DESIGN VOCABULARY
FOR INDIA @ 2047   ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY BRIEF

REGISTER NOW

ABOUT SAINT-GOBAIN

Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures, and distributes materials and services for the construction and industrial markets. These solutions are found everywhere in our living spaces and our daily life: in buildings, transportation, infrastructure, and in many industrial applications. They provide comfort, performance, and sustainability while meeting the challenges of the decarbonization of the world of construction and industry, the preservation of resources, and rapid urbanization.

In India, Saint-Gobain, as part of its Glass Business, manufactures a variety of float glass products and offers solutions that continue to shape the Indian construction industry. The company produces a wide range of float glass products - Clear Glass, Tinted Glass, Mirrors, Lacquered Glass, Energy Efficient Performance Glass, and Glass for High-performance applications, including Fire Safety. With over 20 years of presence in India, and a unique pan-India manufacturing footprint with plants in Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Jhagadia (Gujarat), and Sriperumbudur (Tamil Nadu).

In a constantly changing world, Saint-Gobain is already committed to an approach that embraces both innovation and sustainability in readiness to grow, at the same time as taking care to grow responsibly. Growth at Saint-Gobain is guided by the purpose, 'Making the World a Better Home', which responds to the shared ambition of all men and women of the Group to act every day and make the world a more beautiful and sustainable place to live in.

For more details, visit: www.in.saint-gobain-glass.com

ABOUT ETHOS EMPOWERS

Ethos Empowers is a bridge that creates avenues of engagement for the ACED community that help unite and facilitate an environment of collective learning and growth. Ethos connects its vast reach and understanding amongst the architecture, construction, engineering, and design community to bring about value exchange.

Gita Balakrishnan started Ethos in 2002, as a response to a need for raising awareness about our built environment. Ethos is an initiative to bridge the gap between professionals, academicians, students and industries in the ACED community (Architecture, Construction, Engineering and Design) and is an engaging and empowering platform for young professionals who are to be decision-makers in the years to come.

To know more, log on to www.ethosempowers.com

MAKE YOUR IMPRESSION

Transparence 20.0

Transparence isn't just a design contest — it's a launchpad for India's brightest minds in architecture and design. Over the years, it has grown into one of the country's biggest platforms where visionaries converge, ideas spark, and future icons are discovered. From mentorship by industry stalwarts to national recognition, Transparence has been instrumental in shaping the next generation of India's design leaders.

This year, Saint-Gobain celebrates a landmark moment — the 20th edition of Transparence. Two decades of nurturing talent, driving innovation, and transforming student dreams into architectural statements. This isn't just a contest. It's a legacy.

Be a part of the milestone. Be a part of the movement. **Welcome to Transparence 20.0.**

Beyond a Landmark: A new vocabulary for architecture and interior design
What can happen in a hundred years?

In 100 years, a country can rise as a global powerhouse of economy, technology, and sustainable development. In a century, cities can expand and transform into smart and sustainable hubs. Villages can be empowered with technology, education, and healthcare. Societies can embrace progress, equal opportunities, and better living for all. Culture can find new expressions using architecture, art, and design, ever-evolving yet rooted in our heritage. A century is more than just a passage of time—it is a canvas for transformation. From our first steps as an independent nation in 1947 to 2047, when we will turn 100, our story is going to be one of resilience, innovation, and boundless ambition.

Through it all, architecture, art, and design become not just reflections of culture but powerful agents of change, reshaping how we live, interact, and care for our planet. Architecture, in particular, must lead the way—setting trends that inspire light and sustainable construction, foster social cohesion, and stimulate economic vitality. The buildings we design, the spaces we create, and the heritage we preserve and those that we leave behind must be impactful, long-term initiatives harnessing green technologies and regenerative materials to heal rather than harm. Urban insertions must be a catalyst for positive social and economic change, fostering interconnected communities, inclusive infrastructure, and thriving local economies. The fusion of tradition and innovation in architectural expression can inspire resilience, conservation, and a sense of belonging, ensuring that progress is not just measured in numbers but felt in lives improved.

A century is not just a passage of time—it is an opportunity to redefine how we live, build, and sustain. From the first steps of independence in 1947 to looking ahead to 2047, our story needs to be one of endurance, ingenuity, and boundless ambition, written in the very foundations of the spaces we inhabit.

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Architecture can embody this transformation of a country's identity, culture and even economy. Some buildings do more than house functions; they become symbols, shifting the perception of a city, a nation, and an era. Consider how the Guggenheim Museum transformed Bilbao into a global cultural destination, or how The Louvre in Paris, with its striking glass pyramid addition, became a powerful symbol of the city's ability to blend historic legacy with bold contemporary expression. The Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg similarly redefined the city's waterfront, turning it into a dynamic confluence of music, tourism, and modern urban life. These architectural icons did more than reshape skylines—they catalyzed economic revitalization and positioned their cities as vibrant cultural and creative hubs.

At the other end of the spectrum lies Hassan Fathy's New Gourna Village in Egypt—a humble yet profound architectural statement rooted in social purpose. Built with mud brick and grounded in vernacular traditions, Fathy's work emphasized community participation and sustainability, advocating for architecture that empowers communities and respects the place.

Closer to home, the Capitol Complex in Chandigarh stands as a powerful symbol of a young nation's aspirations—projecting a bold, modern identity through architecture. Around the same time, Laurie Baker's work offered a contrasting yet equally compelling perspective setting a new design trend in the region. Together, these two legacies charted parallel paths—one redefining national identity through monumental modernism, the other shaping an initiative for long-term environmental impact and human-centric design that continues to inspire architects across the region today. Projects like IIM Bangalore and Aranya Housing by B.V. Doshi, Bharat Bhavan by Charles Correa, the NDDB complex by Achyut Kanvinde, India Habitat Centre by Allenstein and so many more exemplified architectural sensibilities that continue to inspire contemporary practice. These works not only responded thoughtfully to context and climate but also set enduring benchmarks in design thinking that remain relevant even today. Among many other relevant examples, these projects showcased how simplicity, frugality, and environmental sensitivity could come together to create architecture that is not only beautiful but deeply responsible.

This competition challenges entrants to **craft an architectural statement** that does more than stand tall—it must **catalyse urban and cultural revival through buildings of everyday use or that are public in nature.** Participants are free to choose their own site, program, and typology, with a focus on designing spaces that are functional and meaningful — places that go beyond existing monuments to offer inclusive real experiences for people. Refer to the given guidelines to define the built-up footprint and area requirements. The proposed design should redefine its locale, drawing global attention while embedding itself deeply into the nation's narrative. It can be an opportunity to put the chosen place of intervention on the architectural landmarks map!

Are you ready to design the next architectural icon that will define and unleash a new design vocabulary? A modern trend-setter that will embody a vision for a country reaching the century milestone—a vision that is inclusive, embraces low-impact construction, is environmentally sensitive, and resilient.

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Design Task

You're invited to **imagine and design an architectural landmark that has the potential to turn the trajectory of architecture in India.** A path-changing piece of architecture that is an icon not just in terms of how it appears, but also establishes the country as a leader in light and sustainable construction while providing better living for all.

1. You have complete creative freedom to choose your site, program, and **any typology of everyday use or public nature**—be it a housing complex, cultural center, performing arts center, institutional building, memorial, museums, library, infrastructure, mixed-use, or a typology yet to be invented.

2. Your design should embody the vision for India's future:

   a. **Local Roots, Global Voice:** While rooted in an Indian context, it should resonate on a global scale and be capable of becoming an international icon for creating the ripple effect of architecture shaping times. Derive inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage of arts and crafts, as well as the extensive palette of locally available materials that make India unique.
   b. **Defining Tomorrow:** It should pioneer a new design vocabulary and set the precedent for future architecture.
   c. **Built for the Future:** It should be a high-performing, light, and sustainable construction, providing comfort and better living for all, while also focusing on decarbonization and efficiency.
   d. **Contextual Impact:** It should transform and uplift its urban or natural context- this could be environmental, social, economic, cultural or a multitude of many of these factors.

Site and Design Guidelines

While you have complete freedom to choose your site, program, and typology, please follow the guidelines below while choosing them.

1. Select a site within an urban context—accessible through modes of public transport, in a 5 km radius.
2. Your site area should be between 5-12 acres.
3. The minimum FAR of your design should be 1.5. Follow the local guidelines.
4. Ground coverage should be between 30% to 50%. Setbacks are to be according to local bylaws.
5. Incorporate public spaces and green zones in at least 20% of the site area.
6. Follow local bylaws, guidelines and parking calculations. Refer to the National Building Code (NBC) in case local bylaws are unavailable.

Based on the above, your total built-up area should be **approximately between 30,000 sq m and 70,000 sq m.**

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Eligibility and Teams

Architecture Category:

- All Undergraduate Students of Architecture and Design in India and those graduating in 2025 can register under this section.
- Participation is allowed in teams of up to three members, provided all members are eligible for the same sub-category.
- Students are allowed to make teams across different academic years (in the same sub-category) and different colleges.

To register for Saint-Gobain Transparence 20.0, please visit www.transparence.in. Remember to register under the correct category.

Competition Format

It is a two-stage competition:

- **First Stage (Regional Juries) -** Up to 2 teams will be shortlisted by a regional jury panel in the North, South, East, and West zones each. The finalist teams from each region would be invited to the Grand Finale to present before a selected panel of jurors.
- **Second Stage (The Grand Finale) -** The shortlisted teams compete before the jurors for coveted national awards.

Submission Format

1. Submission will be completely ONLINE. Plan your content and graphics to be viewed accordingly.
2. The submission link will be provided in the confirmation email sent after successful registration.
3. Include the following within your submission (single PDF file):
   a. Concept Statement: Your vision, intent, and how your design will impact the site and its users
   b. Architectural drawings: site plan(s), key sections and elevations, conceptual sketches and diagrams (as needed to explain your design).
   c. Visual Representations: sketches, renderings, graphics, and collages to communicate the experience of the spaces.
   d. Your strategy for a light-weight design, focusing on sustainability, resilience, accessibility, and inclusivity on your site.
   e. A summarized area statement with reference to the bylaws in a space not larger than an A4 sheet. (Compulsory)
   f. Suggest one building by-law or code you believe, if adapted or enforced differently, could positively influence the way we design more thoughtful and high-performing architecture and cities

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4. Your submission should be in the following format:
   a. Up to 12 A3 sheets in landscape orientation ONLY.
   b. The drawings and text should be legible and high-resolution.
   c. Your sheets should be compiled into a single PDF file up to 20 MB in size.
   d. Name your submission file in the format ABC_XYZ, where 'ABC' is the name of your team members and 'XYZ' is the name of your college(s). Your entry will be assigned a unique ID to ensure anonymity.
   e. Limit the amount of text per A3 sheet to 100-150 words.
   f. Remember to include the North Arrow and a Graphic Scale where relevant.

5. Mentioning your name, college, or any other identification in your sheets will be grounds for DISQUALIFICATION.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Concept, Vision & Impact – Does it present a bold statement for India's identity in the next 25 years, a statement for 2047? Does it respond to the challenges of rapid urbanization, shifting demographics, and the scarcity of natural resources, envisioning architecture and cities that are adaptive, inclusive, and resilient beyond traditional materiality?

2. Context & Site Strategy – How does the design respond to and enhance its chosen location through thoughtful integration of natural light, openness, and visual connectivity with its surroundings?

3. Architectural Innovation – Does it challenge conventions and introduce new possibilities for the future?

4. Light-weight, Long-lasting, Durable, and designed for all – Does the design thoughtfully incorporate materials like glass to enhance environmental responsibility, longevity, and spatial quality? Is it adaptable to future challenges, and inclusive of diverse user groups with varying abilities and needs?

5. Cultural & Social Relevance – How deeply does it engage with India's evolving identity?

6. Visual Coherence – How is the overall graphical expression and representation?

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Awards:

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National-Level Prizes:

- National Winner: Rs. 75000/- per team, a trophy, and a certificate.
- National First-Runner-Up: Rs. 50000/- per team, a trophy and a certificate.
- National Second-Runner-Up: Rs. 25000/- per team, a trophy and a certificate.

Apart from the winners, all **National Finalists** will get a cash prize of Rs. 10000/- per team and a certificate.

Studio Project

Any college with five entries or more in the Architecture category will qualify for studio project entitlements listed below, apart from an opportunity for students winning regional/national prizes:

- Acedge Offerings worth Rs. 20,000/- for the College with a minimum of 5 entries.
- 'Best Studio Award Certificate' for the best entry from among those submitted by your college if taken as a Studio Project, along with a recognition for the Studio Faculty

Competition Timeline

Registrations Open: 2 June 2025
Registrations Close: 31 October 2025
Submissions Close: 4 November 2025
Regional Level Results: By mid November 2025
National Finale: Early December 2025

Other Categories:

1. Interior Design Category
For students who want to reimagine and redefine iconic interior spaces through innovative, functional, and future-forward design interventions. This track focuses on spatial experience, materiality, and human-centered design within enclosed spaces.

2. Architecture Student Contest (ASC)
A global platform by Saint-Gobain to submit a select project that responds to real-world challenges with sustainable, human-centric solutions. Winning entries get the chance to represent India at the international level.

To know more and explore all categories, visit: www.transparence.in

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Bonus Learning Opportunity

As a token of appreciation for participating in Transparence 20.0, we're excited to offer you free access to an **exclusive online course by Acedge:**

Designing with Glass

Discover how to integrate glass meaningfully into architecture and interior spaces with this insightful course.

Learn through real-world case studies, expert perspectives, and innovations in sustainable design — powered by Saint-Gobain.

Start learning here: https://www.acedge.in/courses/designing-glass

Resources and Reading Suggestions

How Architecture Impacts Society: Influences on Culture, Economy, and Well-Being
https://injarch.com/how-architecture-impacts-society/

How to invent a new style of Architecture
https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/architectural-community/a11599-how-to-invent-a-new-style-of-architecture/

The Sociocultural Implications of Iconic Architecture
https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/architectural-community/a11068-the-sociocultural-implications-of-iconic-architecture/#google_vignette

Iconic buildings' contribution toward urbanism
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1110016820300211

Reimagining Iconic Architectural Landmarks for the Future
https://archovavisuals.com/iconic-architectural-landmarks-for-the-future/

Architecture of the Future: What Awaits Us?
https://www.gms-mediaservices.de/en/news-2024/architecture-of-the-future/

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