Nurturing Aangans
A competition to redesign anganwadis of Kochi

Cochin Smart Mission Limited
Calling design proposals from students and professionals to refurbish outdoor play spaces for young children of anganwadis in Kochi

Reward: INR 25000 and opportunity to participate in on-ground implementation

Email your proposals to nnckochi@gmail.com
Contents

1. About the Challenge
2. About the Competition
   • Vision & Objectives
   • Inception of Project
   • Context
3. Design Problem
   • Site Details
   • Examples from Fort Kochi
4. Design criteria
5. Participation & Submission guidelines
About the Challenge

Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge is a 3-year initiative launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs, in collaboration with Bernard van Leer Foundation with the technical support of WRI India.

It aims to incorporate a focus on early childhood development (0-5-year-old children) in the planning and management by shaping neighbourhoods that work well for pregnant women, young children and their families.

Designing safe, stimulating and playful environment for 0-5-year-old children and their caregivers result in a healthy development of these children and sets a strong foundation for society.

To know more the Challenge, log on to home | Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge (niua.org)

Cities that work for young children and their families... are cities that work for all
What do you see at the height of 95cm which is the average height of a 3 year old?
What is the Competition about?
As part of the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge, Kochi plans to reclaim and refurbish the outdoor spaces of the anganwadis of Fort Kochi to create safe and accessible play and recreational environments for its youngest residents and their caregivers.

Who can Apply?
This competition is open for all professionals and students from the architecture, urban design, urban planning and other relevant backgrounds.

How to Apply?
Interested candidates can register here and access the competition brief and other details at- https://csml.co.in/

Please send the submissions in PDF format on nnckochi@gmail.com

The winning designs will be implemented on ground as a part of the challenge, in collaboration with Cochin Smart Mission Limited and Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge team, WRI India.
Revamping ITC-oriented anchors such as anganwadis and public open spaces and connecting them with safe and accessible streets for young children and their caregivers.

Reclaiming ‘angans’ for Anganwadis

Fort Kochi has multiple early childhood facilities such as anganwadis which have potential for further infrastructural improvement. The idea is to reclaim and refurbish the outdoor spaces of these anganwadis to create safe and accessible play and recreational environments for its youngest residents and their caregivers.
Inception of Project

CSML aims to improve early childhood facilities and amenities in the most densely populated pockets of Kochi having high concentration of child population to provide max. benefits to the users.

Population density –Municipal Corporation area

West Kochi has a very high population density of more than 100 pph compared to the rest of the city.

Child population density –Municipal Corporation area

Child population density is visibly high in the West Kochi area, with Wards 3 and 4 showing highest concentration of young children (0-6 yrs) according to Census 2011.
Parts of West Kochi including Fort Kochi, Eraveli, Karippalam and Mattancherry consists of 60% of informal settlements of KMC area.
Relevance of the project

29 existing Anganwadis of West Kochi have been selected under the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge. They all require further infrastructural upgradation for the better use of young children and their caregivers visiting these early childhood development (ECD) centers. The main idea is to design these ECD centers to support safe outdoor play for young children and comfortable space to gather for their caregivers.
The early childhood development (ECD) centers or *anganwadis* of Fort Kochi have been earmarked for infrastructural refurbishment along with addition of safe and accessible play spaces/opportunities for the young children and comfortable waiting areas for their caregivers. The challenge is to create safe and comfortable multi-functional play and rest spaces for infants, toddlers and caregivers (ITC) accessing these *anganwadis* within the available space. Each *anganwadi* has an average enrolment of 15 students and a daily attendance of 8-10 children. The existing building structure cannot be demolished only remodelled to suit proposed ITC-centric designs. Participants are expected to submit detailed designs (plan, section, supporting renders/views) for any two out of the eight *anganwadis* (site details to follow) and general design guidelines for the remaining six *anganwadis*.

Urban design and city planning play a crucial role in shaping the early years (0-5 years) of a child’s life. *How can you as a designer, re-imagine these early childhood development centers to best suit the needs of these young children and their caregivers?*
Anganwadi Site Details
Anganwadis 3 and 11 are located on the ground floor of this building. The first floor is used as a venue for public gatherings, meetings or events. The building looks dull and unattractive for children's use and lacks dedicated play space for them.

How can we improve this anganwadi for the better use of young children and their caregivers?
Anganwadis 3 and 11 are situated at a T-junction within the Calvathy community hall compound. It is located opposite to the Calvathy Govt. LP school. This area receives a high footfall of young children and their caregivers during daytime. The abutting street does not have adequate pedestrian infrastructure. The building front yard can be converted into a play zone for children.

The building consists of veranda, classrooms, kitchen, store-room, toilet and a back yard. The back-yard is currently lying vacant and can be developed into a safe play space for children.
Front yard of anganwadi is currently unsafe for the use of children. The ground surface is hard, and children are exposed to sharp objects. This area gets damp during rains due to improper installation of roof and insufficient width of the overhangs. The compound walls are dull and monotonous.

Currently, the verandah of anganwadi is not much in use. There are no seating spaces for the caregivers. The walls and floors of the anganwadi are tiled.
Even though the interior looks vibrant, stacked chairs, storage, colored charts and other furniture make the space cluttered.

How can the space look organized and attractive for the use of children and teachers?
Classrooms of *anganwadi* 5 and 6 are located in the residential area of Calvathy. Children do not have a dedicated outdoor play area within the compound. Their play opportunities are limited to classroom interiors. The caregivers drop and collect their children at the building entry. They do not have an additional space for waiting.

How can we design a young children and caregiver-friendly play area and waiting space for this *anganwadi*?
The building housing *anganwadis* 5 and 6 is located opposite to the local community hall, along an internal street which leads to a dead end.

The building consists of spaces like veranda, classrooms, kitchen, store-room, toilet and a back yard. The back-yard is currently lies vacant and can be developed into a safe play space.
The gate opens to this tiled semi-open space which serves as the common corridor to both anganwadi classrooms. This underutilized space has the potential to be redesigned into a multi-functional space accommodating waiting area for caregivers and semi-outdoor play area for children.
The semi-open space at the rear side is currently not under any use and is unsafe for children as a play area. This space could be explored as another outdoor play area for children.

Classrooms as multi-functional spaces where children are engaged in activities such as playing, learning, having meals and napping.
Anganwadi 8 is located amidst the residential area of Kunnumupuram, Fort Kochi. The anganwadi lacks an aangan or a front yard. Children can only play in the classrooms of this anganwadi.

How can we design a better indoor play environment for young children in this anganwadi?
This anganwadi is in the residential area of Kunnumpuram, opposite to the upcoming housing project under RAY scheme. The children of this anganwadi are highly susceptible to air pollution due to ongoing construction activity. The building is linear in shape and doesn’t have the luxury of an outdoor play yard.

The classroom is spacious in comparison to other anganwadis. Children use indoor play equipment to play inside the classroom. Washroom is accessible from the backyard, although at times it gets inconvenient for the teachers to take children for toilet breaks especially during the rainy season.
The classroom has a linear plan. Three-fourths of the wall is tiled. Play equipment and chairs for children are arranged in a haphazard manner in the classroom.

Storage area is exposed and unorganized.
This anganwadi is located adjacent to a public ground and lacks proper compound walls. Untrimmed wild bushes pose a threat to the children. Several cases of snake sighting within anganwadi premises have been reported.

How can we create a safer environment for the children and caregivers of the anganwadi?
The *anganwadi* is surrounded by wild bushes and is constructed adjacent to an open drain. Therefore, a safe boundary wall is the immediate requirement of this anganwadi.

**How can we design an interactive and safe boundary wall for the anganwadi?**

---

**Site Context**

---

**Ground Floor Plan**

---

How can we reimagine the available space inside the *anganwadi* to be transformed into a safe play area for the children and resting space for their caregivers?

*All dimensions are in meters.*
The classroom is quite colourful and vibrant. The windows and doors are always kept closed due to fear of snakes.

How can we transform the classroom interiors into safer and flexible environment for play and learn for its users?
Open drains emit foul smell which is hazardous to the health of the young children of anganwadi. In addition, caregivers feel reluctant to send children to the anganwadi on their own due to lack of safe pedestrian infrastructure.

Absence of compound walls on all three sides of the building renders it open to snakes and other animals from the wild groove at the back.
Front yard of the anganwadi is not paved and gets dirty during rains. Children do not have an outdoor shaded play and seating area. How can we convert the anganwadi premise into a safe outdoor play cum waiting area?
The terrace though covered is currently underutilized. Can the space be transformed into a safe and colourful play zone for children?
These anganwadis are located in the dense settlement of Kunnumupuram. As part of Rajiv Awas Yojana scheme, this settlement will be relocated to an upcoming housing project in the adjacent plot.

Meanwhile how can we temporarily provide a better play and learn environment for the young children and caregivers of the anganwadi?
The anganwadi classroom is unorganized due to lack of separate storage space. Minimal space is available within the classrooms for conducting engagement activities for children.
Small animals such as cats and squirrels enter the verandah area through these open grills.

Can the verandah space be redesigned to be a safe play and waiting space through some temporary measures?
How can we reorganize these spaces and existing furniture to better suit the needs of the young children and caregivers of these anganwadis?
EXAMPLES FROM FORT KOCHI ANGANWADIS
**Components:**
- Comfortable waiting space for ITC
- Colorful murals on walls/ floor
- Play equipment (wall mounted/recycled tires) for young children
- Fencing around play area
- Handrail for young children and their caregivers
- Improved access staircase
Components:

- Comfortable waiting space for ITC
- Concrete mushrooms for play and seating
- Wall mounted play board, abacus, rotating blocks, rock climbing facility for young children
- Floor-based games
- Potted plants/vertical planters
Most of the anganwadis of Fort Kochi are located within densely populated neighbourhoods with little or no space for outdoor play. **The main idea of this design competition is to explore innovative and cost effective ways to provide safe and accessible play opportunities in the limited space available for the youngest residents of these neighbourhoods.**

**Play Space Characteristics:**
Children enrolled in anganwadis typically belong to the age group of 3-5 yrs, therefore play opportunities in and around the anganwadi premises must ensure plenty of stimulative and sensory activities facilitating walking, running, jumping, touching and other forms of active and passive play. Vertical surface of the enclosing compound walls can be utilized as a learning and play aid for children with sensory murals and wall mounted play equipment. Opportunities guiding nature play are highly encouraged.

**Waiting Area Characteristics:**
Well shaded multi-heighted seating can be proposed for visiting caregivers and their children. Art installations or other forms of play could be added to engage children in the waiting area.

**Improving Access to Anganwadi:**
Traffic calming measures and wayfinding signage demarcating child-priority zone around anganwadi could be introduced. Entry to the premises could be made more inclusive and accessible for young children and their caregivers.
General Design Guidelines

• Proposed building material(s) should be child-friendly, vernacular to the context and easily sourced. Recyclable materials could also be considered for use.
• Due to availability of limited space, building façade of the anganwadi can be experimented with and used as a learning aid for young children such as painting walls with educative and colorful art such as alphabets, numbers, local folk stories and painting floors with floor-based games such as hopscotch and stepping trails.
• Basic services such as toilet and handwash facilities at lower heights, water dispensers for caregivers near waiting area can be incorporated within design proposal wherever possible.
• Due to space constraint, the anganwadi premises can be designed to function not only as comfortable waiting area for caregivers but also an outdoor play area for young children.

Design Principles

PLAYFUL    SUSTAINABLE    SAFE    WALKABLE    ACCESSIBLE
Participation and Submission

Last date of submission: **15th Sept. 2022**

### Participation guidelines
- Participants can be students or professionals from multidisciplinary backgrounds – design, architecture, urban design and urban planning, NGOs, experts in early childhood services or individuals from any associated fields.
- Participants are allowed to make individual or team submissions (ideally team up to 4 members).
- Any individuals or teams associated or guided by organizers of the competition are not encouraged to participate.

### Submission guidelines
- Participants can register [here](#) for the competition.
- Participants can find the package including participation form, auto cad drawing, photographs and short videos to understand the existing site condition in the link: [Design problem package](#)
- Kindly submit your proposals in not more than 3 nos. of A3 sheets. Submission must include filled
  - participation form,
  - design concept,
  - key plan and detailed drawings,
  - visualizations and illustrations to support the design,
  - write-up of 200-300 words explaining the design idea.
- Participants can send in their queries to nnckochi@gmail.com latest by **8th Sept. 2022**. No further queries will be entertained after the afore-mentioned date.
KOCHI
NURTURING NEIGHBOURHOODS CHALLENGE

In case of any queries or concerns please reach out to nnckochi@gmail.com

A programme supported by