

# AGK Menon

ARCHITECT URBAN PLANNER & CONSERVATION PROFESSIONAL, NEW DELHI







Photo credit: M Shah Alar



#### **FIRST PRIZE**

K-26

# 'Landscape for Reverence and Commemoration'

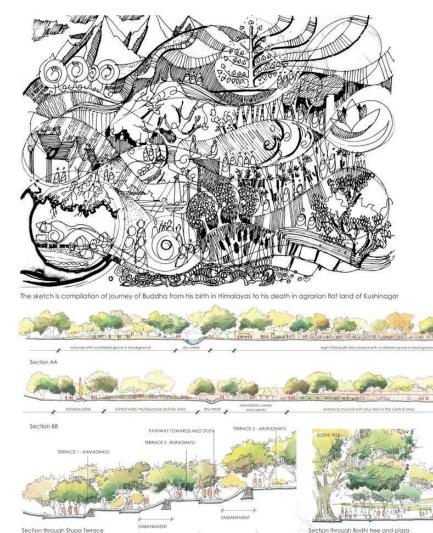
Priya Sharma

Masters in Landscape Architecture BNCA College of Architecture, Pune

"Preserving cultural continuum is imperative for the survival of tradition and heritage. Buddhism signifies mutual respect, coexistence, empowerment of ordinary people and connecting them to their inherent potential while pointing to the highest form of equality. The adopted approach exemplifies and creates a precedent to look at and effectively perpetuate intangible heritage through interpretation of associated values. Spaces within the landscape, egalitarian in nature, have an all-embracing inclusive quality, offering possibilities of congregation as well as solitary contemplation. An attempt is also made in developing an aesthetic order that captures the essence without parodying historical forms, thereby subtly breaking allegiance to a particular symbol that may tend to become singular in meaning. The idea deals with the intangible heritage, pertaining to land and people with a direct association with the cultural linkage to Shakyamuni Buddha, a significant spiritual pillar whose penetrating insight forms guiding principles for peaceful coexistence in the future times."

#### **JURY'S COMMENTS**

Understanding of the theme in relation to the historic, cultural, religious and ecological value of the site in a methodical and consistent way, right from the conceptual idea to the final design is the most positive attribute of the entry. Articulation of the central idea where the past gets connected with the present and future finds many creative interpretations. It is one of the very few entries that explore the idea of creating landscape setting by molding the land as per the natural topography. While demonstrating a maturity in spatial organization, the design has a geometry and order, yet comes across as a space that has a natural character. A balanced and well thought of presentation of the entry holds many lessons.



"The landscape design is an exploration of several 'endings' and 'new beginnings' in its spatial continuity creating a sense of journey, mystery and refuge leading to sudden panoramic destinations offering new perspective views, connecting to fresh streams, or episodal walks. The journey expressed through the created landscape embodies the richness of variety, experience,

"If you want to understand the causes that existed in the past, look at the results as they are manifested in the present. And if you want to understand what results will be manifested in the future, look at the causes that exist in the present."

Preserving cultural continuum is imperative for the survival of tradition and heritage. The future would be anything but perfect causes are not made here and now to interpret the past in the present in a relevant form.

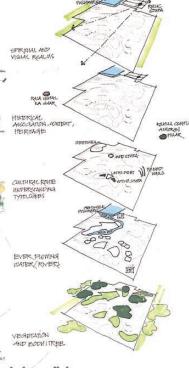
The approach to this project exemplifies and creates a preceder to look at and effectively perpetuate intangible heritage through interpretation of associated values and presentation as a cultural content of the cont

The prime significance of Buddhism that feaches mutual respect and coexistence is the empowerment of actinary people, connecting them to their inherent potential and pointing to the highest from of equality based on Buddhe nature. The landscape in response is egalitation in nature. Spaces within the landscape have an all embracing quality, offering possibilities of congregation as an all embracing quality. Offering possibilities of congregation as

At another level, care is taken in developing an aesthetic order to landscape elements that capture their essence or spirit without parodying historical forms, thereby subtly breaking allegiance to a particular symbol that may tend to become singular in megning."

This exercise deals with the often ignored and less talked about intangible heritage; that pertaining to land and people with a direct association cultural linkage to Shakyamuni Buddha, a significant spiritual pillar whose penetrating insight forms guiding

#### Life and its environment



### Intangible

restry, productive landscapes, revival of mange grove) social restry, productive landscapes, revival of mange grove) by ommunity involvement exploring the possibility if conserving the ast in present can be a tool for social empowerment and conomic improvement.

Experiential walks, meditative settings, elevated landmarks
Groves, Forests and Symbolic Landscape features



#### Here and now



MONEY FACHER CHURCH TRICKS FAMILY VENDOR NOMEN SCHOOL STREENTS

for care to diversity of activities and users while separating religion from recreation, multidimensional spaces are created which are not only commemorative, but also serves as arena for various cultural activities, and contemporary recreational uses.



Landscape for Reverence and Commemoration

High ground - Static - Immovable - Anchor

Sculpting the landform

ound - Static - Immovable - Anchor Life of buddha (Cultural commemoration)

Objets (Relics, ashes, alm bowl and coins having associative value)

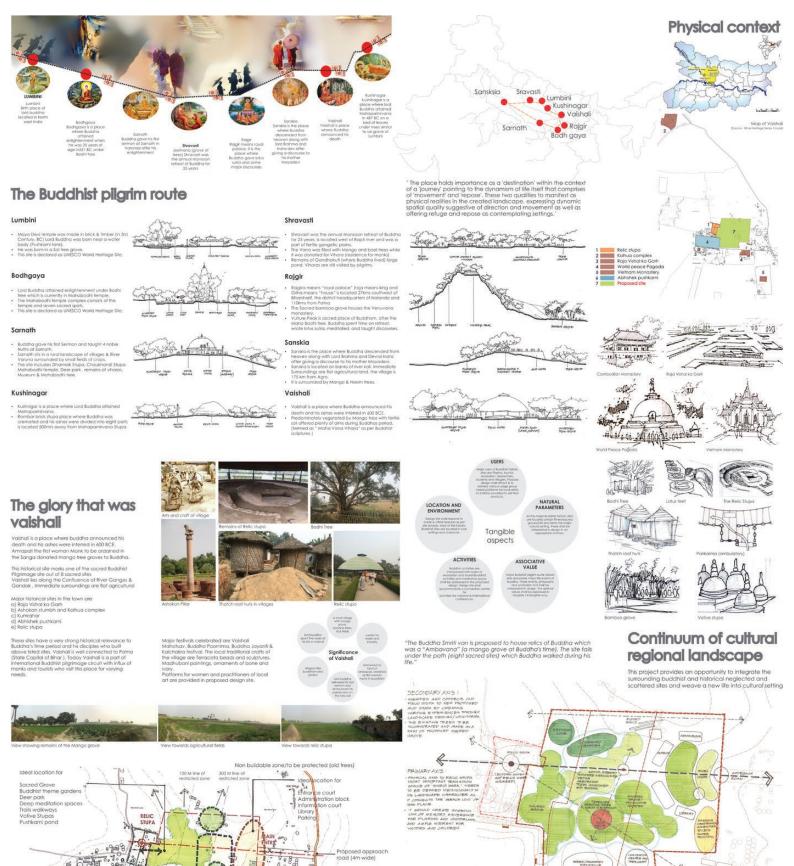
Landscape setting associated with buddha's life

Master Plan

he vantage, serenity

The traverse (journey of daily life)
The valley of life and joy

idea is to create a landscape setting by sculpling the landforn and using the vegetation and water creatively in order to impoit an individual identity,"



The region is datted with archaeological precincts, the site Itself being in the scinity of relia bytas and other remains from past, myths and states isosociated eliciliting an appropriate response permeating values of reverence and respect the site being surrounded by places of historical importance as well as inked by a cultural route, particularly associated with the life of shakyamuni Buddha, advance of his teachings and propagation efforts by his disciples embody dual values of regionalism as well as an ow-woldium.

Design Approach

#### **SECOND PRIZE**

K-27

## 'Portals into Forgotten Knowledge'

Shivani Vinod Kumar

B. Arch. (5th Year) R V College of Architecture, Bangalore

"Should historic monuments be preserved retaining their original character of the time or can they be re interpreted and re appropriated to changing contexts? Does a connection remain between the growing city and its historic past or can the two exist relevantly as separate entities? Is there a role that historic entities can play in present times? The design aims to look at the historic structures not as stagnant entities but as elements that have lessons to impart. It takes the site of historic fort of Chitradurga to demonstrate the idea by conceptualizing a study and research center that translates the knowledge of the past into the context of the present. The study of traditional water management structures and systems to come out with diverse ideas to address water scarcity issues becomes an integral part of the proposal."

#### **JURY'S COMMENTS**

The design discusses the topical and relevant environment issues facing the country. It addresses the competition brief by looking at the past for clues of forgotten intelligence and wisdom while using historical references to resolve these present day urban concerns. On the way, it breaks the boundaries in a non invasive way to highlight the main idea.



PRE NAYAKA PERIOD

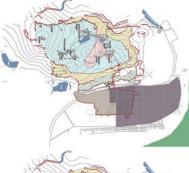
NAYAKA PERIOD

THE

CITY

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#### **PROGRAM**

#### IS THE FORT STILL RELE-VANT?

HISTORY, HERITAGE AND SENSE OF PLACE

THE HONDA SYSTEM

#### **USER GROUPS**

TOURISTS- OPENING UP PARTS OF THE FORT WALL TO THE PUBLIC WITH THE USE OF GALLERIES AND INTERPRETATION CENTERS. CREATING A LARGE PUBLIC SPACE AROUND THE

LOCALS- WORKSHOPS AND CLASSROMS THAT WORK IN CON-JUCTION WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES THROWING LIGHT ON THE ISSUE OF WATER MANAGEMENT AND STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN FOR THE FUTURE.

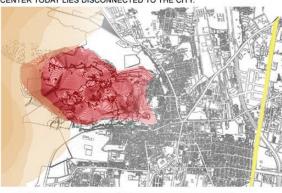
RESEARCH CENTER- THAT STUDIES WATER MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES OF THE PAST AND DEVELOPS SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR THE FUTURE



N A SITUA-TION OF IN-CREASING WATER SCAR-CITY, CAN HIS TORIC WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SHOW US THE WAY FOR-VARD?



MAP FROM 1800S SHOWING THE SETTLEMENT CONFINED WITHIN THE TIERS OF THE FORT. WITH THE DISTRUCTION OF THE OUTER FORT WALLS BY THE BRITISH AND THE GRADUAL GROWTH OF THE SETTLEMENT BEYOND ITS CONFINES, NEW CITY CENTERS EMERGED AND THE HISTORIC CENTER TODAY LIES DISCONNECTED TO THE CITY.



tries in an urban context with a specific focus on his-toric water structures. What is the role that a historic monument plays in the urban fabric of the city, when juxtaposed against its rapid development? Is the con-text in which these monuments were built still relevant

Water forms the common thread and a study was Water forms the common thread and a study was done into the ways in which water was managed in the past against the way it is managed today. The study of the handling of the same issue over the ages brought to light the ingenious water management system that dated back to the rule of the Palegars. In a situation where Chitradurga faces growing water scarcity, the importance of these historic systems is

city and its historic past or can the two function as separate entities. Is there a role that these historic e tities play and what is the role that it should play? Should historic monuments be preserved, retaining completely the character of its time or can it be reinterpreted and re-appropriated to changing contexts.
This design aims to look at a historic structure not as a stagnant entity but to understand its growth and changing relevance from the context in which it was built to the context that it is in today. It opens up a part of the historic fort of Chitradurga to create a study and research center that reinterprets the knowledge of the past into the context of the present.

#### PRELUDE-THE CITY AND THE FORT



FORT CONCENTRATION OF SET-TLEMENT

#### WATER MANAGEMENT THEN AND NOW - THE HONDA SYSTEM

TODAY CHITRADURGA IS A SEMI ARID REGION WITH LESS THAN 600MM RAINFALL ANUALLY AND RAPIDLY DECREASING GROUND WATER TABLES. WATER SOURCED FROM THE VANI VILAS AND SHANTHI SAGAR DAMS HAVE PROVED INSUFFICIENT AND THE PROPOSED UPPER BHADRA PROJECT IS TO TRANSPORT WATER OVER OVER MORE THAN 500KMS TO THE CITY.

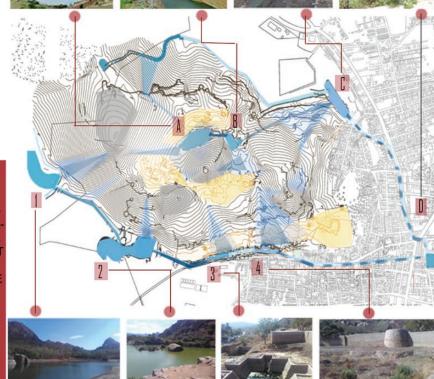
MAPPING THE SERIES OF CATCHMENTS AND WATER BODIES DESIGNNED DURING THE RULE OF THE PALEGARS. THESE INGENEOUS SYSTEMS ARE SAID TO HAVE

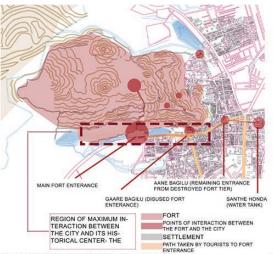
THIMMANANAYAKA

KERE 2. RAMA SUTTINA ODDU 3. KAMANABHAVI PUSH-

GOPALSWAMI HONDA . AKKA THANGI HONDA . SIHI NEERU HONDA







#### SELECION OF SITE KOTE ROAD



THE CHAIN OF WATER CATCHMENT CAN BE REVIVED BY A SERIES OF STEPS. EACH WATER CATCHMENT MUST GO THROUGH A PROCESS OF DESILTATION. THE CHANELS THAT LINK THEM MUST BE LANDSCAPED. THE SELECTED SITE AND THE MOAT HAS A HIGH PROBABILITY OF REJUVINATION AS THE MOAT IS FORMED AT THE BASE OF ONE OF THE MAJOR VALLEYS OF THE HILL FORT. GROUND WATER PERCOLATION CAN BE ENHANCED BY USING A SERIES OF BUNDS ALOG THE VALLEY AND THE MOAT CAN BE GRADUALLY REVIVIED.

#### REVIVAL OF THE MOAT



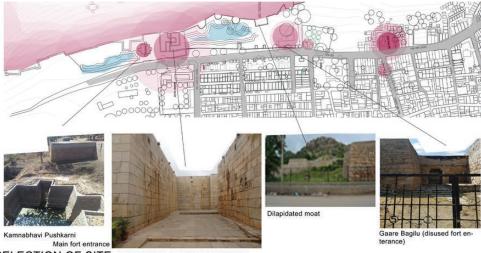
OPENING UP THE FIRT WALLS BY BREAKING BOUNDRIES



CREATING A SERIES OF LINKED PUBLIC COURTS



GENERATING LINES THAT CREATED FOCUS ON THE FORT WALL CREATING PATHS OF MOVEMENT ALONG THE WALL

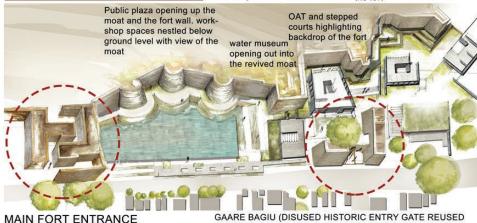


SELECTION OF SITE- IMPORTANT HISTORIC NODES

#### THE INTERVENTION

Gallery tucked into the niche created by the fort wall

Research offices and testing labs that open onto the fort



#### MAIN FORT ENTRANCE

CREATING STRUCTURES THAT USED THE FORT ITSELF TO ENCLOSE IT. USE OF VERTICAL SLITS AND DOUBLE HIGHTED SPACES TO APPRECIATE THE SCALE OF THE FORT WALLS

USE OF LOCALLY AVAILABLE GRANITE STONE IN VERTICAL COURSES TO CREATE A HORIZONTAL CONTRAST TO THE HIGH FORT WALLS. THESE WERE ACCENTED WITH MODERN MATERIALS SUCH AS CON-CRETE AND CORTNE STEEL







#### **THIRD PRIZE**

K-02

# 'Self Sustenance in Water: Reviving the Neher System of Aurangabad'

Justin Mathew Thomas

B. Arch. (2017)

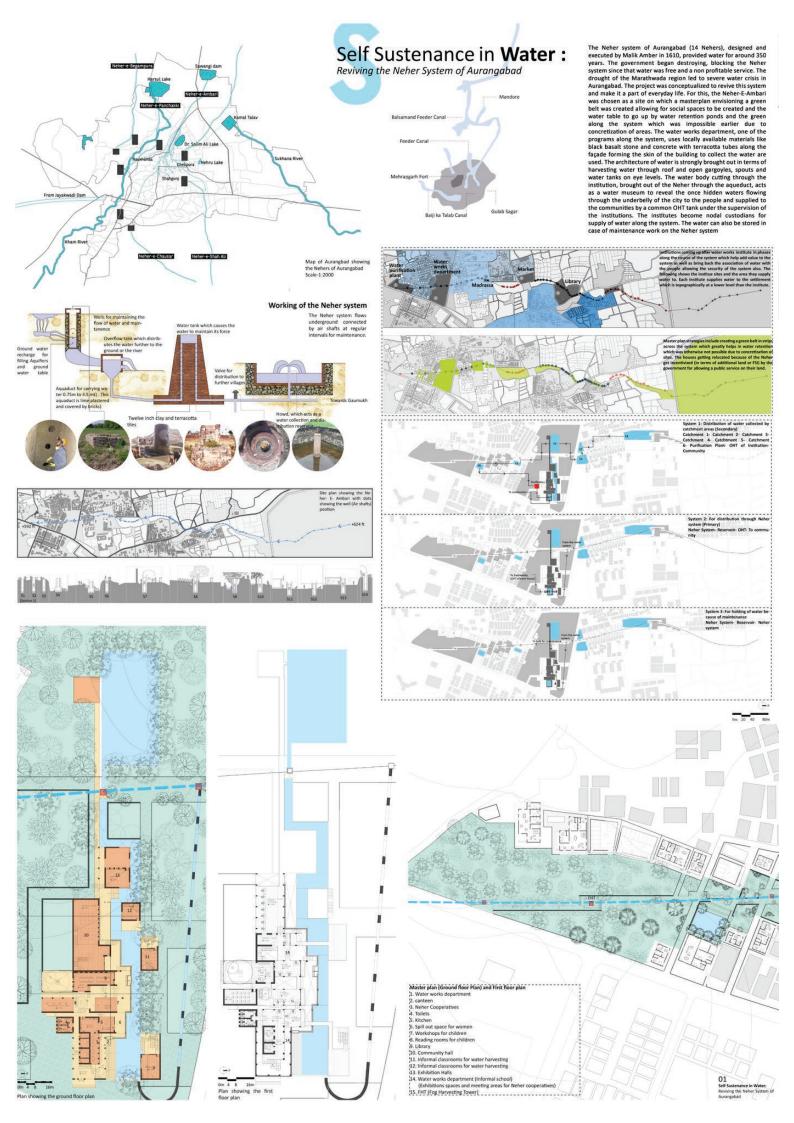
Kamla Raheja Vidhyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai

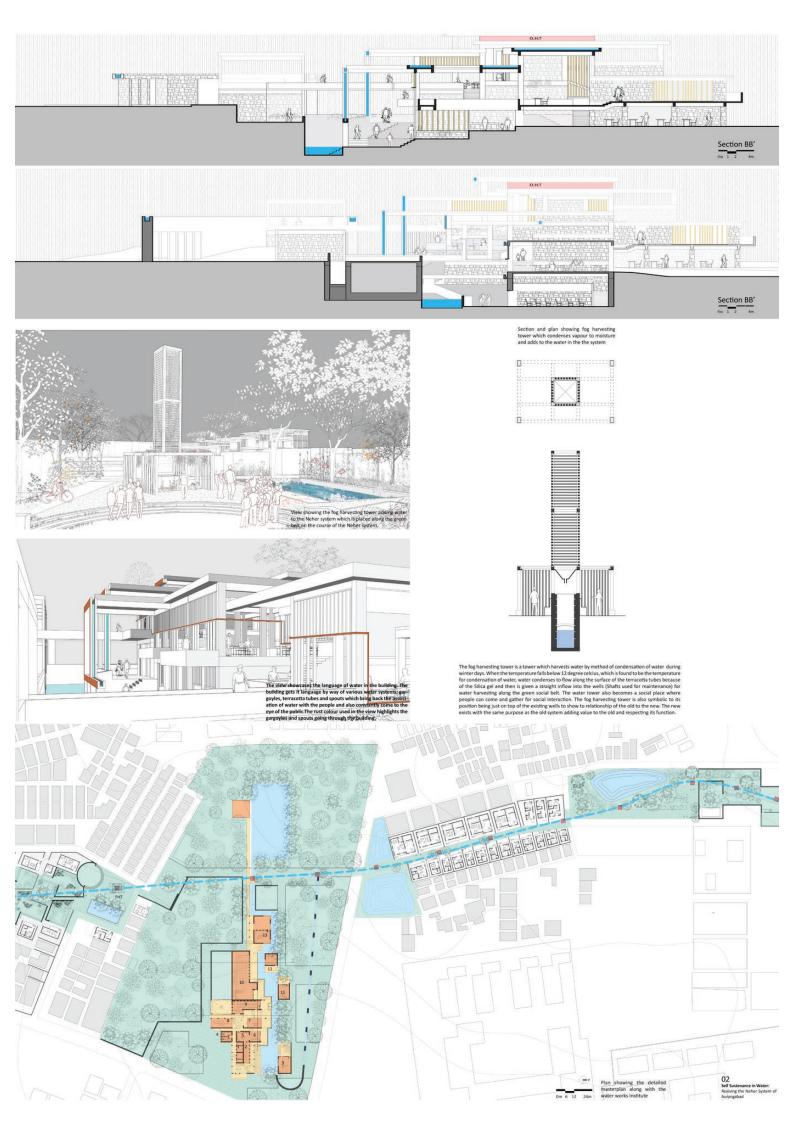
"The Neher system of Aurangabad was designed and executed around five centuries ago. It provided water for more than three centuries. Due to the depleted water system along with several other factors, drought of the Marathwada region led to severe water crisis in Aurangabad.

The project is conceptualized to revive this indigenous system to make it part of every-day life. Neher-E-Ambari is chosen as the site for the master plan, envisioning a green belt and allowing for a series of active public spaces. The idea is to have a shallow water table level with retention ponds and greens along the system. The water works department, one of the programs along the system, uses locally available materials like basalt stone, concrete and terracotta tubes along the façade, forming the skin of the building. The water takes many forms in terms of harvesting, through roof, open gargoyles, spouts and water tanks at eye level. The water body brought out of the Neher through an aqueduct acts as a water museum to reveal the once hidden waters flowing through the underbelly of the city. It is then supplied to the communities by a common overhead tank under the supervision of the institutions. The institutes become nodal custodians for the supply of water along the system."

#### **JURY'S COMMENTS**

There is an attempt to understand the past wisdom through traditional water systems of indigenous settlements so as to arrive at possible ways of reviving, connecting and integrating them with the dense city fabric as part of the open space structure. The design captures the spirit of this lost knowledge while negating any form based solution.





#### **SHRIYA ANAND AWARD**

K-09

## 'Sabz Burj Plaza'

## Mayukh Raha, Karishma Rai & Madhulika Sanyal

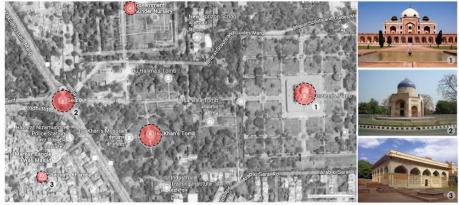
Masters in Landscape Architecture & B. Arch. (4th Year) School of Planning & Architecture and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

"The unusual medieval structure of Sabz Burj looms over lakh of people who either travel or had on an occasion traveled on the ever-crowded arterial Mathura Road where it gracefully protrudes in the middle of a traffic roundabout, surrounded by other significant historic landmarks such as the Humayun's tomb, Chausath Khamba and Nizammudin Dargah and Basti. It's striking presence in a prime position forces passer-bys and tourists to admire the beauty. Despite all this, the beautiful tower has garnered much less popularity than it ideally should have. The aim of the interventions is to intertwine these historic threads in and around this traffic island to create an active public space, create a tourist magnet and a congregational space for the public. The coherence of the historically rich circle has been utilized to give a platform to various urban activities in the open plaza, resembling an amalgamation of Delhi's cultural fabric, by weaving the past, present and future of the city."

#### **JURY'S COMMENTS**

It adopts a bold idea of creating a harmonious blend of the heritage structure with the surrounding urban fabric, adopting a set of related principles and values. The idea would have been more impactful had it been translated in an equally strong design with elements on a smaller scale.





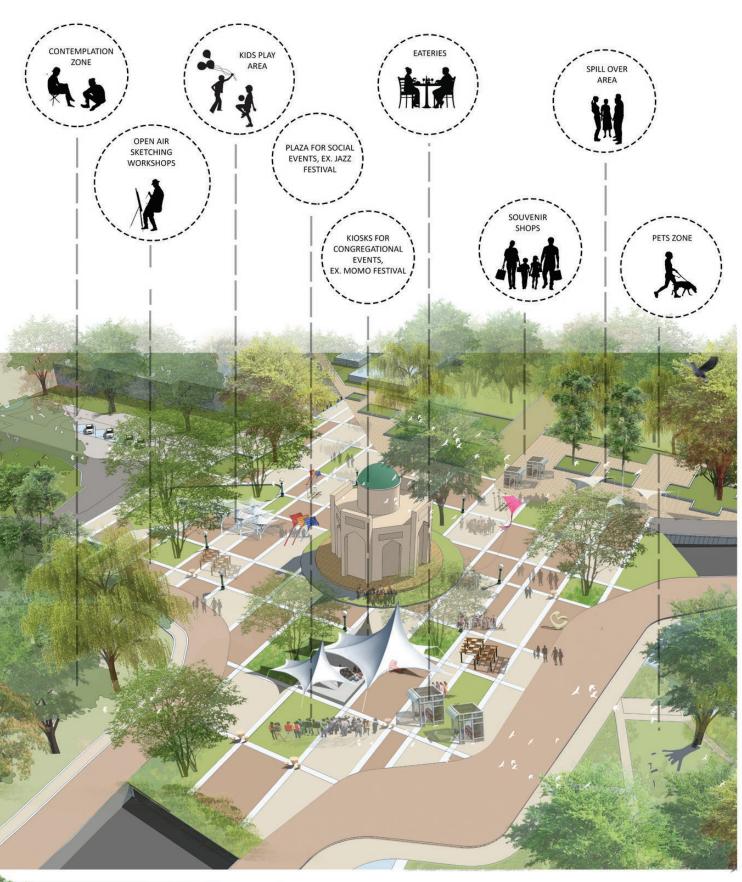
**SECTION** 

#### CONCEPT NOTE

Although only historians, heritage-enthusiasts and conservationists are concerned about the existence and condition of the enchanting Sabz Burj traffic island, the unusual medieval structure looms over millions of people who either travel or had on an occasion traveled on the ever-crowded arterial Mathura Road where it gracefully protrudes in the middle of a traffic roundabout, surrounded by other significant historic landmarks such as the Humayun's tomb and Chausath Khamba, it's striking presence in so public a space forcing passer-bys and eager tourists to grant it a second look and admire it with appreciation and amazement. Despite all this, the beautiful tower has miserably garnered much less popularity than it ideally should have.

The aim of the interventions are to intertwine these historic threads in and around this traffic island to create an active public space to act as a tourist magnet and a congregational space for the public. The coherence of the historically rich circle has been utilized to give a platform to various urban activities in the open plaza, resembling an amalgamation of Delhi's cultural fabric, by weaving the past, present and future of the city.









CAPTURING ZEITGEIST OF PRESENT CONTEXT



CREATING A MICROCOSM AMONG THE MACROCOSM OF DELHI

BRINGING COHERENCE TO AN INERT ISLAND

#### **SPECIAL MENTION**

K-23

## 'Watershed Management for Melukote'

Chandana Keshava Murthy, Manu M & Vijetha C P

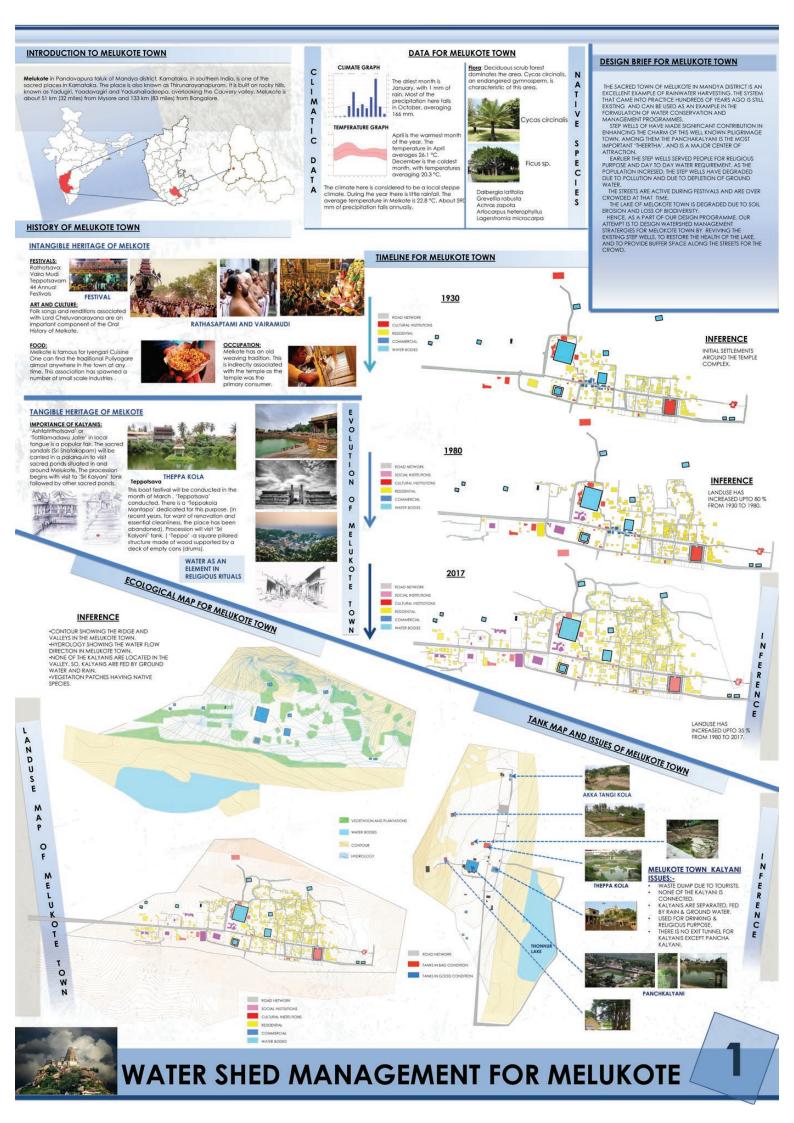
M. Arch. (Landscape) M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore

"The sacred town of Melukote is an excellent example of traditional water harvesting practices. The system that came into practice hundreds of years ago still exists and can be used as an example in the formulation of water conservation and management practices for today. Step wells have made significant contribution in enhancing the charm of the pilgrimage town. Among them the panchakalyani is the most important 'theertha', and is a major center of attraction. Earlier the step wells served people for religious purpose and day to day water requirement. The proposal calls to design watershed management strategies for the town by reviving the existing step wells which have become defunct due to various factors, to restore the health of the lake and to provide environmentally positive buffer spaces in the public areas."

#### **JURY'S COMMENTS**

The idea is able to establish a process to deal with the issue on a micro level. However, its further progression to prove its relevance on the larger regional context in the surroundings remains unrealized.







#### **SPECIAL MENTION**

K-39

## 'Deulwadi: An Urban Oasis'

Nidhi Kapri & Manoj Sharma

M. Arch. (Landscape) L S Raheja School of Architecture, Mumbai

"A century and half old Deulwadi temple complex in the suburb of Chembur are laid out within a large paved compound. It has extended its boundaries to a socio-cultural precinct used by the neighborhood. Group of temples evolved slowly with time around it. With time it has become significant within the hub of the city of Mumbai, beyond its boundaries of community and religion yet maintaining its uniqueness to serve as a socio-cultural space in people's lives in the neighborhood of Chembur. The character and distinctiveness of the precinct makes it unique due to both ground hugging built forms and serene spaces within, though completely lacking in standing loud amongst the growing thick dense fabric of buildings in the surrounding. The design approach re accredits the feeling of serendipity which adapts a tangible link with the past and keeps the inherent experience of an oasis in urban area while allowing for change and innovation to meet present day and future requirements."

#### **JURY'S COMMENTS**

It is a good attempt to address one of the relevant and current issues that Indian cities face. It would have gained more value if its relationship with the surrounding context had also been explored.





DEUL WADI TEMPLE COMPLEX

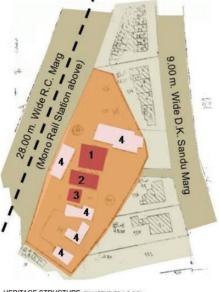


The main street to the east fo the temple complex is very busy because of its connectivity to the Chembur railway station and Chembur naka. It also connects the Mono rail

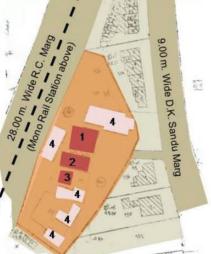
STAGE - 02

Google image of the site

STAGE - 01



HERITAGE STRUCTURE (ONLY TEMPLES-1, 2 & 3))



- LEGEND:
  1. Temple shrine 01 (heritage structure)
  2. Temple shrine 02 (heritage structure)
  3. Temple shrine 03 (heritage structure)
  4. Temple trust offices and residences.



New highrise development being the immediate surrounding, hides the temple complex completely. This gives a sense of losing Identity of the area which is apparently, the only left replica of the vernacular city.





#### CONCEPT...

#### So our approach is to nurture the past

























View of the shrine 1 (LHS), deep stumbh (CEN) & chaw (RHS).





View of shrine 2, deep stumbhs & monorail station in the background.

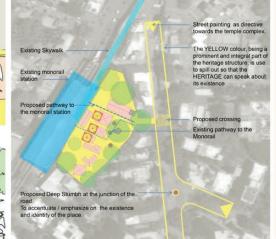


STAGE - 03





STAGE - 04



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THE SITE

It is very **Strategically located** as it abuts the 1<sup>st</sup> monoral station which is an important infrastructural development of present and future. Also it is bounded by two roads one of which is main road and the other being the internal and in Gaothan vicinity.

Surroundings settings are both urban & rural having strong character of each type.

Influence on daily life The temple complex has also become a transition space in the daily life of people as people commute daily through this complex on their way to work and back and also acts as a place of rest or pause in their transition. pause in their transition

Multiple layer of activity: It also serves as a social gathering space and a social interaction space. Thus the precinct has extended beyond its original religious boundaries to a socio-cultural space. (Past to Present)

Public/Open spaces in the complex expessing the NOW & THEN. The gaothan has a very strong socio-cultural outlook and the residents are strongly affiliated to the Bhulingeshwar temple present in Deulwadi. There are many religious and cultural activities which are special to the gaothan

Historic Character / significance of the place still prevails (Built area has its own vernacular identity). It is not only a religious place but now has extended its boundaries to a socio-cultural precinct used by the neighbourhood

Cultural Legacy / Cultural History -People relate and identify this space as
an important part of their
neighbourhood.