

The GRIHA Trophy at NASA

This thematic session was organized to showcase the winning entries of “The GRIHA Trophy” at NASA. GRIHA trophy was launched at NASA (National Association of students of Architecture) in 2013-2014. National Association of students of Architecture (NASA India) is one of the largest Architectural students Organizations in the world with student’s participants from more than two hundred colleges all over the India and countries around the world.

This year’s GRIHA Trophy brief was developed considering the recent growth in the residential and commercial real estate and their inclination to get GRIHA rating. Thus, the competition required the students to design a mixed use (residential and commercial) development for Experion Developers.

The session was started by a brief video of the NASA event held in Bangalore; which was followed by a welcome address by Mr. Sanjay Seth, CEO GRIHA Council. He started by expressing his gratitude to collaborate with the Council of Architecture (CoA); to work towards the development of having a larger pool of trained resources in the country. He welcomes the sponsors Experion Developers, who responsibly keeping sustainability in the forefront and involving the student community, is helping in capacity building of the students. He shared his experience at the NASA event, which was an event filled with unparalleled energy. While we talk about sustainability, it is very important to start talking about capacities to implement the frameworks and policies. One of the most important set of people is the consumer. Unless there is demand for green, nothing green can be delivered. Consumer demand is at the centre of everything. Also, an important part of sustainable buildings is materials; the information on which is not very widely available. He encouraged young students to take up these challenges and train on these aspects and ends the note by congratulating the winners. “One of the most important sets of people is the consumer. Consumer demand is at the centre of everything”, said he.

Mr. M Ramachandran, GM (MEP), Experion Developers, addressed the gathering by congratulating all the winners and participants of the competition. He shared his delightful experience at the quality of work that was portrayed during the process. He mentioned how the company’s core values were translated into their latest project called Milestone Experience Centre, which is a GRIHA 5-star rated project and how last years’ competition had an inspirational value in converting this project into reality. To select a winner out of all the entries was a very difficult choice. He further encouraged the students to go in depth and analyse the exact outcomes of their thoughts.

Ar. Rajeev Kathpalia, Partner, VastuShilpa Foundation, made an enriching presentation where he focused on the water aspect of sustainability. India is a country of huge rivers and we are a country of river harvesters. Rivers or water bodies were even considered sacred, which now we can see is highly receding looking at the condition of our rivers. This emotion came into existence because many places have only few days of rainfall in a year. Spaces around water bodies serve for 3 main aspects: water utility, connects to spirituality and acts as public space bringing the community together. Out of the rainwater that we receive, 75% of it is drained to the sea. He shared examples of a few projects where water bodies have been incorporated and all in a different way from the other; as a response to the local rainfall conditions. As a takeaway, he emphasized that rainwater can be accessed and harvested across all scales of projects and to do that individual efforts are very important. “We are a nation of water

harvesters. India's groundwater depletion is a national crisis, but nobody is talking out loud about it", he lamented.

Presentations by 4 winning entries followed the welcome addresses. Then the MoU between GRIHA Council and CoA was signed.

Mr. Vijay Garg, President, Council of Architecture, took the platform to thank the GRIHA Council to work together in building a new era in the field of architecture; by taking initiatives in training students, faculty members and practicing architects and spread awareness about the GRIHA rating variants.

Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI, congratulated all the participating students and thanked Experion Developers. He also expressed joy at strengthening the association with the CoA. He emphasized that students are extremely important as they are the decision makers and innovators of tomorrow. The decisions made today and tomorrow are going to determine if we survive or not. Buildings are the most important part of our future. Programmes like GRIHA are needed to recognize the few people who promote energy efficient building. He encouraged the students by saying that every building they design should be more energy efficient than the last. He ended by saying sustainable buildings should provide a better off life to the users and either it should be resource efficient or create less waste.

Ms. Shabnam Bassi, Secretary, GRIHA Council, made closing remarks; expressing her gratitude to be associated with NASA for so many years, and through this partnership student interest had been elevated in the field of sustainability. She thanked Mr. Rajeev for his insights on water. She congratulated Mr. Vijay for taking the initiative to associate with GRIHA Council to train and create a pool of trained resources on GRIHA criteria. She thanked Experion Developers for creating this competition based on live projects. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. Ajay Mathur for his support to the young students, and Mr. Sanjay Seth for his guidance. Ms. Bassi also expressed her gratitude to the sponsors, NASA, juries and the student participants. Expressing her delight at the ideas that showcased innovative design, she formally closed "The GRIHA Trophy at the 61st NASA Convention", with a vote of thanks to the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2019 and GRIHA Council team.