

## REFLECTIONS

### COST CONSCIOUS ARCHITECTURE

#### PREAMBLE:

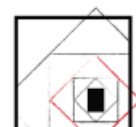
As we stand on the 60<sup>th</sup> threshold and introspect the path NASA has trodden till date, "REFLECTIONS" become the first imperative. Equally important would be to imagine the future and attempt a road map, however unpredictable it could be.

Specifically for Nari Gandhi Trophy, primarily aimed at documentation, observation, analysis and understanding of architecture, both the past and future become part of its integral process. If we attempt identifying past trends in our profession which could be equally important in the future, idea of cost emerges as one among the more valid.

Accordingly, the theme for the present NARI GANDHI TROPHY has been chosen as 'COST CONSCIOUS ARCHITECTURE'.

#### INTENTIONS OF THE THEME:

As we hear the word cost, the immediate thoughts that come to mind are low cost buildings by Laurie Baker; affordable housing by Government at HUDCO, housing boards, Nirmithi Kendra (building centres) and slum resettlements; cheap private constructions; many non-descript urban commercial buildings; rural architecture and such others. Despite all these being varied in context and typology, cost can still be a common criteria to compare between them.



However, is cost merely a reflection of money spent on construction or does it connote deeper meanings? As a determinant of design, what diverse roles does cost play? The theme intends to explore cost related matters, which incidentally finds an expression in the architecture of Nari Gandhi also, befitting the name of the trophy.

Though costing is among the most decisive factors in architectural profession, it is among the least studied during the course work. It is hoped that the theme would highlight the importance of the subject among students of architecture.

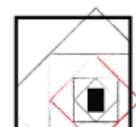
### **OVERVIEW OF THE THEME:**

Even on a quick glance, we can connect cost to specific building styles, visual attributes and design types. A five star hotel will cost more than a hill resort done with local materials, though both cater to visitors. The budget is dependent upon many local and regional parameters, hence replica designs in Mumbai and Manipur cannot cost same figure. Many buildings get their distinction by owner aspirations and promoters images, as they get expressed in the buildings. Cost also enables labelling of the buildings as Low Income Group (LIG) house, family bungalow or an iconic public structure.

The trophy will begin with such wider and theoretical interpretation of cost in the beginning, later moving on to specific projects where monetary cost directly influenced the design, either in lowering the cost of construction or in ensuring that the project stayed cost effective. However, there can be ambiguities even within this specific note.

To elaborate the above, we cannot assume that local approach is always low cost or high cost would always mean better aesthetics. Outcome of building research institutions might have led to cheaper solutions, along with costlier and better products. Some people may choose costly materials, justifying the price by the benefits; while others may argue for cheaper options approving their adequacy. A building may get green building rating despite high budget by proving how the increased budget pays back over the years. So, matters of cost in architecture can be hazy, yet we cannot push it under the carpet.

Most often, we do not realize that the cost at which architecture happens, also happens at a cost to nature. Cost of architecture may focus at style, function, comforts, materials, structures, overheads, profits and such others. Cost to nature may impact on resource consumption, energy demands, environmental degradation, waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions and such others.



It is difficult to favour one over the other blindly, so the ideal decision towards costing appears to lie between the two costs. If so, we may even argue that the idea of cost is a major bridge and decisive criteria between personal wellbeing, ecological balance and economic affordability.

If all these criteria are met with, hopefully, there will be a 'COST CONSCIOUS ARCHITECTURE'.

### **PROJECT SELECTION AND ANALYSIS:**

Introduce the idea of cost with a short text, not exceeding 2000 words, with visuals and any other graphic illustration.

Chose a project completed after 2000 A.D., where cost has played a decisive role in the design and execution of the project. It could be located anywhere in India belonging to any building type with any built up area. The only criteria is that the project attributes should be adequate enough to justify the theme and let there be required documentation available or you may freshly document it all to assess the role of cost in it.

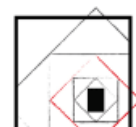
The building may or may not have had consulting architects and engineers, and need not have been built by formal contractors following tenders. However, the submission needs to have full set of drawings, specifications and costing.

Identify and analyse the ideas employed in the project which make it cost conscious.

Quote the costing in rupees, with comparison to the normal market costs, highlighting how cost considerations played a role.

Elaborate on how cost impacted upon design ideas, aesthetics, ecology, net savings, comforts and such others.

Provide photographic documentation taken during construction or after completion now under use, along with drawn up sketches and architectural details.



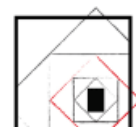
**SUBMISSIONS:**

**SHEETS:**

- All drawings to be in landscape format. □
- Maximum number of sheets is 10 A1
- Participants will get one 8x4 feet panel. □□
- Presentation should have a minimum of 60% in graphics the rest may be in text. □
- No part of the presentation shall spill out of the 8' x 4' panel. □
- All individual sheets shall have the words "NARI GANDHI TROPHY 2017 - 2018"  
□ clearly noted. The sheets shall also bear the NASA logo, in proper specification on  
□ the right hand bottom corner.
- For A1 sheet NASA INDIA logo size should be 30mm X 52.50mm with 10mm clear border on all 4 sides
- The logo is available on <https://nasaindia.co/download>
- The soft copy in PDF format shall not exceed 20mb.

**VIDEO:**

- Jury members shall shortlist the colleges for A.V. presentation. Shortlisted entries alone have to do the A.V presentation. So they have to carry the soft copy of the A.V presentation with them during the time of submission
- Time given for the shortlisted entries is as per juror decision, possibly not exceeding 10 minutes.
- All the participating units are expected to upload their videos on YouTube and have to submit the (YouTube) link during online submission.
- The video should contain documentation of the building and it can also have a documentation of similar works done by the same architect of some other building.
- Video documentation can show the studied building in its completed state and if possible the construction in progress. It may also document the specific cost-conscious material / technology in progress in any ongoing works of the same architect / builder, if they are found in the studied building too.
- The identity/name of the participating college should not feature in any way on any of the presentation sheets, report, DVD or A.V. If so the entry will be disqualified



## **JURORS**

The eminent panel of jurors include

- Christopher Benninger, Pune
- Chitra Vishwanath, Bangalore
- Surya Kakani, Ahmedabad

## **MODERATOR**

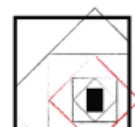
Ar. Sathya Prakash Varanashi

## **PRIZE MONEY:**

- Prize money of 2 lakhs Rupees is allotted to the trophy and it will be divided according to the no. of Citations and Special Mentions.

## **CHECK LIST FOR SUBMISSION:**

- Soft copy of sheets in PDF format not exceeding 20 MB to be uploaded on NASA India website- <https://nasaindia.co/trophy/narigandhi> .
- Authenticating letter from college HoD stating that the unit shall abide by whatever may be the final results and also agree that this entry is property of both the institute and NASA India.
- Declaration by the participant(s) stating the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copyrights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, Jury process and the results.
- Editable format of the sheets has to be submitted in CD during the Annual NASA Convention (Applicable only for shortlisted entries).
- The submission of hard copy (sheets) will happen during Annual NASA convention.





Video Orientation link: <https://youtu.be/NgJnwDx27vQ>

**Any Kind of Queries need to be submitted through**

<https://nasaindia.co/trophy/narigandhi>

**TO**

**JPK VINOD  
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT | 2017 – 2018  
NASA INDIA**

