

CULTURE AND ARCHITECTURE OF MADHYA PRADESH

The tribal and folk traditions of Madhya Pradesh are reflected in the vernacular architecture. The state is known for its visual and performing arts, these art forms are closely associated with their beliefs, customs, religion and values. The singing and dancing are part of their day to day life. It is a community activity performed each day after the work to relax and enjoy. These activities have evolved the necessity of a community space like a courtyard or chaupal in their settlement pattern. These patterns resulted in a strong social binding within the community. Each tribe has its own way of settlement pattern on the basis of their culture and lifestyle like Saharia has circular, Bhil has scattered and Korku has linear. The central space in Saharia is 'chaupal' where grandparents chat and look after grandchildren while the parents are working on fields.

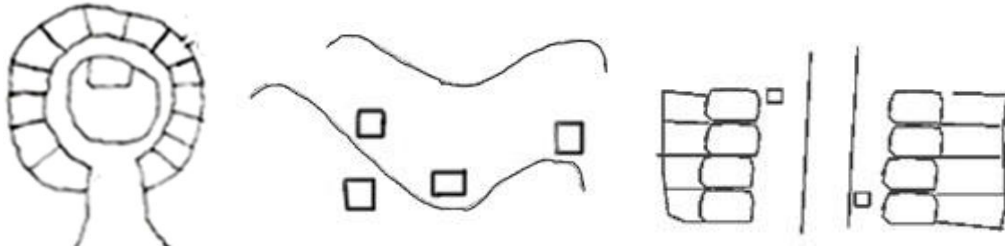


Figure 4 Circular pattern, Saharia **Figure 5** Scattered pattern, Bhil **Figure 6** Linear pattern, Korku

Madhya Pradesh is famous for its traditional crafts like bamboo, wood, pottery, painting, metal casting, terracotta and textiles. The sarees from Mahaeshwar and Chanderi are famous for weaving whereas Bagh and Ujjain are famous for printing. The designs are evolved and inspired from the surrounding environment. The weaving pattern in Maheshwari sarees 'Laharia' is most dominating which is inspired from the holy river Narmada. These patterns of textiles are also reflected in the vernacular architecture. The sculpture and murals in the houses are not simply for decoration but are part of their rituals and beliefs. During the festivals and rituals the murals depicted on the walls are Pithora, Sanjha and designs on the floors are Mandana, Alpana and Rangoli. The tribals adorn their roof tiles with animals, human images and some figure which have something to do with witch-craft and evil spirits. Horses occupy a significant status in tribal life as symbol of power and force. It is depicted in different forms in murals, sculpture and even in the structural members of the built form. The bas relief figure of birds, flowers, trees and animals are depicted on the interior walls of houses. The clay figures are prevalent to mark both auspicious as well as inauspicious occasions. The paneled doors of single plank and wooden pillars are carved with the motifs of flora, fauna and geometry designs. The Bas relief figure of animals, birds, trees, flowers and god-goddess are depicted on the interior walls. The trees are integral part of a house like a Tulsi chura in middle of a Hindu house, they also have medicinal values.

REFLECTION OF CULTURE IN ARCHITECTURE

The communities of potters, textiles, printer, weavers and bamboo workers are well placed in their native places like textile printers in Bagh; weavers in Mahaeshwar, they have their own settlement pattern as per their trade. When they come to a city in search of employment they have to adopt a new trade or either continues with their own. There cultural identities are well defined in the traditional settlements in their built forms, decorations and lifestyle. The settlement of Bhil or Gond tribe can be easily identified through these identities.



Figure 7 Tribal house



Figure 8 Bamboo workers



Figure 9 Gond painting

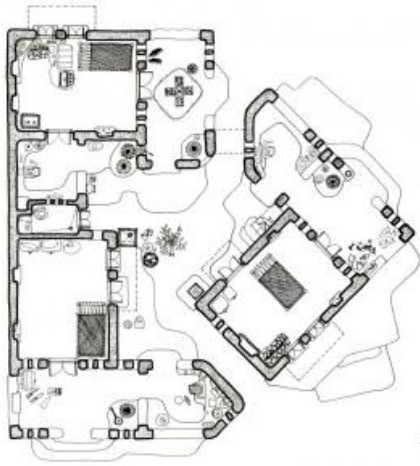


Figure 30 The detailed plan of a cluster



Figure 31 The resettlement plan

CONCLUSION

The changes in culture and architecture are reciprocal. The impact of one is reflected on the other. India's rich cultural heritage is vanishing due to the influence of urbanization and globalization. In order to protect and conserve our rich cultural and architectural heritage the elements of vernacular should be incorporated in the contemporary planning and architecture. The provision should be made to incorporate vernacular architecture and traditional knowledge in the policies. The policy makers, planners and architects should consider this in their work for betterment of society. The paper concludes by learning and appreciating the principles of vernacular architecture and integrating them with the contemporary knowledge and technology.

"Quality of life is enhanced through good architectural design which responds to the needs and wishes of users and use of natural materials and good urban design which allows creation of green spaces and reduction of noise and pollution." Birkauser, (Tipnis, 2012).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are greatly thankful to Department of Culture, Archeology, Tribal Research Institute, Tribal Museum and State Archeological Museum of Madhya Pradesh.

GLOSSARY

Chaupal: denotes a common meeting place in a village which is owned by the community.

Bhil: one of the main tribes lining in the Jhabua and Dhar region.

Dwelling: is the name given to a house form or for living somewhere.

Jaali: lattices made of bamboo, grass and clay, used on mud houses in Sarguja, Raigarh.

Pithora: votive wall painting made by the Bhils, worshipped with sacrifices.

Sahariya: primitive tribe living in Gwalior, Shivpuri and Morena in the north-western part of Madhya Pradesh. The people of this tribe consider Sabari of Ramayana to their first ancestor.

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