

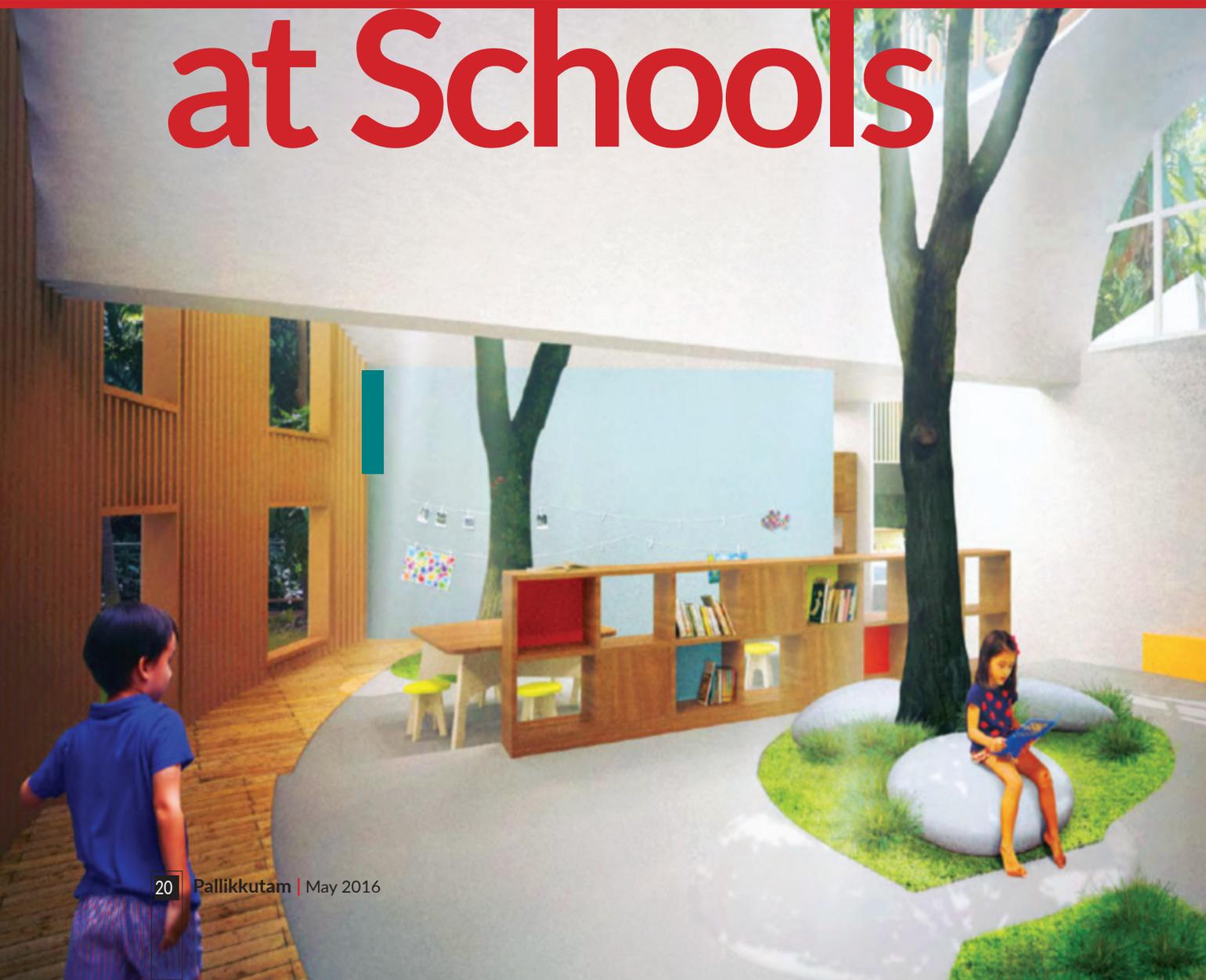


Campuses need to revive the 'spirit' of togetherness and also be established in a manner, which is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.



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Building Creative Spaces at Schools





A school is an inspiring space that fosters “learning” for students and “continuous learning” for teachers. There is a very deep sense of relationship building and collaboration between the teacher and students; and the environment can be designed to foster this in many ways. Any space has to illustrate and elaborate on the main message of Cognitive Philosophy: its commitment to learning, respect of our spiritual identity, promotion of technology and environment as a source of creativity, participation and empowerment of the teaching-learning process. It should highlight local craft form, be visible, ubiquitous and unobtrusive. Above all, it has to speak for the region, and in the same breath help students gain self-respect and esteem.

Sustainability and environmental sensitivity are key elements that need to be emphasized





through design. Campuses need to revive the 'spirit' of togetherness and also be established in a manner, which is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. The key is to design buildings that are frugal in energy use, are day-lit, comfortable, and well ventilated using the least amount of conventional energy. Passive solar design, natural ventilation, and adaptive thermal comfort integration will be fundamental to this approach. Besides, rain harvesting system need to be included for entire infrastructure, facilities for solid waste management, solar power generators, adequate greenery and walkways need to be integral parts of campus planning.

Spaces other than classrooms often facilitate learning as well and are an important component of any school. These should be designed to complement and enhance what children learn in their classes.

Schools as a space need to appeal to the children, so that they can relate

Through architecture and design schools can enhance the curiosity of children and provide freedom to explore on their own

and belong to the environment. Usage of colors especially in the pre-primary blocks, inspired by the LEGO building blocks, that young children often have amongst their first set of toys, help children become comfortable with the environment. Creating interactive spaces between classrooms, and creating central courts with trees, inspired by the traditional Gurukula system, help in shaping of young minds in a very natural setting.

Alternate types of seating are to be considered as options for schools—expandable desks to provide for standing classes, wheeling desks with inbuilt storage and floor seating can all be considered for the modern day school environment. Desk arrangements can be made in a variety of ways to provide flexibility and yet provide the ability for a collaborative classroom environment. Education is wholesome when it promotes teamwork and "situated learning," especially in language and humanities. Schools that seamlessly integrate classrooms with the play areas address this aspect. Networked learning via the Internet and the world-wide-web provide a real world context for learning activities and gives student access to experts in the field.

Through architecture and design schools can enhance the curiosity of children and provide freedom to explore on their own, so that tutors play the "guide on the side" and not the proverbial "sage on the stage." 