PROJECTIONS

NARI GANDHI TROPHY

"Culture - Architecture Connect"

THEMATIC PREAMBLE

Culture has always been identified as a determinant of architecture. Curiously, culture in turn gets defined by the architecture it has created. Such phenomenon where two factors recreate each other is not so common around us, hence it becomes important. Such an implicit synergy between the two led thinkers like Winston Churchill to say "We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us" and scholars like Amos Rapoport to write books like "House Form and Culture". Some critics may feel that in our contemporary times, we are increasingly ignoring this fundamental phenomenon, while many others may opine that even in today's shifting times, architecture is both a . of culture and a creator of culture. As such, it is a case of parallel projection, in a metaphorical way.

It is difficult to define culture, but it can be interpreted in many ways. To ensure a common understanding, we will accept the broad statement by E.B. Tylor, who says "**Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by people members of society".** This concept, in the specific case of this trophy, may also include many other key words like experience, values, attitudes, way of life, lifestyle, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, material objects, possessions, social behaviour and such others.

TROPHY INTENTION

The Nari Gandhi Trophy 2016 intends to examine the NASA theme of parallel projections through the deeper relationships between architecture and culture. When the making of architecture happens without the conscious influences of colonialism, political impositions, peer pressures or external influences of other kinds, the relationship is easier to understand. Deeper symbiotic connections between designs and the users happened during the earlier times thanks to indigenous, vernacular and organic modes of producing architecture. Studying such structures, which could be termed as architecture without formal architects, can provide us with learnings of different kinds.

Even modern buildings formally designed by architects could also be the cultural expression of our times. Such buildings may not be found everywhere, with our education system and professional demands generally ignoring designs rooted in culture. While satisfying the parallel demands of creative impulses of the architect, possible prestige of the project, technological impacts of construction and the subjective aspirations of the client, some architects may find it difficult to factor in culture as design criteria. However, if any modern design can be a case study for culture and architecture connect, then it deserves to be studied.

Among the varied building types, residential architecture is the best expression for the intended study, where the house represents the life of house owners. The scale and magnitude of residences being rather small, one can spend more time in analysing them, rather than in mere documenting. There is one flip side in this approach – while the building is still standing for us to study, the culture which generated it could have diluted over the years, with the present owners living a different lifestyle, hence making our study weak.

This shortcoming has to be resolved by documenting the lifestyle of all the senior and junior residents, including their early years as an oral history mapping. Oral history can mean anything about the childhood / adulthood of the person including clothing, travelling, food, communication, rituals, guest relations, house hold roles, family customs, space use and such others. A comprehensively collated oral personal history throws much light on how people lived in the past, additionally enables connecting the residence to the residents.

This trophy brief also hopes to extend the NASA work beyond the NASA event, by offering the documented oral history to institutions and researchers already working in this direction. Besides, in case students wish to further their work, there could be opportunities. To that end, locating and reading published theories and critical texts on sociocultural dimensions of architecture is encouraged, which can be used in the study with due acknowledgement.

TASK DEFINITION

1. HOUSE SELECTION:

Select any house with notable features and magnitude from any region in India. House in its original form, in mixed uses with owner operated non-residential activity, original house clearly visible with later additions or joint family homes are eligible. Extreme cases like large royal palaces or small thatched huts may be avoided considering the scale of complexity therein. Modern houses built during very recent times may not provide adequate parameters of study due to their short existence, without any time tested features to study. Yet, if the participants feel they can justify selecting such a house, they are welcome.

2. DOCUMENTATION:

- **Collect** all available data about the history of the house
- **Interview** the owners / residents with audio and if possible video recordings, gathering information about how people lived in the house and how the house performed.
- **Measure** and draw the complete house with plans, elevations, sections and views in as many numbers as needed to convey the idea of the house.
- Avoid unnecessary renderings which tend to dilute the clarity of the drawings.
- Avoid same information being repeated in multiple sheets, just to increase the quantity.

3. CULTURE and ARCHITECTURE ANALYSIS:

- Establish the family and community characteristics with reference to key words from cultural criteria
- Analyse the house design in terms of form, spaces, openings, style, materials, construction and such other relevant details
- Analyse the connect between the house, its users and their culture.

4. THEORIZE AND SUMMARISE:

- Establish how the original house form was appropriate for the users culture, when it was built.
- Establish how the users lifestyle led to retaining the original form or additions if any or alterations where needed or expansions as they happened.
- Summarise the study, logically stating the culture architecture connect.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

1) Audio or video clippings of interviews with the house users / owners. .
2) All drawings to be in landscape format.

3) Maximum number of sheets not to exceed 10 in A1 size.
4) Participants will get one 8x4 feet panel.
5) The smaller number of sheets makes brevity and focused presentation important.
6) Presentation should have a .minimum of 60% in graphics the rest may be in text..
7) Shape and size of the overlays within the one third of panel is participant's choice.
8) Every overlay would be considered as one A1 sheet irrespective of the size not exceeding A1. If smaller than A1, the overlay must be cut from an A1 sheet.
9) No part of the presentation shall spill out of the 8' x 4' panel.
10) All individual sheets shall have the words "NARI GANDHI TROPHY 2016 - 2017" clearly noted. The sheets shall also bear the NASA logo, in proper specification on the right hand bottom corner.
11) Two identical hard bound copies of a report not exceeding 20 A4 pages giving an entire overview of the study should accompany the submission.
12) The report should feature the NASA logo appropriately on the cover page and on each page of the report.
13) Both report copies should contain the entry code and name of the project on the cover. However, only one copy should have the college code and name of the college featured on it.
14) Scale models, simulated walk through, animations etc. Are not allowed.
15) **2** CD / DVDs with soft copy of the entire report, sheets along with the A.V. Presentation which must be submitted. One of these is for the N.I.P.C. archives and **must contain :**
    a) editable version of the sheets formatted in NIPC template (in PSD file format)
    b) Non editable format of the sheets in PDF less than 10MB size
16) The 2nd CD / DVD is for the use of the college in A.V. Presentation. It will be returned to the respective college. College code will be mentioned in both the CD / DVD but one out of the two must also contain name of the college.
17) **Separate from the above CD / DVD** we require 2 additional CD / DVD containing **only** the interview recordings. (To recap this means a total of 4 CD /DVDs)
18) Jury members shall shortlist the colleges for A.V. presentation. Time given for the shortlisted entries is as per juror decision, possibly not exceeding 15 minutes.
19) The identity/name of the participating college should not feature in any way on any of the presentation sheets, report, DVD or A.V. CD which will be seen by the Jurors.

THE SUBMISSIONS

FOR ALL QUERIES RELATED TO THE SUBMISSION PLEASE CONTACT

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nari gandhi trophy

PROJECTIONS

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