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MKSSS'S DR BHANUBEN NANAVATI  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE FOR  
WOMEN

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**ANNUAL NASA  
DESIGN COMPETITION  
REPORT**

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## 66<sup>th</sup> Annual NASA Design Competition (ANDC): Project 'Aashray'

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The 66th Annual NASA Design Competition by the National Association of Students of Architecture, India, commenced with the release of the brief on August 5, 2023. This year's challenge centred on showcasing the transformative potential of repurposing discarded materials to create innovative spaces. Our task encompassed not only conceptualization but also the physical construction, utilization, and documentation of our project. To meet these requirements, **our team of 80 students** from various academic years of MKSS's Dr Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women, collaborated diligently.

The project was led by Unit Secretary Sudiksha Ananthraman, Unit Designee Trupti Thapa, guided by Prof. Mahesh Bangad. Several other encouraging and knowledgeable professors have proven to be our support and guiding light.

Given the early submission deadline, we organized our efforts into three primary teams: Design, Execution, and Videography. As stipulated in the brief, we also identified the target demographic for our project, opting to focus on providing a nurturing environment for the **children of the labours residing in the labour camp** at the Kakkad La Vida construction site in Balewadi, Pune.

After careful consideration, we decided to utilize **Earthbag technology**, a sustainable construction method that **repurposes waste materials, particularly construction debris**. This decision aligned with our commitment to environmental responsibility and resource efficiency. Over a span of **12 days**, despite challenging weather conditions, our Execution team **filled and sewed over 700 cement bags with site debris**; these bags were then sealed by sewing (using a nylon thread). These bags were then laid in layers, in circular shape. A representation of an eternal loop was born from the **symbol of 'INFINITY'**. The symbol shows the continuous cycle of, growth, education and life.

The construction process involved building a continuous wall reinforced with steel bars for structural integrity and a roof supported by hexagonal wooden frames and waste flex material. For the flooring, we utilized layers of cow dung, adopting sustainable construction practices.

In conjunction with our project, we organized a **Donation Drive** on the occasion of the **66th NASA Foundation Day**, collecting various items such as old toys, books, clothes for the underprivileged children at the site. Following the completion of construction and site preparation, including the installation of wireless lighting and placing discarded cement-testing blocks on the site boundaries,

***'ASHRAY' was inaugurated on September 16th, providing a nurturing space for young minds to thrive.***

The subsequent phase of the project involved compiling on-site footage and preparing documentation. With dedication and enthusiasm, the teams completed their tasks tirelessly, leading to the successful submission of our project on September 30th, adhering to all stipulated guidelines.

Our efforts were recognized when our entry was **shortlisted among the top 51 submissions nationwide**. Not stopping there, during the Annual NASA Convention at Eranad Knowledge City, Kerala, on March 4th, 2024, our team received **Special Mention II (Fourth Rank) among 284 entries**.

*The presentation of our video entry before an audience of over 2500 students from across the country was a moment of immense pride and joy, underscoring the significance of our achievement.*

**Link to the unlisted YouTube video:**

<https://youtu.be/J4pSIAfOGws?feature=shared>

While our victory resonated most profoundly with the children benefiting from 'ASHRAY', it also affirmed our capabilities as empathetic and effective designers. We are now preparing to submit our project to authorities in green architecture for evaluation, highlighting its innovative and sustainable approach.

*We extend heartfelt appreciation to our team members, faculty mentors, and supporters for their invaluable contributions and unwavering support.*

*Our gratitude goes to **Wani Projects and Infra Pvt. Ltd.** for generously funding our project, and to **Shree Sairaj Buildcon** for providing essential site resources.*

*Our sincere thanks to Santosh Tote, Architect Mahesh Bangad, Parag Jagadale, PMA Madhushala, and Savan Padamavar for their unwavering assistance.*

*We are deeply grateful to Principal Dr. Anurag Kashyap and Vice Principal Sharvey Dhongde for their continuous encouragement and guidance throughout the project journey.*

**TEAM ANDC,**

MKSSS's Dr Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women, Pune



*Completion Stages of the Structure*



*Design, Execution and Videography team in front of the structure at the Inauguration of 'Aashray'*



*The team's expression of gratitude towards the site workers following our success in the competition.*



*TEAM ANDC: The students who worked tirelessly on Design, Execution, Videography, Sheets and Report.*