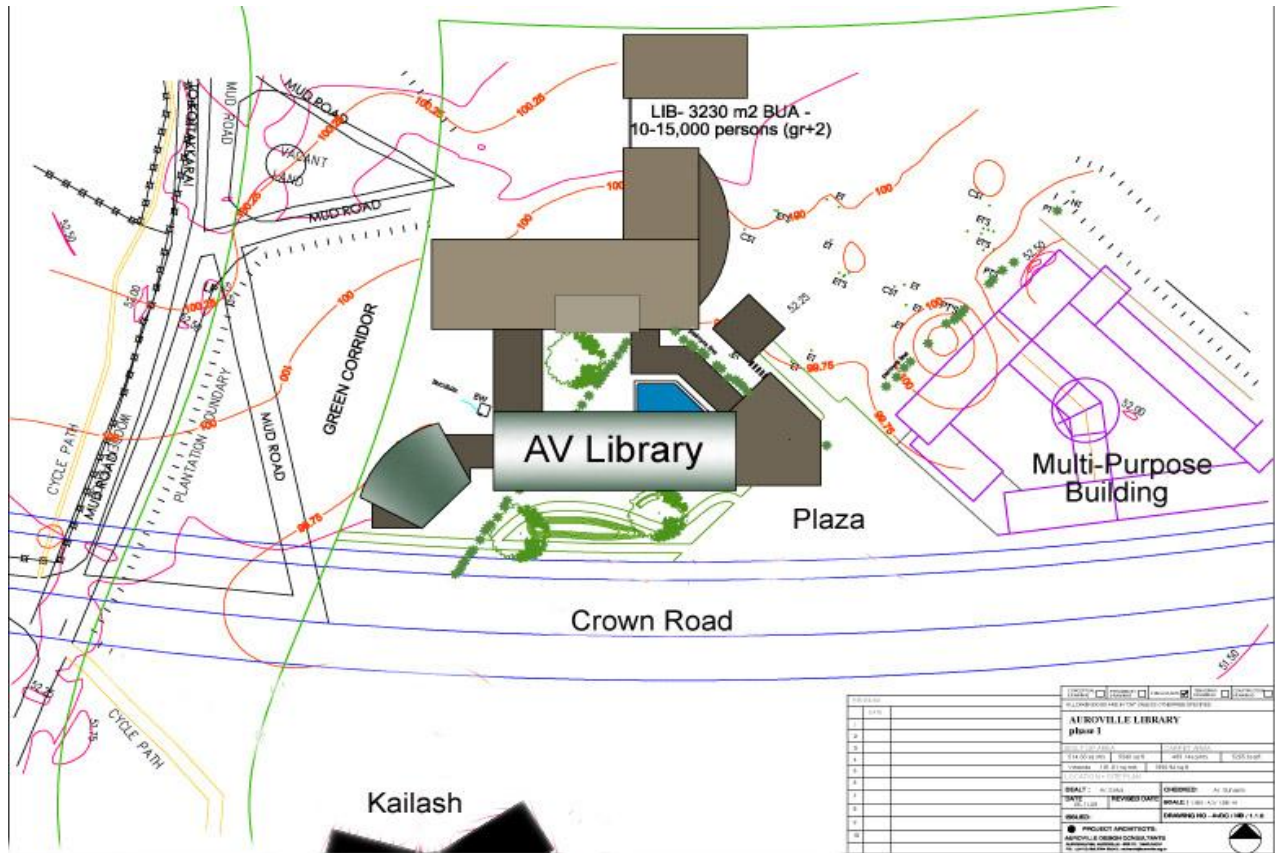


Public Building Project: AUROVILLE LIBRARY

ARCHITECT: -AUROVILLE DESIGN CONSULTANTS / CSR
PROJECT HOLDER: -JUERGEN, RAUF ALI, PRIYA SUNDERAVALLI, ALAIN B.
CONTRACTOR: - MAHASARASWATHI CONSTRUCTION, AUROVILLE
SITE: - CROWN, OPP. KAILASH



PLINTH AREA: -637 M2
CARPET AREA: -558 M2
FOUNDATION: -ISOLATED FOUNDATION
WALL MATERIALS: -RAMMED EARTH / FIRED BRICK WITH PLASTER
ROOF MATERIALS: -COMBINATION OF RCC AND TRUSS ROOF WITH ALUMINIUM SHEETS WITH INSULATION
WATER SERVICE: -RESIDENTIAL ZONE WATER TANK
ELECTRICAL: - TNEB + SOLAR FOR LIGHTING + GEN SET FOR BACK UP
SEWAGE: - DECENTRALISED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS
RAIN WATER: - COLLECTED IN SWALES FOR PERCOLATION

ESTIMATE: -RS. 10,873,250. 00

Auroville Library Objectives

Auroville being a place for research and unending education, the following three areas of activity should be at the heart of AV library's modern mission:

- **The promotion of reading and informal learning.**
- **Access to digital skills and services.**
- **Measures to tackle social exclusion, build community identity and develop citizenship.**



Our aim is that this new library:

- Develops from a cooperative approach to ensure that the changing needs of the community are met.
- Provides a cultural hub and focal point for the community and the region.
- Attracts a wide range of users providing areas for research, leisure and learning.
- Is functional and multi-purpose accommodating a range of activities and usage.
- Enables access to the latest in technology in a user friendly manner.
- Is effective and efficient in the delivery of services.
- Provides technology such as computer training rooms, large areas for public access computers, dedicated computerised work stations for staff and additional storage for audio-visuals and CD-ROM'S.
- Offers to our multicultural community, it's visitors and the region it's multilingual collections; ample areas for browsing and reading ; meeting room space for social contact with people of similar / different backgrounds and interests ; and enquiry & information desks and resources for those needing assistance.
- Provides facilities for adult learning.

- Includes a special section catering to the needs of the youth, with adequate space and outdoor seating areas, where quiet games - chess, go, scrabble, etc.- could also be provided for the young and the old alike.
- Accommodates the Audio & Video Libraries, which are now situated in the Town Hall annexe.
- Creates a union catalogue of various resources available in Auroville. There are several centres and institutes in Auroville where the books, archives, discs, etc. are scattered and difficult to access. An overall virtual library can connect resources to users and strengthen easy access to knowledge in Auroville.



THE AUROVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cultural Context, Relation to the Urban Planning Of the City and Architectural Concept

The following text gives a brief overview of the present situation and an overview of the planning of the Auroville Public Library, its' the urban context, the architectural concept and its' envisioned realization.

The Present Situation:

Since years the Auroville Library operates in a semi-finished structure in Bharat Nivas in the International Zone of Auroville. This was always understood to be a temporary solution until the time for an independent library building for the community arises, thereby accepting the inadequacies and short-comings of this improvised space. In the last years, there has been an increased effort to plan and finance the actual library which will be able to house the book volumes and additional functions a library for Auroville will need.

The Urban Context:

Like most important public buildings for the community, the new library building is placed along the Crown Road close to the city centre, the residential and the cultural zones. At present, the Crown Road is in the first stages of taking shape with the Solar Kitchen, the New Pour Tous and ARCA being mostly built and other important public buildings in the pipeline.

The Auroville Public Library building takes this position on the Crown Road and its destination as important building along this vital urban link as the base for all design considerations.



The Architectural Concept in brief:

Any public library design has to find a balance between the necessity of providing a concentrated, calm environment for browsing, studying and administrating the books and magazines and the essential requirements of a large building aiming to nurture public life. The new Auroville Public Library will be situated between lush greenery on one side and the traffic-intense (vehicles and/or pedestrians, cyclists) Crown Road on the other. Responding to these conditions, the building makes use of the surrounding situations and connects different qualities within its own fluid boundaries, creating basically two sides within the building: A more silent, reclusive side, mainly indoors and with direct connections (visual and physical) to the park area and a more lively public side, stimulating interaction and connecting to the Crown Road. Following this concept and to optimize usability and orientation, the functions are arranged in a sequence reaching out to these different sides, enhancing the necessary openness and seclusion.

The library – based on calculations for a population of 15 000 people and 50 000 volumes of books – consists of individual building blocks for administration and maintenance, reception, information, book storage, computer terminals and quiet reading areas to the more quiet side of the building complex and individual “containers” for the audio-/video library, the public reading (magazines) and the children library. A large multifunctional building block in the centre of the ensemble allows for indoor meetings.

A large roof with its own separate column grid unifies the various building blocks, shelters against the elements and provides the protected open space which can be used for casual interaction between visitors, performances and general public life – either only on the landscaped ground floor or even on the roof of the block-like library structures.

Situated between the ground floor administration and the roof are the staff quarters: one apartment with two bedrooms, one apartment with one bedroom and a small studio. The staff quarters are accessible over the main roof of the library block.

Construction:

The building will be constructed in conventional construction methods: RCC slabs and columns form the base and the roof for the ground floor volumes housing the enclosed functions of the library. Louvered windows, plastered aerocon blocks and a combination of sliding and fixed panels

(transparent/translucent) make the façade allowing for light, natural ventilation and privacy where required. The large steel roof unifying the above mentioned structures and protecting them from the elements consists of a large steel frame (not unlike the roofs of common petrol bunks in its simplicity and efficiency) clad in ACP sheets wherever closed.



Sustainability:

It is understood that an important public building in a community like Auroville has to be an example for the application of techniques minimizing the use of precious resources. Rainwater harvesting, wastewater treatment, natural ventilation and illumination are important parts of the design concept. Photovoltaic panels can be placed on the roof (if funds are available) and the entire building will be designed in a way that the switch-over to complete solar energy can be done without complications. Air-conditioning will be only used (if at all) in selected areas (as computer room, multifunction room).



Works in progress ...

Funding:

The Indian Government has expressed its willingness to fund large parts of the Auroville Public Library and the relevant files will be handed over to them parallel to the application with the community. The preliminary cost estimate calculates approximately 3.7 crores for the civil work, the interior finishing, installation of electrical and plumbing lines and the landscape. This cost estimate is based on the government rates for specific items (please refer to attached Excel sheet). It does at this stage not include costs for the actual book shelves, electronic equipment and furniture.

Design and Construction Phases:

Once the building application has been approved by the Government and its' administrative bodies and funding is granted and once the Auroville building application process has sanctioned the design and the building in its' location, the project holders, architects and consultants will optimize the design and start with the actual drawing work allowing the invitation of selected contractors to quote for the construction. Ideally we would be ready to commence the actual building work in a few months after the project has been sanctioned by all concerned authorities. Actual duration of the construction should be approximately two years from construction start.

An ideal process could see the successful application for government grants and the approval by the relevant administrative bodies and the community of Auroville within the next two months. Design work could start immediately after that and the foundation stone could be laid by February 2008. Actual construction could start soon after and the building could be finished by February 2010. It is also understood that the building in its present concept (which already assumed certain parts of the initial concept like staff quarters and extension buildings to come up in a second phase shown in an attached drawing) would be best build in one continuous process to give the community a completely functional library without the disturbances of ongoing construction whenever funds are available.



Impressions – from a rammed earth wall element



... Impressed ...