

ISOLA AWARDS JURY 2019

COMBINED JURY COMMENTS

General comments:

Most of the students have taken up environmental/cultural topics against a specific regional context and have done a fantastic job in terms of study, analysis and synthesis. This has to be really appreciated in terms of the contribution the student is making to the environment and the community. While this is encouraged, many lack comprehensive & in depth solutions in terms of policy guidelines/design detailing, barring a few. The faculty members may help the students to focus more on this as well as out of the box, innovative design solutions. In terms of presentation, some of the entry sheets appeared too congested with lot of text matter, affecting the readability of the sheets. *(Compounded comments of Ar. Ravi Narayan sent by email)*

The jury members examined all the entries meticulously for precise evaluation and well-considered grading. It was indeed very satisfying and encouraging to note that budding landscape architects are endowed with both environmental sensitivity and research acumen, which is very assuring for a climate positive future of our planet. The jury panel wishes to congratulate all the students as well as their respective institutions for taking up topics of great socio-cultural & ecological relevance and quite admirable standard of presentation that the jury wished had extended to design as well. For a national level competition of this stature, minor failings can make huge differences that reflect in the results. Furthermore, jury members also noted an instance of plagiarised content and appeals to all academic institutions to remain vigilant while forwarding their students' works and make them aware of the seriousness of such academic misconduct.

Entry specific comments *(combined & compiled remarks of all jurors)*

1.	<p><u>ST190001 Conservation and Tourism Development for Cultural and Natural Landscapes of Gharapuri Island, Mumbai; Commendation</u></p> <p>The jury appreciated the extensive and systematic in-depth research and analysis with near exhaustive volume of work. The triad of format-content-presentation was of high quality and generated an involved debate among the jury in critiquing the strength of the landscape design proposition and whether it could have benefitted by exploration of other possibilities by fully tapping the cultural historicity of the site. Minor shortcomings apart, this work stands out as a laudable attempt in understanding layered complexities of an eco-cultural site.</p>
2.	<p><u>ST190002 Re-Establishing the Travancore Blue Corridor, Kerala</u></p> <p>A very interesting topic in itself, the study and analysis are also reasonably well done, although presentation format posed difficulties in comprehension. However, the jury felt there was a lack of clarity in design approach and disconnect with the historic-cum-environmental context that was inadequately addressed, making the proposal far from convincing.</p>
3.	<p><u>ST190003 Reimagining a Lost Riverscape: A Case of Poisar River in Mumbai</u></p>

	<p>Another very relevant topic, though the work was found to be bordering on half-heartedness in terms of design approach and proposed intervention. Kept limited to a conceptual level, a holistic approach to urban riverfront intervention was found missing.</p>
4.	<p><u>ST190004 Landscape Planning Policies For Zuari Estuary, Goa: Understanding the landscape features with respect to Man-Nature relationship; AWARD</u></p> <p>This impactful work displays a rare command on the topic right from the very start. The systemic approach to ecosystem based policy formulation is maintained consistently throughout and the jury members were highly impressed with the analytical prowess and aptitude that shone all through this process. This work has succeeded in bridging the gap between its initial theorizing and final resolving that was comprehensively depicted in the form of a pre-structured 'before-after' format with the help of neat & expressive hand sketches. With an exceptionally thorough research and analysis, this work fared brilliantly in all aspects with well conceived policies and outstanding presentation.</p>
5.	<p><u>ST190005 Green Infrastructure for Healthy Cities</u></p> <p>An immensely timely and pertinent project linking health and sustainability, this work had the potential to show a roadmap for future cities with replicable models, which the jury members felt was not responsive enough and appeared more as repetition of already known & established solutions, falling short of addressing the city level issues / scale.</p>
6.	<p><u>ST190006 Re-interpreting of the Settings of Cultural Precincts of Sopara</u></p> <p>An extensive topic with good study and appraisal, but landscape vocabulary is not so effective. The proposals lack innovation, the scale and the sensitivity to microclimate. Presentation could be better.</p>
7.	<p><u>ST190007 Landscape Planning For Disaster Mitigation And Rehabilitation of Settlement in Landslide Prone Area: Panchale, Pune; COMMENDATION</u></p> <p>With strong social and environmental implications, this work investigated a difficult territory, quite literally. While carrying out detailed study and analysis, it has also successfully attempted parametric synthesis and accomplished a well-structured framework to fulfill its objectives through different engineering and ecological options. An honest approach to understanding the challenges along with a simple and grounded presentation made the work noteworthy, though it has to be very careful about presenting the political map of India correctly and avoiding too much of text.</p>
8.	<p><u>ST190008 Improving standards of liveability of a city using canal system as a tool of revitalization: Kolkata; COMMENDATION</u></p> <p>In an attempt to respond to the neglect water resources typically face in congested cities, this project confronted the challenge through a landscape urbanism approach. The jury members liked the research methodology and techniques of presentation, particularly the user experiences - that made for easy understanding of the project issues. Development of concept and strategies for an experiential canal-front along-side the handmade illustrations caught the attention of the jurors, though the multitude of digital views later could not compensate the absence of zone specific landscape plans.</p>

9.	<p><u>ST190009 Mending the Gap: Landscape Conservation for the island of Aliabet; AWARD</u></p> <p>Exhaustively studied and researched, this work demonstrates appreciable proficiency and skill in critical analysis, in-depth understanding of ecological parameters and sensitivity to coastal ecology with insights into the fluviomarine aspects of the site. Leaving minor omissions aside, this work presents a well-rounded approach to planning and design through rich and coherent visual renderings that were a pleasure to note. Extremely matured and reader-friendly, the jurors found the work quite captivating and capable of keeping one engaged through its clarity of information and articulate aesthetics. It is a highly commendable and inspiring work.</p>
10.	<p><u>ST190010 Reclaiming Sacred Landscapes of Nathdwara Temple Town at Rajasthan</u></p> <p>Elaborately researched and documented, this work presents a historically as well as culturally rich context, but somewhere loses its grip on the scale of proposed interventions and a good opportunity is, thus, lost. This work would benefit from a thorough relook at the issues to bring in more clarity in content as well as presentation.</p>
11.	<p><u>ST190011 Landscape Design Proposal For Botanic Garden Of Native Flora At Talawade, Pune.</u></p> <p>Even with a good amount of study to fall back on, this work leaves a lot to be desired with a relatively shallow design proposal, lack of a strong concept, under-achieved circulation system, design detailing and plant associations. Presentation could have been better. A particular content lifted from a well-known international project is alarming.</p>
12.	<p><u>ST190012 Envisaging the Peri-Urban Landscape of Jorhat, Assam</u></p> <p>Contextually specific, the research and study has been well achieved, though not clearly reflected or expressed in the design propositions nor appropriately presented, resulting in fragmented, non-integrated and poorly illustrated design solutions. Understanding of the urban/peri-urban scale is sparse. A discreet top-down / bottom-up approach should have been adopted. Policy guidelines should also have been included. It is advisable that the project is continued to its logical end and not left mid-way.</p>

Jury Members:

Varsha Gavandi | Suchandra Bardhan | Ravikumar Narayan

The jury for the ISOLA Awards 2019 was conducted electronically (as an e-jury) on the 22nd of January 2019 with all 3 jury members located in different parts of the country. This document is digitally approved by all the jury members.