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Title of the report: Mero Kathmandu

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INTRODUCTION

Kathmandu, heart of the country, is filled with all the natural and artificial gifts. But, imagine making a new Kathmandu with the resources of your own imagination! With this idea, we have thought of joining Design Kathmandu Contest. We believe despite of having many facilities in the existing city, we do desire some changes, so here we are going to present “Mero Kathmandu” from the imaginations and ideas of Aastha and Eshita. The city carries different ideology regarding its formation. To give a brief description on our project, The Nepali name Kathmandu comes from Kasthamandap known as “wood pavilion” so to keep the cultural side alive we will focus on the work that will reflect the wood works. Kathmandu has time and again listed as most polluted city so to minimize/reduce this aspect we believe two main factors “3R” and “Go Green”. Likewise, the infrastructural development is another major aspect to have a prosperous city so we have some other aspects that helps in it. To summarize, we shall have eco-friendly, cultural reflector and also the technology enhancement.

RESEARCH ON PRESENT STATUS OF KATHMANDU

1. History

The city’s rich history is nearly 2000 years old, as inferred from an inscription in the valley. Its religious affiliations are dominantly Hindu followed by Buddhism. People of other religious beliefs also live in Kathmandu giving it a cosmopolitan culture. Nepali is the common language of the city, though many speak the Nepal Bhasa Newari as it is the center of the Newar people and culture. English is understood by all of the educated population of the city. The literacy rate is 98% in the city.



2. Administration and Government status

Kathmandu is the capital and eldest metropolitan city of Nepal. Kathmandu is not only the capital of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal but also the headquarters of the Central Region (Madhyamanchal)

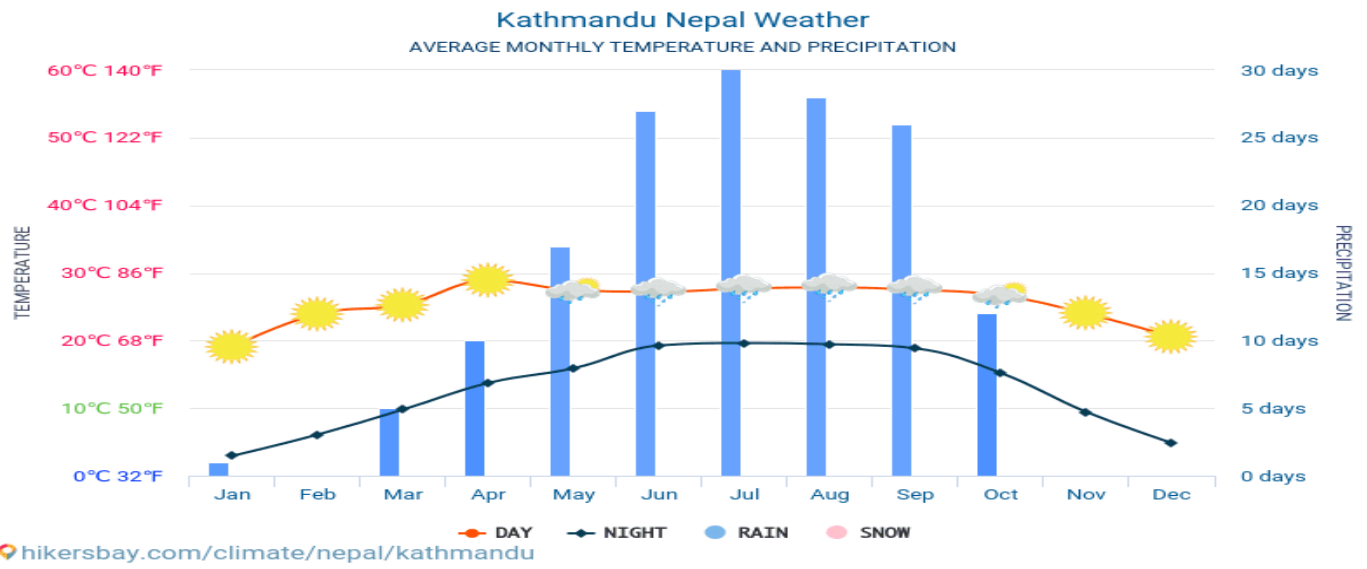
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among the five development regions constituted by the 14 administrative zones of Nepal located at the central part of the country. The Central region has three zones namely, Bagmati, Narayani and Janakpur. Kathmandu is located in the Bagmati Zone. Kathmandu, as the gateway to Nepal Tourism, is the nerve center of the country's economy. With the most advanced infrastructure among urban areas in Nepal, Kathmandu's economy is tourism centric accounting for 3.8% of the GDP in 1995-96 (had declined since then due to political unrest but has picked up again).



3. Geography and Climate

The city is the urban core of the Kathmandu Valley in the Himalayas, which also contains two sister cities namely Patan or Lalitpur, 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) to its southeast and Bhaktapur, 14 kilometers (8.7 mi) to its east. It is also acronymed as 'KTM'. The city stands at an elevation of approximately 1,400 meters (4,600 ft) in the bowl-shaped valley in central Nepal surrounded by four major mountains, namely: Shivapuri, Phulchowki, Nagarjun and Chandragiri. It is inhabited by 671,846 (2001) people. The Kathmandu valley with its three districts including Kathmandu District accounts for a population density of only 97 per square kilometers whereas Kathmandu metropolitan city has a density of 13,225 per square kilometers. It is by far the largest urban agglomerate in Nepal, accounting for 20% of the urban population in an area of 5,067 hectares (12,520 acres) (50.67 square kilometers(19.56 sq mi)). Kathmandu is 1311m above sea level. The climate here is mild, and generally warm temperate. The summers are much rainier than the winters in Kathmandu.



4. Demography: Population, age structure, ethnic groups, Religions

Kathmandu is now the premier cultural and economic hub of Nepal and is considered to have the most advanced infrastructure among urban areas in Nepal. From the point of view of tourism, economy and cultural heritage, the sister cities of Patan (Lalitpur) and Bhaktapur are integral to Kathmandu.



5. Economy: City, Media and technology, Tourism

Kathmandu has been the center of Nepal’s history, art, culture and economy. This city is also the gateway to tourism in Nepal. Every year we have number of tourists visiting, in order to explore the glorious places situated within the city. Similarly, there has been gradual development of the media and technology as the youngsters inside the city are found rapidly to be involving in the IT sectors that ultimately helps in the foster of web technology as well as the media and technology. We believe in making the maximum use of media and technology to wide spread about the tourism of our city within and also outside the nation. We make things go sideways, in parallel.

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6. Transport: Buses, Roads, Cycling, Cable car

There is no confined means of transportation in the city. We find almost every type of transportation being used in everyday lives such as the roadways, airways and so on. However the most preferred way of transportation that eases the people to travel is the roadways. A little waterways has still been behind as compared to other ways of transportation, but we believe that this will soon be more facilitated and advanced way of the transportation. People now are even found using the vehicles that run from the alternative sources such as the electric vehicles, solar as well as the battery associated vehicles are found to be gaining popularity among the travelers now-a-days. This is definitely a fine way to make the Kathmandu city a hygienic, least polluted and a healthier city. However, the old automobiles shall be replaced with the new ones in order they stop releasing unnecessary dust and smoke which might lead to the major reason for the air pollution.



7. Education: Primary, Secondary, Universities

There is no doubt that education is the most essential and fundamental requirement that helps in the better formation and development of a place. With this, Kathmandu therefore has handful of education institutions which are quite a much know as the best educational institution . For instance, the first

formal school of Nepal, The Durbar High School, established by Junga Bahadur Rana in 1853 yet has popularity among much of the Nepalese. The city has the oldest institute, The Tri-Chandra College is Mero Kathmandu

the most favored educational institute for higher learning. Primary education here lasts for 5 years (grades 1-5), Secondary Education then comprises 3 cycles: three years lower secondary (grades 6-8), two years upper secondary (grades 9-10) and two years of higher secondary education (grades 11-12) and higher secondary education have 4 streams: Humanities, Science, Commerce and Education and accordingly students join the affiliated universities.



8. Culture: Heritages, Temples, Gumbas, Music, Museums

Kathmandu is also known as the city of temples and historical monuments as we can explore in and around glorious ancient Nepal. Pashupatinath Temple, the holy place for every Hindus is situated in this city, Kathmandu. Similarly, the city has the royal kingdom, The Narayanhiti Palace which has now turned out to be a museum. The city is blessed with mesmerizing heritages sites which makes this a combination of majestic place to visit or reside in. The cultural heritage of Kathmandu valley is illustrated by seven groups of monuments and buildings which amazingly display us the full range of historic and artistic achievements for which the Kathmandu valley is world famous. The architecture of the Gumbas and Stupas not only pleases people from outside the Kathmandu, but also pleases the tourists.



9. Recreation: Parks and open spaces, walking

Besides art and culture, heritage, education, demography, climate and other different status of the city, Kathmandu it gives a wide range of places to visit and spend a pleasing quality time there. The landscape, facilities, scenarios are found in different places inside the valley. For city like Kathmandu, open spaces have always been necessary in order to refresh ourselves from the monotonous life and free up our busy schedules. But now-a-days due to mis-management of the urbanization and residential areas, we find blocks and building in much of the free spaces. The everyday growing population has resulted in difficulty of finding open spaces. Open spaces and parks are not only the source for our refreshment, but also a lifesaver during the times of disaster and other obstacles that can prevent the natural disasters.



10. Sports:

Regarding the sports, we find varieties of sports that are played by different age groups according to their will and interest. As found the most favored and most popular is the Astrek Climbing Wall. People are found to be fond of adventurous sports, those sports that are thrilling and exciting. Casino and Battlefields come parallel when it is about the sports. Therefore, there is no specific or confined sport among the residents. People can play ad choice the games and sports of their own interests. Kathmandu city, in a nutshell a mixed bag of different wills and interests of various people.



DESIGN OF NEW KATHMANDU

1.Design and Architecture:

Looking at the history of the valley the architectures and the designs are based on the ancient values and belief. We have quite astonishing figures and overall hold great significance over them. For designing new Kathmandu valley the first thought was to give much more importance on what we already have. We can also say that we are already privileged with all the necessity but need a slight guide for developing to the best.

How exactly are we starting?

Since it's a new Kathmandu, everything will be empty/ new. So we have thought of giving the city an ancient touch with modern lifestyles. We will be doing hand artistic work to the building that brings the ancient life in the modern design. These type of architects are already in the city but imagine having the whole city with similar design? Its pictorial representation is shown as below:



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With this a certain idea, we will have some guidelines. In the city we lack a good open space. In order to minimize this problem, every house must have at least a 10 feet empty area. Electricity Work shall be carried out underground.

Electric tram and buses shall have different pathways rather than mixing it to the road transport.

Likewise, after doing quite research the major problem we found was the city is over-crowded. It is a matter of fact people always seek for the good opportunities and no one can ever stop them to get it. Kathmandu is overpopulated and the major reason of this population is lack of development in other areas of the country.

Also, keeping the aim of “Go Green”, every house must plant at least 2 trees on their house premise.

Talking about the proper planning the necessary steps include to focus on the development of planned urbanization.

What is Urban planning and how will this help?

Urban planning, design and regulation of the uses of space that focus on the physical form, economic functions, and social impacts of the urban environment and on the location of different activities within it. Traditionally, urban planning followed a top-down approach in master planning the physical layout of human settlements. The primary concern is the public welfare, which included considerations of efficiency, sanitation, protection and use of the environment, as well as effects of the master plans on the social and economic activities. Over time, urban planning has always adopted a focus on the social

and environmental bottom-lines that focus on planning as a tool to improve the health and well-being of people while maintaining sustainability standards.

2. Society civilization and religion:

The **culture of Nepal** is rich and unique. The cultural heritage of Nepal has evolved over the centuries. This multi-dimensional heritage encompasses the diversities of Nepal's ethnic, tribal, and social groups, and it manifests in music and dance; art and craft; folklore and folktales; languages and literature; philosophy and religion; festivals and celebration; foods and drinks.

We don't believe in changing the existing cultural values, beliefs because they are beautiful the way they represent. However, there are few things on it which should be removed like the practice of superstition.

In a new city we can educate people from beginning and they can practice the same thing and it continues to generation to generation.



3.Science and Technology:

The role that science and technology has played in improving the life conditions across the globe is vivid, but the benefit has to be harvested maximum by all countries. Science and technology has made life a lot easier and also a lot better with the advancement of medicines and analysis on diseases. Nepal has been a late starter in modern science and technology. However, the city like Kathmandu has managed to foster its status in this field.

4.Environment and Wildlife:

In context of Nepal, wildlife and environment hold much values. Taking about Kathmandu which is surrounded by many hills and greenery, we can also see varieties of flora and fauna available in this region. Preserving them is our primary duty and we all must be aware about the consequences and the effects of the irresponsibility.

In order to maintain a hygienic and healthy environment, it is very essential that we consider and talk about the

Waste management is one of the key challenges of uncontrolled urbanization in Nepal. Many urban areas in Nepal face challenges in receiving basic services such as clean water supply, wastewater treatment and solid waste management. With respect to solid waste management, 66 percent of household waste is organic material, and, less than 30% of households are practicing segregation of waste and composting using customary approaches. It is estimated that about 90% of waste produced in Kathmandu could be recycled.



5.Policy and planning:

For any kind of betterment or welfare of a place , it is very necessary that the place or an area has a proper implement plans, terms, policy and planning which not just requires implementation but also formulation .

Since Nepal's political system has always been unstable and lags behind , we are still unable to get a government that is responsible and wise enough to address the nation and their citizens about more than half percent of the administration work or the activities are found to be done here in Kathmandu itself. Therefore, as Kathmandu becomes the major point for all the policy and planning activities throughout the nation , there must be appropriate establishment of the administrative places so the execution takes approximately .

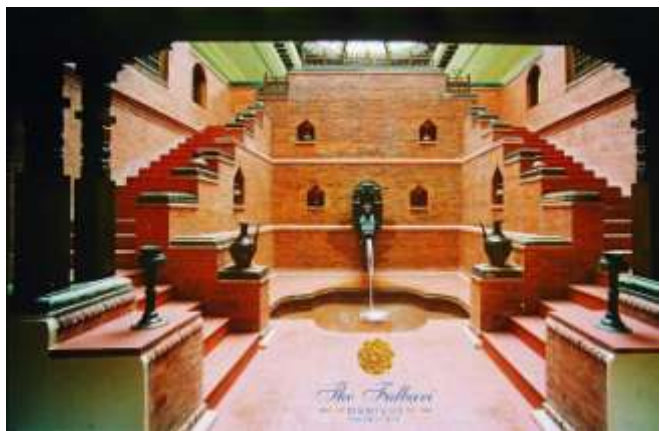
6. Heritage sites and conservation:

From the very beginning of our project of Mero Kathmandu, we have been emphasizing on the cultural values associated to our city. For this every residential in the city shall equally pay their attention to all the cultural, religious and the heritages sites and find the possible ways to conserve them. Therefore, in our new design of the city, Mero Kathmandu we believe in making heritages sites as our top priority. We would renovate these priory they get damaged or collapsed. Time and again seminars and effective programs will be conducted in order to check the situation of every heritage is in good condition or not.

In our new design of the city, we would primarily give importance on upgrading the situation of DHUNGE-DHARA which used to be one of the major identity of the Kathmandu city in the ancient times.

But now the condition of these water taps, Dhungedhara are degrading everyday gradually as there lack of care and attention to these water taps. If we study about the ancient Kathmandu, primarily also known as Kantipur has number of Dhungedhara and from every of these there could be found clean and fresh water flowing throughout the day and entire night. People had easy access to water and could conveniently fetch water from places to places via these Dhungedhara.

These not only played significant role in comforting people to make the water system available easily but also reflected the ancient sculptures and arts that could be found in the ancient Kathmandu, which now has been lost within the dried and damaged Dhunge dharas. Therefore, Mero Kathmandu is going to have the optimum use of resources along with the utilization and promotion of the local residential and resources.



8. Road network and smart technology:

The state of public transport services in Kathmandu Valley is very poor. The city's urban transport is barely coping with demand. Nowadays, during peak hours, the average speed of vehicles can be as low as 7 kmph.

These solutions, however, would not be sustainable to keep the city moving in the long term. The valley is in desperate need of a mass rapid transit system, that is a metro rail system, which could carry thousands of

passengers every hour in each direction and operate without any interaction with other street vehicles. Mobility networks would need to be planned over long periods, stretching forward beyond the next five to 10 years. In this regard, the early planning of a metro rail system in the valley would be timely and essential.

A basic definition of smart technology is that it goes beyond just the normal sending and receiving, consumer searching for information and the traditional turning things on and off. Instead, it offers the consumer much more interaction and control, through use of the Internet. Much of this definition refers to smart devices—phones, TVs, appliances, cars, personal assistants, etc. Consumers are certainly warming to the idea of using smart tech to control everything from their home security systems to their thermostats.

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Kathmandu





The problem of parking has been issue in the city. For this Smart Parking can be launched as shown in the figure.



9.Science parks and Museums:

To promote science and technology throughout the nation,

Organizing various schools, seminars and talk programs at regional, national and international levels routinely in several parts of the country.

Conducting research activities in the field of astronomy, astrophysics and space science at National Observatory.

Publishing Journals, Magazines and Bulletins routinely for the last two decades.

Organizing star parties.

To establish Planetarium, Observatory and Science Museum in Nepal and to run them To provide a new experience in science learning as well as inspire and foster science learning to the young generation and involve them in R&D activities To disseminate scientific temper and culture to the broad mass of the people To organize various science education programs in different parts of the country To conduct training, research, and development activities in the field of space science

10. Stadiums and Business centers, etc:

In the emerging business era, incubation centers and business hubs need to be created so that new interns and entrepreneurs can learn, guide for promoting and upgrading them.



Likewise, the country is getting new opportunities and developing in the field of sports, stadium really needs to be the part of it.

CONCLUSION

The above contest of Design the Kathmandu, we believe is a much needed project not only because it enhances one to explore, gather knowledge and information regarding the past and present status and the condition of the city they reside in, but also the project includes quite a much research that one makes which makes him/her capable enough of brains-storming the ideas and demands that the city needs in the further days. With this motive, we have successfully come to end of the research of **“Mero Kathmandu, It’s you own”** a city of our imagination where we in general have presented and brought up about: How was Kathmandu?

How is Kathmandu?

AND

How can Kathmandu be designed in the further days?

Our entire research on this project, involves that what can be the possible ways to design a new Kathmandu city which is both eco and technology friendly along with our cultural values. We emphasize on localization and upgrading our resources from the very local level and gradually bring our resources and means along with the residential who can give hand in hand to make our

Kathmandu, a better Kathmandu. By the end of this research on the project, we can be bale to have a wider concept regarding the new Kathmandu. The major finding of this research all in all is that it helped us to broadcast conceptual knowledge regarding the past and present status of the city we live, Kathmandu. We've aimed in shaping a better structure of the city in future days with the motto of bringing the best together to form a better place, a better and an exemplary city within and outside the nation.

So, to conclude, **Mero Kathmandu** may not have the tallest building but we will ensure it has the majestic architect and houses, it may not have the best scenario to watch but you will get the fresh air to breathe, and it may not have a lot of people but it will sure have every facilities one needs.

Thankyou!

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