LOUIS I KAHN
TROPHY
2023 ——— 24

L IK TROPHY

DOCUMENT THE UNDOCUMENTED

For information and queries visit:
https://nasaindia.co/trophy

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Louis I Kahn Trophy

"Story as History – Monuments as Narratives"

PREAMBLE

Louis Kahn has been among the few philosopher architects we have seen who often referred to the soul of the building, just like we humans have a soul. Unlike his peers, he did not have a large portfolio of projects, but the few he became famous for like Kimbell Art Museum at Texas, Salk Institute at La Jolla, IIM at Ahmedabad, Parliament House at Dhaka and others were designed with a soul. They all exhibit a kind of monumentality lesser seen among the modern architecture of those days. Of-course the idea of monumentality cannot be easily understood, which varies from the historic monuments we visit as tourists to the demand for listing Chandigarh architecture as modern monuments and the possibility of contemporary iconic architecture claiming position among the monuments in the coming `future.

However, Kahn looks at the implicit and explicit phenomena of architecture, which may suggest to us his idea of monumentality. Among his best quotes 'A great building must begin with the unmeasurable, must go through measurable means when it is being designed and, in the end must be unmeasurable' is layered with multiple possible interpretations. Should we say, it is the unmeasurable as the soul which elevates architecture into a monument? How can the LIK Trophy basically rooted in measured drawings take inspiration from the above thoughts?

While it is true that LIK trophy starts with the measurable, its deeper intent is not just making a drawing. Simply stated, it is to study its contexts, feel the materials, learn the construction technology, hear its life story, perceive the scale, experience the spaces, understand the building, analyze all the observations, assess its modern possibilities and thereby realise the architecture, its soul.

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LIK TROPHY THEME: Story as history – Monuments as narratives

The 66th Year NASA India theme **ASSEMBLAGE** truly applies to traditional buildings most of which were built by assembling its components in stages, letting the structure evolve. Architecture by addition and accretion leads to a process of making of buildings different from today, where we now master plan the campus and pre-design every building with full detailed drawings in advance. Historic buildings were hand-built piece by piece, where every element is related to every other, small or big, by scale and proportions which meant the structure was like a kit of parts, where every part has a role even while the whole building created an image larger than any single part. As such they were heterogenous in final form, not as homogenous as are modern buildings. This is not to demean modern methods, but only to suggest the need to study the methods of past, to create newer forms of architecture today. We may still draw up the project as a master plan with conceptual mass, volume and perspective views, but can embody the spirit of the past process.

Connecting the NASA India theme, intent of trophy and the spirit of Kahn philosophy, the 66th year NASA India LIK trophy brief looks at monuments, not modern but historic for measuring the measurable and understanding the unmeasurable. It is not just to measure and draw up, but to observe and absorb, to analyze and understand, to document and to hypothetically, redesign it for adaptive reuse today. It is to listen to it's story, to feel the soul of the building and realise that the chosen monument is not just a building of bricks and stones, but a narrative of time and history.

Accordingly, the LIK trophy theme is titled as "Story as history – monuments as narratives".

SELECTION OF THE MONUMENT

Historic buildings, often called as monuments in India are listed, monitored and conserved by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at national level and at state level by the respective state departments, each maintaining the list of such protected monuments. However, we have lakhs of such structures, not listed and not protected which are the thematic focus in this brief. LIK trophy team should select any one such historic building, possibly not even recognized as monument and definitely not yet documented with measured drawings.

It should not be a religious shrine with or without worshipping going on, landscape garden even if it has few structures within, open forts or a monument without built form, like stepwell. Basically, it should be a building with one or more floors with public, civic, residential or institutional purposes, located in any location urban or rural. It can be a semi religious structure like ashrams, spiritual centers or community-based institutions.

An individual building found as part of larger ensembles like forts, temple complexes, lake sides, heritage cities, cenotaph tombs, palaces, river fronts or residential neighborhoods can also be chosen. Choose one structure only, individually not less than 1000 sqm. in area, if we total up all roof covered area.

DOCUMENTATION PROCESS

The overall trophy will have 4 stages. Considering this range of submissions, please do not attempt too large a building beyond the scope of student team in human resources, subject knowledge or available time. Jurors would be happy to see a smaller structure documented but well done.

HISTORIC INFORMATION

In the beginning, please collect the history of the building, primary sources could be published materials and internet. Some historic information could be available as the archival data and archaeological records. Meeting up with researchers and subject experts will reveal a wealth of data. More importantly, collate it's oral history as popularly spoken about by common people.

The above 4 sets of study could be the theoretical and intangible starting point to be done at school itself before starting the physical and tangible documentation. This method may enable studying the inter-connectedness of tangible and intangible aspects; measurable and the immeasurable. Accordingly, the end product will not merely be few drawings, but a deeper narrative of why and how the building happened, with its impacts on the society.

ON SITE TASKS

Following this beginning, the 2nd stage is to take up the actual field work with sketching, measuring and drafting – plans, sections, elevations, views, details, materials, junctions, projections, structures, construction, openings, decorations, carvings and all that you feel as required and appropriate. Write short text notes analyzing them, for their design sources, components, attributes and implications.

While the scale is indicated both as a number and line, the drafted drawing should also have the major dimensions written, to avoid the need to measure the drawing to know the dimensions. Details should have all the sizes and dimensions clearly indicated. Pease do not leave a sketch only as lines. Using colored pens and pencils helps a lot in producing clearly readable field sketches. Final drawings can also use colors, but choice of colors should be appropriate with no visual cluttering.

CONDITION MAPPING AND BASIC CONSERVATION PROPOSALS

As the 3rd component, the trophy submission should include structural and masonry condition mapping - areas of problems, distress, decay, instability, cracks, debonding, peeled off plastering, partial collapse, plant growth, wear & tear, unequal settlements and such others – substantiating them with key plans, images and sketches. Typically, these are shown in the drawings with many graphics, color lines and shaded areas, in plan, sections, elevations or in detail sketches. Condition mapping leads us to assess the present state of the building to propose conservation measures like preservation (retain certain parts as they are), restoration (repair, replace or rebuild parts as required) or adaptive reuse (repurpose the building for newer present needs).

Mostly, young students of architecture will not have much exposure to this field, so this could be an opportunity to learn the basics of heritage conservation, for a possible future career in this direction with or without a master's degree. Most schools have faculty with conservation master's, possibly offering an elective and few books on conservation. You may consider studying protected monuments in your area, visiting subject experts and learning from internet sources. Procedures of conserving have been laid out for every kind of problems, yet some historic structures may pose their own specific issues.

ADAPTIVE REUSE

As the 4th component and as a major input expected, suggest an outline for adaptive reuse of the monument, which of course is an imagined one. This conjectural proposal may not be warranted in reality, but helps us to the extend our study into another realm. Incidentally, increased number of traditional buildings are today being reused for their economical, ecological, efficiency or aesthetic reasons, hence offers career opportunities in future.

Reuse cannot be randomly suggested, needs to be based on understanding the original purpose, present state and its appropriate fit for the new proposed usage. Position of walls, doors, windows, structural elements and their spatial connections should be aligned to the new use. Of course, some could be removed and added, movement lines could be altered, floors can be partly extended, newer sources of air and light could be introduced and advice such necessary small changes. Proposals should not majorly alter the present building, its typology or character. Every user should feel the new purpose, but housed in the old context. Adequate drawings to explain the new use, be it through plans, sections or details should be drawn up.

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TROPHY FOLLOW UP

As a follow up, NASA India has an intention of collecting these unprotected monuments as a single compendium, submit to ASI or State Departments to consider them for listing with due acknowledgement to the college team. As such, please ensure proper details, exacting dimensions and simple black & white or colored presentation without unnecessary rendering techniques

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Submission shall comprise of **a MAXIMUM OF 20 A2 SHEETS/40 A3 SHEETS/ COMBINATION OF A2 AND A3 EQUIVALENT TO 20 A2 SHEETS IN LANDSCAPE FORMAT ONLY.**

• Panel quality: Opaque
• Ink: Only black, no dilution of ink allowed
• Computer Aided Drawings only, no hand drawn drawings
• Jury shall happen online. Participants must ensure legibility and readability is maintained by choosing the right drawing scales and text sizes.

Note: Participants can choose to submit all sheets in A2 sheets or all sheets in A3 or a combination of A2 and A3
e.g. A participant can submit 10 A2 sheets and 20 A3 sheets (which is equivalent to 20 A2 sheets).

Architectural Documentation

• At least 2 A2 or 4 A3 or Combination of A2 and A3 equivalent to 2 A2 mandatory panels displaying the collected data.
•Minimum of 5 A2 or 10 A3 or combination of A2 and A3 equivalent to 5 A2 mandatory panels for documentation drawings (Plan, Section, Elevation, etc.)
• Free hand sketches / hand drawings (should be digitally composed in the sheet)
• Axonometric / Isometric drawings (can be computer aided drawings)
• Use of satellite imagery allowed as a basis for analysis
• Photographs allowed (All satellite imagery, photographs, sketches, and perspectives shall be in support of the document and not be stand alone and desirably in black and white)
• The drawings should be self-explanatory with as little text as possible.

Analysis

• At least 3 A2 or 6 A3 or Combination of A2 and A3 equivalent to 3 A2 mandatory panels to show case analysis.
• Black and White
• Minimum of 2 A2 or 4 A3 or Combination of A2 and A3 equivalent to 2 A2 mandatory panels for design intervention.

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Report – In a COMIC BOOK format

Instead of a report, this time the submission shall include a comic book which encompasses the narrative or storyline of the undocumented structure.

Since it's a comic, it could even include a character narrating the story of the structure or it could be the structure itself, speaking about it. Totally depends on the creativity of the team.

The narrative could include:

• Brief description of location, the structure.
• History and Evolution
• Physical Form
• Spatial Organization
• Nature of use and purpose
• Construction materials and techniques
• Technological / Scientific advancement
• Identification of significance and value assessment of the selected site
• Conclusion

Note that the comic should be of minimum 12 pages and maximum 20, in a coloured format or black and white format, up to the discretion of the team.

PRIZE MONEY

Prize money of Two lakh Rupees is allotted to the trophy and it will be divided according to the number of the Citations and Special Mentions.

IMPORTANT DATES

Release of Brief: **6th November 2023, Monday**

Registration Deadline: **26th November, 2023, Sunday, 1800 hrs IST**

Queries Deadline: **21st November 2023, Tuesday, 1800 hrs IST**

Submission Deadline: **31st December 2023, Sunday, 1800 hrs IST**

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GENERAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Failing to comply with any of the guidelines may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the executive council.

- All text should be in English.
- The projects should use the decimal metric system and contain a metric graphic scale in order to enable publication in reduced formats.
- The format of the sheets should clearly mention the name of the trophy followed by the year i.e., "Louis I Kahn Trophy 2023-24"
- The format of the sheet should contain a square box of 25mm*25mm at the bottom righthand corner, next to the NASA INDIA logo which should have the unique registration number allotted to the participants after registrations.
- 10MM White margin is to be left on all sides of A2 sheets.
- The scale is left to the discretion of the participant(s) to the condition that the scale should be in a metric system and all the drawings should be clear and legible.
- The soft copy (non-editable format) of the sheets along with authentication letter, declaration letter and any other required documents prescribed in the submission requirements should be uploaded on the website by the submission deadline.
- The soft copy file of the sheets should not be corrupted or incomplete or in low resolution.
- It is mandatory to produce the original copy of the Authentication Letter for each entry (entry code should be mentioned) with the name of participant(s) and stating the unit will abide by whatever may be the final results and also agree that this entry is a property of both the institute and NASA India.
- The Authentication Letter should be signed by the HOD/Principal/Director and must be on a letter head of college.
- It is mandatory for the colleges to produce the original copy of the Declaration Letter for each entry (entry code should be mentioned) signed by the participants stating the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copy- rights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, jury process and the results.
- The working files in editable formats of the Shortlisted Entries should be submitted to the Council, failing which, the submission requirements would be deemed incomplete leading to the prize money being withheld.
- Shortlisted Entries with manual hand-done sheets should submit high quality scans (min. 300*300 dpi) along with the content in a word document of the shortlisted entries should be submitted to the Council, failing which, the submission requirements would be deemed incomplete leading to the prize money being withheld.
- Any misconduct such as exposing identity through college name/ stamp participant(s) name or college code on the sheets, or the video will be disqualified.

SHEET & NASA INDIA LOGO GUIDELINES

Failing to comply with any of the guidelines may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the executive council.

• The sheet template to be followed is available at:
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EGBP9kaXsCcURPHCy0kW5Qi79AWLCDyS?usp=drive_link
• NASA India Internal Logo shall always be placed on the right-hand bottom corner of the sheet.
• NASA India logo should not be merged, overlapped etc. with any sort of text, graphic, image, etc.
• NASA India logo should be in true black with a perfectly white background.

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

1. Online Submission
2. Original Copy of Authentication Letter
3. Original Copy of Declaration Letter
4. Editable Format of the Sheets (Applicable if shortlisted)

OTHER INFORMATION

• Maximum One (01) Entry Will Be Accepted Per College For Louis I Kahn Trophy.
• Queries to be put forward through the trophy page on the website (http://www.nasaindia.co)
• Registration should be done by the Unit secretary in NASA India website before the registration deadline.
• Registration of the trophies will be final and cannot be changed or withdrawn henceforth.
• Late Registration and submission will not be entertained and henceforth the defaulters shall be disqualified.

Moderator and Author

Prof. Sathya Prakash Varanashi, academician and architect from Bangalore will coordinate the jury process. The jury would comprise of eminent thinking, teaching and practising architects, as has been the case during the last may years of LIK, which will decide how well the procedure of documentation, clarity of details, theories of analysis, methods of critiquing and justification of new design have been achieved by the submitted entry.

All the Best!

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