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open island Ahmedabad 2015

Sabarmati Riverfront
Sardar Bridge, Paldi

OBJECTIVE

Open Island Ahmedabad was a part of the ongoing Open Island initiative to develop approaches to build quick, easy and affordable floating structures for flood prone/coastal regions for security and rehabilitation purposes.
Also, to propose the Open Island as a community space to Ahmedabad for recreational and educational purposes.
The experiences and innovations further will serve future projects as open-source knowledge.

OPEN ISLAND BACKGROUND

The seeds of the open island initiative began in the year 2000 when Joy Lohmann made a floating social art installation at the world fair EXPO2000 in Hannover, Germany. As an artist, designer and maker, Joy has since then created several public artworks, social sculptures and floating islands to raise awareness on climate change issues and develop low-cost islands for people in need.
The final OPEN-ISLAND - idea and open-source manual was realized in India from 2012-2014 together with Art Escape, a collective based out of Goa (2012-2015), and www.dartofscience.com (2014 & 2015).
Till now, 8 floating island structures have been built by the team (5 in Germany, 3 in Goa, India and 1 in Ahmedabad, India).

Open Island serves the following purposes:
- as an open-source DIY recycling-float system and manual to raise climate change resilience in flood-affected areas
- as a symbol to attract likeminded people for collaborative humanitarian actions
- as a multipurpose platform for local communities (floating classroom / stage / marketplace / fablab / social business

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Open Island Ahmedabad was offered as an open elective to National Institute of Design (NID), Paldi, Ahmedabad by:
Deepak Pathania (Industrial Designer / Inventor / NID alumnus)
Vinesh Iyer (Architect / Designer)
Anshul Aggarwal (Engineer)
Angelica Bernal (Architect)

Fifteen 2nd year students from Furniture and Interior Design and Exhibition Design and four Product Design exchange students participated in the elective.
Pravinsinh Solanki (Faculty, Furniture and Interior Design, NID) and Mayank Loonker (Faculty, Exhibition Design, NID) coordinated the elective.

MATERIAL AND BUDGET

S. No.	ELEMENT	MARKET PRICE (in Rs.)	OFFERED PRICE (in Rs.)	QUANTITY	TOTAL EXPENSE (in Rs.)
1	Plastic pallets	1500/ pc.	0	51	0
2	Bamboo	200/ pc.	200/ pc.	70	14000
3	Plastic drums (220 l)	700	200	25	5000
4.	Rope	450/bundle	450/bundle	12	5400
5.	Transport				5000
6.	Miscellaneous				5000
					34,400

PROCESS

ASESSMENT & PROCUREMENT OF MATERIAL
One of the first things to get started was to assess the locally available material and procure the material within the budget planned.
All the students and faculty went around the city looking for material that could be used for the island.
Finally we were able to procure the mentioned material from Vatva, Changodhar, Narol and local scrap dealers.
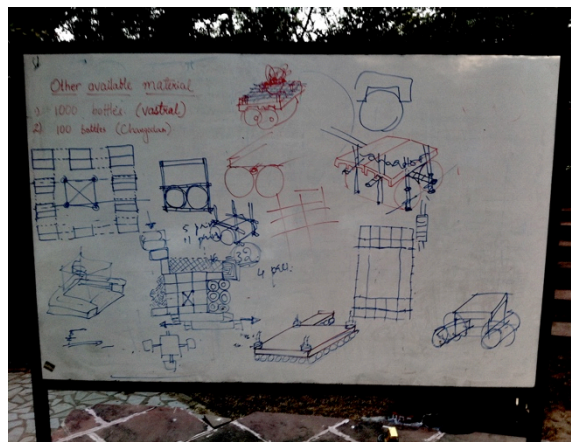Some material was also salvaged from the NID campus.

IDEATION ON FORM & STRUCTURE AND SITE SELECTION

Considering the material available, we started brainstorming on the form and structure of the island such that it is easiest to build and is most efficient as a structure. The students also considered the future activities with the community while deciding the form.

We selected the location for the island keeping the following things in mind:
- Proximity to NID for ease of working and to save money on transportation
- Access on the riverfront for the island to be easily put in and taken out
- Good visibility for visitors to participate

DEVELOPMENT OF MODULES

Based on the design, the team then got down to developing smaller modules and super modules that would then be taken separately to the river and then assembled in water.
During this process the participants learnt about the material, using special tools and gained knowledge and experience about how floating structures work, different kinds of knots and structural viabilities.

ASSEMBLY ON THE RIVER

The structure was developed in modules and transported to the riverfront next to Sardar Bridge, Paldi on January 10th, 2015.
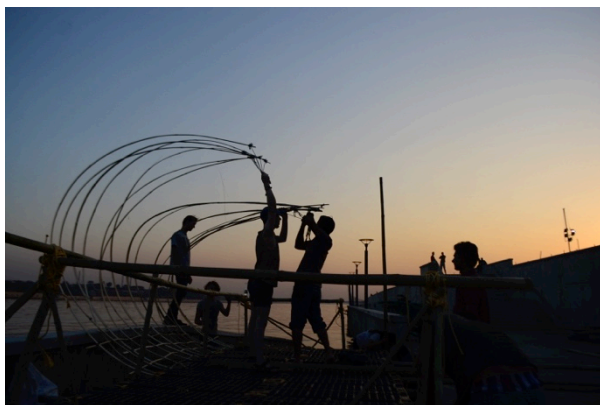The modules were then put in the water and joined together.
On January 11th, we continued strengthening the overall structure and adding details to make sure the structure was functional and safe for public to use.

The safety features added to the island were:
- A strong bamboo bridge for visitors to get on the island
- Railing around the island
- Life vests on board

In addition to this volunteers were always present to assist the visitors and help them on the island.
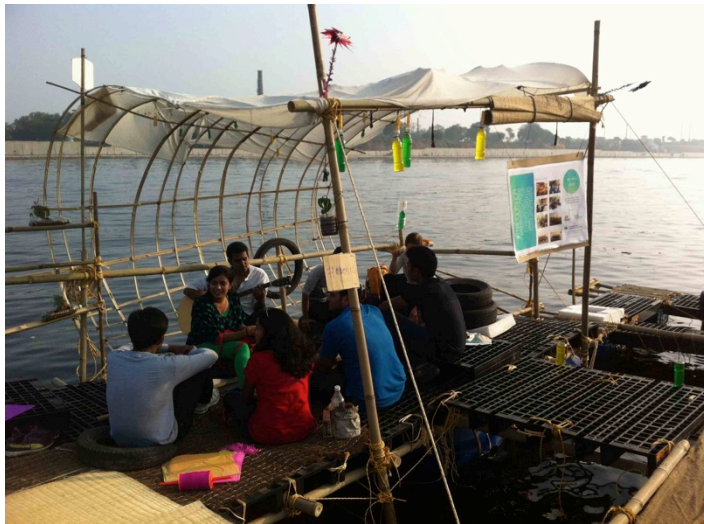
COMMUNITY INTERACTION

We opened up the island for public and hosted the following activities over 5 days:
- Potluck
- Storytelling
- Music jam sessions
- Clay modeling
- Kite flying (Uttarayan)
- Bonfire

The island was very well received by the people of Ahmedabad and we had groups of people visiting regularly. Due to it's location on the river, the island attracted people of diverse cultures, socio-economic backgrounds and interests. We also invited NGOs and other active citizens to explore the utility of the space for educational and workshop purpose.
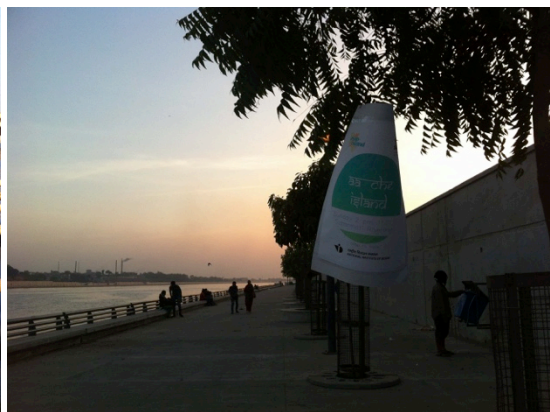
DISASSEMBLY

The structure was disassembled on January 17th, 2015 with the help of the NID students and logistics department.

It took the team 7 hours to dismantle the entire structure, take it out of water, pack and send it back to NID and clean the riverfront.

The team took extra care to make sure that least amount of waste is created while dismantling and that most material is packed in a way that it can sold or re-used again.

MEDIA COVERAGE

dna AHMEDABAD

Will Sabarmati get an open floating island?

Project by NID, Goa designers may be on display on the river from Jan12-19

Aneri Nihalani @nihalanianeri

A temporary floating space made from scrap material will be built for Amdavadis to test the concept of 'open island' at an NID workshop. The open island will be placed on the Sabarmati river and will be there from January 12-19, if things work out according to plans. If successful, the project can be replicated in flood-affected areas during emergencies. The 'open island' concept may also be used for other purposes like entertainment stages on water.

Anshul Aggarwal, an engineer based in Ahmedabad, who was part of the Open Island in Goa, last year, said, "We plan to make a 20 ft*20 ft structure which can easily hold at least 50 people." Aggarwal is bringing in designers from Goa with first-hand experience in building open islands. They will build the structure with the help of NID students, who are studying furniture and interior design.

Pravinsinh Solanki, faculty of furniture and interior design, who is heading the project on behalf of NID, said, "Director Pradyumna Vyas is supporting the project. The guidance of the designers from Goa and from professor Mayank Loonker is invaluable."

Aggarwal is sure Amdavadis will plan activities on the open island after it is placed on water. "I met D Thara, the municipal commissioner, and she responded positively. Amdavad will have its first temporarily floating island", said Aggarwal.

WHAT IS OPEN ISLAND?

An artificial floating habitat, which is low-cost and uses sustainable technologies. Recycled material & scrap are bound following proper engineering designs to create shelters on water. It is especially important for flood prone areas and areas with large water bodies or marshy lands.

GETTING IN TOUCH

Interested people can connect through, www.facebook.com/events/1566861053525756/
Also, people can sponsor/donate-scrap materials by contacting on- 9925769356

WHEN	
Jan 5- Jan 11 Preparation of the structure	**Jan12-Jan 17** Installation on water

The brain behind open island project

Joy Lohmann, an artist from Germany, was the first to introduce the concept of 'asap-island' (as soon as possible) in 2010

OPEN ISLAND IN INDIA	Thrice in Goa, since the year 2012

DNA Ahmedabad | January 6, 2015

LET'S FLOAT AWAY...

Students of Furniture and Interior Design (FID), and from the department of exhibition design, National Institute of Design (NID), constructed a floating island. The project was headed by Pravinsinh Solanki, faculty of FID, and coordinated by Professor Mayank Loonker of Exhibition Design. Goa-based designers Deepak Pathania and Vinesh Iyer facilitated the project along with Anshul Aggarwal and Angelica Bernal. It is on display at Sardar Bridge till January 16. The island has been constructed from junk like bamboo, recycled plastic palettes, plastic drums, fishing ropes and old tyres.

—Aneri Nihalani.dna

DNA Ahmedabad | January 12, 2015

NID gifts city its 1st 'floating island'

AHMEDABAD: Adding to the exotic charm of the riverfront, students of National Institute of Design (NID) have created a 'floating island' yacht on the banks of the Sabarmati River.

Civic authorities are yet to start work on Ahmedabad's first floating restaurant but NID students have already gifted the city a 20x30ft floating island yacht. Made from recycled material, the facility can accommodate 50 people at a time. It includes a shelter, a boat and a garden. It has been built to test the concept of 'open island'.

If successful, the project can not only be used as a floating entertainment stage but also replicated in flood-prone areas for rescue operations.

Material used in its construction include industrial crates, old drums, plastic water bottles, tyres, bamboo, ropes, nets and wooden grids. The students were mentored by mechatronics engineer Anshul Aggarwal; NID alumnus Deepak Pathania; and architects Vinesh Iyer and Anjelica Bernal.

Aggarwal, who was part of an 'open island' in Goa last year, said that he recently met municipal commissioner D Thara and she had responded positively to the idea. "Ahmedabad will soon get its official floating island yacht," he said.

Times of India, Ahmedabad | January 12, 2015

COLLABORATORS AND SUPPORTERS

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and the Sabarmati Riverfront authorities were very supportive of the initiative and gave us the necessary permissions and help to realize the project.
National Institute of Design helped with all the necessary logistics, tools, and workshop space to build the structure. Special Thanks to Praveen Nahar for initiating the elective at NID and for his valuable support throughout.
We also thank Mr. Bhavesh Bhai Varmora, the owner of Varmora and
Hiteshbhai, Technical Head, Varmora for offering us to use the plastic pallets for free for this project.

COMMENTS & PROPOSITION FOR FUTURE

Open Island Ahmedabad was a great experience for all the participants, collaborators and visitors.
It offered a practical approach for the participants to reflect on the waste in the city and how functional spaces can easily be made on water keeping in mind the health of the water body.
It also presented a unique opportunity for people of different interests to meet at a common place and learn about the issue and inspired them to be active agents in the process.

A permanent island structure in Ahmedabad can serve the following purposes:

- Exhibition space for ways to create from common waste in the city
- Research and development on cleaning the river
- Research and development on sustainable living practices
- Community space for educational and recreational activities
- A prototype for flood affected areas in Gujarat and other parts of India and the world

In response to Open Island Ahmedabad, the international and interdisciplinary "asap-island collective" has been invited to build structures in Berlin (Germany), Florida (USA) and Gambia (West Africa). To coordinate and serve this demand, a global "Makers for Humanity" platform is planned this year.