

FAQ

- A. Registration
- B. Site and Design Brief
- C. Submission Format

সুন্দর-বাড়ি

Sundar

Bāri

SEARCH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
DESIGN COMPETITION | 2020

A Homestead in the Sundarbans



Organisers

SEARCH
Trust for Sustainable Education
and Action in Architecture
Kolkata | Delhi

Media Partner

stir
www.stirworld.com

More details at

www.searchtrust.org

A. FAQs regarding the Registration

Who can enter?

This competition is open to **graduate and post-graduate level students around the world (1 to 4 members in a team)** who are currently enrolled in **architecture, planning and design** program.

Can recent graduates participate?

The recent graduates, who completed Bachelor of Architecture/ Planning/ Design Course in 2018 or 2019, will be allowed to take part in the competition, provided that the First Member of the participating team is a student presently enrolled in a postgraduate or undergraduate course of Architecture/ Planning/ Design.

Can recent M.Arch/M.Plan/M.Des grads participate?

No. Only enrolled students of M.Arch/M.Plan/M.Des can participate.

How much is the Participation Fee?

INR 500.00 (Indian Rupees Five Hundred Only) per entry.

To be paid by Bank Transfer/UPI/BHIM/GooglePay.

Participation fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.

How do participants outside India pay the Participation Fee?

Considering the current pandemic and lockdown in various parts of the world, **the Participation Fees for Competition Entries from outside India are waived.** However, **Competition Entries from outside India are required to attach a Letter of Recommendation.**

Letter of Recommendation?

- The Competition Entries from **outside India** are required to attach a Letter of Recommendation **by the First Member.**

- The LoR needs to be from a faculty member (except Jury and the Organisers of the competition) of the concerned department of the institution **stating the studentship and academic competence** of the participant (first member).

- The LoRs can be scanned copy or a PDF of faculty's e-mail sent to participant (first member).

Documents needed for Registration?

You would need the following PDF/JPGs:

1. ID cards (or, the latest Mark Sheet) of all the participants
2. Transaction Receipt Participation Fee* (India) or Letter of Recommendation** (Outside India)

B. FAQs regarding the Site and Design Brief

1. Where can we select the site?

You can select a site & context anywhere in the Lower Sundarbans, either from India or, from Bangladesh.

2. Site location: Where the site/village is exactly in Lower Sundarbans? Do Lower Sundarbans means the site can be beside a low lying land connecting to the water which can easily be overflowed through the entire forest or are we considering the present settlement locations that are protected by earthen embankment?

Lower Sundarbans in India: A village in the Lower part of the Indian Sundarbans would mean any village in Sagar, Patharpratima, Mathurapur, Kultali, Gosaba, Satjelia, Hemnager, Hingalganj, Sandeshkhali, Chhoto Mollakhali etc. which are closer to the protected forest.

In Bangladesh: Areas including Shyamnanagar, Koyra, Harinagr, Dhangmari, Rampal, Mongla, Morrelganj, etc. where villages are closer to the protected forest.

We have shared a poster showing a typical section on competition's Resource Page. Further, the reading material has already been available on SEARCH Website and shared with all the registered participants.

3. The maximum area of the covered and semi-covered spaces is 120sqm, so is that the built-up area out of the 1000sqm?

120 sqm is the fixed size of the plot. The maximum area of Covered & Semi-covered spaces, together, is 120 sqm from the 1000 sqm.

4. The open to sky area is out of the 120 sqm?

Area of Open-to- sky spaces is not included in 120 sqm.

5. The maximum area covered was stated as 120 sqm. Does this indicate only the ground floor coverage or the total floor area, including the second floor, if any?

The total area across all floors (if multiple floors are suggested) is maximum 120 sqm.

6. The brief says about the front side of the plot as '5m wide pathway along 20m side from where the access has to be taken'. The description isn't evident as to where the pathway and the side meets which has to be considered for the access.

The pathway is parallel to the 20 m side. It is left to the participants to interpret the context.

7. In the homestead plot details, in the front side, there is 5m provision for a pathway. Is this 5m taken from the 1000 sqm plot area or outside it? Is it inside the boundary of 20mx50m plot outline or outside?

The pathway will be outside the plot and 5 m wide pathway will be along 20m side from where access is to be taken. Access will be only from one side.

8. At the rear side, there is stated to be agricultural land owned by the homestead. Is it within the 20mx50m boundary or outside? If it is outside what is the size allocated for it?

Agricultural land is outside 20m X 50 m plot.

Frequently Asked Questions

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9. What is the setback policy between the plot and building masses? Is it up to the contestants or should we follow any specific code? If so, what are the specifications?

There is no specific code or policy for the setback -- it is up to the participants. Both sides of the plot will have same size plots with similar building arrangements

10. What is to be proposed, just a homestead/ bhite bari plot or a cluster of several numbers of bhite bari?

You can do both. It totally depends on your design approach.

11. What is IMPLEMENTABLE for fast scaling up of the execution by the authorities, NGOs and individuals?

The design proposal should be convincing for the government and non-government organisations that it can be made and replicated. Often, the authorities want to make it fast to address the rehabilitation process.

Some of the points to be decided/resolved among the participating teams

- *the context, geological conditions, region in one of the countries, India or Bangladesh*
- *the scenario, the user group, activity mapping, dependency on forest and agricultural activities*
- *the choice of construction material, technique and its sourcing*
- *the cost and method of the construction and relevant human resource required*

As competition organisers, we have kept open for the participants to research, interpret and propose a typical scenario and the best solution. It is recommended that the participants should go through the resource materials at the SEARCH website (refer to the Resource Tab on [this page](#)). They are free to research and study all relevant information available to come up with the solutions.

The key point is: as future torchbearers, students of architecture, design and planning community should rise to the occasion and take this opportunity to suggest appropriate design alternatives to give the people of the Sundarbans a shelter they deserve...

Remember, the design should be

- **RESILIENT** to natural hazards like, cyclone and flood
- **SUSTAINABLE** by minimising damages to the ecosystem
- **CREATIVE** in design expression and resolution while responding to the culture of the place
- **AFFORDABLE** to the users for cost-effective construction and maintenance
- **IMPLEMENTABLE** for fast scaling up of the execution by the authorities, NGOs and individuals

C. FAQs regarding the Submission Format

1. Is there any paper size for the drawings, illustration, diagram or a desired scale?

Please refer the Section 2.3 of [Competition Brief](#)

2. Is there any specific margin space to be left on all sides / any logos to be kept on sheets?

No specific Margin. No logo required.

3. The scale of 1:50 floor plans cannot fit in A2 size sheet?

Individual building Floor plans (not the site plan) must be in 1:50. Participants should decide how best they can fit in the required information within the given sheet size and no.

4. Do we need to represent in graphic scale as mentioned in brief?

Yes. The graphic scale is required.

5. There is a mention of four 300dpi rendered images. Do we need to include them in the limit of four A2 Sheets or separately provide the four images individually?

Separately. Remember, it is a part of the Submission Folder as mentioned in Section 2.3 of [Competition Brief](#)

6. Can we get info on 'editable files'?

- The 'editable files' mean the key images and drawings, which may get used in further dissemination in multiple mediums.
- **At this stage, please attach the independent files in this folder, including conceptual images (.jpgs) and sketches (.jpgs) other than the mentioned 'four rendered images'.**
- If the organisers require any other types of files (of drawings or 3D imaging etc.) in future, concerned participants will be duly notified.

7. The combined sheets of four A2 sheets shall be 20MB?

Yes. You should submit the final entry in a combined PDF not exceeding 20 MB as mentioned in Section 2.3 of [Competition Brief](#)

8. All sheets pdf need to be made as one single pdf form with entry form and concept statement attached, or these two will be separate entities?

Please refer the Section 2.3 of [Competition Brief](#)

9. There is a mention of concept statement of 250 words, is it supposed to be in A4 size sheet?

Yes, in two formats, a PDF and a .docx (MS Word) file. As mentioned in Section 2.3 of [Competition Brief](#)

10. Is there any specific font that needs to be used by the participants?

We suggest using the font UBUNTU by Google Fonts. You can download all its variants on <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Ubuntu>