ARCHITECTURE OF INHERITANCE

BRIEF
The first purpose of architecture is to create habitat that fulfills the needs of society and individuals for places to work and live. It is a manifestation and expression of cultural values of the society with which it interacts. Over the years, architectural design and perception have changed dramatically, transcending through the passage of time, decluttering and reflecting the changing trends in human behaviour brought about by technological advances and modernization. The entire spectrum from space to urban planning needs to follow a direction that amalgamates tradition and technology capturing the psyche of the society.

Mainstream urban architecture has inherently remained universal or generic enough to be replicated anywhere else in the world thereby losing its connect with the local context. Whereas, the 2018 Pritzker Prize winner B. V. Doshi’s wakans Townships Project (1989) in India, Central India which was a low-income Incentivised site and services vavamcular housing project. It is an ideal example for understanding the concept of designing for community inclusiveness and preparing vernacular architecture as a medium while dealing with modern day compulsities of high density urbanisation.

The round building housing complex designed by Urvashi architect in Guwahati is inspired by ancient ‘Bhukas’ that has encouraged community living in China over centuries. The traditional ‘Bhukas’ housing typology originating in the 12th century, particular to the Assamese mountains. Following the Chinese dwelling tradition of ‘closed’ home as an open trade, the self-contained structures formed a small walled city, each housing up to 800 people. The Fortified wall built contained the Individual dwellings, enclosing a generous linear-courtyard and communal facilities. The homes themselves were small and modest but shared amenities spaces including ceremonial halls, water, bathrooms and washrooms.

This Aga Khan Project involved the design of a 250-apartment housing complex for low income families. The urban ‘Takas’ consists of an outer circular block with a rectangular box within that is connected to the outer ring by streets and a courtyard. Both the circular and rectangular blocks contain small apartments, the spaces in between are for circulation and communal use. The lower floors contain shops and other community facilities.

How do we continue to evolve as a society without neglecting our past? What are the ways by which architects can take on the present-day challenges posed as a global drive of change and simultaneously engaging with the local culture? Perhaps if one discovers as of ‘why’ Inheritance matters while looking forward in time, the ‘what’ and ‘how’ of responsive design will reveal itself.

PROJECT CHALLENGE

ACA’s 4th International Design Competition seeks to investigate the various possible outcomes through which Inheritance can perform as a catalyst while creating a design that respects both past and present, moreover, the competition puts forth the question on how to identify our interface and where do we start looking for it in the context of tangible and intangible heritage which is future sustains. When it comes to engaging with contemporary architecture, how can we adapt contextual parameters of culture, socio-economic values, political and ethical understanding of inheritance?

The competition invites students of the architectural fraternity to evolve a design that successfully bridges these gaps in an urban context that integrates the community and encourages sustainable expression through built form. After all, as Lloyd Wright once put it, “architecture is life, or at least it has to be life that form taking and therefore it is the record of life as it lived in the world yesterday, as it is lived today and ever will be lived.

“Architecture is a discipline that requires a deep cultural, sociological, economical, political and ethical understanding of the world. This is what students need to learn when we are in a state of crisis like we are today, we have to rethink the world.”

CODE DECO

PARTICIPANTS

GRADUATE ARCHITECTS & RECENT ARCH. GRADUATES

The Competition is open to all Bachelors students from All Years at their Graduate Architecture course. All students must be recognised by their respective State/Country Board of Education or by their Country’s respective Architectural Education Associations. Young architects, who have finished their undergraduate course in 2019 are also eligible to participate.

GRADUATE ARCHITECTS & RECENT ARCH. GRADUATES

SUBMISSIONS

The proposed design intervention could range from the built form & landscape to urban renewal systems. If the chosen intervention fits the scope of the brief, the participants are encouraged to think on multiple scales.

ACCOMMODATION

- Certificate and a Plaque amount as follows:
  - 1st Prize Rs. 10,00,000/- (15,500)
  - 2nd Prize Rs. 5,00,000/- (7,714)
  - 3rd Prize Rs. 3,00,000/- (4,285)
Winning entries will be published in ACA’s CDA approved publication for 2019-20.

- Citations Certificates shall be awarded to 5 Exemplary entries.

NOTICE

Copyright for all material received as part of the competition, its publication and for the reproduction of content shall be solely with ACA. All the entries will be the property of ACA.