
DREAMWEAVING

The Auroville Crown

2022



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FOR THE DREAMWEAVING & CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY TEAMS



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We hope this report can help the Town Development Council of Auroville and the Vastu Shilpa Consultants to integrate the voices of the community in the development plans for the city, that it may also serve as a reminder for our community of what has been shared and accomplished during these past weeks and a possible model for collaborative planning in the future.

DREAMWEAVING AND CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY TEAMS

(Aditi, Alan, Allan, Anshul, David, Helen, Kathy, Martin, Mona, Nikethana, Omar, Praveen, Sophie, Suryamayi)

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Auroville is a community founded in India in 1968, intended to become a city of 50,000 inhabitants. Today, there are 3,500 residents – which makes it by far the largest intentional community in the world – yet its population growth and urban development are moderate. There are various reasons for this. One is that the financial resources to purchase the land and establish the infrastructure and built environment has been lacking. Another is that there are disagreements concerning how the city should be developed, which has made community-based town planning difficult. Another is that there are disagreements concerning how the city should be developed, due to which town planning initiatives in the community have remained limited in their scope and implementation.

While the Galaxy concept of the city, developed by architect Roger Anger and blessed by The Mother in 1968, is widely accepted as the essential inspiration, what has made the materialisation of this concept elusive has been different interpretations of how it could be ‘grounded’, in spite of there being a Master Plan and various detailed studies relating to land use, to the central Administrative Zone of the city, and to different sectors of the Residential and International Zones.

When a new Secretary and Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation took office in July 2021, they made the development of the city a top priority. Noting, however, that there were disagreements in the community over how such development should take place, the Secretary was interested in discovering a collaborative approach to town planning. When she heard that such a process, called ‘dreamweaving’, had been successfully used in the design of the Sustainable Livelihood Institute, she asked David Nightingale, one of the initiators of dreamweaving back in 2005, if he would be willing to guide Auroville architects through a similar process for the development of the city.

Since some time, David had already been deliberating with another Auroville architect, Omar Rabie, on the need and possible frameworks to bring architects, multidisciplinary experts to work together through a community based participatory planning process. It became clear that the criticality of the moment demanded such an active effort. They thus started pondering upon the structure of a community planning method that would involve Auroville’s multidisciplinary experts and Residents Assembly working in collaboration with

highly qualified external experts, in this case the Vastu Shilpa Consultants (VSC) team, which can help take a step towards preparing a convincing Detailed Development Plan (DDP) for Auroville. This work culminated in the method diagram framing the process. Based upon discussions with several Auroville architects, the Dreamweaving coordinators (at that stage, David and Omar) communicated their decision to start the Dreamweaving process with one condition—a clear brief prepared by, or in collaboration with, the Auroville Town Development Council (ATDC). After three months of delays, and with an escalating situation in Auroville, the Dreamweaving coordination team had to accelerate the process, which led to Omar preparing the initial draft of the brief, then modifying it based on comments received from the VSC, David, and the representative of the ATDC (Sreevatsa), as well as inputs from the Dreamweaving architects.

All this resulted in an agreed-upon final Dreamweaving brief.

Subsequently Omar and David were joined by another auroville architect, Mona Doctor-Pingel, who had also been involved in dreamcatching since 2005, as co-facilitator.

Meanwhile, a member of the ATDC, which had been tasked by the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation to come up with a Detailed Development Plan (DDP) for the city, had contacted the Vastu Shilpa Consultants, headed by Dr. Balkrishna Doshi, the eminent Indian architect who had assisted Auroville’s town planning efforts in the past, to ascertain if they would assist in drawing up the DDP for the city. Dr. Doshi and the Vastu Shilpa Consultants expressed their willingness to be involved.

In further discussions, it was agreed by all concerned, including the Auroville Foundation, that the first dreamweaving exercise by Auroville architects would focus upon the Crown – the central ring which the architect of the Galaxy, Roger Anger, had described as a ‘circulation space’ – and that the output would be forwarded to the Vastu Shilpa Consultants as material for them to consider when drawing up the DDP for the city.

Before the dreamweaving process could begin,

however, bulldozers began clearing a path through buildings and afforested areas of the city to create the Right of Way for the Crown. This created a strong reaction not only among the inhabitants and stewards of these areas, but also from many other Aurovilians who felt that such action was inappropriate and divisive, given that no collective agreement had been arrived at concerning how to develop the Crown.

Subsequently, the National Green Tribunal, set up by the Indian Government for expediting cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests, was approached and

agreed to impose an interim Stay Order on the further felling of trees in Auroville until the different parties had made their submissions, and a final judgement had been given.

These developments, and the possibility that the clearing would resume if the Stay Order was lifted, gave an added urgency to the dreamweaving exercise. Consequently, the dreamweaving of the Crown exercise was designed to last only six weeks, involving three weekends at which the architects would present their concepts to each other and ultimately attempt to achieve some kind of collaborative outcome.



2. WHAT IS DREAMWEAVING?

Dreamweaving is a process in which participants ‘weave’ together their different designs in order to reach a higher-value outcome.

It emerged from a process which began in 2005 when a group of Auroville architects who had been working independently on different sectors of the Residential Zone felt a need to develop common parameters for the Galaxy. As the group expanded to include not only architects but anybody interested, they began to look at more topics.

Initially, the process simply involved brainstorming. But at a certain point, when people had exhausted their initial ideas and let go of their original standpoints, they began to experience an ‘aspirational

silence’. Then something would emerge that ‘clicked’, something which everybody could immediately assent to but which nobody could claim as their own.

They called this process ‘Dreamcatching’.

Over three years of regular Dreamcatching sessions, many areas of Auroville were covered, including the International, Industrial and Residential Zones, the Crown, the Greenbelt and the Entrances to Auroville. To share their insights and get feedback from the larger community, they created ‘Dream Spaces’, where all the Dreamcatching outputs on

a particular topic were pinned up on panels, and people were invited to comment upon them and add their own ideas.

The next step was for architects to work together on a specific design. Initially, the architects tried designing something together in real-time, but this was not successful. As an alternative, it was suggested that each architect went away for some time with agreed parameters for the task, and then presented their own design for feedback from the others. They would then go away again, with encouragement to borrow the best ideas of others, and 'weave' this into a revised design. This process would continue until a final design (or designs) emerged that was agreed upon.

This became known as 'Dreamweaving'.

The first time this new method was used as a design tool was for an academic studio for the Integral Health Center (2007), but over the years,

different versions of dreamweaving has been used in a number of other Auroville projects, including devising a master plan for the Sustainable Livelihood Institute(2015) and integrating final designs for the Garden of the Unexpected(2018). The most ambitious dreamweave before the present one was the Crownways project(2008), which focussed upon the first stretch of the Crown road.



Dreamweaving by itself may not be appropriate for every project for it requires participants to have design skills. However, along with Dreamcatching and Design Cafe (which can involve non-specialists as well as architects) it is part of a 'toolbox' to facilitate collaborative planning and which can be drawn upon for different situations.

3. AN OVERVIEW OF DREAMWEAVING THE AUROVILLE CROWN: THE PROCESS AND VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED

The process for Dreamweaving the Crown was designed so as to engage and solicit feedback and inputs from a diversity of participants: Auroville architects and town planners, Aurovilian experts in various fields related to the town planning process, representatives of different viewpoints in the community, community-at-large residents selected randomly and representatives of the Vastu Shilpa Consultants.

Given this unprecedented inclusion of multiple stakeholders in a Dreamweaving process, the Dreamweaving team reached out to the Auroville Citizens' Assembly Exploration team for assistance in designing, organising and facilitating the process.

As a first step, the Dreamweaving team reached out to Auroville's architects to invite their participation in the design process. Special attention was paid to ensure the inclusion of architects representing

both ends of the spectrum regarding the design of the Crown (one extreme being that it should be perfectly circular as per the Master Plan 2025 Perspective Framework, the other extreme being that ground realities should take precedence).

Care was taken to present this proposed process to the community:

not only through community-wide presentations and Q&A sessions, but also by reaching out specifically to target groups, such as Auroville youth and Tamil Aurovilians, whose participation was known to be typically lacking in community

processes. Target presentations were thus organised at the Auroville Youth Centre, and for the Tamil Aurovilian community (with the assistance of Tamil Aurovilian youth) as well as a presentation

to the wider community in the Unity Pavilion. Support for the process was expressed at each of these community presentations, on which basis Dreamweaving the Crown was launched.

TIMELINE:

The process was held over a 6-week period, and including the following events:

December 29th: Initial Crown Walk with Dreamweaving architects

Jan 4th AM: Crown walk with Rajeev and Jaydeep of Vastu Shilpa Consultants

Jan 4th, 5th & 6th: Analytical work conference, consisting of presentations from experts, including studies and proposals relevant to town planning.

Jan 7th: Dreamcatching session with Dreamweaving architects

Jan 15th: Informal sharing between Dreamweaving architects

Jan 22nd & 23rd: First presentation of Dreamweaving designs, inviting feedback

from peer architects and Vastu Shilpa representatives.

Feb 4th & 5th: Second presentation of Dreamweaving designs, inviting feedback from all participants (peer architects & Vastu Shilpa representatives, multidisciplinary experts, focus group & randomly selected community members).

Feb 12th: Crown Walk open to all participants

Feb 18th & 19th: Final presentation of Dreamweaving designs and evaluation by all participants

April 2nd: Final gathering and presentation of the Dreamweaving designs and the participants' evaluation, inviting feedback from the whole community on the process and its outcomes.

The first event was a 3-Day conference in which various Auroville experts in fields relevant to town planning in general and the Crown specifically (such as water, mobility, afforestation, economy, habitat, etc.) made presentations to inform the Dreamweaving architects in their designs. The key points made in each of their presentations have been captured in the following section of this report. These presentations were open to the Auroville community as a whole, through livestreaming and these were recorded to ensure accessibility (included in the Dreamweaving 2022 Resource Guide). Again, care was taken to ensure that the programme of presenters was balanced in terms of the subject areas covered and included speakers that would represent one or the other polarity (perfect circular shape to take precedence, ground realities to take precedence).

Following this 3-Day conference, the Dreamweaving architects were invited to begin their designs for the Crown, which were also informed by a rooftop early morning Dreamcatching session and site visits to various sections of the Crown during early morning

Crown walks. Two weeks later, they presented their initial designs to each other, and to peer Auroville architects and town planners, as well as the Vastu Shilpa team, for feedback.

This was the start of the 'weaving' process, in which architects were encouraged to borrow ideas from each others' designs, and possibly partner with other architects in forming a team to work together on second iteration designs.

After another 2-week period, 12 Dreamweaving architects / architect teams presented their revised designs to the various stakeholder groups (and the community at large via livestream). Each individual presentation was followed by feedback and questions from the other Dreamweaving architects, as well as the Vastu Shilpa Consultants. These presentation session spanned a full day and were followed by a second day for dedicated feedback sessions from the various participating groups:

1. PEER ARCHITECTS AND TOWN PLANNERS

2. MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS WHO HAD PRESENTED IN THE INITIAL DREAMWEAVING THE CROWN CONFERENCE

3. A FOCUS GROUP OF “PERSPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES” INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF:

- Affected areas traversed by the Crown (such as the Youth Centre and Darkali)
- The four zones traversed by the Crown: Residential, Industrial, International and Cultural
- Forest group
- Line of Goodwill group
- Auroville’s high schools
- Young entreprezd youth of Auroville
- Sectors like education, health, art, economics
- Bioregion

4. A RANDOMLY SELECTED GROUP OF AUROVILLE RESIDENTS OVER THE AGE OF 18.



THE FEEDBACK SESSIONS WERE DESIGNED AS FOLLOWS:

Architects/architect teams were each stationed at a table with printouts of their designs. In a first session, peer architects, planners and experts (those participants who have specific knowledge relative to the design process) circulated amongst each of the design tables, where facilitators guided the collection of feedback from each participant using two key prompts:

→ What do you find inspiring? What would you like to see more of in the crown?

→ What would help to make the designs more implementable?

In a second session, focus group and randomly selected representatives circulated amongst each of the design tables, where facilitators guided the collection of feedback from each participant using two key prompts:

→ What do you find inspiring in this design?

→ What would you like to see more of in the crown in this design based on your work or field/ as an Aurovilian?

The Focus group and randomly selected participants were kept separate from one another, however, so as to avoid randomly selected participants being influenced by strong views held by focus group representatives.

All feedback was collected and collated for the Dreamweaving architect teams to refer to while working on their final designs, for which they were once again encouraged to ‘weave’ by taking on board further ideas from other designs, and possibly pairing or grouping with other Dreamweaving architects to form teams that would propose a final, merged design.

The summary of feedback received in this session can be found in the Dreamweaving 2022 Resource Guide.

After another 2-week period dedicated to this ultimate design iteration, the 11 teams of Dreamweaving architects proposed the results of their design process to all participating



stakeholders and to randomly selected members of the community at large. This final presentation was followed by evaluation of the different designs by the architects themselves and the various stakeholders based on the brief and the design challenges listed therein.

The architects and stakeholders were given an evaluation form (see Dreamweaving 2022 Resource Guide) and were asked to list the ideas or designs that fulfilled different design challenges.

The goal of this exercise was to pick out the ideal elements from each point of view that in their opinion ought to be considered when VSC works on integral solutions for the DDP.

At the end of this evaluation of the designs, the participants were also asked to give feedback on the process of Dreamweaving to help the organising team assess their own work and make adjustments and improvements for the future. This feedback is also valuable for future community processes dealing with multiple stakeholders and collaborative design and planning.

The detailed feedback from various architects and stakeholder groups can be found in Dreamweaving 2022 Resource Guide.

A NOTE ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

The intention of the organising team was to make the process accessible to a large number of people. However, due to COVID-19 constraints, the number of active (in-person) participants was limited to 80 (including the organising team). However, the entire process (other than the final day dedicated to the evaluation of process by in-person participants) was livestreamed to allow for maximum reach.

In total, 72 Aurovilians committed to participating in the process. 18 architects signed up to participate directly in the Dreamweaving design process, following a call made by the organisers, while 2 Auroville town planners participated as peer reviewers. 20 multidisciplinary experts presented their work in the context of the Auroville Crown as part of the analytical work conference, and 14 of them continued to attend the following sessions to give their feedback on the Dreamweaving design outputs. 25 participated as the focus group; the most challenging was to recruit individuals to represent the bioregional perspective. 12 randomly selected participants committed to attend, however only 10 Aurovilians joined in the first session and 6 continued till the end. The challenges they expressed regarding attendance related to the long days of presentations, and difficulty in processing all this information in English.

4. SUMMARY OF ANALYTICAL WORK CONFERENCE

The three day analytical work conference was an opportunity for multidisciplinary experts of Auroville and those who have worked with Auroville in the past to present information relevant to the focus of the exercise – designing the Crown. Out of all the professionals who were contacted, 20 people with a diversity of backgrounds and experience presented their work in this conference. The richness and depth of the information shared during these three days was appreciated by all the participants, and some even commented that it was probably the first time that a forum was created for all this work to be shared in one space, work which many were unaware of even though some had lived here for many years.



THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES A SUMMARY OF THESE PRESENTATIONS:

PRESENT-ER & TITLE OF PRESENTATION	MAIN POINTS/SCOPE OF PRESENTATION
Helmut MOBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Shared Space where no preference is given to motorised traffic → Reduction of vehicle count by avoiding through traffic → Memorable public spaces designed according to foot and eye → Optimal environment for elderly and children → Shade,closeness of buildings to street (colonnades?) → Emphasis on public transport → Properly marked entrances to the Crown to demarcate a special area <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>
Sreevatsa ATDC	<p>A Detailed Development Plan (DDP) is a legal document prepared by a Planning Authority, and defined by the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act. 1971 item no.20. It is the first step and significant tool for building Auroville.</p> <p>The DDP provides for: • planning policies, maps and phasing; • development standards and guidelines; • land-use allocation, zoning and bylaws; • acquisition of land; redistribution of boundaries; • transport, water supply, lighting, drainage and other infrastructure; • housing; • construction, alterations of buildings; • demarcation for parks, green areas, water features •defining conditions, restrictions and purposes.</p> <p>The DDP for auroville should be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan – Perspective 2025; • State Planning Norms; • Amrut Guidelines; • Galaxy Model and Roger Anger’s Urban Design principles (1968) <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>

Guilio
WATER

- Rainwater harvesting on all impervious surfaces to be integrated into design
- Pipelines for distribution of rainwater and treated wastewater in toilet flushing and garden irrigation
- Drainage of stormwater converging into designed water bodies
- Water bodies to be integrated into urban tissue
- Design of structures to add beauty and functionality
- Design of structures to be all-year-functional

Link to the presentation [here](#).

Omar
CITY FORM
& BIO-
CLIMATIC
DESIGN

- A grounding in the theory of city form and the origins of cities can lead to richer, deeper conversations, leading to innovative planning development approaches for Auroville.
- This talk tries to discover connections between theories on city form on one side, and the principles of bioclimatic design on the other.
- The three normative city models—the city as a supernatural symbol, as an organism, or as a machine—can be a tool to comprehend and analyse the qualities and challenges of the Auroville city design vision.
- Examples of cosmic model cities (cities as supernatural symbols) are mentioned, defining the strengths, qualities, and challenges inherent in the cosmic city model.
- Also parameters leading to city resilience through time, in contrast to the incapacity to respond to inevitable dynamic changes are discussed
- Reflections on the issue of city morphology control. To what degree can a city take shape according to a predetermined end?, Meaning, possibilities, and costs of pure geometrical forms, expressing in materiality immaterial symbolism.
- Reflecting on the value of integrating the ecosystem, when developing cities of spiritual aspirations.
- The bioclimatic impact on built environment forms in different climatic regions, examples from historical and vernacular cities and settlements.
- The challenge to innovate through climatic constraints is accentuated due to Auroville's region's extreme and dominantly hot-humid climate.
- The orientation-less nature of the Galaxy composition leads to the need for a well-designed built environment with a relatively favourable micro-climatic. A high density and intensity of built and natural features, accompanied by porosity, airflow, and shade could be used to create comfortable microclimates.
- A deliberate effort to work with the geometrical codes of Auroville's vision model (the Galaxy), while responding to the acute bioclimatic demands of the region, could be vital to developing a liveable built environment.
- Weaving the vision of Auroville, with the intense, well-developed ecosystem should be an enjoyable design exercise that can lead to joyful liveable experiences.

Link to the presentation [here](#).

Rajeev
(VASTU
SHILPA
CONSULT-
ANTS)

VSC presented a flavour of how different cities in India share some commonalities in their development patterns. They then showcased a range of projects (from a 14 acre CEPT campus to 900 acres of township development in Amravati) that they have worked on. Their portfolio not only highlighted the vast nature of concerns, interconnections and complexities that are inherent in any sub-city level planning today, but also demonstrated that VSF has sufficient experience and expertise in dealing with the same. From concerns of rural-urban mix, to livability and walkability of cities, from mobility and reduction of cars, to building density and heights, from energy, water, waste handling to creating pleasant microclimate, they seem to have studied and dealt with many of these concerns firsthand. They also have research material and data from other Indian cities and the U.S.

Link to the presentation [here](#).

<p>Toine & Ponusamy ENERGY INFRA-STRUCTURE</p>	<p>The energy planning of Auroville must be based on distributed and connected renewable energy generation and storage systems combined with (remote) demand-side management, energy conservation and energy efficiency measures. An energy master plan is in place, with investments being made in solar power generation, HT cable laying and smart mini-grids.</p> <p>The Master Plan Right-of-Ways (RoWs) must be cleared to their full design width without further delay.</p> <p>All infrastructure services (electricity, water, communication etc.) will be laid along full-width cleared RoWs. In the case of the township-wide infrastructure backbone, these would be the Master Plan RoWs (Crown, radials, outer ring), while in the case of zone and sector level development, the RoWs would be determined by detailed development plans.</p> <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>
<p>Olivier ECONOMY AND THE GALAXY</p>	<p>Auroville's economy should be based on the principles of no personal property and no circulation of money</p> <p>Auroville's economy should be integral and take into account the economy of nature, water management, farms, etc.</p> <p>The Mother wished to prioritise kitchens and restaurant cooking. These kitchens, being poles of attractions for collective life, should be properly thought of in terms of location and diversity and should be free for all Aurovilians</p> <p>Need for a centralised purchasing service for all outlets, restaurants, guest houses, construction materials etc. Should be properly located to enable ease of inflows, and later distribution.</p> <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>
<p>Island ARBORI-CULTURE, URBAN FORESTRY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Integrating green infrastructure into the built environment and vice versa is a multidisciplinary collaborative work. A list of references and resources were provided. → It is certainly possible to integrate the different infrastructure types e.g. by placing underground services slightly deeper and marginally away from trees → It generally makes more sense to integrate green infrastructure from the start or even planning it before thinking of other aspects of planning → The integration of natural systems (such as trees and other vegetation) in water sensitive urban design (WSUB) significantly increases its stormwater control efficiency and reduces maintenance requirements. → The benefits of appropriately establishing and maintaining green infrastructure to a society cannot be overstated <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>
<p>LINE OF GOODWILL TEAM LINE OF GOODWILL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Why is the purpose of this line of force? → To channel visitors towards Matrimandir → To offer space for units → To increase housing and population → The key point about the line of force 1: it should be a sustainable building, both economically and environmentally (rainwater harvesting, solar energy, green/urban farming on rooftops...) → Construction has to be done in collaboration with Aurodam and with respect for its surroundings → Guidelines and policy are needed for buildings and visitors → The DDP for this line of force is mostly ready → The line of force should be designed through an architectural competition <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>



Lata
REGION-
AL AND
OTHER
CONSID-
ERATIONS
IMPACT-
ING THE
CROWN

Planning for the Crown needs to be seen in relation to Auroville's purpose, and the regional, spatial and functional context - i.e phasing and prioritisation, mobility, watersheds, climate.

Lata and Prashant's study covered existing and proposed uses, timelines for implementation, and presented detailed analysis and proposals for the Crown.

Emphasis is on immediate and long-term planning needs of each section which should be phased on an as-needed basis such as:

- Serious improvements to existing paved crown sections and moving away from the 16.7/30m Right of Way street cross-sections.
- Desirability of cycle and pedestrian connectivity from PTDC to Bharat Nivas road, not paved or vehicular at this point.
- Common pedestrian plaza in the International Zone that links the existing institutional buildings, parking arrangement for large meetings and events.
- Darkali Forest should not be opened to any thoroughfare and cross traffic, not even cycle. Internal walking path could be put in place with support to maintain the controlled access and space. Once planning challenges of Auroville's interface with surrounding villages are addressed, this area could be opened.
- Area-wide DDPs are needed to carefully plan for integrating the Crown. In the Industrial Zone special consideration needed to address eroding soil conditions, slopes, canyons, water flow and management and to balance green and built areas.
- At Bliss Forest and Youth Centre, the existing vehicular access should stay, with cycle/pedestrian access for the Youth Centre. Opportunities for educational programmes, ecological interpretation centre and development of Youth Centre vocational training programmes.
- Limit vehicular access by design along the Cultural Zone stretch. A linear pedestrian plaza along this section, with new buildings conforming with the activities and planning design of the Zone and respecting the green forested area on the inside of the Crown.

Link to the presentation [here](#).

Glenn
FOREST
GROUP

Any design/development at Auroville should respect and integrate the goals of the Forest Group - which can be stated briefly as

- Creation of stands of Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest (TDEF)
- Creation of sanctuary areas
- Watershed protection
- Ravine or wasteland restoration.
- Buffer zones – watercourse protection
- Recreation of urban forests / parks
- Timber stands
- Firewood production
- Agro-forestry

Link to the presentation [here](#).



<p>Suhasini PLANNING & ARCHI- TECTURE</p>	<p>Evidence-based forward planning, integrating the political (governance and administration) – physical (water – energy – food - environment – mobility – ITC) – and social (health – education – housing) aspects is required to predict, plan and guide the development to reach the ideal embodied in the Charter. Auroville’s Detail Development Plan (DDP) is then a road map, with programmes and projects accompanied with budgets acting as milestones.</p> <p>Professional land suitability analyses were undertaken in 2013, and a study on development priorities and directions of growth was completed in February 2021, both with detailed findings. The outcome of the data analysis and consultations with experts and / or Auroville working groups was used to identify the structural issues that impede integrated planning and development. These have not yet been taken forward as evidence based in Auroville planning and implementation.</p> <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>
<p>Mona & Sashikala Ananth SCIENCE OF VAASTU SHASTRA IN TOWN PLANNING</p>	<p>Vaastu is a collective and evolutionary knowledge system evolved over many centuries in India. It allows space for the intuitive and individual within the greater whole.</p> <p>A Yantra is a drawing, generally made up of geometric lines, that serves to invoke or materialise certain forces. The Galaxy Model and sketch of the Mother together are cardinal and dynamic, but neither form a Yantra, which has a specific nature.</p> <p>When applying Vaastu, the natural world and ground realities are valued, there is not a blind imposition, but rather adjustment and synthesis.</p> <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>
<p>David Stein GREENBELT DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>The ideal greenbelt is not possible. So much land is already developed – this has serious implications for the sustainability of Auroville in terms of water security, biodiversity, and a comfortable biosphere for the city.</p> <p>It is important to recognize that: EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED TO EVERYTHING ELSE. There is no such thing as a “solution”. There is no such thing as “control”. We can MANAGE complex systems by identifying points of leverage. It is critical to monitor the situation and adjust by revising plans and actions.</p> <p>Greenbelt (and other) development to be based in Ecological Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Patches and corridors for plant and animal movement *Water management is the critical element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Rainfall is the only source of freshwater for the bioregion → The aquifer that feeds all wells is subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Excessive withdrawals ~ Agricultural, industrial and domestic use pollution <p>The presentation offered detailed maps of recommended priority areas for water protection, and areas for priority acquisition for water protection.</p> <p>The presentation also details action steps/approaches for water courses and waterbodies, farms, woodlands and tree plantations, recreation areas in Auroville owned in the Green Belt, Auroville owned land outside the Green Belt, privately owned land in Green Belt, privately owned land outside Green Belt, and poramboke land.</p> <p><i>Link to the presentation here.</i></p>

Toby
ATDC
INFRA-
STRUC-
TURE

Infrastructure: should follow plans; needs to be ahead of reality; follow mainly roads. At present it is too ad hoc, with diversions and being built over, despite plans. As a way forward - Infrastructure should get absolute priority over other land use; needs a yearly budget; needs more and better technical expertise; providers need to upgrade fast; needs benchmarking and 'smarting'.

Link to the presentation [here](#).

Cristo
INFRA-
STRUC-
TURE
STUDIES

Consultants from outside need to get acquainted with "Auroville in Mother's Words" in 2 volumes published by Auroville Archives.

Managing surface water is key to the survival of Auroville. The difference of levels on the Crown road is 14m. This must be factored in vis-a-vis water management in the Crown Road design.

The Crown Road design cannot be separated from the mobility design, and also needs to integrate the mobility needs and usage of the neighbouring villages once the Crown comes up. Crown road design must factor in this aspect, and consider co-planning/co-development with the villages on this count.

Link to the presentation [here](#).

Lalit
PLANNING,
EDUCA-
TION

Insights from planning input studies from visitors seeking learning exchanges with Auroville:

Auroville needs to evolve organisational systems in a much more enhanced and effective way to meet its internal and related bioregional development contextual needs / challenges

- Planning is essentially an act of synthesis – all layers. need to be synthesised: planning, thus, is an act of yoga
- Auroville (design) should aim to facilitate and enhance 'two way learning' with external researchers, volunteers, interns etc.
- The first 50 years of Auroville built the 'physical' layer; the next step is to develop the organisational (mental) layer - this is about envisaging and developing 'integral planning capacity'
- Auroville is a laboratory for co-creation: the crown road is an explicit opportunity for the same
- The need for 'social spaces' where Aurovilians meet and interact with other Aurovilians facilitating spontaneous and planned connections.
- He then pointed to many previous studies and collaborations, along with the references and links.

Auroville Master Plan:

- Integral planning as a skill and capacity is much needed for Auroville and to address rapid urbanisation in and around it.
- A number of related studies, workshops, retreats and so on have been done and offer a rich technical resource, alongside the detailed work of Roger and his team.

Highlighting key principles from the Master Plan: complementarity of urban and rural areas, food security, economization of land needs.

Link to the presentation [here](#).



The larger purpose and principle guiding the IZ should not be for countries to compete, as is often in international exhibitions, but to present the great creations or discoveries in all domains, through the history of the countries that have contributed to the evolution of human consciousness.

Auroville's face: futuristic-springing from the search towards beauty. To be integrated with nature, contribute to harmony of life. Must avoid the pitfall of 'dormitory cities' and urban sprawl.

Centre: Must be far from all major axes of circulation, due to the presence of the Matrimandir in the Park of Unity.

International section: cultural pavilions in beautiful natural surroundings, botanical gardens, trees, small lakes. Tranquillity. Can have health services and places for the elderly close by. Important to trace the road network and connections.

The facades will be of an architectural simplicity, using a common module for each continent (or cluster), since it is more in the interior design research that each country will be able to express its own character.

The general layout of the International Zone is in order to materialise such a message, proposes a repartition of all the countries by continents. This means that continents are organised around Bharat Nivas as a symbol of the host country.

This geographical grouping should help put into clear light the common influences (historical, human, cultural, spiritual, etc) on each country, while at the same time allowing manifestation of their original character.

The purpose of the IZ is double:

- To present the great creations or discoveries in all domains through the history of the countries that have contributed to the evolution of human consciousness.
- To receive in the appropriate facilities the researchers in all subjects who are carrying out the experimentations within CIRHU in connection with Auroville and its students.

Bharat Nivas was designed via an open competition amongst architects from across India, after providing a brief. Such a mode could be used for other pavilions by inviting architects from specific countries/across the world.

This is indeed a very detailed presentation, outlining (amongst other things): Specific design layouts for African, European pavilion areas (Slide 25, 26), Road layouts within International Zone (slides 35,36), General Principles and Guidelines for Int Zone (slides 61-71)

Link to the presentation [here](#).



Nicole
URBAN
PLANNING
AND AU-
ROVILLE'S
ECONOMIC
IDEALS

- Unlike typical 'capitalistic' cities of today, where vital enjoyment and consumerism shape everything else, in Auroville the aim is the development of consciousness, supported by an economy that aims to offer all "the joy of work according to their own nature and free leisure to grow inwardly, as well as a simply rich and beautiful life for all." (Sri Aurobindo)
- Auroville aims at no private property or businesses, no exchange of money, and that the basic needs of Aurovilians are to be provided for collectively by the township. In this context, the Crown is envisaged as a concentrated corridor of common infrastructure and common services.
- In the Residential Zone portion of the Crown, we already have services such as the Auroville Library, Arka, Sante, Solar Kitchen, PTDC, Nandini, the Free Store, Cycle Kiosk, Food Link...We will need other services, such as smaller-scale eateries/ community kitchens, day care, laundry, hair dressers etc., in a pedestrian and child-friendly environment, within very easy reach of residences.
- A new Visitors Centre in a planned way is to blend the "zone of shops" Mother was talking about with the need of visitors to experience more of what Auroville has to offer in terms of knowledge, goods and services. One idea would be to manifest the section of the Outer Ring Road (near Reve/Aurevelo) as a pedestrian boulevard (made accessible to visitors via a parking lot and tramway) that showcases Auroville units and projects.

Link to the presentation [here](#).

Anupama
URBAN DE-
SIGN PRIN-
CIPLES
IN AURO-
VILLE'S
CITY PLAN

The 'Galaxy Plan' is indeed a City Plan for Auroville and not just a logo. The model is the result of detailed calculations, and defines building volumes, built edges, densities and building heights. Auroville has always been seen and referred to as a City, so it has to be urban in character.

Auroville's uniqueness is its programme, aim, role and going beyond individual needs and exclusive materialism. A bottom-up approach to planning for Auroville, without a true collaboration with the top-down, is a risk to the vision driven planned city.

The Crown is the spine of pedestrian collective life, it serves a compact and sustainable city model. Roger planned to forbid and suppress automobiles in the city.

Precise regulations were foreseen to prevent an unavoidable *laissez-aller*. The MP Perspective 2025 only defined land use but we were much more advanced than what we showed in the plan as it is only the first step in the series of legal documents. City centre plans have been produced, under the guidance of Roger, covering zoning, densities, maintenance and so on. Work has also continued with the planning of the Line of Goodwill which will manage the visitors travelling to Matrimandir, and accommodate 8,000 residents and a range of facilities.

Phasing - building the city centre (5,000 residents), Residential Sectors 1 and 2 (5,000 residents) and Line of Goodwill (8,000 residents) would provide for a total population of 20,000 in this 1st phase.

Let's take the urban design of Auroville further because this is what was envisioned, promised and it remains relevant for the future, and an inspirational example of integrated planning with a high standard of design. The proof of this is through the numbers it attracts and steady donations which help Auroville to manifest.

Link to the presentation [here](#).

5. SUMMARY OF INITIAL DESIGN PRESENTATIONS BY DREAMWEAVING ARCHITECTS

The first dreamweaving session involved presentations from the various architects and teams of their designs followed by a round of feedback from the audience (other participating architects & teams).

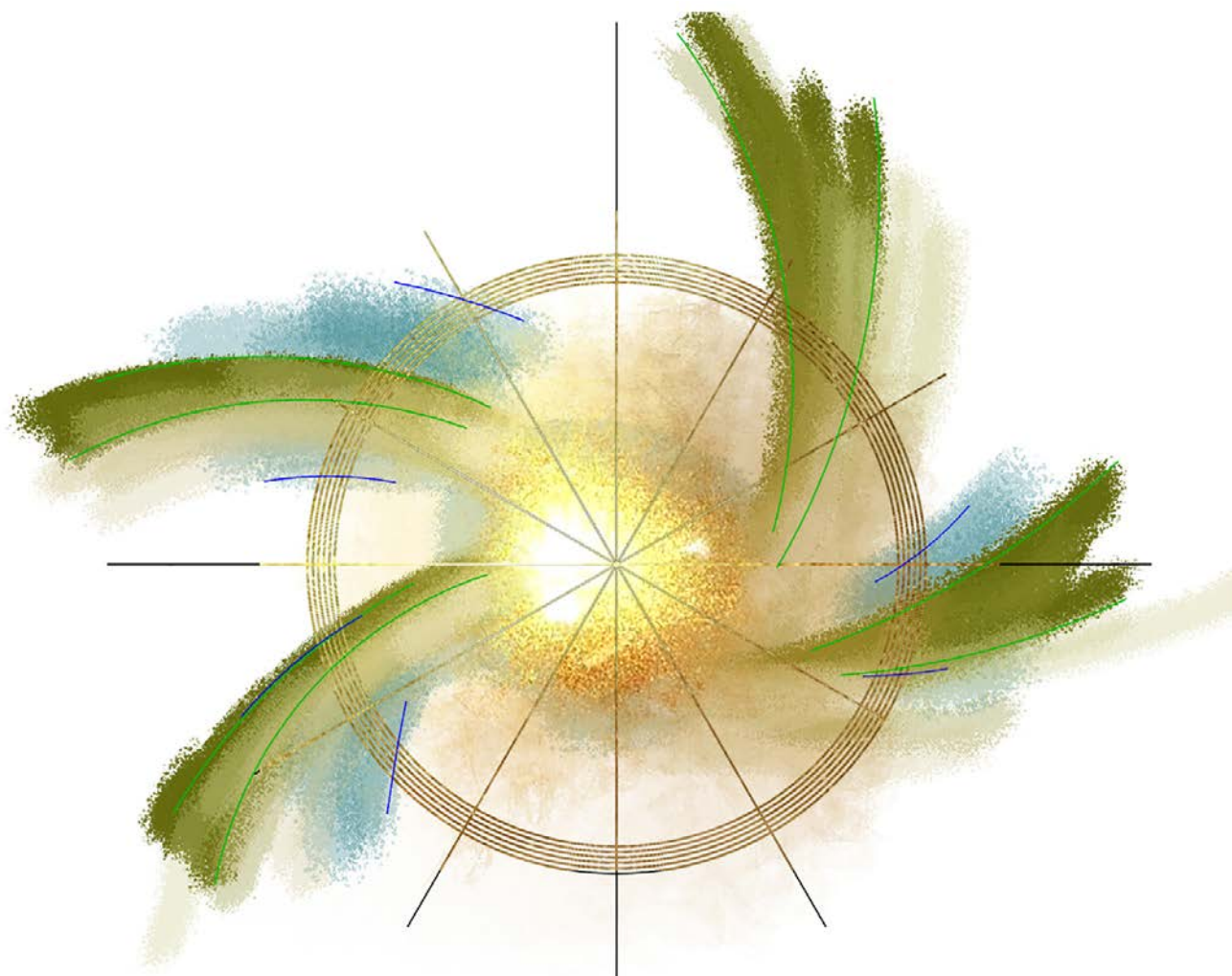
At this stage, the presentations were broadly seen as being 'outputs' and 'inputs'.

The output presentations were the ones which were about producing clear ideas and proposals on one or more aspects of the crown. The input presentations included research work and analysis of past work which could help inform the outputs.

11 architects/teams participated in this first presentation round. The summaries of their initial

presentations and the feedback received can be found in the *Resource Guide*.

The architects had two weeks' time to integrate this feedback and include the ideas that they appreciated in the next iteration of their designs.





6. SUMMARY OF SECOND DESIGN PRESENTATIONS BY DREAMWEAVING ARCHITECTS

The second presentation of the designs was made to a much larger group of participants including the peers, experts, focus group participants and the randomly selected community members. The summary of the ideas that were appreciated by each of these groups can be found in the *Resource Guide*.

11 architects/teams presented in the second round.

The architects had another 2 weeks' time to integrate this feedback and include ideas from other architects in the final iteration of their designs to be presented for evaluation.





7. PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF FINAL DESIGN PRESENTATIONS BY DREAMWEAVING ARCHITECTS

After the final presentation on February 18th and 19th, all the participants gave their feedback on the proposals from the architects. In attempting to move away from personalisation of the work presented, the feedback was sought not for individual designs but based on 12 different criteria relating to the design challenges expressed in the brief for this exercise.

For each criteria, feedback was collected for the question:

WHICH IDEAS OR ELEMENTS FROM THE DESIGNS RESONATE WITH YOU MOST, AND WHY?

Since one of the main strengths of this process is that it is copyleft and everyone was actively encouraged to 'steal/borrow' from their colleagues, any idea cannot be attributed to a single architect or team.

However, since this feedback process is still new for the community, we did receive comments with names of the architects. Therefore, to keep the analysis transparent and fair, we have felt compelled to put the number of times particular names of architects were mentioned. It should be noted that this is not a competitive scoring of the architects' work but only how many times a particular architect's ideas were mentioned for a particular criteria.

The feedback form was designed to be anonymous. Participants were only required to mark which category they were representing- architect, multidisciplinary expert, focus group, or randomly selected participant.

From all the participants of the process, we received feedback from forty-one (41) people, thirteen (13) dreamweaving architects and peers, four (4) multidisciplinary experts, eighteen (18) focus group members, and six (6) randomly selected community members. The main points from this feedback from each group and ideas that were noted across all groups are given below.



1. GROUNDING THE VISION SYNTHESISING AND GROUNDING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MASTERPLAN AND THE ESSENCE OF THE 1968 VISION MODEL (THE GALAXY)

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ganesh and Neha's design - looking at voids (blue/green network) to carve out the built form aspects of the Galaxy model - <i>form follows nature</i> → Sensitivity to the context/ ground realities - especially water/canyons → Immediate focus on mobility - <i>to ground the vision, create safe/inviting spaces and relieve neighbours of our traffic</i>
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Taking the Galaxy as starting point but integrating ground realities (such as Ganesh & Neha's design) - <i>If we don't there is no way to move forward</i> → Keeping the urban form whilst integrating parks/green spaces (such as Marie's and Sonali's designs) - <i>Keeps essence but respects sensitive areas/ current factors</i>
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Bringing out the different aspects of each zone and also crossover of functions between zones → Ideas for conscious elements - conscious centre, lines of light, lines of forces → Integration of the ground realities (bioregion, water conservation, canyons etc) - <i>synthesising people and nature in a practical way to start immediately</i> → Using 1968 Galaxy plan as the base - <i>to keep the essence and allow a playful/flexible city to emerge</i> → Mobility ideas which take into account the bio-region and the need for slower/ pedestrian transport
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Taking ground realities into account and using them as assets (such as Marie's designs with parks and Fabian's with roads) → Flexibility

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS ALL GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Sensitivity to and integration of context/ ground realities (i.e. bioregion, canyons) - 9
- Blue/green network to carve out/define galaxy - 8
- Ganesh and Neha's ideas/designs - 7
- Integration of conscious elements - spiritual centre, lines of forces, lines of light, Mother's qualities/symbols etc - 6

- 1968 Galaxy model as starting point/essence - 5
- Mobility study and plan as urgent priority - 4
- Use Master Plan guidelines (zones, activities, sensitive areas etc) - 4
- Consideration of geometry/ energy/ vastu - 4
- Shaliya's ideas/designs - 4

2. THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE CREATING SPACES FOR MEANINGFUL, NOURISHING HUMAN EXPERIENCES - SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Variety of experiences/qualities/atmospheres along the Crown - forming a living expression of Auroville's unity in diversity → Spaces that are friendly for all - especially children and elderly → Balance of collective/public spaces and personal/introspective places
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Different profiles/ widths for different parts of the Crown - to create a richer experience → More spaces for intimate/ informal exchanges along with larger public spaces (plaza/ bazaar)
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Manu & Tanja's ideas for free spaces/services and fun/human experiences - AV is meant to be a city without the exchange of money → Marie's ideas - fresh and playful with spaces to slow down & go inward → Raj's ideas - for food to plate, waste, water etc → Places for people of all ages to enjoy and play - both through playfulness and ensuring safety for young and old (through slower transport and safe routes for schools etc) → More social spaces - mix of large plaza and small intimate - to bring diverse people together (including bioregion) through heart connection → Quiet, slow spaces - for conscious solitude, harmony & inspiration
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Playful elements such as Manu & Tanja's and Raj's designs - to bring people together → Shalajja's ideas - specifically Kalpana zone (to bring movement/youth) and values for the Crown

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Safe & inclusive spaces/paths - for children/ elderly/ everyone - 12
- Defining the zones - through environment, materials, width of crown, feeling etc - 4
- Crown as a variety of experiences (zones, buildings, materials, width, landscaping etc) - 9
- Playfulness/fun - 4
- Manu & Tanja's ideas/designs - 8
- Small/intimate social spaces - 4
- Plazas and communal/public areas - 6
- Integrated school campus - 4
- Crown as a space (plaza/room) for social connection (including with bioregion) - 6
- Raj's ideas/designs - 4
- Money-free spaces/activities to align with AV economic vision - 5
- Marie's ideas/designs - 5





3. DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES OFFERING A DIVERSITY OF EXPERIENCES YET RETAINING CONTINUITY I.E. DIFFERENT ZONES, TIMES OF DAY/YEAR, VISUAL INTEREST

ARCHITECTS/PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Radhika and Shivangi's ideas for using the space/zones differently in the day and night-time - helps bring activities, presence and safety → More green spaces on the Crown, such as Marie's design ideas - to allow an experience with the possibility to really connect with nature → Non-built spaces and quiet pools
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Clear transitions when moving between zones → Creating a 3-D experience through Henrik's watchtowers and Shailaja's buildings crossing over the streets.
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Manu & Tanja's ideas such as the mandapam and sky-walk → Variations in the width of the Crown and the activities on it whilst keeping its continuity - to create different places and calm traffic, unity in diversity → Ideas for using the space/zones differently in the day and night-time
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Multi-use spaces, such as Sonali's steps/outdoor cinema seating - practical → Creating interesting yet smooth transitions between zones - such as Radhika and Shivangi's ideas for merging aims/concepts and Ganesh and Neha's ideas to create visual bridges by using shared materials

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Crown as a variety of experiences (zones, buildings, materials, width, landscaping etc) - 9
- Defining the zones - through environment, materials, feeling etc - 9
- Multi-purpose spaces (kunds/bazaar/ riparian belt/ transitional spaces) - 7
- Day and night variations (especially dynamic nightlife in Industrial zone) - 6
- Smooth/creative transitions between zones/parks (blending materials, concepts, uses etc) - 5
- Continuity of crown (in some form) - 5
- Manu and Tanja's ideas/designs - 5
- Ganesh and Neha's ideas/designs - 4
- Marie's ideas/designs - 4
- Safe and inclusive spaces/paths - for children/ elderly/ everyone - 3
- Canopy/skywalk - 3
- Radhika and Shivangi's ideas/designs - 3

4. DIMENSIONS AND PROPORTIONS CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF WIDTHS AND SCALE ON AND ALONG THE CROWN

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Changes in width of the Crown according to use/landscape etc - to create range of experiences and allow the Crown to breathe in and out → Buildings crossing the Crown, such as Radhika and Shivangi's exploration on the Crown canopy - gives feeling of protection and intimacy → Green, living street facades - creating urban spaces through landscaping
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Changes in materials and width of the Crown - as suggested by Marie and Shailaja
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Structures (bridges/pergolas/buildings) over the road, such as Shailaja and Sonali - connects buildings/people/ideas and creates shade and a sense of enclosure → Changes in width of the Crown with passing places - to minimise impact in sensitive areas and slow traffic
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Changes in width of the Crown according to use/landscape etc → Fabian's designs/ideas on mobility

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Crown changing width according to surroundings (minimise impact, reduce traffic, reduce monotony etc) - 12
- Structures (buildings, bridges, pergolas etc) crossing the street - crown as canopy - 10
- Diversity of buildings (heights/lengths/shapes) - 6
- Reducing width of roads (especially Crown) - 4
- Smooth/creative transitions between zones/ parks (blending materials, concepts, uses etc) - 3
- Green facades/ roofs/ buildings - 3
- Fabian's ideas/designs - 3
- Ganesh and Neha's ideas/designs - 3
- Marie's ideas/designs - 3



5. MOBILITY, CONNECTIONS AND PERMEABILITY SOLUTIONS FOR THE MOBILITY CHALLENGES OF AUROVILLE TO ENABLE SUSTAINABLE, CONSCIOUS MOVEMENT

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Public transport systems (starting with electric buses or shuttles) - to bring social interaction and reduce traffic → Focus on pedestrians as priority - with slow, quiet transport (as envisaged by the Mother) → Planning mobility with bioregion - to minimise traffic impact on both Auroville and the villages
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Recognise existing roads - as they will not disappear so it is better to consider how to improve/bypass as needed
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Shared/public transport systems - potentially starting with e-cycles or shuttles → Managing traffic on the Crown - with different areas of the crown accessible to different types of traffic (ie bypasses for 4-wheelers through sensitive areas) → Creating shade for pedestrians/cyclists - through trees and structures such as buildings on stilts → First step needs to be to study and plan the ground realities for roads/traffic in Auroville and surrounding area (as identified by Fabian and Henrik) - is the only realistic, practical way forward
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Crown as a place for slow speed, quiet vehicles - to give an indication that you are nearing/entering the peace area. → Induja and Tejaswini's ideas for shuttle stations - to change mobility habit → Fabian's ideas - to address traffic issues around Auroville → Flyover for sensitive areas (such as Darkali) - adds an element of playfulness whilst minimising environmental impact

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- | | |
|---|---|
| → Public transport systems (shuttles, electric buses etc) - 14 | → Need for bioregional planning/ collaboration (ie roads/ water) - 4 |
| → Slow, quiet, conscious transport with priority for pedestrians - 11 | → Shared transport (e-cycle hubs, carpooling etc etc) - 4 |
| → Fabian's ideas/designs - 7 | → Managed traffic - different types of transport on different parts of crown - 4 |
| → Sensitivity to and integration of context/ground realities (bioregion, existing roads, canyons etc) - 6 | → Shade throughout day/year - from trees, buildings, buildings on stilts, overhangs/ orientation and other structures - 4 |
| → Restricting access points into Auroville (for motorised/polluting transport) - 5 | → Henrik & Rohan's ideas/designs - 4 |
| → Induja and Tejaswini's ideas/designs - 5 | → Manu and Tanja's ideas/designs - 4 |



6. BIOCLIMATIC PRINCIPLES AND URBAN FORM DESIGNING WITH THE SUN, WIND, TOPOGRAPHY, WATER FLOW, FLORA & FAUNA OF THE REGION

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Creation of shade through trees, spacing/heights of buildings, overhangs and other devices - to provide continual shade throughout the day/year, especially on pedestrian paths → Use of indigeneous flora - as they are more resilient to climate change → Need for synthesis of the city, galaxy and nature elements
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Need to consider water - what can be captured at the surface and materials/vegetation to manage run-off
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Creation of shade through trees, buildings, canopies etc - to regulate temperature and provide comfort for pedestrians. → Use natural/local building materials - to minimise environmental impact and heat → Use of indigeneous trees/flora (ie TDEF) and species requiring minimal water - as they are more viable and require less resources required to maintain → Sensitivity to and integration of context/ ground realities - valuing what has been carefully created (especially on water catchment) through ideas such as the Line of Force of Life
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Creation of shade, especially through trees - to ensure that the natural cooling currently provided to Auroville from the amount of trees and their density is kept/ integrated as an important cooling element. → Reduce run-off through vegetation or permeable materials linked to waterways - as run-off and aquifer replenishment are important issues for our region

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Shade throughout day/year - from trees, buildings, buildings on stilts, overhangs/ orientation and other structures - 20
- Reduce run-off through vegetation or permeable materials linked to waterways - 9
- Integration of indigeneous trees/flora (ie TDEF) and species requiring minimal water - 9
- Consideration in the design for wind/ natural cross-ventilation - 8
- Use natural/local building materials to minimise environmental impact and heat - 8
- Maximise space for trees (ie in plazas, between buildings) to manage climate, offset greenbelt realities and create connection to nature (shinrin-yoku) - 7
- Marie's ideas/designs - 6
- Sensitivity to and integration of context/ ground realities (ie bioregion, canyons, roads) - 5
- Synthesis of galaxy, city, people and nature - 4
- Dorle's ideas/designs - 4
- Need for bioregional planning/ collaboration (ie roads/ water) - 3
- Integrate surface water collection/ recycling - 3
- Manu and Tanja's ideas/designs - 3

7. EXPERIENCING WATER CONSIDERATION OF THE FLOWS OF WATER AS A SOLUTION FOR AUROVILLE'S WATER SECURITY, AS WELL AS A SPATIAL EXPERIENTIAL ELEMENT

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Incorporating water catchment features in urban design (of buildings, roads etc.) as well as through the creation of kundsand kolams → Designing waterfalls, water channels and other water features on the Crown, that function as part of a water catchment / water recycling system → Enhance percolation by designating specific areas for this and adapted vegetation
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ensuring water catchment - through kunds & kolams, and channels along the Crown connecting to collection pools / a 'water bank' → Integration of water flow and multisourcing in urban design (from surface to waste water)
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Incorporating water catchment features, particularly the 'water flowers' to collect humidity from the air, with the observation that water bodies are spaces for celebration, joy and social interaction → Sensitivity to and integration of context/ ground realities when it comes to water (percolation areas, canyons, existing water flows) – Darkali Line of Life and Marie's, was raised several times as an example. → Integrated wastewater treatment ("Putting energy and intention into recycling into waste water and incorporating it into the design of the city"), with Raj's idea of the purification of water with plants specifically highlighted
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Prioritising water catchment – from water catchment and reuse systems across buildings to dedicated water catchment in the International Zone (Sonali design) and in Gaia percolation (Marie design).

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Prioritising creation and conservation of water catchment areas- 27
- Waterfalls / water channels / water features on crown/watchtowers / viewing points - 9
- Reduce run-off - vegetation or permeable materials linked to waterways (percolation - 8
- Kunds / Kolams- 8
- Wastewater Treatment- 5
- Line of Force of Life- 4
- Need for bioregional planning/ collaboration (ie roads/ water)- 4
- Water Management / Water Security- 4
- 1968 Galaxy model as starting point/essence- 2
- Sensitivity to and integration of context/ ground realities (ie bioregion, canyons)- 2
- Water as priority- 2
- Windmills- 2





8. CITY OF NATURE INTEGRATION OF BUILT SPACES (SOLIDS AND VOIDS) WITH NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Seeing nature and the city as inseparable - an ever changing interaction of built up, green and blue → Green corridors (i.e. connecting the Matrimandir gardens to the inner city and beyond) - to provide a continuity of nature, with this presence of nature in all public spaces being an 'Auroville trademark'
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Using nature to connect - both spiritually (recognising all are one) and also physically (through green corridors etc)
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Marie's presentation of the parks, the transition between built up spaces and parks - gives a clear impression of how it can look and the need to start planting now to achieve this. → Ganesh and Neha's designs - especially the Line of Force of Life and the multi-layered approach to nature on buildings → Land for water collection (ie kunds) - conscious approach to development → Space (land/roofs) for urban farming - to increase greenery and food security → Appreciating nature as a rich resource - for education, cooling, and potential for connection (welcoming bioregion to experience Darkali)
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Dorle's designs - increasing accessibility/connection by linking buildings and parks and allowing percolation through open first floor in Industrial Zone → Using existing nature as an asset - many cities around the world are spending a lot of energy to revert to greener urban models. We can do this right from the start. → Raj's ideas - for innovative buildings (tree integrated houses) and restaurants close to food production.

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Synthesis of galaxy, city and nature - 8
- Integrate surface water collection/ recycling - 5
- Use existing form as assets (trees, parks etc) - 6
- Expand park areas (from Master Plan proposal) - 4
- Ganesh and Neha's ideas/designs - 6
- Green facades/ buildings/ roofs - 4
- Marie's ideas/designs - 6
- Integration of indigeneous trees/flora (ie TDEF) and species requiring minimal water - 4
- Sensitivity to and integration of context/ ground realities (ie bioregion, canyons, roads) - 5
- Land for forests and farms (food-forests and vegetable roofs) - 4
- Green corridors- connections of green spaces/ pockets - 5
- Sonali's ideas/designs - 4



9. DENSITY AND PHASING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR PHASING IMPLEMENTATION IN RESPONSE TO GRADUAL CHANGES OF DENSITIES

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Starting with small activity clusters in each zone - potentially around existing development to reinforce density and minimise infrastructure requirements → Public/shared transport systems - preventing more cars being bought → Starting with the plazas at Youth Centre and Solar Kitchen - using participatory planning to keep momentum and enable healing
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Starting with what we already have - for mobility
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Prototype ideas (especially Solar Kitchen/Arka, Solar Kitchen Plaza and timings/ access for mobility) - to see change/movement and learn what works and what doesn't → Starting by building for current needs - potentially by identifying development needs/priorities
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Induja and Tejaswini's ideas/designs - especially for their 5-7 year plan which enables scalable adaptation to ground realities. → Need to consider the climate that will be created for buildings and their neighbours - through materials and passage of sound/light/wind etc

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Phasing: build what is required and expand later as needed - 5
- Solar kitchen plaza - 5
- Prototype - for places (i.e. Solar Kitchen to Arka), mobility (access/routes/planters), shade etc - 4
- Use existing form as assets (trees, parks, buildings, roads) - 4
- Starting with activity clusters in each zone - reinforcing existing development/density -4
- Complete residential sector 1 and 2 (housing as priority) - 3
- Development priorities - 3
- Different times for different transport/uses (ie deliveries/construction or closure for social events) - 3
- Public transport systems (shuttles, electric buses etc) - 3
- Fabian's ideas/designs - 3
- Marie's ideas/designs - 3
- Induja and Tejaswini's ideas/designs - 3

10. ENRICHING EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS ENHANCING THE FUNCTION, QUALITY OR EXPERIENCE OF OUR EXISTING BUILDINGS, SPACES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ARCHITECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Enhancing the area near Solar Kitchen- possibility of creating live streets throughout the day → Improve pedestrianising part of Crown on residential zones- can help in creating a safe social life especially in the evening → Enquiry in centralised - decentralised - clustered infrastructure- will help in reducing the width of paved road and have more social spaces around → Improve the square in front of Humanscapes with a canopy and maybe a kiosk etc.- the space is not being used and there is not much public space to pause and meet
MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Marie: Creepers growing on light/temporary structures along roads.- Helps nearby trees grow faster and provides shade while the trees grow. Could be removed once trees grow enough to provide enough shade. → Manu and Tanya: Adding spaces between the Library and Mahalakshmi Home for social events. - Creates life where it is currently just a transit area (no reason to pause). → Shailaja: Light installations for events- Make temporary event spaces that can be created where and when needed and depending on themes.
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Start with programmatic amendments eg timed vehicular traffic/ weekend markets etc.- immediately doable: does not require financial input: larger community can be part of the testing → Using existing initiatives- no need to create new or innovative solutions: let's fully enjoy ideas used worldwide (eg free cycles, city-centre without 4 wheelers, public transport, service like food delivery at night) → Induja and Tejaswini's proposal for development at Arka - SK- Can be done now as prototype
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → More connections with neighbours (foot/cycle paths, parks, public transport, infrastructure)- helps build bridges between communities → Development of a Solar Kitchen plaza- The SK/PTDC stretch is a place most Aurovilians use as it includes many services. Enhancing it and similar places (Town Hall) would seem a logical help for growth, exchange and keeping a certain warmth in the development of the city

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Starting with activity clusters in each zone - reinforcing existing development/density- 7
- Marie design ideas- 4
- Phasing: build what is required and expand later- 7
- Mobility study and plan as urgent priority- 4
- Use existing form as assets (trees, parks, buildings, roads)- 6
- Public transport systems (shuttles, electric buses etc)- 4
- Solar Kitchen plaza- 4
- Topic was not well covered- 5
- Defining the zones - through environment, materials, width of crown, density, feeling etc- 3

- Fabian design ideas- 3
- Induja and Tejaswini design ideas- 3
- Complete Residential sector 1 and 2 (housing as priority)- 3
- Integration of future development with existing development- 3



11. DESIGN FOR CHANGE SPACES OF ADAPTABLE CAPACITIES FOR FUTURE CHANGES

ARCHI-TECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Pop-up kiosks and shading elements (with solar?)- to create narrower roads enriching the public space while keeping it flexible → To connect the buildings to the RoW and build some elements in between- currently most of the existing buildings are quite far away from the crown RoW.
MULTIDIS-CIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Using existing roads and even developing/adding to them (bypasses etc) This protects land that is needed for the Master Plan and does not squander valuable land for unneeded road development. → Tanya and Manu: Light structures- can be moved and used where needed. → Dorle: Flexible infrastructure conduits- can house different infrastructure based on changing needs.
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Re purposable parking spaces- Current need - parking: in the future, hopefully not/ less → Multi-use public buildings- Mandapams, open spaces: closed buildings for more 'private' moments (eg social club for board games) arts and crafts → Infrastructure trench- that allows for new technology without extra digging Seems like the best long-term solution
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Non- motorised traffic Sundays - Manu & Tanja- Get used to alternative transport needs gradually. Change of pace and use of space → MoveCrown to avoid demolishing existing structures - Henrik- Allows for existing residents to participate in developing their neighbourhoods in collaboration → Series of DDPs - Fabian- Allows for updated integration of current use → Radhika & Shivangi's ideas for zones/buildings being used differently in day/night as well as a buffer zone between zones- Allowing more flexibility in the use of the zones but keeping their primary functions → Flexible and redundant infrastructure platform- For each new pipe/line installed others are broken and the constant digging and searching for infrastructure has a wide time and money cost. Furthermore the lack of redundancy and the fact infrastructure isn't decentralised paralyse Auroville when issues happen.

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Multi-purpose spaces (kunds/bazaar/riparian belt/transitional spaces/amphitheatre/parking)- 7
- Flexible approach to infrastructure - minimal/flexible/accessible- 6
- Phasing: build what is required and expand later- 4
- Multi-use public buildings- 3
- Different times for different transport/uses (ie deliveries or closure for social events)- 2
- Manu & Tanya sign ideas- 2
- Mobility study and plan as urgent priority- 2
- Playfulness/ fun / sense of discovery- 2
- Plazas and communal/public areas- 2

→ Public transport systems (shuttles, electric buses etc)- 2

→ Use natural/local building materials to minimise environmental impact and heat- 2

→ Use existing form as assets (trees, parks, buildings, roads)- 2

→ Light structures: possible to move, multi use- 2



12. ESSENCE OF AUROVILLE EXPRESSION OF THE “POETRY” (IDEALS AND EXPERIMENTAL NATURE) OF AUROVILLE

ARCHI-TECTS/ PEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To look at Auroville as a spiritual city <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In between a balance of life and ecosystem the spiritual aspect shall not be lost → New ways of interweaving dense city with abundant water- showcasing sustainable living in harmony with nature → The idea of a part of Auroville free from money exchange and a part being commercial- In some aspects it exists already, but an implementation of it through built form and spaces can enhance this aspect → Matrimandir vistas in the paving and ending them with communal spaces- sacred celebration of communal space
MULTIDIS-CIPLINARY EXPERTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Making water top priority- being conscious of basic needs. → Integration of existing labours/creations, working with topography/water and existing green- clearly the spirit of Auroville will be expressed with such an approach → Shivangi and Radhika design ideas- using the less tangible planning principles → Tanya and Manu design ideas- play areas, social spots, bringing people together
FOCUS GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Vastu principles and rituals- old wisdom and sacredness reinventing new contemporary rituals necessary in today’s crazy world → Integral approach in all layers- collaborative planning and process - artistic inspiration - pragmatic infrastructure - social coherence - bioregional awareness and care - spiritual opening and service orientation → Synthesis of humans, nature, matter- harmony, beauty → The sense of wonder- in creating mobility situations which force us to slow down and touch the inner life of Auroville which we are then able to manifest outwardly. → The joy and concentration on children- tackle problems of our modern society- loneliness, danger and sense of not belonging. This sense of welcome and real invitation to interact with each other and our environment should be extended to the bioregion. → Unity in diversity- not uniformity: everybody needs to be able to find their place here → Emphasis on design that prioritises flexibility, dynamism, grass roots development- urbanism should give more tools and opportunities to the community, a higher concentration of sporadic and vibrant growth - not stiff and imposed design
RANDOMLY SELECTED CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Children-centred planning- keep safe the youth that never ages → Including the surrounding villages in the realisation and growth of AV- humanity and human unity → Design of Galaxy can be conceptual - so that art and beauty are in the forefront allowing for creative solutions to emerge

IDEAS/DESIGNS MOST NOTED ACROSS THE GROUPS (AND NUMBER OF TIMES NOTED) WERE:

- Playfulness/ fun / sense of discovery- 7
- Crown as a space (room/plaza) for social connection (including with bioregion)- 6
- Art & beauty an integral part of the Crown- 6
- Ease/joy of movement - with playful paths / cycleways through inner city- 5
- Maximise space for trees (ie in plazas, between buildings) to manage climate, offset greenbelt realities and create connection to nature (shirin-yoku)- 4
- Need for bioregional planning/ collaboration (ie roads/ water)- 4
- Fostering creativity and freedom- 4
- Blue/green network to carve out/define galaxy- 3
- Diversity of elements (space for everyone)- 3
- Flexible approach to infrastructure- 3
- Integration of conscious elements - spiritual centre, lines of forces, lines of light, Mother's qualities/symbols etc- 3
- Spaces for inner reflection/ conscious solitude- 3

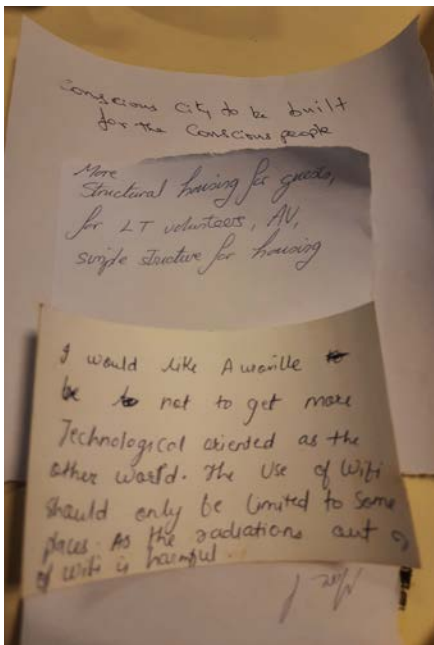


8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the objectives of this process was to include as many diverse voices and incorporate views from as wide a spectrum in the community as possible. Apart from having direct engagement with a randomly selected group of community members, a call was made to the community for any initiatives that wanted to emerge inspired by the dreamweaving process. Schools and individuals responded with heartening enthusiasm with their submissions on “How I dream the future city of Auroville”. A dreamweaving help desk was set up one afternoon outside Solar Kitchen to collect inspirations and to answer any questions about the process. These submissions and ideas can be found in the Dreamweaving 2022 Resource Guide.

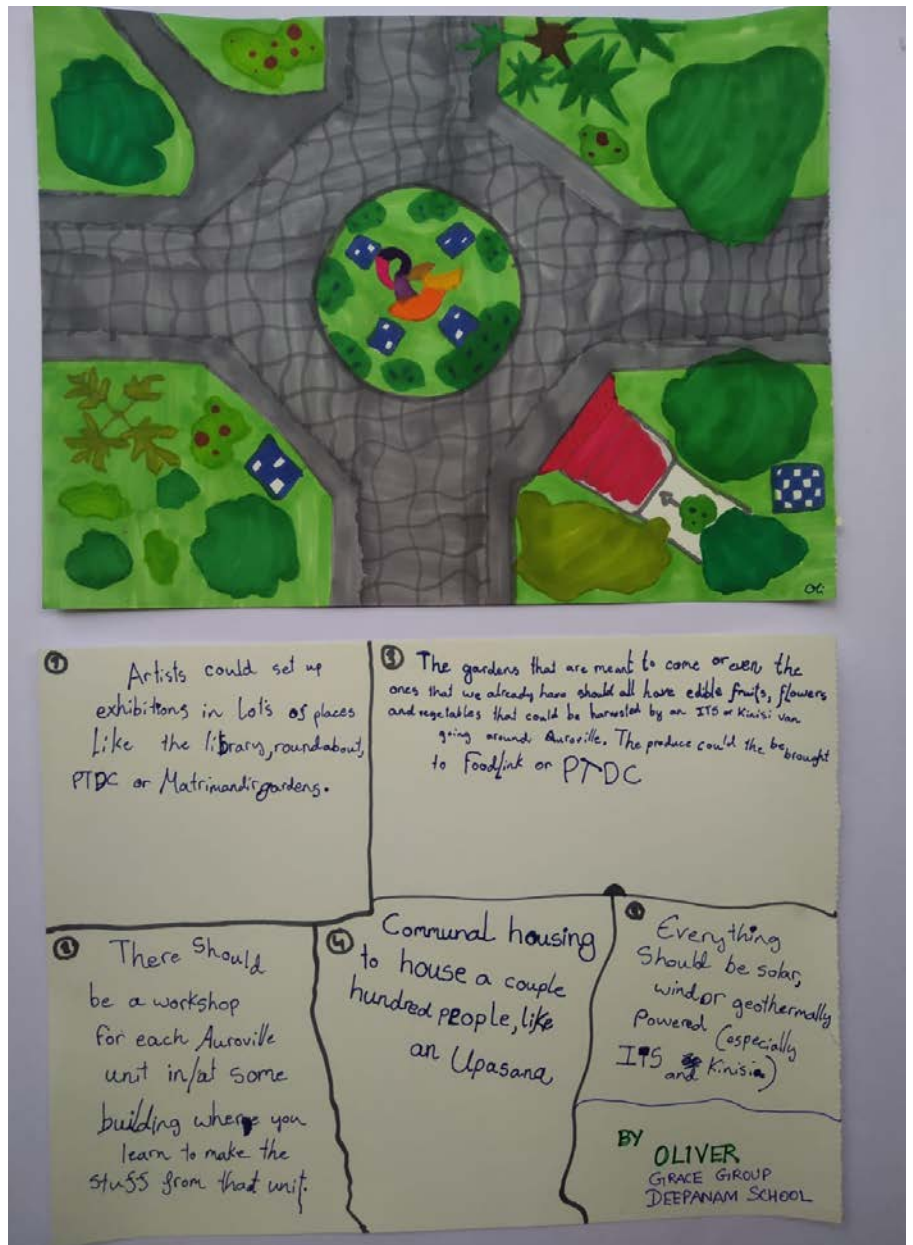
It is important to note that besides direct participation and giving ideas, there was an overwhelming response and appreciation from the community towards this process, with many volunteering and contributing through their time, skills and financial resources and supporting the organising teams to hold this process together.

There was generous support also from people outside Auroville, with funds raised by Auroville International USA and Auroville International UK, who were interested in the potential of the process and what it offered for collaboration in the community.



↑ Dreamweaving input produced and submitted at the collab help desk at Solar Kitchen - 2nd Feb 2022, Feb 20 2022

→ Dreamweaving inspired art, Olivier, student of Deepanam school, 'How I dream the future city of Auroville' - Jan 2022

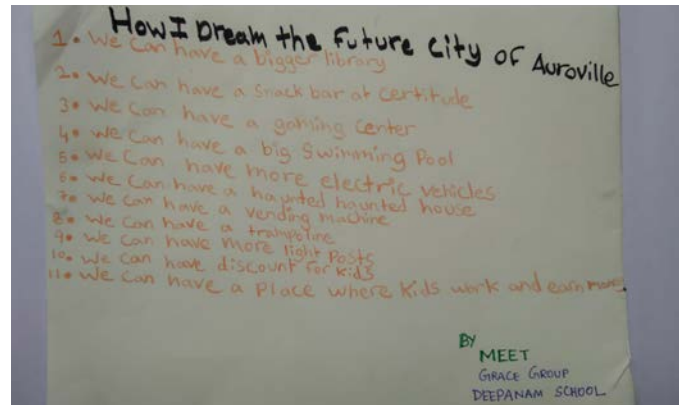




↑ Dreamweaving collab help desk at Solar Kitchen - 2nd Feb 2022



↑ Dreamweaving inspired art, Sitara, student of Deepanam school, 'How I dream the future city of Auroville' - Jan 2022



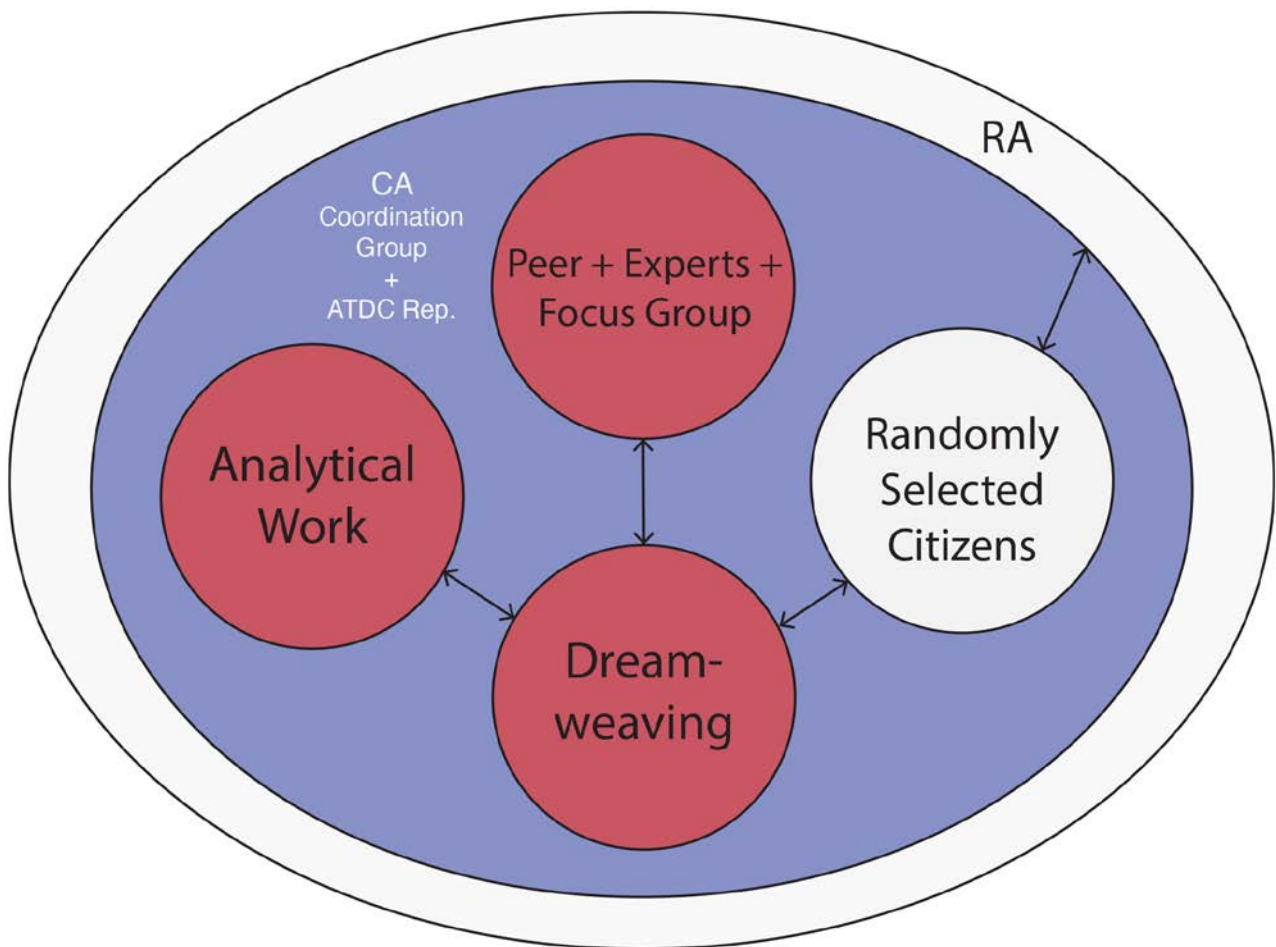
↑ Dreamweaving inspired art, Meet, student of Deepanam school, 'How I dream the future city of Auroville' - Jan 2022



↑ 2. Dreamweaving Inspired art, Kaia, Community member, 'How I dream the future city of Auroville' - Jan/Feb 2022



↑ Dreamweaving collab help desk at Solar Kitchen - 2nd Feb 2022



↑ Dreamweaving call for collaboration cover art, 'Let's collaborate', Community member - Jan 2022

9. PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE PROCESS

The organising team sought the feedback of all participants, including the dreamweaving architects, on the process. This was done through a questionnaire, the results of which are presented below. During the last day of the process, focus group discussions were also held in which all participants reflected on the highlights or key take-aways of their experience, as a way for participants to hear from one another about their shared experience. These focus group discussions and other individual interviews held with members of the various participant groups were filmed and will feature in a documentary video on the process.

The first part of the process feedback questionnaire (see Dreamweaving 2022 Resource Guide) asked participants to rate:

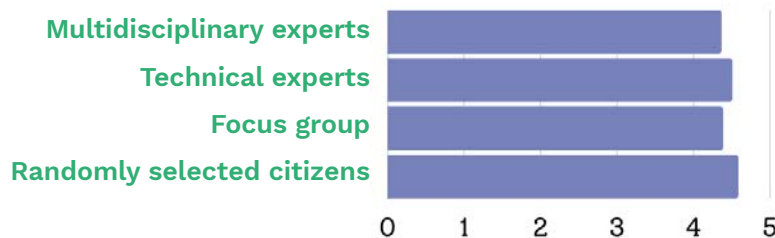
1. THEIR OVERALL EXPERIENCE
2. THE CLARITY AND QUALITY OF THE CONTENT (PRESENTATIONS BY THE ARCHITECTS)
3. THE QUALITY OF INTERACTION WITH THE ARCHITECTS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS
4. THE CLARITY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISING TEAM
5. THE FACILITATION SUPPORT PROVIDED DURING THE PROCESS

This evaluation is intended to serve the community at large as well as the organising team. It will offer the community at large a quick sense of the value of the process, based on how members of the community who participated evaluated it. And it will enable the organising team to identify any major issues within the key aspects of the process, evaluated in this questionnaire, so that they can be addressed for any such future processes.

The results of this evaluation are presented graphically below, as aggregate responses from each participant group. Participants were asked to rate on a scale of 1 - 5, where 5 was the highest score and 0 the lowest.

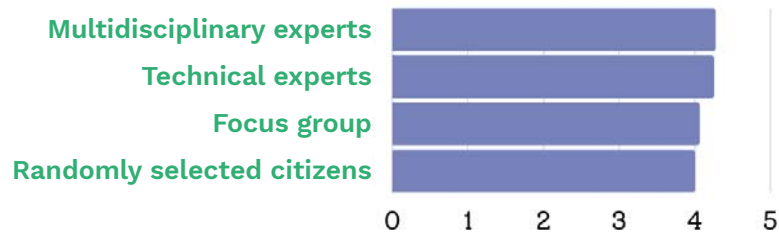


1. HOW WAS YOUR OVERALL EXPERIENCE?



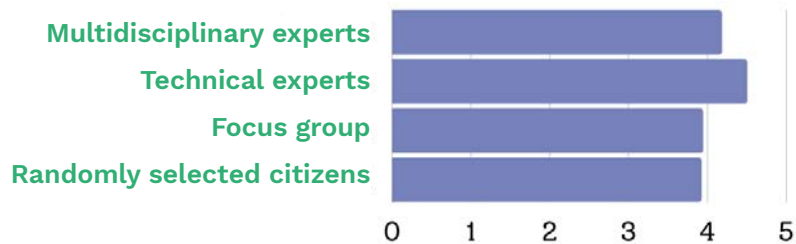
(Average score out of 5)

2. CLARITY AND QUALITY OF CONTENT (PRESENTATIONS BY THE ARCHITECTS)



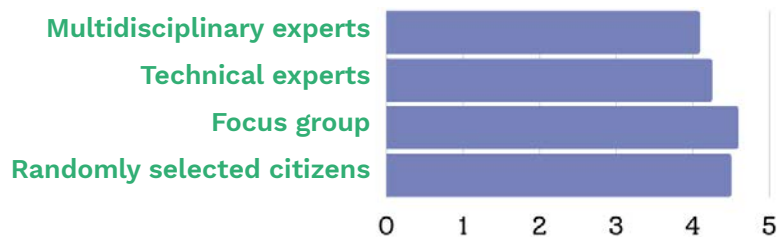
(Average score out of 5)

3. THE QUALITY OF INTERACTION WITH THE ARCHITECTS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS



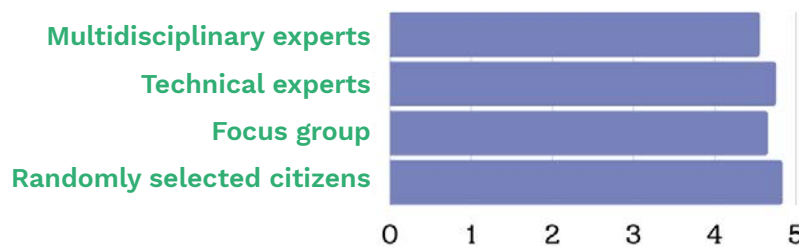
(Average score out of 5)

4. THE CLARITY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISING TEAM



(Average score out of 5)

5. THE FACILITATION SUPPORT PROVIDED DURING THE PROCESS



(Average score out of 5)

Overall, each participant group rated various aspects of the process similarly, and the evaluation was positive. It is important to note, however, that a few of the randomly selected participants dropped out early in the process; challenges expressed related to the long days of presentations, which some found difficult to follow.

The second part of the process feedback questionnaire consisted of open-ended questions, the objective of which was to harvest richer and more detailed inputs from participants.

THE QUESTIONS ASKED WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- What did you find to be the most important or valuable aspects of this process?
- What was the most challenging aspect of this process?
- What do you consider to be the key ‘take-aways’ from this process?
- Would you recommend using this process for other collaborative planning or design topics in Auroville?
- Do you have any other comments on the process / suggestions for the organisers if a similar process is carried out in future?

An analysis of the responses to each of these questions is detailed below.



WHAT DID YOU FIND TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT OR VALUABLE ASPECTS OF THIS PROCESS?

INVOLVEMENT & COLLABORATION: Feedback from each participant group spoke of involvement and collaboration as the most important and valuable aspects of this process. They identified the supportive relationship between the architects, the willingness of many experts to collaborate in this process, and a positive atmosphere in the room with dynamics of respectfulness and listening. In the words of one participant, this created “a movement of goodwill in the spirit of collaboration and participation!” while another pointed out “The fact of people coming together, learning to abdicate their own personal viewpoint, learning to collaborate, it’s wonderful”.

INTEGRATION OF VIEWS: The second most important and valuable aspect of the process identified across each group was how it fostered the integration of views – amongst architects, multidisciplinary experts and other members of the community. As one person phrased it, “the integration of vertical and horizontal, mixing different walks of life into design exchange (multidisciplinary experts, community, peers, focus group)”. Another reflected that there was “Diversity of ideas and yet an underlying unity”. The involvement of the wider community was especially highlighted:

“I really enjoyed how inclusive the process was, lovely to see all sides of Auroville represented, even the efforts to collect the young and younger youth’s ideas! Nice to see a design process that is not behind closed doors but arouses the whole community to be invested.”

Focus Group participant

“Randomly selecting people from the community and considering their voices and feedback is the most great thing. This is the right way to include the community in any of the processes”.

Focus Group participant

COMMUNITY RESPONSE: Three out of four of the participant groups were also appreciative of the fact that this process was a harmonious community-based response to a crisis situation, “The whole community coming together in such a peaceful manner” to “arrive at a collective voice”, responding “to the community distress, and governance bullying with creativity”.

EDUCATIONAL AND STRUCTURED PROCESS: Other feedback included appreciation for a structured and educational process by which “the various points & views, technical expertise had a platform and structure to work together on”, one that fostered “exchange and widening of perception for the participants”, and enabled sharing of “all the data and reports from experts to community at large, which feels empowered by access”.



WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECT OF THIS PROCESS?

TIME CONSTRAINT: The majority of respondents (18 out of 30 respondents) identified time constraint, in some form, as the most challenging aspect of this process: the short time for presentations and for the overall process, long days and tight, last-minute schedules with insufficient time to integrate everything:

“Time - seeing participants who have worked hard being stressed to present in limited time.”

Multidisciplinary Expert

“The ability for architects to integrate their ideas with those offered in such a short time. Also for us to grasp all the amazing gems that sprang from it.”

Focus Group participant

“Time - not enough time to complete the process fully - in my eyes - overlay all the proposals into one community offer to Vastu Shilpa”

Focus Group participant

OTHER CHALLENGES: Other challenges noted were the complexity of the task (4/30 responses), issues

around community approval and implementation (3/30 responses) - “Challenging part is from organisers to get approval from the community or from the necessary groups to implement the ideas maybe” –and the ongoing tension in the community (2/30 responses)

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE KEY ‘TAKE-AWAYS’ FROM THIS PROCESS?

Overall, responses regarding the key take-aways from this process were similar to what the participants answered were *‘the most important and valuable aspects of the process’*: that involvement and collaboration enriches the process and the outputs developed within it, that the Auroville community has an exemplary capacity to respond collectively to a challenge, and that the educational aspect of the process (including being exposed to a diversity of perspectives) is highly appreciated. In addition, respondents spoke of the potential for this process to be a model for addressing further planning needs and other community topics in Auroville as a key take-away from their experience.

INVOLVEMENT & COLLABORATION: Each participant group had spoken of involvement and collaboration as the most important and valuable aspects of this process. They each also highlighted involvement and collaboration as the key ‘take-away’ from this process. In one architect’s words, “That the way forward for the community is working in collaboration and being able to appreciate each other”. Another stated that “There are a lot of competent people in AV in their fields. There is a need of more interaction and trust between these experts and the working groups which make the decisions and implement them.”

COMMUNITY RESPONSE: The fact that we, as a community, have the capacity to collectively respond in an exceptional way to a challenge such as Auroville’s present town planning crisis was the second most frequently evoked ‘take-away’ of the experience, captured in responses from focus group and randomly selected participants. “The power when Aurovilains work together - it’s irresistible” remarked one participant. “Together we can come up with a plan that works for us”, emphasised another. “Dreaming together is incredible”.

EDUCATION: 3 out of 4 participant groups spoke again to the educational value of the process, which one participant described as a “mind widening” experience. Others appreciated the

opportunity to learn more about planning through the presentations by experts and those made by architects of their design process. “A chance to design and hear from experts”, said one focus group participant. “The whole process has been a ‘Master Class’ in itself”, expressed one architect.

PROCESS AS A MODEL: Randomly Selected and Focus Group participants specifically spoke to the value of the process as an example and model “hopefully repeated and expanded upon”.

“This process has been a great example for organising things in a proper way and getting the community involved. Key takeaways: ‘togetherness’ and community proper organisation”

Focus Group participant

“This type of working process can become a model for other departments and projects”

Randomly Selected participant

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND USING THIS PROCESS FOR OTHER COLLABORATIVE PLANNING OR DESIGN TOPICS IN AUROVILLE?

All of the participants answered yes to this question (one multidisciplinary expert response was blank). 3 focus group participants noted that economy and governance could be taken up as topics, one architect commented that “In fact

this should be the template for even other parts of the galaxy plan – from larger to smaller parts” and a multidisciplinary expert suggested that this process “should be integrated in our governance system”.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS ON THE PROCESS / SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ORGANISERS IF A SIMILAR PROCESS IS CARRIED OUT IN FUTURE?

Most participants offered suggestions related to the overall process, many expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the process and reflected on its value in the present context, while some made comments related to follow-up.

INPUTS ON PROCESS: Comments and suggestions on the process were mostly related to widening the representation of a diversity of participants and perspectives (10), making improvements to the information presented and provided (7), and the desirability of a less tight time frame, including space for reflections and informal exchanges (5).

WIDER REPRESENTATION: It was felt that young people (including under 18) ought to be actively invited to participate in these processes through various means (specific suggestions made were a randomly selected group of young people, and reaching out to the School Board in advance to encourage teachers to collect inputs from their students). It was also felt that a wider representation could have been curated in the presentations, in this specific process by not only including architects in the Dreamweaving design process.

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND PROVIDED: Participants expressed that they would have appreciated receiving information (including the schedules) more in advance, that the presentations could have been supported by a basic outline/guidelines, and that more clarity on whether and how feedback had been integrated by the dreamweaving architects would have been appreciated. One randomly selected participant commented that :

“Whilst most of the architects seemed eager to receive feedback a few seem to not have integrated them in their upgraded presentations and most seem to have preferred implementing changes from peer architect’s feedback rather than ‘normal’ citizens giving their practical/lived experiences. Our group of randomly selected aurovilians gave



the same feedback to most architects regarding cycle path and none even considered their input.”

Process Timeframe and Structure: Participants who gave feedback on the timeframe of the process felt it was too rushed to allow for in-depth and informal exchanges and reflections which they felt would have helped reach a sense of completion of the dreamweaving architects’ work and of the community process.

Gratitude and appreciation: Many expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the process, both for how it was lead and for how participants engaged in it, which people found heartening and relieving in the crisis context in which it was held:

“I think that given the pressure auroville has and is experiencing right now and the unclarity of what will happen at any given moment, the process and all participants were showing a very beautiful side of auroville, its diversity, its capability and its longing for union and process. Only that the rigid time frame (necessary) was difficult in terms of having more in-depth exchanges”

Architect

“It has been a great relief to see how Auroville’s spirit brought forward this extraordinary ‘fraternity of collaboration’ in the space of no more than a few weeks as [a] material response to the shock and trauma of early December. I was completely inspired by this wholeness”.

Focus Group participant

“A sparkling creativity, light and joyful, engaged and committed. Auroville community at its best.”

Architect

FOLLOW-UP: A few people evoked the issue of follow-up in their comments and suggestions. There was a concern that “We need to ensure that the process leads to implementation with quality on time” (Focus Group participant). One architect suggested “perhaps some small actions to follow up on the crown to animate the spaces already while we wait for VSC”. A multidisciplinary expert suggested we “dreamweave in other topics as well (administration, health, finance etc)”.

IN SUM: Participants were positive about the Dreamweaving process, and would recommend using it again for planning or other community topics in Auroville. It was hoped that in future the timeframe would be less restrictive, allowing the process to include more space for informal exchanges and reflection, and that a wider representation of community members (especially youth) and perspectives (widening designers to include others than architects) be included.

10. COMMUNITY PRESENTATION AND EVALUATION

PRESENTATION:

The final presentation of the process was made to the larger community on April 2nd.

The presentation included an explanation of the necessity for collaborative planning; an introduction to the design brief given to the dreamweavers; an overview of the structure of the exercise; video extracts from dreamweaving presentations and reflections on the process by all involved; a summarised analysis of feedback received from the dreamweavers/experts/focus group/randomly selected community members/participants from Vastu Shilpa Consultants; an appreciation of the process from Jaydeep Bhagat of Vastu Shilpa Consultants; and final reflections on the exercise by the three core initiators of the process, Omar, David and Mona. The session concluded with an opportunity for the audience to ask questions or make comments.

At the outset, it was explained why participative collaborative planning is so important. Whereas a top-down approach can create a design vision of enormous quality, the development of that vision requires a different process as it involves making a vision 'livable'. And that cannot be done without consulting the people who are or will be living in a place, and without involving the multidisciplinary participation and expertise necessary to deal with all the complex layers of planning.

This was why an effort was made in this dreamweaving process to involve all the different groups and stakeholders, and why it is their feedback, rather than just the designs themselves, which is so essential to communicate to those who will be working on the Detailed Development Plan for the city.

Getting everybody to the table is also a valuable way of building trust, and a sense of community.

The design brief given to the dreamweavers had three elements: it indicated where to start from (the

challenges), where one wants to go, and the values and conditions that need to be respected in that journey.

In conclusion, the three Aurovilians guiding the process gave their final 'candid' statements about the exercise. They spoke about what they considered to be the achievements and the challenges, as well as their hopes.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The correction of a false narrative which said that Aurovilians could not collaborate with each other or with external experts. This unprecedentedly large-scale collaboration demonstrated not only that it is possible, but also that it can lead to richer and more inclusive results
- An amazing sense of fraternity among the participants, born out of a very concentrated and dedicated effort during which they learned to work very efficiently by distributing the work on the basis of each one's skills and abilities
- Three days of presentations by experts in various fields which made visible the extraordinary amount and quality of interdisciplinary work that has taken place in Auroville over many decades
- Success in bringing many different perspectives and interests to the table
- Creating a pool of ideas as well providing a taste of the flavour, the 'poetry', of Auroville for those who will evolve the Detailed Development Plan for the city
- Creating a practical model for collaborative planning work incorporating elements drawn from dreamweaving and a previous Citizens' Assembly exercise

THE CHALLENGES:

- The dreamweavers were presented with an 'almost impossible job'. They had to perform three 'weaves' – weaving together the ideas of architects, the experts' data and ecosystem demands and realities -- in far too short a time.
- Fear is a factor in the larger community preventing us from reaching out for help to

external experts, because there is a concern that the original vision will be lost. However, if we don't reach out for help we may lose the very thing we are afraid of losing.

- Uncertainty concerning what will be implemented from the dreamweaving exercise, as we don't know how seriously the proposals will be taken by our town planning group
- In the world of today there is so much complexity we can't use oversimplified or 'fast food' solutions any more. However, these kinds of processes need time and they need trust and our present system is not designed for these kinds of collaborative processes

THE HOPES:

- That a new design structure evolves that allows envisioning, which is separate from administration and separate again from implementation
- That this exercise would provide a model for these kinds of collaborative processes in future so
- That, when it comes to design, the community shifts from a conflict-based approach to one in which multiple perspectives are integrated
- That if we genuinely want to support such collaborations, we must find ways of integrating them into our existing processes and evolve new ones, while supporting them financially
- That we create a supportive atmosphere in which collaborative planning can take place. "We have to learn to forgive each other, to be compassionate towards each other, if we are to find a collaborative way forward, not only in planning but in other fields of Auroville. With this little exercise of dreamweaving we have shown that it is possible."

At the end of the presentation, people in the audience mentioned the need to integrate bioregional development in our planning, to provide flexible infrastructure and building strategies, and to prioritise the needs of pedestrians and cyclists on the Crown. Interestingly, these three considerations had also received strong support from the participants in the process.

EXHIBITION: The presentation was complemented by a 3-day exhibition on the process, how it came about, and the designs that emerged from it. Theme-based panels portrayed how key design challenges

for the Auroville Crown had been addressed across the work of various architects, along with elements presented by the multidisciplinary experts. These panels are available for reference in the Resource Guide.

EVALUATION:

After the presentation, an online feedback form was circulated within the community to assess how the community resonated with the outcomes of the Dreamweaving process and if they saw value in this process for other topics requiring collaborative planning.

For this feedback, the respondents had to rate the following questions on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest):

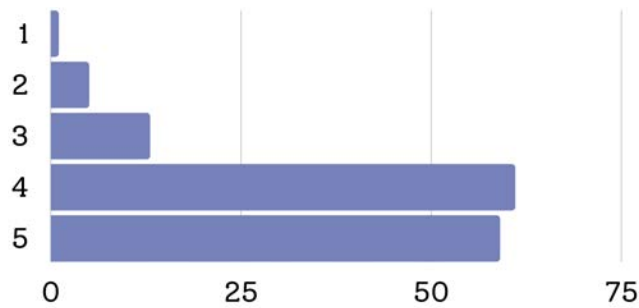
1. HOW MUCH DO THESE DESIGNS REPRESENT YOUR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE AUROVILLE CROWN?
2. HOW MUCH DO YOU RESONATE WITH THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE DREAMWEAVING DESIGNS?
3. HOW MUCH VALUE DO YOU SEE IN THIS PROCESS FOR COLLABORATIVE PLANNING / OTHER COMMUNITY TOPICS IN AUROVILLE?

Feedback was collected over a period of one week and a total of 141 responses were received.

These responses indicate a strong level of community endorsement for the process and its outcomes.

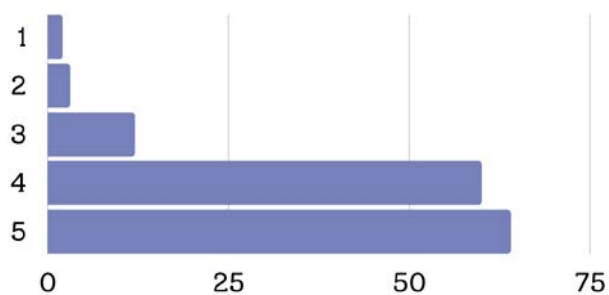


1. HOW MUCH DO THESE DESIGNS REPRESENT YOUR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE AUROVILLE CROWN?



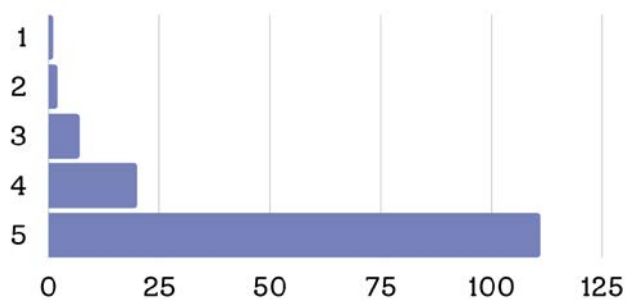
Number of people rating 1 to 5 - Average 4.2 / 5

2. HOW MUCH DO YOU RESONATE WITH THE PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE DREAMWEAVING DESIGNS?



Number of people rating 1 to 5 - Average 4.3 / 5

3. HOW MUCH VALUE DO YOU SEE IN THIS PROCESS FOR COLLABORATIVE PLANNING / OTHER COMMUNITY TOPICS IN AUROVILLE?



Number of people rating 1 to 5 - Average 4.7 / 5



11. CONCLUSION

The creation of this report has been as much a learning experience as the dreamweaving process itself.

It has been challenging to organise and synthesise such large amounts of information, especially the feedback from the participants as we have been extremely careful to not oversimplify any input and honour the feedback in its authenticity. We have tried to represent this information in several ways so that it can serve its purpose as a report of a specific exercise and also be useful in different contexts both today and in the future.

This process, which brought together the experts of Auroville to share and comment on each other's work, has helped bring out a lot of relevant information contained in previous studies, as well as providing a platform for the professionals concerned with town planning in Auroville to share constructively their ideas for moving forward with the development of the city.

Their offerings have been an attempt to synthesise the vision of the *Galaxy* model, the needs and specifications mentioned in the *'Master Plan Perspectives 2025'* and the realities of the ecological and social aspects of Auroville and its surrounding region.

However, the outputs of this process go beyond the physical designs and information that will go to the Auroville Town Development Council and the Vastu Shilpa Consultants. As is evident from the feedback,

while all the participants have found something or the other that resonated with them from across the designs, the process itself has given the community hope for a collaborative future for Auroville and a tool for working together in what had become an increasingly polarised social and professional environment. Some of those who participated shared that they found the most valuable part of the process to be *'The opportunity for dialogue and synthesis of different views'*, *'working with different viewpoints'* and *'respectfulness and listening to each other'*.

This process offers an opportunity for collaborative work in Auroville, where Aurovilians can engage in complex issues and contribute in different ways (as professionals, experts, focus group members or community representatives). The experience of this Dreamweaving process and the feedback received from the participants regarding the process can be deeply valuable in designing any future community process (in or outside Auroville) which requires input from a diverse range of stakeholders and the willingness to move beyond fixed positions and perspectives. As one focus group member put it,

"There is a delight in transcending 'ownership' that seems to be the deeper direction called forth by the dreamweaving exercise. It holds a profound truth of Auroville. May such approaches grow from strength to strength."

Finally, we hope that this process is only the beginning of a journey that Aurovilians and external experts like the Vastu Shilpa consultants can embark on together, creating new opportunities for learning from each other in service to the dream of Auroville, one for 'humanity as a whole' (*Auroville Charter*).



DREAMWEAVING THE AUROVILLE CROWN 2022

RESOURCE GUIDE

This guide is a compilation of all the information collected and shared during the ‘Dreamweaving the Auroville Crown’ process. These resources are available on public platforms for anyone inside and outside Auroville to view and share.

Aditi Rosegger, Alan Herbert, Allan Bennett, Anshul Aggarwal, Helen Eveleigh, Mona Doctor-Pingel, Nikethana Venkatesan, Omar Rabie, Praveen Singh, Sophie Baptiste, Suryamayi Clarence-Smith

For the Dreamweaving & Citizens’ Assembly teams Resource guide

1. THE DREAMWEAVING DESIGN BRIEF

This is the design brief that was prepared to provide the scope of work for the Dreamweaving exercise. It explains the participatory design process used and the design challenges that the participants were called to work on.

2. ANALYTICAL WORK CONFERENCE (JANUARY 4TH, 5TH & 6TH)

This conference consisted of presentations from multidisciplinary experts, including studies and proposals relevant to town planning

All the presentation content is available in this Presentations folder.

A Youtube playlist of speaker-wise videos of the analytical work conference is available at this link.

S.NO.	NAME OF PRESENTER	TOPIC	LINKS	
1	Helmut	Mobility	Presentation	Video
2	Sreevatsa	ATDC	Presentation	Video
3	Guilio	Water	Presentation	Video
4	Omar	City Form & Bioclimatic Design	Presentation	Video
5	Rajeev	Homegrown cities (Vastu Shilpa Consultants)	Presentation	Video
6	Toine & Ponnusamy	Energy Infrastructure	Presentation	Video
7	Olivier	Economy and the Galaxy	Presentation	Video
8	Island	Arboriculture, Urban Forestry	Presentation	Video
9	Line of Goodwill Team	Line of Goodwill	Presentation	Video
10	Lata	Regional and other considerations impacting the Crown	Presentation	Video
11	Glenn	Forest Group	Presentation	Video
12	Suhasini	Planning & Architecture	Presentation	Video 1 & 2
13	Mona & Sashikala Ananth	Science of Vaastu shastra in town planning	Presentation	Video
14	David Stein	Greenbelt development	Presentation	Video
15	Toby	ATDC Infrastructure	Presentation	Video
16	Cristo	Infrastructure Studies	Presentation	Video

17	Lalit	Planning, Education	Presentation	Videos 1 & 2
18	Andrea & Luigi	International Zone	Presentation	Video
19	Nicole	Urban Planning and Auroville's Economic Ideals	Presentation	Video
20	Anupama	Urban Design Principles in Auroville's City Plan	Presentation	Video
21	Dirk	Crown road study	Presentation	Not presented

3. THE 2ND WEAVE (FEB 4TH & 5TH)

This was the second presentation of Dreamweaving designs, inviting feedback from all participants (peer architects & Vastu Shilpa representatives, multidisciplinary experts, focus group & randomly selected community members).

S. NO.	NAME OF ARCHITECT(S)	PRESENTATION
1	Dorle	Video
2	Fabian	Video
3	Ganesh & Neha	Video
4	Henrik & Rohan	Video
5	Induja & Tejaswini	Video
6	Manu & Tanja	Video
7	Marie	Video
8	Radhika & Shivangi	Video
9	Raj	Video
10	Shailaja	Video
11	Sonali	Video

4. FINAL PRESENTATIONS BY DREAMWEAVING ARCHITECTS (FEB 18TH)

All the final Dreamweaving designs are available in this [designs folder](#)

A Youtube playlist of the final presentation by the Dreamweaving architects is available at this [link](#).

S. NO.	NAME OF ARCHITECT(S)	PRESENTATION
1	Dorle	Design Video
2	Fabian	Design Video
3	Ganesh & Neha	Design Video
4	Henrik & Rohan	Design Video
5	Induja & Tejaswini	Design Video
6	Manu & Tanja	Design Video
7	Marie	Design Video
8	Radhika & Shivangi	Design Video

9	Raj	Design	Video
10	Shailaja	Design	Video
11	Jitesh	Design	Video
12	Sonali	Design	Video

5. FEEDBACK FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION (FEB 19TH)

[This](#) is the form that was shared with the participants in the last session of the Dreamweaving process to harvest feedback on the design outcomes and the process itself.

6. PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF DESIGNS

All the feedback received by the participants on the designs can be found in this [file](#).

This feedback was then analysed and summarised in the following documents:

[Synthesis of feedback on designs](#)

[Summary of feedback on designs](#)

7. PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE PROCESS

All the feedback received by the participants on the designs can be found in this [file](#).

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (JAN & FEB)

The outputs from community engagement during the Dreamweaving process can be found [here](#).

9. ARTWORK FROM THE COMMUNITY EXHIBITION (APRIL 2ND, 3RD, 4TH)

[This](#) folder has the panels and photo collages compiled and prepared for the community exhibition.

10. FINAL PRESENTATION TO THE COMMUNITY (APRIL 2ND)

This is the video of the final presentation to the community

11. FEEDBACK FORM FOR COMMUNITY EVALUATION (APRIL 2ND-10TH)

[This](#) form was circulated online for a period of 8 days to get a sense from the community about the support around the process and its outcomes.

12. REFLECTIONS ON THE PROCESS

Some of the participants shared their experiences of the process on video.

	GROUP	LINK TO VIDEO
1	Architects	Video
2	Multidisciplinary experts	Video
3	Focus Group	Video
4	Randomly selected	Video
5	Vastu Shipla Consultants	Video

A compilation of reflections from various participants can be found [here](#).

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE WRITE TO:

CAEXPLORATION@AUROVILLE.ORG.IN