



Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/india/comments/n2qy19/small_house_in_mumbai_maharashtra_oc/

Open Ideas National Competition 2024 - Season IV

IMPROVING LIVABILITY OF SMALL HOUSES

Affordable Housing | Slum Rehabilitation | In-Situ Slum Upgrading

DESIGN BRIEF



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Source:
<https://urbandesignlab.in/dharavi-a-city-within-a-city/>

CONTEXT OF HOUSING IN INDIA

- With 96% of housing deficit among the economically weaker sections and the low-income groups, a good number of houses that get constructed now or in the near future will be small, generally low-cost and utilitarian. The skyline of the Indian cities will be dominated by this housing typology.
- With a target of 1.12 crore houses, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-Urban), under its four verticals, various type of houses are being constructed. This has resulted in a surge in affordable housing construction in Indian cities. However, while targets are being met, the issue of quality and end users' satisfaction remain debateable. Considering small size, limited budget, big scale and mainly large sized families occupying these houses, a need for better designed formal houses that further improves livability is felt. The same applies to In-situ Slum Upgrading and Slum Rehabilitation projects.
- Over the years, small, low-cost houses have been constructed, mostly by the public sector agencies, and save some exceptions they have been found deficient in design, workmanship, construction cost and quality, delivery schedule and maintenance. The public sector agencies still remain the principal suppliers and though there is greater awareness on the "quality" aspects, pace of change is slow.
- Despite the organised private sectors' entry into affordable housing segment, the 'quality' aspect has not been addressed sufficiently due to low-cost nature of projects.



Source:
<https://www.alamy.com/mumbai-indiadharavi-shahu-nagar-slum-shanties-poor-poverty-lower-hindu-caste-low-income-trash-litter-ghetto-homes-modern-high-rise-apartment-building-image463261010>.

- Established architects, in general, have kept away from affordable housing scene save some prestigious projects. Their involvement in such projects is limited. Also, architects do not see much scope for creative expression in small houses and low-cost buildings. Consequently, the vigour required to get the maximum in design is rarely seen.

- Generally, in all forms of housing, especially low-cost affordable housing, the 'people angle' is missing, both in design and planning. Private builders and promoters are constantly challenged to provide more value per sq. ft. given the density of our cities. Architects on these projects often are not directly connected to the end-user and often the client is faceless to the extent that the developers' needs take priority. Sensitive handling of the client or the needs of the end-user is also not a strong aspect of such public housing projects. Neglect of "people" means neglect of their living habits, sociocultural beliefs, and aspirations.

- The non-demanding end users of small houses suffer mainly because of the prevalent practices and challenges (including the mindset and markets). Seen largely as subsidy targets and prisoners of slum culture, their houses and buildings are poorly designed and detailed, badly constructed, suffer poor maintenance and usually look ugly. For example, the "vertical slums" warrants no questions.

- Paradoxically, the sustainability considerations are absent from the affordable housing projects that need them the most. Design for sustainability is seen as an almost exclusive preserve of the upper-class and high-end housing.

BACKDROP TO THE COMPETITION



Source: <https://voxdev.org/topic/migration-urbanisation/household-level-effects-subsidised-housing-evidence-urban-india>

In the backdrop of general affordable housing scenario in cities, this competition seeks to establish that:

Low-income housing should not automatically mean poor design. 'Vertical slums' are not inevitable.

Smaller spaces conditioned by affordability constraints could be overcome, at least partly, through creative design.

The principle of incremental growth can also be adopted in multi-storied buildings.

Design for sustainability - water, energy, waste management must not escape affordable housing projects. Aspects of optimum usage, minimum waste, maximum recycling, easy and low-cost maintenance must weigh more in project.



Source: <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-home-in-subash-nagar-slum-area-in-mumbai-india-40191442.html?>

COMPETITION BRIEF

This competition seeks to offer innovative approaches and better design solutions for hundreds of houses being constructed under public and private projects in Indian cities with a view to ensure the following:

- Improved livability of small cramped houses with efficient space planning and better detailing for safety, protection and maintenance
- Better social interaction and community life among neighbors
- Cost effective and resource conserving planning and efficient delivery of services such as water, electricity and waste disposal
- Design on green building concepts and sustainable construction principles with greater aesthetic sensitivity that reflects in shaping new urban landscape

This competition seeks to address the challenges faced in the supply of liveable yet affordable houses in India. Innovations are solicited for:

- *Better Designed Small Houses*
- *Better Functioning Buildings with Sustainable Services and Green Building Parameters*
- *Better Relating Neighbourhoods*
- *Better Managed Community Spaces for Community living*
- *Better Functioning Cities*

“Improving Liveability” is defined as:

Physical Liveability: Addition of useable space covered, semi-open, open to sky in the given built-up area at little extra cost, through creative design and detailing. Also, through space enhancing, low-cost furniture design.

Sociocultural Liveability: More congenial neighborhood through community need sensitive common space design and participation.

Ecological Liveability: Bringing elements of nature in the design and adding intangible dimensions that enrich psychological, sociological, and cultural aspects of living.

Psychological Liveability: Functional built-form, attractive neighborhood, and an inviting quality of space.



Source: <https://www.brettlephotography.com/media/5216c25d-d10c-4b24-8286-94d5d49528ba-residents-pose-in-a-weathered-high-rise-apartment-in-the-dharav>

This Competition aims to:

01 CREATE
Awareness among designers - especially architects, interior, and furniture - about challenges in designing small houses, low-cost housing projects and market potential of this housing segment.

02 INTRODUCE
Design students to challenges, especially needs and compulsions of low-income clients and low-cost projects.

03 PRODUCE
Design solutions that improve "livability" of small houses for the low income and often large families that occupy them.

04 MAKE
The designers see and apply themselves to the psychological, sociological and cultural factors in house design, cluster design and site planning that emphasize the "people" aspect of the design engagement.

05 HIGHLIGHT
Role of affordable housing in shaping built form and physical landscape of the city - seeing it in the wider urban context.

06 DEMONSTRATE
Cost consciousness and sustainability principles in affordable housing projects.

07 SENSITIZE
Designers and planners approaching a project with people/community centredness and adapting design appropriateness of slum redevelopment/rehabilitation.

Addressing the 'People' Centredness of the Design:

- **Not only families, also neighbors**
- **Not only individual apartment, also a community space**
- **Not only an individual, also the collective**
- **Not only place for living, also for livelihood activity**
- **Public common space for family assets: for cycles and vehicles**

COMPETITION COMPONENTS AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Project Selection:

The selected project can be **ANY ONE** of the following three categories

01

Project under Affordable Housing Scheme: Good-sized apartment building projects (more than 100 units), whether public or private, affordable category and character, and either completed, under construction, or occupied. Additionally, low-rise, low-cost, small house projects are also eligible.

02

In-situ Slum Upgradation Project by a Public Authority, Private Builder, NGO, or Professional Firm, whether under Planning, under Implementation or Occupied. It should encompass Conceptualization, Design, Planning, Community Participation, Costing, Financing, Partnership, and Implementation.

03

Slum Rehabilitation Project by a Public Authority/ Private Builder/ NGO/ Professional Firm. The project can be under Planning, under Implementation, or Occupied. It should encompass Conceptualization, Design, Planning, Community Participation, Costing, Financing, Partnership, and Implementation.

Conditions for the selection of the project

- An urban location
- More than 100 units
- Under Affordable housing category
- Approved by the competent authority or submitted for approval
- Under construction or ready to begin construction
- Completed and occupied in the last two to five years

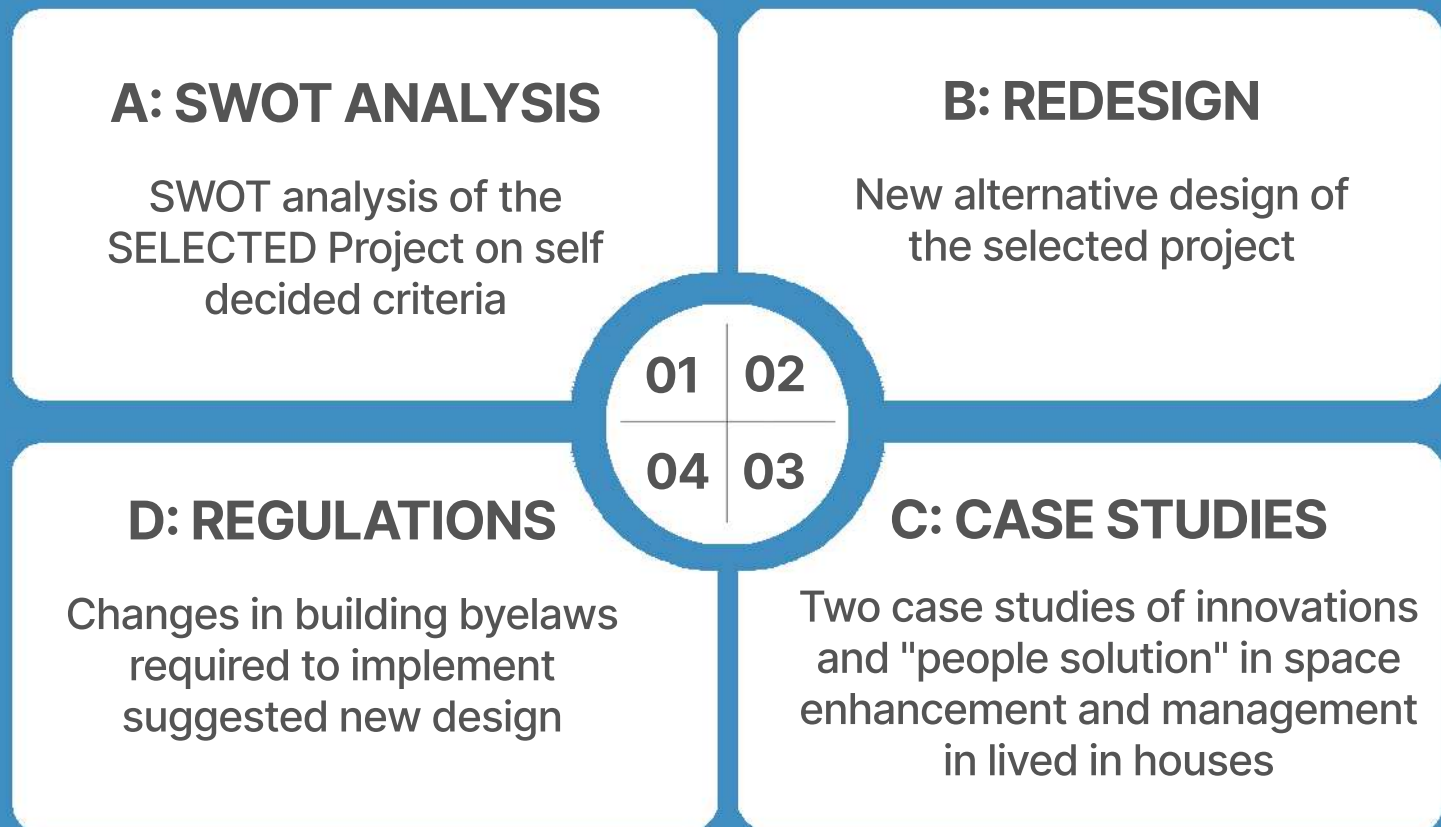
All the details of the selected live project are to be given such as:

- The site (location, size, dimensions, conditions, neighbourhood, etc.)
- Local Building Byelaws of the City/ State
- Unit area and percentage size mix, if any
- Clients or dummy clients (if not identified)

*The participant should obtain the required permission and details of such a project from the Owner, Manager or Agency in charge of the project. The sponsors of the competition will issue a letter of introduction and recommendation if required.

Competition Components:

This competition requires participants to work on all of the following four components with respect to the selected project



A: SWOT Analysis of Selected Project

PRESENTATION OF SWOT ANALYSIS

- I. SWOT Analysis of a selected existing project.
- II. SWOT Analysis to include multiple parameters like density, cost, materials, context, sustainability, space efficiency, functional requirements, flexibility in use, light and ventilation, circulation space efficiency, green building and sustainability features etc. for the selected project.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

ONE A2 sheet that covers SWOT analysis of the existing project.

B: Redesign of Selected Project

PRESENTATION OF REDESIGN OF THE SELECTED PROJECT

I. All details of the newly formulated project, including drawings, sketches, perspectives, photos of models, renders, etc. that adequately communicate the new design.

II. Ideas and proposals on sustainable building with:

- Cost reduction
- Participatory design
- Service efficiency
- Sustainable parameters with focus on waste, energy, water, and building materials

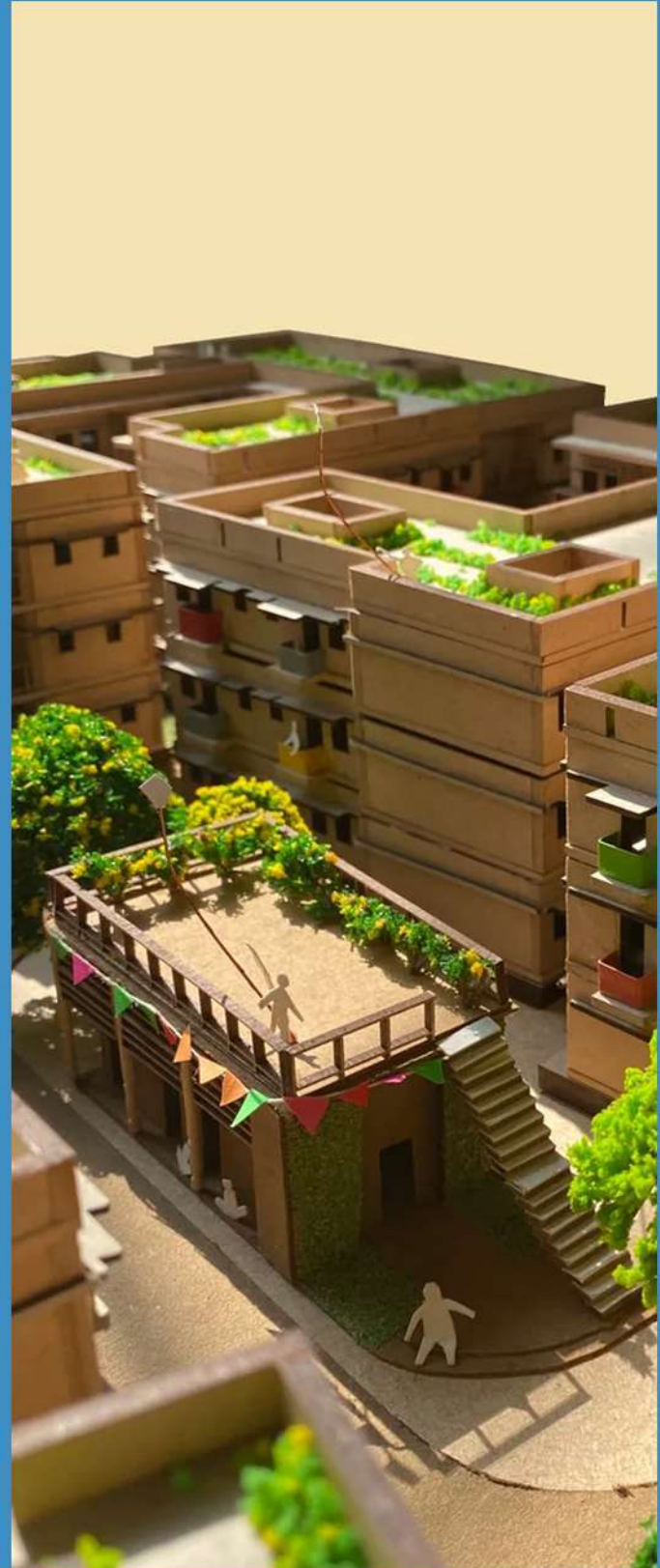
SUBMISSION FORMAT

FIVE A2 (max) sheets that cover:

Sheet 1: New Design Concept

Sheet 2,3,4,5: Drawings and renders

ONE A3 sheet that covers:
750 words project



Source:
<https://www.archdaily.com/982534/sanjaynagar-slum-rehabilitation-project-community-design-agency>

C: Changes in Building Byelaws Required to Implement your New Design

PRESENTATION OF SUGGESTED CHANGES

I. Existing building byelaws and regulations are perceived as constraints to good design that result in compromised living environment.

II. Suggestions for required changes in the existing building byelaws and regulations required to implement your proposals and ideas. It may include:

- Height restriction
- Size of the projection in the margins
- Ground Coverage
- Shape, size and location of common open space
- Any other you consider necessary

SUBMISSION FORMAT

ONE A3 sheet only



Source:
<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/1/24/hopes-and-fears-as-slumdog-millionaire-slum-faces-wrecking-ball>

D: Case Studies

PRESENTATION OF CASE STUDIES

I. Two case studies showcasing innovative and effective addition of usable space for the living functions, storage, etc. through extensions and small additions, etc. in existing homes (formal or informal). By the home users themselves. Showcasing people's ideas of space addition and better accommodation of functions.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

TWO A3 Sheets with drawings, sketches, photos, and descriptions showcasing both use and innovation



Source: <https://www.phillyhomegirls.com/blog/living-large-in-a-tiny-home>

Checklist of Submission:



ONE A2 sheet consisting of the SWOT Analysis of the selected project



FIVE A2 (max) sheets consisting of the New Design of the selected project



ONE A3 sheet with suggestions to the existing bye laws and regulations



TWO A3 sheets showcasing the Case Studies



ONE A3 sheet comprising of a 750 words project summary

- All sheets must compulsorily contain the Unique ID Number on the bottom right corner of the sheet.
- No personal information including names should be added to any sheet.
- A template for sheets shall be shared with the participants.
- All entries are to be submitted in PDF format with size limited to 10MB maximum on competition website.
- Entries are to be submitted before the deadline.
- All entries will be judged anonymously by the jury.

ELIGIBILITY REGISTRATION AND AWARDS

Eligibility:

Practicing Professionals: Architects, Interior Designers, Planners, Engineers, and Real Estate Practitioners

- **Senior students** of the above mentioned disciplines
- **NGOs** with relevant experience
- **Open to all** in India and outside India
- **No team size restriction**
- Teams may be formed between members of any of the above groups
- Please do not attempt direct relationship with the organizers or jury
- In case of perceived conflict of interest, please contact organisers for clarification

Registration:

- **Register at:**
<https://www.inhaf.org/open-idea-national-competition-2024/> till the last date of registration as given.
- **Confirmation email with Unique Identification Number** will be sent post registration.
- **Unique Identification Number** to be used for **project submission**.

Interaction:

- During the competition, participants are encouraged to ask questions, seek clarifications, interact through the given **email: competition@inhaf.org**
- **Responses** will be posted on the **INHAF's website**

The Innovative Winning Entries will be:

- **Presented to the relevant and interested Government Agencies and Associations of Private Sector Developers.**
- **Circulated widely through INHAF's and SI's social media platforms and network.**

Awards:

- **1st Prize: Rs. 1,00,000**
- **2nd Prize: Rs. 50,000**
- **Two special mentions for outstanding designs**

Terms and Conditions:

- **The decision of the jury will be final and binding.**
- **The participants grant the organisers Sustainability Initiatives (SI) and Habitat Forum (INHAF) the right to promote and publish any or all of the entries on any platform from any location for non-commercial, research, educational, and development purposes. Any material that is published will be duly credited to the authors.**
- **Participants of the competition agree that the work they are submitting has not been submitted to any other competition before the result of this competition is released.**
- **The sponsors are not responsible for any expenses incurred by the participants for the research purposes of this competition.**
- **For clarifications, please contact the organisers.**
- **We encourage questions, interactions, and discussions. The potential contestants are welcome to call or write for clarification and information.**

JURY AND JUDGING CRITERIA

The Jury:

The jury includes an eminent panel of Jurors including architects, urban planners, academicians, development sector experts, and representatives of NGOs, among others.



Anagha Paranjape-Purohit
Trustee, SI



Ankur Anil Pandhe
Founder
Pandhe Group



Anup Naik
Co-Founder &
Director Urban Frame
Pvt. Ltd.



Dwaipayan Chakravarty
Core Member, SI



Kabir Vajpeyi
Principal Architect
VINYAS



Khondaker Hasibul Kabir
Co-Founder
Co.Creation.Architects (CCA)



Kirtee Shah
President, INHAF



Riddhi Bora
Founder & Principal Architect
Prayog Design Collective



Sandeep Mahajan
Consultant
Omkar Associates



Rahul Malwadkar
Director
Malwadkar Architects
Pvt. Ltd.

Priority Judging Considerations:

1 Focus on practical and workable solutions

2 Emphasis on: Practicality, Doability, Useability, Implement-ability, Adaptability, Scaleability, Innovation

3 Expansion of functional usable space without additional built-up areas such as low-height mezzanine, open to sky terrace or land, storage area, space for children, etc.

4 Space for livelihood activities

5 Terraces as useable extension of the built space

6 Creative community interaction spaces

7 Imaginative handling of high density

8 Innovative handling of space for children, senior citizen, specially abled people and privacy need

9 Ideas and proposals to save water and electricity and reduction of waste

10 Additional storage through creative detailing and adaptable low-cost furniture

11 Parking spaces for cycle, two/ four wheeler, hand-cart and other working tools

12 Efficient common circulation space

13 Incremental growth potential for the units (with or without change in regulations)

14 Specific proposals and ideas for cost reduction in construction and maintenance

15 Tools and methodology for participatory design and planning and consultative decision making

16 Low-cost maintenance options of houses, building, and the site

17 Response arising out of learnings from COVID pandemic and the lockdown: ventilation, light, social distancing, better hygiene facilities

18 Innovative ideas on improving land availability for affordable housing

19 Future focused ideas in affordable housing and inclusive cities

20 Addressing changing aspirations of dwellers

21 Response to Climate Change challenge through design and construction

22 Innovative use of Technology- old, new and future

23 Creative exploration of psychological, sociological and cultural aspects of living

24 Ideas on inclusive, sustainable and people centric city through housing action

IMPORTANT DATES



Source: <https://pmay-urban.gov.in/glimpses-of-progress/AHP/33/city/0>

For registration and more info:

<https://www.inhaf.org/open-idea-national-competition-2024/>

Launch Date: 1st May 2024

Registration upto: 31st July 2024

Final Submission: 31st August 2024

COMPETITION PARTNERS



Habitat Forum (INHAF) is a network aiming to bring together, on a shared platform, NGOs, civic groups, and communities; design, planning, and development professionals; professional training institutions and young students working in the human settlement development field with a special interest in urban and rural housing for the low-income groups; participatory planning and inclusive development; poverty reduction; livable, people-centered, poor sensitive, and environmentally friendly cities and sustainable development.



Sustainability Initiatives (SI) is a non-profit organization with its headquarters in Pune. It was initiated 10 years ago by like-minded professionals from varied domains of Urban and Environmental Planning, Architecture, Environmental Science, Geography, and Energy. With this shared passion for Sustainable development, and an urge to make a change towards better cities, these individuals came together to work towards better cities, these individuals came together to work towards the common goal of Sustainability in cities.



(Media Partner)

ArchitectureLive! is dedicated to bridging the gap between architectural knowledge and the public, fostering open discourse, and empowering the architectural community. Since its inception in 2011, the platform has served as a vibrant hub for architects, designers, and enthusiasts to connect, share ideas, and engage in critical discussions shaping the built environment.



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