



Student
Talent Camp



AHMEDABAD
DESIGN WEEK

Present Tense

Cumulus Student Talent Camp 2027
3-Credit Hybrid International Design Studio

LOCAL REALITIES. SHARED FUTURES



7 Days Immersion
90 Learning Hours
3 Credits

Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar, India

2nd to 8th FEB 27



Programme at a Glance

Present Tense is a 3-credit hybrid international design studio built around Refresh: a shared inquiry into how existing materials, practices, systems, relationships and ways of seeing can be carried forward through design. Students begin online in their home contexts, meet in Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar for a seven-day intensive Talent Camp, and complete the journey through peer sharing back at their home institutions.

Registration fee: USD 350 per participant

Learning Rhythm

- Connect
- Bring
- Encounter
- Make
- Refresh
- Share
- Return



Adalaj Stepwell, Gujarat

7-Day Immersion Itinerary

Making is woven through the week. Each encounter produces material for the evolving Refresh project, so students arrive at intensive development with observations, experiments and prototypes already in motion.

DAY 1 — ARRIVE	Meet the Present
Encounter	Welcome, opening, campus orientation, cohort activities and introduction to Refresh, the Cumulus values framework and SDG lens.
Studio / Making	Interdisciplinary groups meet mentors. A playful making prompt asks: "What deserves to be refreshed?"
Tangible Deliverable	Refresh Question + First Response + Field Journal begins
DAY 2 — NOTICE	Read the City
Encounter	Old Ahmedabad / Pol immersion: streets, thresholds, typography, architecture, food, movement, services, informal economies and everyday social systems.
Studio / Making	Ethnographic mapping and group synthesis. Translate one observation through quick making: drawing, model, visual intervention, spatial proposition, moving image or material experiment.
Tangible Deliverable	Collective City Map + Micro Prototype 01
DAY 3 — LEARN THROUGH HANDS	Knowledge Lives in Making
Encounter	Encounters with craftspeople, makers, repair specialists and material practitioners. Explore tools, maintenance, adaptation, tacit knowledge and material cycles.
Studio / Making	Hands-on making with practitioners. Teams test how a process, material or repair logic might travel into another context.
Tangible Deliverable	Material + Knowledge Atlas + Micro Prototype 02
DAY 4 — CONNECT	From Fragments to Possibilities
Encounter	Encounters around water, climate, ecology, community, infrastructure and contemporary urban systems, connecting historic intelligence with present conditions.
Studio / Making	Bring together city observations, material encounters, repair knowledge and early prototypes. Mentor clinics and SDG mapping sharpen a project direction.
Tangible Deliverable	Refresh Proposition + Micro Prototype 03
DAY 5 — DEVELOP	Many Pathways. Shared Purpose.
Encounter	Short specialist inputs selected around emerging project needs.
Studio / Making	UID becomes an open production studio. Teams move between craft knowledge, repair expertise, studio making, communication, 3D printing/digital fabrication, interaction and emergent technologies according to the solution need.
Tangible Deliverable	Working Prototype + Testing Evidence
DAY 6 — TEST + REFRESH	Design in Conversation
Encounter	Selected Ahmedabad Design Week talks, exhibitions, installations and practitioner encounters become part of the learning environment.
Studio / Making	Testing, critique, iteration, fabrication, storytelling and exhibition development. Evening shared cultural experience and informal international exchange.
Tangible Deliverable	Final Design Response + Project Narrative
DAY 7 — SHARE	Refresh Commons
Encounter	Final refinement and exhibition installation, followed by a public showcase with peers, mentors, practitioners and invited communities.
Studio / Making	Teams present what they encountered, understood, made and refreshed. Closing reflection, recognition and celebration.
Tangible Deliverable	Exhibited Project + Group Presentation + Completed Field Journal

3 PHASES



Sidi Saiyyed Mosque, Ahmedabad

Hybrid Integration

Phase I — Global Studio | Before Ahmedabad

2–3 weeks | 14 learning hours.

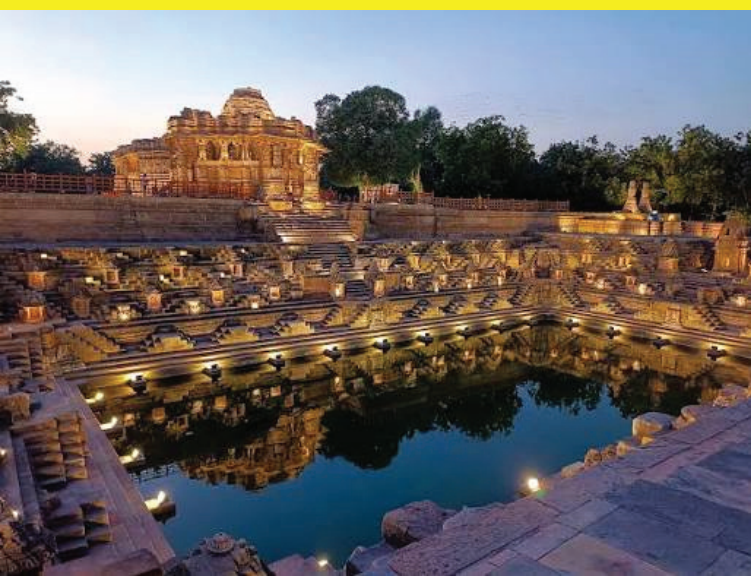
The pre-immersion layer is intentionally light: it builds curiosity, relationships and a shared starting point.

- Live online orientation: Present Tense, Refresh, Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar, Cumulus Design Declaration, SDG contribution framework and field ethics.
- Online mentoring embedded into orientation and preparation.
- Bring Your Present: each student contributes one image, 150 words and one question around a local reality they care about.

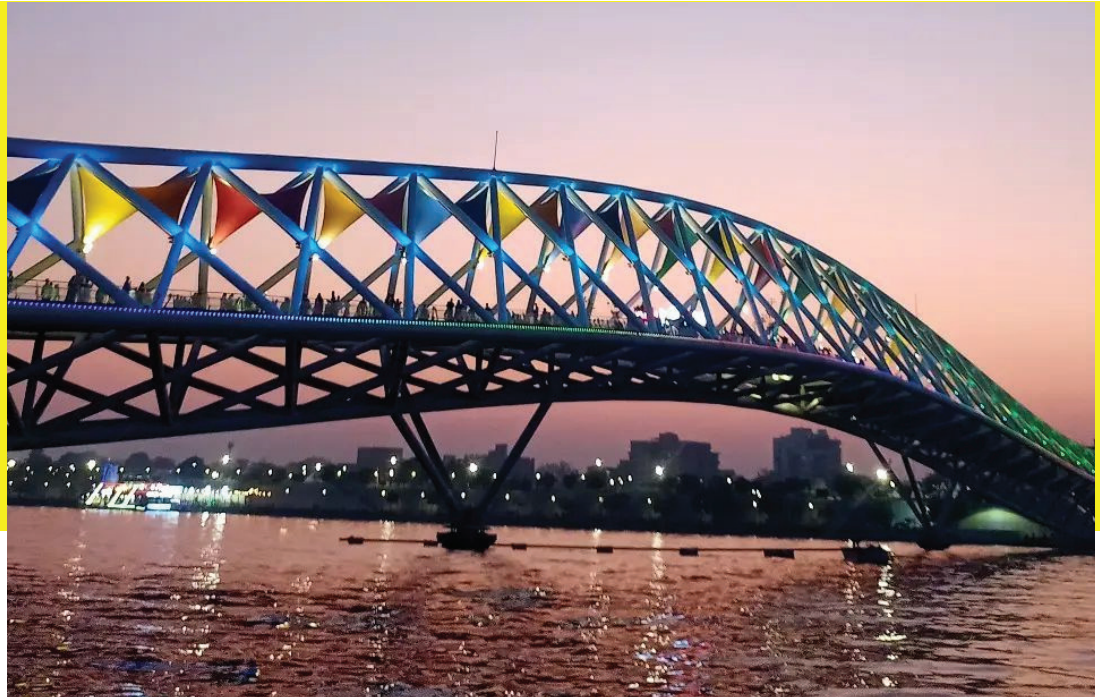
- Present Tense Atlas: individual contributions create a shared digital map of the cohort's contexts.
- Interdisciplinary team introduction and one mentor conversation before travel.

PRE-IMMERSION DELIVERABLE

MY PRESENT — one local reality, one question and one perspective carried into Ahmedabad.



3 PHASES



Atal Bridge, Ahmedabad

Phase II — Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Immersion

Seven intensive days / 39 guided learning hours.

Field encounters and studio making operate as one continuous rhythm:
ENCOUNTER → MAKE → REFLECT → MAKE AGAIN.

CUMULATIVE PROJECT TRAIL

My Present → Refresh Question → City Map + Micro Prototype 01 → Material Atlas
+ Micro Prototype 02 → Refresh Proposition + Micro Prototype 03 → Working
Prototype → Final Response → Refresh Commons

Phase III — Take Refresh Home

2 weeks / 23 learning hours across guided/independent project development, translation, documentation and peer exchange.

- Students revisit the reality they originally brought to Present Tense through the question: “What do I see differently now?”
- Each participant translates one learning, method or possibility from Ahmedabad into their own context through an appropriate design response.
- Each participant conducts a peer-to-peer sharing session at their home institution.
- Final reflection: I BROUGHT / I RETURNED WITH, contributed to the Present Tense Digital Atlas.

3 Credit Learning-Hour Structure

Component	Hours
Global Studio: online preparation & mentoring	14
Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar intensive immersion	39
Guided & independent project development	15
Post-immersion translation	13
Peer sharing, documentation & reflection	9
TOTAL	90

Assessment & Tangible Outputs

Component	Weight	Evidence
Global Studio + My Present	10%	One image + 150 words + one question; participation in orientation and mentoring.
Field Journal + Situated Inquiry	20%	Individual observations, mappings, reflections and experimental traces.
Progressive Making	15%	Micro Prototypes 01–03 and evidence of iteration.
Collaborative Refresh Project	30%	Refresh Proposition, working prototype and final response.
Refresh Commons	10%	Exhibition and group presentation.
Take Refresh Home	10%	Translation of one learning into the participant's home context.
Peer Sharing + Final Reflection	5%	Home-campus peer session + I BROUGHT / I RETURNED WITH.



Trunk Textile Gallery in Ahmedabad.



The Calico Museum of Textiles, Ahmedabad

Course Outcomes (COs)

The four Course Outcomes are derived from the Cumulus Design Declaration values used in Present Tense – collaboration, care, plurality, regeneration, responsibility and equity – and the programme's SDG contribution framework, particularly SDGs 11, 12 and 17.

CO1 – Situated Inquiry

Investigate local realities through attentive observation, dialogue and contextual mapping, recognising cultural, social and ecological knowledge embedded in place.

Cumulus: Care, Plurality, Responsibility | SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

CO2 – Regenerative Making

Experiment through craft, repair, material practice, studio processes, digital fabrication and emergent technologies to develop context-responsive design propositions.

Cumulus: Regeneration, Responsibility | SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

CO3 – Collaborative Design

Work across disciplines, cultures and knowledge systems to develop, test and communicate a shared Refresh intervention.

Cumulus: Collaboration, Plurality, Equity | SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

PRESENT TENSE | Local Realities. Shared Futures.

CO4 – Translation & Contribution

Translate learning between Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar and the participant's home context, articulate the project's intended SDG contribution, and share learning through exhibition and peer exchange.

Cumulus: Responsibility, Care, Collaboration | SDGs 11, 12 & 17

Faculty Participation

Present Tense welcomes faculty from participating institutions into the international learning community. Faculty accompanying a cohort of five or more participating students receive complimentary programme registration. Participating faculty may join selected field encounters, studio conversations, reviews, Ahmedabad Design Week experiences and Refresh Commons, creating opportunities for exchange between institutions. Travel, accommodation and personal expenses remain with the faculty member or home institution unless otherwise agreed by the host.



Immersion and experience at the Center for Craft Innovation. Our 'Craft Village'





Participant Outputs

- Individual Field Journal and My Present inquiry
- Collective City Map and Material + Knowledge Atlas
- Three progressive micro prototypes
- Collaborative Refresh Proposition and final design response
- Refresh Commons public exhibition and presentation
- Home-context translation
- Peer-to-peer sharing at the participant's institution
- I BROUGHT / I RETURNED WITH final reflection
- Contribution to the Present Tense Digital Atlas

Visa Information for International Participants

International participants travelling to India for the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar immersion should apply through the Government of India's official e-Visa portal in advance of travel.

- Apply online at indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa — this is the only official portal; no travel agent or intermediary facilitation is required.
- Applications should be submitted a minimum of 4 days before arrival, and may be submitted up to 120 days in advance of the travel date.
- Short, non-formal courses that do not lead to a qualifying certificate or diploma fall under the e-Tourist Visa short-term-course category; applicants should confirm the correct category for their situation on the portal, as eligibility and categories are set by the Government of India.
- Required documents typically include the passport bio page and a supporting letter from the host or sending institution on institutional letterhead.
- Ahmedabad is one of the designated international airports for e-Visa entry, along with 30+ other airports across India.
- e-Visa fees are nationality-specific and non-refundable once submitted; participants should check the fee applicable to their passport on the official portal.

Full eligibility, category and fee details:
<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

For more information send us an email:
presenttense2027@gmail.com

Participants will have the opportunity to attend Ahmedabad Design Week as invited guests and engage with the design community.