68TH YEAR
WRITING
ARCHITECTURE
TROPHY

National Association of Students of Architecture
Writing Architecture 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:
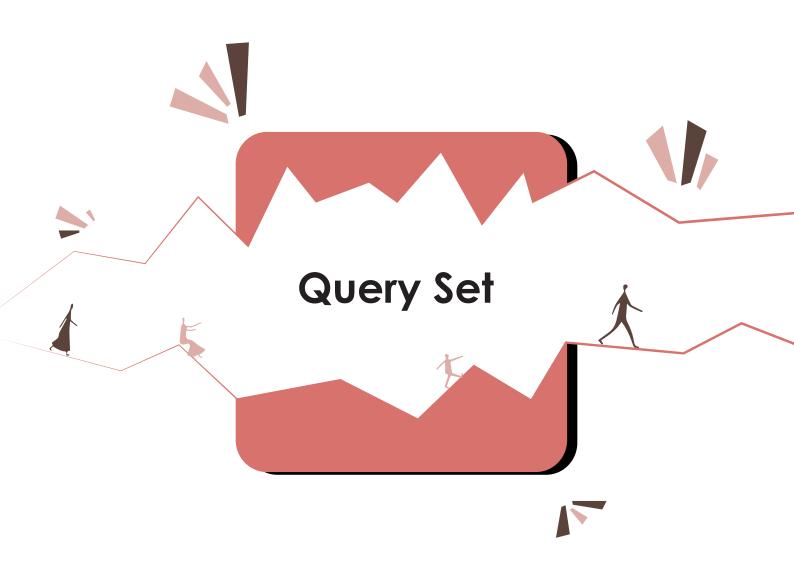Catalyse conversations, communities & the future.

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. In the first submission, do we need to mention all the points as a whole in 250 words, or do we need to just give a brief? Like, do we need to cover all the points in the first submission only?

The first submission asks for an abstract. This is a concise passage that should clearly define the idea/thesis that you want to establish in the main essay. It can also frame the direction that you want to explore, without necessarily declaring the outcome. The provocations are listed for you to develop a clear line of thought. You can choose to respond to the overarching concern of what it means to be an architect today, or dwell into one or more specific questions.

2. Should speculative or narrative essays include fictional elements (characters, imagined futures, etc.), or must all examples be factual?

Speculative essays need not rely solely on factual examples. While they might explore fictional narratives, they should be relatable in order to be effective.

3. Can the essay take a hybrid literary form - such as poetic prose, fragmented journal entries, or dialogue-based structure?

Yes, the essays can be framed in poetry, prose, or any other manner that is relevant to the argument and helps establish your thought.

4. Can the narrative expand "architect" to include non-human or collective agents (e.g., nature, algorithms, communities) as "architects of change"?

The brief is framed with the understanding that the 'architect' is a 'person' who engages with the built environment. This is with reference to how the coa has defined the term. If it is important for you to establish the architect as a non-human agent, you can do so in your argument, but do bear in mind the conventional understanding of the term and its use today.

5. Can we use bold words or sentences?

If the question is whether you can format the essay in a way that you highlight certain words/phrases, then yes, you can use these as devices to help your argument. However, please note that such tools can also be distracting if not used with restraint.

6. Can we use a reference image or diagrams?

Yes, visual material can be used in the main essay to support the argument. The abstract, however, should be only textual.

7. Should the citations and credits be included in the 250 limit?

Citations and credits are not included in the word limit.

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THE ARCHITECT'S DIARY.com
India's Most Visited Architecture website

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8. Is it okay to form your own provocations as if to be added to an existing provocation for strengthening the stand?

The provocations are meant to encourage thinking. They are intentionally left open-ended to allow you to develop your argument in different ways. You are free to use supporting frameworks in the form of other questions and provocations, but do ensure that the central idea responds to the brief.

9. Is there any specific font, text size, or spacing requirements?

The entries should be submitted in any simple and readable sans-serif typeface with a font size of 12 and the line spacing set at 1.5