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Introduction

The related study program (RSP) at the Faculty of Architecture, Ahmedabad’s unique contribution to the Architectural education. Initially called measure drawings, it was intended to take the students out into the field to get first hand experience of traditional built environments of India. Brought into the curriculum right at the onset of the school’s educational program in the early 60s, at the peak of the modern movement in India, it was an emphatic recognition of the value of the traditional architecture as well as the importance of field experiences and travel in the learning of architecture. It was in 1969 that the program expanded its pedagogy to include the significance of socio-cultural aspects as well as the physical context in its realm and was called the Related Study Program wherein the students are encouraged to learn about not only architectural form, but all its related components as elucidated in the curriculum note. A salient feature of this program has been ‘to develop a database for research and teaching’. It has been extremely valuable in this objective and continues to be a wealth of knowledge on Indian architecture. It supports the students and teachers alike in their understanding of their localized contexts. Over the years, through this program, the university has been able to document several fragile, unknown environments that have become a basis for further research. Accurate and precise drawings of many a monument, institution and settlement in India has been done through this program.

About Rajpipla

Rajpipla is the main industrial town and headquarters of the newly carved out district of Narmada located in south Gujarat. The capital of the former princely state of Rajpipla, it was the choice for the second year RSP (RSP II) for the 2006 batch for the range of buildings that were available for study. Faculty members Pratyush Shankar, Mona Khakkar and Sharad Panchal led the study.

Rajpipla was ruled by the Gohil Rajputs clan from around 1350 till 1948 when it was merged with the Republic of India. Situated between the rivers Narmada and Tapti, it is part of a rich fertile agricultural region comprising plains and river valleys. Thus endowed, it grew to be one of the most prosperous princely states of Gujarat.
Being a capital town, with much of its present structure taking shape in the early 20th century, it shows obvious influences of colonial planning. Two streets – the station road and the palace road are the main streets of this city with much of its commercial hub based along them. The focus of this study program was the making of the street and its elements and how the units respond to the making of the street. The students found a variety of responses of a unit to the street. Some units were closed to the street with high compound walls while some were very connected through verandahs, attics and stairs as is clearly seen in the Ranchodrai street. The value of the different elements, their use by the people, and the manner of making became an important learning. The students also saw the different manners of organization of units. A Khadki around a central area as a cluster made a distinctly different space from the linearity of the street.

For the students, it was a great point of bonding and connecting. With staying in a dharamshala with minimal facilities to drinking lassi after lunch together – it was a time for shared learning and discovering each other. Not to mention the haunted house which they were required to measure. Three brave souls ventured in late evening with only one returning. The other two returned after a passage of time claiming to have been hypnotized by a Sadhu. Evidently, none of the other students verified the story.

The timber construction of the houses was studied in great detail. The classroom learning done in their building construction classes was revisited and they had the opportunity to understand through first hand experience some of the classroom learning. This became an important aspect of the RSP.
Darbarwad
G - Mamani Khadiki

INSTITUTION, Nagarpalika

WALL SECTION

SITE PLAN

KEY PLAN

CLUSTER PLAN, G - Mamani Khadiki
SITE SECTIONS, G - Mamani Khadiki

SITE SECTION 1

SITE SECTION 2

SITE SECTION 3

TEMPLE PLAN

COLUMN DETAIL

TEMPLE, G - Mamani Khadiki
SITE PLAN

GROUND FLOOR PLAN  FIRST FLOOR PLAN  SECOND FLOOR PLAN  ATTIC PLAN  SECTION AA'

HOUSE 1, Ranchodrai street

FA Booklet Series - RSP Rajpipla
WALL SECTION
The drawings in this booklet were prepared as part of the RSP conducted in 2008 by 07 batch, which was guided by Pratyush Shankar, Sharad Panchal and Mona Khakhar. This booklet was put together during the SASO publication workshop in December 2011, involving students and guided by Meghal Arya and Sharad Panchal. The final layout and formatting has been done by Sinali Ratanlal and Sivith Kumar.
The Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year. Over the past 50 years the school has been home to a host of students and teachers, providing the setting for germinating ideas that have borne fruit both within the campus and in the world around. The booklet series provides an opportunity to tell this story not only to put the past in perspective but also to chart an informed road to the future.

Any recollection of history is partial and can never do justice to the plethora of issues worth publishing. The booklet format allows the possibility of covering diverse issues like teaching and learning methods, ideals and ideologies, student works, institutional culture and contributions to society. The booklet format also allows us to look into the future by adding to and commenting on previous booklets.

These booklets might appear small and simple but are made possible only through hours of hard work and inputs from a very wide range of people. The students of the Faculty of Architecture have worked on these booklets with a spirit and enthusiasm that are the hallmark of this institution. It was also heartening to see the alumni spending hours with these students without which we couldn't have talked of the early years of the school. The past and present visiting and core faculty members also deserve special mention for taking the effort to provide material for this endeavour.

The first part of this series focuses on five themes- Pedagogy, Research, Outreach, the Related Study Programme (RSP), and Campus History. Teaching and learning methods are addressed under the 'pedagogy' theme whereas the 'research' theme focuses on the research thesis programme in the tenth semester. The school has always been concerned about its connections with society at large and this is highlighted in the ‘outreach’ and ‘RSP’ booklets. The ‘campus history’ series charts the long and colourful history of the campus and its people.

The Related Study Program (RSP) has been a central feature of the education at the Faculty of Architecture right from the beginning. In the 60's it was referred as summer work and it was formalized by the 70's as a program for documentation, where students spend time in the field, thrice during the course. In the last five decades, students of architecture have documented and studied numerous architectural and urban examples in villages, towns and cities all across India. These booklets bring out this documentation in the public domain for the benefit of academicians and students, and should prove to be an invaluable source of information in teaching and research on Indian Architecture and urbanity.