



# **Bicycle Friendly Area**

*Design Workshop At Auroville*



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*Design Workshop at Auroville*

*18 May – 17 June 2009*

## Summary Report

A series of informal talks with many Aurovilians in early 2009 lead to the idea that if we can envision a bicycle friendly environment at Auroville, it could perhaps encourage human powered and other alternative means of transport. Thus started an initiative, where we design for a collective cause and not just individual need.

A month long intensive collaborative design workshop was organized at Auroville from 18 May to 17 June, 2009. Sixteen young designers from all over India with backgrounds of architecture, product design, graphic design and retail design were selected to participate after a review of their portfolio and references. They were mentored closely by ten Auroville experts with background in architecture, building materials, landscaping, collaborative processes, project management, product design and renewable energy.

The aim of the workshop was two fold: 1. To explore a model for collaboration with external professionals 2. To demonstrate few concepts for a bicycle friendly environment within 30 days using local materials and a limited budget of Rs 1.5 lakh (\$3000).

The guiding principles for the workshop were :  
1. The design ideas are to emerge from a collaborative process  
2. The results are to be put into public domain as open source for anyone to take them further without copyright issues.  
3. The workshop is to be supported from gestures of good will from stakeholders rather than registration fee or commercial sponsors.

We are very pleased that we have been able to put into practice these underlying principles and successfully demonstrated the prototypes in a somewhat challenging environment.

The hot summer days with temperature hovering at 38 degrees C, lack of basic office spaces, frequent power cuts, minimal budget, experts traveling out of station and widely scattered workshops are some of the challenges that turned the workshop into a wonderful adventure.

In just 30 days, the 26 member multi-disciplinary design team most of whom have never worked with each other before have conducted field research with users, generated dozens of ideas, selected and detailed several concepts and constructed prototypes of : 1. Cycle shelter 2. Open parking 3. Motorcycle barrier 4. Road junction 5. Resting area 6. Cycle accessories and 7. Cycling map. Collectively, the examples demonstrate an integrated bicycle friendly environment at Auroville.

The results clearly show the spirit of Auroville reflected in the designs through the conscious use of local materials and techniques, the aesthetics of simplicity and sensitivity to human nature.

This is only a first step and much needs to be done to realize the vision of a bicycle friendly Auroville. Fortunately, the support for the cause is growing with many individuals, interest groups and Business Units coming forward to join the movement. We gracefully acknowledge the goodwill and efforts of the young and dynamic participants, the mentors and all the sponsors as well as many other individuals who supported us generously.

We sincerely offer the demonstration prototypes and designs to the Auroville Community and wish to see the dream of a bicycle friendly Auroville come true in the near future.

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## **Slinky**

*Natural disorder of parking into an aesthetic art experience*



## **Pelican**

*Shelter with bamboo and canvas for local assembly*



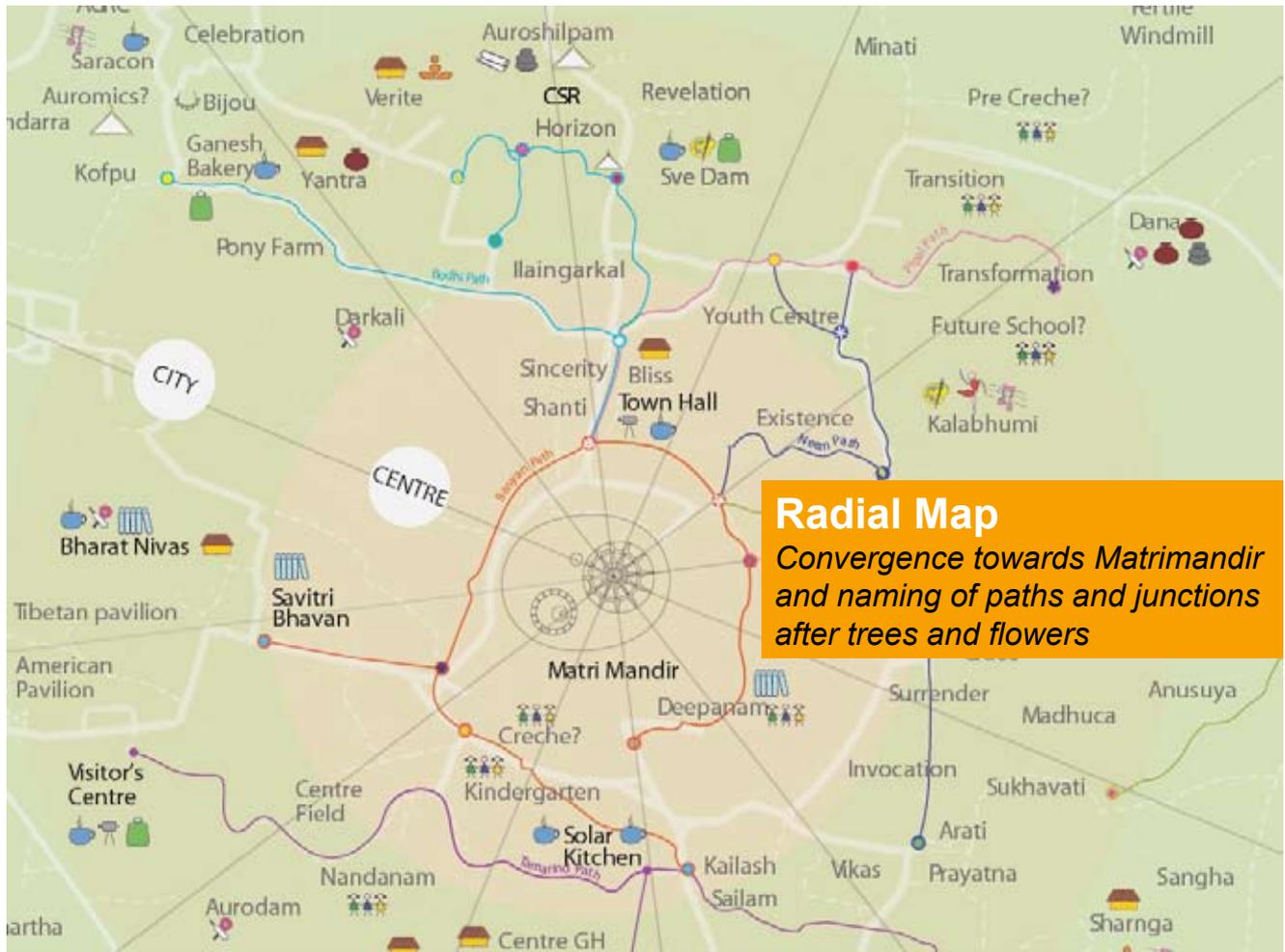
## Ringo

*Location specific resting and meeting area under the shade of a tree*



## Funnel Entry

*Prevents motorcycles from entering cycle paths*





## Smart path lighting

*Solar powered LEDs embedded in pillars come on automatically and go off at timed interval*

## Handle hook, Torch holder and Saddle bag seat

*Simple and affordable convenience solutions for everyday needs*





**Participants and mentors**

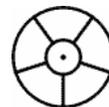


*Mentors*

**Alok**  
**Chandresh**  
**Dhruv**  
**Hemant**  
**Min**  
**Mona**  
**Prashant**  
**Raghu**  
**Suhasini**  
**Tejaswini**

*Participants*

**Akshay**  
**Anshu**  
**Animesh**  
**Deepti**  
**Kumz**  
**Mukta**  
**Nash**  
**Priyanka**  
**Priyanka B**  
**Richa**  
**Rishab**  
**Shiba**  
**Silky**  
**Supratim**  
**Vidya**  
**Yamini**



*Sponsors*

**L'Avenir d'Auroville**  
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**Auroville Design Consultants**  
**Auryaj**  
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**Center for Scientific Research**  
**College Guest House**  
**Mona Doctor-Pingel**  
**Prashant Hedao**  
**Raghu Kolli**  
**SAIIR**  
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