

Cities and Environment



KAMLA RAHEJA VIDYANIDHI INSTITUTE FOR ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Open to Students of Architecture and Social Sciences in India

The Theme

It is now well known that the world faces a serious challenge through environmental degradation. Reckless degradation of the environment has affected civilisations throughout known history. Life patterns based on ever-increasing use of energy and fuels, and economies in pursuit of ever-higher profits completely destroy the balance between nature and human beings. The quest for energy and fuels, markets, and profits lie at the root of most misery, injustice, and violence in the age of industry.

A major feature of the age of profit-oriented industrialisation is urbanisation. The trend over the entire world is towards expulsion of populations from agriculture and related activities and thus from rural habitats. The result - paradoxically more noticeable in the developing world - is the creation of mega cities that seem problematic from every point of view - environmental harmony and sustainability, economic viability, social justice, or sheer administration.

The cities among other things have one characteristic. They are heavy consumers of energy and fuel. They also lack local natural resources and hence drain these from the surrounding hinterlands. The imbalance between consumption and production, and particularly the intensive - often-destructive - use of natural resources is creating an environmental crisis of disastrous potentials in the mega cities of the developing world.

The cities of India already show the manifestations of this crisis, which worsens with each passing moment. Interestingly, these cities were until recently not known to be techno-rich and used very less resources when compared their counterpart in the developed world. In fact they often house much higher densities and populations than their western counterparts. Yet most of the patterns observed in such cities are informal and not recognized in traditional planning imaginations, e.g. informal bazaar streets, reuse industries, house-based work activities etc. These patterns, which have developed over time in these cities, have been found to be sustainable. Presently these patterns seem to be threatened by global processes.

The Competition

The Competition focuses on *Cities and Environment*. The above-described crisis of environmental balance and harmony is the central concern of the competition.

To this the students are thus required to document and analyse examples of local innovative patterns and systems, from local areas, that attempt to protect and promote environmental sustainability.

The entries should address the following area:

- The current situation with a brief description about the background in which the example is chosen.
- The alternate vision stating what the future of their city would be like if the authorities were to encourage and promote such examples. (Sustainable, green, liveable, paradise, clean, etc.)
- Creative, innovative, implementable solutions/approaches by which the authorities can formulate planning principle based on the above examples and describing the role of every stakeholder associated in this processes.

Format

The entries should be in the form of an essay of not more than 6000 words. The documentation may be supported by drawings, photographs.

Identification

Applicants should provide a covering letter with each application clearly mentioning their name, address, age, occupation and contact information including telephone number, facsimile number, and email address with the same information clearly printed on the back of the sheets and on the audio visual formats.

Mail entries to the following address:

Kamla Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute For Architecture and Environmental Studies.
Vidyaniidhi Marg, J.V.P.D. scheme, Mumbai 400069

The entries should be submitted as both hard and soft copies.

Prize Money

First Prize: Rs 35,000
Second Prize: Rs 20,000
Third Prize: Rs 15,000

Announcement of Winners

The results of the competition will be announced in June 2007 and the Prize Distribution will take place at a special function in July 2007.

Organisers:

Anirudh Paul (Convenor)
Dr. Sandeep Pendse, Independent Researcher & Writer

Jury Members

Prof. Sharit Bhowmik, Professor of Sociology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Daryl D'Monte, Environmental Journalist
Dr R N Sharma; Head, Urban Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Prof Sudhakar Reddy, Ecological Economist, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Studies

Disclaimers

- The work submitted will be the joint copyright of the applicant and Kamla Raheja Vidyaniidhi Institute for Architecture.
- KRVIA will hold the rights to freely publish the work and/or make it available in any public forum it may feel appropriate.
- The applicant will bear all expenses made towards the generation and submission of the competition entry.
- Entries will not be returned to the applicants.
- The decisions of jury members will be final and no questions regarding the same will be entertained.

Time Schedule:

Last date for submission of entries: 31st May 2007
Decisions: 25th June 2007
Prize Distribution: July 2007