

Bamboo Centre Auroville News Letter

April to June 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.



Training & Workshops

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

July

23 to 25 – Bamboo Furniture workshop

25 to 28 – Bamboo Geodesic Dome

30 to 11 – Bamboo Summer School

August

06 to 10 – Earth & Bamboo

16 to 18 – Bamboo Construction Experience

20 to 25 – Bamboo Outdoor camp in Kolli Hill

29 to 31 – Bamboo Furniture workshop

September

04 to 08 – Bamboo construction workshop

18 to 21 – Bamboo Joinery Experience

24 to 06 – Bamboo construction for Maters

October

05 to 15 – Bamboo & Rammed Earth workshop

15 to 17 – Bamboo Product Design Camp

18 to 20 – Bamboo Joinery Experience

24 to 27 – Bamboo construction workshop

29 to 31 – Bamboo Furniture workshop

November

31st Oct to 03 – Bamboo Reinforcement workshop

09 to 11 – Bamboo Joinery Experience

12 to 17 – Bamboo & Lime Workshop

20 to 24 – Tree House Workshop

26 to 29 – Bamboo Construction workshop

December

05 to 08 – Bamboo Product Design camp

10 to 15 – Bamboo Artist Retreat

19 to 29 – Bamboo winter course

Bamboo Tower – Experiment construction:

Since in the month of April the Bamboo tower will be built collaboratively with the help of volunteers, students, craftsmen's, and aurovillians. This active collaboration aims to represent construction of this unique bamboo structure as a symbol of unity. Building with the community is also an opportunity to educate people about the many advantages of bamboo as an eco-sustainable material that is environmentally friendly.



During April to June 2018 we hosted a number of groups workshop:

Earth and Bamboo Workshop

From 21-25 May we offered a 5-day Earth and Bamboo Workshop together with the *Auroville Earth Institute (AVEI)* and *Auroville Green Practices (AGP)*. Twenty one students from various places in India and abroad participated and learned about bamboo construction and earth building development.



Group Workshops

From 4-9 June we offered a 6-day Bamboo construction Workshop for 10 students from Amity University in Lucknow. The students learned various techniques of bamboo and they have designed and build a dismountable house.



Tree house Workshop

On 18 to 23 June we conducted a Tree house Workshop, there were 4 participants participated. First the students got a theoretical introduction about tree house and then they got hands-on practice in the existing treehouse; it is not completed yet. Also we proudly say that this is India's first 3 floor bamboo house with live tree inside.



Bamboo and Rammed Earth Workshop:

On 4th to 9th of June 2018 we offered The Bamboo and Rammed Earth workshop which is a 6day workshop offers the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of bamboo and rammed earth construction.

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. Throughout the 6 days there will be opportunities to interact with skilled technician. Participants will learn how to design and construct an experimental, low-cost, climate-responsive house made of bamboo and rammed earth.



Bamboo Café:

We have opened our new bamboo café in our campus offering simple breakfast and lunch for small prices. Our volunteers loved it.



Replace new Treatment Chamber:

Our existing treatment chamber has been broken and now we have built our new treatment chamber in our campus, now much easier to treat our bamboo.



New workshop

Thanks to our new facilitator specialized in products; we developed a new workshop based on product design to learn how to develop products like lamps or bamboo speaker.



Visits:

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

BMS College Bangalore, visit on 19th & 20th of April – 90 students

Exploring Auroville Architecture Visit on 27th of April – 12 students

SOS Children's village of India organization visit on 28th of May – 40 women's



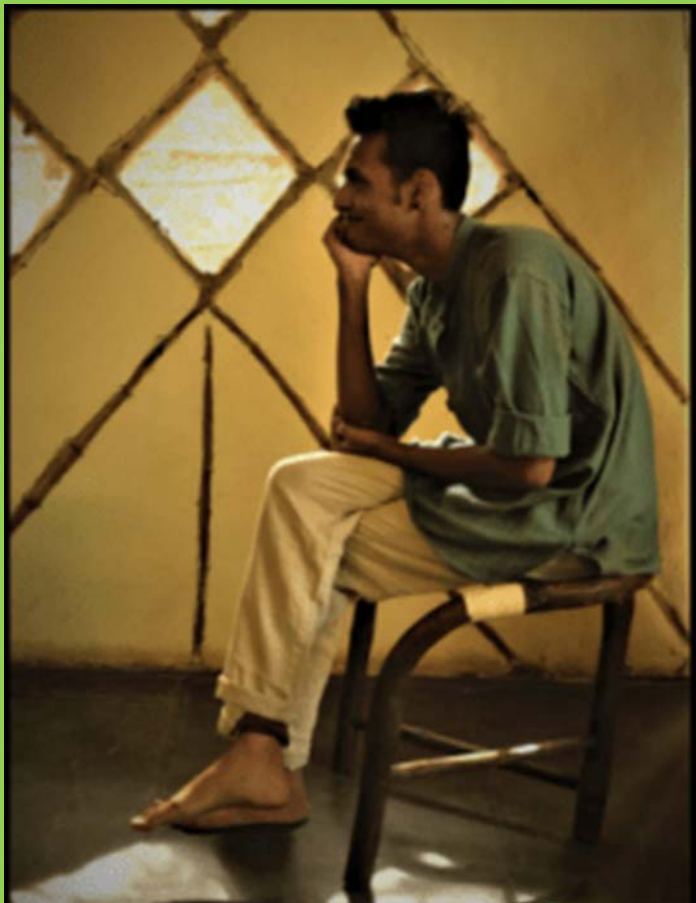
Testimonials from volunteers and interns:

MY EXPERIENCE OF BAMBOO CENTRE - Ujan

The last 6 weeks has been a roller coaster ride for me. I came into bamboo center with lot of assumptions and ideas about how it will be, but to my surprise it was quite different. Apart from the work environment, the space really gave me a very homely vibe and made me feel comfortable in no time.

I have never lived in a hut before and even though it sounds like not a big deal, living in that hut for 6 weeks and embracing the aurovillian lifestyle really made me humble in my day to day life. I have fun with simpler things; I'm not glued to the scree and observe more.

Work experience from this place is immense. I learnt almost all the process from sourcing raw materials to finishing a product. The process really made me realize how time taking and difficult it is to obtain a product which looks so simple to make. We also did lot of exploration on bending bamboo to certain angles without using heat gun. Instead, cutting slits and then bending them. This experiment really helped us make lot of designs with curves which wasn't possible before.



The people are a big part of the bamboo center, many people came many people left and everyone gave me something to learn about. Not only the interns but also the people working here were really helpful and kind to me. I never felt alienated in the space; they always made me feel comfortable and a part of their team.

