quality of life in these places. Our preliminary explorations, however, suggest that although many pilgrimage towns attract an increasing number of visitors and businesses, the attention to design and development does not match a corresponding level.

Everyday life in pilgrimage towns changes greatly during the big festivals associated with the presiding deity. These small towns undergo a dramatic transformation from quaint places to vibrant carnivals. Transport, food, hospitality, and infrastructure need to serve the enhanced influx. The celebrations not only honour faith but also the vibrancy of local culture, craft and cuisines. While these bursts of dynamism create growth opportunities for individuals and businesses, they also expose challenges for the collective community. For example, hotels, motels, dormitories and dharamshalas collectively constitute tourism infrastructure that is critical during the festivals but then remain less-used and even unattended round the year, posing questions of financial and social liability.

This year's big question, then, is how to deal with this functional necessity during festive days that turns into a liability for the rest of the year. How can this infrastructure gap be addressed diligently, where it benefits the town, its community, as well as the resident households and individuals? Can hospitality become a source of residents' income while nurturing the local culture, food, traditions and customs?



Over the last two years, the focus of the GSen Trophy has been on exploring how architects can contribute to tapping the value that public infrastructure and water systems hold in pilgrimage towns, serving all stakeholders. As the concluding chapter to the tri-part theme of Pilgrimage Towns, we now turn attention to the unassuming but significant layer- the residents and the everyday lives of the communities that sustain these places. So, India's budding architects are potentially presented with a fantastic opportunity to contribute purposefully to design interventions that facilitate this dynamism and vibrancy.

The trophy challenges the distinct separation of hospitality and community life. It also challenges the predominant notion of development and upliftment as domains of corporate investment and public realm, where attention, investment and intervention do not reach the community realm.

The need for the architects of tomorrow to question these dogmas is the key motive this year. The GSen Trophy will explore how architects can design hospitable spaces for pilgrims while providing opportunities for residents to showcase their culture, generate revenue and strengthen community ties.

The trophy expects design deliberations through auxiliary interventions in the private residences of existing neighbourhoods. Reimagining the neighbourhood, homes, and the in-between public spaces to be designed to share culture, generate revenue and strengthen community ties. Design interventions may explore the possibility of flexible spaces, deployable structures, plug-in interventions or permanent extensions or the prospect of terraces as third spaces. The trophy is looking for a site-appropriate narrative and its successful design translation, and answers to questions like - Can this reimagined possibility allow the town to welcome guests into residential areas and private homes for a select few days? How can architecture accommodate and facilitate this possibility?

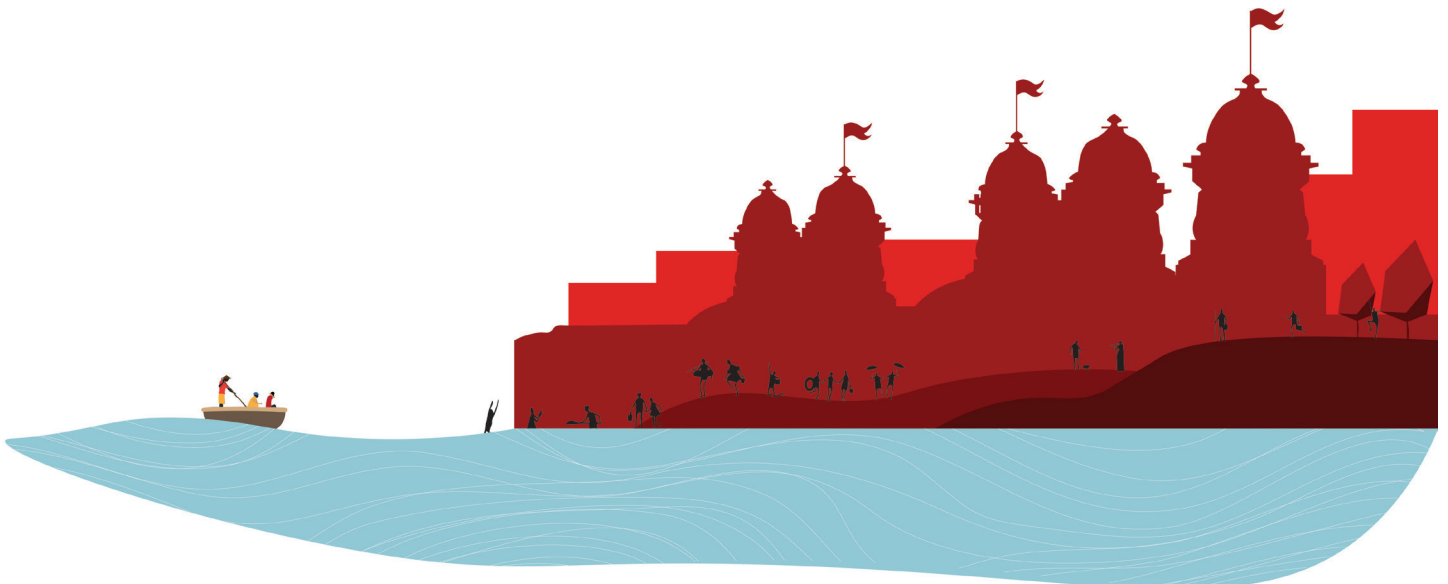
An abstract graphic featuring a teal-colored mountain-like shape with a jagged top and a smooth bottom. A thin teal line winds around the shape, with several small human figures standing on it. There are also several small, stylized triangular shapes in teal and brown scattered around the main shape.

The Task

Objectives

The trophy looks to explore a range of 4-6 prototypes, concentrated or scattered, in one third of the total selected site area, showcasing the following objectives

1. To create proposals that integrate hospitality with community well-being, culture and livelihood.
2. To address the nature of hospitality and short stays in pilgrimage towns.
3. To demonstrate architectural strategies that bridge the temporary and permanent.
4. To review development beyond single-use permanent structures to flexible spaces that accommodate the dynamic influx of devotees and the permanent community's needs.
5. Demonstrate architecture as a tool to bridge culture, tourism and devotion.



Guidelines

An abstract graphic featuring a teal-colored mountain-like shape with a jagged top and a smooth base. A thin, light blue line winds around the shape, with several small, stylized human figures in blue and orange walking along it. There are also several small, stylized human figures in blue and orange scattered around the shape. The word "Guidelines" is centered in the white space between the two teal shapes.

Jury Criteria

1. Design concept / overall argument – 25%
2. Research / empirical work – 25%
3. Persuasive/coherent storyline – 25%
4. Visual materials/presentation quality – 25%

Submission Requirements

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

Sheet 1: Should contain- concept, plan, details of the project and short text (up to 300 words) to explain the project and context.

Sheet 2: Compelling strong views of the architectural and spatial innovations to address the theme. (2-3 views)

The project visuals should also be expressed in 6 Digital Postcards of 210MM X 210MM (square) with little or no text (limit to one line for explaining the visual).

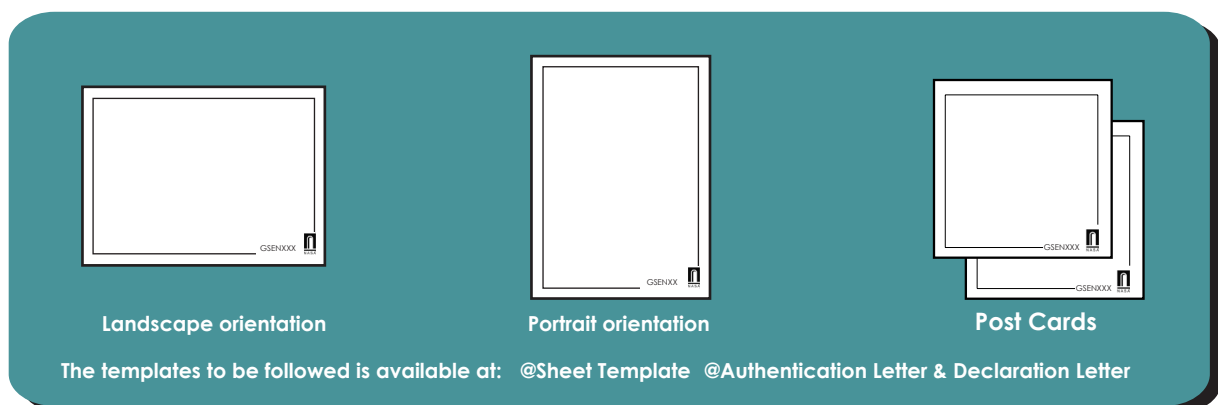
Check list for submission

1. Online Submission in form of PDF
2. Original Copy of Authentication Letter
3. Original Copy of Declaration Letter
4. Editable Format of the Sheets (Applicable if shortlisted)

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.



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. "GSEN Trophy 2025-26"
- 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.
- 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 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.

Other Information

- **Maximum One (01) Entry Will Be Accepted Per College For GSen Trophy.**
- Queries to be put forward through the trophy page on the website (<http://www.nasaindia.co>)
- Registration should be done by the Unit secretary in NASA India website before the registration deadline.
- Registration of the trophies will be final and cannot be changed or withdrawn henceforth.
- Late Registration and submission will not be entertained and henceforth the defaulters shall be disqualified

Important Dates



Release of Brief:

15th October 2025, Wednesday

Queries Deadline:

1st November 2025, Saturday 1800 hrs IST

Registration Deadline:

8th November 2025, Saturday 1800 hrs IST

Submission Deadline

10th December 2025, Wednesday 1800 hrs IST



Prize money of **2 Lakh**
INR is allotted

Prize money of Rupees 2 Lakh is allotted to the trophy and it will be divided according to the number of the Citations and Special Mentions.

Prize Money



Moderator

Sanjeev Vidyarthi

Sanjeev Vidyarthi was professor and head of the department of Urban Planning and Policy (UPP), and the founding director of the Masters in city design (MCD) program at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). Exploring the case of contemporary India, he studies who does the urban planning and city design work in such a massive, complex country and how. After 22 years of living and working abroad, he recently returned home to India. He now leads institution-building at the diligently-conceived Anant National University Ahmedabad as the Provost.



Co-Moderator

Neha Nair is an assistant professor at Anant National University, Ahmedabad with an M.Arch (Theory and Design) degree from CEPT University. She has 12 years of experience in architectural practice and 9 years of experience in academia. As an academician, Neha is particularly passionate about architectural history and identifying the underpinnings of heritage spaces, and their position and relevance in contemporary times.

Reference Links

To get more insights into the brief and its intent, check out the video here:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FFuZ40JZN1tE3l01WE4eAZwJN29vV--T?usp=sharing>

All the Best !

Don't forget to follow our social media handles!
Visit them by clicking the icons below



www.nasaindia.co