The winners will be able to develop their design and build with communities!

Paraa, in collaboration with Ubinig and Ajiyer, is launching the design competition ‘PRANGAN’ for students to develop the idea of a communal public space for craft and local communities. The focus of the design should be on the intersecting relationships between CRAFT, DESIGN, ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY and COMMUNITY.

We challenge the teams to use a critical lens to explore and emphasize on all aspects of what constitutes a communal space inviting, engaging and activating for different groups (children, women, youth etc.) in a rural environment.

The participating team will embark upon a 5 day long design challenge. The winning team will develop and finalise design with the communities, local stakeholders along with the Paraa team. Participants will receive detailed design challenge after the registration deadline.

Registration deadline 30 SEPT 2019
Information www.paraa.org.uk/charrette
Email queries www.paraa.org.uk
The Brief

Paraan has been collaborating with UBINIG and Ajiler since 2013, exploring craft communities and the potential to establish a new centre of learning and exchange on craft. As a continuation, Craft.Future is Paraan's ongoing project that explores the potential of design, from various different lenses.

For this design competition, we would like the participating teams to design a public space for the artisans, farmers and other members of the local community. The brief will be to incorporate spaces for communal development and cohesion, enhance the local environment and provide a multifunctional, diverse space for all. Finally, we want to keep in mind the importance of the landscape for community learning.

On the basis of these gripping issues, and focusing on the need for enhancing communities, Paraan, UBINIG and Ajiler launch ‘Prangan,’ an open design charrette for students and fresh graduates. A plot of 10 Katha has been recently made available within the compound, and the intention is to combine the opportunity to create a recreational space for the community, including women and children, and create playful, interactive spaces.

The Site

UBINIG, Partial, Tangail
(more detailed design challenge, site plans and images will be provided to registered groups)

UBINIG has dedicated land for the Craft.Future project. Located in the Union of Pathrail, and centred around a handloom weavers community. It has over 30,000 people, and the Delduar Upazila contains in total over 200,000 people, spread across a small geographical region, making it much more dense than usual small village clusters. In effect, it is a cluster of small towns, with their own craft communities.

The site is nestled between UBINIG’s various activities.

Background

DELDAUR, TANGAIL

Tangail is a city with unique traditions, foods and music. It is 100 km away from Dhaka city, located along the bank of Louhajang River. Tangail is well known for its rich heritage of various crafts.

Many different crafts has evolved in this very area. These crafts not only reflect the artistic personality of the craftsmen but also their history and traditions. The leading crafts are: Handloom Saree (Nakshibuti & jacquard), Bamboo craft, Clay craft, Metal craft, Weaved craft (Sheetalpati) and Silver craft. All these craftsmen are the carrier and protector of their art and heritage.

Please visit the following sites to learn more about the craft communities at Tangail:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qqBjNcRgOE
https://tangailbuti.tumblr.com/
THE DESIGN CHALLENGE

Participants will be highly encouraged to address the following challenges, and beyond:

- To investigate and design through a series of participatory and/or collaborative methods.
- Sustainable architecture which incorporates disability friendly components (or universally accessible)
- Economic solutions/proposals designed with environmentally sustainable materials
- Processes enhancing self dependency of this community

The end product will be a collective, collaborative production of a public space, which the local communities will manage.

Participants will receive guidance through a series of short, dedicated sessions regarding site context, the lifestyle and psychological behavior of the children much more, organized by UBINIG, Ajiyer and Paraa.

The winners will be able to realize their design and contribute towards the process of developing innovative community and public spaces.

JURY BOARD:

A group of architects, experts and individuals involved in working with craft and architecture.

SCHEDULE:

REGISTRATION CLOSES: 30.09.2019 [SHARP MIDNIGHT]
DESIGN CHALLENGE : 01.10.2019
SUBMISSION: 05.10.2019 [SHARP MIDNIGHT]

WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT : 06.10.2019
ORIENTATION : 07.10.2019

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (AT SITE): 09.10.2019-12.10.2019

Dates are subject to change if organizing committee feels necessary. Times will be provided with more detailed outline to registered groups.

ELIGIBILITY:

- The competition is aimed at groups of minimum 4 and maximum 5 participants, which must include three architecture student.
- Current undergraduate(those who have successfully completed third year, first semester, in case of an architecture student) or recent graduates of any discipline from any university are encouraged
- Participants are to have a basic understanding of methods, or research/request the relevant available methods, of analyzing the site and its community critically, upon visit. Applicants are to be aware of participatory/collaborative design methods
REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Each group must submit the following information to info@paraa.org.uk by September 30 2019, with the subject heading: “Prangon”, upon registration.

• Lead person contact details: Name, Email address, Phone number
• A group name of own choice
• Group members name and contact details

UBINIG

UBINIG is the abbreviation of its Bengali name Unnayan Bikalper Nitinirdharoni Gobeshona. In English it means Policy Research for Development Alternative. It is a policy research organization having grass root connections with farmers, weavers, fishers, artisans and crafts persons, community health providers, rural entrepreneurs and other rural communities.

UBINIG is a community led and community based policy and action research organization formed in 1984 to support people’s initiatives to take command over their own lives and livelihood. Dignity, diversity and joy of life are precious values they cherish and work with communities to realise them in a meaningful way in order to be free from all forms of hierarchies, violence and injustice.

UBINIG started as a study circle searching for alternatives to the mainstream development intervention and influence development policies to be more oriented to people’s need, particularly for poor and marginal population. Making policy making process more transparent and inclusive has been the strategic area of their work.

A Link to more information about UBINIG is here:
http://www.ubinig.org/index.php/campaigndetails/showArticle/5/12

AJIYER

Since 2002, AJIYER has been a fair trade tour operator in Bangladesh engaged in Community Based Tourism (CBT). AJIYER is the tour host of Meet the People Tours, which is a joint venture between Traidcraft, the UK’s leading fair trade organization and Saddle Skedaddle, independent tour operator.

AJIYER offers an opportunity to engage with Bangladeshi culture, crafts and biodiversity whilst enhancing the legacy of our rural communities. As a result, you are a part of revitalizing and honoring the region’s living culture, traditions, knowledge, skills, rituals and livelihoods. Ajiyer also assists handicraft and fabric producers as well as organic farmers in getting fair deals, providing work and an income for a group of people through engaging tourist with farmer’s activity, weavings, crafts, food, music etc.

www.ajiyer.com
PARAA

Paraa is a critical design and research studio. The design and architectural studio of Paraa focuses on enhancing spaces for communities in Bangladesh through multi-disciplinary practice. Paraa envisions to create a commercially sustainable architectural, design and planning practice and aims to establish a ‘School of Thought’.
Paraa has been working with Ajiyer in designing a community owned craft centre in Pathrail and in research for developing and promoting responsible tourism based in Tangail.

www.paraa.org.uk