EMBARK

Louis I. Kahn Trophy

Preamble

When we review how we study history of architecture, it becomes obvious that there are buildings we observe and buildings we ignore. The observed buildings form the core of the subject called History of Architecture, which focuses at the larger regional, national or global levels. Invariably the ignored buildings, of course, are just forgotten!

Reduced to studying selected buildings, the subject of history reduces itself into studying few 'representational' built structures and its characteristics. Architectural history is an expression of and encompasses history of nearly everything, which should not be restricted to building studies. Our schools of architecture should be able to frame the curriculum such that history teacher can go beyond the buildings, exploring the genesis and genealogy of architecture.

Equally important to note is what we miss out of the ignored structures. As historic projects, they might have missed being part of our text books, yet would have had embodied themes and elements. With ideas and designs not found in other studied buildings, they could be worth specific studies in the historic narrative. After all, all these ignored structures have had a local relevance, being part of the society and its users, hence have an architectural expression rooted in their culture. We ignore the buildings and we miss learning from them.

The Louis I. Kahn Trophy 2019 – 2020 of the 62nd Year of NASA India in collaboration with INTACH hopes to 'EMBARK' on a journey to unravel the lesser known typology of Indian built heritage, which are architecturally worth documenting and studying.

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Overview of the Theme

Simply put, the theme 'Architecture of the Semi Sacred' intends to relook at the architecture located between the civic and the sacred, the two major categories studied during architecture program. Incidentally, the semi sacred has been ignored by the fraternity at large.

At present, there is no accepted terminology called semi-sacred, but this text uses this thematic word to denote all those structures which spring around a core sacred phenomena like Islamic mosque, Hindu or Jain temple, Christian church, Parsi temple, Sikh Gurudwara, Buddhist stupa or of any other religion. Centres of philosophy and spirituality which abound in India, also have a core space established by the Guru, Swamiji, spiritual master, holy person, heads of the institution or the enlightened initiator.

The core such established, cannot be functionally and meaningfully effective without supportive functions. We need to preserve traditions; instruct rituals; teach scriptures; care for devotees; safeguard the archives; train the young; facilitate the visitors and in general provide supportive infrastructure. Buildings housing them need not be - visually, stylistically or thematically - as symbolic as the sacred core itself, yet they cannot be as mundane as the civic or public designs are. The major responsibilities of the semi-sacred could be providing ancillary support, complimentary activities, contributory roles and associated services.

Typically, LIK brief would not list out the qualifying building types, but to dispel possible confusions on this comparatively new direction in study, a generic list follows. Semi-sacred as a loosely defined term would not include the core sacred shrines listed above, but may mean all those associated with them - ashrams, chatrams, cloisters of congregations, convents of a church, dharamshalas, dining halls, gurukuls, langar complexes, madrasas, meditation spaces, monasteries, mutts, nunneries, pilgrimage sarais, pravachan halls, priests residences, refectory, samadhi complexes, spiritual retreats, vedic pathashalas, yagashaalas, yathrighar and many such others.

For the purposes of this brief, we may define a place which is a part of a faith, an extension of the main complex which extends towards the public / civic bodies without directly imposing the faith in terms of its accessibility, usage and people but still carry form and fabric of the faith.

All the above may belong to same typology of architecture, yet have different names in a given community, locality, language and context. Students are advised to justify their selected building by thematic fit for LIK and should provide legible justification for the jury.

Learnings from the Trophy

Why it is important to re-look at the buildings not so sacred? There is much to learn from them, sadly ignored all these decades, despite the fact that semi-sacred structures are spread all over India. Incidentally, we could be among the few countries in the world where buildings associated with the sacred have a notable presence and acceptance, thanks to the multi-cultural diversity of India. It is critical to study the uniqueness of this faith-based design approach.

Possibly, the structures of sacred core un-compromisingly follow traditional design, community characteristics, canonical rules, aagama shastras, historic precedence, critical objective of the institution and such others. At the other end, the civic and the public buildings are not restricted by the majority of the design parameters listed above, instead enjoy the design freedom to evolve from function, budget, architects' vision, bye laws, promoter's aspiration or any other innovative thoughts.

The semi-sacred architecture lies in between the above two sets of structures. They may continue the ideas of the sacred in some of them, but in diluted expressions like reduced decoration, simplified elements and localised styles. However, the local design ideas would be the base for these facilitating buildings and even the vernacular architecture may impact on the design. While the core may have had professional teams of architects and engineers, the semi sacred could have been designed by non-professionals. Often, that leads to a curious mix of the ordinary and extraordinary; temporary and permanent; profane and philosophical – thus creating a hybrid architecture of fusion.

Project Selection

A single building or a group of buildings within one campus / location / complex with total built-up area of minimum of 1000 square meters would qualify for the trophy. The open spaces, outdoor areas, paths and unbuilt parts of clusters, which have no roof overhead, are not to be included in this minimum area requirement. It should have been occupied for more than 50 years exhibiting notable significance in terms of culture, community, crafts, construction, faith, function, beliefs, values, representation, association, irreplaceable uniqueness and such other heritage criteria, largely belonging to their era and may be continuing so even today.

Above all, the chosen project should be an architecture appropriate to demonstrate the idea of semi sacred as located between the civic and the sacred.

Criteria for Analysis

While the documentation expects measured drawings, it also expects basic analysis of the chosen historic buildings and their contexts. If we believe that the design of a semi sacred structure follows the faith which generated it, then some understandings of the faith itself, how the faithful people translated it into a built form and how the chosen project acts as an interface between the civic and the sacred equally deserve to be studied. Possibly, all these and more such analysis may not be communicated extensively and properly by photos, site sketches and drawings, such analysis may be expressed in text and graphics.

Please do quote from relevant sources to justify your analysis. These sources could be from the project related publication, institutional media materials, preaching of the masters, doctrines of the faith, theory of architecture, precedence's from history or design in general. As such, it is expected that while the building is studied as a physical work of architecture, it is also analyzed as a manifestation of the metaphysical and philosophies.

Submission Requirements

- The Submission shall comprise of 20(maximum) A1 SHEETS, 2(maximum) A1 PHOTOGRAPHIC PANELS, FIELD NOTEBOOK and REPORT.
    - o Panel quality: Opaque with white background
    - o All sheets should be digitally composed.
    - o Any scanned and digitally composed graphics shall be at least at 300 DPI (Camera scanning will be deemed as incomplete submission)

- Building(s) and Construction Details Measured Drawings
    - o At least 2 A1 mandatory panels displaying the original field notes depicting the measuring process.

- Architectural Documentation
    - o At least 2 A1 mandatory panels
    - o Free hand sketches / hand drawings (should be digitally composed in the sheet)
    - o Axonometric / Isometric drawings
    - o Use of satellite imagery allowed as a basis for analysis
    - o Photographs allowed (All satellite imagery, photographs, sketches and perspectives shall be in support of the document and not be stand alone and desirably in black and white)
    - o The drawings should be self-explanatory with as little text as possible.

- Construction Details
  - At least 2 A1 mandatory panels
  - Black and White

- Photographic Panels
  - A maximum of 2 A1 sized sheets to be used for photographs
  - The number and size of the photograph is left at the discretion of the respective college.
  - Original photographs to be submitted
  - No photocopy/reproduced photos shall be permitted

- Field Notebooks
  - Final Documentation drawings shall be accompanied by a set of field notebooks showing the hand drawn drawings /sketches over which measurements were first recorded.
  - These are mandatory and are to act as a supplement to the formal documentation.
  - The notebook may be bound in to A3 sized Notebook.
  - All pages should clearly mention the date of recording of the documentation, descriptive title.
  - The hand drawn sheets, if need be, can be photocopied / scanned and bound together in sequence with the A3 graph pad.
  - Avoid retracing drawings for submission purposes.

- Report
  Report shall highlight the subjective aspects of the documentation of the historic building (s) and its response to evolution of multiple uses and systems over a period of time. It shall be exactly structured along the panel structure, to give more background information about the building, the special techniques used, evidence found, all illustrations, sketches, maps, drawings, details etc. drawn/ used in the panels to be clearly mentioned and referenced in the Report

  (eg. source of maps, plans, drawings, timelines, dates etc.) along with bibliography and acknowledgements page in the end.

  Use 12 point, Times New Roman font style for the body text of the Report, which should not exceed 25 pages of A4 size. No decorative titles allowed. A general structure for the same is given below.
  - Synopsis of the project

- o Brief description of location, the structure / building (s) / complex and its natural setting.
- o Justification for choice.
- o History and Evolution
- o Physical Form
- o Spatial Organization
- o Nature of use and purpose
- o Construction materials and techniques
- o Technological / Scientific advancement
- o Identification of significance and value assessment of the selected site
- o Analysis of structure selected
- o Conclusions

General Guidelines

- All text should be in English.
- Title of site shall be in standardized Arial Narrow Font (72) in Grey ink with sheet numbers written clearly on it, please note, no decorative titles are allowed.
- Solid Hatching and Monochromatic black and white gradients are permitted.
- Unless otherwise mentioned, choice of scale is up to the participants, provided everything is clearly legible.
- The mode of presentation (plan, sections, views, sketches, photographs etc.) is left to the participants.
- All illustrations, sketches, maps, drawings, details etc. to have a title and a number.
- Documentation done by hand or digital methods (hand drawings if any should be digitally composed). No hand drawn drawings or manual presentation strictly / All drawings and final presentation should be in digital mode only
- Registrations and submissions should be done by the Unit Secretary in NASA India website before the deadline.

- **NASA Logo Guidelines**
  - o NASA Logo shall always be placed on the right-hand bottom corner of the sheet with a margin of 10mm from right and bottom of the page.
  - o NASA logo should not be merged, overlapped etc. with any sort of text, graphic, image, etc.

- o   NASA logo should be true black with a perfectly white background.
- o   For A1 sheet NASA India logo size should be 30mm x 52.50mm with 10mm clear border on all 4 sides.

Submission Requirements

- Soft copy of the entire submission, has to be compiled in 3 PDFs,
    - o   Sheets and Photographic Panels (50MB)
    - o   Field Report (25MB)
    - o   Report (5MB)
- The above-mentioned soft copy (non - editable format) should be uploaded on the website failing which the submission will be considered incomplete and the entry shall be disqualified. If the soft copy file of the sheets is damaged or in low resolution, the entry shall be disqualified.
- Authenticating letter from college HoD for each entry the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copyrights for the same and with the name of Participant(s) and stating the unit shall abide by whatever may be the final results and also agree that this entry is property of both the institute and NASA India.
- Declaration by the participant(s) stating the work submitted is genuine and they have endorsed copyrights for the same and to adhere by all the rules and regulations, Jury process and the results.
- Authenticating letter from college HoD/Principal/Director (on College Letterhead with Sign and Stamp of HoD/Principal/Director of the college), specifying the Account Details (Account Name, Account Number, Bank Name, ISFC Code) in which the Prize Money is to be awarded.
- Editable format of the sheets has to be submitted during the Annual NASA Convention (Applicable only for shortlisted entries).
- Authenticating letter from the organisation/ trust/ guardian of the site being documented stating that the said unit is documenting given site for LIK trophy for NASA India, and they are permitted to do the documentation.

Jurors and Moderators

The LIK Trophy 2019 is being moderated by Prof. Sathya Prakash Varanashi from Sathya Consultants, Bangalore. The jurors will be drawn from varied experiences in heritage matters, different age groups, varied cultural regions and noted for their intellectual thoughts.

Contacting the moderator or the jurors will lead to disqualification.

Prize Money

Prize money of 2 lakh Rupees is allotted to the trophy and it will be divided according to the number of the Citations and Special Mentions

Important Dates

- The release of brief – 12th December 2019
- Queries till – 30th December 2019

Any Kind of Queries need to be submitted through

https://nasaindia.co/trophy/lik

to

Simarjeet Singh

National Vice President | 2019 - 2020

NASA India

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that the site _____ which belongs to/supervised/taken care of by _____ has been documented by the students of _____ bearing college code _____ as a part of their work for Louis I Kahn Trophy 2019-2020.

Contact Details of Person/Authority: _____

_____

Name of the Person: _____

Designation: _____

Organisation:_____

_____

Signature of Authority   Stamp