

Give us some space, say B.Arch students

After creating a waiting area in a hospital with ₹10,000, they want to add some colour and utility to more public spaces around B'luru

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Architecture students in Bengaluru do a lot to reclaim and beautify public spaces. In February, a bunch created a lush green park with gym et al out of an abandoned space in VV Puram dumped with waste from the Metro project.

And now, a group of eight students from Gopalan School of Architecture and Planning has created a green, outdoor waiting area on the premises of CV Raman General Hospital in Indiranagar.

The project was executed as part of a design competition held by the National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA). The competition had focused on identifying neglected public space and transforming them for use by the community.

Narendra P Reddy, Jenisha R Shah, Sowmya S, Shreya HS, Shreyas MR, Sreyoshi RC, Mohammed Wassim and Swathi Prasad agreed to work at CV Raman General Hospital in Indiranagar when they saw a portion of the hospital was being used to dump garbage.

"People were complaining that there were no proper seats outside. Family and caregivers of patients admitted to the hospital had nowhere to rest. We wanted to contribute to a larger cause, we wanted to fulfil people's need instead of just beautifying a space and keeping it as a showpiece," says Narendra.

They were in for year-long hard labour. "We visited the spot, took suggestions from people coming in there and then the main concerns were lack of seating arrangement and drinking water facility," he says.

The group of third and fourth year students went over the layout of the compound, prepared a plan on paper and started their work on the ground by first removing the garbage. They were set on using reusable material in the project.

"We used car tyres, cycle wheels and wooden planks to set up chairs. We designed it in such a way that the seats are strong enough and people can actually sit on them. We also created a small pond like structure and then gave it a shape of a mini-park where patients or caregivers could come and sit peacefully. The project was funded by our college and we completed it at a minimal cost of Rs 10,000," adds Narendra.

This project was shortlisted among top 100 entries out of 400 entries from all over India. Professor KV Krishna Murthy, the dean of Gopalan School of Architecture and Planning, is proud of his students.



The space (above) used to be a dumping ground and the students toiled for a year on it to create a waiting area



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On Feb 28, BM wrote about a VV Puram park created by students of SJB college of Architecture

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—Narendra P Reddy