

COMPETITION PROCESS

Designing the Brief

With the intention of generating new ideas through multi-disciplinary teams and expansive strategies focusing on participation rather than financial gain, the competition brief was extensively deliberated upon and formulated in the latter half of 2013 by a Steering Committee which was set up by the Urban Design Research Institute, the organisers of the competition¹.

The eligibility criteria for the competition insisted on each team including a consortium of experts with skills covering the fields of architecture, economics, engineering, environment, health and education, landscape, law, social sciences, transportation, urban design, urban governance and urban planning.

The proposals were expected to accommodate all current residents of Dharavi, promote the development of sustainable neighbourhoods inter-linked with the larger metropolis, address the current and future livelihoods and other work related issues, provide for essential social, physical and transport infrastructure related to health, education, recreation and open space- which was financially viable and beneficial to both the Dharavi community as well as to the city, causing minimal disruption during the process of reinvention. The proposals would need to be technically feasible but at the same time, flexible with regards to the timescales for implementation.

The competition site included all of Dharavi, and the relevant available resources were shared on the competition website².

Registering for the Competition

The registration period for the competition was between 25th March and 15th May, 2014, closing at 16:00h IST. Registrations were received through the competition website (www.reinventingdharavi.org) where teams were required to fill out an application form for verification and approval by the appointed Steering Committee. The teams' applications were accepted based on established eligibility criteria, following which a non-refundable fee was to be paid by the participants. In total, 24 teams registered for the competition.

Workshop and Field Trip

The competition process was envisioned to enable all participating teams and key resource persons to gain access to Dharavi before preparing their entries. Accordingly, workshops and field trips for the various teams were organised between 1st June and 6th June, 2014.

The field trip was divided over two mornings, 1st June and 2nd June, 2014, attended by 30 to 40 participants. It was organised with the support of Jockin Arputham, president of the National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF) and *Mahila Milan*, a women's savings collective in slums.

Participants were given a brief introduction to the site before being led into Dharavi by members of *Mahila Milan* and NSDF. The questions from participants included how open spaces were maintained by the communities which were the hierarchy groups, their views on redevelopment, and the living patterns of residents in Dharavi.

¹ Appendices: Competition Brief, Steering Committee

² Appendices: Resources

The workshop was conducted from 2nd June to 6th June, 2014, to help participants understand Dharavi through various distinguished experts in the city. Workshop speakers included Professor Akhtar Chauhan, Madhav Pai, Jockin Arputham, Armida Fernandes, Sharit Bhowmik, Ajit Ranade, Madhusree Dutta, Kalpana Sharma, Neera Adarkar, Datta Iswalkar, David Cardoz, Aneerudha Paul and Shirish Patel.

The competition workshop sessions covered topics such as the need to transform slums into humane communities as well as learn from them, and the need to involve people in the planning process. The experts spoke about the global interest in Dharavi due to its high real estate potential and the challenges faced by the committee of experts, appointed by the Government of Maharashtra, to facilitate its redevelopment. It was agreed that Dharavi could be perceived as a culturally vital place where shelter, aspirations, memory and history are born. More specific sessions presented the need for a transport framework prioritising people over cars, appropriate planning guidelines, health and sanitation standards, rights for informal labour, heritage conservation and the importance of FSI vis-à-vis the crowding factor.

Videos of the sessions were posted on YouTube for the teams that could not be present for the field trip and workshop.

Jury Methodology

Members of the committees and jury³ were selected as 'generalists' who would be able to gauge the proposals through the lens of people, history, sociology and other broader viewpoints.

Out of the 24 registered teams, 20 teams comprising 149 participants across 21 nationalities submitted their final proposals by 1600 Hrs IST on 30th September 2014. The proposals were received anonymously, through the competition website, wherein the teams received an auto-generated six digit code as an identifier for jury and committee members. Through the months of October and November, the Technical Committee, Steering Committee and the jury deliberated over the proposals. The committee and jury members were sent all twenty competition entries prior to the deliberations. The committee presented the jury with a brief of the ideas generated for each of the entries. Competition entries remained anonymous during the jury. The jury met across two sessions at the UDRI premises, to discuss each submission and rank it against the required deliverables⁴. Eleven entries were shortlisted in the first round, and in the second round, the jury selected the three honourable mentions and three winning teams.

Exhibition and Conference

On December 17th and 18th 2014, a conference was held to present ideas from the eleven shortlisted teams, followed by panel discussions and an award ceremony to announce the winning entries. The ideas submitted by all the entries were part of an exhibition on the lawns of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sanghralaya (CSMVS). The exhibition continued after the conference at other locations in the city including the Kala Ghoda Festival, Rizvi College of Architecture and the Somaiya Vidyavihar Campus.

³ Appendices: Steering Committee, Technical Committee and jury

⁴ Appendices: Competition Brief : Deliverables



WORKSHOP



CONFERENCE





FIELD TRIP



JURY



EXHIBITION

COMPETITION ENTRIES

