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COLLEGE OF NON-CONVENTIONAL VOCATIONAL COURSES FOR WOMEN

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Name of the teacher: Title of the paper	Title of the book published: Name of the author/s : Title of the proceedings of the conference	Name of the publisher: National/ International	National/international : ISBN/ISSN number of the proceedings	Year of publication:
Ar. Guruprasad J. Yernalkar	Modular Furniture In Interior	Pune Research World International	2455-359X	2022
ID. Tejashri Birajdar	A Study On Design Of Nursery Schools	Pune Research World International	2455-359X	2022
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Interview

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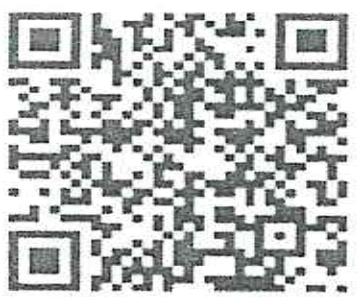
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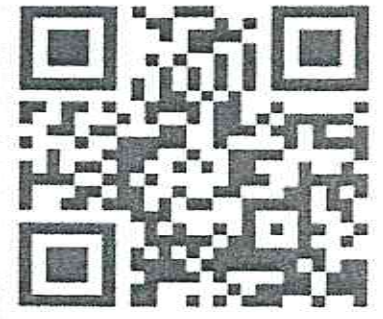
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MODULAR FURNITURE IN INTERIOR

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ABSTRACT

The design model of Re-coding Homes is an attempt to shape living environments in relation to the needs of different types of users living in a specific place. Therefore in this research the concept of Mass Customization is handled in the scale of an all-inclusive living environment that change with their everyday life and activities requiring different interior layouts. Aims to present the modular and flexible furniture solutions created through the research project "Re-Coding Homes". Re-Coding Homes is based on creating interior design proposals by generating numerous furniture layouts with components especially designed to come together in different ways and configurations for standardized mass housing interiors.

Key note : Design Model, Mass Customization, Modularity, Flexibility, Multi-functionality, Multi-parameter Layout.

INTRODUCTION:-

The spatial variations embrace different interior furniture modules answering to different activity sets concerning the basic activities that take place in living units. Furniture solutions are an indispensable part of the design model as they complete the idea of spatial flexibility by allowing numerous configurations that support different activities. Project team worked on detailing the interior modules by conducting a hands-on study with continuous feedback from modeling and prototyping studies. In order to maintain the continuity between the phases of design, production, evaluation, redesign and reproduction, all studies were conducted in the ITU Model Lab. During prototyping, the final interior design variations generated by the

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

1Page



expert system began to be elaborated by the design team's interpretations and transformed into final products.

The research project Re-Coding Homes develops an automated design model that generates home environments according to parameters defined by user needs. All the interior components are part of the same modular system that allows different configurations at different alternatives. The definition of a three-dimensional grid creates the relation between the modules and the surrounding architectural shell maximizing effective use of space. The most significant contribution of the designers to the design model is the constitution of an expert system in relation to the raw data collected from the users and their living environment within the case study site.

Quality of life in living environments is greatly affected by furniture. Furniture supports all necessary activities taking place in our homes that are repeatedly subject to changes. On the other hand, the use of appropriate furniture, their relation to each other and to the existing architectural building envelope is an issue to be discussed. Aim of the study is to create alternative flexible solutions for mass housing units' interior spaces and to examine the issue with an interdisciplinary approach including interior architects, architects, and industrial designers. The structure plays a key role in managing complexity, in this manner, it can be said that modular design is an approach that supports flexibility on product basis. Within the scope of the study that is presented, the use of modular design principles in creating a design model has been effective in terms of obtaining product diversity that meets different uses and preventing complexity while creating various spatial combinations. Customized interior design, which is the subject of the study, is a complex and multi-criteria design problem. Multi criteria design problems run parallel processes and traditional design methods fail to solve such design problems. Today, computational generative design approaches have been used specifically for solving multi criteria design problems. Generative systems, with their dynamic processes and outputs, offer a new perspective on both conceptualizing design processes and working on the optimization designs. In this study, by means of Genetic Algorithms, an expert system that provides interior design alternatives according to different user types and uses has been developed.

Methodology

"People" represent the specific user, which gets involved in the design process by making his choices. "Actions" refers to the possible activities and behaviors of users. "Furnishings" represent the interior components to be placed in interiors and "Spaces" represent the existing environment for which the solutions are created. The expert system generates variations by placing "Furnishings" in "Spaces" considering the input about "People" and "Actions" related to every single space that is three dimensionally defined inside the system.

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

2Page

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The main strength and originality of the research project Re-coding Homes is the use of an expert system in order to obtain the required flexibility in interiors. This expert system generates spatial configurations by the help of the design parameters defined by the design team. These parameters are mainly variables that differentiate the solutions according to the specific requirements of users related to the case study site. The main parameters are determined (Table1) and categorized as “People”, “Actions”, “Furnishings” and “Spaces”.

Table 1. Main Parameters That Are Considered As Inputs for The Design Model and Their Influences

Data from field studies that can affect the design process	The fields that are affected by the specified data
Number of family members	Number of beds, single - double bed, arrangement of eating table, size of sitting area, size of storage, number of toilets
Presence of guests	Need for extra bed, configuration of eating table, bed storage, arrangement of sitting area
Activity space relationship	Sleeping, sitting, eating, breakfast, accepting guests, playing, cooking, working
Main problems /complaints	Dark rooms, insufficient storage, small kitchen and toilet.
Colors and patterns	Furniture design
Socio-economic situation	Decision of materials and techniques

The expert system worked with Genetic Algorithms which means designs were worked to be evolved within computer environment according to meet the fitness functions determined by the design team (Figure 1). These fitness functions defined the relationship between Furnishings and interior envelopes of Spaces in order to avoid meaningless and inappropriate solutions. In this way users could make their decisions in terms of the features of their family and their specific needs. On the other hand, designers decided on the rules of design by considering the data from field research while the computer processed all these raw data to generate successful design alternatives. The expert system also provided the connection between the design model and the user interface that presented the solutions to users according to the answers they give to the online questionnaire. The main objective of the web interface is to provide the user with various interior layout alternatives and modular furniture that meet their needs. The interface, which includes representation and information on the different variations offered by the design model, is considered to be a factor that will significantly increase the applicability of the project. It aims to present all the outputs of the design phase in a manner that the user will be able to comprehend.

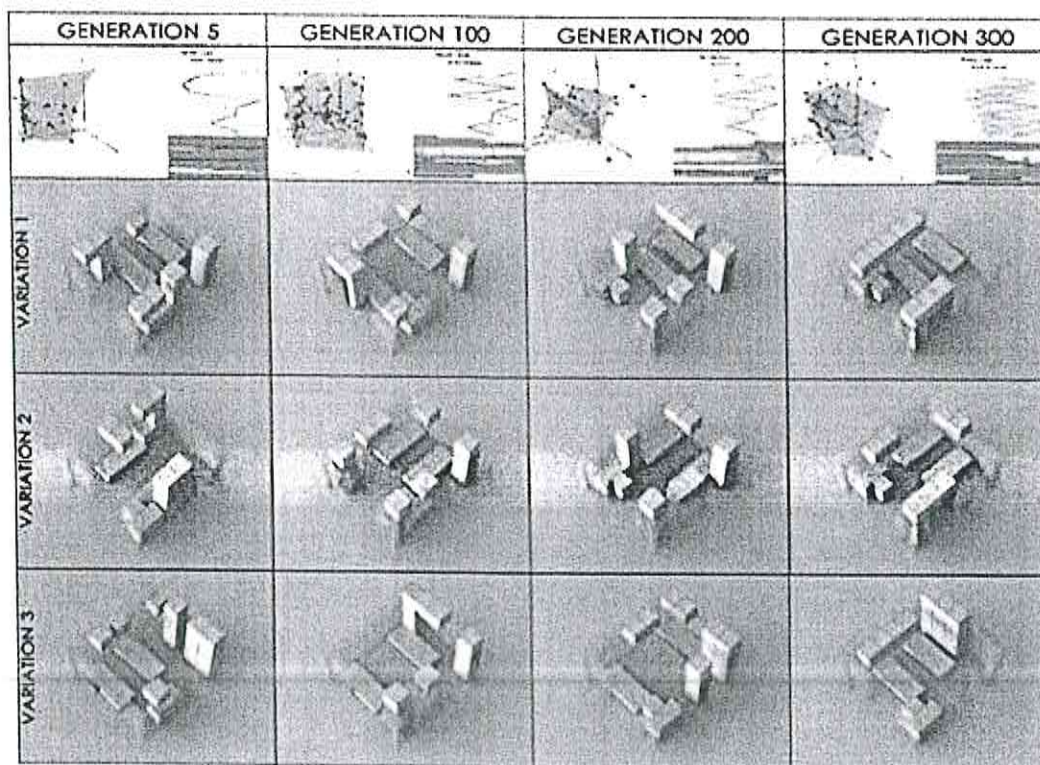


Figure 1. A matrix created by selecting three alternatives from the designs evolving 5,100, 200 and 300 times respectively for one of the rooms (Sardar Chavhan et al. 2017)

All components need to be modular or they need to fit in a modular grid. In terms of modular coordination, 60x60 and 30x30 cm modules are considered to be used in the plan layout, and a 30 cm grid to be dominant within anthropometric requirements in the sectional layout. \

In the plan layout, living and storage areas are differentiated. While areas close to windows with more natural light were reserved for multipurpose living spaces, areas with longer and continuous walls far from windows were reserved for storage (Figure2).

In rooms where more flexibility is needed, the modules need to be multifunctional fulfilling all of the main activities that take place in the room. For example, the living area within the living room was organized to accommodate activities such as sitting, eating, entertaining (neighbors and overnight guests), chatting, watching TV etc. Therefore the modules that meet these activities were considered within a setup that could be used in different forms depending on the increase in the number of users.

Similarly, the modules that meet the main activities in bedrooms such as sleeping, resting, sitting, playing, watching TV, hosting overnight guest were setup so as to meet different needs by being brought together in different ways by the users themselves when needed.

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

4P a g e

Figure 2 shows the decisions about fixed and mobile modules. Mobile module zones are identified with dashed line while fixed modules are shown with continuous line. Grey modules represent the storage zones that can be higher when needed.

Especially fixed modules will be attached to walls in order to leave the central areas as flexible as possible for changing needs and furniture layouts created with mobile modules.

All the design principles listed above are defined to the expert system as design constraints in order to create rational solution sets. Other than these, many other rules are defined in order to place furnishings in rooms. The genetic algorithm is launched with these rules or fitness functions to create design alternatives by simultaneously considering each fitness function during the installation of furnishings.

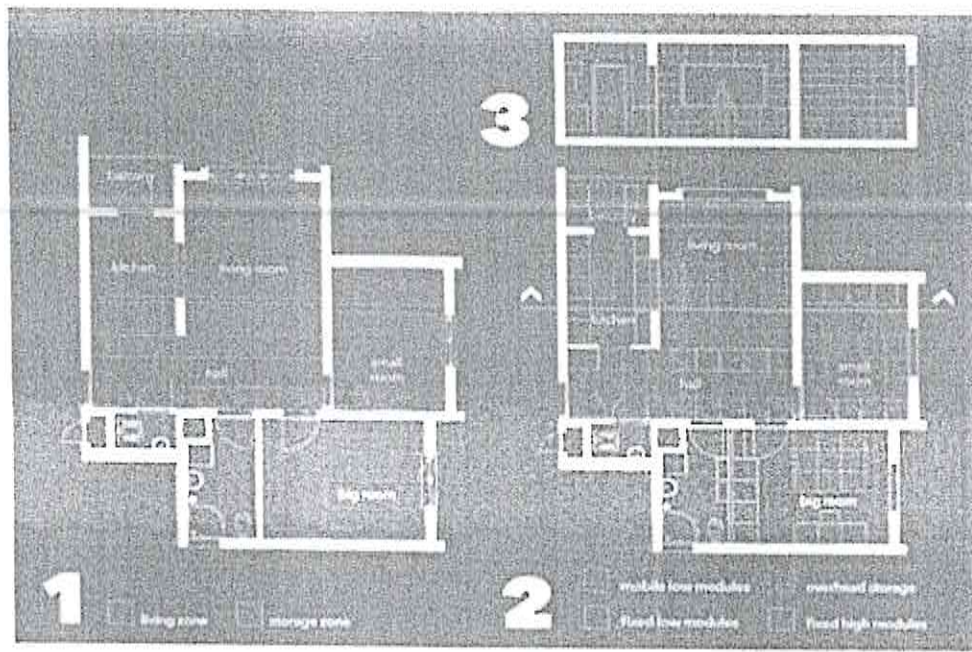


Figure 2. The modular layout showing mobile and fixed module zones and decisions about

Design Process

All modules and furniture are detailed in a parallel process to expert system studies. They all fit in the 3D grid of 30 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm. The furnishings, which were represented in simple cubic geometry in the previous stage, meet the actual space in real furnishings. All the modules except some of the modules forming the kitchen counter can come together in different configurations. Movable modules are handled in 2 main groups. The first group rests on the floor and they are raised from the pavement 12 centimeters with metal legs. The second group is made up of modules that can be placed on modules that rest on the floor.

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

5P a g e



These modules can be secured on other modules by the help of metal frames that fit in grooves cut in wooden plates forming the modules. The frames prevent the modules from sliding over each other and they can be easily assembled and dismantled by users themselves. In this way users can change the places and configurations of modules according to the activities that will take place in their living environments.


The modular units can be grouped in categories according to the activity sets they are designed for. In this sense the modules can be grouped as follows:

- Multifunctional seating modules x Multifunctional storage modules (19 modules)
- Multifunctional divisible bed/seating modules (3 modules)
- Chair and taboret solutions
- Extendable table modules

Figure 3 shows the list of modular furniture solutions developed for each space and activity. Flexibility in each space where multi-use is needed has been discussed within both the general layout and the modular-furniture scales. The layout and furnishings vary according to the family types, and the alternatives gathered from the evolved designs of the expert system have become a basis in this sense. For spaces that require more flexibility, the use of multifunctional solutions was indispensable. For example for the living room the sitting units were designed to be used as pouf, coffee table, sofa and bed by only changing the places and configurations of modules and their components. Correspondingly, for the bedrooms a multifunctional divisible bed system that could also be used as sofa for sitting was developed. The same bed modules could be also adjusted as bunk bed in case of increasing users.

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

6P a g e


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	spaces	activities	solutions
Spaces that require multiple use solutions	Living Room	sitting, watching TV, sleeping (for guests), playing, storing, eating, working platform, counter	Multifunctional seating modules The flexible use of the same unit as coffee table, pouf, sofa and bed. Extendable table modules
	Room 1 Big Bedroom	sleeping, sitting, watching TV, playing, working, storing	Multifunctional divisible bed/sitting modules Integrated working table, TV unit and storage module
	Room 2 Small Bedroom	sleeping, sitting, watching TV, playing, working, storing	Multifunctional divisible bed/sitting modules Integrated working table, TV unit and storage module
	Balcony	sitting, eating, drying, storage	Extendable table modules Multifunctional hangable storage, drying, planting modules
Spaces that have specific uses	Kitchen	cooking, storing, eating	Fixed counter and storage modules Extendable table modules Multifunctional storage modules
	Bathroom	personal care	Multifunctional storage modules
	Hall	storage	Multifunctional storage modules

Figure 3. List of modular furniture solutions developed for each space and activity (Saglar)

Multifunctional Seating Modules

Seating modules can be arranged in different combinations by the help of metal frames with dimensions of 46 cm x 10 cm x 2.4 cm. These frames are designed to combine modules in order to maintain sitting and sleeping surfaces according to the number of users. These surfaces can be both situated beside the walls or in the middle of the living room. As the place and configuration of seating modules can be interpreted in many different ways they are designed to be as light as possible by emptying unnecessary parts like the back, front and partially the bottom plate surfaces. Likely the connections of modules are maintained by light metal frames that fit into narrow grooves on wooden plate surfaces. In this way modules can be simply fastened to each other and the layout of the living room can be rearranged in minutes by the users themselves.

The seating module is designed to be adjusted to different uses as it is intended to be used mostly in the living room where different activities need to be fulfilled. The module fits the first horizontal grid level of 30 centimeters in terms of modular coordination and it is raised from the floor with metal frame legs. The front and the backsides of the seating module are left open in order to place the seating cushion and use the body of the module as a coffee table.

Multifunctional Storage Modules

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

7P age



Modules that can be hung on the walls are especially designed for small balconies that are used for many different activities such as planting, drying clothes, storage etc. These solutions are very important in order to maintain the required flexibility for balconies, which are evaluated as one of the most precious parts of homes by most of the users in mass housing units. In this sense the modules are designed to be hung on wooden rails that can be fixed on the walls according to the modular grid. Hang able modules are differentiated as laundry module, storage module (with transparent cover) and plant module. While these units are resolved on wall surfaces, it becomes possible to use balconies for other purposes like sitting, eating, working etc. If needed these modules can also be used on interior walls. Moreover additional table modules and taburets that are also designed to be used in small spaces like balconies, can be hung on the same rail system.

Storage modules are the modules that require more variety because of the differentiation in storage needs and the dimensional differences between various storage areas within home interiors. All modules fit in the 3D modular grid. Among 19 different types of storage modules, 9 can be directly placed on the floor, 3 can be placed on other modules and 6 can be hang to the rails on the walls. Modules resting on the floor are differentiated as chiffonier, shoe cupboard, coffee table, drawer filling cabinet, rug cabinet and show cabinet. These modules are all raised from the floor with metal frames and modules that have the same height can be fastened to each other with horizontal metal frames. Modules that can be placed over other modules are single drawer module, box module with transparent front and opaque front. These modules are smaller and lighter in order to allow users to change their configurations according to their changing storage needs. They are all fastened to each other by the help of a single metal frame that fits in the grooves carved on the top plates of modules. This simple connection principle makes it possible to make short-term changes regarding the configuration of storage modules. The grooves carved on the modules also create a geometric pattern and underline the modular structure of the system.

Multifunctional Bed/Seating Modules

The main concept of bed modules is developed to fulfils two activities with changing needs. In this sense the combination of one narrow and one wide module simply forms a platform of 90x210 cm raised 30 centimeters from the ground. This platform becomes a bed by placing a mattress of 15 centimeters with 32 density over it. The same modules can be used as a sofa and a coffee table when separated from each other. The mattress part remaining on the narrow module can be detached from the part remaining on the wide module and it can be placed inside the narrow module. In this case the narrow module becomes a coffee table beside the sofa module. In the same way the double bed can be transformed into two sofas and one coffee table when needed. These two different principles of combination simply allow using the same room both for sitting and sleeping. Especially in the context of Istanbul and mass housing units, users usually need two rooms to sit for men and for women/kids. The

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

8P a g e



bunk bed also allows the room to be used for many other purposes by emptying the floor level. The space under the raised bed platform can be used to place another single bed, storage units, a working table, a sofa or can be simply left empty like playground etc. The metal structure holding the bed modules serves as both ladder and as rails to hang small storage modules.

3 different types of bed configurations are developed by using only 2 different modules and a steel structure. This steel structure serves to obtain an upper bed level in order to maintain spatial flexibility and increase effective space in rooms. The single and double beds are formed by the combination of narrow and wide bed modules using metal frames. Bunk beds are obtained by the combination of one narrow, one wide bed module fastened to the steel structure, which holds the modules at the level of 180 cm in the modular grid. The standard wide bed modules are designed to embrace three wide and one narrow drawers that can be used to store clothes, bedding, quilt c

Table Modules

The integrated working table, TV unit and storage module is designed to be used in rooms. There are two types of working tables, which differ in depth. The narrow one of 30 centimeters is intended to be used in smaller rooms especially for children. The wide one of 60 centimeters is developed for the master bedroom. over etc.

Table modules are differentiated according to their purpose. Those that are designed to be used for eating, counter etc. are intended to be extendable. Regarding the solution used in the living room, the metal structure holding the middle part of the table can be extended to hold additional table plates of 60x60 cm from both sides. These additional table plates can be hung on the wooden rails on the wall surfaces. On the other hand the balcony solution is designed to be extended by adding 30x30 cm table plates to a plate of 90x20 cm fixed on the wall. Again these additional table plates can be hung on wooden rails. The table and taboret solutions are also developed to support the flexible use of space and they can all be folded and hung on rails.

Model And Prototype Studies

The 1/10 model of the whole apartment unit was an important tool during the design process (Figure 4). The main purpose of physical model was to discuss the concept of modularity in a holistic way regarding the interiors. The walls were made of transparent Plexiglass and the modular grid was engraved on plexiglass surfaces in order to discuss the relations between modules and interior envelopes. Led strips were fixed within the walls to underline the modular grid. The model was also intended to be used in order to discuss the results of the study and exhibit the solutions.

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

9P a g e

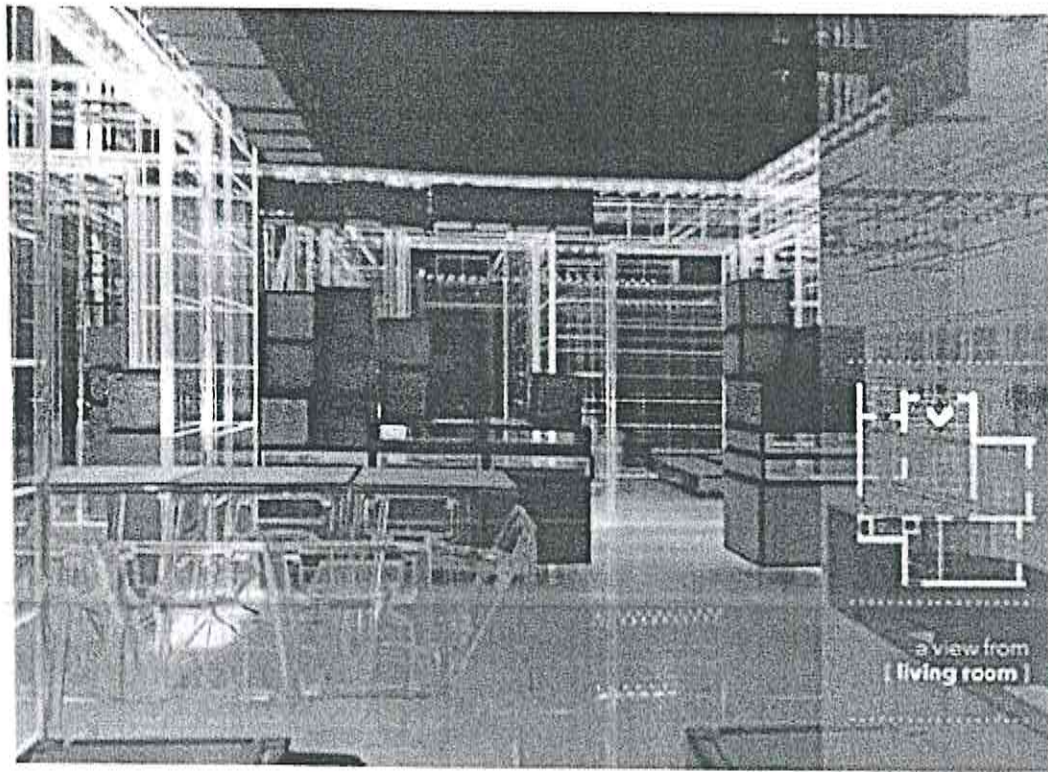


Figure 4. 1/10 model of the whole apartment unit in TOKI Basibuyuk Housing (Saglar Onay,

Physical modeling studies also aimed to create a design language that embraces all of the modular solutions (Figure 5). The modular grid, material, connection frames, grooves carved on wooden surfaces were evaluated as factors that help to maintain the common design language. All storage modules were designed to be raised from the floor with the same metal legs and they were all designed to be connected with the same metal frames. All the modules were developed to fit in the modular grid. This principle was vital to maintain maximum flexibility allowing the combination of different modules. Figure 6 shows a detailed example showing different configurations of seating modules.

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

10 Page

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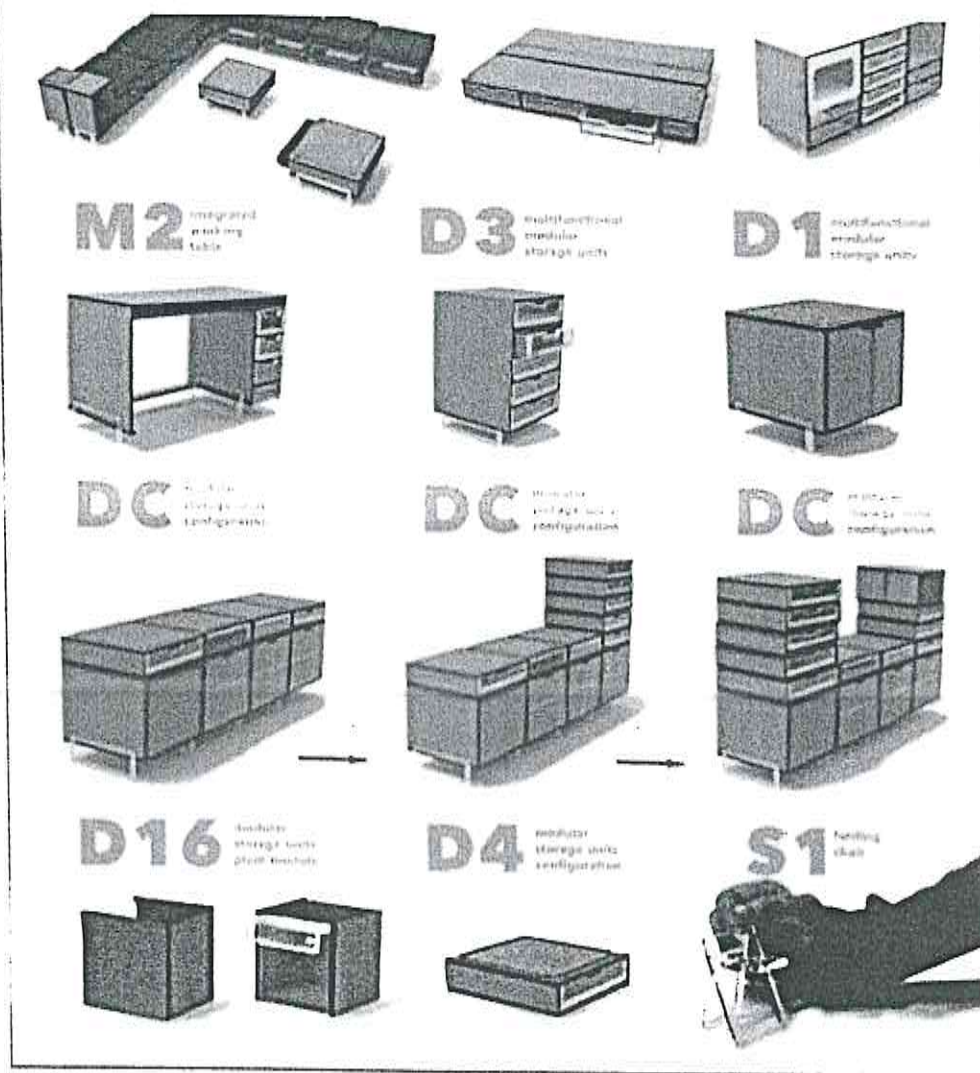


Figure 5. Common design language of modular furniture solutions and 1/10 models (Sag

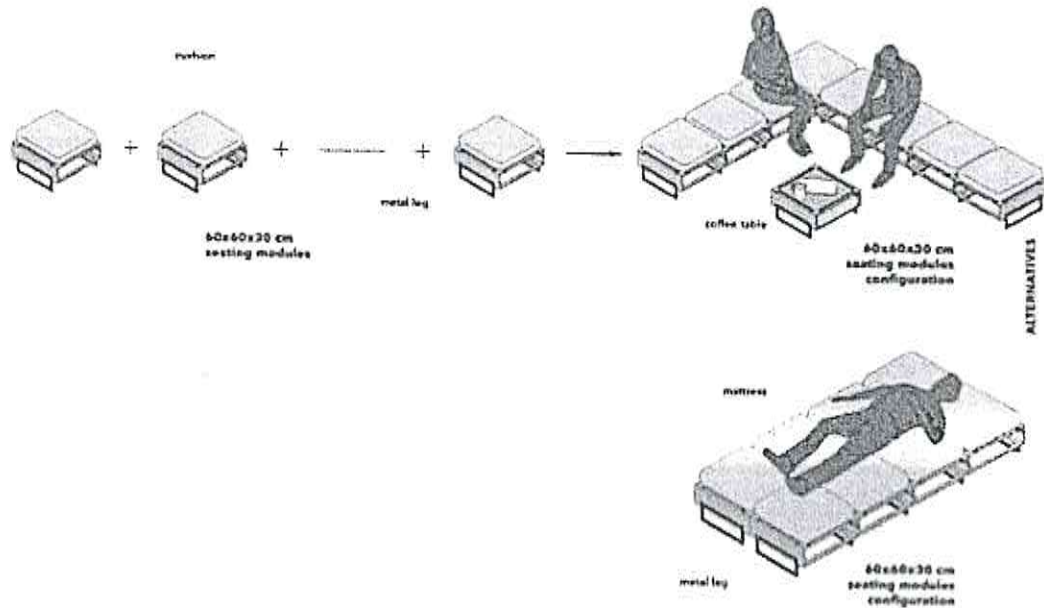
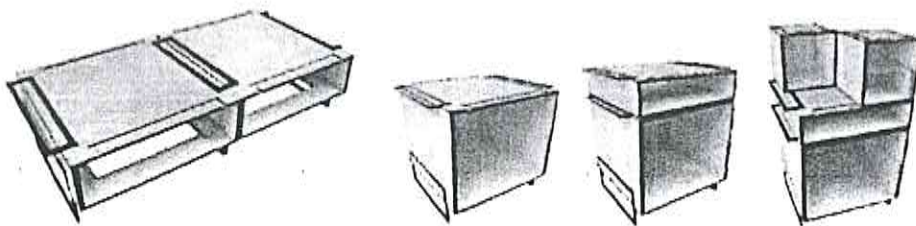


Figure 6. Example showing different configurations of the seating modules (TUBITAK)

The prototype studies mostly focused on material decisions and connection details. As the modules are intended to be assembled by the users themselves, materials needed to be as light as possible. In this sense birch plywood was chosen as an appropriate material as it is light and it can be used without additional surface treatment. MDF was chosen as an alternative material in order to reduce costs and create more economic solutions. The dovetail joint was used for the connection of MDF/ plywood plates (Figure 7).



Conclusions

The modular interior components designed for the project Re-coding Homes represent a product family that can come together in many different ways as a result of the modular and flexible design approach. This approach creates variety both for the spatial variations

Ar. GURUPRASAD J. YERNALKAR

12P age



generated by the expert system and temporary changes made by the users themselves. In this sense, the spatial variations are not limited with the ones created by the expert system and presented by the user interface. The multi-functionality of modules allows many other temporary variations. Therefore, in this research, the concept of Mass customization is handled in the scale of an all-inclusive living environment that changes with their everyday life and activities requiring different interior layouts. Thus, living environments live together with inhabitants.

The design model of Re-coding Homes is an attempt to shape living environments in relation to the needs of specific users living in a specific place. Therefore, information from the existing architectural envelope and users is the most important input for the model. On the other hand, the most significant contribution of the designers is the constitution of the expert system in relation to this raw data. The designers define a hierarchical order between all this data and formulate the fitness functions that will guide the computer to generate spatial variations. Furniture solutions are an indispensable part of the design model as they complete the idea of spatial flexibility by allowing numerous configurations that support different activities. In this sense the model does not have applicability without the understanding of configurable modules.

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- 2) Google
- 3) School of Art and Textile and Clothing Engineering, Changshu Institute of Technology, Changshu, 215500, China
- 4) Research on Innovative Application of Modular Design in University Student Apartment Furniture

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13P a g e



India has a great cultural heritage of temples across the country. There is a wide variety of temples and heritage buildings like palaces, schools, colleges, lakes constructed from East to West and North to South of India. Most of the temples are built centuries ago and still are in good condition and the centre of cultural activities.

Dakshin Kashi, a city known to be located on the banks of the Panchganga River, southern-western zone of the state Maharashtra, surrounded by Sahyadri mountain ranges is famous for being ruled by multiple kings belonging to different backgrounds. As a reflection of its people and period, the city of Kolhapur reflects the wisdom and beliefs of the kings who ruled over it, and as a result, the city is rich in forts, temples, and palaces, making it a destination to be explored for its spectacular and grandeur of India. City was referred as Karvir after the installation of Mahalaxmi temple. Before that, there were many names like Kolhapur, Kollpur, Kollagiri, Kolladigiripattan. Kolla means valley and Kolhapur means city of vallies. In short, Brahmapuri, Karvir and Kolhapur are different names for this place. After the establishment of Mahalaxmi temple, Kolhapur was recognized as a religious center and gave rise to various cultural and financial developments. Other than the architectural marvels the city is celebrated for Kolhapuri chappals; Indian handcrafted leather slippers and Kolhapuri Saaj; A unique necklace made by local jewelers. Apart from the architectural beauty, the historical and cultural richness of the city makes it a touristic place.

Statement of problem:

The historical and cultural significance of a heritage building is huge. As time passes and outside factors affect the building, however, it will wear down. In this case, a heritage building restoration is your best option. However, restoring a heritage building isn't as simple as putting a fresh coat of paint on the outside.

Objectives

1. The aim of this study is to spread awareness about conservation of heritage building at Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
2. To document the values of a heritage-listed building of Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

Scope:

The purpose of this study is to give an insight to numerous conservation strategies for architectural heritage conservation, which is an important aspect of preserving society's culture identity. One of these is heritage building reuse, which is the essential notion in finding an optimal balance between cultural property conservation and changing its functions. The reuse of heritage buildings has the potential to improve many areas of the city.

ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

2 Page



Methods:

The findings of this article are based on literature review. The literature reviewed is a mix of articles and papers about the study of conservation of heritage building at Kolhapur Maharashtra, basic study of history of heritage of Kolhapur and conservation strategies for architectural heritage conservation. For this study drawings and details are done of heritage buildings at Kolhapur. Through presentation drawings trying present view of heritage building and details in written format. It is a descriptive study. With the help of study facts are considered in descriptive methods and surveys and case studies are done to clarify the facts. These help to determine and explain with examples, the facts, and they are not rejected.

What is Heritage?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'heritage' as 'property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance', 'valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations', and 'relating to things of historic or cultural value that are worthy of preservation'. The emphasis on inheritance and conservation is important here, as is the focus on 'property', 'things' or 'buildings'. So (according to the Oxford English Dictionary, anyway), heritage is something that can be passed from one generation to the next, something that can be conserved or inherited, and something that has historic or cultural value. Heritage might be understood to be a physical 'object': a piece of property, a building or a place that is able to be 'owned' and 'passed on' to someone else. Heritage encompasses all of our inherited customs, monuments, artefacts, and culture. The spectrum of modern activities, meanings, and behaviours that we derive from them is most crucial. Preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of old artefacts is part of heritage, but it is much more.

Benefits From Heritage Conservation:

Heritage preservation is a long-term commitment that benefits us now and provides a priceless treasure for future generations.

Here are five significant advantages of preserving our built heritage:

Retaining Identity

Many heritage precincts serve as gathering places for locals and activities. The significance of their preservation extends beyond their historical significance, emphasising the distinct personality and sense of belonging they create in our emotions. Furthermore, these historic architectural aspects contribute to the beauty of contemporary urban environments.

Promotes Cultural Tourism

ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

3P a g e

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Historic structures play an important role in heritage tourism. These fascinating and tangible links to our past pique tourists' interest in soaking up the unique atmosphere, which in turn serves to attract business. Heritage visitors have a higher economic impact per trip, according to statistics, because they remain for longer periods of time and spend more money every day.

Increases Property Value

Heritage preservation often leads to greater appreciation rates for both the restored building and its surrounding properties compared to areas without historical landmarks.

Economic Sustainability

The enhancement of existing neighbourhoods and infrastructure is significantly cheaper than building new ones. Aside from cutting down on hefty infrastructure costs, restoration projects also help to retain money within the community by creating more local employment and requiring fewer imported materials. Various industries such as construction firms and product manufacturers also benefit from heritage conservation.

Reduction of Demolition Waste

Conservation and restoration of heritage buildings are the ultimate forms of recycling. Research has shown that the demolition of a typical brick house results in an average of 60 to 100 tonnes worth of waste. To top it off, restoration is also proven to be a massive energy saver. The energy required to demolish an old building and erect a new one is estimated to be equivalent to the energy needed to operate it for 40 years. Imagine the amount of invaluable resources and savings that could be put to better use.

Heritage of Kolhapur:

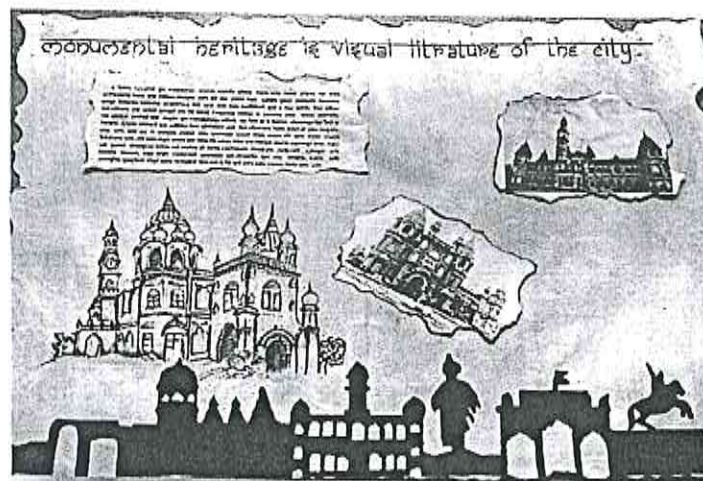
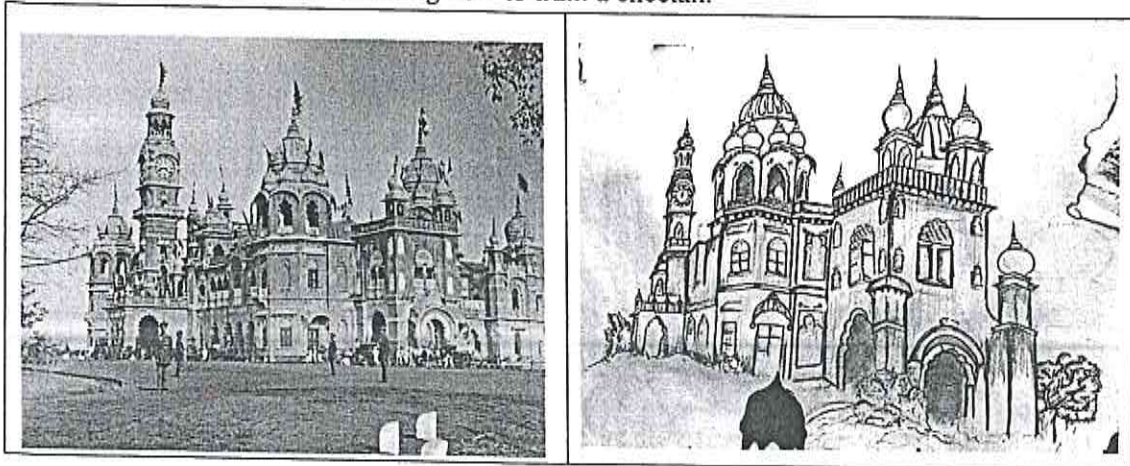
1. Maharaja palace:

Maharaja Palace, also known as "New Palace" is a blend of Rajasthani, Gujarati, and Jain style architecture, built by British architect Mant in 1884 and has paintings of Shivaji Maharaj's life stories. Their clothes, living styles, games, pieces of jewelry, weapons, or royal culture. Housing a zoo, museum, and multiple parks, this palace stands out from other places in the city. It is also considered to be a fine example of the Rajwada style of architecture. It was developed at Kolhapur by the architect Major Charles Mant under the auspices of the Maharaja. Mant designed the New Palace which took seven years to complete (1877-1884). This building was built in basalt and sandstone around a central courtyard and exhibits a lofty clock tower. The interior was equally lavish, adorned with trophies of game and tiger heads, it contains several beautiful stained glass windows depicting the life of

ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

4Page

Shivaji which was the work of an Italian artist. The principal south facade presents a double-storeyed range, with Neo-Mughal lobed arches beneath and temple-like columns and brackets above. This scheme is interrupted by trefoil arches capped with curving cornices and small domes. The same elements cap the octagonal corner towers. The Darbar Hall occupies a double-height space in middle of the Palace. The side walls display lobed arches filled with stained glass illustrating scenes from the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ; carved columns with temple-like brackets support the cast iron balcony above. A raised throne is placed at one end of the Hall. Photos include one of the Maharajah with his hundredth dead tiger, elephant hunts and a series detailing how to train a cheetah.



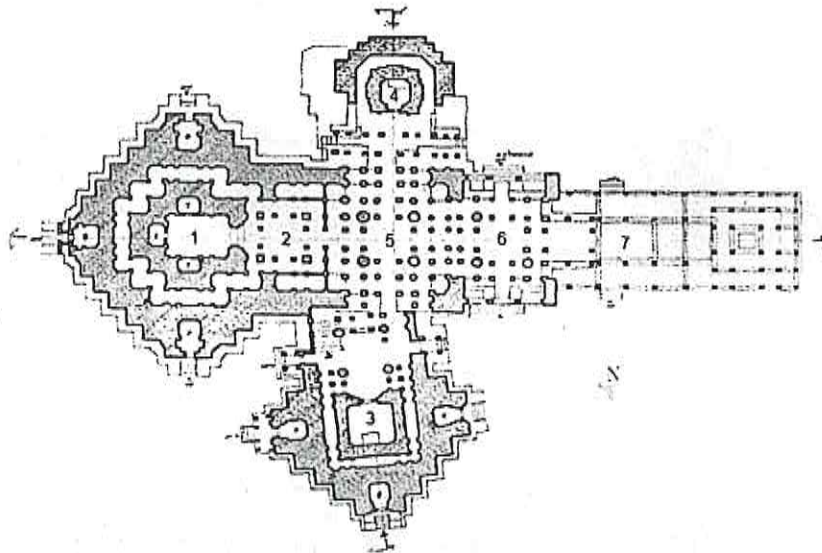
Drawing details:

2. Mahalaxmi temple:-

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5 Page

Mahalaxmi temple precinct is a very old precinct in Kolhapur, built in 8th century by Chalukyan rulers. Every year lacs of devotees are visiting this temple of goddess Mahalaxmi from most of the part of India. The interior and exterior walls of the temple are adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures. The monolithic statue of Goddess Mahalaxmi is one of the highlights of this temple. Diamonds and other precious stones have been used as ornaments for the deity. A festival of sun rays also referred as Kirnotsav is celebrated in Mahalakshmi Temple at Kolhapur when the sun rays fall directly on the idol of Mahalakshmi highlighting it at the time of sunset on specific six days in a year which is possible because of the precise calculations of the size of the opening and the distance between the source of light and the idol (K. Rewatkar, P. Rewatkar, 2016). The temple is constructed of basalt stone with beautiful intricate carving on it. Indoor environmental quality of the temple which is deteriorated due to the impact of increased number of devotees. Some of the devotees face the problem of suffocation, fatigue, fainting, irritation, nasal congestion; as provision of vents are absent and natural ventilation is not available inside the shrine of goddess Mahalaxmi. Due to lack of air exchange and natural ventilation the indoor environmental quality is deteriorated. It is observed that the CO₂ level is increased, decreased in O₂ level, rise in temperature and humidity above the standard level causing discomfort. With the beautiful Indian architectural style, back then since the 7th century, the place holds a scientific beauty of Indian beliefs. As justified by the name the temple encloses Mahalaxmi's deity at the center who is worshipped by Indians as an idol signifies money.



Plan of Mahalaxmi temple

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6P a g e

The temple premises is covered with strong masonry walls. Along with the walls, there exist various famous and worshipful temples. Four main entrances exist for easy accessibility for citizens and pilgrims, There was enough place to rest for people visiting from other places. Broadly, the main temple premises is divided in following ways.

1. Garbh gruha (Mahalaxmi Gruha)
2. Antaraal
3. Mahakali
4. Mahasarswati
5. Madnya Mandap / Kurm Manda
6. Ganesh Mandap
7. Garud Mandap



When you enter, you see the base of the big structure in dark grey stone. Get a hint of Chalukyan architecture. Most of the sculpted images on the walls are broken. As shown below;

ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

7Page



Shikhara's:

The Shikhara's is painted in pale lemon yellow with saffron outlines. The Shikhara's are triangular or conical in shape and look like a much later addition to the original mandir. Were the original Shikharas destroyed or they were simply renovated. From the ground level, it is difficult to understand the formation of Shikharas. There are 5 Shikharas in all. The central one is on top of Koorma Mandap and the four in four cardinal directions surrounding it are on the temples of Mahalakshmi, Mahakali, Mahasaraswati, and Ganapati. The one on top of the presiding deity is the tallest of them. As shown below;

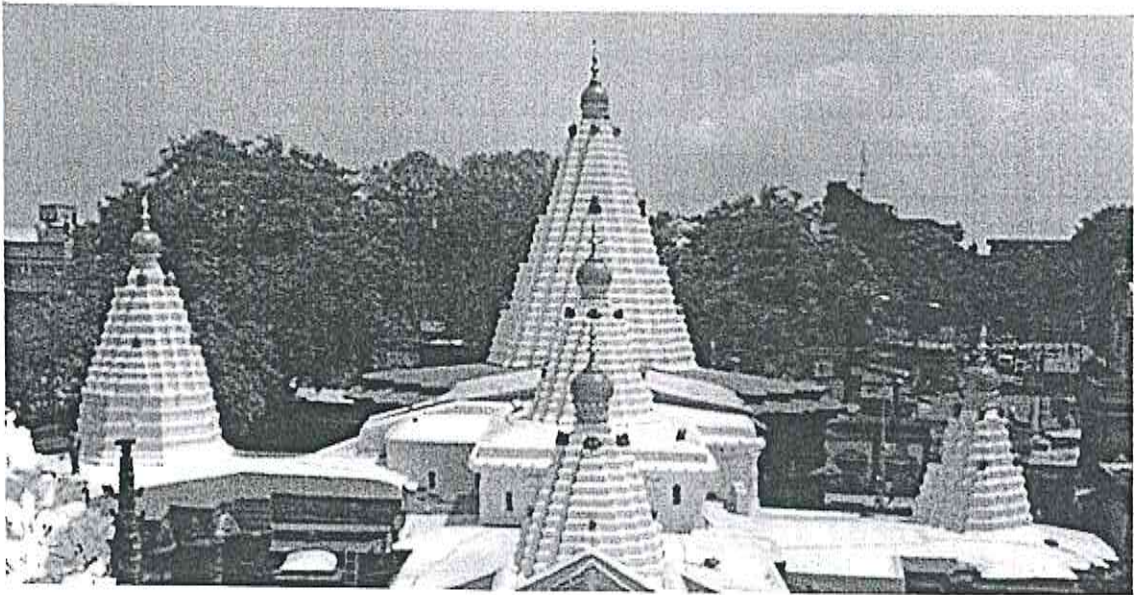
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8 Page

VOL 7, ISSUE 2 www.puneresearch.com/world **JUNE - AUG 2018**
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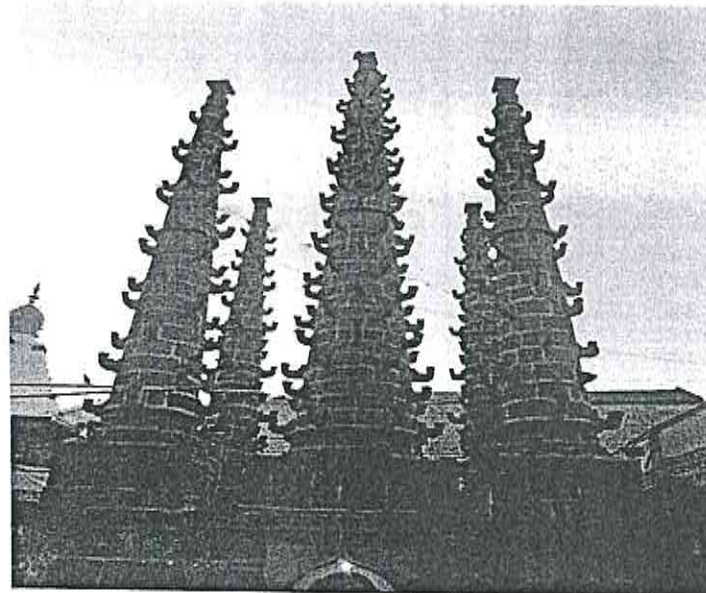
Shilpa

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Deepstambh:

Typical Maharashtra style Deepstambhs stand in one corner. They are lit up on the festival days.



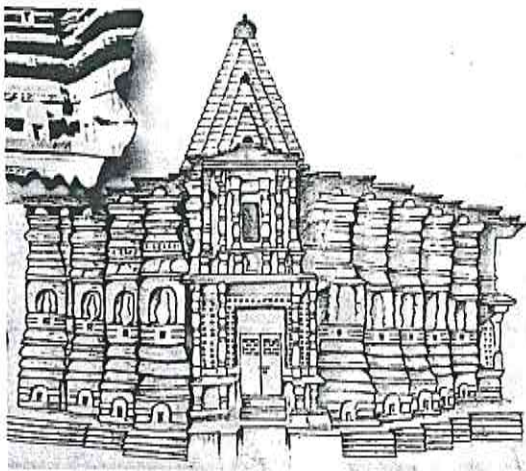
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9Page

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(IMPACT FACTOR 3.02) INDEXED, PEER-REVIEWED / REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL


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3. Bhawani mandap

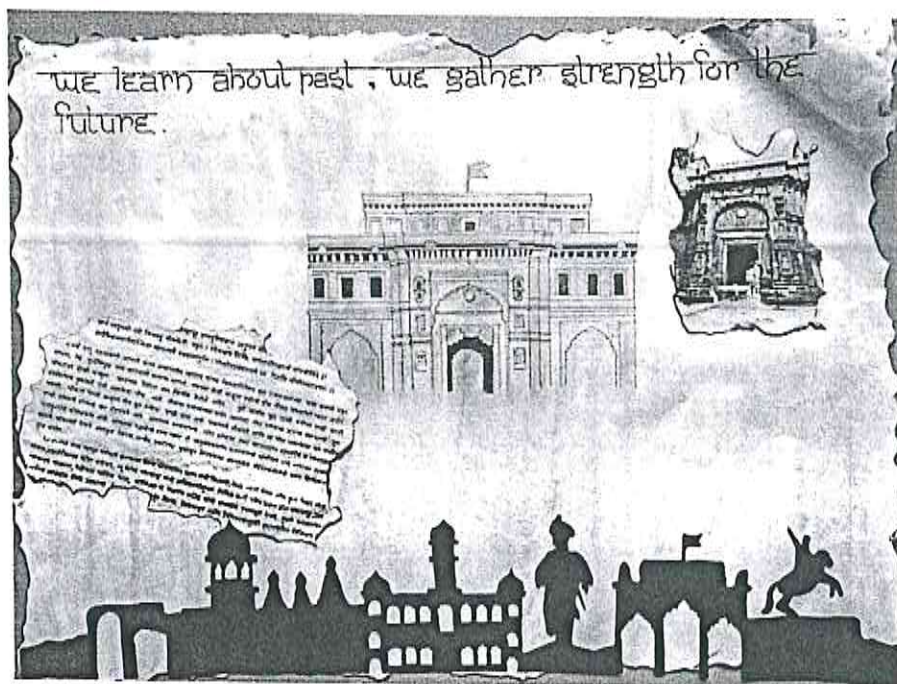
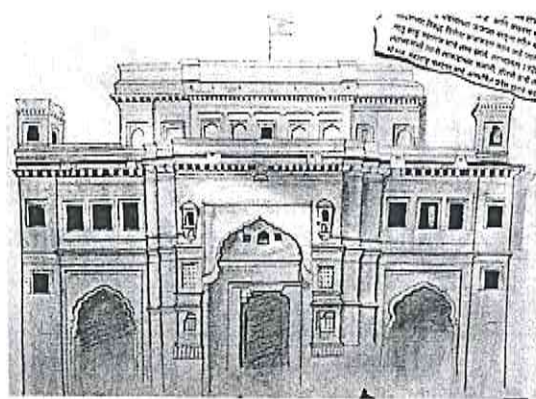
The city's splendour is known as the Bhawani Mandap. In Kolhapur, the Mandap is one of the city's oldest structures. It was constructed between 1785 and 1800 by Shivaji Maharaj. This complex has an ancient architectural design and it is surrounded by huge walls and arches. It served as a royal residence to the rulers of Kolhapur and within this complex a temple was built dedicated to goddess Tulja Bhavani by Shri Chhatrapati only for the members of the royal family. The biggest and oldest monument of the city Kolhapur "Bhawani mandap" is now re-adapted as a public heritage site that was used for courts during the times of Marathas and the palace of Chhatrapati Maharaj. The mandap was constructed with fine carving and it had 14 square but during 1813 the palace was invaded by a Muslim and half of its part was burnt; only 7 squares were survived. With great warriors and their stories, the mandap also has sacred importance which makes the place publicly engaged. Kolhapur was a rich princely state and the Mandap is a look back into the rich history of the place. The goddess Tulja Bhavani is the deity of the Bhawani Mandap, which is also a temple. The entrance hall is magnificent, and there are ornaments such as Zumbur, a light collection. A life-size statue of Shahu Maharaj, the most loved king of Kolhapur is placed in the entrance hall of the Mandap. There are many interesting artifacts on display here, such as the stuffed animals like deer and panther hunted by the king.

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10 Page

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4. Shalini Palace

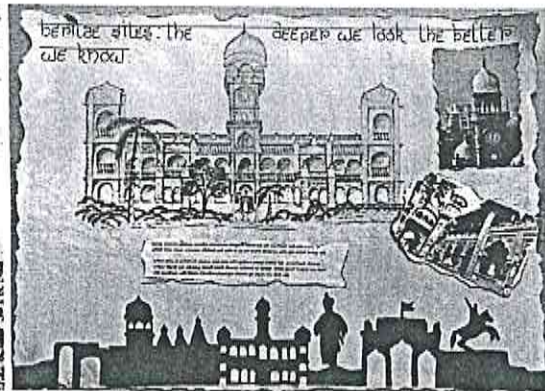
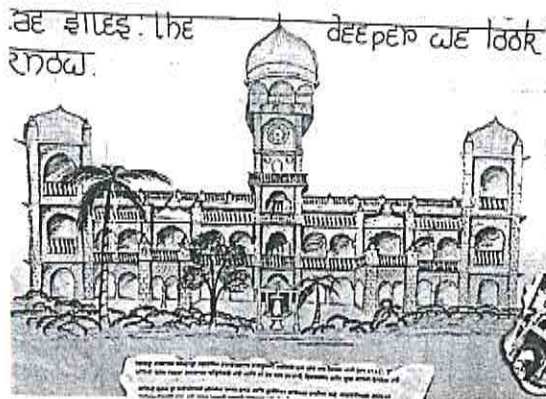
The Palace named after the princess of Kolhapur, Shalini is a great example of Italian architecture, carved out with black marble, intricately carved wooden doors and windows fitted with Belgium glass signifies its magnificent richness of that time. The palace was built in 1931-34 and converted into a 3-star hotel afterward. Majestic black stone arches form the verandah and the porch. The stained glass windows and the huge tower clock are restored to their original beauty.

ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

11Page

VOL 7, ISSUE 2 www.puneresearch.com/world **JUNE - AUG 2022**
(IMPACT FACTOR 3.02) INDEXED, PEER-REVIEWED / REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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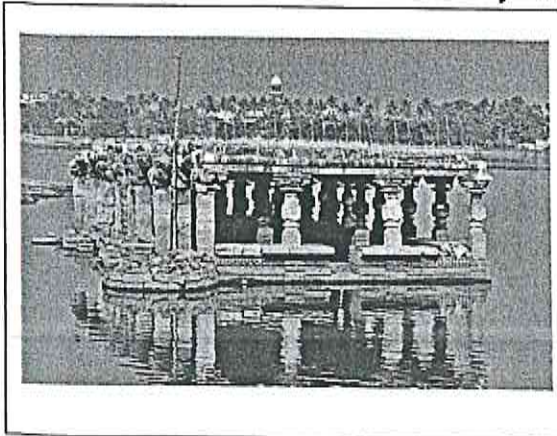
5. RANKALA LAKE

Rankala Lake is on the western side of Ambabai temple , it is a popular evening spot and recreation centre. This lake was constructed by late Maharajah, Shri Shahu Chhatrapati. The Lake is surrounded by Chaupati and other gardens. In the backdrop stands majestic Shalini Palace. Shalini Palace is the only star-rated Palace Hotel in Maharashtra. In past, Kolhapur was famous as a centre for Film Industry. Many Marathi movies, Hindi movies have been shot in studios in Kolhapur. ShantKiran Studio on Rankala Lake was shot in numerous movies. Witness of historical events during 750-850 AD Formerly, this was an extensive mine of black stone. During 800-900 AD, there were earthquakes, which transformed the

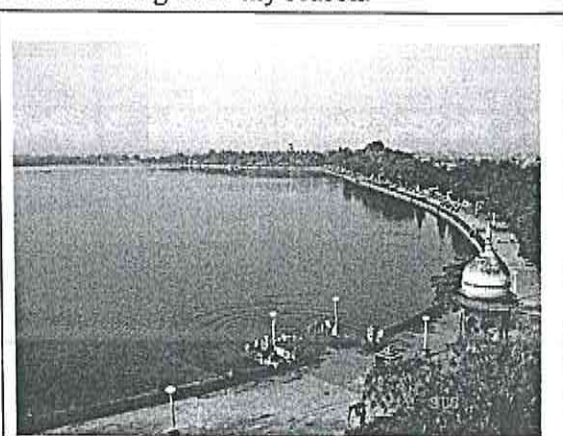
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12Page

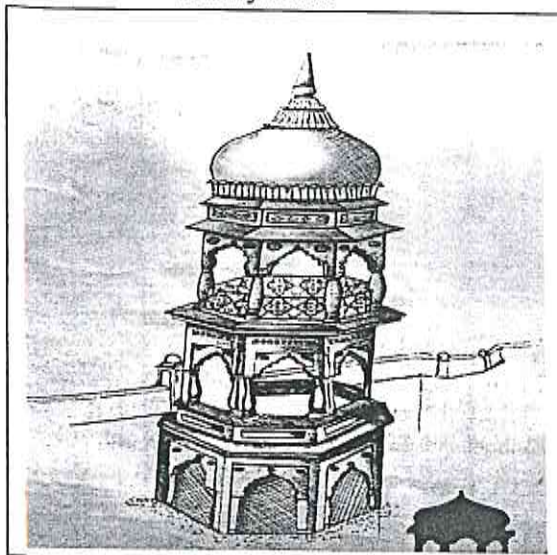
mine. There across big holes through which water from under ground collect. Located at a distance of half a kilometer from the Mahalakshmi Temple is a huge lake called "RANKALA LAKE". This is the oldest of all, it is thought and was given more importance in the past as a big temple of Nandi and a fine resort called 'Sandhya Math' have been built. The idol of Nandi is very big and rare. To the northern end of the lake is the Shalini Palace. To the southeast is Padmaraje garden. The lake is picturesque and it's a pleasure to go for a walk along this lake. At two spots one can reach the water, at Rajghat and Maratha ghat. There is a tower on the Rajghat. In front of this tower are the Shalini Palace and Ambai swimming tank. The 'Sandhya Math' in the lake is mostly under water during the rainy season.



Sandhyamath



Rankala Lake



ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

13Page

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(IMPACT FACTOR 3.02) INDEXED, PEER-REVIEWED / REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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CONCLUSION:

The study mentioned above is the 'essence of the culture of Kolhapur. While visiting the tourist places is important, feeling the culture of the city is a new experience altogether. This is heritage that we need to see, get inspired and preserve for our next generation.


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ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

14Page

VOL 7, ISSUE 2 www.puneresearch.com/world **JUNE - AUG 2022**
(IMPACT FACTOR 3.02) INDEXED, PEER-REVIEWED / REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL


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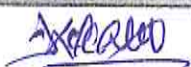
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ID. PRIYA KANDALKAR

15P a g e

VOL 7, ISSUE 2 www.puneresearch.com/world **JUNE - AUG 2022**
(IMPACT FACTOR 3.02) INDEXED, PEER-REVIEWED / REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL


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CONTENTS

1. Introduction to Computer	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Objectives• What is Computer?• Basic Applications of Computer• Components of Computer System• Central Processing Unit• Keyboard, Mouse and VDU• Other Input Devices• Other Output Devices• Computer Memory• Concept of Hardware and Software• Hardware• Software• Application Software• Systems Software• Concept of Computing, Data and Information• Applications of IECT• e-Governance• Entertainment• Bringing Computer to life CPU• Connecting Keyboard, Mouse, Monitor and Printer• Checking Power Supply• Summary• Model Answers	
2. Operating Computer Using GUI Based Operating	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Objectives• Basics of Operating System• Operating System	


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Kolhapur

- Basics of Popular Operating System (LINUX, WINDOWS)
- The User Interface
- Taskbar
- Icons
- Menu
- Running an application
- Operating System
- Changing System Date and Time
- Changing Display Properties
- To Add or Remove A Windows Component
- Changing Mouse Properties
- Adding and Removing Printers
- File and Directory Management
- Creating and Renaming of Files and Directories
- Common Utilities
- Summary
- Model Answers

3. Understanding Word Processing

46

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Word Processing Basics
- Opening Word Processing Package
- Menu Bar
- Using the Help
- Using the Icons below Menu Bar
- Opening and Closing Documents
- Opening Documents
- Save and Save as
- Page Setup
- Print Preview
- Printing of Documents
- Text Creation and Manipulation
- Document Creation
- Editing Text
- Text Selection
- Cut, Copy and Paste
- Spell Check
- Thesaurus
- Formatting of Text
- Font and Size Selection
- Alignment of Text
- Paragraph Indenting
- Bullets and Numbering
- Changing Case
- Table Manipulation



- Draw Table
- Changing Cell width and Height
- Alignment of Text in Cell
- Delete / Insertion of row and column
- Border and Shading
- Summary
- Model Question & Answers

4. Using Spreadsheet

68

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Elements of Electronic Spreadsheet
- Opening of Spreadsheet
- Addressing of Cells
- Printing of Spreadsheet
- Saving Workbooks
- Manipulation of Cells
- Entering Text, Numbers and Dates
- Creating Text, Number and Date Series
- Editing Worksheet Data
- Inserting and Deleting Rows, Columns
- Changing Cell Height and Width
- Formulas and Function
- Using Formulas
- Function
- Summary
- Model Answers

5. Communicating Using the Internet

84

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Basic of Computer Networks
- Local Area Network (LAN)
- Wide Area Network (WAN)
- Internet
- Concept of Internet
- Applications of Internet
- Connecting to the Internet
- Troubleshooting
- Summary
- Model Answers

6. WWW and Web Browsing

93

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Basics of E-mail

Neelam
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 College of Non-Conventional
 Vocational Courses For Women
 Kelhaur.

- What is an Electronic Mail
- E-mail Addressing
- Using E-mails
- Opening E-mail Account
- Mailbox: Inbox and Outbox
- Creating and Sending a new E-mail
- Replying to an E-mail message
- Forwarding and E-mail message
- Sorting and Searching E-mails
- Document Collaboration
- Instant Messaging and Collaboration
- Using instant messaging
- Instant messaging providers
- Netiquettes
- Summary
- Model Answers

7. Communications and Collaborations

114

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Basics of E-Mail
- What is an Electronic Mail
- E-Mail Addressing
- Using E-Mails
- Opening E-Mail Account
- Mailbox: Inbox and Outbox
- Creating and Sending A New E-Mail
- Replying to an E-Mail Message
- Forwarding and E-Mail Message
- Sorting and Searching E-Mails
- Document Collaboration
- Instant Messaging and Collaboration
- Using Instant Messaging
- Instant Messaging Providers
- Netiquettes
- Summary
- Model Answers

8. Making Small Presentations

126

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Basics
- Using PowerPoint
- Opening a PowerPoint Presentation
- Saving a Presentation
- Creating a Presentation

- Creating a Presentation using a Template
- Creating a Blank Presentation
- Entering and Editing Text
- Inserting and Deleting Slides in a Presentation
- Preparation of Slides
- Inserting Word Table or an Excel Worksheet
- Adding Clip Art Pictures
- Inserting Other Objects
- Resizing Other Objects
- Presentation of Slides
- Viewing a Presentation
- Choosing a Set up for Presentation
- Printing Slides and Handouts
- Slide Show
- Running a Slide Show
- Transition and Slide Timings
- Automating a Slide Show
- Summary
- Model Answers



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