

FUTURE WORKSCAPES

LIGHT.
SUSTAINABLE.
DURABLE.

INTERIOR DESIGN
CATEGORY BRIEF



To Register,
visit: www.transparency.in



***THE FUTURE OF WORK IS NO LONGER
DEFINED BY WHERE WE WORK, BUT BY
HOW WORKPLACES MAKE US FEEL,
INTERACT AND THRIVE.***

Long after a building becomes part of a city's skyline, it is the spaces within that shape everyday experiences. It is where ideas are born, teams collaborate, cultures evolve and innovation takes root. These spaces play a vital role in fostering wellbeing, comfort, inclusivity and a sense of belonging, enabling people to thrive both personally and professionally. Interior design has the power to influence how people think, interact, create and belong. More than simply organising space, it shapes the emotional, social and functional experience of work.

The nature of work is changing faster than ever before. Hybrid work models, emerging technologies and evolving employee expectations are redefining what people seek from the places where they spend a significant part of their lives. Today's workplaces must do more than accommodate work. They must inspire creativity, encourage collaboration, support wellbeing and create environments where individuals and communities can thrive. **Careful thought given to design and choice of materials here has the potential to create climate-resilient spaces that consume up to 40% less energy, reduce embodied carbon, improve circularity, enhance durability, and deliver healthier, more comfortable environments.** Advancing sustainable and energy-efficient construction while placing wellbeing at the centre is fundamental to shaping the workplaces of tomorrow.

The Interior Design category of Saint-Gobain Transparence 21.0 invites participants to **rethink workplace interiors in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, where India's leading business districts continue to evolve into vibrant centres of innovation and enterprise. As organisations compete not only for talent but also for culture and experience, workplace interiors have become powerful tools for attracting people, fostering collaboration and building resilient communities.

This year's challenge invites participants to design interior environments that are flexible, inclusive and deeply human-centred. Through thoughtful planning, materiality and spatial experience, proposals should create workplaces that balance focused work with collaboration, integrate wellness and recreation into everyday routines, and support the changing needs of the modern workforce.



Participants are encouraged to demonstrate how **light, sustainable and durable building materials** and solutions, including glazing, drywalls, acoustic solutions, construction chemicals, insulation and other high-performance interior materials, can create healthier, more comfortable and sustainable workplaces. The challenge is not simply to design beautiful interiors, but to create spaces that improve the way people work, connect and experience their everyday lives.

THE CHALLENGE

You're invited to imagine and design the interiors of a future-ready workplace that has the potential to redefine the future of work in India's leading business and innovation hubs. More than just an office interior, your proposal should create environments that foster collaboration, wellbeing, creativity and community. Through thoughtful planning and interior design, your proposal should demonstrate how workplaces can enhance everyday experiences while showcasing the role of **light, sustainable and durable interior systems** in shaping healthier and more productive work environments.



Light



Sustainable



Durable

You are required to select a workplace building located within an existing or proposed IT Park, Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Commercial Zone, Business Park or Innovation District in a Tier-2 or Tier-3 Indian city.

Participants are required to select one workplace building and design two representative floor plates within the building.

The selected building may be a Corporate Headquarters, Multi-tenant Office Building, Research & Development Centre, Innovation Hub, Business Centre, Co-working Facility, Incubation Centre or any future workplace typology that responds to the vision of the competition.



***YOUR DESIGN SHOULD EMBODY
THE VISION OF LIGHT AND
SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACES FOR
INDIA'S FUTURE BUILT ENVIRONMENT***



Community First

Design workplace interiors that extend beyond individual productivity to become vibrant environments for collaboration, learning, recreation and social interaction. Create spaces that foster a strong sense of community, encourage meaningful connections and contribute positively to workplace culture and organisational wellbeing.



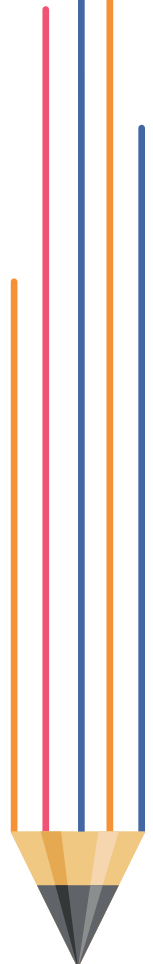
User Wellbeing & Comfort

Design interior environments that prioritise the wellbeing, comfort and safety of users by enhancing daylight, thermal and acoustic comfort, indoor environmental quality, accessibility and overall user experience, creating healthy, inclusive and comfortable workplaces for all.



Designed for the Future

Respond to evolving workplace cultures, emerging technologies and changing user expectations by designing flexible, adaptable and future-ready interior environments. Your proposal should demonstrate how thoughtful planning, innovative spatial strategies and high-performance interior systems can create resilient workplaces that continue to support changing ways of working over time.





Light, Sustainable & Durable Interiors for a Circular Economy

Develop a thoughtful interior material palette that reflects the principles of lightweight, low-carbon and resource-efficient design. Explore high-performance interior materials and systems that enhance daylight, thermal and acoustic comfort, indoor environmental quality, circularity, durability and ease of installation, while contributing to healthier, more sustainable and adaptable workplaces.

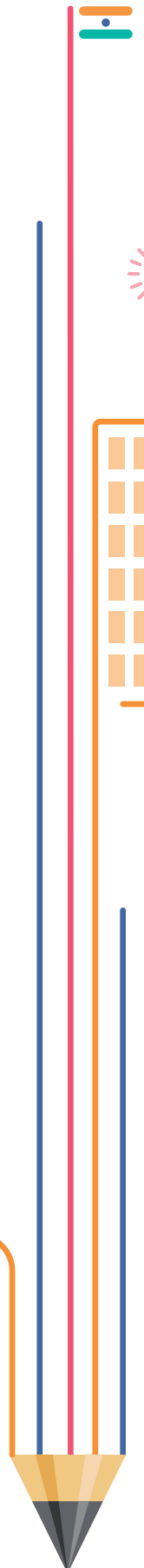


Contextual Impact

Your design should respond meaningfully to its organisational and cultural context by creating workplace environments that strengthen collaboration, support employee wellbeing, reflect the identity and values of the organisation, and enhance the everyday experience of those who work, meet and interact within the space.



LIGHT.
SUSTAINABLE.
DURABLE.





***YOUR PROPOSAL SHOULD INCLUDE
A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR
THE SELECTED FLOORSPACE.***



**Open
workspaces**



**Collaborative
work zones**



**Meeting and
conference facilities**



**Focus
work areas**



**Innovation &
brainstorming spaces**



**Learning &
training areas**



**Cafeterias &
breakout spaces**



**Wellness &
recreation facilities**

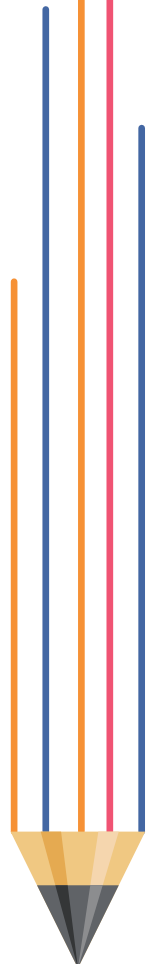


**Reception & visitor
experience areas**



**Community &
social spaces**

The selected floor plates should collectively demonstrate a comprehensive workplace interior strategy that balances functionality, flexibility, wellbeing and sustainability while showcasing the integrated use of Saint-Gobain's interior solutions.



SITE & GUIDELINES

While you have complete freedom to choose your workplace building and interior programme, please follow the guidelines below while selecting them.

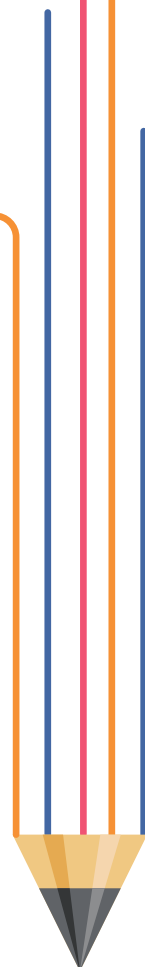
- ▶ Select a workplace building within an existing or proposed IT Park, Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Commercial Zone, Business Park or Innovation District located in a Tier-2 or Tier-3 Indian city.
- ▶ The building should be located within an urban context and accessible through existing or proposed modes of public transport, within a 5 km radius.
- ▶ Detail the interiors of typical representative floor plates within the selected workplace building.
- ▶ A total intervention area of 1500 sq.m to 2,000 sq.m covered across single or multiple floor plates is expected.
- ▶ Demonstrate the integrated use of light, sustainable and durable materials and solutions, including glazing, drywalls, acoustic solutions, insulation, construction chemicals and other relevant building systems.
- ▶ Follow the applicable local by-laws, fire safety regulations and accessibility guidelines. Refer to the National Building Code (NBC) wherever applicable.

ELIGIBILITY & TEAMS

Interior Design Category

- ▶ Undergraduate and Post-graduate students currently enrolled in Interior Design, and those graduating in 2026 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.

- ▶ Registrations are opening in **August, 2026.**
- ▶ To Register, **visit: www.transparence.in**
- ▶ **Remember to register under the correct category.**



COMPETITION FORMAT

It is a two-stage competition:

-  **First Stage (Regional Juries)**
Entries will be reviewed by a panel of experts, who will shortlist the best 5-8 entries for the National Finale.
-  **Second Stage (The Grand Finale)**
The shortlisted 5-8 teams compete before the jurors for the coveted national awards.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

-  Submission will be completely ONLINE. Plan your content and graphics to be viewed accordingly.
-  The submission link will be provided in the confirmation email sent after successful registration.
-  Include the following within your submission (single PDF file):
 -  **Concept Statement:** Your vision, intent, and how your design will impact the site and its users.
 -  **Documentation:** If you are selecting an existing workplace building, provide documentation including photographs, basic interior layouts, and sketches indicating the existing functions of the spaces. If you are proposing a new workplace building, provide sufficient drawings or contextual information to explain the overall building design before detailing the interiors of the two selected floor plates.
 -  **Visual Representations:** Sketches, renderings, graphics and collages to communicate the experience of the spaces.
 -  A summarised area statement with reference to the by-laws in a space not larger than an A4 sheet (Compulsory).
 -  Your strategy for a light-weight design, focusing on sustainability, resilience, accessibility and inclusivity.
 -  AI-generated content may be used as a design aid for ideation, visualization and communication; however, the concept, design development and final submission must remain the original work of the participants.

- 4 Your submission should be in the following format:
 - ▶ Up to 12 A3 sheets in landscape orientation ONLY.
 - ▶ The drawings and text should be legible and high-resolution.
 - ▶ Your sheets should be compiled into a single PDF file up to 20 MB in size.
 - ▶ 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.
 - ▶ Limit the amount of text per A3 sheet to 100-150 words.
 - ▶ 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 & User Experience** - Does the proposal present a compelling vision for the future workplace, creating healthy, flexible and high-performing environments that enhance user experience through thermal, solar and acoustic comfort, indoor environmental quality, safety and durability?
- 2 **Space Planning & Functionality** - How effectively does the design respond to different workplace needs through efficient planning, flexibility, collaboration, wellness and inclusivity?
- 3 **Interior Design Innovation** - Does the proposal introduce creative, future-ready interior solutions that respond to evolving workplace cultures and technologies?
- 4 **Material Integration & Performance** - Does the design thoughtfully integrate light and sustainable materials and solutions, including glazing, drywalls, acoustic solutions, insulation and other relevant interior systems, to enhance comfort, sustainability and building performance?
- 5 **Technical Resolution** - Does the proposal demonstrate the correct use of Saint-Gobain products, respect minimum performance requirements, and present well-resolved construction details with regard to building physics, including acoustics, solar comfort, daylight and fire safety?
- 6 **Visual Coherence & Representation** - How effectively does the submission communicate the design intent through drawings, renderings, details and overall graphical presentation?

AWARDS

National-Level Prizes



National Winner
Rs. 1,50,000/-
per team, a trophy,
and a certificate.



National First-Runner-Up
Rs. 1,00,000/- per team,
a trophy and a certificate.



National Second-Runner-Up
Rs. 50,000/- per team,
a trophy and a certificate.

Regional Level Prizes

- ▶ All national finalist teams will each receive a cash award of **Rs. 10,000/-** per team and a certificate.
- ▶ **Jury's Commendation:** Certificate of Commendation in both sub-categories.
- ▶ **Special Recognition:** Certificate of Recognition in both subcategories.

Studio Project

The first 25 colleges that submit 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

Interior Design Category

- ▶ Registrations Open: **19th August, 2026**
- ▶ Registrations Close: **15th December, 2026**
- ▶ Submissions Close: **22nd December, 2026**
- ▶ Regional Level Results: **8th February - 10th February**
- ▶ National Finale: **Early March**



OTHER CATEGORIES

Architecture Category: To design a future-ready workplace building that responds to the evolving needs of work, wellbeing and sustainability, while demonstrating innovation in light, sustainable and durable construction.

ABOUT SAINT-GOBAIN

Saint-Gobain is a global leader in light and sustainable construction, designing, manufacturing and distributing innovative building materials and solutions for residential, non-residential and infrastructure markets. Through its integrated approach, the Group delivers solutions that enhance sustainability, performance and wellbeing while addressing the evolving needs of the built environment.

Guided by its purpose, **'Making the World a Better Home'**, Saint-Gobain is committed to advancing sustainable construction and creating healthier, more resilient spaces for people and the planet.

With €46.5 billion in sales in 2025, a global workforce of 162,000 employees, and operations in 81 countries, Saint-Gobain continues to lead the transformation of the construction industry, with an ambitious goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

For more information, visit www.saint-gobain.co.in

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.

For more information, visit www.ethosempowers.com

