

COMPETITION ■ BRIEF

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

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SEARCH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION | 2020

OPEN TO STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

সুন্দর- বাড়ি
Sundar Bāri

Sundar Bāri in Bengali means 'a beautiful home'
and is a portmanteau of the words, 'Sundarbans' and 'House',
signifying the Competition Title to design
A HOMESTEAD IN THE SUNDARBANS

Version R1: 12 June 2020



www.searchtrust.org

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tropical Cyclones are critical natural hazards, the Indian subcontinent faced time and again, especially the coastal Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh as well as some parts of Sri Lanka. The rise in sea levels due to global warming poses another threat. Among Indian states, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal are the worst affected, historically. The recent Super Cyclone, 'Amphan', in May 2020 was one of the most powerful storms that inflicted widespread damage in West Bengal and Odisha in India along with Khulna and Barishal divisions of Bangladesh. The most devastated region is the Sundarbans, both in India and Bangladesh, because of its fragile ecosystem, complex geography and the presence of sizable settlements. Poverty made the situation even more vulnerable. Since the fateful cyclonic day, heart-breaking images of destroyed houses and misery of people have flooded the web-space and reached all over the globe for everyone to realize the magnitude of the aftermath.

Such a natural disaster and related human suffering call for a massive rehabilitation work, to which architecture and design community, perhaps, can respond effectively, by offering appropriate design alternatives. As future torchbearers, students of architecture, design and planning community are encouraged to rise to the occasion and take this opportunity **to propose design alternatives for a Homestead (*bhite-bari* in Bengali) for a family in the Sundarbans that is:**

- **RESILIENT** to natural hazards like, cyclone and flood
- **SUSTAINABLE** by minimizing 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

With these core 5-point objectives and related evaluation criteria, SEARCH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION 2020 is announced.

2. COMPETITION GUIDELINES

2.1 DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

a) Location: 'The Sundarbans'

It is to be assumed that the site is located in one of the villages in lower Sundarbans area. Forest is protected and no intervention is allowed within it.

b) Function: Homestead (*bhite-bari* in Bengali)

A home + work space for a family of 5-6 members (Husband & Wife, 2 or 3 Children, Father and/or Mother)

A Sundarbans-specific understanding of homestead (*bhite-bari*) is:

In the Bengali cultural understanding of land and house, it is not so much having a roof over one's head that is important as having a *bhite* (homestead). The *bhite* is the consecrated piece of land where one's house [*bari*] is built, or where one's parental house lies. It includes the courtyard and the adjoining non-cultivated land surrounding the house. Land is usually divided along horizontal strips from the bund, with a small kitchen garden patch in front, the homestead - usually consisting of a house and courtyard surrounded by thick mud walls (for protection against tigers) - and a pond behind the house and paddy fields beyond.

-- Annu Jalais (2010), *Forest of Tigers, People, Politics & Environment in the Sundarbans*, Routledge, New Delhi, p. 58

c) Area Programme

Activity Spaces (Covered & Semi-Covered)	No. of Space [1]	Activity Spaces (Open-to-sky)	No. of Space [1]
Sleeping space	2	Vegetable Garden	1
Multi-purpose/ Work Space/ Shop for livelihood option [2]	2	Pond	1
Cooking Space	1	Open Space/ Court yard for socializing	As per each Design Entry
Latrine [3]	1	Maximum Area of Covered and Semi-covered Activity Spaces together	
Bathroom [3]	1		
Store space	1		
Granary	1		
Cattle-Shed	1		
Sacred Corner, Veranda and/or other Semi- covered space	As per each Design Entry	120 sqm	

Notes:

- [1] Above-mentioned numbers of the Activity Spaces are minimum; each Design Entry can decide the size and increase the number of spaces as per proposal
- [2] Livelihood options are subject to suitable interpretation by each Design Entry
- [3] The land-water-settlement interfaces are complex at different scale-levels of the place. The design proposal must keep in mind the unique topography of the Sundarbans and its features. One man-made component to be specially mentioned here, is the mud embankments (bunds) without which human life is impossible in the lower part of the Sundarbans. The level of village land and agricultural land is lower than the high-tide water level and around 3500 km long bund protects from high tides, twice every day, and from saline water ingress.
- [4] Latrine and Bathroom shall be discharged to septic tank within the plot. If possible, appropriate plot-based treatment of sewage may be considered.
- [5] Water: The Sundarbans is surrounded with numerous rivers carrying saline water, because of which this place faces drinking water scarcity. Most of the sufficient rain received during the monsoon is, by default, discharged into adjoining saline rivers. Rain water harvesting at all scale- levels, therefore, is important, both for collection to reduce over-exploitation of ground water as well as for recharging shallow aquifer to reduce its salinity in the long run. It may be assumed that drinking water is made available by: a) Ground water based piped water supply, (for example, in several Community Blocks in Indian part of the Sundarbans, such provisions have been made or being executed by the concerned department) or, b) wherever piped supply is not available, domestic level water filters will be used to consume stored water. For other domestic purposes, like, cleaning, washing, bathing etc. one can assume that the water from pond will be used. Total water consumption for all purposes may be assumed as 70 litres per capita per day.

Homestead Plot Details						
Width	Depth	Area	Orientation	Adjacent Areas of the Homestead Plot		
(m)	(m)	(sqm)	(North Line)	Front side	Both Sides	Rear Side
20	50	1000	To be decided by each Design Entry	5 m wide Pathway along 20m side from where access is to be taken, only from one side	Same size plot with similar building arrangements	Agricultural Land owned by the same Homestead

d) Design Studies

Each entry should use **appropriate space/design studies** to illustrate how intended activities would take place in the proposed design and the **rationale behind activity-wise allocation of areas** (in terms of sqm). **Orientation and climatic responses** are important concerns. **Resilience, Sustainability, Creativity, Affordability, Implementability** are critical aspects for the proposed design.

e) Design Adaptability

It is desirable that the spatial and formal arrangement of the proposed design should be flexible enough to adapt to different orientations, plot sizes and plot configurations.

2.2 WHO SHOULD 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.

For recent graduates (updated on 12 June 2020)

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.

2.3 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The submission must be made digitally to the Submission Form provided on SEARCH website.

Each submission must include the following:

TECHNICAL DETAILS OF SUBMISSION			
Submission Materials	File/ Folder format	Indicative File/ Folder name	
1	Entry Form	One PDF file	EF_6 Character Application No
2	Concept Statement & Concept Title	One PDF file + One MS WORD file	CS_6 Character Application No (Same name for PDF & WORD files)
3	Drawings (File size up to 20MB)	Digital presentation board in One PDF file (300 dpi resolution) + all editable files in one separate folder	For Digital Presentation Board: DC_6 Character Application No Folder Name containing all editable files together: OF_6 Character Application No
4	Rendered Images of the Proposal (4 No.)	JPEG (300 DPI) in one folder (individual files to be marked as 1,2,3,4)	Folder Name: RI_6 Character Application No
All the above files containing Submission materials to be included in a Folder (Folder size up to 50 MB)		.ZIP format	SEARCH_6 Character Application No – For example, SEARCH_AB1234 Application No. will be provided by the Competition Committee after Registration is complete

DETAILS OF SUBMISSION MATERIALS & CONTENTS					
1 Entry Form duly filled in					
2 Concept Statement (Maximum 250 words) + Concept Title					
3 Drawings					
Contents					Suggested Scale [1]
a)	Concept and Design Considerations, Design Studies along with Proposed Activity Distributions with the help of suitable drawings, diagrams, illustrations, images etc.				Not Applicable
b)	Site Plan showing ground floor plan, open spaces and surroundings with possible landscape and outdoor elements				1:150
c)	Floor plan/s with critical dimensions indicating activity spaces, furniture and materials (All these may be combined in one plan or, separate plans or, any other suitable drawings)				1:50
d)	Sections with Critical Dimensions indicating materials as required				1:50
e)	Design Details to explain uniqueness of proposal				As required
f)	3D Views				Not Applicable
g)	Preliminary Cost Estimate (to be included in the drawing Sheet in the form of a small table)				Not Applicable
h)	Any other information to explain the proposal				As required
Max. No. of Drawings	04	Drawing Format	Portrait	Size of Drawings	A2
4 4 No. Rendered Images (not the drawing sheet) of the proposed design in JPEG format (in 300 dpi resolution)					
Notes:					
[1]	Regarding Scale, do not mention the Ratio (RF) Scale in the drawing. Only the Graphic (Bar) Scale is to be drawn next to the respective drawings, as applicable. This is to facilitate reproduction of the drawings in different sizes.				
[2]	Do not mention name or other identifying information on the board.				

3. COMPETITION DEADLINE

Stages	Deadline [in Indian Standard Time: IST]
Competition Announcement	June 10, 2020
Registration Starts	From 12:00 Midnight , June 12, 2020
Last Date for Queries	Till 12:00 Midnight, June 22, 2020
Queries to be Answered by the Competition Committee	June 26, 2020
Registration Ends	Till 12:00 Midnight, July 10, 2020
Design Entry Submission	Till 12:00 Midnight, July 20, 2020
Announcement of Final Results	July 31, 2020

4. AWARD

- **First Prize, Second Prize, Third Prize and 3 Commendation Prizes (Cash Award + Certificates)**
- **Total Prize amount will be a minimum of INR 30,000/-** (deductions, if any, will be as per relevant statutory provisions)
- **Note on further dissemination:**
 - Top six entries will be shared with the government and reputed NGOs for record and reference for any rehabilitation programme
 - Soft publication of the competition entries by SEARCH
 - Online display and exhibition of competition entries

5. PARTICIPATION FEES

INR 500.00 (Indian Rupees Five Hundred Only) per entry.
Participation fee is non-refundable.

For entries from outside India (updated on 12 June 2020)

Considering the current pandemic, 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 from a faculty member (except Jury and the Organizers of the competition) of the concerned department of the institution.

6.JURY

Dr. Khandekar Shabbir AHMED

Architect, Urbanist and Professor of Architecture & Planning at Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), Dhaka

Dr. Suchandra BARDHAN

Architect, Landscape Architect and Professor of Architecture at Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Vina Verghese BISWAS

Architect, Landscape Architect, Partner: VSPB Associates and Visiting Faculty Member: Department of Landscape Architecture at School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi

Aneerudh PAUL

Architect, Urban Designer and Professor & Principal of Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture (KRVIA), Mumbai

Rajat RAY

Architect, Urban Designer, Conservation Architect and Professor & Dean of University School of Architecture and Planning (USAP), GGS Indra Prastha University, New Delhi

Dr. Padmini RAY MURRAY

Design and Technology Researcher and Founder: Design Beku, Bengaluru

Dr. Tania SENGUPTA

Architect, Urban Designer and Director of Architectural History and Theory at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London

7. TERMS & CONDITIONS

By entering the competition and ticking the box marked '**Submit**' on the Website Entry Form, Participants agree to be bound by the following Terms & Conditions (referred as 'terms') and all its clauses (as mentioned below) and are deemed to have read and understood all its contents and implications. Participants grant free and unconditional consent to be subject to these terms and conditions as applicable.

1. The submitted documents will not be returned.
2. The design is an original work of the participant and that is to be self-declared. The Submission Proposal must not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party. Any supportive data, design detail or information to be used in the submission entry must have proper reference following 'MLA Referencing Style'. Any form of plagiarism will lead to the cancellation of the entry.
3. Individual participants and TRUST FOR SEARCH shall have the intellectual rights on Design Entries for all future dissemination. It is also agreed upon by the Individual participants that the organizers are free to publish and exhibit the contents of the submission, and advocate, adapt, amalgamate, amend any of the ideas in parts or full, provided the authorship of the ideas is appropriately acknowledged, and in all cases without compensation, regardless of whether the authors have been declared as winners or not.
4. No compensation can be sought only by the virtue of participating in the said competition.
5. The Organizers reserve all the legal rights to reject any proposal. A proposal will be excluded from participation under following conditions:
 - a) If it is not submitted within the deadline.
 - b) This is an anonymous competition and the 6-character unique application no. is the only means of identification. The name of participants should neither appear on the drawings nor as part of the file names as this will result in the cancellation of the entry.
 - c) Participants who try to contact members of the jury with regard to this competition will be disqualified.
 - d) If the submission does not comply with the requirements.
 - e) Entry is open to all persons except Jury Members, the Organizers and their immediate families.
6. Participants accept that the Website where submission is to be made is offered on an "as is" and "as available" basis. The Organizers do not warrant that the Website will be uninterrupted, timely, secure or error-free, that defects will be corrected, or that the Website or the server that makes it available are free of software viruses or bugs or other defects.
7. The organizers do not have full control over, and disclaims all responsibility or, any content which Participants may encounter, or events which may

occur as a result of any Participant's use of the Website, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and the organizers shall not be liable for any damages or other losses of any type whatsoever incurred by Participants as a result of their use of the Website.

8. Any types of implementation of the design entries, partly or fully, is the sole discretion of the concerned organizations and authorities involved. The participants shall have no legal claim to contract value or corresponding assets.
9. The Organizers reserve the right to withdraw or amend the Competition and these Terms and Conditions in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising outside their reasonable control.

8. ORGANIZER

SEARCH

Trust for Sustainable Education and Action in Architecture is an India-based non-profit charitable organization that promotes activities of excellence in the fields of built environment and related spheres. SEARCH Team includes eminent architects, planners, designers and other professionals from India and across the globe. The Trust intends to collaborate to impart socially nuanced and technologically appropriate knowledge-generation in Architecture, Planning, Design, Urban Studies and related realms. SEARCH has organized a range of activities like, international workshops, seminars, book publication, public discussions etc. Find more: www.searchtrust.org

9. CONTACT

To: The Coordinator
SEARCH ISDC
trustforsearch@gmail.com

■ DESIGN OBJECTIVES

**RESILIENT
SUSTAINABLE
CREATIVE
AFFORDABLE
IMPLEMENTABLE**

■ BRIEF

Against the backdrop of the widespread damage caused by the Super Cyclone 'Amphan' in May 2020, we are calling the students of architecture, planning and design community to propose design alternatives for a Homestead for a Family in the Sundarbans and rise to the occasion to contribute to the society at large.

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Sundar Bāri

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A Homestead in the Sundarbans

■ JURY MEMBERS

Dr. Khandekar Shabbir AHMED, Dhaka
Dr. Suchandra BARDHAN, Kolkata
Vina Verghese BISWAS, New Delhi
Aneerudh PAUL, Mumbai
Rajat RAY, New Delhi
Dr. Padmini RAY MURRAY, Bengaluru
Dr. Tania SENGUPTA, London

■ AWARDS

Cash Awards + Certificates to
Top Three & Special Mentions

■ DEADLINES

Registration Starts	June 12
Registration Ends	July 10
Design Submission	July 20
Final Results	July 31

Organisers



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