



## Bamboo Centre Auroville News Letter

January to March 2018



### 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.



Bamboo Centre Auroville as a pioneer in the creative development of sustainable bamboo products, the Bamboo Centre 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 bamboo centre aims to advance the vitality of the planet and it's people.

At the Bamboo Centre Auroville 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

#### April

**10 to 12** – Bamboo Construction

**22 to 13** – Bamboo Joineries

**19 to 21** – Bamboo Furniture

**25 to 05** – Bamboo & Rammed earth

#### May

**10 to 12** – Introduction to bamboo construction

**08 to 12** – Bamboo & Lime

**17 to 19** – Introduction to bamboo construction

**23 to 29** – Bamboo Construction Workshop

**24 to 26** – Bamboo joineries

**29 to 31** – Bamboo Furniture

#### June

**01 to 02** – Bamboo product design

**04 to 14** – Bamboo & Rammed Earth workshop

**07 to 09** – Bamboo Furniture workshop

**14 to 16** – Bamboo construction workshop

**19 to 21** – Bamboo Product design

**21 to 23** – Bamboo Joineries workshop

**During January to March 2018 we hosted a number of groups workshop:**

10 January: we offered a 1-day Bamboo Construction Workshop for 26 students from Mumbai.

8 February: we offered a 1-day Bamboo Awareness Workshop for 56 students from Jaipur.





10-15 February: we offered 6-day Bamboo Construction Workshop for 10 people from France.



They developed the dismantlable jellyfish structure during the workshop and have taken it back to their country.



21-24 February: we offered 4-day Bamboo Construction, Jewellery, Toys and Musical



Instrument Workshop for 16 students from **Ranum Efterskole college** in Denmark.

1-2 March: we offered a 2-day Construction Workshop for 30 students from France to teach them bamboo construction techniques.



13-14 March: we offered a 2-day Bamboo Furniture and Jewellery Workshop for 19 students from **Pearl Academy** in Delhi. The students learned joineries and about developing new furniture and jewellery.





19 March: we offered a Plaster Workshop for a group of 66 students from **Jeppiar Maamallan Engineering College** in Chennai.

28 March: we offered a 1-day Bamboo Awareness Workshop for 23 students from **MNM Jain School of Architecture** in Chennai.



24-31 March: we offered an 8-day workshop for rural artisans from Mysur.



They learned about and developed bamboo furniture, musical instruments, bamboo jewellery, treehouse building and paper craft.



The Government of Karnataka sponsored this training for the rural artisan.



### Earth and Bamboo Workshop

On 12 to 16 March we offered a 5-day Earth and Bamboo Workshop together with the *Auroville Earth Institute (AEI)* and *Auroville Green Practices (AGP)*.



Twenty students from various places in India and abroad participated and learned about bamboo construction and earth building development.





## Regular Workshop:

### Bamboo Construction Experience (full Bamboo Culm Techniques)

During January to March we conducted two full Bamboo Culm Techniques Workshops, a Bamboo Furniture Workshop and one Bamboo Joineries Workshop at Auroville Bamboo Centre: 13-16 February and 7-10 February. The students who participated were from different parts of India as well as from abroad. The workshops were conducted from 9am to 5pm daily.



### Feedback from the participants

**Positive:** The workshop was well-prepared in terms of sequence and structure of activities, material and tools as well. And obviously the people who were involved like the teacher and those who all helped during the session. Explanation was clear, interesting and satisfied.

**Negative:** There should be small structure taken so that it could be completed within the workshop days. The students want a longer workshop; instead of 5-day courses, they are looking for 10-day courses.

## Tree house Workshop

On 16 to 18 March we conducted a Treehouse Workshop, facilitated by the Kerala technician. Nine participants attended.



First the students got an theoretical introduction about treehouses and then they got hands-on practice and built the treehouse; it is not completed yet.





## Visits:

During the past three months we had several schools and colleges visiting our centre to learn and experience the creative work done here.

Indigo, 13 January – 80 participants



Sustainable Habitats Workshop, 30 January – 25 participants



Mumbai School visit, 18 February – 60 students



## International Bamboo Convergence: OPEN HOUSE: 3-day skill and knowledge sharing festival

This is a curtain-raising event held at Auroville Bamboo Centre from 16 to 18 March 2018 by the Bamboo Centre in collaboration with ECAS for the International Bamboo Convergence. It is envisioned to create and nourish a collaboration platform that inspires a sustainable bamboo lifestyle. Through this event, IBC brought awareness regarding the various application of bamboo available across these nine verticals: food, medicine, compost, furniture, construction, paper, cloth and energy. IBC introduced their environmental mascot: 21st-century superhero, Bamboo Man.





As a part of the skill and knowledge sharing initiative, Do-It-Yourself workshops for toys, music, jewellery and furniture were organised.



A workshop on treehouse building to introduce Kerala Techniques was facilitated. There was a T-shirt competition to inspire creativity and a cultural night with bamboo props party to showcase potential of Bamboo in food and music.



Part of this event we have inaugurated Bamboo café in our campus, in this café we provide Bamboo Tea, Bamboo shoots, Bamboo fried rice, Bamboo soup and Bamboo energy ball.



### Bamboo Centre New campus Design:

Rolf Lieser, who is an aurovillian now in Germany, came for two months to Auroville for a vacation, during which time he designed Bamboo Centre future campus, which is amazing work. Thanks Rolf.



### Testimonials from volunteers and interns:

**Yogeshwaran** (Intern, Architecture student from Surya Group of Institution School of Architecture). A team of talented, hardworking, kind and considerate people of which am glad to be a part of. This centre has kindled an interest in me towards using bamboo. The construction workshops cover the basics and a lot of freedom and guidance is given for personal research. The technicians have a lot of experience and are extremely supportive. During my internship I have helped to design the Future Bamboo Centre Campus. The beauty of bamboo centre is that it keeps growing as each volunteer comes and goes. All the experimental structures you see around are a testament to it.

