



## Auroville Bamboo Centre News Letter

April to June 2017



### 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

**17 to 19** – Bamboo Construction Experience (Joineries techniques)

**21 to 24** – Bamboo Construction Experience (Split bamboo techniques)

#### September

**5 to 9** – Bamboo Construction Experience (full bamboo culm techniques)

**13 to 16** – Bamboo & Wood furniture Experience

**20 to 23** – Bamboo Construction Experience (Split bamboo techniques)

#### October

**3 to 7** – Bamboo Construction Experience (full bamboo culm techniques)

**9 to 13** – Earth & Bamboo workshop

**25 to 28** – Bamboo & Wood furniture Experience

**During April to June 2017 we hosted a number of groups workshop:**

#### Bamboo Thatched House Workshop:

On 15 and 16 April 2017 we conducted a Bamboo Thatched House Workshop at Auroville Bamboo Centre. There were 19 students from France who attended the workshop and another 4 students from other countries.



## Bamboo Construction Experience (Bamboo Culm Techniques)

From 18 to 24 April 2017 a full Bamboo Culm Techniques Workshop was conducted at Auroville Bamboo Centre from 9am till 5pm on each of the five days. The students who participated were from different parts of the state in India.

In the first workshop there were four students who participated; in the second workshop there were nineteen students who participated.

Feedback from the participants was a mixture of positive and negative.

*Positive:* The workshop was well prepared in terms of sequence and structure of activities, material and tools as well.

The people involved liked the teacher and all those who helped during the session.

Explanation was clear, interesting and satisfied.

*Negative:* It could be there should be small structure taken so that it could be completed within the workshop days.

Food can be improved.

Could work on cottages so we can stay in Bamboo Centre. The students want a longer workshop instead – a 10-day course.



## Bamboo Construction Experience (Split Bamboo Techniques)

During April to June we have conducted two Split bamboo Techniques Workshops – one from 24 to 27 May 2017 and another from 15 to 17 June 2017 – at Auroville Bamboo Centre. The students who participated were from different parts of the state in India as well as from abroad. The workshop was conducted for 5 days from 9am to 5pm.

During this workshop the students have developed two structures with split bamboo techniques.



### Earth & Bamboo Workshop

From 8 to 12 May 2017 we offered a 5-day workshop together with the Auroville Earth Institute (AEI) and Auroville Green Practices (AGP). Nineteen students from various places in India and abroad participated and learned about bamboo construction and earth building development.



## Team Building Session for Office Admin Team

On 6 June 2017 one of our volunteers, **Sonam**, conducted a team building session for our office team. She explained how to concentrate in the workplace as well as how to work together as part of a team. This has inspired the entire team.



## Testimonials from volunteers and interns:

During April to June we have 2 volunteers and 2 Interns who offered their services to our centre.

**Souvik Bhattacharya, Lifestyle Accessory Design, National Institute of Design, Gandhinagar:**



As a product designer, my experience in the bamboo centre has been amazing. I got to make furniture, mirrors, and puzzles.

The technicians were very cooperative with all my designs and were eager to work with me. I had a great time working with them. I also took part in the various construction workshops that took place during my stay here. I got to work with architecture students, civil engineers and we collectively designed the structures we built. I made wonderful friends during my time here and the bamboo centre will always be a fond memory of mine.

**Kayalvizhi Thirumavalavan (Volunteer, Architecture student):** Bamboo centre – 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. 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. My stay here has been amazing in the bamboo centre. Had a great time with the fellow volunteers, I know I have made good friends for life. Would totally recommend it to all architecture students who want to explore bamboo.



## Some Recent Activity photos

**Pragya:** I am Pragya Sachdeva perusing accessory design course in National Institute of Fashion and Technology (NIFT).

I have attended a small workshop on bamboo craft in my college before coming to ABC. There I decided to increase my knowledge in bamboo as a material, finding a place (Auroville Bamboo Centre) where you can learn traditional methods, experiment with new and upcoming methods or create your own.

1st week in bamboo centre was dedicated to observation. In that I have learned different types of Joineries, supporting structure systems in bamboo and physical properties of bamboo.

From 2nd week onwards I was given task, starting from soap packaging box (Finishing part of it), than creating a lamp (mix media i.e. mixing other material with bamboo) also made a pen stand and towel hanger from the bamboo. Continued the same project in 3rd week.

