

Bamboo Centre Auroville News Letter

July to December 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

January

8 to 12 – Joineries & Interior Design

21 to 25 – Bamboo & Rammed Earth

29 to 1 – Bamboo Furniture workshop

February

04 to 16 – Bamboo Construction for Masters

19 to 20 – Bamboo Joineries and Gift item making

25 to 27 – Bamboo Furniture workshop

March

04 to 09 – Bamboo construction workshop

11 to 16 – Bamboo construction workshop

19 to 22 – Joineries and Product Design Workshop

26 to 29 – Bamboo Furniture workshop

During July to December 2018 we hosted a number of groups workshop:

Bamboo and Rammed Earth Workshop:

On 4th to 9th of July 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.



Earth and Bamboo Workshop:

From 19-23 November we offered a 5-day **Earth and Bamboo Workshop** together with the *Auroville Earth Institute (AVEI)* and *Auroville Green Practices (AGP)*.



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



We offered group workshop from 22-25 November. We offered a 4-day Bamboo Construction Workshop for 100 spirited students from **DY Patil college**, Mumbai.



The students got the opportunity to work with their hands and saw the difficulty of it, but they all had the goodwill to learn and practice and it was a pleasure to work with them.



We are confident that this workshop will help them to design smarter structures and understand site work difficulties. The students learned various techniques using bamboo and they have designed and built a Bamboo and Rammed Wall and Geodesic dome.



We have to thank all the faculties from the colleges who have shown good support between the students and the institute.



Bamboo Geodesic Dome Construction:

Geodesic Dome is a hemi-spherical structure made from split bamboo and is a perfect example of low-cost construction. The shape helps distribute the structural stress throughout the structure.



Over the years the Auroville Bamboo Center has aimed at teaching participants how to become experts at working with bamboo. We offer basic training for beginners and advanced courses for professionals and enthusiasts working with bamboo.



This special workshop was conducted for 20 students in the month of September. It was a completely hands-on experience for participants who designed and built an 18ft-tall Geodesic Dome using bamboo, with the guidance of the faculties and skilled bamboo technicians. We also gave them an introduction to roofing solutions.

This Geodesic Dome is being constructed as a Community Centre for the JOI – Joy Of Impermanence Community (Serena Aurora Mira Tonioni Andres Acosta Mathilde BUTIK Kip Prudon) – to help them conduct meetings and for common space for 12 people.



Customised Workshop for Sristi Village:

We organised a customised workshop for architecture students from Switzerland in July. The goal was to build a home in Sristi village,



which is home to Sristi Special School, a school for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Services for children are limited in the rural area and the school aims to provide children with a good basis in education.



Events

World Bamboo Day:

On the 18th of September each year, the world celebrates World Bamboo Day.

Auroville Bamboo Centre celebrated our 5th World Bamboo Day in Auroville with an all-day event which took place in the Bamboo Centre and at Mohanam campus to help spread awareness of this miracle plant, with food, fun and facts to share.



On this special occasion we launched various innovative bamboo projects with interactive presentations, talks by eminent people, Bamboo Fun 'n Fair, hands-on training, and a bamboo music night.



Our Vision for this year: To establish bamboo as the Most Sustainable Material of the 21st Century. Our Mission for this year: To plant 1000 bamboo saplings in 1 day as a demonstration project to create electricity for Auroville.



Additionally, as we all already know, bamboo is capable of producing: food, clothing, shelter, cosmetics, medicine, compost, electricity, plywood and paper.

The Bamboo Man is coming to save the planet.

Bamboo Fest Exhibition 2018 in Kerala:

From 7-11 December, the 15th Kerala Bamboo Fest took place in Kochi. The fair was open all day from Friday till Tuesday. It is organised by the Department of Industries in association with the Kerala State Bamboo Mission and the Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion, with the aim of promoting bamboo products. The Auroville Bamboo Centre participated in this yearly event.



We got a lot of good feedback at the Bamboo Fest from visitors and other exhibitors, telling us that our products have a 'modern design' and 'very good finish'. In comparison to others, we had unique products to sell which attracted people and we started making contacts with retailers and business people.



Visits:

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

Alba Balmaseda Group from Germany: 21 architecture students visited on 19 December.

Exploring Auroville Architecture: 12 students visited on 18 December.



Exploring Auroville Architecture: 18 students visited on 12 December.

A group of 50 students aged 12 and 13 from The Future foundation - Sri Aurobindo Integral School, Kolkata visited on 27 December.



Construction

We have built a bamboo structure at TLC School, Auroville.



We have built our new bamboo hut at our campus for volunteers and our volunteers have loved staying in this new hut.



Testimonials from volunteers and interns:

I, **T. Pavani** from Andhra Pradesh, graduated in architecture recently and came to Auroville to explore more about natural and sustainable materials, in which I choose Bamboo because I am interested and it is strong, flexible, durable and a different material to experiment construction. Finally I landed in Auroville Bamboo Centre to volunteer for 3 months, which I expected is tough and difficult but later I liked it that I can't leave the place.



During my college days I am not experienced with tools and equipments but after these 3 months I think I can make my own house and furniture. I have been working on Bamboo University, a project completely with Bamboo; Geodesic dome for JOI community in Auroville; Bamboo hut in Ariyur and furniture. It is a nice place to learn and experience hands-on with bamboo.



I, **Vrinda Gupta** from Delhi came to the Bamboo Centre two months ago as an intern with so many questions about bamboo and I'm happy to say that this place has given me the best that I could have had to experiment freely with bamboo and search for all my answers. Bamboo is just not a grass anymore, it has become much more than just that, like I can eat bamboo, wear bamboo and play with bamboo. As an architecture student, I can proudly say that the Bamboo Centre has given me the opportunity to learn and make other people learn about this majestic and futuristic tool of construction.



I am **Alok** came to the Bamboo Center on the previous day of bamboo fest. On that day I joined other volunteers in helping them to make the fest a grand success. On the next day it was with the workshop that I began to learn more about bamboo. It was a joinery workshop. In that workshop I came to learn more about bamboo joineries and its application. After this workshop I worked on a live interior designing project in Pondicherry.



It was the first time I am doing an interior designing usually it was product design. It gave me exposure to real scenarios that we will face during all projects. Usually while doing projects for academic purpose though we will consider the users the clients involvement won't be there. In this live project we have to redo the designs numerous times we also became a part in selecting the correct bamboo, finishing it, putting estimation n all the process.



After this I started my project which was to design a knock down furniture using bamboo. Alongside I was also a part in furniture workshop and other hands on works along with technician's.



Auroville Bamboo Centre wishing you a very beautiful new year full of joy and happiness. May this one bring you success in every area of your life. Happy New Beginning!

