

Cultural Manifestation through Architecture: An overview

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Abstract – Space and Culture have social construction formed in process of shaping people's perception. Space plays an important role in strengthening cultural change through the creation of memories, beliefs etc. Architecture was and will always be the true measure of nation's culture (Herman Motosios). The formation of spaces is through the response of community. Culture differs from society to society and hence the foundation of Architecture becomes contextual. The shapes like cubes, cuboids, circles and characterized elements like Volumes, Arches, and Domes are all considered as cultural element of a place. Culture has other aspects too like materials. Materials identification is considered as an integral part as it provides uniqueness and identity to the built architecture. This paper deals with the overview of relationship between culture and Architecture with in Indian context with related examples.

Key Words: Culture, Architecture, Space, Materials, Shapes.

1. INTRODUCTION

The city cannot be understood only in terms of its buildings, infrastructure and physical geography. Urban materiality is inextricably linked with city life: Urban Spaces are highly influenced by the context that inhabits them. India owing to its diverse culture and heritage is one of the popular tourist destinations holding variety of pilgrimage sites as well. Pilgrimage as a process involves journey to sacred centers having deep Religious message articulated with symbols and manifested with localized meaning- across Culture and Religious traditions.

Contemporary Tourists may visit sites for their educational interest, learning about the history of the site or maybe understanding the religious faith and beliefs, its cultural aspect, maybe for a chance to admire architectural or natural wonders; in search of authentic experience or simply out of curiosity (Collins-Kreiner & Gatrell, 2006). Hence, contextualizing (belonging to the place) these sites help tourists to focus on many physical entities that have great potential and impact to the physical environment and the mind of travellers in many ways. In the contemporary context there's an intensive influx of tourists, which helps in gentrifying the economic opportunities in the establishment. Contemporary tourists are no longer interested in inclusive

sites (Fayous-Sola, 1996; Weilker and Hall, 1992), their interest has formulated in discovering, experiencing, participating and gathering the knowledge that combines everyday phenomena of the destination, ultimately adding meaning to life.

2. CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Cultural Heritage does not end at the development or restructuring the monuments and collection of objects. However it includes a broader concept enclosing everything that defines a community from its Tangible and Intangible elements. It also includes the living expression and traditions inherited from past like (Unesco Intangible Cultural Heritage).

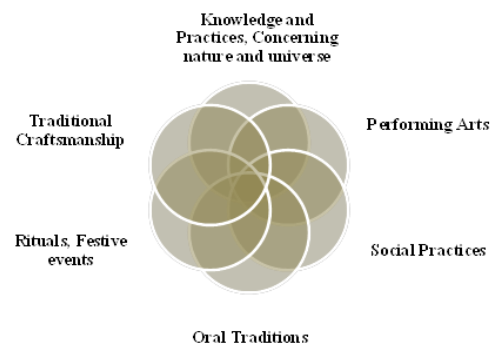


Figure 1: UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Source: google.com/images

It is not only the inherited traditions from past but also the contemporary Rural and Urban practices which have diverse Cultural groups. Culture and heritage have an important role, it is what that keeps us attached to Religion, Traditions and Beliefs.

2.1 Role of Culture in Tourism

Ever since from past culture has influenced in modulation of spaces. Any design form is directly or indirectly derived from the cultural identity of the user. It is a major asset for tourism and development. Culture is important in encompassing the ethnicity of people and the architecture. Cultural Tourism includes movement of people for motivation which comprises the motivation for cultural and

festive events, performing and visual arts, galleries and museums, visits to sites for its architecture and folklore or pilgrimage etc.

Over the years Culture has modulated the way spaces were designed in India. Ritual and Religious areas are the result of cultural practices. Regardless of time and space culture has established itself through different ways in architecture. It objects to maintain the sense and integrity of a place. Landscape as an important component has strongly influenced the local cultural practices, values and beliefs.

2.2 Role of Heritage in Tourism

Heritage Tourism compounds the idea of different emotions including aesthetic pleasures, sense of belonging in time and space (Sohnuck Jongneewasim) etc. It objects the identity of monuments and sites. It evokes a sense of continuity and identity with providing a link between past, through present in future

3. CASE STUDIES

3.1 Virasat-E-Khalsa, Anandpur Sahib, Punjab (Ar. Moshe Safdie)

Khalsa Heritage Complex has been conceived as a heritage museum with multimedia and facilities for state's art and communication, acting as a setting for unfolding the drama of Sikh Heritage. The complex serves as reaffirmation of the roots for Sikhs and an inspiring journey into spirited culture for Non-Sikh community. Located in the holy town of Anandpur Sahib in the state of Punjab sited overlooking the town in close proximity to Anandpur Sahib (1.2km). The whole area has number of Gurdwaras and other potential sites. It has been planned as an experiential space where history is narrated with an interesting juxtaposing of a series of paintings and installations. The whole site becomes a comprehensive complex for tourists. The museum is envisioned as an environment derived from oral narratives, traditional crafts integrated with state art technology.

3.1.1 Design Approach and Concept

1. Design fortress the Architecture of village and forms a dramatic silhouette against the surrounding cliff terrain.
2. Design has woven threads of Vernacular aesthetics integrated into museum's language to highlight the living culture. Narratives that endeavors museum to tell a deep spiritual story.
3. To create an experience of this huge scale, where design approach relies on creation of scenography environment.

3.1.2 Architecture of the Place

A long journey through the history of Punjab inspired from the historic Golden Temple and the rich Heritage of the surrounding Gurdwara-Anandpur Sahib, its natural valley, hills, fort and gory. Evolution of form is rooted from analogy of 17th Century Fort Architecture. Symbolic theme of earth and sky, mass and lightness, depth and ascension are represented by the five sandstone towers. Arranged in five, where the galleries shows five virtues of SIKHISM. The spatial organization displays bold, direct and sentimental approach to the context. The legacy of Sikh Gurus, their history, culture and vision depicts here.

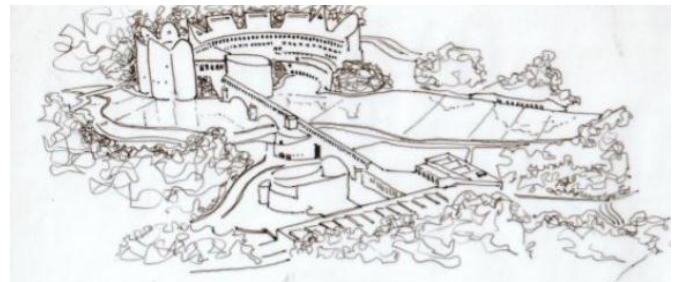


Figure 2: Landscape and the built form
Source: Achal Dadhania, Jan 16, 2017

The complex is deeply rooted in its surrounding landscape, resonating with regional architecture seemingly rises from the nearby sand cliffs. The roof design is inspired from the traditional golden dome that crowns the Gurdwaras.

3.1.3 Perception of Building Volume

The building introduces itself with all the rich heritage glory, clad in sandstone as the feature of Fort Architecture. The big volumes get the influence from the surrounding Gurdwara which is situated on a small hill. The majestic structure impresses the visitors.



Figure 3: View of Museum
Source: (<http://architecturelive.in/virasat-e-khalsa-anandpur-sahib-Chandigarh-sketches-byaakash-khurana/>)

3.1.3 Inferences

1. The museum is a splendid example of Regional Architecture.

2. It very well depicts the natural richness and architectural heritage of Sri Anandpur Sahib and the site.
3. The gigantic volume shows the amount of power in Sikhism.
4. The response of structure to its context (site) is magnificent.
5. The structure stands as a Landmark.
6. Though the forms derived are contemporary but the vernacular essence in kept intact.
7. The overall site becomes a comprehensive tourist destination.
8. The complex has served Sikhs deeply with their roots.

3.2 Chokhi Dhani, Jaipur (Rajasthan Tourism Development)

Chokhi Dhani, which means a special village, is a mock Rajasthani Village on the outskirts of the Jaipur City (20Km) that ingeminate the culture and heritage of Rajasthanis. It has an interactive environment where visitors see and experiences the lifestyle and the traditional entertainment of a typical Rajasthani village. It is spread over 5 acres of beautifully landscape area with rustic look blending with the context. The whole complex has an abstract path but a defined edge. It's a great example of heritage center.

3.2.1 Concept of the Place

The basic concept behind the development of Chokhi Dhani is to capture the vibrant spirit of Rajasthani culture. The aim is to encourage and preserve the art and culture for future. The complex lies in natural scenic view of Rajasthan deserts away from the hustle of city. This Heritage village incorporates:

- Cultural Tangible Heritage
- Cultural Material Heritage
- Food Heritage

3.2.2 Zoning Plan

The center has multiple zones with numerous cultural and traditional activities.

- Depiction of typical village hierarchy.
- Setting up of zones according to the village
- Uniformity among the Zones

3.2.3 Components of the Center

- National Haat

There's an attempt in creating a Craft's bazaar which depicts the art and craft from 9 different states majorly the distinctive states like Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. This Haat is built like a giant map of the country.



Figure 4: Beautiful Viewing Spots

Source: (<https://www.visittnt.com/blog/chokhi-dhani-village-rajasthani-culture-cuisine/>)

- Khund : Large historical pools inherited from the Royal Heritage Forts.
- Royal Dining Areas
- Recreational Spaces
- Water Points
- Leisure Zones
- Art & Craft Shops
- Show Points
- Temple

3.2.4 Inferences

1. The village setting is completely regarded to culture and tradition of the city.
2. It houses variety of arts and culture in different forms.
3. From minute to huge all the details are cultural driven.
4. Setting of form and color is in the context of place.
5. Full use of local resources (materials, labors) making it low cost.
6. The activities are clubbed catering to all age groups.
7. Sense of belongingness is not lost after experiencing the whole village.
8. Organization in some part of the place is little tricky.
9. The cultural depiction of various states in well thought off.
10. The overall complex is a great retreat of Rajasthani Culture.

3.3 The Heritage Street, Amritsar

Amritsar is the holiest city in Sikhism, with major of its commercial and cultural hub. The city is known for one of the most revered spiritual sites of Sikhism- Sri Harmandir Sahib (The Golden Temple).

- Religious sites are always not driven by Religious Tourists, in a sense, many may visit these sites with their prime focus as not of religious activities but rather interested in gaining knowledge and learning the culture and heritage of the place they visit.
- Now days, Cities are transforming. Many new developmental projects are coming up and are changing the way cities used to be before. Such, innovations are great in boosting the tourism. Not just tourism but overall economy of the city.

The beautification of the stretch from Town Hall which is an old building imposing British Colonial Style Architecture to Golden Temple is a must visit trip.

The fusion of elements from Mughal and Rajputana architecture impresses the whole street form. Elements like Arches, Jalis, Pediments; Columns etc. together have a unique play. The continuity among the structures in terms of façades, regardless of their typologies evokes same language. The articulation was done without disturbing the inner space. The streets have become lively and more interesting, housing people till late hours. The development gave an amazing boom to the tourism with the flow to adjacent structures like Sikh museum, Jallianwala Bagh etc. as well. The development glorifies the City. before tourist normally visited the city for one or two days visiting the Golden Temple and other monuments, but this beautiful development has definitely increased their stay.



Figure 5: Heritage Street, Amritsar

Source: (<http://indianspokesman.com/rs-170cr-heritage-street-near-golden-temple-inaugurated/>)

One such development in the Heritage Street of Amritsar boosted the tourism industry, economy and the imageability of the city. It is a beautiful example of how thoughtful an urban redevelopment in public spaces can make these spaces more accessible, comfortable and enjoyable. The development has led to a complete change in the experience

of the street. Small but yet noticeable spacious elements like Lamp Posts in Vintage Style, Statues, and building façade as reminiscent of Mughal and Rajputana architecture.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This paper discusses the importance of Architecture in setting and re-living cultural values of a place. Also, Context is an integral identity with makes a place unique. The study created amid this exploration helped in understanding the different set of methods to depict culture through Architecture and built heritage. This also help a great deal in providing a coherent comprehensive complex that can become a part of tourism also.

Through the different writing examines and on site surveys, the entire research technique was readied and the examinations drawn out the different aspects of a Religious studies primarily. Behavioral pattern of different people helped in understanding the need of diversified intervention. Few parameters and understanding the spatial request and character, the physical and non-physical elements overseeing the place, a few techniques, uses and movement, the urban setting of the place.

Future studies should focus on other elaborative examples and studies as there should be other contextual complexes in the cultural context of cities so that people and visitors have a wholesome experience of the place.

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BIOGRAPHIES



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