

UNYT



RECLAIMING MODERNITY

Celebrating Geoffrey Bawa

<https://competitions.uni.xyz>

Source



Img 1: The Horagalla Home [Source](#)

Premise

Emphasising on the lack of ornamentation and the clarity in function, structural innovation and choice of materials, modernism emerged in the early years of the 20th century in response to the drastic developments in technologies and social circumstances.

Adapting this to the tropics, meant a greater focus on context and climate - local materials, technique, art and the warm humid climate.

Offering an alternative to international modernism, Tropical or regional modernism demonstrated that architecture could reflect context, tradition and time.



[Img_3: Lunuganga, Bawa's Garden](#) [Source](#)

Backstory

In India, Sri Lanka, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean, Brazil, and Mexico; Tropical Modernism rose as a response to colonial architecture as a negation of local tradition, and context, which was known for its formal symmetrical style with a disregard for local technique and craft.

Let's have a closer look at Sri Lanka.

Humble, aesthetic and radical, Tropical Modernism in Sri Lanka manages to reflect the country's traditional, cultural, and historical resources without rejecting new technological influences from the West, while engaging with broader cultural and political questions.

Considered to be one of Sri Lanka's foremost architects, Geoffrey Bawa is credited to be one the founding fathers of Tropical Modernism.



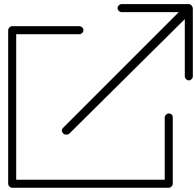
[img_4](#): The Neptune Hotel (now the Heritance Ayurveda at Beruwala) [Source](#)

Brief

Leaving an everlasting mark on Sri Lanka's built landscape, Geoffrey Bawa's designs establish a unique, recognizable style of design inspiring architects across the world; referencing local conditions while allowing for a modern lifestyle.

Gaining recent traction with the increase in environmental consciousness, Tropical Modernism today mediates between contextual, traditional, passive sustainability and modern construction technology, as well as the international and the vernacular.

Design challenge : Celebrating Geoffrey Bawa's birth-centenary, explore how his principles and framework can be scaled to accommodate modern typologies or urban layouts, in this context an institute of learning and design.



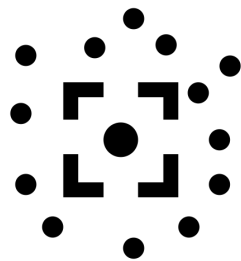
Adapt

The vernacular to modern
userneeds and contexts



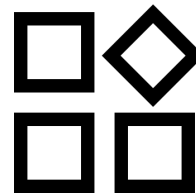
Explore/Experiment

With techniques, materiality
and concepts



Context

Response to climate,
materiality and technique



Connect/ Balance

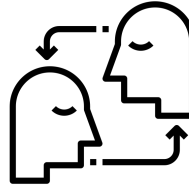
The old and the new, the
indoors and the outdoors,
function and aesthetics

Objectives

The following objectives can be a point of beginning to conceive this design. Participants can assume their own contexts and users before initiating their design process.

Learning

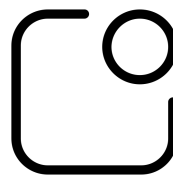
Classrooms
Outdoor learning spaces
Informal learning spaces
Learning studios
Collaborative learning spaces
Workshops and libraries



45%

Community

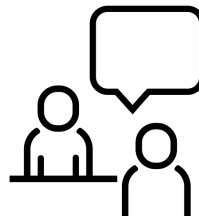
Performance spaces
Informal learning spaces
Galleries
Recreational and social spaces



45%

Services

Washrooms
Kitchen Dining spaces
Parking
Landscaping
Administration



10%

Programmatic Outline

A programmatic outline intended to host about **250 students at immediate expense**, is recommended for this challenge. Participants are recommended to craft a schematic programme based on these given segments or they can propose something new altogether.



Img 2: An aerial rendering of Port City [Source](#)

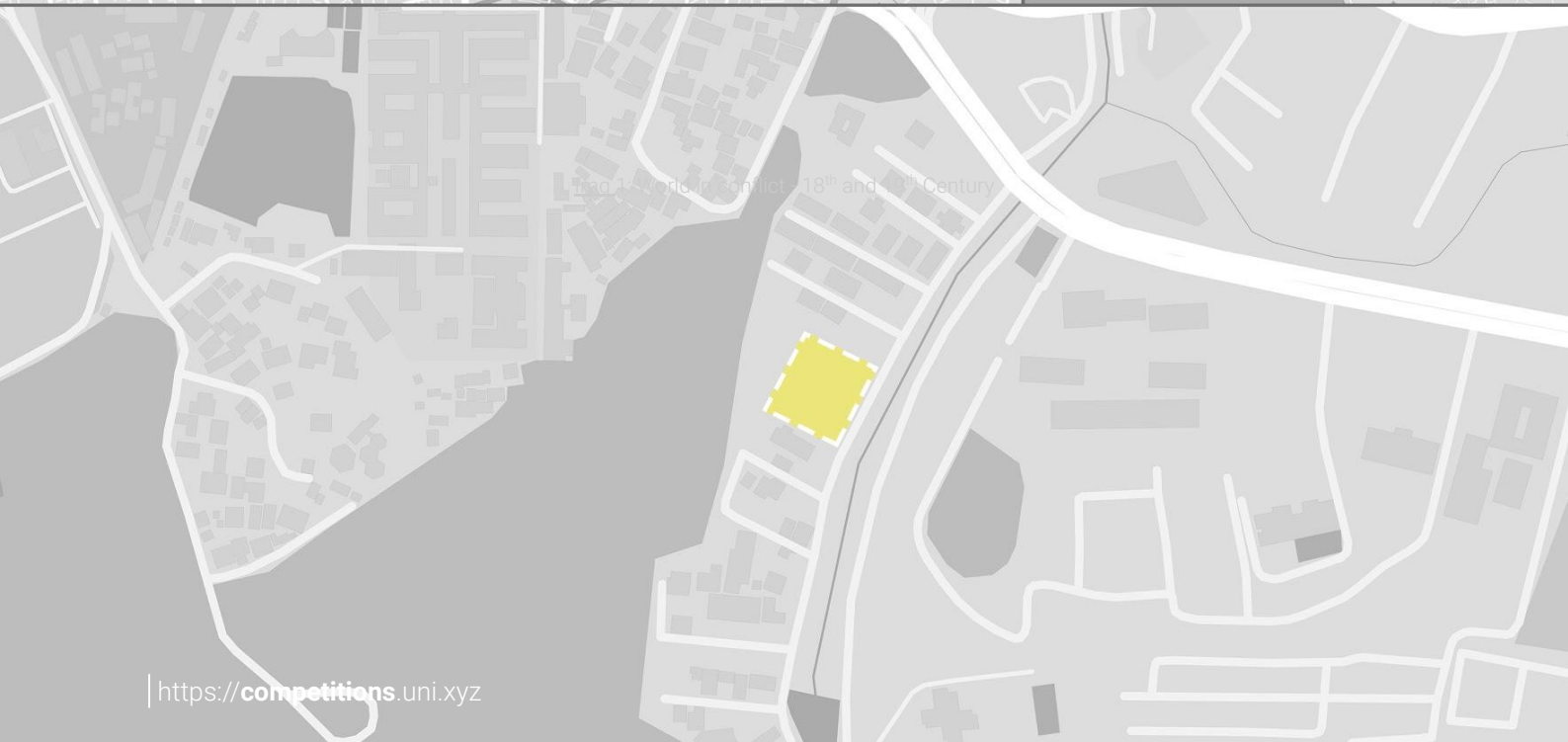
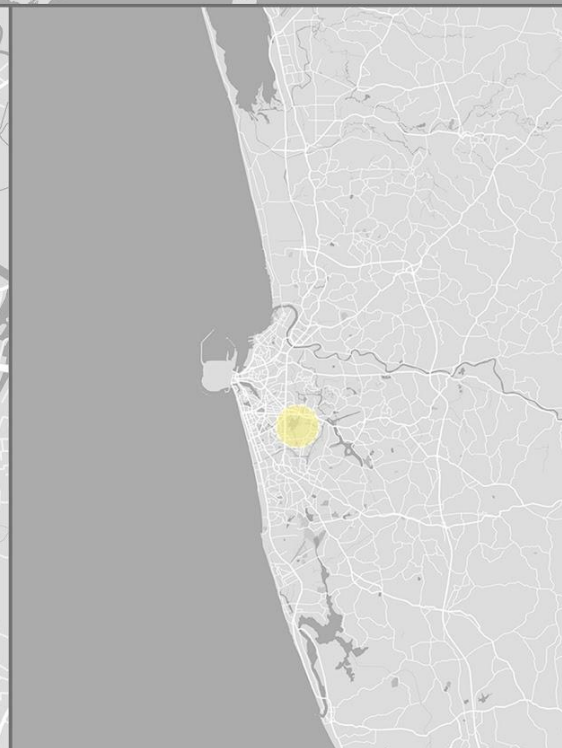
Context

Around this time last year, Sri Lanka's Capital City of Colombo reached a milestone on its land reclamation project spanning 269 hectares, almost doubling the size of Colombo as we knew it.

Currently in the midst of its second phase, it is envisioned to be a busy financial district, with glass skyscrapers, hospitals, hotels and even a theme park.

While artistic impressions show a cityscape comparable to Dubai or London's Canary Wharf, will the Capital City still be able to reflect its roots and the local context?

How can we incorporate local building traditions, aesthetic and craft into the built environments of today, championing local materials and handicrafts alongside modern technologies?



Map 1: World in Conflict - 18th and 19th Century



img.5: Location of the site in context to its neighbourhood

Site Plan

Situated at less than 2km from the City College of Architecture, the proposed site sits opposite a canal, in the neighbourhood of Rajagiriya (a suburb of Colombo), a part of Sri Lanka's administrative capital of Sri Jayewardenepura.

FAR 2 | 5521 sq m | [6°54'30.1"N 79°53'13.8"E](#)

Only regulations to be followed:

Height restrictions - 7m , Setbacks of 5m on the site front and 3m on the other three sides

Guidelines

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

- Recommended number of sheets/presentation images/boards:

5 (Five) of size [**2362px x 3544px**] or [**400mm x 600mm in 150 dpi**] in portrait digital format (**JPEG only**).

Minimum 3 (Three) & No maximum sheet limit. Each image should be less than **15MB**. (Do not submit PNG format)

Minimum requisite submission are sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

- Site plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 4
- Cover image / Thumbnail of size 2000px x 1000px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
- Answering 6 FAQ's #
- This is the link for new file sizes, [here](#).

#The FAQ's have to be answered as instructed in the FAQ document in the 'additional resources folder'.

Deadlines

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines on the competitions page or on this link - [Schedule](#).

Resources

This competition contains additional resources that contains a set of files useful to complete the competition submission. This folder is made available on your profile dashboard automatically as soon as you register.

This additional resources folder of this competition contains: Submission Format files in PSD | AI | InDD, FAQs, High Res maps, and CAD file of the site plan.

Rules

- + The competitions is open for **students and professionals** from all the disciplines of design.
- + The team limit for this competition is **4 members maximum per team**.
- + You can register more than one team but they have to be registered separately.
- + Ensure that the final sheets submitted **do not include your name or any other mark of identification**. Your submission is linked to your user account which stands as your identification.
- + This is a design **ideas challenge only**. There is no built commission/realization associated with the problem.
- + In case of publication in yearbook we will reach out separately for selected entries.

Pro-Tips

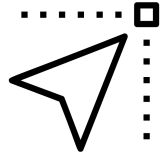
- + Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.
- + Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.
- + Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.
- + All the sheets or images will be viewed on a digital device. **e.g.** Laptop screen or projector. Uploaded sheets or images will not be physically printed for evaluation. The submission hence should be prepared for digital viewing only.
- + Submit JPEG images only. (PNG will not function)



Awards

Grants of up to a total of **20,000\$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page [here](https://competitions.uni.xyz).

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criteria:



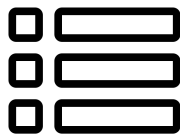
Presentation

The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



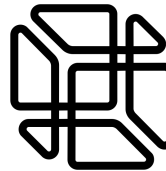
Concept/Idea

Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



Spaces/Programme

How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



Design Outcome

The final architectural outcome of the solution.

Judging Criteria

The judging panel can also add other criteria based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criteria first in their design.

About

UNYT

Unyt serves as a part of UNI in the realm of typological discoveries. It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation. It embarks on mobilizing ideas where creators can elementally question the buildings we create. It is a research initiative dedicated to providing opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the restrictions of usual architectural discourse.

Queries: support@uni.xyz

Discover other competitions: <https://competitions.uni.xyz>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unidesigntogether/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uni.xyz/>

Discover FAQ's about this competition on our help forum here: <https://help.uni.xyz/>

UNYT

Balancing the past, present and the future

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