

Reimagining a Critical Public Place

Ranjit Sabikhi Memorial
Young Urban Designers Competition

YUD'25

An IUDI initiative

Competition Brief

ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

The Young Urban Designers (YUD) Competition is a flagship event of the Institute of Urban Designers, India (IUDI) National Conference 2024-25 - scheduled to take place in Kolkata on 7th and 8th of March, 2025. This engaging initiative aims to spotlight emerging talent and foster innovation in Urban Design by engaging the brightest minds from across the country.

The Competition is open to Institutions across the country offering a Master's in Urban Design. Each Institute can be represented by a team of five drawn from Master's students in Urban Design and recent graduates (within last two years) and can include a supportive member from allied planning and design disciplines. The YUD competition encourages the participating teams to put forward a thought-provoking design idea to transform and reimagine existing public place that is environmentally sensitive and responsible in practice - a sustainable urban place.

The YUD competition has been positioned to cultivate professionalism through a bridging of academic work with a real world Urban Design challenge. This is part of IUDI's ongoing commitment to cultivate interest and collaboration amongst the next generation of the country's Urban Designers. The competition provides an opportunity to bring together students from urban design institutes across the country, providing them a professional platform to present and argue for an appropriate design development strategy that will have a marked value addition to urban life in front of decision makers and urban design practitioners.

The focus of the competition is to address the following broad questions:

1. What makes a Public Place? What is its role in structuring City Life ?
2. Character of a Public Place - how it Evolves through Acts and Activities
3. Perception of Public Space - Imagination, Aspirations
4. Reimagination of a Public Space for the future - that is articulated, functional, responsive to the public life of the city - a vibrant urban space.
5. Showcase Critical thinking, Design Rational and creative argumentative skills

The essence of this competition lies in understanding the transformative role that Urban Design plays in shaping not just the physical environment but also the quality of life for communities. By fostering multidisciplinary collaboration, YUD emphasizes the importance of integrating architecture, planning, landscape, and infrastructure to generate holistic urban solutions.

Through this initiative, IUDI seeks to inspire young designers to become the visionaries of tomorrow, capable of shaping cities that are resilient, inclusive, and vibrant. The competition underscores the belief that great urban design is at the heart of thriving communities and sustainable development.

Ultimately, the YUD Competition aims to cultivate a spirit of cooperation, teamwork, and leadership among future urbanists, equipping them with the skills and insights necessary to tackle India's urban challenges in innovative and meaningful ways.

TRIBUTE TO RANJIT SABIKHI:



Ranjit Sabikhi, a visionary architect and urban designer, has left an indelible mark on the landscape of urban design in India. As the founder of the Urban Design program at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi, he played a pivotal role in shaping urban design education in the country, inspiring generations of professionals to approach urban spaces with creativity and responsibility. His work reflects a deep understanding of the complexities of Indian cities, seamlessly blending tradition with modernity to create spaces that prioritize human experiences and community well-being. A staunch advocate for livable and inclusive cities, Sabikhi emphasized the importance of pedestrian-friendly environments, vibrant public spaces, and mixed-use developments that foster social interaction and cultural continuity. One of his notable projects, the Yamuna Apartments in Delhi, exemplifies his design philosophy of creating harmonious living environments. The project integrates green spaces, communal courtyards, and thoughtful urban planning, offering a model for sustainable and community-oriented housing. His designs, deeply rooted in the cultural and historical contexts of Indian cities, reflect his unwavering commitment to creating environments that are both functional and meaningful. Beyond his contributions as a practitioner, Sabikhi was an inspiring educator and mentor who shaped the minds of countless architects and urban designers, encouraging them to embrace the unique challenges of India's urban fabric.

THEME of YUD 2025:

REIMAGINING IPGME&R and SSKM Hospital CAMPUS – as a Critical Public Place in Kolkata



Google Earth Image of the SSKM campus
Image Date: 5/3/2024 Altitude 726m
Image @ 2024 Airbus



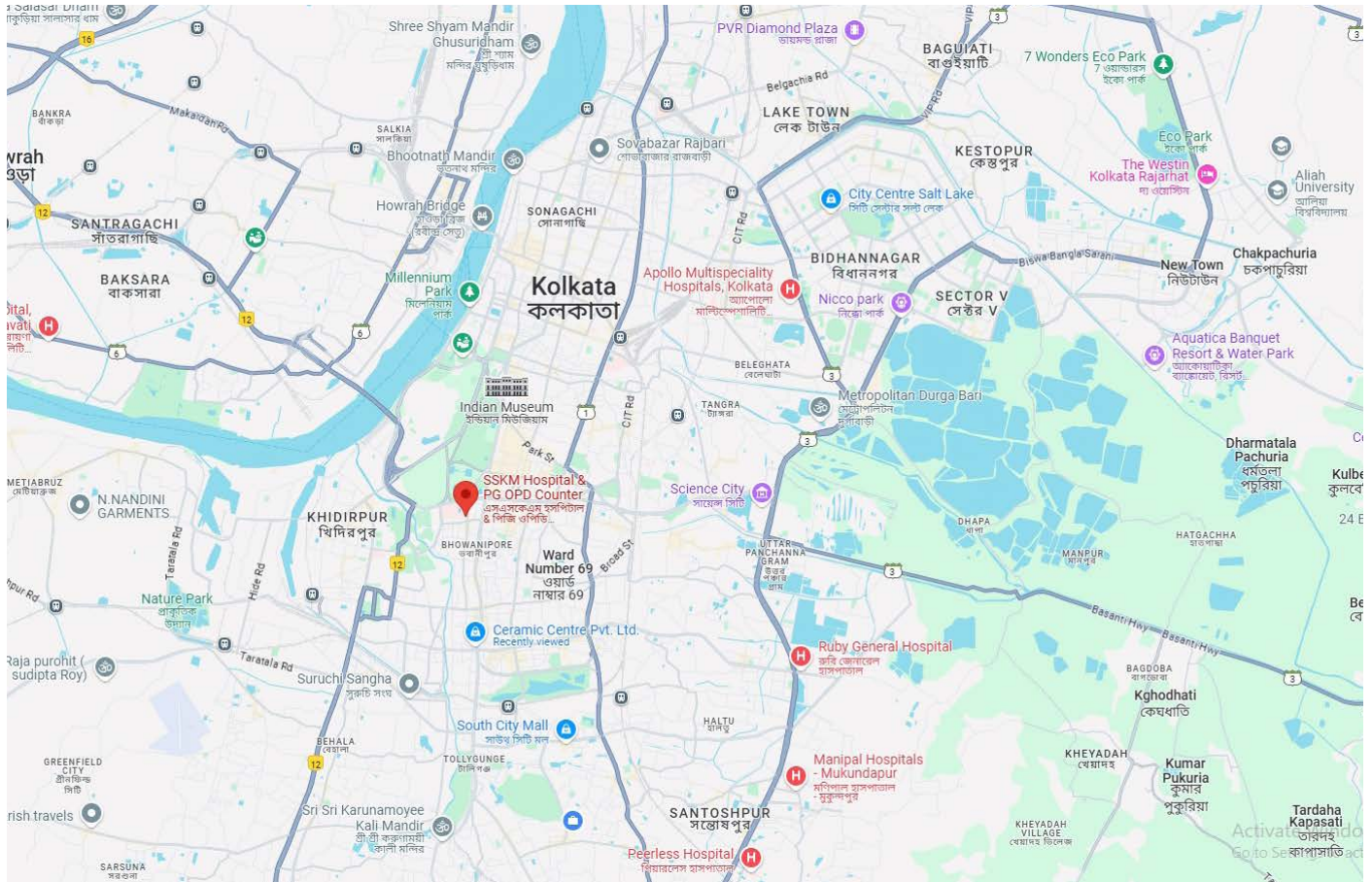
About SSKM

Seth Suklal Karmani Hospital (SSKM) colloquially known as the PG hospital is a public medical college and hospital located in Kolkata.

This place is a premier Heritage Health Institute of the country. Founded in 1707, the SSKM campus is spread over an area of approximately 34 acres of land in the heart of Kolkata.

At present, the PG hospital supports 1,605 medical students and caters to approximately 2,400 inpatients. It is a central referral hospital and has an active OPD department serving approximately 10,000 patients across various disciplines every day.

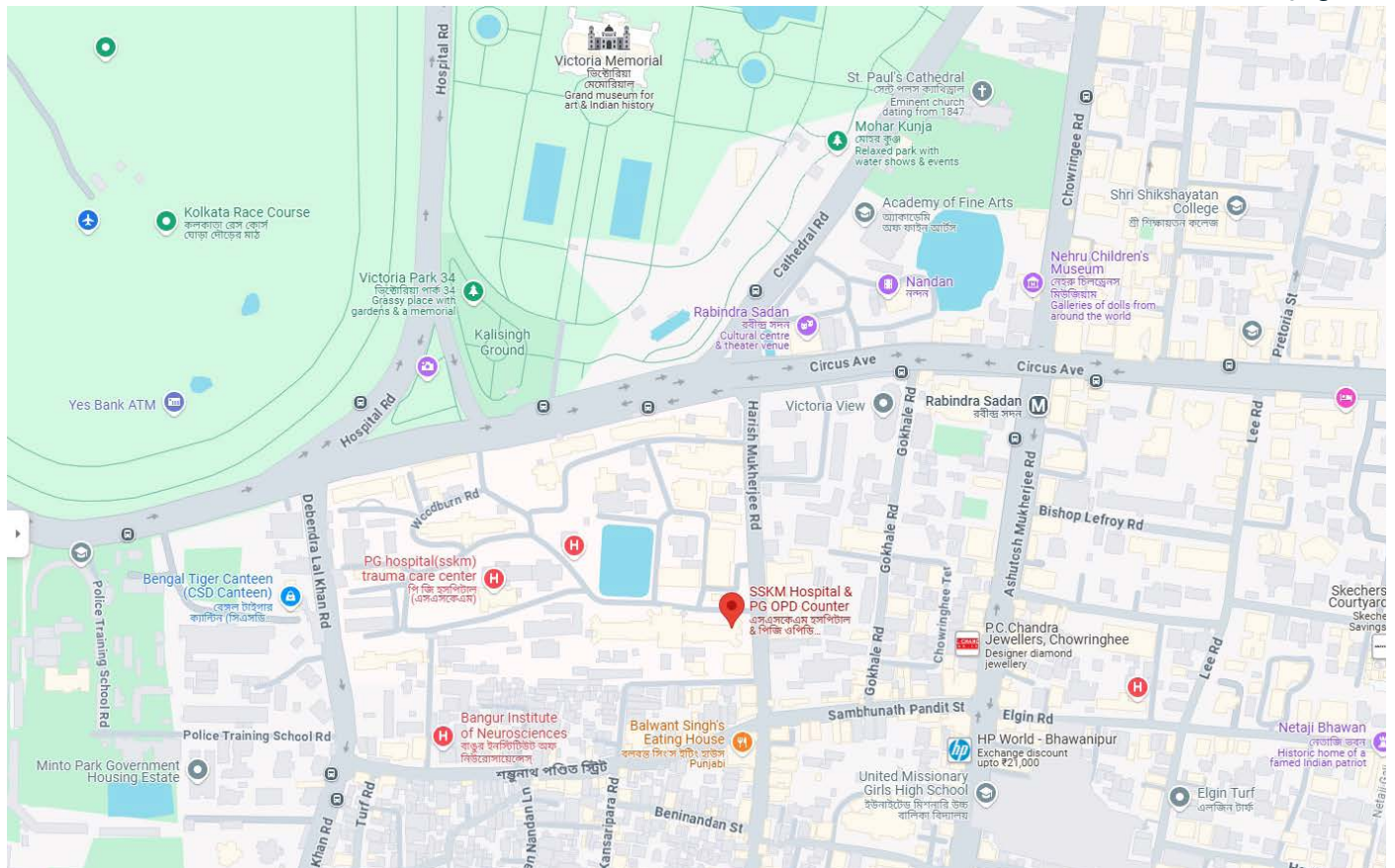
Location and Context



Google Maps Image - SSKM campus in Kolkata
Image @ 2025

Highly Accessible
Visibly prominent
Landmark location

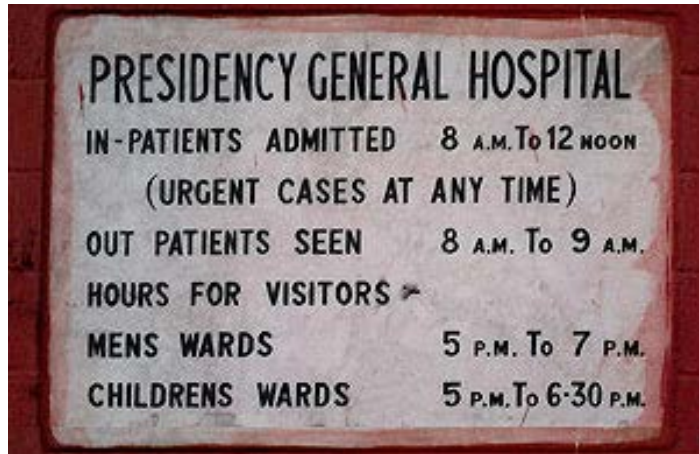
Google Maps Image - SSKM Immediate Context
Image @ 2025



Fact File

Area of Campus: 34 Acres
Built-up Area: 41,700 sq.metre

History



The old plaque
of the Presidency
General Hospital



Sir. Ronald Ross
made his epochal
discovery of 'Cycle
of Malaria Parasite'
in this Hospital -
for which he was
awarded the Nobel
Prize in Medicine
and Physiology in
1902.

In 1768, a house was purchased from a native gentleman for the purpose of a hospital. It stood to the south of Maidan, practically in the countryside. This house, with various additions and alterations including other buildings created in 1769 was renamed and functioned as the Presidency General Hospital (from where the moniker PG comes).

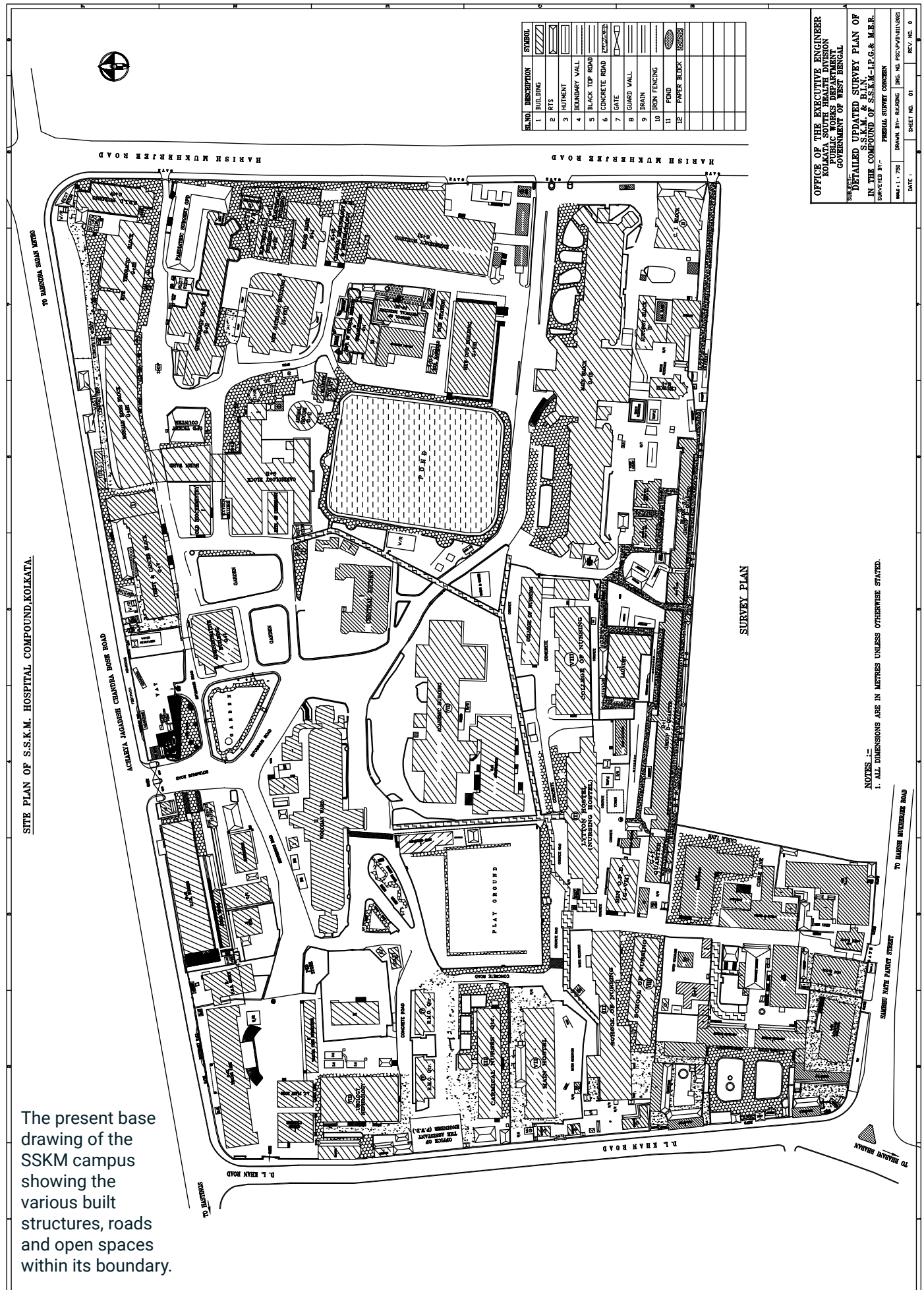
This hospital is the oldest general hospital in India for the practice of modern medicine and for meaningful research and advances in the field of medicine in general. It is full of important historic trivia that intricately connects it to the social life of Calcutta (now Kolkata). Over the years, the institution has remained a symbol of hope and trust - from the Europeans who founded it to locals from its present-day vast hinterland.

SSKM has been declared as a Heritage Precinct with several buildings representing the colonial building typology for health institutions.



Base Plan

Detailed Survey Plan of SSKM IPG&MER
Office of Executive Engineer, Kolkata South Health
Division, Public Works Dept., Govt. of West Bengal



Challenge

SSKM remains the single most important medical public destination of the state of West Bengal - a critical public space.

To cope up with the ever increasing need of expanding healthcare facilities, there have been several new constructions in the campus. These have been done without an overall planning and vision - often insensitive to the historic ambiance and context.

SSKM campus thus needs a well worked out development strategy to guide a sustainable transformation of this campus in line with its social position in the city.



Woodburn Block SSKM

REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR YUD 2025

Teams of **5 people (maximum) and 2 people (minimum)** from Institutions in India offering a Master's Course in Urban Design will be able to participate in the competition.

Participants must be students of Urban Design or Young Graduates (less than 2 years since graduation) and may be a mix.

All participants whether Student or Recent Graduate must be from the Same Institution offering Post Graduate Degree in Urban Design.

There may be multiple teams from Same Institution.

At least one member in the team should be a current Post Graduate Master's student in Urban Design from India.

Registration Fees per team will be INR 3,000 (Rupees Three Thousand Only). More than one team can participate from a qualifying Institution.

Note:

The **Competition Kit** will be made available to the participating teams after registration. The Kit will contain the detailed Urban Design study of the site, relevant maps, drawings, images, built-form details, spatial pattern, activity pattern as well as the operational relationship of the existing SSKM campus. This will help the participants develop alternative development scenarios and reimagine SSKM - as a critical public place.

COMPETITION ASSIGNMENT

Demonstrate your design approach(es), strategies and interventions aligned with the envisioned goals to be provided in the Competition Kit.

Key Components of every submission:

- 1. Vision and Objectives** - highlighting clearly the chosen issue, identified stance and the logical approach underpinning the design intervention.
- 2. Structure Plan of the site** - outlining the design strategies and processes to achieve desired transformation.
- 3. Demonstration of the transformed image** - Public Space, Chosen Nodes including the proposed restructuring of activity patterns and space use.
- 4. Urban Design Connectivity and Contextual Linkages**
- 7. Illustrations of Key Developmental Areas**

Any and all optional elements that help explain the proposal better.

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

YUD Competition 2025 – Required Presentation Materials

1. Presentation Sheets (Print-Quality PDF):

Prepare two to three horizontal (landscape format) sheets featuring the site plan, urban design, and illustrations. Sheet size: A1.

Submit high-resolution JPG or PNG files of the sheets not more than 25MB .

Submit a PDF (A4 size) summarizing the proposal, highlighting the key concepts, vision, assumptions, development program, and community benefits, within a word limit of 300 words. Animations or videos are not allowed. The jury will review these digitally.

2. Must include:

Team code and proposal title (no personal identifiers).
Complete master plan accompanied by vignettes. Street level sections

3. Graphics Notes:

Choose your preferred graphic techniques. Maps and illustrations may be any scale but must include graphic scales and north arrows.

Keep the text minimal and use graphics to communicate key ideas effectively.
Ensure a minimum text size, with titles at 24pt and body text at 14pt.

Use labels for clarity (charts, images, timelines).

SUBMISSION

Submission Deadline : 20th February, 2025

**All digital submissions must be received by 11:59 p.m. IST on February 20, 2025.
Late submissions will not be considered.**

We strongly recommend that teams:

Plan to complete the submission well before the deadline to avoid last-minute issues.
Note: IUDI will be unavailable for assistance after 4:00 p.m. IST, February 20, 2025.

Digital Submissions Only:

All materials must be submitted digitally. Please do not mail physical documents. Submissions should be emailed to natcon@iudi.in with subject titled "Submission YUD - Team Code XXXX".

Every team shall receive their Team Code Post Registration and Fees Payment. Payment link to be added.

Each document/sheet must display your team's unique four-digit code in the upper-right corner. Submissions must not contain any marks, logos, or images that could identify your team or institution.

Avoid including mascots, university landmarks, or any content recognizable by alumni or faculty. Submissions with identifying marks will be disqualified and will not be reviewed by the jury.

**Only materials included in the required submission sheets will be reviewed.
Do not submit supplemental diagrams, presentations, or documents beyond what is requested.**

Confirmation of Submission

Teams will receive an automatic email and portal notification upon successful submission. Within five days after the deadline, teams will be notified whether their submission is complete and eligible for jury review. For any further clarification, please reach out to YUD staff before the deadline.

Contact Details:

natcon@iudi.in | Ar. Saheli Ghosh - +91 89612 24389

EVALUATION CRITERIA & PROCESS

Jury Selection and Evaluation – Young Urban Designers (YUD) Competition. The competition jury will be held online and the schedule will be communicated to all teams qualifying for a jury.

The composition of the jury panel will be interdisciplinary with the following tentative spread(TBC): eminent urban designers, city administrator, social activist, conservation architect and healthcare administrator.

The jury will shortlist few teams that best fulfill the competition goals and deliverables. These selected teams will get the opportunity to present their Designs at the IUDI Natcon at Kolkata on 7th - 8th March, 2025. Additionally, the jury may grant honorable mentions to outstanding submissions that excel in one or more areas of evaluation.

Evaluation Criteria:

Impact of Transformation, Degree of Value Addition, Strategic Design and Planning inputs, Sensitivity to the Environment, Sensibility and Practicality of Approach, Social Responsibility

Proposals must create urban impact - maximising public life with a focus on inclusivity and operational viability.

There must be demonstrated adherence to sustainable goals, and imagination in the use and deployment of urban development strategies to attend to both immediate needs as well as future requirements.

Community benefit:

How will the community within the site and its surroundings benefit from your proposal?

Vision and Design Awareness:

Submissions should reflect a strong design concept that addresses real-world challenges while advancing the project's vision.

Risk and Feasibility:

Teams must show awareness of potential risks and assumptions.

Phasing strategies to manage feasibility and reduce risks.

Collaboration and Consistency:

Teams should demonstrate coherent integration across disciplines. Submissions lacking consistency between vision, site plan, and pro forma will not advance.

***** Interim guidance from Mentors / Advisors**

In view of the criticality of the site and the need for clarifications and inputs to help the participating teams, a sequence of interim feedback workshops will be conducted by IUDI-YUD 2025 team. These workshops will be mentored by practicing Urban Designers and guided by Senior Urban Designers. After an introductory session - the workshop will be conducted in two stages - a) formulation stage and b) design development stage. The workshops will be conducted online and joining is not a mandatory requirement for participating teams.

Evaluation Process:

IUDI ensures a fair and rigorous process, but participants should note the time limitations faced by jurors. Proposals should be concise, clear, and compelling to make a strong impression.

The Jury will evaluate all qualifying projects online, at a date and time that will be communicated to the participants. The jury votes to select two entries from the presented projects, based on parameters of:

1. Local context Usage.
2. Overall Vision for the Site.
3. Development Strategy for Envisioned Impact
4. Urban design and planning.
5. Presentation Skills to represent Ideas

Honorable mentions may be chosen based on merit.

Results of the Competition will be announced on 27th February, 2025. Few Shortlisted teams will be invited to present their project to the larger audience at the IUDI Natcon 2024-25 at Kolkata on 7-8th March and post presentation 1 Selected Entry and 1 Appreciated Entry will be announced.

Expectations for Presentations:

Teams must present clearly and concisely, ensuring proposals are visually engaging and easy to understand.

Proposals should emphasize people-oriented solutions and real-world presentation standards, prioritizing brevity and impactful communication.

By packaging solutions thoughtfully, teams enhance their chances of advancing to the finals and making a lasting impression.

Please note that consulting the jury at any point during the timeline is strictly prohibited.

IMPORTANT DATES

COMPETITION POSTER RELEASE

Registration and Fee Payment Deadline

Online Session 1 with Mentors
Optional Offline Session at site with Mentors/Advisor

Online Session 2 with Advisors
Online Session 3 with Mentors

Submission Deadline

Online Jury and Selected Teams
Presentation at Natcon 2024-25 Kolkata

6th January 2025
10th February 2025

1st February 2025
3rd February 2025

5th February 2025
10th February 2025

20th February 2025
27th February 2025 (TBC)
7th March 2025

PRIZE MONEY

Selected Entry (Winning Entry)
Appreciated Entry (First Runner-up)

Amounts to be Announced Shortly

** The Jury might issue additional honorable mentions / commendations based on particular merits of other proposals. These will not accompany a monetary award but a Certificate of Acknowledgement.

Winners also get
A Certificate of
Commendation from IUDI
and the Jury

Few selected entries will get a chance to display their ENTRY SHEETS at the IUDI Natcon held at Kolkata on the 7th - 8th of March 2025.

MENTORS

Saptarshi Mitra (He/Him): Senior Urban Designer - The Appropriate Alternative, Kolkata. Member - Community Architects Network. Chevening Fellow, ERASMUS Scholar. MSc Building and Urban Design in Development (DPU, University College London), B.Arch (CEPT University).

Saheli Ghosh (She/Her): Associate Urban Designer, Tate Hansen LLC, Atlanta, USA. Visiting Lecturer, Jadavpur University, TIU, Kolkata, India. M.Arch (Urban Design), SPA Delhi (Gold medalist).

Debmalya Ghosh (He/Him): Senior Associate Urban Designer, Tate Hansen LLC, Atlanta, USA. Visiting Lecturer, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. M.S (Urban Design), G. Tech, USA. B.Arch, JU (Gold medalist).

Aditi Kashyap (She/Her): Research Associate, CBRE, Mumbai. M.Arch (Urban Design) SPA Delhi. B.Arch, SPA Delhi

ADVISORS

Anjan Mitra
Ayan Sen
Dwaipayan Chakrabarty
Runa Dasgupta
Vikas Kanojia

JURY (To be Announced Shortly)

The composition of the jury panel will be interdisciplinary with the following tentative spread (TBC):
eminent urban designers, city administrator, social activist, conservation architect and a healthcare administrator.