

Vadnagar Museum by Siddharth Bathla Wins Platinum A' Design Award in Cultural Heritage Design

Experiential Archaeological Museum in Vadnagar, India Honored for Translating 2,500 Years of Living History

COMO, CO, ITALY, August 26, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The A' [Design Award](#) has announced Vadnagar, a museum designed by [Siddharth Bathla](#), as a Platinum winner in the [Cultural Heritage](#) and Culture Industry Design category. The A' Cultural Heritage and Culture Industry Design Award is a highly respected international design competition that recognizes notable contributions to the culture industry through a rigorous and impartial evaluation process. This Platinum distinction acknowledges the project as an outstanding example of good design within the field of cultural heritage design. Vadnagar stands as the first archaeological experiential museum in its namesake town in India, revealing over 2,500 years of continuous history. The recognition affirms the value of work that bridges scholarship and public engagement.



Vadnagar

The A' Cultural Heritage and Culture Industry Design Award holds relevance not only for the recipient but also for the broader field of heritage interpretation and museum design. Vadnagar responds to a growing need for institutions that translate archaeological knowledge into accessible and engaging public experiences. By positioning archaeology as a living narrative rather than a static record, the project aligns with contemporary practices that center the visitor within an evidence-based story. The use of sustainable, locally sourced materials and collaboration with local artisans reflects responsible approaches now valued across the industry. For communities, researchers, and visitors alike, the design demonstrates how heritage can be

preserved, interpreted, and shared with care.

Situated next to an active excavation site, Vadnagar presents nearly 6,000 artefacts spanning seven cultural periods through three thematic galleries: City, Belief, and Lifestyle. The design follows a true to material approach in which mud shapes the City gallery, stone defines Belief, and artefacts lead Lifestyle. Rammed earth, reflecting the layered strata of excavation, is innovatively applied across walls, furniture, and installations. Immersive scenography invites visitors to walk over an excavation site, visit markets of the past, and try their hand at making a terracotta pot. A musical reflection inspired by the local Bhavai tradition anchors the narrative in resilience and continuity.

This Platinum A' Design Award recognition offers encouragement for further exploration of narrative-driven public spaces, a typology still emerging within the Indian cultural landscape. The project illustrates how museums can serve as the starting point of a story while the surrounding city itself becomes a living museum. The acknowledgment may inspire future works that pair rigorous research with creative interpretation across varying scales and typologies. For the design team, the honor reinforces a commitment to multidisciplinary collaboration and to projects that bring meaningful narratives to society.

Project Members

Vadnagar was realized through the dedicated work of Siddharth Bathla together with Prashasti Chandra, Niharika Sarna, Suryanath Sunny, Swarnika Nimje, Abhisht Thapak, Abhinav Mithal, Ankita Duhan, Rinkoo Kumar, Purnima Roy, Ashish Varshney, Prashant Nehra, Ashwani Kumar, Pankaj Sharma, Grace Ann Varkey, Harish Kumar Singh, Manish Bardia, and Burzin Unwalla. The team contributed across spatial design, research curation, visualization, and fabrication, working closely with archaeologists, historians, and subject matter experts to validate interpretations.

Interested parties may learn more about the award-winning museum at the dedicated page on the A' Design Award website, where details about the design and its creators are presented. Further information about the project and its development is available for review.

<https://competition.adesignaward.com/ada-winner-design.php?ID=183382>

About Siddharth Bathla

Siddharth Bathla is an architect and industrial designer based in India whose interests lie in storytelling and problem solving through design. His practice rejects working in isolation, favoring a multidisciplinary approach that brings creative and passionate teams together. He focuses on public projects that introduce meaningful narratives into society, designing spaces where visitors experience a story much as a film unfolds a narrative. He views experiential museums as a developing and promising typology within the Indian context.

About Design Factory India

Design Factory India is a multidisciplinary design studio focused on creating and strategizing experiential and narrative spaces. Its approach places the end-user experience at the center of

the design process. The studio brings together spatial designers, architects, and visualizers who work through an integrated methodology to deliver responsible design solutions. It develops project-specific strategies across varying scales, from greenfield to brownfield developments. The studio works across multiple typologies including architecture, museum interiors, conservation, branding, and communications.

About the Platinum A' Design Award Recognition

The Platinum A' Design Award is the highest distinction conferred by the A' Design Awards, recognizing designs evaluated for notable innovation and meaningful societal contribution. Within the Cultural Heritage and Culture Industry Design category, entries are assessed against criteria including historical significance, cultural authenticity, design innovation, respect for tradition, adaptive reuse, interpretation of heritage, community engagement, preservation techniques, sustainable practices, and educational value. Additional considerations include accessibility enhancement, economic impact, heritage conservation, technological integration, architectural excellence, contextual sensitivity, and stakeholder involvement. Designs that receive this recognition demonstrate strong technical qualities, considered artistic skill, and a commitment to advancing art, science, design, and technology. The distinction reflects a rigorous and structured evaluation rather than subjective preference.

About A' Design Award

The A' Cultural Heritage and Culture Industry Design Award is an international, juried competition that provides designers, agencies, and brands the opportunity to present their work for evaluation and gain recognition for their contributions to the culture industry. Entries are reviewed through a blind peer-review process and assessed by an expert jury panel of design professionals, cultural heritage industry experts, academics, and journalists against pre-established evaluation criteria. The competition is organized across all industries and welcomes participation from all countries, and has operated since 2008, now in its 18th year. The ultimate aim of the A' Design Award is to recognize and promote superior products and projects that advance and benefit society, guided by a philanthropic mission to create a better world through the power of good design. Interested parties may learn more about the A' Design Awards, explore jury members, view past laureates, and submit their projects at the following url:

<https://culturalheritageawards.com>

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