

Auroville Bamboo Centre News Letter

April to June 2015



Our Service

Established in February 2009, with the aim to incorporate the following four aspects:

- ❖ Vocational training opportunities for the unemployed youth around the villages of Auroville and transforming them into craftsmen who can produce world class Bamboo products
- ❖ A technical and sociological research component to bring together Indian traditional craft with contemporary world culture
- ❖ Production and marketing of Bamboo craft for income generation and building stronger communities for sustainable living
- ❖ Unending research and development of Bamboo for the welfare of local and international communities



Auroville Bamboo Centre as a pioneer in the creative development of sustainable bamboo products, the Auroville Bamboo Centre (ABC) is committed to generate awareness of environmentally sustainable applications of bamboo through research and education. Employing people from local villages around Auroville, from Pondicherry Union Territory and Tamil Nadu State. The organisation strives to support and revitalise the community in which it is located while serving both domestic and global markets that demand high-quality, eco-friendly bamboo merchandise. Through these initiatives the ABC aims to advance the vitality of the planet and it's people.



Training & Workshops

At the Auroville Bamboo Centre (ABC) we make training accessible to everyone. We invite individuals to participate in a wide variety of workshops, covering bamboo construction and bamboo product development. Architects, designers, students and entrepreneurs attend. They may be interested in new product opportunities, technologies, or designs that use bamboo, or they may simply be curious about bamboo and want to learn about this unique material. All are welcome to take part! We also train local women and have a special program that introduces children to bamboo and its uses. And you may be pleased to know that we can tailor-make courses for groups, even large ones.

Upcoming Workshop Dates

August:

- 18 to 20 – Bamboo Furniture Workshop
- 24 to 28 – Earth & Bamboo Workshop

September:

- 2 to 5 – Bamboo Construction Workshop
- 17 to 19 – Bamboo Furniture Workshop
- 23 to 26 – Bamboo Construction Workshop

October:

- 7 to 10 – Bamboo Construction Workshop
- 12 to 16 – Earth & Bamboo Workshop
- 22 to 24 – Bamboo Furniture Workshop
- 28 to 31 – Bamboo Construction Workshop

During April to June 2015 we hosted a number of groups workshop:

On April 16th to 18th we offered a three day Bamboo furniture workshop for 10 students from **Dr. MGR University**. The students learned joineries and developing new furniture.

On May 18th to 22nd we offered a 5 day Earth & Bamboo workshop together with Auroville Earth Institute (AVEI) and Auroville Green Practices (AGP). Twenty-one students from **various place in India and abroad** participated and learned about bamboo construction & earth building development.

On May 14th to 15th, we gave a “Two day Introduction to Bamboo Construction” to a group of 25 students from **Academy of Architecture College**, Mumbai. On the first day, we offered a presentation on bamboo and introduced the participants to some basic skills, and on the second day we took the students to different skills in the construction. Also, they got a sense of the Auroville atmosphere and some new knowledge of bamboo.

On June 16th to 19th we offered a 4 day Bamboo construction workshop for seventeen students from **MBS School of planning & Architecture**. They learnt various construction skills.



On 10th to 13th June, we gave a “four Day Bamboo Construction program” to a group of 15 students from all over India as well as abroad. This included presentations, Architect building visits, and case studies as well as the opportunity to fabricate bamboo joints and construction.



Jewellery designing



Introduction about bamboo session with Walter



Designed New Bamboo panels during the workshop

INTERNS:

This summer I chose to work with bamboo. As a product and furniture design student of Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore, we are required to do a 6 week long summer internship after our 3rd year. My interest in exploring new materials and also in Auroville as a place to work in led me to search for places there. I heard about Auroville Bamboo Centre through a friend of mine who had interned there the previous summer. After looking at the kind of work done there I was extremely interested to work there. I interned at Auroville Bamboo Centre from 4th May, 2015 to 12th June, 2015. Prior to Bamboo Centre I had only worked with wood and metal as materials to make products and furniture pieces.

I would like to conclude by saying that my stay in Auroville and my internship at Auroville Bamboo Centre was really experiential. It has increased my interest in working with bamboo and helped me understand the material to a certain extent. I would like to further explore the material and use it in my designs.

By Shobha Bhat



Here at the bamboo center, I was able to learn how to work with the artisans and it was a different experience not having constant help from someone. This actually helped me being more independent and making decisions about my piece, since I was the one who was going to be solely responsible for whatever the outcome was going to be. It was amazing to see the skills the artisans possessed and the work they did with such precision. This motivated me to complete my piece and continue to do a better job.

What I will be taking back from the bamboo center is firstly the skills that I had now possessed and the importance of teamwork and patience, without which nothing was going to be possible. Despite the communication barriers we managed just fine and ended up learning so much from one another. It was truly a different experience that has changed my outlook to the way I work and personally to me as designer.

By Shivangi



As a student of a design college it was mandatory for every third year student to look for internship. Following college decorum I was looking for an internship as well. After looking into several firms in major cities in the country I made a sudden decision on a friend's advice to come out here in Auroville and work with materials instead, working behind a 9 to 5 desk job. The idea of working independently and living a life in an atmosphere totally different from the regular city life allured me more to come here. Now as I worked as an intern in ABC for last 6 weeks I feel my decision to come here was quite successful.

As a designer I have definitely grown over the past 6 weeks but the most memorable thing I will take with me is my life here for last 6 weeks as an environmental activist, a friend and an Aurovillian.

By Deepabali Biswas





School Visits:

Last 3 month we had several school visited our centre also they learnt some of the toys and jewellery.



**Government Middle School,
Mettupalayam**



Family visit from Switzerland



Recent development in our Bamboo land:

Since past 3 months we are developing bamboo under cultivation, Art centre and at the bamboo land.



Farm development



Building Youth and Children Art Centre





Some Recent Activity photos

