

Women's Empowerment Centre Design Challenge Results Announced:

Global design challenge engages architects, designers and engineers to create an innovative design proposal for a women's empowerment centre in Devachuli, Nepal. The winning design to be built this year will continue the outreach work of Kanallan, supporting the improvement of women's rights.



Winning entry: Her Place by Dikshya Poudyal & Dibyaswor Lamichhane

A collaborative team from the USA and Nepal has been announced as the winner in a design challenge that hopes to provide a safe, secure and inviting new environment for empowering Nepalese women and girls. The design was selected out of proposals from more than 20 countries. The local jury members praised the winning design for its careful sensitivity to local culture, uniqueness and inclusive approach to design.

The new centre will improve access to healthcare, education and recreation that unfortunately many young women lack from an early age through to womanhood. The creation of the centre will strengthen an existing outreach and mentor program being provided by Kanallan and the local charity Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal. These services will support gender equality in the region as well as offering workshops, classes and critically a safe haven for individuals or families in abusive situations. The winning design was selected for being welcoming, open and inclusive but also providing a strong, safe, solid looking building which can withstand the local climate and extreme weather conditions.

The successful proposal showed a real understanding of the importance in creating spaces informed by the local culture. A water well at the front for example creates an informal meeting place and a wall to show inspirational stories of local women provides an engaging positive area. These are just a few of the elements which went beyond the original design brief.

The Winning team Dibyaswor LAMICHHANE, Registered Architect Kathmandu, Nepal and Dikshya POUDYAL, LEED AP, BD+C Houston, Texas, USA said:

"It is a great deal for us designers to see our design realized. When we heard about the competition on our turf, we wanted to contribute to this social cause. Our concept was to design an iconic building to represent women's strength, while also providing a safe and supportive environment. We were very meticulous about the building materials and wanted to implement economic sustainability through architecture. We hope our design serves the purpose and empowers women in the society."



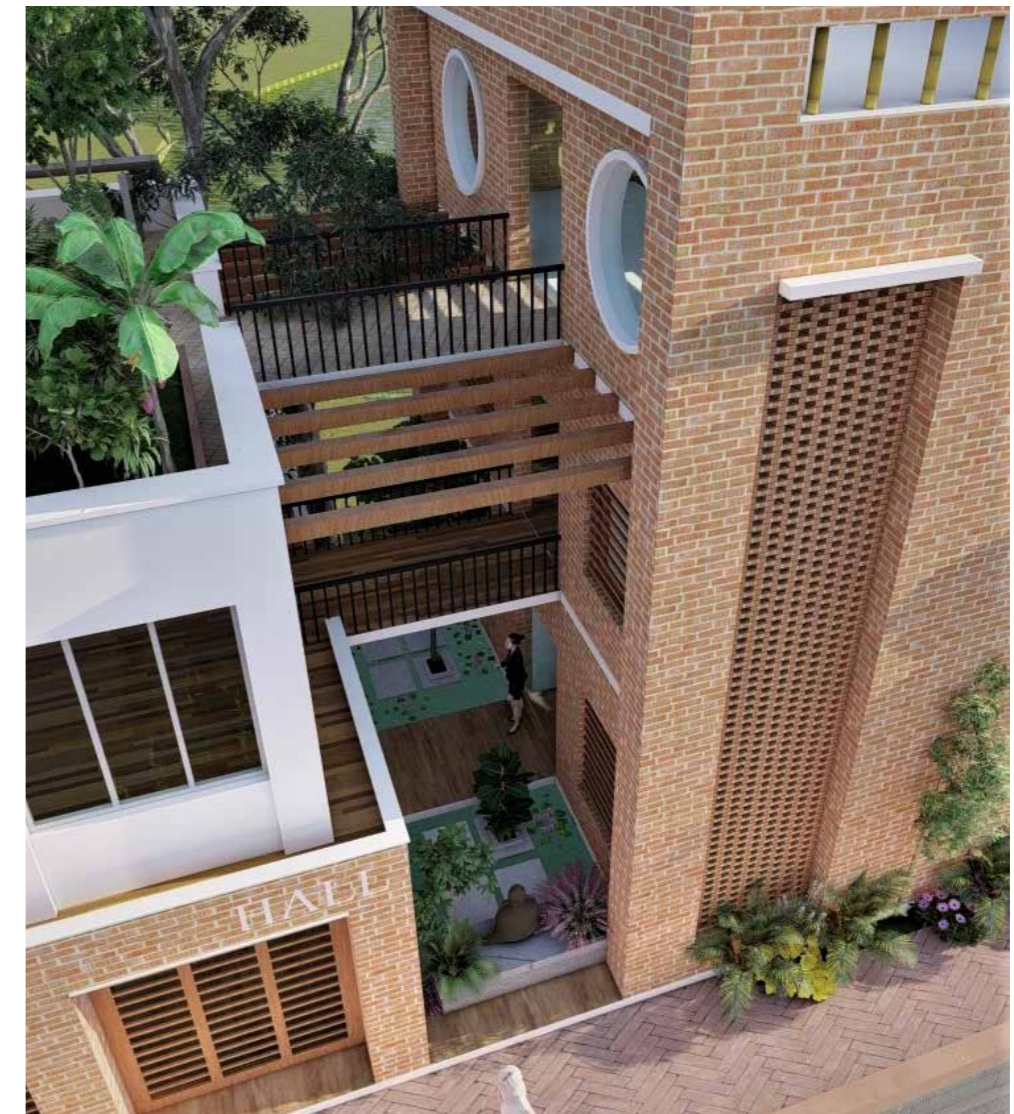
View of the elevation

A wide range of submissions made use of sustainable materials and highlighted the need for passive cooling, ventilation and natural lighting. The short listed designs showed a creative range of well thought out ideas. The honourable mentions included teams from Russia, China, France and Spain.

David Cole Founding Partner of Building Trust international said,

"The challenge was a very difficult one for the jury with such a high level of design quality from so many entries. We are thrilled that we were able to engage the local team and end users with the selection and there is genuine excitement to see this project realised later this year. It has the potential to change lives in a positive way for generations to come"

Building Trust international will be working closely with Kanallan and local partners to help deliver the winning design during 2021. Once realised this government approved proposal will deliver much needed services and has the chance to be a pilot for more centres of its kind, helping establish a more equitable community at a local and national level.



Central garden space between the multifunctional halls and the office spaces

Quintin Clover - Founding Director of Kanallan said,

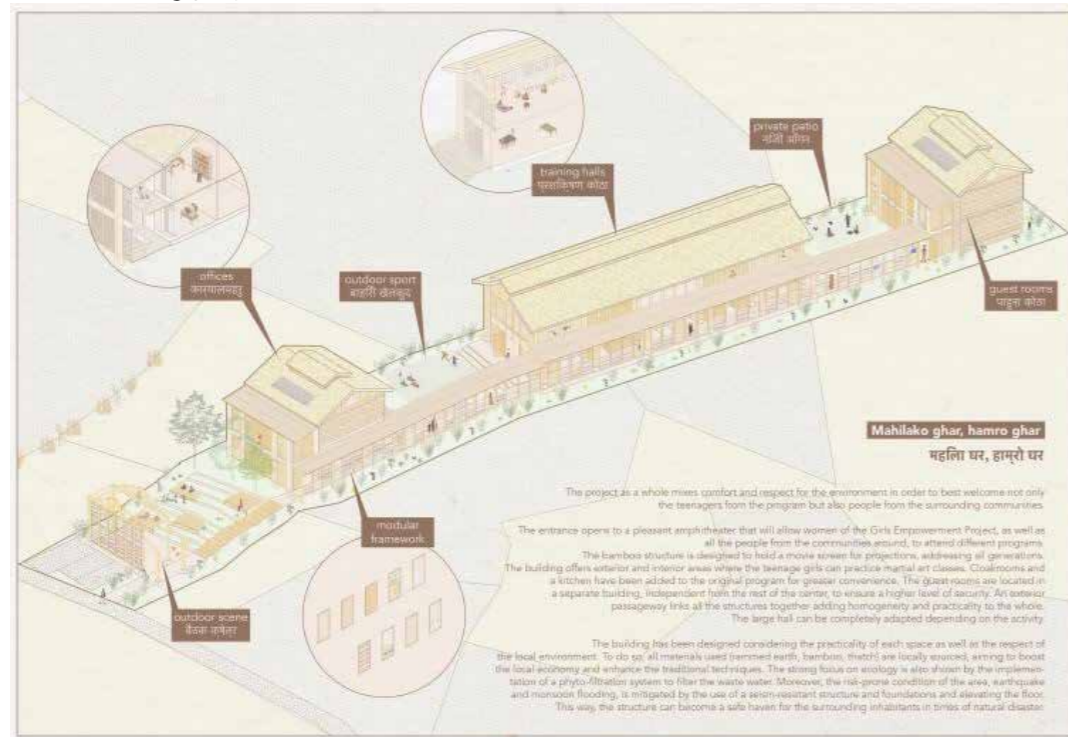
"Myself and the team were absolutely blown away with the work and talent that went into the designs for this competition. The girls and young women that this building will serve feel truly a part of something special with a wonderful feeling that there is an international community out there that really cares for them and this new centre."

Although only one design could be chosen, the inspiration that myself and the team have drawn from each and every design will influence our work for many years to come. Aspects of all the submissions will be entwined in our work helping underprivileged women and children around the world. The designs have enriched our future plans and broadened our perspective of what is possible, the flair and intricacies in all the work submitted has really demonstrated how much more we could be doing with our construction projects."



The private gardens on the roof create a place of solitude and reflection

The following projects received honourable mentions:



Honourable Mention, Victoria MOURELLE, Lucie DUBERT, Ana Jayone, YARZA PEREZ Marion CHAPEY, Laure LEPIGEON



Honourable Mention, Valentin Kogan, Daria Bril, Evgenia Ermoshko, Iliia Ermolayev

"We were happy to participate in the competition and contribute to this useful goal in Nepal"



Honourable Mention, THE ARCHITECTURE STORY



Honourable Mention, CAW Architects based in Palo Alto, California, USA and M.L.Kayastha and Associates based in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Honourable Mention, Form4 Architecture - John Marx and Saba Raji



Honourable Mention, Studio C+C & Studio 4215

"The intent with our design proposal was to provide a safe and flexible space for learning, designed to be environmentally sustainable and cost-effective, constructed using local materials and traditional methods and help empower the young women of Devachuli and the rural areas around"



Honourable Mention, Xinghong Wang

"The purpose of my project aims at eliminating gender restrictions and promoting equality between men and women in Nepal, and at the same time provide greater possibilities for women's lifestyle today."



Honourable Mention, RTA Studio



Honourable Mention, Sonja Walzik, Hanna Bederke, Clara Kühn

"The conglomerate of buildings is meant to mimic a village of their own where the children can feel safe, have their own rules, are encouraged to learn and befriend fellow peers."

Editors Notes

About Building Trust International

Building Trust International is a non-profit organisation offering design assistance to communities and individuals in need. Building Trust International assesses areas in need, finds sustainable, economical aid solutions and ultimately provides buildings and infrastructure. These core actions have blossomed into advocating and educating on the principles of socially aware design, providing an accessible resource on humanitarian design projects and providing a structure for the crossover of information between design professionals. Building Trust International is a charity registered in England and Wales (1142338).
www.buildingtrustinternational.org

About Kanallan

Kanallan is a philanthropic consultancy that works with individuals, charities, and corporations to facilitate independent humanitarian projects in developing countries. We believe that it should be simple and easy to help people around the world and are here to guide and assist you to give right.
www.kanallan.com

About Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal

Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit making social organization established by dedicated youths for the protection and promotion of child and youth rights in Nepal through advocacy, research and campaign.
www.jcycnepal.org.np

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