66TH YEAR
WRITING ARCHITECTURE TROPHY

INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
PUBLIC SQUARES
COMMUNITIES
ADVOCACY POLICIES
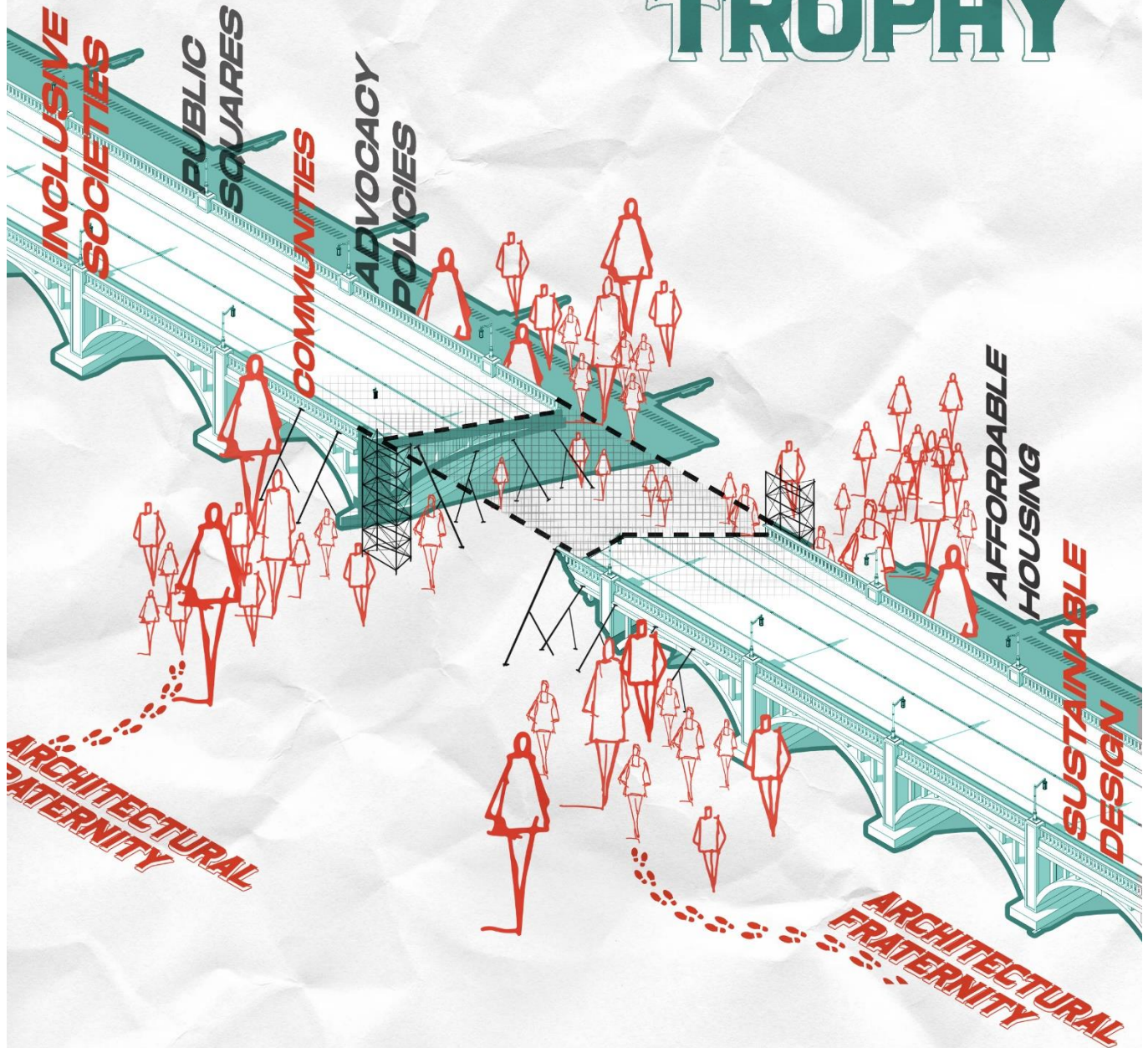AFFORDABLE HOUSING
SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
ARCHITECTURAL FRATERNITY
ARCHITECTURAL FRATERNITY

assemblage

National Association of Students of Architecture
NASA

Writing Architecture Trophy

"ROLE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL FRATERNITY IN PROMOTING SOCIAL EQUITY"

The annual theme for 66th year of NASA India is Assemblage, meaning literally 'a collection or gathering of things or people'. In a broader sense, it could apply to the coming together of societies; peoples of different cultures, genders, economic backgrounds, ethnicity, age groups, occupations, religious or political ideologies, etc.

Social equity is something that has been talked about a great deal and has traversed time and geography. While it is assumed that governments and policy makers have a primary responsibility towards creating more equitable societies, does the architect or urbanist, that has vision to shape space and thereby society; to influence behaviour and the quality of life of communities, have an important role to play?

At the level of the urban realm, migration has resulted in innumerable informal settlements, located in most cases on the fringes of towns and cities. These are usually characterized by inadequate housing, poor sanitation, and limited access to basic services such as healthcare, education and transportation. Is it solely the responsibility of the government and municipal authorities to tackle such issues or do architects need to be more proactive in working towards creating more inclusive societies?

According to the World Bank, about 55% of the world's population and 35% of India's population live in Urban areas. What is the quality of life that citizens enjoy in these urban realms? Are the Infrastructure and transportation systems - both motorized and non-motorized adequate, safe and inclusive? Are there sufficient and secure recreational spaces, streets edges, public squares, gardens, water bodies, etc. Are these spaces universally accessible, do women, children, the elderly, the differently abled feel welcome and safe in these environments?

Whether individually or collectively, architects have in the past been catalysts, creating positive change in society through projects extending from housing, to urban spaces, to community engagement, to sustainable design practices. The High Line in New York City, the Redevelopment of the Jama Masjid Precinct & Chandni Chowk in Delhi and 'The One Green Mile Project' under Senapati Bapat Marg flyover in Mumbai are all examples of how architects have worked towards creating equitable, inclusive and safe urban spaces.

Similarly, well thought out housing projects, such as 'Aranya', which offers a range of built options and scales of open space encourages bonding within secure community spaces, thereby enhancing the quality of life of its inhabitants.

The Writing Architecture Trophy this year would expect one to explore how architects and architectural institutions could contribute to fostering social equity through their work, teaching and advocacy efforts. Analysing the following questions may help in structuring the essay.

- Should the profession of Architecture extend beyond its fundamental purpose of designing physical spaces?
- Can architects truly be instrumental in bringing about more equitable societies or is this simply a utopian idea with no practical scope?
- Should Educational Institutions imparting architectural education focus on developing critical thinking and skill sets only; or also work towards inculcating a sense of responsibility and sensitivity towards creating more inclusive societies?
- With a population of over 141 crores and still growing, how do you see the Indian economy balancing large scale infrastructure & development projects and social equity?
- What are the advantages of socially inclusive societies / neighbourhoods?

Original ideas and critiques, articulated in a structured manner will be appreciated.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Any one of these forms will be accepted: a research essay, a sarcastic write up, an imagined dream, a story form or a creative write up with illustrations.

The Two-stage submission process:

- Stage 1 Submission: Abstract of the Entries are to be submitted in the form of a single pdf file (maximum size: 10MB and maximum 250 words. These will be evaluated and shortlisted by jurors.
- Stage 2 Submission: Shortlisted entries would be given a fixed time period in which an entire essay must be submitted. The essay shall be approximately 2000 words

PRIZE MONEY
Prize money of 1 Lakh INR 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: **1st September 2023, Friday**

Registration Deadline: **25th September 2023, Monday, 1800 hrs IST**

Queries Deadline: **20th September 2023, Wednesday, 1800 hrs IST**

Stage1 Submission Deadline: **10th October 2023, Tuesday,1800 hrs IST**

Stage2 Submission Deadline: Will be announced along with shortlisting

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ASSEMBLAGE

GENERAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

• A maximum of two students can work on each entry.

• The entry should be submitted in the format specified so that the identity of the team members, the team or the institution they belong to is not revealed to the Judges.

• The entry must be the sole creation and original work of the team. No previously published work will be accepted. Any form of plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. All essays submitted will be closely checked for plagiarism.

• In case matter is sourced from anywhere due credit to the original writer should be given in Harvard style referencing only.

• Submissions should be on NASA India website before the deadline.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

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

• The entry code should be used as per the entry code list provided. The entry code should be placed in bottom left of all pages of the entry.

• The file name, for online submission, should be specified as the entry code for all files followed by name of document. (eg: WAT-66-00A_Authentication.pdf)

• All submissions automated and drafted in word processing software only.

• The entry should be accompanied by a letter from the HOD / Principal on the college letterhead with the name(s) of the authors and the institution.

• Margins: 10mm on top, bottom, right and left.

• Font: Any simple and readable sans serif typeface. Font size 12, spacing between the lines 1.5

• Template- http://surl.li/kqoke

• NASA logo, header and footer in the template should not be hindered in anyway.

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

1. Pdf of Stage 1 Submission
2. Original Copy of Authentication Letter
3. Original Copy of Declaration Letter

• Authenticating letter from college HoD for each entry that the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copyrights for the same and with the name of Participant(s) and stating the participants shall abide by whatever may be the final results and also agree that this entry is property of both the participant and NASA India.

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ASSEMBLAGE

• Declaration by the participant(s) stating the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copyrights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, Jury process and the results.

• The author(s) must also state in the declaration that the work is the original Intellectual property of the respective author(s) and will be solely responsible and liable in case the work has violated any copyrighted material, and if any matter is sourced from anywhere, and credit has not been given.

• The number of words should be indicated in the declaration by the author(s).

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

• In any manner at any time, during or after the NASA WRITING ARCHITECTURE TROPHY competition period the original author will have no claim on the same after the entry is sent for the said competition.

• All entries will be the property of NASA INDIA, which will be free to utilize the same.

• The winning entries will be published in NASA India's annual magazine with the author(s) name.

• The Decision of the jury shall be final and binding.

Moderator and Author

Ar. Azmi Wadia
Any form of communication from the participants to the Moderator/Authors/Jurors will lead to disqualification.

All the Best!
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