Cultural Resource Dynamics for Climate Action
for
UIA Work Programme Heritage and Cultural Identity

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Presentation By
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Acknowledgements:

Team members:
@ RUIDP, IDIPT, HECAR and archinova_ environs

“Projects are Team Work
Perspectives are mine.”

Pic credit and content: author, unless otherwise mentioned
Culture is considered as the 4th pillar of sustainable development; however, I believe, it can be the integrator connecting the other pillars of: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection in distributing the weight of Sustainability.

The two streams – Conservation and Sustainability have had same foot hold in the present, of us as custodians to ensure caretaking of resources and not robbing the next generation of its availability.
‘CULTURE’ is a process, wherein the first step is: a new pattern of behaviour is invented or an existing one is modified.

Cultural Resources of India are 3000 years of process of innovation, assimilation, appropriation, adaptation, adoption, & fusion.

The 3000 years of living culture and recorded history is testimony of humans to be most adaptable and are the key to managing the finite resources of the planet.

Pandemic years have shown: capacity to overcome adversity needs both: abilities and adaptability of humans.
Traditional Building Materials:
Stone, Earth, Lime for mortar, plaster, decorations. and Wood for floors, doors, windows, columns, roofs.

TRADITIONALLY = CLIMATE + TERRAIN + Management of RESOURCES = distinctive Regional DESIGN
Popular Perception of Conservation Is PRESERVATION

Conservation is: Manage Change, Retain Values, Appropriate USE

Building

adapted

Problems and solutions through time

Traditional building Asset

enhanced

Problems and solutions through time

Heritage Product

Cultural Resource

continuum
Structure of Presentation: Experiential Learning through Action


Nature Culture Projects
Revival of Stepped well and Reservoirs, Amber (RUIDP-2001-2004)
Fort Wall and Historic Gates Amber (RUIDP-2001-2004)


Building Level (IDIPT, H.P. 2016-2020)
Rehabilitation and Reuse of Town Hall, Shimla
Restoration and Reuse of Bijay High School Old Building, Mandi

Privately Funded Projects (archinova_environs 2005 onwards)
Conservation, Addition & Alteration at Palacial- Golcha Garden, Jaipur
Cultural belief system as Conservation Instrument at COORG (HECAR)
Conservation, Addition & Alteration of Goan House, Saligaon
Conservation, Addition & Alteration of Goan House, Parra

As a Citizen: Initiatives and Participation
Participation in Regional Plan - Goa
Heritage Custodians in Panaji, Goa

Conclusion: Proposal for Paradigm shift:
Values and Development-oriented Conservation and vice-versa
Amber: Conservation Planning and designing with nature
Revival of Stepped well and Reservoirs, Amber (RUIDP-2001-2004)

RESTORED AMBER FORT WALL

Seven km long Outer Fort Wall of Amber is now restored (by SDoA) using our proposal and is now open to public for adventure-walks is a sight to behold. Simple sentiment that if they could build it in 12th C - surely we can repair and maintain it in 21C gave the impetus!
Nature – Culture Project: Conservation and Development of Upper And Lower Sagar – Dam walls and de-silting of reservoirs
Conservation and Development of Panna Miya/ Meena Ka Kund:
Dismantling and Rebuilding of Open Pavilion (the Original Prefab Construction Technology)
Nature –Culture Project: Conservation and Development of Panna Miya/ Meena Ka Kund
Nature –Culture Project: Conservation and Development of Panna Miya/ Meena Ka Kund
PERI-URBAN CONSERVATION & Area Development – AMBER:

To check encroachments
DESIGN for NEW USE

Mathura Gate Amber
URBAN CONSERVATION & Area Development – JAIPUR:

Don’t Remove The Users
DESIGN FOR THEM

Conservation and Area Development at Chandpol Gate

Pedestrian Archway Created in Old Fabric at New Gate, Jaipur

Ajmeri Gate – Conservation and Area development
Don’t Remove The Users; DESIGN FOR THEM

Conservation and Development of GALTA GATE, Jaipur
BUILDING LEVEL CONSERVATION for REUSE

Rehabilitation of Colonial Heritage: Shimla Town-hall (1908) (IDIPT H.P. 2016-19)
Primary Features:
Three separate entrance allow for three USES in the building, with internal connection for management
1. Attic: Children’s Art School and library
2. First floor (G.F. from Ridge Road) Mayor’s Office and related
3. Ground Floor (Mall road Entrance): Cultural Centre, Public amenities, offices
Colonial Heritage: Shimla Town-hall  

CAPACITY BUILDING AND REVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

Specifications and Methodology for Traditional works:

- Conservation of exposed brick chimneys
- Repairs and cleaning of Ashlar stone façade
- In-situ Stone repairs
- Stone slate roofing
- Lime mortars and plasters
- Timber works and finishes in Deodar wood.
- Relaying of slate stone roofing
- Retrofitting of services (smoke alarms and fire-retarder sprinkler system, toilets, internal and external lighting)

Reclaiming drain at original road level to effectively drain rain-water
Man-made Vulnerabilities
Man-made Vulnerabilities

Attic: REUSE proposed: Children’s Art Studio and Library

First Floor REUSE: Public Interaction Hall with Mayor
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First Floor REUSE: Public Interaction Hall with Mayor

Man-made Vulnerabilities

Town Hall Shimla
Restoration and Reuse
Bijai High School, Mandi

Established in 1866
The First School of Mandi

ACTIVE DERELICTION
Development that is NOT conservation oriented

Pics: Prabha Choudhary
OLD BOYS (Alumni) Association and their shared memories
Ensured the renewal
Public Use as Library and Vocational Centre

Restoration and Reuse
Bijay High School, Mandi (IDIPT 2016-2020)
CAPACITY BUILDING AND REVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

Better Manageability
Enhanced performance
Improved detailing

Restoration and Reuse: Bijay High School, Mandi
Restoration and Reuse: Bijay High School, Mandi

Pics: Prabha Shoudhary
Restoration and Reuse:
Bijay High School, Mandi

Pics: Prabha Choudhary
Palatial Private Property: Golcha Gardens, Jaipur: Multiple Historic Layers (late 17th C onwards) and as many Users & Uses

ARCHINOVA_ENVIRONS: Phase 1 Renovation Golcha Gardens_Jaipur_2005-2008
Project background

Addition of several building layers in last half century.

- The art deco façade of the office block
- The two residential wings on the North and South end of the original palace with wide verandahs supported on red sandstone columns.
- The North wing was given a makeover in the 90s:
  - Formal living room, dining and refurbished kitchen and master suite to welcome the new bride
- The addition of two children to the family initiated the process of rationalization of the built fabric as while there were several rooms but none were livable due to lack of ventilation and light.
Additions in Historic Building

Design attitude

• Existing Design Elements as inspiration
• Respect for the historic fabric became the guiding force.
Environmental Sustainability through Traditional Knowledge System

1’6” (45cm) thick stone random rubble walls with 1” (25mm) thick lime plaster – ensures effective mitigation of the thermal heat retention and transmittance.

Deep verandahs surround the inner courtyard to mitigate direct solar gains.

Detailing of the façade with moldings and sun-shades mitigate water runoff on the wall surfaces to enhance the performance and delay deterioration of the finishes.

Traditional waterproofing (lime dhad on terracotta cup – coba) on the concrete slab roof finished in requisite slopes mitigate the solar gains effectively while allow for efficient rainwater collection.
THE FAMILY COURTYARD
Contemporize- Traditional
Contextualizing the Eastern façade:
Continuity of traditional architectonics, using traditional materials and methodology
The West And North End Court: The existing built footprint was reduced to carve out a court to enhance the climatic response of the building.
Golcha Garden, Jaipur
(ONGOING SINCE 2014)

Phase 2
Conservation Management & Development Plan of entire 12 acre property

Phase 3
Restoration of Historic Gardens with all its built elements

Phase 4
Restoration of The Palace - the Oldest Building Layers
Ainemane: Family (ancestral) Homes of Kodavas embody the ancestors, who are revered as deities

Cultural Belief as instrument of Continuum of built fabric
Conservation and development

200 year old Goan House Saligao Village

Arrest Decay - Add Design – Contemporary living in Heritage Homes
Goan House, Parra Village

Then....
Harness the Potential: Redefine USES of Spaces

Conservation and Development
100 year old Goan House Parra
Arrest Decay- Add Design – Contemporary living in Heritage Homes
Another 12 Goan houses have been revitalised by us

Others too have found New Uses. Popular are:

- Life-style stores
- Holiday homes
- Homestays
- Heritage Boutique Hotels
- Restaurants
- Book-Shops
- Architectural offices
- Art and Crafts Centres
- Library
- Pre& Play – Schools (Kids)
- Old Age Homes
- Homes for Destitute Women
Abandoned blocks: take a last look-
I am the next wannabe! Tall, slim, and glazed!

standing heritage being buried alive

Panaji
Capital City of Goa
400 years of Historicity
Unplanned and Unregulated Tourism: Beach side villages are most vulnerable in present climate crisis era

Source: Net
Second home craze: build at the fastest pace and least creative inputs for maximum gain.
SAVE GOA Campaign - PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING - August to December 2006

PUBLIC awareness process Aug - Dec 2006

Interpretation of RP 2011

Survey No. - Land Use

Colour Coding on Map - Settlement Areas: Commercial, Residential, Orchard, Forest

Overlay on Google Map

The Finding: CONCRETISATION OF GOA!
Total disregard of Forests, Marshes, Mangroves, Fields,
CRZ Zoning: “most visible is settlement zone”

Draft Regional Plan 2021: Heritage, both Built and natural recognised as Eco-sensitive Zones
Public Participation in Planning has found a foothold
Panaji Mapping the listing for **quantitative** and **qualitative** information (2015-2018)

An archinova_environs research initiative - published by GHAG in 2018
GHAG released the book in July 2018

**HERITAGE STATUS 2005-2017**

**Capital City of Goa State**

Panaji lost* 124 Heritage Buildings in the last decade (2005-2016)

*(Delisted / Demolished / Rebuilt / Non-existent)

**archinova_environs initiative for GHAG**

**IMPORTANTLY,** 907 are survivors and many amongst them are now re-furbished and earning a living through adapted re-use; and all this without legal protection;

Knowledge Gap: While we have often heard that the existing building is the greenest; but we have not yet quantified the carbon lost when it is demolished!
CONCLUSION

TRADITIONAL

INDUSTRIAL

SUSTAINABLE

PEOPLE & NATURE

CIVILIZATIONS

PEOPLE OVER NATURE

PRODUCTS

WASTE

Climate ACTION Culture

RESOURCE

PEOPLE & NATURE

REDUCE RE-USE RECYCLE

CONSCIUOS CONSUMPTION
Cultural Resource Dynamics for Climate Action demands developing strategies wherein:

NATURE is nurtured as most valuable Cultural RESOURCE

Land, Forests, Fields, Rivers and Sea are Cultural RESOURCES and not a commodity.

Development is Conservation oriented (and vice versa) and Ecologically appropriate

All existing buildings, including 20th C buildings are resources for their embodied energy and must be put to appropriate use and not demolished.

Citizens are co-participants in shaping the future of the country.

All built environment professionals: Planners, Architects and Engineers, and allied-Builders, Developers, Hoteliers etc. need to work together to facilitate the process and take more ownership of the role of custodianship.

THANK YOU
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