

NIRMAL 2021

Inter-college Design Competition

Initiated by MES Pillai College of Architecture, New Panvel

The World Toilet Day

MES Pillai College of Architecture, New Panvel (PiCA) in association with the Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur (SIBC) announces 'NIRMAL 2021' – an inter-college design competition to observe the World Toilet Day, an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November every year to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. This action is linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goal of “water and sanitation for all by 2030”. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day>

The aim of the competition is to raise awareness about providing access to sanitation for all and to explore the role of architectural design in improving the quality, usability and cultural image of such facilities. The focus of the competition shall be on the Navi Mumbai and Panvel region, such that architecture students can contribute creative solutions to meet the goals of inclusive development of the area where they are studying.

NIRMAL 2021 Competition Brief

Sustainable Sanitation for Informal Settlements

Our country has faced an immense challenge in providing workable sanitation facility for her people despite the campaigns and efforts by successive governments. Provision of toilets for every household remains a distant dream in metropolitan and urban areas, for a variety of reasons. Lack of affordable housing itself is a major obstacle which pushes the migrant working class and other urban poor into numerous slum colonies and informal settlements. Most of these bastis fall outside the pale of formal urban planning and as such lack civic infrastructure crucial for health and hygiene. Community toilets provided by municipal authorities are mostly inadequate and inferior to meet the needs. Lack of proper sanitation has the worst impact on the womenfolk and the elderly. The ongoing pandemic has also brought the needs of public hygiene in a sharp focus.

While the state efforts alone have fallen short, there have been some stellar interventions by civil society led endeavours. The example of the Sulabh movement founded by Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak more than five decades ago is known to everyone. Sulabh International in collaboration with state agencies has virtually spearheaded a social revolution alleviating the life of women as well as manual scavengers. sulabhinternational.org



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Another notable example is the NGO Shelters Associates, whose one of the founding members is Architect Pratima Joshi. Their work for more than two decades has focussed on improving living conditions in slums and informal settlements where housing and sanitation are their major focus. shelter-associates.org

It is clear that a lot can be achieved by social service organisations in partnership with state agencies. If we accept that architecture has a social role, it is pertinent to explore the role of good design in this partnership.

“How can a utility such as a community toilet can become a catalyst for social change?” This is the central question that this competition will address in the context of Navi Mumbai region. It will explore architecture of community toilets with a fresh approach. Here, the emphasis should be on sensitive programme formulation and innovative design strategies rather than mere technical solutions.

The participants will select a slum pocket or an informal settlement (or a portion of it) in Navi Mumbai or Panvel Municipal areas to locate their design of a community toilet facility. They are advised to select the location from the listing of such settlements created by the Shelter Associates and make use of their mapping and database available in public domain. <https://shelter-associates.org/index.php#map-plugin>

The facility of community toilet for the chosen settlement should include relevant utilities for bathing, urinating, defecating etc. for both sexes, for persons with disabilities, and the areas for upkeep and maintenance. The quantum of requirement will be derived by the participants based on the chosen context.

The participants should address the following concerns in their design proposals:

1. The role of design programme and space planning in community toilets.
2. The role of architectural design in achieving a good standard of hygiene.
3. Appropriate design response to the chosen context and users.
4. Innovation in public toilet architecture for inducing a change in the perception and cultural acceptability of a community facility.



Submission Requirement

The final submission will consist of a **SINGLE PDF of maximum 6 sheets (printable at A3 size)** that should consist of explanations of the chosen location, design programme, design strategies, drawings at appropriate scales, graphics, diagrams, sketches and text – to communicate the design proposal. **The PDF will not exceed 10 MB in size.** Instructions for uploading entries will be given to all registered participants. Every sheet should display the **entry code** provided at the time of registration on **the bottom right-hand corner.** **Names of the students or the college should not be mentioned anywhere.**

Eligibility

The design competition is open for under-graduate students of architecture currently studying in Navi Mumbai zone of colleges (See the list of eligible colleges below). Pre-registration is mandatory. There is no entry fee.

Guidelines for Registration and participation in the competition:

1. Number of students per each team will be not be more than three and they will be from the same college.
2. Interested teams will be required to register for the competition by filling a google form.
3. Each team shall upload a signed declaration in the specified format for anti-plagiarism.
4. Each team shall also upload a copy of a bona fide certificate (hard copy or digital) from their college at the time of registration. Please follow the format given for the same.
5. Upon successful registration, each team will be given a code for use in their final submission. Only this code should be used on the sheets. Participants should not reveal their identity in any form anywhere in the entry. Refer to the submission guidelines mentioned earlier.
6. An independent jury shall review the entries. Their decision will be final and binding to all.

Schedule for NIRMAL 2021

01 November: Announcement of the competition brief and opening of online registration

22 November: Last date for registration

25 November: Last date for emailing queries by the registered participants. ndc@mes.ac.in

The queries will be clubbed and responses will be mailed to all registered teams.

19 November: Special Guest Lecture by Ar. Pratima Joshi, Executive Director of Shelters Associates

On the occasion of the World Toilet Day (Online mode).

6 December: Last date of submission of competition entries by the registered participants.

17 December: Announcement of the result, jury comments and display of winning entries.



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Prizes:

1st Prize: Rs. 10,000/- and certificate

2nd Prize: Rs. 6,000/- and certificate

3rd Prize: Rs. 4,000/- and certificate

Popular Choice Award: Rs. 1000/- and certificate

Digital certificate of participation will be given to all eligible competition entrants.

List of Eligible Colleges:

1. MES Pillai College of Architecture, New Panvel
2. MES Pillai HOC College of Architecture, Rasayani
3. AI's Kalsekar Technical Campus School of Architecture, Panvel
4. Bharti Vidyapeeth College of Architecture, Kharghar
5. D.Y. Patil College of Architecture, Nerul
6. Lokmanya Tilak Institute Of Architecture & Design Studies, Navi Mumbai
7. Amity School of Architecture & Planning, Mumbai
8. Vishwaniketan's College Of Architecture, Art And Design, Khalapur
9. St. Wilfreds Institute of Architecture, Panvel

REGISTER HERE: <https://forms.gle/ZStA1xbJG9v8XhGdA>

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The competition is supported by the PiCA Student Council and Sorooptimist International Bombay Chembur (SIBC)

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sibombaychembur.com



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