



## Auroville Bamboo Centre News Letter

October to December 2016



### 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

#### February

**14 to 18** – Mongolian Yurt Workshops  
(Split bamboo techniques)

**22 to 24** – Bamboo Construction Experience  
(Bamboo joineries techniques)

#### March

**7 to 11** – Bamboo Construction Experience  
(Full bamboo culm techniques)

**15 to 18** – Bamboo & Wood Furniture Experience

**22 to 24** – Bamboo Construction Experience  
(Bamboo joineries techniques)

**28 to 31** - Bamboo Construction Experience  
(split bamboo techniques)

**During October to December 2016 we hosted a number of groups workshop:**

23<sup>rd</sup> October **Ferro Cement**

1-day workshop with 60 students.



24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of October **Earth & Bamboo**  
5-day workshop in collaboration with the *Auroville Earth Institute (AVEI)* and *Auroville Green Practices (AGP)*. Twenty two students from around India and abroad participated and learned about bamboo construction and earth building development.

3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> of November **Bamboo Construction**  
5-day workshop for 20 students from *SAL School of Architecture*, Ahmadabad. The students developed a Xganal structure at the ABC.



11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> of November **Bamboo Construction**  
2-day workshop for 29 students from *AGP*, Auroville. The students developed a Bamboo Dome.



4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> December **Bamboo, Pottery, Musical Instrument and Handmade paper**  
6-day workshop for 25 students from **ISDI College**, Mumbai. The students developed and learnt various skills from around Auroville, e.g. bamboo furniture development, pottery making, musical instrument making and handmade paper making. They also had an Auroville experience.



27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> December **Bamboo Construction**  
4-day workshop for 55 students from *SAL School of Architecture*, Pune. The students developed three different projects: Bamboo Dome, Xganal Hut and Gazebo.

## Bamboo & Rammed Earth Workshop

25<sup>th</sup> of December- 6<sup>th</sup> of January **Bamboo and Rammed Earth**

10-day workshop that offers the opportunity to learn, from an international team of mentors, the fundamentals of bamboo and rammed earth construction, as well as aspects of sustainable living. The primary aim of the workshop is to provide participants with the basic knowledge, skills and hands-on experience needed for building with bamboo and rammed earth.



The 10 days provide opportunities to interact with skilled architects, designers, engineers, researchers and carpenters. Participants learn how to design and construct an experimental, low-cost, climate-responsive house made of bamboo and rammed earth as well as explore various aspects of sustainable living. Our outer environment—whether built or natural—reflects the state of our inner awareness, so an essential aspect of building a more sustainable world is the quality of the consciousness we bring to it. Part of this workshop focuses on expanding self-awareness, exploring how 'inner' space relates to the world we construct 'outside' our selves.





## Visit:

Auroville Bamboo Centre was happy to host Ashram students from Kolkatta on 3 October. There were 30 students who came to visit our centre.



We hosted a group of 70 students from Mumbai Architecture College on 15 December.



A group of 25 students visited our centre on 7 December from Srishti Institute of Art and Design College.



## Testimonials from volunteers and interns:

'I, Vinutha, am an architect intern from Bangalore. I had great pleasure in working with Bamboo centre team of workers and volunteers who were very helpful in teaching me the various works which are possible in bamboo that I had been making for the past month as well as designed bamboo rammed earth house. I had an immense learning experience. I hope to use the knowledge I have gained over the past month in the near future and to have many more great experiences with bamboo.'





Some Recent Activity photos

