

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



## 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.

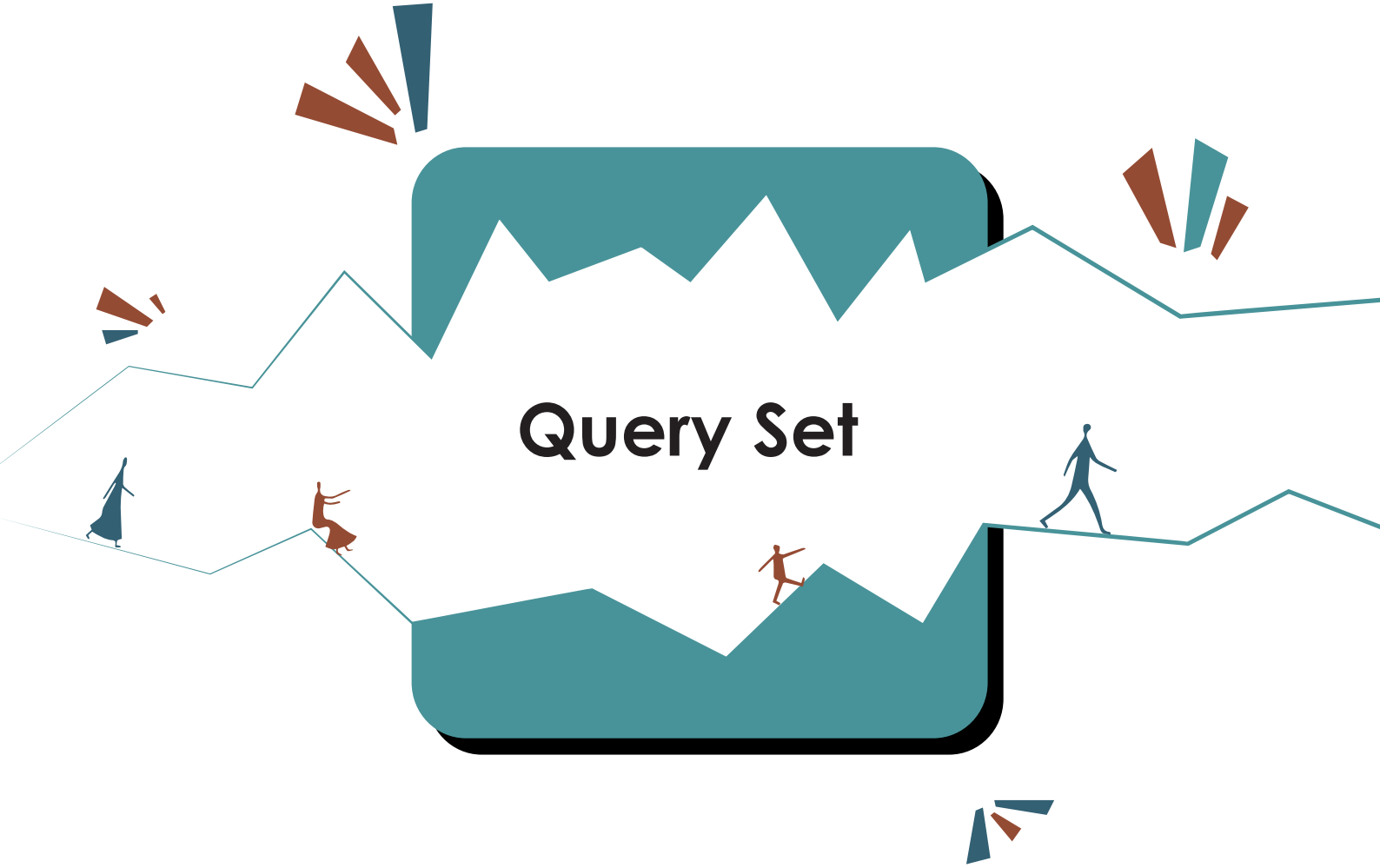
It means questioning the boundaries of architecture and expanding its purpose.

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!

# Query Set



**1. Are the existing structures mandatory to include in the design, or can we ignore and redesign them?**

Yes, the brief discusses the idea of design intervention, hence the existing fabric has to be engaged with as well as respected.

**2. Is the whole pilgrimage town supposed to be selected as a site, or can just a part of the town be selected?**

Approximately 8-10 acres of the town should be identified as the study area. From the selected site, the design intervention is expected to cover about one-third of the identified sites. This could be a single parcel of land or a collection of various pockets in the identified 8-10 acres of the site.

**3. Is one-third of the area of the site supposed to be treated as an active area where we will design the interventions, or should the footprints of individual interventions contribute to make a total of 1/3rd the area of the site?**

One third of the total study area should showcase the various prototypes. The areas of intervention and nature of prototypes will depend on the identified issues and opportunities the site offers.

**4. If two prototypes enhance each other's function, will that be treated as a single prototype or two separate prototypes?**

If two design interventions are detailed as two prototypes, they will be considered as different. Permutations and Combinations of various prototypes are design decisions that you are free to take.

**5. What exactly does a Prototype, as referred to in the design brief, mean? Could you please give an analogy or an example?**

A prototype is a sample of design idea(s) appropriate for the identified concern of the site. Proposals like tented cottages or structures plugged into terraces are generic examples of a prototype. The Medina Haram Piazza (<https://www.sl-rasch.com/en/projects/u-26-piazza/>) is an example of how a singular design on multiplication can transform the larger space dramatically. A bird's eye view of the 8-10 acres of land would be useful, from which the 1/3rd area of intervention can be highlighted, and then further zoomed in to highlight the interventions.

**6. What do they mean by 4-6 prototypes? Do we have to give different design options for a selected space on our site or different plug-ins at various areas within the site?**

4-6 possibilities showcasing different conditions and requirements, and addressing different possibilities are expected. One third of the total study area should showcase the various prototypes. The areas of intervention and prototypes will depend on the identified issues and opportunities the site offers.

**7. What is the expectation for the modeled views and drawings of the designed intervention, along with the documented site?**

A bird's eye view of the 8-10 acres of land could be showcased from which the 1/3rd area of intervention can be highlighted and further zoomed in to highlight the interventions.

**8. Do we need to model the entire site in SketchUp, or is it sufficient to create the model only for the prototype?**

A SketchUp model of the 1/3 rd site area is expected to illustrate the site context. Participants may choose to make the whole site or identified parcels, depending on the area of intervention.

**9. Can agricultural land be used as part of the site for the GSEN Trophy?**

No, agricultural land should not be used. The focus of the brief is on retrofitting and repurposing an existing residential neighbourhood surrounding a pilgrimage centre.

**10. Can we give interventions in the temple land? Or just the surroundings?**

The brief does not include working within the temple premises, but addresses the residential neighbourhoods around the temple precincts.

**11. When the brief mentioned about private houses to be developed too, how far can we amend them to our design?**

About 20% of the original layout of an existing housing unit may be altered to incorporate the interventions.

**12. The brief mentioned auxiliary interventions in private residences. Can we make changes to parts of the structures? Or is only the addition of things allowed?**

The intervention could be of a permanent or temporary nature, depending on the identified concern or opportunity relevant to your site.