



Jury Statement

Invited Architectural Competition

August 2024



CITATION

ABIN DESIGN STUDIO + EARTHSCAPES

The proposed design carefully considers the land and its unique properties including, but not limited to, the potential for the land to offer an array of experiences and functional possibilities. With an ecological design of landscape as both, the point of departure and an ongoing central concern, the design team proposes an integrated development from the onset. Issues like the flow of water; its retention and movement, plantations, and productive landscapes are woven within the masterplan as the scheme envisions a resilient management of the site and the resources offered.

The masterplan seems acutely aware of the fragile location of the land close to the flood-plains of the Sone. With a consideration that a maximum of ten percent of this sixty-acre site would eventually be utilised for the built programme, this crucial aspect of design thinking (and a convincing resolution as presented) makes a strong case for the future of the project irrespective of the changing nature of the land's geometry and functional obligations for the architecture.

The chosen scheme proposes architecture with significant clarity and resolution in its expression and functionality. By locating the housing and other residential areas in the centre of the site, the masterplan privileges a sense of community and well-being of the residents through a series of interlinked nodes designed at a humane scale. Given the constraints of the geometry of the land, the architects have carefully considered the division of the land in three conceptual domains including areas of the site vulnerable to future flooding.

A good portion of the land abutting the highway is proposed as an interface between the neighbouring villages and the campus – creating space for community outreach, culture, and farming without compromising the safety and accessibility of the campus. The quality of architecture within fosters a sense of shared living. Through graphics and models shared for the review, the spaces are perceived as well-lit, naturally-ventilated, and punctuated by internal and external landscapes.

The buildings are appropriately scaled for the context and the choice of materials for the majority of the built space on the campus is sensitive to the desired experiential quality. The architecture seems conscious of the construction costs, the building processes, and future operational challenges including maintenance.

It is recommended that some buildings like the 'Stupa' and the Multi-Sports Hall be reconsidered in their architectural language to better assimilate into the wonderful milieu of the other structures proposed on the campus. It is also recommended that the configuration of the dining hall be reconsidered to correct the unworkable Western orientation of the amphitheatre and to ensure that servicing of the kitchen is not disruptive to what is a crucial centre to the campus. The scale of buildings and the quality of architecture proposed in this scheme fits the place and is fitting of the place.

Most importantly, the designers have managed to capture the spirit of the place and the institution by placing equal emphasis on the landscape and the architecture of the campus. This scheme finds anchors in the sense of community and the spirit of landscape, and therefore, the jury awards Citation to Abin Design Studio in collaboration with Earthscapes for their proposal for PAHAL, Takshila's Initiative for Sports.



SPECIAL MENTION

HUNDREDHANDS

The proposal initiates from a very special architectural intent committed to a sense of an institutional scale and material. Imagined as a series of connected courts, the scheme presents a strong sense of the centre: a plaza that holds the campus together and organises important functions in established hierarchies. The scheme proposes a dense, almost urban built development utilising the South while keeping most of the land open for landscape, outdoors sports and future developments towards the North and the East.

The architect's vision of three typologies of landscape renders a rich sense of possibilities to the site. The future developments planned on the North of the site can align to the plaza at the heart of the site and radiate from this central node.

The design proposes a strategy of using earth (or materials derived from the earth) in a fluid, organic and complementing way to diminish and mitigate the required scale for the indoor sporting facilities. This strategy also accounts for a gentle transition between the housing and the institutional functions on the site articulating a simple and refined design strategy.

The architects frame the heart of the campus as an open-space and create a possibility for a vibrant resident community to thrive. By building density in one parcel of land, the scheme allows for possible future expansions and a rich landscape to take root, all the while designing an eloquent architecture of the campus and therefore, the jury awards a Special Mention to Hundredhands for PAHAL, Takshila's Initiative for Sports.

Master Jury

Brinda Somaya,

Founder and Principal Architect, Somaya & Kalappa Consultants

Prem Chandavarkar,

Managing Partner, CnT Architects

Dr Sudhanshu Roy,

Executive Director (Retd), National Institute of Sports Patiala, Sports Authority of India



PAHAL

पहल Takshila's Initiative for Sports
Koilwar, Bihar