Sparsha
a touch of assurance...

in association with SMVDU & Univ. of California

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Submitted by admin on Sun, 12/21/2008 - 16:54

The first position goes to SMV1026-
1. VIDHU SAXENA
2. ABHIJIT RASTOGI
3. GYANESH PRAKASH
of APEEJAY School of Architecture and Planning, Noida.

There is tie in two teams for the second position.
The second positions go to
SMV1018-
1. RAYAL Y ANAND
2. PRIYADARSHINI MOHANTY
of Sathyabama University, Chennia.

&
SMV1025-
1. NIKHIL CHOUDHARY
2. AMITA DHAMANKAR
3. TEJAS SIDNAL
of L. B. Hiray College of Architecture, Mumbia.

CONGRATULATONS to all.

Sparsha - Update - August

Submitted by admin on Sun, 08/24/2008 - 14:46

Friends,

Sorry for all the delay and suspense which became part and parcel of Sparsha during past few weeks. Without wasting any more of your valuable time I shall inform you about the contest proceedings.
Firstly thanks for the warm response.
As announced earlier the final jury shall be a digital jury, where your physical presence is not required, in addition to that there have been a few more alterations to make the contest a equal playing ground for all the teams under the changed conditions, these changes are enumerated below:

Read more

Poster design contest

Submitted by admin on Thu, 06/19/2008 - 16:13

the poster design contest is a totally different contest and has no relation with the on going "Sparsha"-shelter design contest. the shelter design contest is going ahead as it was announced,
i.e.- 7th july is the end of registration
and 14th july end of entries,
as mentioned in the brief.
poster design contest is a fun activity open to everybody.
sorry for causing any misunderstanding if any.

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About The Contest

ABOUT THE CONTEST...

"Sparsha is a contest being organized for the student community of India BY Anusha Narayanan And Avikal Somvanshi, proud students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu & Kashmir, in response to their success in being awarded the 2008 Berkeley Prize Architectural Design Fellowship 2008. It has been conceptualized to awaken the students of the nation and kindle a sense of social responsibility in them towards homeless compatriots. Its an endeavor to bring back the lost smiles to the hardened face of the homeless Indian. To transform our thought into reality, Berkeley Prize Architectural Design Fellowship gave us the opportunity to give a body to Sparsha. NOW we rely on the sense of goodwill and humanity among the youth of India, the Prospective Architects to Make Sparsha A Success Story. No Full Stops To INDIA..."

RULES...

1. READ THE BRIEFS FOR ALL THE DETAILS
2. ALL ENTRIES RECEIVED SHALL BE THE PROPERTIES OF SPARSHA, S.M.V.D.U.
3. The format must be at the bottom of the sheets with "Sparsha" inscribed clearly at the right hand corner of the sheets. 3.5 cm x 3.5 cm box bearing the registration no., nothing else giving away their identity, must be present at the bottom of the sheets. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.
4. Applicants need to register themselves, details on www.sparsha2008.com, on acknowledgment of which the participants will be allotted a Registration no. which they will use to identify themselves during this competition.
5. Registration for the contest shall close on the 7th July, 2008.
6. Queries can be raised up to the end of registration.
7. It must be highlighted that the purpose of conducting the whole contest is to reinstate a feeling of security and contentment among the homeless for whom the night shelter is to be designed. At all stages this factor must be kept in mind.
8. The release of the prize money is at the discretion of the Berkeley Prize committee.
   ALL THE BEST TO YOU..."

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Eligibility Criteria

1. Undergraduate students studying in registered colleges and/or universities in India recognized by the U.G.C, A.I.C.T.E. or C.O.A.are eligible.
2. Students who shall be passing out from their undergraduate course of study in or after the spring of 2008 are eligible.
3. Practicing architects or personnel working in architectural firms(except in case of internship or professional practice in the due course of study) are not eligible.
4. Students belonging to each team may be from different colleges or from different streams as well. For instance students of social sciences, philosophy, civil engineering, design, planning, arts, humanities,etc. are all eligible to participate.
5. It is necessary for at least one member of each team to be pursuing an undergraduate study in architecture.
6. Entries will be disqualified if the rules mentioned in the briefs are not complied with at the discretion of the organizers of the event.

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Related Articles

Sandbag Shelter Prototypes

The global need for housing includes millions refugees and displaced persons – victims of natural disasters and wars. Iranian architect Nader Khalili believes that this need can be addressed only by using the potential of earth construction.

After extensive research into vernacular earth building methods in Iran, followed by detailed prototyping, he has developed the sandbag or 'superadobe' system. The basic construction technique involves filling sandbags with earth and laying them in courses in a circular plan. The circular courses are corbelled near the top to form a dome. Barbed wire is laid between courses to prevent the sandbags from shifting and to provide earthquake resistance. Hence the materials of war – sandbags and barbed wire – are used for peaceful ends, integrating traditional earth architecture with contemporary global safety requirements.

Read further -

Sandbag Shelter Prototypes, various locations. The Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2004.

The Open Architecture Network

One billion people live in abject poverty. Four billion live in fragile but growing economies. One in seven people live in slum settlements. By 2020 it will be one in three. We don't need to choose between architecture or revolution. What we need is an architectural revolution.

The U.N. Millennium Development Goals aim to "achieve improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2015." Reaching this goal will require a profoundly new approach to improving the built environment.

The Open Architecture Network aims to be just such a catalyst for change.

Read Further:

- Read about "Sparsha" at the Open Architecture Network
- Open Architecture Network

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Sparsha - Update - August

Submitted by admin on Sun, 08/24/2008 - 14:46

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Firstly thanks for the warm response.
As announced earlier the final jury shall be a digital jury, where your physical presence is not required, in addition to that there have been a few more alterations to make the contest a equal playing ground for all the teams under the changed conditions, these changes are enumerated below:

* All the entries received, fulfilling all the submission requirements, are directly forwarded for the final jury. This has been done because it was unfair to select only 5 teams for final jury, when none of the teams will be allowed to improve on the submissions.
* The final jury is being conducted digitally, thus the results of it will be available on a later date will soon will be made known to you.
* We expect you to email us a letter of confirmation, stating your agreement to the changes in Sparsha. failing to do so will result in disqualification of your entry.Reply to this mail will be considered your agreement.

Congrats, for making it to the final jury.

Any doubts be free to contact us.

thank you.

Regards,

Organizers- Sparsha

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Berkeley

Through essay writing and a travel fellowship, the Berkeley Prize Endowment educates architects-in-training that the smallest act of building has global implications: that design can and does play a major role in the social, cultural, and psychological life of both the individual and society at large.

The Endowment was established in 1996 in the Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley as the result of a generous gift from Judith Lee Stronach. The Berkeley Prize embraces the idea that social ideals are fundamental to making buildings of worth by:

Encouraging and fostering undergraduate architecture students to take a serious interest in how contemporary architecture may serve social needs.

Encouraging and fostering cross-disciplinary faculty interest for participation in undergraduate design studios.

Encouraging and fostering the examination of how undergraduate architectural design is taught.
read further at http://www.berkeleyprize.org/endowment/

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Berkeley Prize Architectural Design Fellowship

To celebrate the Tenth anniversary of THE BERKELEY PRIZE, this year Berkeley is sponsoring a third competition: The BERKELEY PRIZE Social Art of Architecture Design Competition. As an added incentive, not only were the top Semi Finalists invited to compete for the 2008 BERKELEY PRIZE Travel Fellowship , but, also the 2008 BERKELY PRIZE Architectural Design Fellowship wherein,, one school represented by one of the Semi Finalists will be offered the opportunity to actually hold the proposed competition.

The students were to decide what the Competition shall be and how it might be implemented. The BERKELEY PRIZE Endowment gives the chosen school additional prize money to encourage students to compete in the selected Social Art of Architecture Design Competition. Details for the Design Competition were announced in the Spring, 2008.

For details, click here

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University of California, Berkeley

The roots of the University of California go back to the gold rush days of 1849, when the drafters of the State Constitution, a group of vigorous and farsighted people, required the legislature to *"encourage by all suitable means the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral and agricultural improvement"* of the people of California. These early planners dreamed of a university which eventually, *"if properly organized and conducted, would contribute even more than California's gold to the glory and happiness of advancing generations."*

refer: http://www.berkeley.edu

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Biography - Anusha

"Rarely do great beauty and great virtue dwell together"
-Petrarch, "De Remedies"

She is a beautiful lady with iron commitment. Her resilience has always amazed me but so does her clumsiness at times. She hails from a humble and serene Tamil family, currently settled in Delhi. Her devotion to the noble field of architecture is something to adore and reflect. She has this flare for setting these impossible standards for others to live up to be it bagging the YOUTH scholarship from Singapore international airlines or currently her fellowship from Berkeley. She constantly questions authority but knows how to mend her path, tread that unbeaten road or sail those uncharted seas. Her heart beats for all the unfortunate fellow citizens who have been wronged by the superficial society and even life itself. The pain of not having a roof to rest those tired bones at night is deeply understood by her and these feelings are what she poured out in the words that made the essay. The Berkeley Architectural Design Fellowship gives her the opportunity to work for what she sincerely believes in. And with all the understanding, deliver what she always had inside her.

-AUTHOR
Avikal Somvanshi

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Biography - Avikal

Thus let me live, unseen, unknown;
Thus unlamented let me die;
Steal from the world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie.-
-Alexander pope- "A Quiet Life"

He comes from the noble town of Allahabad- the literary or the white-collar hub of the India. He has lived his life on his terms from the time he took control of it. Paying heed to obligations and familial ties, his decisions have been his own, holding only himself responsible for the path he chose to tread. He is a person driven by a passionate force towards his goals, be it an immediate milestone such as the Berkeley design fellowship or a life-long commitment such as Architecture. Avikal does not see life as twofold as most people might- i.e. professional and personal. His profession is just as intimate and personal to him as his private life. He has always believed that everything exists interconnectedly, mysteriously, fitting its purpose in and relation to the environment. Thus, while conceptualizing Sparsha- our proposed contest , he felt this need to share this human bond fulfilled. Being in a profession that demands humane treatment, Sparsha saw us touching the homeless and the roadside dwellers, who now-a-days go untouched by the architectural profession. To him and his heart, Sparsha holds a truly undiluted place and faith. I hope this carries on to his future, as we are yet to enter the realm of COMPETITIVE architecture. But with simplicity and innocence so pure, his talents are bound to sparkle remarkably, as time prevails

-AUTHOR
Anusha Narayanan

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Contacts

General Inquiries: anusha@sparsha2008.com

Registration: register@sparsha2008.com

Organisers:
Anusha Narayanan: anusha@sparsha2008.com
Avikal Somvanshi: avikal@sparsha2008.com

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Credits - Organizing Team

Submitted by admin on Wed, 06/04/2008 - 12:51

Organizing Team

Ar. Arshia Khajooria Hazarika
Ar. Sumant Sharma
Advaita
Arjun Menon
Avneesh Rathore
Sahiba Hameed
Vijay Paul Singh Jamwal
Tarun Chawla

Anusha Narayanan
Avikal Somvanshi

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few words...

"For not all of us live the same,
Some fight to see daybreak,
Some squander treasures- vanity sake,
On tattered streets we walk, dreaming to rule,
Some car passes us by whizzing wind cool,
And as I sit in it and look outside,
I see 'me'- not long ago, curled on the roadside,
For alas...not all of us live the same"

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Inspiration

She calls out to the man on the street
"Sir, can you help me?
It's cold and I've nowhere to sleep,
Is there somewhere you can tell me?"

He walks on, doesn't look back
He pretends he can't hear her
Starts to whistle as he crosses the street
Seems embarrassed to be there
Oh think twice, it's another day for
You and me in paradise
Oh think twice, it's just another day for you,
You and me in paradise

She calls out to the man on the street
He can see she's been crying
She's got blisters on the soles of her feet
Can't walk but she's trying
Oh think twice...
Oh lord, is there nothing more anybody can do
Oh lord, there must be something you can say
You can tell from the lines on her face
You can see that she's been there
Probably been moved on from every place
'Cos she didn't fit in there
Oh think twice...

~~Phil Collins - Another Day In Paradise

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The Web-Urbanist

Web-Urbanist is a collective weblog produced by four primary editors and authors. Its topics include urban cultures, alternative arts and subversive urban actions.
Personally, we find, it is an exciting and really startling step further into e-resources for searching innovative constructions, completely whacky designs and really shocking stories from around the world...and that includes, arts architecture, environment, urbanism, graffiti, and a world of new things waiting to be explored...
and they are all real...
so explore the unimaginable...

Read Further:

> Simply Brilliant Sustainable Clay Fired Desert Architecture
> Creative Approaches To Building Big With Paper
> Kinds Of Creative Recycled Architecture
> Incredible Works Of Insane Architectural Genius

Media Articles

Here's Our collection of articles Related to the Homeless available in the Indian media:

> India Together Article
> India Together Article
> Frontline: Homeless in Delhi
> Integrated Wasteland Development Program

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"SPARSHA"

"Creating Night Shelter, for Homeless, in Junkyard"

"OH THINK TWICE, 'CAUSE ITS ANOTHER DAY FOR YOU AND ME...IN PARADISE"

- PHIL COLLINS

This heartfelt song **beautifies the agonies of homeless** and the **lack of compassion in the rest.** The essence of humanity lies in the **ability to communicate feelings** and the **desire to work** to reach the zenith of one's potential. Knowingly or unknowingly, we have been pursuing the latter with a lot more enthusiasm and have **left out** on the former. **We might achieve our goals doing as we have done for long, but our existence is incomplete without 'feelings'.** If we could just start to **feel again...**

In a humble attempt to revive **The Feeling**, a modest motivation by the name of 'Sparsha' is being proposed. In doing so, we hope to **bring together the community** to feel the frustrations of the **underprivileged, homeless, roadside dwellers** and help improve their existence.

'Sparsha'- the Sanskrit word for the act of 'a touch' is an outreach to the community **to tie up** with the future architects of the nation in **bringing smiles to the hardened face** of the **homeless Indian.**

SPARSHA

Objective:

As **architects**, we hold the dynamic vision for **the new face of the horizon**. Honestly, the present scenario narrows the scope for growth of architecture down to those selected **few who can afford the privilege**. Thus, luxury widely over-rules integrity and necessity of deigns. Architecture potentially has become a mistress of the wealthy rather than a noble profession. This social art that mirrors the times **would be adulterated**, as society itself, **if passivity prevails**.

To awaken the lost youth and imbibe the cause of greater humanity "Sparsha" proposes to **bring to life any junkyard / local dumping grounds / waste land by sculpturing it into a night shelter for homeless** as a start to a drive to provide **permanent habitable space** for the less privileged.

In the process **Sparsha** expects **to enlighten** the future architects about **the social art of architecture and broaden their perspective** through:

- Documentation of **the demography and lifestyle of the urban homeless** in their cities.
- Documentation of **the ecology** of junkyards / dumping grounds / waste land.
- Motivation to explore **the possibilities of recycled material** and **traditional building materials** in the present scenario.

Location of the Site:

Any local junkyards / dumping grounds / waste land in your city.

Or any empty piece of land **temporary** being used as fore mentioned.

Adequate **accessibility**

Any **size, dimension and shape** depending upon the location but duly justified with survey.

By-laws of the local area shall apply but they should be clearly mentioned.

Number of participants per team:

A team of up to **3 members**, with **at least one** undergraduate architecture student necessarily, are eligible.

Requirements:

A **comfortable and healthy resting space** for occupants Number of occupants to be decided by the demography of the region chose **(min 50 nos.)**

A **lively living cum interaction space** (interior or external)

Adequate **sanitary arrangements**

Creation of **a homely ambiance** so that occupants feel secure and content

Any other feature which you feel should be incorporated keeping **the sociological and regional factors** in mind.

Structure / Form:

The proposal shall adopt **a new creative blend of new technology and traditional wisdom** to address this social problem. Innovations in design, material and planning will be appreciated. Structural should be **sustainable, low cost and low maintenance.** These may be:

        A **single structure** with all the amenities

        An **independent module** which can be repeated to achieve totality in open layout

        A **combination** of the two

Deciding factor will be **the climatology** of the city.

STAGE ONE: DESIGN PROPOSAL

Guidelines:

1. Proposals have to be submitted on **A1 sheets (2 nos.)** which shall include:

        All the necessary drawing to explain *Design Scheme* (e.g. Site Plan, Layout Plans, Sections, Elevations and details.)

        Landscaping and beautification of the chosen site to convert it into a healthy and welcoming space should be integrated.

2. A report on **A4 sheets** in **Arial font** and min. font size of **10** shall be attached which shall include:

Photographs and conceptual sketches necessary to explain the course of action chosen and concept (200 words max.)

The demography of the locality highlighting the specifics about the homeless (250 words max.)

The microclimate, flora and fauna, geology and hydrogeology of the chosen site must be elaborated (500 words max.)

Justification of the climatic requirements and consideration (750 words max.)

The cost & time of construction of the proposed project (500 words max.)

Ideas to generate funds like contribution from the local community or resale of recycled material from the junkyard etc. (150 words max.)

Top five entries will be called for the Stage Two.

STAGE TWO: Jury

Guidelines:

Selected entries will be given **two weeks** time to prepare **a model.** Scale of the model is to the convenience.

The teams shall be required to report to **S.M.V.D.U. Campus** to participate in Stage 02.

Herein, the teams need to appear for a **jury** in which their design shall be analyzed on the basis of their **presentation** to the jury members and a selective audience.

The presentation may be in the form of **a speech, sketch, power-point presentations, or a combination or any other medium.** Please inform the organizers in advance to facilitate the arrangements.

Teams will be judged on the **understanding of their design, underlying concepts, practicality of the approach, and social impact of the design, originality of the ideas, clarity** and ability to convince the jury members.

Other Information

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 3.5 cm x 3.5 cm box bearing the registration no., nothing else giving away their identity, must be present at the bottom of the sheets. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.

Sheets can be **hand drafted /computer-rendered** depending upon the convenience of the participants.

A soft copy of drawings and report (write up and pictures) and required software to run the before mentioned should be include

Applicants need to **register** themselves, details on **_www.sparsha2008.com_**, on acknowledgement of which the participants will be allotted **a Registration no.** which they will use to identify themselves during this competition

Registration for the contest shall close on the 7th **July, 2008.**

Queries can be raised up to the end of registration.

 All entries must reach the mentioned **destination on or before the submission date** as mentioned below.

During the final round **boarding lodging and food facilities** will be provided for the three members of each of the teams by the host **at nominal charges.**

 Participants should keep in mind that the design could be **potentially built or assembled in future**. It should have provision for expansion and preferably suitable for mass production.

It must be highlighted that the purpose of conducting the whole contest is to reinstate **a feeling of security and contentment** among the homeless for whom the night shelter is to be designed. At all stages this factor must be kept in mind.

In this process 'Sparsha' attempts to rekindles the social and moral responsibilities of the vivacious youth of the country reinstating the feeling of belongingness and spontaneity- the truly human qualities fading away in humans today.

"OH THINK TWICE, 'CAUSE IT'S ANOTHER DAY...FOR YOU AND ME IN PARADISE."

The schedule for the competition shall be as follows:

Stage 01.   Last date for receiving entries-   14th July, 2008.

                            Declaration of result –   24th July, 2008.

Stage 02.   Day of final jury: 9th and 10th August, 2008.

                            Declaration of results: 10th August, 2008.

Awards:

Winners-	1500 USD
1st Runners-	750 USD
2nd Runners-	500 USD

Postal Address:

Sparsha,
C/o Public Relations Office,
15-C, 2nd Ext., Gandhi Nagar,
Opp. Bahu Plaza,
Jammu 180003.

Contacts:

Anusha Narayanan   Avikal Somvanshi
Organizer   Organizer
09818330967   09935353529
anushanara@hotmail.com   avikals@gmail.com

Terms and conditions: *the release of the prize money is subject to approval of the Berkeley Prize*
Committee.
        All the entries shall be the property of "Sparsha", SMVDU.