
LATITUDES

INTERNATIONAL

DESIGN

CHALLENGE

2015-16



Chennai 13° 5' 0" N
Design Challenge
One

Integrated Child
Environments through
Green Design

Submitted by:

MEASI Academy of Architecture

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Thematic Area:

Green Design

Integrated Child Environments through Green Design

Introduction

Children are the future stewards of Earth. However, it has been noted often that urban development has been very insensitive to the school going child's relationship to Earth and its natural world. This has caused our future stewards to accept painted concrete jungles, claustrophobic air-conditioned experiences, "nimby"(not in my backyard) attitudes to nature etc.

The children are increasingly disconnected from nature and are gradually embracing technology without developing respect and empathy for their own environment. Today most, the urban school children's experience of their natural environment is fleeting and limited since they commute by vehicular transport. This denies them the opportunity to observe nature closely and enjoy the outdoor environment.

Globalisation and the consumerist lifestyle are pushing today's children to a new age crisis situation. There is an imminent need to expose the child to nature based fun-learning, especially in an urban situation. The natural cycles, earth and its eco relationships, re-use, recycle concepts etc, all help in building an integrated "green" attitude to life.

Context

The site for the design competition is located at Mandavelipakkam playground within Raja Annamalaipuram, a quiet residential neighbourhood in Chennai. The site measures approximate 950sqm; 27mts x 36mts and is located in the south west corner of the



Figure 1: Approach –South Canal Bank Rd abutting site from west.



Figure 2: Currently the site is a play area for kids , view from south.



Figure 1: Playground abutting footpath on South canal Bank Rd.

playground. It abuts the Adyar estuary which is one of the major eco sensitive areas in the city. Part of the estuary underwent a major restoration work recently. This neighbourhood has residences, shops, schools, playgrounds and parks in its vicinity.



Figure 4: Mandavelipakkam playground with site. Site is in yellow at SW of playground.

Challenge

Inquire, plan and design out an “Integrated Child Environment” I.C.E for the school going child in this global warming world .It should help them to observe and interact with nature and thereby develop a sensitivity towards preserving and protecting eco-systems. The design may include play equipment to understand environmental science through active and passive modes; fun ideas and science based cues for better sensitivity towards earth and its positive benefits.

The site is currently being used by toddlers and kindergarten kids. However, the rest of the playground is used by high school children to play major sports/games like soccer, cricket. There is a need to address this in the design. This I.C.E has to be designed as a play-fun and learn experience to enhance the awareness of Climate Change and the child’s role in it.

Design Guidelines

1. It is to be designed for the age group 3-8 yr olds
2. It may be totally built, partially built-open or totally open to sky as appropriately justified upto a maximum height of 5mts.
3. Design may communicate the importance of Green to fight Climate Change
4. The Design may be Eco conscious, energy efficient design using local materials
5. Diurnal functions may be envisaged

Resources

1. Drawings of Site /Photos
2. Chennai, weatherspark.com
3. <http://climatekids.nasa.gov/pdfs/4>. The Down-to-Earth Guide To Global Warming 2007- Laurie David (Author), Cambria Gordon (Author)
5. www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/nacc/call_to_action.pdf
6. www.chennairivers.gov.in/
7. www.thealternative.in/tag/greenprint-your-home/

Tips for submission

1. Concept
2. Site Proposal Layout 1:100
3. Basic drawings 1:50
4. Details of different modes of environment in appropriate scale

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