

Revitalization of heritage precincts of Shikarpur (restoring and adaptation of doors and windows of Shikarpur)

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Abstract—This project will explore the relationships between newly built, contemporary architecture and existing ruins. It will be an architecture that works with historic preservation to highlight the values of the old. It will be an architecture that can be used to integrate historic ruins back into their contemporary settings.

The end result of this exploration will be a unique approach to building something new, adjacent to something old. This project will achieve a stimulating yet respectful design that demonstrates how ruins can be used in modern day settings as a means of bringing people closer to ruins.

Index Terms—Preservation, contemporary, architecture, heritage, revitalization, precincts and restoring

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In Pakistan, history and tradition both have their roots in the earlier period, but the history for its lack of ability to adapt to the changed of time, is rendered obsolete as fossil remains [1]. Common man is not aware of the existence of such historical precinct, nor is he aware of such historical significance of these sites. They are first looked up as piece of art or remains of bygone era. The level of achievement of a city can be observed from its architectural coordination between the built environment and open spaces.

Shikarpur is more than a city; it has a very prominent historic character of its own. This owned town emerged to fame in 18th century and never stopped growing. It started contributing greatly to the economy of Persians and Afghan kingdoms, till it reverted back to Sind. Under British control it flourished significantly.

Shikarpur is a town that has many sides to talk about. It is most appreciated by inhabitants [2]. Humans are fond

of cherishing things which they identify with themselves. The love for Shikarpur which its present and earlier inhabitants showed can never be harmonized by any other town in Pakistan.

This love is not a vague thing; these people are very patient what they are talking about. They know their town well and go to length to illustrate the remarkable physical heritage, which had acknowledged care and attention of its inhabitants in the past.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The historic cores of Sindh are the physical manifestations of local and national culture, clearly identified by their traditional character and architectural values. Likewise Shikarpur encompass a large number of valuable buildings, historic architectural features and precincts. Until the early twentieth century these historic cores had been transforming in a continuous process of change. However, the changes had been generally slow, gradual and adap-

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tive. Even in the large scale interventions carried out by inhabitants, there was a degree of respect for the past. Modern developments in the early twentieth century, however, changed this traditional pattern. This pressure for modernization, symbolized by the destruction of the historic urban fabric, was considered an attempt for the improvement of the conditions and the adaptation.

3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research process based on the meta-analysis involves journals, articles, research papers, PhD/MSc dissertation from five databases using similar terms and keywords. From the outcome of the research, a total of 21 articles, journals, research papers, and dissertation that are relevant and fulfill the research questions conducted. The journals and articles were selected from the literatures that were pertinent to the purpose and the study area of the research.

This research is done by the literature studies of the meaning of revitalization, preservation, heritage and architecture. Theory and perspectives of the architectural heritage's revitalization also included in the research as a reference. Thus this study is undertaken to fill the knowledge gap between man and architecture. The developed method includes several stages; a literature review of secondary sources to develop an understanding of the historical background of the town, focused primarily on identifying different periods of history, stages of development and period influences on built fabric; collection of available information including previous photographs, articles, survey; collection of updated field data through survey; analysis of data; and finally the identification of problems and causes of threat to historic places.

4 REVITALIZATION AND ITS IMPORTANCE

To conserve existing (sometimes historic) buildings or districts, by putting them into good quality contemporary use. This approach gives historic buildings and districts a 'second life' by reconnecting them with society. Revitalization method with the reason to preserve and restore historical landmarks, which assign a new function – to inflate areas and adjust historical building features to modern requirements.

[3]

As it entails less energy and waste and can suggest social benefits by revitalizing well-known landmarks and giving

them a new lease of life. [4]

Heritage architecture is one of the most important segments in the preservation and development of cultural identity. Heritage architecture, as a regional language of architecture, is a powerful inspiration and catalyst for future realizations based on the idea of preservation of local and regional recognisability of architecture. It is important to pay particular attention to preservation of traditional architectural forms, through both revitalization of the existing, as well as construction of new structures in these areas

[5]

5 CASE STUDY

5.1 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

As I developed the programmatic study for the analysis of the building, I also focused on the final designs of the doors and windows. This concentrated my attention on the preservation techniques that have been followed. The intrinsic details were something that were preserved more through material selection, as it was something that urge to enhance in my design.

Materials: Engraved glass were widely used in the precincts of Shikarpur. The advantages for using those engraved multi-colored glass are easy to wipe clean, sustainability, add color and character to the building. There are now many new laminates made with plastic. The wood used in the building is all "Saagwan wood", excavated from Shikarpur. There is a wood prototyping business in Pakistan and there are companies that may have scrap wood to use as a way to recycle and reuse. Local Wood or Hardwood is also available like Maple, Birch, Cedar, Oak, Walnut, Ash, Fir, Pine, and Elm. There are many manufacturers in Pakistan which deals not only in hardwood but also Laminated Board – Plywood, Softwood, and Hardwood Plywood.

Recycled glass from the windows could be used in combination with the recycled plastic to form the surfaces. The images showing the final designs of the windows are all pictures and images that do not show the product in its initial state (historic state) because the exploration process did not lead to a single outcome. Instead it leads to many different variations that were implemented to the precincts.

5.1.1 DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM

Challenges of protecting our heritage, when the old spatial cores are in question, are very specific as it is about preserving the heritage of people. In this respect, it is important to pay particular attention to preservation of architectural forms, through both revitalization of the existing, as well as construction of new structures in these areas. Architectural aspects of protection are reflected in construction with materials that are natural and autochthonous as well as in the skilful use and application of modern materials in the new structures. Such structures must indicate the time of their construction, but with respect for the space-time components of the old part of the settlement. This new architecture must neither be imposed nor take a major impression.

5.1.2 APPLICATION OF PRESERVATION PROCESS

The preservation process involves five basic steps: Identify, Investigate, Develop, Execute, and Educate. Successful preservation design requires early and frequent consultation with a variety of organizations and close collaboration among technical specialists, architects, owner/occupants, and preservation professionals

5.1.3 Four Treatment Approaches

Within the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties there are Standards for four distinct approaches to the treatment of historic properties: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These distinct approaches are presented from the least intervention to the most intervention.

- i. Preservation focuses on the maintenance stabilization, and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.
- ii. Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character. This is the most commonly used and flexible standard for rehabilitation at a federal, state, and local level.
- iii. Restoration depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.

5.2 FINAL DESIGN

During the final design phase, the building program was fine tuned. There were improvements made to the doors specially. The modification was made to finalized with the addition of the panels in order to fulfill the requirement of usage. The introduction of the louvers in the windows which were missing and some pieces were made separately which were found broken.

Apart from that, gaps and cracks were filled with the same color of wood which occurred during the demolition. Professional craftsmanship was required to redesign some of the motifs and pieces.

After making some amendments, the product was ready to get scraped, polished and then varnished.

Scraping was done in order to scrap out old paint and coating of that time. After that, 3 coats of sagwaan colored polish was done by the highly paid craftsmans. The product was then finalized with the last coat of liquor varnish to enhance its beauty.

5.2.1 Windows

Windows are one of the most intrinsic features of shikarpur heritage. Wood from the windows are made of teak and saagwan. Teak wood is considered as the most expensive wood in the wooden industry because of its sustainability, durability and long life and this wood can never be attacked by termites.

Specifications of teak wood

Teak is valuable both for its elegance and its durability. Beyond its beauty, it also possesses some natural properties that other woods don't have.

Teak is used extensively in India to make doors and window frames, furniture, and columns and beams in old type houses. It is resistant to termite attacks and damage caused by other insects. Mature teak fetches a very good price. It is grown extensively by forest departments of different states in forest areas.

Images Showing the Restoration Process

UNDER RESTORATION PROCESS



Figure 1 front of the window **Figure 2** back of the window

AFTER INSTALLATION



Figure 3 interior



Figure 4 exterior



Figure 5 large window is installed in the dining room.

Consist of two main parts, upper part (beautiful woodcarving in the center and louvers at the sides) lower part (intrinsic designed panels)

5.2.2Doors

Doors of Shikarpur were the symbol of heritage. They were designed in a number of panels, mirrors and tile were also installed.

Woodcarving and elaborated ornamentation on doors are

very commonly seen. Floral motives are embossed on the doors, which were bit difficult to manage.



Figure 6

Double panelled arched door with glass panels



Figure 7 woodcarved single panel door



Figure 8 Double panel door with carved panes and glass ventilator

Other precincts



Figure 9 Restored almirah.



Figure 12 Restored almirah

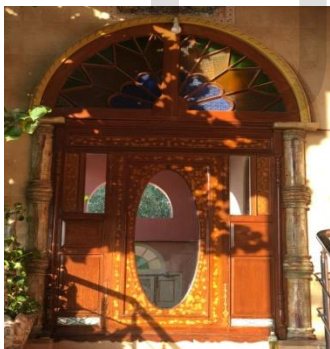


Figure 13 Entrance mirror wall executed by different engraved wooden panels



Figure 14 Front elevation showing wooden arches of shikarpur

6 CONCLUSION

Revitalization of heritage precincts will preserve heritage, generate awareness of history and historical importance and reinforce the traditional values for future generation.

Revitalization of buildings of cultural and historical importance has always presented a challenge at all levels of architectural design. With the intensive development of modern techniques in architecture, how to preserve a building that represents cultural heritage in an authentic state and inspire it with a life of modern building adapted to a new purpose . The proposed approach to revitalization, applied in the presented concept, complies with contemporary and proven principles of active protection, respecting architectural heritage by giving it spatial primacy.

7 REFERENCES

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