

# Regenerative Design Workshop

**Event:** Regenerative Design Workshop

**Dates:** 10 - 12 March 2026

**Venue:** NIFT Bengaluru Campus

**Participants:** 29 MDes Students, NIFT Bengaluru

**Coordinated by:** Ms. Kriti Srivastava, Assistant Professor, MDes, NIFT Bengaluru

**Resource Expert:** Ms. Julia Sauter, Institute for Design Research Vienna (IDRV), Austria



## **1. Workshop Overview**

The Regenerative Design Workshop was conducted from 10 to 12 March 2026 at NIFT Bengaluru, bringing together 29 students enrolled in the Master of Design Space programme. The workshop was designed as an intensive, practice-led engagement that introduced students to the principles of regenerative design, a design philosophy that moves beyond sustainability to envision systems that actively restore, renew, and regenerate ecological and social systems. Led by Ms. Julia Sauter of IDRV, Austria, the sessions combined theoretical frameworks with applied design exercises, challenging students to critically examine existing product paradigms and rethink them through a circular design lens. A central design challenge of the workshop involved the reimagining of an everyday product, the toothbrush, through the principles of circular design. Students were encouraged to interrogate the entire lifecycle of the conventional toothbrush: its material composition, production processes, usage patterns, and end-of-life implications. Guided by concepts such as material circularity, biomimicry, design for disassembly, and closed-loop systems, the participants developed conceptual and physical prototypes that envisioned future-forward, ecologically responsible alternatives to the standard plastic toothbrush.

The three-day workshop progressed through a structured learning arc: the first day was devoted to theoretical grounding in regenerative and circular design philosophies; the second day focused on ideation, user research methodologies rooted in sustainability, and concept development; and the third day saw students work collaboratively to build and present physical prototypes of their reimagined toothbrush designs. The final presentations facilitated critical peer review and an open dialogue between students and Ms. Sauter on the scalability and systemic implications of their proposals. The workshop fostered critical and systems-level thinking, expanded students' understanding of global design discourse in the context of the ecological crisis, and provided direct exposure to international research perspectives on design innovation. It also offered students a valuable opportunity to engage in cross-cultural pedagogical dialogue, further enriching the academic rigour of the MDes programme at NIFT Bengaluru.

## **2. Background and Genesis of the Collaboration**

The Regenerative Design Workshop was born out of an enriching academic engagement that Ms. Kriti Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Department of Master of Design (MDes), NIFT Bengaluru, undertook at an international design conference. It was during this conference that Ms. Srivastava had the opportunity to interact with Ms. Julia Sauter, a design researcher affiliated with the Institute for Design Research Vienna (IDRV), Austria, an institution recognised for its pioneering work in the intersections of sustainability, systems thinking, and design innovation, and the creator of the project Imagine Coral Reefs by IDRV - <http://smb.museum/en/exhibitions/detail/imagine-coral-reef/> As a part of the exhibition the institute was looking to collaborate with design colleges in Delhi and Bengaluru to conduct Regenerative Design workshops.

## **3. Institutional Support and Acknowledgements**

The workshop was conducted on the NIFT Bengaluru campus with the approval and encouragement of the Director, NIFT Bengaluru, Dr. Yathindra L., and the Campus Academic Coordinator (CAC), NIFT Bengaluru, Dr. Gulnaz Banu, whose endorsement enabled the seamless execution of this international academic exchange. None of this would be possible without the support & guidance from all the faculty members of the MDes Bengaluru Dept namely, Mr. Prashant

KC, Dr. Rashmi Munshi, Mr. Mohd. Ansar, and Ms. Biniya Arul, and staff members Mr. Kumaran and Mr. Prakasha



#### 4. Conclusion & Certification

In recognition of their active engagement and contribution to the workshop, all 29 participating MDes students of NIFT Bengaluru are to be awarded Certificates of Participation. The certificates acknowledge the students' participation and commitment to engaging with emerging and globally significant design methodologies and their participation in this international academic collaboration. The Regenerative Design Workshop outcomes will be presented at the Science Gallery during the Imagine Coral Reefs exhibition to be conducted from 9 April - 4 May 2026. This workshop stands as a milestone in the academic journey of the MDes programme at NIFT Bengaluru. It exemplifies the institution's commitment to fostering internationally networked, future-ready, and ecologically conscious design education. The workshop not only enriched the pedagogical experience of the participating students but also strengthened NIFT Bengaluru's ties with the global design research community, with the hope of sustaining and deepening this academic partnership in the years to come. The Department of MDes, NIFT Bengaluru, places on record its sincere gratitude to Ms. Julia Sauter and the IDRV, Austria, for their expertise and engagement.

Kriti Srivastava

13 March 2026

Assistant Professor, MDes Bengaluru