

## Young talent ropes in for sustainable habitat development

<http://m.timesofindia.com/india/Young-talent-ropes-in-for-sustainable-habitat-development/articleshow/46562308.cms>

Mar 14, 2015, 11.11AM IST TNN [ Purusharth Aradhak ]

NEW DELHI: With the intention to achieve housing for all and development of sustainable habitat, several initiatives are being taken to rope in youth participation. To motivate the young talent, several organisations' are taking initiatives and giving platforms to them.

Recently Ghaziabad Development Authority has decided to give a chance to architect students to develop smart cities for GDA. Apart from GDA, other government and private organisations are planning to rope in young talent for participation in building India.

In a similar attempt, NCR based real estate player Lotus Greens in its effort to bridge the gap between the theory and practice of architecture for sustainable buildings had shared a brief for developing 50 thousand sq. mtr. of group housing on its land parcel in Sector 150 in Noida. This is the first time that a live project was given to students with the challenge to understand the ground realities and present sustainable and implementable solutions. The contest saw representation of over 35 colleges of design and architecture in India, out of which 12 entries were shortlisted from the presentations, before deciding on the final 3 winning entries.

The group sponsored the GRIHA-NASA Trophy, at the 57th Annual Nasa Convention 2014-15. The GRIHA Summit is the largest conclave on high performance sustainable habitats in India. The winners were felicitated by P Sahel at the Summit - Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi won the 1st prize, followed by Gateway College of Architecture, Sonapat, as 1st runner up, Aalim Muhammed Salegh Academy of Architecture, Chennai as 2nd runners up while a special jury recommendation went out for NIT Calicut.

On explaining the details P Sahel, vice chairman, Lotus Greens, said, "Only sustainable development can meet the needs of today without compromising the future. The students of architecture will be the ambassadors and catalysts for guiding sustainable development in the future. The GRIHA - Nasa Trophy is a great opportunity to help budding architects appreciate the power of eco-friendly practices. As part of Lotus Greens' commitment to promoting sustainability across India, we have been sponsoring the GRIHA - Nasa Trophy. We are elated to see the response; some exemplary work has been showcased by the students." The group said that in future planning of the project, students innovative ideas could also be incorporated in the main plan.

The shortlisted entries were adjudged by an eminent jury comprising celebrated names in the fields of architecture and green building. It included Gopal Krishnan, Director and Head - USGBC- Asia Pacific and Middle East; Mili Majumdar, director TERI and Secretary cum Treasurer, GRIHA Council etc.

The designs were selected on the basis of their conformity to stringent norms and standards prescribed by GRIHA. The participating students studied the climate of Noida with the objective of maximizing natural ventilation and views for individual dwelling units. The entries had interesting recommendations like extensive terrace gardens to maximize the total landscaped area of the project, with native plants to reduce landscape water demand.

Incepted in February 2013, Lotus Greens under leadership of founder Nirmal Singh have already delivered 14 million sq ft of real estate spaces, with a current land bank of 925 acres. The group is actively working on delivering sustainable communities by enabling homes for about 12000 families in the next 3 years and developing over 1 million sq ft of Hospitality space through strategic tie-ups with renowned hotel chains like Four Seasons, FairField and Marriott, as well as a Medical Foundation.