Indian Temple Architecture: Drawing from History

Overview

The teaching of architectural history in Indian schools of architecture has tended to use the same textbooks (notably Percy Brown) for the last fifty years. It has not kept abreast of the considerable developments in the understanding of the history of Indian architecture. This is partly because many of these developments have taken place within the disciplines of history, art history and archaeology, and often seem inaccessible or irrelevant to architects. Architects and related design disciplines, nonetheless, have particular skills and ways of thinking that potentially allow them unique insights into this subject, not least a knowledge of construction, an ability to think in three dimensions, and an understanding of the creative processes of design. These capacities are developed through an ability to draw, both to record and to analyze and interpret. Focusing on Indian temple architecture, the course therefore aims to convey a holistic, architectural understanding of the subject through an exploration of its relationship to drawing: the uses of drawing historically in temple design and construction, and the potential of different kinds of drawing of a research tool. The course as outlined here is conceived for delivery at SPA, Bhopal, with field visits in the vicinity.

Objectives

The main objectives of the course are as follows:

i) To convey a broad overview of the design principles and historical development of the main traditions of temple architecture in India,

ii) To develop the potential of a specifically architectural understanding of the field through the process of drawing and modeling,

iii) To reach an understanding of how drawings were used historically in temple construction, and in the translation into practice of instructions from theoretical Vastushastra texts,

iv) To explore the contemporary uses of these understandings, for architectural conservation and for design.

Modules

A: Origins
B: Overview: Typologies, Principles, Meanings
C: Drawing from Texts
D: Drawing Things Together
E: Drawing Details

Dates: 16th May 2016 – 20th May 2016
Last date of Registration: 25th February 2016
Number of participants for the course will be limited to forty.

You Should Attend If...

- Students at all levels (undergraduate, postgraduate) in architecture, other design disciplines, art history, archaeology, and academic colleagues in these fields
- Architects and conservationists, archaeologists (ASI, MP State Archaeology)

Fees

The participation fees for taking the course is as follows:

Participants from abroad: US $300

Industry / Research Organizations / Academic Institutions: Rs.5,000 (With Lodging and Food) Rs.2,000 (Excluding Lodging and Food)

Students from SPA, Bhopal: Rs.200

The above fee include all instructional materials, computer use for tutorials and assignments, laboratory equipment usage charges, 24 hr free internet facility. The participants will be provided with accommodation on payment basis only.
The Faculty

Professor Adam Hardy  MA (Cantab.), Dip. Arch. (Cantab), PhD (CNA, on temple architecture of Karnataka), Registered Architect (UK), is Professor of Asian Architecture at Cardiff University. He has been studying Indian temple architecture for 35 years, and is author of numerous publications on the subject, including Indian Temple Architecture: Form and Transformation (IGNCA, 1995), The Temple Architecture of India (Wiley, 2007), and Theory and Practice of Temple Architecture in Medieval India: Bhoja's Samaranganasutradhara and the Bhojpur Line Drawings (IGNCA, 2015). Since 1996 he has been Director of the research centre PRASADA (Practice, Research and Advancement in South Asian Design and Architecture), based at Cardiff since 2004: www.prasada.org.uk He has been Principal Investigator of large research projects on temple architecture: a multi-disciplinary project on the Nagara tradition funded by the Leverhulme Trust is beginning November 2015. Prof. Hardy’s consultancy work has included the design of temples in the UK and India, and conservation plans/re-construction of temple designs at Ashapuri, MP, funded by World Monuments Fund. He has supervised to completion 14 doctorates on the history of Indian architecture. From 1999 to 2015 he was a Council member of the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS), and Editor of its journal South Asian Studies (Routledge), and he is currently President of the European Association of South Asian Archaeology and Art (EASAA).

Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Khare, Conservation Architect, educated at Delhi, York and Leicester, a Fulbright Fellow at USA and Charles Wallace Fellow at UK, has rich teaching experience as Professor/ Dean at premier institutes of India and abroad, and now as the Founder Director of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal of MHRD, Govt. of India. He has authored the widely acclaimed book 'Temple Architecture of Eastern India' published in 2005 which has received ArchiDesign award for best written work in Architecture during 2007. He edits international journal called ‘CONTEXT’ as member of the board of editors, ‘SPANDREL’ and ‘ABACUS’ as Chief Editor. The most notable among the conservation projects to his credit is the Conservation of City Palace Complex, Udaipur funded by Getty Foundation USA. Prof. Khare was nominated by Government of India to take part in India-Yale Leadership Programme along with twenty six Directors of National Institutes and Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities.

Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar is Programme Coordinator, Masters in Architecture (Conservation) program at the Department of Architecture, SPA Bhopal. She is the Principal Investigator for many collaborative institutional projects including Heritage Impact Assessment for the Khajuraho World Heritage Site, and Ashapuri Temple Project. She has coordinated many national and international conferences and workshops. Qualified as a conservation architect, she has a wide range experience in national and international projects. Worked as a conservation consultant for Archeological Survey of India, she has also taught in various graduate and post graduate programmes. Her research concentrates on Legal concerns of Heritage, Traditional Knowledge Systems and works associated with perception, interpretation and memory.

Course Co-ordinator

Dr. Vishakha Kawathekar
Phone: +91-9009240227
E-mail: vishakha.kawathekar@spabhopal.ac.in

http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in