



# DESIGN VOCABULARY

FOR INDIA @ 2047

INTERIOR DESIGN CATEGORY BRIEF

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## 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](http://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](http://www.ethosempowers.com)

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## 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.**

## Vision 2047

### *Beyond a Landmark: A new vocabulary for architecture and interior design*

Buildings are more than mere structures — they are vessels of memory, culture, and identity. From the moment of India's independence in 1947 to the future we imagine in 2047, buildings have stood witness to change. As we live, breathe, and move through them, they've quietly absorbed the stories of people, places, and progress. Through spatial and interior design, these stories come alive, revealing the evolution of communities and the spirit of their time.

This competition invites you to look at these stories from a new perspective — not just through grand monuments or well-known sites, but also through modest, lesser-known buildings that hold the potential to become future landmarks. These could be existing Indian structures or newly built public structures across India — spaces rooted in their local context, but waiting for new narratives to unfold within them.

Adaptive interiors offer a powerful tool to do just that. By transforming the inside of a space, we can reimagine its purpose, elevate its presence, and make it more meaningful for its community, without erasing its past. India has long embraced this idea — palaces have become hotels, mansions have turned into museums. But what if we turned our attention to buildings that haven't yet had their moment?

This competition challenges you to select an existing Indian building — one that is culturally, socially, or architecturally significant in its way, but not yet widely recognized — and reimagine its interior. Start by understanding its origins: What was its purpose? What does it mean to its community? What stories does it hold? Then, imagine what it could be — a modular space redefined to serve present and future needs while being light-weight, eco-conscious, long-lasting, and made using high-performing yet comfortable materials.



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Your design should be accessible and user-friendly. It should reflect sensitivity to context, and materials, rethinking spatial planning to encourage new interactions and experiences. The aim is to craft interiors that don't just serve a function but spark change — spaces that help communities reconnect, reflect, and grow.

Adapting is not about replacing the old. It's about layering meaning, giving space to the past while making room for the future.

Are you ready to transform history — and possibility — from the inside out?

This is your opportunity to shape a new design language through adaptive interiors, and to help **India step into its next century — inclusive, thoughtful, and full of potential.**

## Design Task

Participants are invited to **select and document an existing structure**—a historic landmark, an abandoned industrial site, a forgotten civic space, or any building of significance—and **reimagine its interior as a space that defines India's future**. Feel free to feature any accessories, installations, or furniture you have designed within your spaces.

1. You have complete creative freedom to choose your site and define your program.
2. The selected building should be **contextually meaningful** and demonstrate the potential to evolve into an **iconic space**, one that reflects the values of transparency, adaptability, and environmental responsibility for the future while providing a better living and comfort for all.
3. Designs should explore the use of **lightweight, durable, and modular materials** — such as glass for its natural daylighting, spatial transparency, splash of color, and ease of maintenance — and consider strategies that improve hygiene, indoor air quality, and promote seamless connections between interior and exterior environments.
4. The adaptive reuse proposal for Vision 2047 should:
  - a. **Honor the past while embracing the future** – Retain the building's original essence while introducing contemporary, performance-driven design interventions.
  - b. **Create a space of national significance** – A place that encompasses India's century of transformation, whether cultural, civic, or social.
  - c. **Redefine its purpose** – Transform the building's function to serve a greater societal, cultural, or economic need.
  - d. **Reignite urban and cultural energy** – Derive inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage of arts and crafts, while thoughtfully incorporating modern, lighter and sustainable materials to create a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation.
  - e. **Incorporate sustainability** – Embrace strategies of preservation, repurposing, and the integration of eco-conscious materials, low-impact construction, and future-adaptive technologies.

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## Site and Design Guidelines

While you have complete freedom to choose your building, program, and interior function(s), please ensure that the chosen project—whether historic, recent, or contemporary—holds the potential to become iconic. Follow the guidelines below while making your selection

1. You are allowed to choose a building with a larger carpet area, but for the purpose of the competition, only **a portion between 900 sq. m. and 2,000 sq. m.** should be selected in the building and considered.
2. Follow local bylaws and building codes. Follow any heritage codes if applicable to your building.
3. Design accessible and inclusive spaces, using the Universal Design Principles.

## Eligibility and Teams

### Interior Design Category:

- Undergraduate and Post-graduate students currently enrolled in Interior Design and those graduating in 2025 can register under this section.
- Undergraduate students currently enrolled in Architecture and Design courses 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](http://www.transparence.in). Remember to register under the correct section.

## Competition Format

- Entries will be reviewed by a panel of experts, who will shortlist the best entries for the National Finale.
- Up to 8 Shortlisted Teams will present their designs to the Panel of Jurors at the Grand Finale, where the winning teams will be chosen.

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## 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: A concise narrative explaining your design vision, the intent behind your adaptive reuse proposal, and how it enhances the selected building's interior experience.
  - b. Documentation: Documentation of the building you have selected in terms of photographs, basic interior layout, and sketches, indicating the original functions of spaces.
  - c. Design drawings: Proposed interior layout plan, sectional drawings or perspectives to demonstrate spatial relationships, and supporting diagrams such as material palettes, zoning, or exploded views.
  - d. Visual Representations: Renderings, sketches, mood boards, other visuals that communicate the design of the transformed interior.
  - e. Your strategy for a light-weight design, focusing on sustainability, resilience, accessibility, and inclusivity.
  - f. A summarized area statement with reference to the bylaws in a space not larger than an A4 sheet. (Compulsory)
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.**



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## Evaluation Criteria

**1. Design Quality** – Creativity, originality, and aesthetic appeal emphasizing transparency, lightness, aesthetics, and the thoughtful use of materials.

**2. Spatial Innovation** – How creatively does the design adapt the space to its new function, incorporating modularity and seamless blending of interiors with exteriors?

**3. Cultural & Social Relevance** – Does the proposal reflect India's evolving identity and cultural richness while fostering public engagement through accessible, inclusive, and user-friendly spaces?

**4. Sustainability, Inclusivity, & Materiality** – How responsibly does the design balance preservation with contemporary, eco-conscious materials and systems that support environmental sensitivity, wellbeing, and adaptability to future needs? Does it accommodate a wide range of users with different abilities and challenges?

**5. Documentation of the Site** – How thoroughly and clearly is the existing building studied and presented to support a meaningful adaptive reuse strategy?

**6. Visual Coherence** – How strong and consistent is the overall visual language in communicating the concept, function, and impact of the proposal?

## Awards:

### 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

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## 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. Architecture

Open to students and teams looking to design iconic public buildings with the potential to shape the identity of India—sustainable, iconic, and future-ready architecture with global impact.

### 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](http://www.transparence.in)

## 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>

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## Resources and Reading Suggestions

### Maximizing Dilapidated Infrastructure: The Potential of Repurposing Abandoned Buildings into Social Housing

<https://www.archdaily.com/1016773/maximizing-dilapidated-infrastructure-the-potential-of-repurposing-abandoned-buildings-into-social-housing>

### Adaptive Reuse: Transforming Old Buildings into Modern Spaces

<https://amazingarchitecture.com/articles/adaptive-reuse-transforming-old-buildings-into-modern-spaces>

### Adaptive Reuse of Abandoned Monumental Buildings as a Strategy for Urban Liveability

<https://www.athensjournals.gr/architecture/2015-1-4-1-Cherchi.pdf>

### Turning Abandoned Buildings into Cultural Hubs

<https://www.imagineerium.co.uk/post/turning-abandoned-buildings-to-cultural-hubs>

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