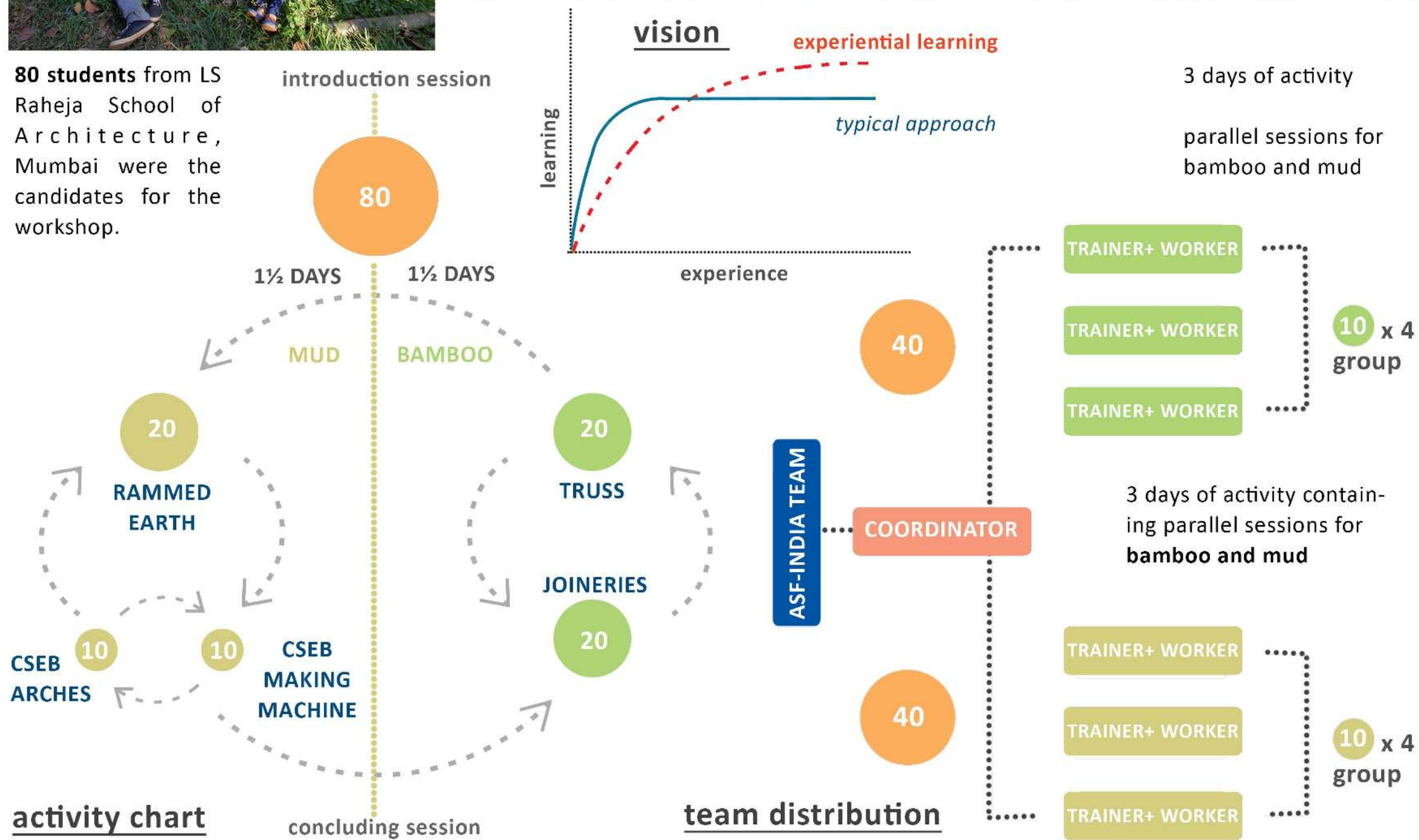




Conducted in the backdrop of a beautiful lake in Kerala ;the host , a well wisher of ASF India, gave us the space to conduct the training and we offered him the outcomings,as souvenirs



80 students from LS Raheja School of Architecture, Mumbai were the candidates for the workshop.



Students of architecture need to inculcate the qualities of not only a good designer but also a responsible citizen of the planet. Therefore, as members of ASF- India, we wanted to project the social responsibility of our profession to the younger generation of architects through a series of training workshops held every year. Such workshops would give them an insight into their roles as perceivers of quality space and promoters of quality of life.

One of the key issue faced by the building industry today, is the corporatization of building materials. Some of these building materials that project fake aesthetics and suppress habitability, have become a threat to locally available, eco-friendly, traditional materials. ASF-India has identified, alternate building techniques rooted in the culture, geography and sustainability, as the key practice tool for all its undertakings.

Keeping these two points in mind, we hosted the HANDS-ON-TRAINING WORKSHOP for the students of architecture to gain experience in building with local materials and indigenous technologies. We see this workshop as a medium to empower the future architects towards being more responsible to the society and to carve out a true professional from the budding talents.



hands on training on alternate building technologies using mud and bamboo

ASF INDIA

Share knowledge, promote discussion, reflection and awareness and collaborate in the advancement of social production of habitat.

ASF India workshop intended to create platforms for interaction, discussions and collaborative approach on built environments. We realize that, many a time, the role of students of architecture and construction is limited to producing drawings and perspectives of buildings. To excel in the field as well as to develop responsibility, the knowledge and experience in the construction field is a necessity. These student workshops aim to give a firsthand experience on different materials and methods of construction to the students. The workshop gave an opportunity for the students to work shoulder to shoulder with masons and craftsmen without reducing oneself to a mere supervisor/spectator on site. Such an experience can boost the confidence of students in handling alternate materials in construction and not limit their ideas to simple conventional architectural drawings. It will also inculcate a strong sense of environment responsibility and work ethics.



“art is the reflection of our mind” - patterns carved out from a bamboo piece to make a souvenir.

instructions to students by trainers in the method of execution. Gives an opportunity to clear all doubts on the material



“tested and certified” bamboo beams are set waiting to be tested using sand bags as loads. Students getting into discussions while in training (left middle)

“moments of joy” - Its not always about the hard work, but to enjoy the work while doing. Giving an extra support to help with the Aurum Press.



“everything has an ending” students having a final session with the team, sharing their views on the training.

“everyone you will ever meet knows something you dont”



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ASF INDIA

Facilitate the use of appropriate technologies, materials and labour adequate to local values, to the cultural specificity and responsive to the natural environment

ASF-India has an expertise in bamboo technology with many of its members engaged in bamboo construction practices for several years. Some of the methods of using bamboo as a construction material was highlighted in the workshop for architecture students. The students were engaged in developing various joineries used for connecting bamboo members to make large structural systems. Truss, a primary structural system used for roofing in tropical warm humid climate [like Kerala] was assembled using bamboo in the construction yard by the students.

Mud construction mainly focused on using Rammed Earth Technique and Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB). Rammed Earth technique is a labour intensive technique and not widely used today, making it the ideal process to expose students to construction using mud. CSEB is an emerging technique in the group of alternate building materials and is used widely by organisations and professionals promoting sustainable solutions in building. Students were exposed to this method of making the blocks using an Aurum Press, a manually operated mud block making machine.

Creating a series of arches at the work site using CSEB. An arch construction needs sufficient skill to raise one, and students had hands-on experience of building one of the simplest but toughest structural systems on site.

“Erection of bamboo truss” by students and the smiles of realisation of their work after working out specific details of the joints.



A highly strenuous process, the students engaged in the **Aurum Press operation** were exposed to the man power requirements behind creation of such blocks

completed rammed earth wall made using tall hammers to ram the soil into a monolithic wall encased in wooden shutters over foundation is the result of a 3 day effort by students

What i try to do is the art of building and the art of building is the art of construction. It is not only about forms and shapes and images” Peter Zumthor

sample joineries “after completion



Completed arch opening using CSEB



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ASF INDIA

Foster the socially responsible role of built environment professionals by stimulating social modes of practice before speculative economic profitability

The current main-stream building practices are driven by economic profitability limiting the role of architects society, most often catering only the elite category of the population. There isn't much hope for an alternate path charted out for the future architects. Habitable spaces are quintessential to human existence.

An architect, as a social being, have a major role to play in building comfortable, responsible and ethical habitable space catering to all sections of society. Taking into consideration the growing disparities and irresponsible living, students of architecture have a huge responsibility on their shoulders to make a better and livable tomorrow.

For being a professional in built environment, they have to undergo all the processes and procedures happening in construction. Many institutions fail to address the execution part of the works or happenings in the site. The construction workers play a major role in the realization of our design concepts and techniques of execution. To understand them and guide them for execution of work is to take up their roles in construction and do the methods unlike becoming instructors of the techniques we are not sure of. We , ASF-India wanted the students to take up these tasks as first hand builders in construction to be a responsible professional, treating them as our colleagues in construction and work along with them for realizing our ideas. This can be part of the social mode of practice we are trying to spread.



“sieving is not as easy as it looks”- Much labour is consumed by this simple process and we as professionals need to have a thought on the man power for such works.

Fitting along with construction workers and doing the job helps to know their way of doing a task and the skills they attained through their experience.



“setting the curve right” - arches have always been a tough task for construction. Students getting a first hand experience of making an arch.

I have to be on the site to enjoy this transition from drawings to buildings. Not to be involved in building would be, to me, as foolish as buying a camera and film, viewing and clicking the trigger , getting a negative done , but not getting the print. “ (Laurie Baker)

“skilled labour is part of a successful building: - students trying to fit in the connections well for a bamboo joinery.



“accuracy matters”- even the smallest detail is critical in any field of construction and is to be conveyed when doing their jobs. Students here are trying to align the bamboo pieces



“learning the hard way” - to learn a technique is to do a technique. Ramming of the wall is a tough task and so is digging the soil. To learn the basics is part of the studies in moulding a social architect.



hands on training on alternate building technologies using mud and bamboo

ASF INDIA