

# The Ideal City



Exploring Urban Futures

**SPACE10** gestalten



**Toward a new generation of professional Indian women**  
How to build a school for economically disadvantaged young women and girls using recycled materials.

Avasara Academy  
Case Design  
Lavale, India  
2019

Educating girls is one of the most powerful solutions to climate change. It also leads to more resilient families and local economies, as well as greater access to new technologies and resources. Yet only half of all girls in India, the world's fastest-growing economy, make it to higher secondary education. Roopa Purushothaman founded Avasara Academy, a progressive secondary school for girls from underprivileged households, to redress this balance by equipping a new generation to create positive change. Located on the outskirts of

Pune, an educational hub with over 100 academic centers and nine universities, the campus is the work of Mumbai-based firm Case Design. Bamboo-encased concrete structures are situated around semi-outdoor walkways, courtyards, and terraces, an environment that encourages experimental learning opportunities and fosters the intimacy of communal living. The limited budget required a great degree of resourcefulness—the architects used reclaimed materials from nearby demolished buildings and the mosaic paving is made of stones sourced from quarry waste. The Avasara Academy highlights the role architecture plays in creating affordable, accessible, and inclusive educational solutions for communities.







*Left:* Avasara Academy, a four-story school for economically disadvantaged young women and girls in western India.

*Right:* The building is composed of a simple concrete structure with double-height ceilings and bamboo exterior coverings. The custom-made colors were designed and developed by Malene Bach.





*Above:* The school is located at the edge of a rural landscape. The passive cooling system designed in collaboration with Pratik Raval is a significant technical achievement that saves on economic and environmental resources.









*Top left:* Public and private spaces provide familiarity and intimacy to the girls living and studying on campus.

*Bottom left:* The school has become a leader in the education and development of school-aged girls in India, creating a sanctuary for the youths' development.

*Right:* Courtyards and terraces provide a variety of different spaces in addition to classrooms for learning.





