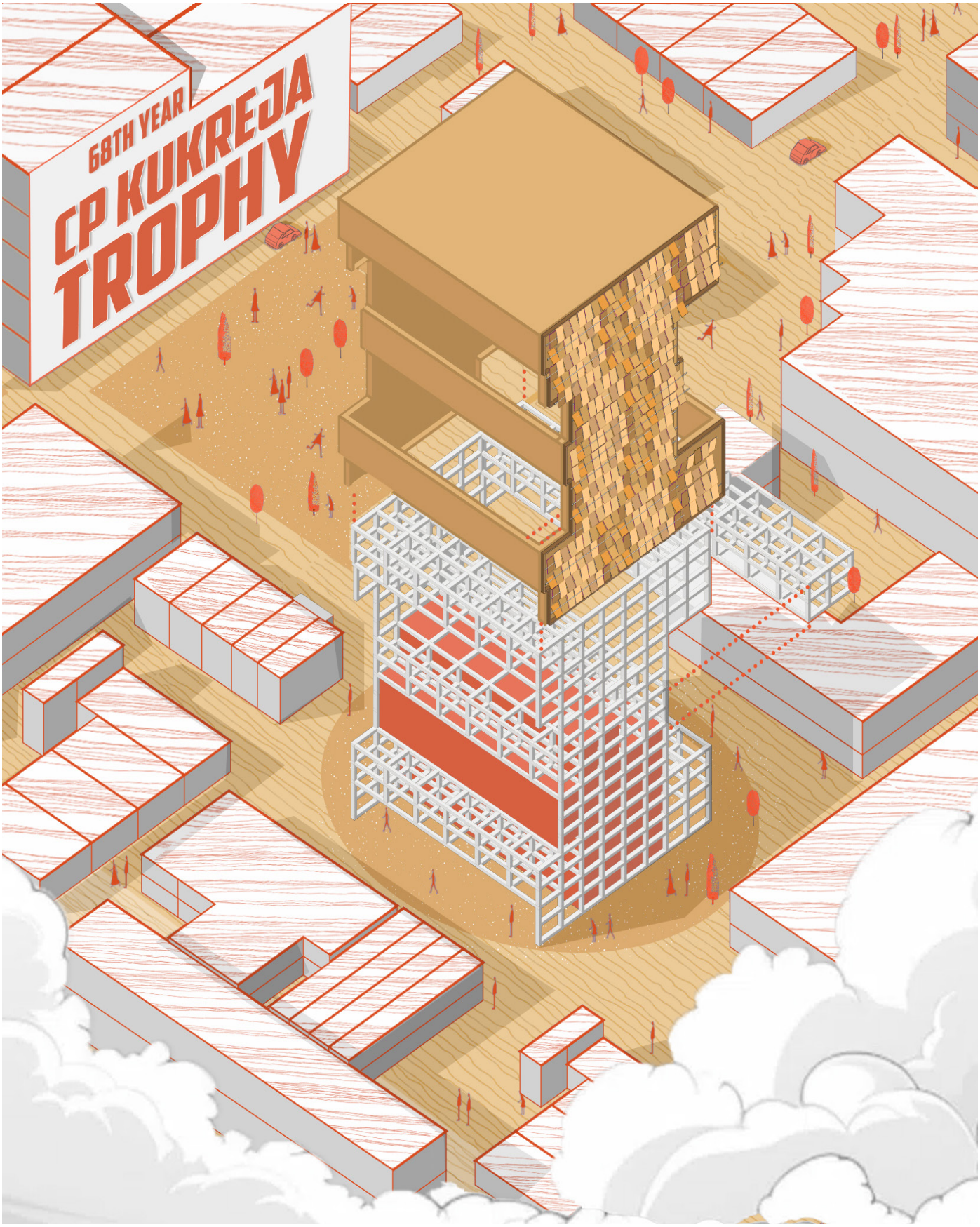


National Association of Students of Architecture
CPK Trophy 2025-26
Catalyse

CP KUKREJA FOUNDATION FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE
CATALYSE
NASA

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

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.

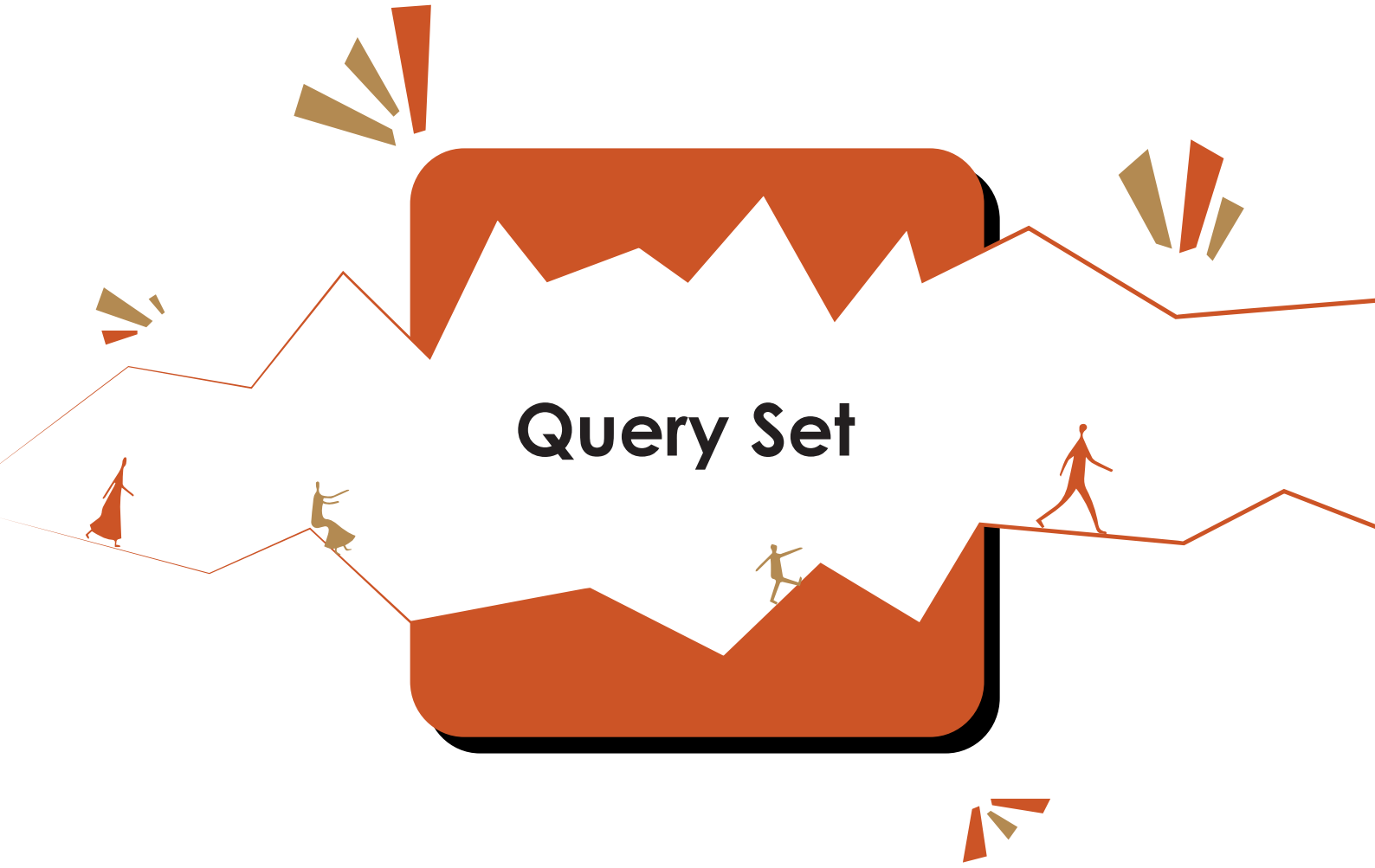
So what does it mean to catalyse?

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!



Query Set

1. In the brief, kinetic architecture is described as creating a responsive, adaptive relationship with the environment. While this is often expressed through visible mechanical movement (such as foldable roofs or rotating facades), kinetic processes can also occur at the material or biological level; for example, self-healing concrete, surfaces that grow moss, or materials that react to heat or moisture. Since these approaches also represent movement and transformation over time, would the competition encourage us to explore such non-mechanical kinetic responses as part of the design, alongside or instead of physical movement?

That is a thoughtful interpretation of the theme, and indeed, kinetic responsiveness can manifest at multiple scales, mechanical, material, or biological. However, for the purpose of this year's brief, the focus is on mechanical or physically perceivable movement that can be effectively communicated through drawings and diagrams. Participants are, of course, welcome to integrate material-based or biological transformations as a complementary layer to their design concept, but the primary kinetic expression should involve a visible, mechanical response that demonstrates interaction between the built form and its environment. This approach ensures that the intent and functioning of the system can be represented clearly within the graphic medium of the submission.

2. As in the brief given, the site area is 4000m². Can we reduce the area, or is it necessary to use the whole 4000m²?

No, the site area must remain as mentioned in the brief. Please use the full 4000 sq.m. as the basis for your proposal.

3. Should the area be exactly 4000 sq m, or can it be less than that?

The site area should be 4000 sq.m. to maintain uniformity across entries. Minor variation is acceptable, but the intent should remain consistent with the scale indicated in the brief.

4. Is it acceptable to propose an installation within a non-residential building to demonstrate kinetic responsiveness?

Yes. This approach aligns with the brief - installations within non-residential buildings that express kinetic responsiveness are encouraged.

5. Does the brief allow prototypes or smaller-scale installations, or must it be a complete non-residential building?

Prototypes may be integrated within the proposed building, regardless of its size, as long as they express a strong conceptual character, aesthetic and clear functional purpose.

6. The FAR specified in the brief is 4, but according to our site conditions and local byelaws, the permissible FAR is lower. Which one should we consider?

Please follow the parameters mentioned in the brief, including the specified FAR of 4, to ensure consistency in evaluation.

7. Is it necessary for the sheets and the content to be hand-drafted, or could it be done digitally as well?

Either method is acceptable. Entries may be hand-drafted or created digitally, depending on the participant's preference.

8. Can we design a temporary structure that can be relocated from place to place?

No. The proposal should represent a permanent structure fixed to a specific site.

9. Can the site be aligned like a ribbon along the coast?

Yes, as long as the design adheres to the FAR and other parameters outlined in the brief.

10. Do we need to properly consider the carbon footprint of the structure?

Yes, a general understanding or rough estimation of the project's carbon footprint is encouraged to demonstrate environmental awareness.

11. Is it permissible to propose interventions on an existing structure through the retrofitting of kinetic elements, or must the design be conceived as an entirely new project?

The design should be conceived as a new project.

12. Does the submission mandate the design of the building in its entirety, or would an installation that demonstrates the mechanism of the kinetic solution be acceptable?

The entry should present a holistic design - including both the overall architectural concept and the kinetic mechanism that defines its character and function.

13. To what level of detail are the building plans required to be developed?

The level of detail is at the participant's discretion, provided the submission clearly communicates the design intent and functionality within the format and sheet limits stated in the brief.

14. What are the rules and criteria for the selection of a location, and can the location we choose be hypothetical

The site must be real and verifiable. Hypothetical sites are not permitted. Participants should follow the applicable local bye-laws governing the chosen site.

15. Is it necessary to be a permanent structure?

Yes, the proposed design must represent a permanent structure.

16. Can we take our site as a barren land too?

Yes, a barren site is acceptable.

17. Should the kinetic mechanism be continuous & automatic (e.g., sensor-driven) or can it be occasional & user-triggered (manual/human-powered)?

Both approaches are valid. Participants may choose either or combine both, as long as the logic of movement is clearly explained.

18. If the proposed site is in an environmentally protected zone (e.g., coastal regulation area), are hypothetical installations there for academic purposes allowable, or should sites be restricted to zones legally permissible for construction?

It is advisable to select a site where a structure is contextually and legally appropriate. However, if the proposal demonstrates strong reasoning and intent in choosing an environmentally sensitive area, it may be considered for academic exploration.

19. Can an existing building be renovated and used?

No

20. How to add participants, it's mentioned that 3 members can take part in one entry

At the time of submission, you can include the names of the participants.

21. Can two students from different countries participate in the competition as a group?

No