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INDIA + NETHERLANDS + USA



# DAIDA FOUNDATION GLOBAL URBAN THESIS AWARD COMPETITION : Edition 2025



Chairman's note on the Foundation's vision of the competition theme:

## Public Infrastructure and Public Spaces

Cities are full of inequities. Social and environmental injustice decide the quality of many in the lower part of the socio-economic pyramid. Financial inequities exacerbate the problem.

It is through Public Infrastructure and Public Spaces that some of these inequities are addressed within cities. e.g. :

- ◆ Inclusive public transportation can allow poor and rich, old and young, women and men to commute to their work or leisure.
- ◆ Vibrant public spaces such as plazas and public squares allow those with little private space at home to lounge at ease.

- ◆ Parks and urban forests and riverfronts allow all to refresh their lungs and more.

Most importantly Public Spaces and Public Infrastructure provide a chance for people from different social and economic strata to meet each other. For, in true public spaces and other manifestations of public infrastructure, ideally all citizens - whatever their place in the social or economic pyramid have the same rights.

Amid global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, natural disasters, and urban decline, public infrastructure and spaces play a vital role. During

crises such as floods, heatwaves, or pandemics, they offer adaptable infrastructure that supports emergency response and strengthens community resilience.

Thoughtfully designed and managed public spaces are thus not only essential for environmental sustainability but also for enhancing the health, safety, and cohesion of urban communities.

DAIDA Foundation Global Urban Thesis Award, edition 2025, invites entries from students of Master's programs (\*) to address inequities in cities through their research and / or design of Public Spaces and Public Infrastructure.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shyam Khandekar'.

Shyam Khandekar  
Chairman, DAIDA Foundation

**\* Eligible participants are Master program students with either design or research component in subjects related to cities and/or urban- environmental landscape. Thesis submitted in the academic year of Master Program 2023-24 and 2024-2025, will be eligible for submission in this competition.**

To read details about the previous competition editions, please visit either. [www.myliveablecity.com](http://www.myliveablecity.com) and click on the tab – MLC Academy, or <https://daida.myliveablecity.com/>



PRIZE

# DAIDA FOUNDATION GLOBAL URBAN THESIS AWARD COMPETITION : Edition 2025

Total cash reward  
Euros 20,000

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
PRIZE  
**€6000**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
PRIZE  
**€5000**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
PRIZE  
**€4000**

Jury will  
decide on the  
disbursement  
of the balance  
Euros 5000

For all updates on this competition and to learn more about the earlier editions, please visit

**[www.myliveablecity.com](http://www.myliveablecity.com)**



# DAIDA FOUNDATION GLOBAL URBAN THESIS AWARD COMPETITION : Edition 2025

Competition Theme

# Public Infrastructure and Public Spaces

For Competition Edition 2025, 24 Institutes across 6 countries have submitted 44 theses proposing adaptive ideas for 29 cities across 8 countries.

Shortlisted candidates names will be announced in January 2026

## PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES/INSTITUTIONS

School of Planning and Architecture	Vijayawada, India
AIN Shams University	Cairo, Egypt
International Center for Urbanism, Katholieke Universiteit	Leuven, Belgium
Manipal School of Architecture and Planning	Manipal, India
The University of Cape Town	Cape Town, South Africa
Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies	Mumbai, India
R V College of Architecture	Bengaluru, India
Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture	Pune, India
Jamia Millia Islamia	New Delhi, India
MEASI Academy of Architecture	Chennai, India
College of Engineering	Trivandrum, India
BMS College of Architecture Design and Planning	Bengaluru, India
Goa College of Architecture	Goa, India
Delft University of Technology	Delft, Netherlands
Pillai College of Architecture	Panvel, India
School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University	Chennai, India
VIT's Padmabhushan Dr. Vasantdada Patil College of Architecture	Pune, India
University of Stuttgart	Stuttgart, Germany
CEPT University	Ahmedabad, India
School of Planning and Architecture	Bhopal, India
Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Architecture	Pune, India
School of Planning and Architecture	Mysore, India
Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport, College of Engineering & Technology - Heliopolis Branch	Heliopolis, Egypt
National Institute of Technology	Patna, India