

Conventional Architecture of Jammu: An Analytical Review

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ABSTRACT: This paper principally deals with the review of Conventional Construction/Architecture Practices i.e. global Mainstream oriented happening in India. The scope of the paper is the city of Jammu-A small Hill city in Northern India. The very fact that conventional Constructionpractices are becoming same in the country irrespective of the location. The trend is making the Architecture of places world-wide monotonous and is more visible and alarming where strong contextual value exists. Most of the regions in India possess significant contextual forces e.g. Culture, Customs, Heritage intelligence, Local materials, craftsmanship, climatic diversity, socio-economic pattern and beliefs. All these factors have influenced the appreciable Architecture and construction practices of the past with unparalleled success but conventional contemporary practices are deviating from it enormously. This paper highlights the legible approaches in which conventional construction practices should be approached and implemented in local milieu. Also, the context of Jammu and the problems under the scope of this research are highlighted. Advisory for the future for conventional Architecture of Jammu with related inspirations and guidelines also form an important part of the paper.

Keywords: Architecture practices of Jammu, Conventional Construction, Contemporary Architecture, and Context, India.

I. INTRODUCTION

Ongoing era of Architecture in globalized world means majorities in the country and its peripherals are moved by the global trends (isms) of current century. The trends advocate use of advanced construction methods & technologies in Built environment. It means the conventional architecture as a result is quite a graceful style devoid of embellished elements, frills and enormous sculpted shapes in contrast to what was the case in earlier periods in India. As a result, reduction in time for construction is also achieved by adapting to the aforesaid global trends and its advanced techniques, materials of conventional architecture of today's [1]. Jammu is positioned in Zone-IV of seismic considerations in the northern part of India and can be

labelled as a minor hill town owing to its Topography and location in Himalayan region. Jammu, popularly known as 'Temple city' as many eminent temples glorify its skyline. City possesses worthy antiquity allied with it. The place is rich in strong cultural base, social structure and socio-economic patterns that has influenced the Architecture and construction practices in the past. City is blessed with scenic surroundings comprising of mountains and rivers both. Apparently, local materials, local craftsmanship and local customs have its say in the development of Architecture both spatially and visually. Additionally, regime and cultural/religious beliefs impacted the eminent icons of Architecture as well as planning pattern.



Fig. 1. Jammu City and its Conventional Architecture in 21st century [19].

Thus, its major pieces of Architecture (Forts, Palaces and Temples) are a spot-on recollection of it. Visitors from entire nation visit Jammu during their way to several worthy religious and pilgrimage locations of state in proximity to Jammu [1]. Apparently, Jammu attracts large no. of populace throughout the year from country wide locations and as a result witnessed colossal addition to the built environment off-late as the result of unstoppable urbanization impact country-wide [22]. So, the impact of contemporary Architecture of global main stream has its say in Jammu also for all the aforesaid discussed benefits. City is enveloped with conventional global lines of Architecture similar to the latest pattern of architecture prevailing in the country presently [2].

Few past examples of Jammu like Ranbir School, Science College, Mubarak Mandi Palace, Old City Structures clearly depicts of the wisdom of people of that era. These buildings highlight the careful utilization of contextual and cultural values in addition to locally available resources and techniques of Jammuites and its regimes both spatially and visually. Though, very few examples from conventional practices reveal some inspiration of aforesaid values in development process like planning or Visual Characteristics or spatial elements e.g. K C Theatre, Court Complex and few residences etc. However, most of the conventional practices have been adopting an altogether different way and indeed the rebellion way of global-mainstream characteristics happening elsewhere in the world also.

As Architecture and built infrastructure is a clear reflection for the perceiver pertaining to the image of a place, so; as a result, the core essence of Jammu city as was evident in the past is diluted by these monotonous conventional construction and architecture approaches happening in the city, without having any consideration of its aforesaid rich contextual base.

Architecture and built forms of different places should speak of the identity of such places and indeed, all places must be different in the display of their Architecture and Conventional Construction practices. This is important for the heterogeneity of different places in the world for which our world is so special. Hence, to avoid the monotonous and thoughtless approaches happening in Architecture, conventional Construction practices in different places and to highlight the legible ones; this research is attempted.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is based on existing domain of knowledge with the Author in the field and past documentation of various eminent Architectural projects as examples across India. Most of the contents of this research are case study based in addition to resources generated in the class room academics. Few examples and criterions are also referred from the previous research done in the area or projects cited in the study. Author have performed case studies, has adequate familiarity of the area discussed in the paper and also referred published material relevant to the case.

III. GLOBAL MAINSTREAM ARCHITECTURE

Global mainstream Architects in 20th century and 21st century make designs that embodies most of the style alterations, building of structures of current time's notable ones. Comparatively to the dominant practiced Architecture until mid-20th century i.e. Contemporary or Modernism Architecture (Global Mainstream Architecture) denotes to the cutting-edge style of

buildings. It is a difficulty in its own to have an accurate declaration as definition of contemporary Architecture, as there are many styles in Architecture of today's. Principally, under contemporary Architecture; Architects take into account the utilitarianism of current Architecture and use of clean and stark lines to design added pleasing structures mainly as per requirements and taste basis [20].

The problem of defining contemporary Architecture definitely calls for new research as there is constant progress of conversion and transformation of one style to another in the entire life cycle of architecture [20].

The progressive styles of Architecture in different eras match considerably to instant prior style in features of the "Type" of Architectural practiced global era. It is indeed worth mentioning that subsequent to the Industrial revolution & World wars; an altogether distinct style of Architecture has been in practice at global level and having no contemplations to the former styles of Architecture. Such designs are intellectually motivated, are functionally dependent, and are technology based and need based. Also, contemporary Architecture term evolved simultaneously. Virtually, it is the Architecture Type, lately being in practice. Contemporary globally realized architecture is a holistic domain covering number of trends in modern Architecture. This is further categorized (but not limited to) as follows:

Expressionism, Bauhausism, Formalism, Structuralism, Constructivism, Modernism, Post Modernism, Brutalism, International Modernism, Desertism, Functionalism, De-Constructivism, Minimalism, Eco-Architecture, High-Tech Architecture of High-Tech World, Organic Modernism, Net Zero Building Energy Designs [1].

Various intervening styles were practiced/evolved through the understanding develop subsequently owing to the few shortcomings wherever existing in the above styles. Few such styles in India are proved very effective comparatively e.g.

- Critical Regionalism (and Rasa Rationalism)
- Global Main-stream Architecture Trend
- Sustainability
- Green Architecture
- Neo Vernacular Architecture

All such trends (and not limited to) can be labelled as conventional contemporary trends/styles (global mainstream Architecture) of Architecture. E.g. Developing Nations can be seen principally practicing Net Zero Design Energy whereas across world, High-Tech Modernism is principally the core practice trend. So, the kind of architecture getting practiced in response to the location of place or scale of study, may be labelled as conventional architectural design style or trend [1].

IV. CONTEXT OF JAMMU AND ITS CONVENTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Jammu may be labelled as a minor hill town consisting of illustrating temples; pre-dominantly. Hence-forth, it is also known as city of temples. Temple shikhras can be seen flaunting themselves in the skyline [2]. Some of these shrines and Temples in Jammu were made since ages ago like Raghunath Temple. Many Architecture masterpieces of eminent Architecture quality e.g. Temples, shrines, forts exist in areas adjoining Jammu also, [2,11]. The world-famous Katra- Pilgrimage tourist destination; is located nearby Jammu. Owing to this; many pilgrims visiting Katra also visit Jammu for prayers and offerings at the places in Jammu [17].

There are influences of Dogra-Rajput rulers also who had ruled Jammu; in terms of culture/facets in many of its parts depicting rich presence of Dogra-Rajput culture and regime [9,11].



Fig. 2. Traditional Architecture Wealth of Jammu: Bahu Fort (bottom), Raghnath Temple (Top) [19].

Most evident; Hari Niwas palace acts as the gateway to the old city, and was used to be the place where the emperor (King) used to sit (citadel). It is a splendid Architecture Marvel along with Mubharak Mandi Palace (old city) situated close to Hari-Niwas palace. The fundamental bazaars, city markets are still associated to the aforesaid icons of Architecture. The dense and crowded streets with human scale business establishments, people movement and the daily trade oriented pattern of activities, heritage aspects, Architecture, culture, tradition, spatial and façade character in the outline of the old city still imbibe majorly the Dogra-Rajput rule. Eminent Raghnath is also situated in Jammu in sharp Temple Architecture style of northern India and was built by Dogra ruler. Ranbir Library, The Enormous Bahu-Fort, Science College, Poonch house, Historic Ranbir high secondary School, the old city area are some of the crucial examples of architecture wealth of Jammu in line with local contextual and traditional forces shaping the building forms and subsequent implementation of building/spatial elements [8,9].

City normally enjoys composite climate i.e. Jammu has handy rainy season as well as harsh summers and winters. Annual Temperature ranges from 2°C to 46°C. The name 'Land of Rivers' is also associated with Jammu. Tawi and Chenab are the main rivers. Accordingly, stone is available locally and conventionally used in buildings locally in the notable examples. Also, various elements in design vocabulary used are unique and depicts the knowledge pertaining to wisdom of the past locally, context etc. at its very best. Some of the best examples are Brackets, Columns, and Construction techniques, Flooring and Finishes, Jails (fenestrations), Parapets, Windows etc. [1].

Jammu city of today is expanding fast in harmony with global trends of Architecture. Four bridges constructed on Tawi River from time to time bifurcates Jammu in compartments. 21st century's conventional and global building types e.g. Amusement Park, Cinema Buildings, high end Hotels, Multi-Level Parking blocks, Shopping Complexes, Real Estate Apartments etc. very much exist in the city in addition to many worthy projects coming up in various parts of the city. There are notable similarities in various aspects such as Architecture morphology, construction techniques & the facade typology of such conventional practices in Jammu to that of various other places across the globe [1]. Even Non-native Building Materials are imported from outside

as against the local materials. Hence, demand for transportation is also greatly enhanced unjustifiably which is against the legible cities trends & models been sought presently towards minimizing the demand for transportation [3]. Furthermore, There is denial principally to local climate, response for Architectural heritage already existing in Jammu, Contextual topography and Identity of the place in such conventional practices of Jammu for which Architecture and Architects should strive [1]. The concept of sustainability of contemporary trends and cities in holistic terms is principally defeated by the conventional Construction and Architecture practices of Present city of Jammu [4]. It is particularly important as Jammu is also visualized as one of the few future smart cities of India [7,10].

V. UNDERLYING CONTEXT OF PROBLEM

India is a fast emerging economy in 21st century, rapid developing country and a positive hope for next decade for entire world. Strongest economic infrastructure exists in India comparatively at global level. World's perception about India bears a good amount of change after 2014 by various endeavors under present democratic regime in India [3]. Architecture and Planning; evidently, had to take a makeshift too chiefly owing to factors above and impact of leading western greats already worked in India i.e. Ar. Le Corbusier, Ar. Louis I. Kahn and others. Additionally, Ar. Hafeez C, Ar. Prem Nath, Ar Sanjay P and many others have also done the value addition such that public centers of present India are comparable with the conventional and global Architecture styles being practiced e.g. vertical structures and vertical urban-scape. There is enough inspiration for the future Architecture and Planning of cities to be remarkable as past methodologies existing in India are more than sufficient provided they are witnessed optimistically. [10,13].

India is known principally as a place for significant cross-cultural unity, variety and is branded world-wide for its diversification of climate, languages and landscapes art, social milieu and traditional sense, ancient preaching's & values there-of [1, 17]. Pertinently, its inherent Architecture is the true testimony of the aforesaid contextual traits. Diverse parts of the country are blessed with varied kinds of people, climate and culture which are followed with corresponding characteristics style of architecture, [1]. The Architectural traits (spatial aspects, facade character and various other aesthetics and cultural idioms used) are principally observed to be revolving around cultural practices, structure of social environments, economy oriented practices and outlines of routine life activities in accordance with local climatic challenges, local materials, local labour and operative utilization of local repositories [2]. As a result; 'Time-less Piece of Architecture' (Temporal) is enriched at the major destinations across India. It is also fitting to mention that by these diversified architectural marvels spanning across the beautiful country with mesmerizing landscapes; tourists are motivated to travel the country wide and expansions repetitively from within and across countries [17].

In the fast urbanizing world of 21st century; majority of the small and medium towns in India are facing vulnerability to the conventional globally practiced styles and trends. It is witnessed that the global trends are already adopted. Evidently; Architecture even under varied contexts is observed to be repetitious and

monotonous. It is worth-while to mention as observed that it's the constant pursuit of flaunting skylines and enthralling exteriors in order to match and be comparable to the globally practiced streetscapes are visibly adulterating the unique Indian Architectural diversity and heritage [1]. Presently, modern generations want iconic structures to be appreciated and recognized significantly in the globalized era of today's. Iconic structures are used as riggings to converse as status symbols of such cities and thereby attract tourists and locals. Thus, in conventional practices; emphasis on visually attractive structures of iconic nature is priority for playing major role in developing image of place and city. Such Structures have a positive or sometimes negative impact on the image of the city which in turn affects the quality of life as well [27]. Fittingly; visual vocabulary is a valid quest however this doesn't mean that visual character alone presents the public. The deficiency of thoughtful studies on connotations in architecture, totaldevelopment process and non-existence of assessment studies, criticism, professional discourse and evaluation resulted in endless scope for experimentation in conventional trends as a result of globalization. Additionally; led to the constant rise of inconsistent reactions, styles and trends emerged as a result of globalization and indeed, by flouting cultural and environmental aspects which were there contextually [28].

Apparently, Similar Architectural language is seen in the fresh developments in the Himalayan region, in Coastal Metropolitan Mumbai-Indian financial capital, in the dry deserts of Rajasthan, in core coastal areas of Kerala and Goa, Ladakh deserts (cold and dry) and at Delhi- the capital of country and formerly the center of Mughal Empire Monotonous practices out of context like mentioned above are already trendy In India. These are adopted and practiced with absolute ignorance of the negative impacts particularly the climate response of these conventional practices likely in the subsequent years of India, its sustainability for all concerned globally like never before [4,5].

A Minor hill city- Jammu is positioned in the seismic classified sensitive zone in Indian Northern part. Rajput regime governed the city in the past and depicts remarkable Dogra influence in its progression, economic endeavors and daily regime. The fact that few water bodies principally Tawi River flows through it and its proximate areas; means these natural catalysts also has considerable impact on city's evolution, extension and activity character. Jammu embraces numerous eminent piece of Architectural marvels built principally by Rajput rulers within city limits in addition to other remarkable religious buildings in proximate areas to the city, built in various eras, [8]. However, the globally seen practices have been impacting the Jammu city in considerable manner in last 15-20 years. As a result; people coming to Jammu barely notice Architectural icons present there and proximate locations that too in view of fact that Jammu is in enroute to many pilgrimage and tourist places of the J&K state. In particular, Mata Vaishno Devi shrine is located very nearby. Pilgrimage is religion and a self-motivated journey [17]. Accordingly, in pursuit; they cross Jammu city as it's in enroute. However, presently, they could not get enough aspiration and motivation by the amusing Architectural icons of the city's context.

The fact is unfortunate but evident that the global trends oriented new Architectural facets in the city have more dominance as compare to the so called the marvelous part of the city. As such, merely the repetitious and widespread component as categorized in new Conventional Architecture is majorly observed by the pilgrims and other visitors; and hence contextual Architecture is not seen and largely left unnoticed; off late [2].

VI. CONETXUAL ARCHITECTURE: INDIAN EXAMPLES

In the ongoing dominant era of globalization; most of the Indian cities irrespective of its size, have been victimized by this conventional and global practiced Architecture and construction style of 21st century. Apparently; few architects still resorted to the appropriate way of architecture and construction and came up with the noticeable contributions. These contributions in India further enhance the existing identity of places wherever they are implemented. Also, These Architects succeeded to unite such works with conventional international practices (isms); in a very graceful manner. Such good works are primarily observed and published from major cities of India. However, some of such works do exist in smaller cities and towns also.

Indian is fortunate that few eminent and well reputed Architects at global scale have worked in post-independence India. Accordingly; first generation post-Independence Indian Architects i.e. known as Modern Indian Masters have been carrying the legacy thereafter. Ar. B V Doshi, Late Ar. Charles Correa and Ar. Raj Rewal have been masterfully implementing the global mainstream architecture in India with neat Indian-ness touch, very religiously, diligently and meticulously. These Architects have come-up with various visible contributions in India which can serve as motivations for current and future Architects also so as to explore the ways to amalgamate the global knowledge and styles in Indian flavor dipped in Indian tectonics, climate, culture and local context. These Architects practiced to explore the ways to combine precedents in history, spaces of integrated traditional sub-urban and rural Indian in their built typologies in particular the neighborhood environments [1,5].

Provide here-under are few Architectural and Construction contributions in the aforesaid Indian flavor by Modern Indian Masters.

There are many such examples else-where also. In many occasions; Architects were observed to be conscious about the use of traditional materials and typology in conventional practices. However, in realistic applications; difference in words and application is also found visible. At times, User group (observers) link the conventional practice to traditional response if use of traditional material is visible. However, different other traditional aspects like form or shape, concept or idea (e.g. courtyard planning) or response to context (e.g. massive walls in Rajasthan for indoor comfort or mutual shading on narrow streets) are not easily comprehended by the non-architects user group. So, evidently categorization of non-responding to traditional architecture becomes inevitable even if Architect has done some sensitive contribution sometimes [24].

VII. COMMENDABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN JAMMU



Fig. 3. Jammu- Conventional Constructions.

As presented earlier, the conventional Architecture and construction practices of Jammu are also the same as practiced elsewhere principally at global level. Significant amount of construction activity ranging to many different kinds of public buildings apart from individual residences has been taking place in different parts of core city and along the National highway (New Jammu) in internationally practiced conventional construction methods and materials only as is the case in most other cities of India also [1]. Principally, existing and future transportation projects and related problems in Jammu have dictated the conventional practices of Architecture and Planning (and its quantum) in Jammu, pre-dominantly [14]. Some images provided below reinforce the fact of intervention of global constructions and buildings in Jammu also.

Fittingly, there are still some appropriate works noticed in small city like Jammu as well. It brings into limelight that things can be changed and good works can show the inspirational route.

Few works show that some Architects have worked cautiously in the settings and context of Jammu. Legible works in Jammu and proximate areas show visible answer to conventional contemporary Architecture i.e. having roots in local milieu pre-dominantly, [6]. These works, as shown in Fig. 4, (but not limited to) have literally flagged the path that city of Jammu can have appropriate Architectural facets following the global scientific expansions.



Fig. 4. A School Campus (Top) and a leading cinema building (Bottom).

However, the native distinctiveness pertaining to the existing context and vulnerability i.e. cultural sense, materials, traditional intellect, wisdom, location and

adaptation to local milieu (vulnerability issues) can be coalesced appropriately for achieving legible solutions [2].

VIII. INFERENCES

Architecture is understood to be a very significant tool for decisive identity. We can say that Architectural heritage can easily be the shadow behind today's production. Identity of a Nation has Heritage as a vital constituent. Further Components had been classified as architecture, identity and history. By Architecture; bridging the gap between the past and the present is convenient as Architecture can restore the past, predict the future, and eloquent the present. Hence, creation of new buildings through inspiration of inherited cultural heritage should be the path. Conventional Contemporary architecture, accordingly, can be related thus to most significant designed and planned contributions in the historic built environment. It consists of open spaces, fresh buildings, additions and alternations to sites and buildings of historic nature and transformations. The crux of judiciously practicing contemporary architecture lies in retorting to inherited built environment in addition to enable the growth and socio-economic changes of the place [26].

Legible examples discussed above speaks of the values of Local context, traditional wisdom, regional settings, local resources and technologies and yet suitable amalgamation to participate in the universal architectural civilization. Point here is, the conventional practices can very easily be response to enhance the value of our rich value based tradition and culture, of which Architecture is a true manifestation. However, most of the conventional practices of today in the area under concern (Jammu) are deviating from this very factor. Already, few exemplary cases shown from Jammu also depicts that how response to the existing fabric of the city, local context and values in terms of spatial and volumetric elements, materials, setting and technologies adopted can make simple interventions worth appreciating and immortal.

Table 1 clearly highlight the ways and simple tools to practice the conventional Architecture even of today's responding to the local context which is of diverse importance and advantageous in country like India. It is emphasised here that simply adopting the technologies and materials from the west is not adding much flair to the Architectural fabric of the places. Apparently, many of such projects totally in line with the western technologies could not even justify the place in this research.

Research settles that India is fully reinforced in history, Unity in diversification of civilizations, cultures; customs exists and is embedded in architectural heritage resources. The heritage is deliberated as a cultural wealth and preserving and be in touch with it should be prime motto. The Heritage must be scrutinized to elucidate its features and then it would be benefitted by completing the process of its development conveniently with the modern circumstances (conventional practices) and challenges of current era. Apparently, statement with the heritage links following generations with diverse cultural Individuals of society, and locating are liable present-day complete of values, noble connotations resultant from the past. The attempts to connect Indian Architecture with India's heritage (Table 1) are an important step to pawn the governance of the international architectural styles in many types of constructions in the country. The endeavours of

architects to tie the past and the present in their proposals by the inclusion of heritage resources primarily in conventional practices of today's also can help in expansion and modernization of Indian conventional

architectural charm and in realizing new architectural types to shape the native architectural individuality adequate with the social, environmental, cultural and economic values and status of the country [29].

Table 1: Contributions of Indian Modern Masters in Indian Mainstream Conventional Architecture.

Image	Name of the Building	Name of Architect	Concept Base	Indicators
	Asiad Games Village, New Delhi	Raj Rewal	Indus Valley Civilization (Critical Regionalism)	Representation of traditional built forms by utilizing local materials and methods, streets, courtyard planning, gateways & passages.
	Scope Office Complex	Raj Rewal	Datia palace (Gwalior-India)	Central Courtyard, Mughal's regime oriented facades in the Architecture of Delhi. The structural system and construction practice was similar to global methods and was the newest available in the country.
	Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur	Charles Correa	Based on the Panning of Jaipur city i.e. nine (09) square mandala organization plan.	Lighting scheme, Stone (local sandstone), Wall sections, insulation and ventilation method (adopting appropriate local sense and methods, found in few great buildings of Rajasthan). Methods of Construction were the newest and conventional available at the time of construction.
	LIC Building, New Delhi	Charles Correa	To categorize and enhance the framework of a place in the varying universal lines within the charisma of Delhi's heart i.e. Connaught place's Architecture and streetscape.	Glass, Red Sandstone, Steel Space Frame to shade the glass (Correa's reply and response to the worldwide civilization). To create drama and apex the adjoining British built context, midst edifice, core urban streetscape from distance apart [21].
	Gandhi Ashram	Charles Correa	Architectural space narrated to revere the Nation's father life; by way of his life-belongings and his affection towards rural life.	Use of sensible landscape & water bodies'. Single-storied roofs with carefully designed pitch, suitably positioned surrounding central pool in 6 .m. bays of structure. Scheme replicates the village hut with Mangalore tiles on top. Principal materials were Native earthen tiles, Local stone; Stone (Kota) in addition to conventional RCC roofing's and walls in brick. Central court (pool), local stone, community sitting space with stone slabs is some of the key spaces in the scheme highlighted by Correa.
	Gandhi Labour Institute	BV Doshi	Design inspired from Buddhist buildings and stepped wells present in western India Architecture.	The spatial & volumetric dissection of spaces shows the careful response to local climate and activity pattern. Open-air theatre (as mark of stepped wells), Buddhist inspired roofs, Proper and customized construction technologies (Ferrocement etc.), justifiable local materials like exposed concrete, pots (earthen) and glazed tiles, and careful siting of the building.
	IIM Bangalore	BV Doshi	Fatehpur Sikri	New interpretation of Mughal jail/fenestrations) Corridors in terms of innovative character of pedestrian streets: sometimes with pergolas on top (or sides), occasionally open and as transformation, also covered with skylight. In many segments to enhance the quality of spatial experience. Volumetric play in Corridors also controlled to appreciate the drama of built-open relationship and dynamics of spatial configuration. Doshi's profound indulgent in traditional Indian architecture and local/regional identity in visibly presented in this prestigious campus project.

So, it is empathized that even the new developments in new India must target the values and aspirations of a New India-particularly the values of Indian Culture, Heritage and social Milieu as is done in number of projects already by many Architects. The essence of India can only be maintained that way in terms of its existing and future architectural exploration particularly the way Architects developed the projects discussed in the paper already. Moreover, the rejuvenation of existing places and fresh place-making by way of Architecture and Planning should be realized effectively by transportation planning (major problem in deteriorating

the built environment in Indian cities) considerations also, being the very integral part of making Architectural and built-structures contributions worth noticing and worth exploring [15].

IX. THE ROAD AHEAD-A DISCUSSION

History is the chief time-tested resource to verify the viability pertaining to buildings in general and dwellings in particular. Appreciable and most visited cities across the globe principally consist of Architecture inspired from contextual values and social fabric. Some Architects in Jammu also have managed to work the same way in the

afore-mentioned special context and surroundings. They have attempted to show the way that how Architecture could be dealt in the 21st century by contemporary practices only but yet answering to local context of hilly surroundings.

Solutions respond to core history of ruler's regime; location and other activity patterns out of social milieu [6].

Following are some of the examples which could set the tone for the way forward in upcoming projects in the region under consideration and its proximate areas.

SMVD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, KATRA

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) campus is situated at around 30 miles from Jammu Airport. At SMVDU locational aspect presents context and considerations of climate for built environment comparable as Jammu's. University design is carried out at stunning site directing the hilly backdrop of Trikuta series of hills, associated with holy shrine of Goddess Vaishno Devi. SMVDU site is surrounded a river body on one side, mounds and hills on all other sides [12].

Inspiration of any kind was hard to find in the areas in vicinity to the campus at the initiated time of this project. Presently, few architects of eminence stature have been working in the campus for almost couple of decades now and fittingly, most of them have intervened by excellent contextual response merging to the context, majorly. The project was conceptualized on 'Shrine Axis' as strong positive vibrancy; of being located in foot-hills of visually visible shrine track with the shrine holding mountains, is present in SMVDU. Accordingly, the respect, admiration to holy shrine was indeed on the cards for legible conceptualization. Thus, by integration of Axis through and through; directing and emphasizing to Shrine by placement of buildings to create a strong central vista by placement of structures and open spaces in built environment was adopted as key feature of overall design consideration in this beautiful educational campus [12].



Fig. 5. Glimpses of Architectural response under prevailing context at SMVD University (Source: Author) [18].

Major Highlights: [12]

- Master planning concept based on Axis
- Response to the surroundings by use of satisfactory sloping roofs.
- Tall buildings not planned i.e. Low-rise buildings majorly in the campus (seismic consideration).
- Respect to the massive and brutal mountains in the surroundings by use of exposed facades i.e. brick and concrete.
- Use of Slate in the roofing/overhangs to fit with the grandeur of the hills and enriching local Architecture.
- Buildings complimented with judicious landscaping to meet the flavors/demands of different seasons, apart from other obvious benefits of landscape in the topography present in general and in University campuses in particular.

- Campus involved repetitive use of vernacular low cost & need based features e.g. Pergolas, Jails (in brick or RCC) throughout for different daily base utility spaces.
- Suitable utilization of contours (slopes available) at site to customize drainage judiciously.
- Sensible glass and openings use and its design innovation to promote the essential traits of built environment contextually i.e. Sun, wind, views and natural light in varied seasons of composite climate.
- Practice of globalized techniques e.g. advanced frame construction (RCC & Brick), utilization of Steel & Glass appropriately.
- Incorporation of shading spatial provisions for pedestrians, different pavers use to provide varied softscapes and outdoor nodes etc.
- Cautious solutions like customized brick wall sections (brick bonds), double roofs, sloping roofs, light wells, use of stack ventilations etc., which helps considerably in energy efficiency and insulation.
- University campus (class rooms, library and laboratories) involved admirable access to glare free North light for considerable established benefits in learning spaces.
- All signage's, street furniture, Open sittings totally gel with the comprehensive University scheme and yet composed of varied (modern) materials like steel (metal) and concrete.

RWANDA, AFRICA: STUDY OF STUNNING TREE HOUSE RETREAT



Fig. 6. Rwanda Project: Few Glimpses [23].

It's an incomparable project highlighting the cautious ways to follow modern means despite using local. In this project, Ar. N. Piezman attempted esteeming the prevailing culture and reinstating the native forest concurrently. Almost all the materials chosen are from local production principally. The work force also locally hired for it and project aimed at views i.e. landscape of the volcano present in vicinity is aimed from green and serene surroundings of the project [23].

Evidently, the insides and construction systems were customized by use of latest technological innovations, yet the feel of the project (realm and image) is kept native and vernacular. Numerous sustainable features e.g. chandeliers constituents are the glass (recycled) where-as stone (volcanic) fireplaces are common through-out the project. Native traces like the milk (lbyansi-traditional) jug theme are engaged repetitively in the built environment principally indoors, & cowhides rugs were used to symbolize the country life locally in the instant surroundings. Pertinently, interiors are also equipped with items composed by Imigongo process- a customary art process (cow dung and soils are mixed in different color combinations, highlighted in geometric figures) [23].

Weather-beaten volcanic cone forms the basis of project design after its perception. And exactly, these villas (pod like) area vital specimen of contemporary constructions in a contextual way. Additionally; it is instrumental in stimulating eco-tourism that too in contemporary period by contribution in natural landscape.

X. CONCLUSION

It has been observed at many instances that the features of traditional practices in architecture contribute significantly in development of life in society. The perception of life in terms of different activities by accepting through the form and spatial hierarchy of built environment is a common practice in our earlier generations or the older lot. By elaborate comparison of traditional and contemporary architecture issues and practices; many common thoughts exist which share a coherent idea of recapturing the issues and the process of reinterpreting the conventional architecture of a place by application of the traditional value based architecture of the place in values of Design, if present. Pertinently; varied subjective academic views recognized by scholars to aid tradition, related features centrals to the datum that these uncovers the notions of traditional value based regional architecture to utilize a inventive process of redefining contemporary architecture of a place. Further, by amalgamating various value based, sustainable and meaningful and components of traditional, regional practices of architecture to fit and define the contemporary design of today's [25].

It's a fact that the India enjoys significant fame for its cultural, heritage, religious and traditional diversity and that is indeed incomparable. Therefore, extending the multiplicity of regional based Architecture in the conventional performs must be the main motto of worthy contributors i.e. Planners and Architects. Diverse locations in country have unlike challenges within prevailing contexts and social values. Apparently, as already mentioned in the instances;

- Retort to the climate and native materials.
- Design for cultural use in spatially.
- Constructional systems iterations employed under traditional sense by appropriate incorporation of modern affordable trends.

is easily achievable in majority of the building types, sensibly. The main task however shall be concerning the identity element i.e. facade character should speak of the reverence of identity in Indian Architecture. To get away elsewhere the Universal Architectural expressions because Timelessness and immortality is seen in imagibility of Indian Architecture. Architects should brace it further to keep its individuality to the best possible extent for longevity in diverse aspects to suit the welfare of country and country-men [16].

It is well established that Indian Architecture is principally Temple Architecture. Some explorations amid global advancements (Fig. 7) present decent awareness for modern Temples or renewal of facades of Temples through materials as of conventional contemporary practices and advanced systems of construction. Examples in Fig. 7 could be considered as realistic motivation for the forthcoming exercises to be dealt under strong Indian context also as a base for other kind of building typologies too.

Accordingly, Architects must think of their role in conventional practices today amid strong context like the one as per the scope of this paper [16].

It is quite evident from the research in the area that few responses to globalization are established on the optimistic approach in which structures are created to

have a dialogue with the self and fraternity, with global powers and market sensitivity, and of-course not with the public. A median of the two i.e. preference of the Architects as well as the public is required [28].

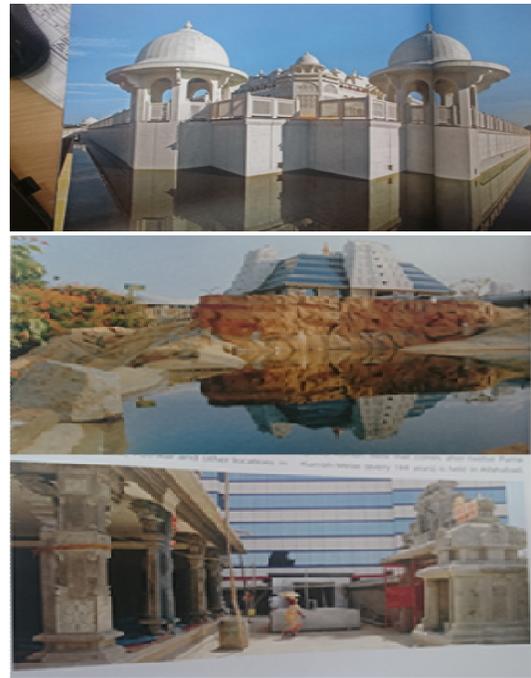


Fig. 7. Photographs showing use of water and Glass, Amalgamation of strong existing context & conventional global practices implemented for Modern Indian temple-Example (Top, Middle and Bottom) from ISKCON temple, Bangalore-India [16].

Hence-forth, significant attention is paid to the formation of design approach in the conventional global mainstream architecture. The Design approach can vary greatly in their purpose and array many concepts likes of culture, custom, environmental quality, Religion, morality, ideology, Physical characteristic, spatial qualities, structural characteristics and craftsman quality; within the domain of conventional contemporary practices; if undertaken suitably as evident from some of the legible examples illustrated in the paper [25].

XI. FUTURE SCOPE

The advantage of this research and Author's focus is on developing understanding about the issue undertaken in the paper so that concerns raised could be understood in a better way and tackled well in future architectural practices in the zone, particularly. This is important to keep the identity of different places intact for number of reasons influencing the growth of respective states and countries i.e. Tourism, Economy and Sustainability at large. Pertinently, the beauty of the world lies in heterogeneity and beauty of Built Environment of different places is more visiting and appreciable, while it is heterogeneous i.e. unique and contextual.

Jammu has been the part of Jammu and Kashmir State which was under special status politically. However, recently this status was revoked which would mean the increased avenue for the new projects in the state like never before. The future scope of conventional practices is evident as such the consideration of this paper must be brought into implementation. Else, the defacement of the context in quest for more of buildings for economic and other benefits only shall not be avoidable.

There is no regulatory framework presently in the city which promotes a particular type of spatial pattern or visual characteristics. Hence, there is no obligation to resort to the contextual ways. Local bye-laws talk about few conventional parameters like set-backs, building heights and FAR's in addition to some repetitive techniques and specifications (but not fixed). Authors shall attempt to bring the limelight on this research and its expansion in terms of design considerations; material recommendations and Bye-laws amendments to suit the context of the place in future scope of this study. Pertinently, Future argument on conventional architectural practices globally needs to focus with the memory of architects as well as others (public at large), the awareness of the professional civic as well as others, the realization of architects, builders, engineers as well as others, and indeed the reasoning of architects, engineers as well as that of others [28].

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