

B. ARCHITECTURE

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Western influence on vernacular architecture of India

Lecture-12

History of Goa:

This is Goa hope you know this is one of the most famous buildings in Goa. So let us talk about its history, history of Goa dates upto 20,000 to 30,000 years ago not too much of history but enough history to have layers of architecture. It is been ruled by several empires of India and hence also various religious and cultural influences. So it has been gone through many invasions many occupancies or many empires and hence various architectural results. It was initially part of the Mauryan empire, Buddhism was a part of the foundation of its culture. It has been further rules by Chalukyas, has been a part of the Delhi sultanate, later a part of the Vijanagaraempire and also the Shahi of Bijapur. So you can the layers of ruling it has gone through. It wasn't until the Portuguese entered Goa in 1561, did they lay a permanent foundation for culture and architecture simply because they were able to rule it for 400 years, so they did lay a permanent culture for architecture as they ruled over the area for a long until 1961 and it is almost 400 years when it is annexed to India. It is Portuguese influence; this is the typical Portuguese dwelling unit rather very aristocratic and big. So lot of interrogate carving and sloped roofs plinth and we are looking at all those features.

So the Portuguese influence. The architecture of Goa is a combination of Indian, Islamic and Portuguese styles. The Indian or rather Hindu religion that was prevalent first, then the muslim invasion and then finally the Portuguese invasion. The Portuguese as they came as trading countries not as invaders. Since the Portuguese ruled for four centuries many churches and houses bear a striking element of the Portuguese style of architecture. So they were the longest and that impact was the higher. There are also

Goan Hindu houses do not show any Portuguese influence, though the modern temple architecture is an amalgam of original Goan temple style with Dravidian, Islamic and Portuguese architecture. There houses, proper Hindu Goan houses which are prevalent before the Portuguese came but the religious aspect was rather shaken and changed as much as possible. So the temple architecture serves as the evolution of Draviadian and Portuguese style of architecture. The original Goan temple architecture fell into disuse as the temples were demolished by the Portuguese and the of Staphathi were converted into Christianity though the wooden work and the Kavi murals can still be seen.

So it was actually an amalgam of both the styles. So this is the Portuguese skyline view, you can notice the features it is two storied as a balcony, as a large bay windows, and slopped roofs and they are colored and also they happened to be right next to the water bodies. So they are response to that. We will see how they influence on India's Goa. Protecting oneself from the fierce monsoons was the basis of architectural form. So the whole architectural form or the building form was responsible to the monsoon or the rain. The Portuguese rule allowed Goans to travel abroad. So once Portuguese annexed for four hundred years to Goa for themselves, they made it allowable for people to travel, the people can travel from India to Portugal and Europe and came back with ideas and this influenced the building form, the Goan master builders execute these ideas using local building materials. Here is where the blend comes, so you have ideas from Europe and using local building materials and this was executed. So it is a mixture and adaptation of design elements and influences from all over the world and the materials from local area. So the architectural style of Portuguese built churches shows very evidently.

Then the factors influencing Goan houses. The European lifestyle was encouraged in an attempt to separate newly converted Goan Christians from their cultural roots. So the basis of invading Western civilization was that they separate a invading groups from the cultural roots and change them as much as possible. But what happened eventually in most of the place was they adopted a European outlook but did not cut themselves off from their Indian roots completely. The resulting forms the cultural fusion of vernacular architecture of affected house design. So you look that how colorful they are, we looked at Portugal Skyline and this is Goan Skyline very similar with lot of color, bay windows, full sized windows and common walls common

walls that are adopted from some kind of our architecture, you see the amalgam of both. So the bay windows, interknit carving, this is actually the elevation taken from the Portugal. It shows the interknit carving the doors, the shutters, the corbel, the gables such the pillar carvings, this influences the Goan houses a lot.

Design Features of Goa:

We are talking about the design features, the traditional pre-Portugal homes were inward looking with small windows before the Portugal came, the homes were inward looking with small windows, they were secluded, they were introverted, the people were looking inwards, so they were well nested as a community as a family within themselves not exactly extroverted or as community open to people. These also reflect the secluded rules of the women, the houses open into courtyards and the Rezhi opened into streets. So contrary to other vernacular architecture, so these do not open to streets but when the Portuguese came through these become reversed.

So the catholic houses were built or refurbished, the existing houses were refurbished between the 18th and the 20th centuries were more outward looking and ornamental. So initially it was inward looking and not much ornamentation, then become outward looking with lot of ornamentation with balcoes. So with the evolution of balconies or spaces were extended out from the windows or covered porches evolved from and verandah's facing the street. So this became an evolution and added feature. The large balcoes had built-in seating, open to the street, where men and women could sit together and 'see and be seen'.

So this was different and it was an evolution. This was the different cultural feature. They had the courtyard, they had the house but they had outward looking spaces at the balcoes or the verandah's. so they could chat with their neighbors and enjoy their evenings. These balcoes are bordered by ornamental columns, So they brought ornamentation into it and these ornamentation continued along the steps and added to the stature of the house.

So the aristocracy, the status, the fact that they could have money and they were slowly developing. The ornamental columns along with the plinth with which the staircases came out showed the level or the social status of the owners. So the houses of the rich landlords had plinth with grand staircases.

The staircases becoming the higher the plinths and becoming higher, the more ornamental it shows the richness of the people. Large ornamental windows with stucco moldings open onto verandas. These may appear purely decorative, but have their origins in similar moldings in the windows or Portuguese houses. They have the revolution in Portugal but here they are purely decorative. There these elements of style were devices to help sailors identify their homes. So the reason that these develop was, in Portugal the color and the identity of the house made it possible for the sailors to identify the houses which is exposed near the water bodies. So he could identify his house when he came back.

So this ideology makes it is very colorful, whereas Goa or present Portuguese influence in Goa, there are no sailors, the concept or the ideology of identity is still there. Then it was used as sailors identity, now it was used as identity of house of who an individual is that is why the identity of color stuck on. The design is therefore an import but serves a similar purpose in Goa to help construct the identity of the home. Windows gradually became more decorative, ornate and expressive. So as I said you can see the streets the houses are colorful which is distinct from each houses so there is an identity and still they have the response to the climate, monsoon for the slopped roofs. So look at this, it is very similar to the architecture in Pondicherry, that they have different climatic responses. But both of them are more or less influences from Europe.

So European influences, the Pondicherry was French, this is Portugal, the British, French, Portugal had similar influences. So you can see the similarity between the streets of Pondicherry and the streets of Portugal influence on Goa. So we talk about more ornamental features as Cornices, the country tiles used as a corbels are a feature peculiar to Goa. You notice corbels in architecture features but country tiles or mangalore tiles are being used as corbel feature peculiar to Goa. Then the Gateposts and compound walls, as I said the staircase or the staircases become more ornamental as we go by. The gateways consisted of elaborately carved compound walls on either side of the gate posts. Today's compound walls are being decorative that is they are right from the gateways or the gate posts of Portugal influence architecture.

The interior layout is very much simple and they do not evolve much change. Most houses are symmetrical with the entrance door occupying the

place of honor. So you have the entrance door which is more important thing. Typically this front door leads to a foyer which then either leads to the sala the main hall for entertaining a large number of guests, or the sala de visitas a small hall for entertaining a small number of guests and in some cases the chapel in the houses. I wanted to take a good look at the interior layout. This is nothing but an evolution of the Hindu Goan houses which we will see how. The houses are symmetrical, we have a grand entrance door, the door opens to two halls one is rather big halls which receives guests immediately, the next hall which goes from the main hall which something more intimate to the group of the family and also one side it has the chapel of the houses. The chapel is nothing but the sacred or the holy place for the catholics. So one can enter directly to the rest of the house.

So once you enter the sala de visita you can go to the rest of the houses. So this revolved around a courtyard. Typically the master bedroom opens into the sala or it is closed to it. Then the dining room is usually perpendicular to these rooms, the bedrooms flank the courtyard, these are regular organic planning which are evolved, the kitchen and the service area at the rear of the houses. In case of the two story houses, a staircase, either from the foyer or the dining room, leads to more bedrooms. It consisting of humble burnt earth plastered over with cow dung and hay.

So the materials that we say that was local. So they use humble burnt earth plastered with cow dung and hay or with elaborate patterns made with tiles imported from Europe, so this was the basic floor as the influences increased we used more tiles imported from Europe the floors in Goan houses have been workplaces and statements. So it is good workmanship example and also statements. Goan houses have the false ceiling of houses. The false ceilings today which we have extensively used in interior designs something that is very much prevalent in wood. So this an example of Goan houses which is influenced by Portugal architecture. So you have staircase leading upto the verandah or the covered porch, you have the elaborate central entrance door, you have carved out reliefs, the pillars or the motifs which are layout to keep the heat out such evolutions and intricacy in the carvings in everything. So you notice the corbels are made of tiles rather than other features.

Now we talk about the Hindu houses, the houses do not go through the lots of changes, they have little colonial influences. so you can see how the

Hindu houses and Goan houses were and how this evolved into the Portuguese houses. They have the courtyard which is usual, tulasivirundavan which is of sacred space. A special place called a soppois often used for relaxing. So these places were used and became more simpler Portuguese influences and made it outward looking. Goan traditional Hindu houses have the following features, the court yard inside the house the place for daily prayer and other rituals so called Deva kood. This became the chapel in terms of the Portuguese architecture. A Raanchikood which is a kitchen with a door which is called Magildaar, specially meant for pregnant and nursing mothers. The seclusion of the mothers are more prevalent in Hindu houses for socio and cultural reasons. A store room which is specially meant for celebrating Ganeshotsav. Celebration space for Ganeshotsav is an important aspect for the planning of the house.

Introduction of Bungalows:

We talk about bungalows. The bungalows, we must have heard of it everywhere in old days. It is supposed to be symbol of aristocratic and social status. But it has rather very unique and different origin compared to what it is today. So bungalow is a type of building originally from Bengal region in South Asia, that is the evolution of the word bungalow but it is now found throughout the world. Common features of bungalows include and being low rise. Bungalows are rather detaching housing unit with hut spaces and thus they are very important feature of bungalows and they are low rise when compared to being mansions or palaces, they are low rise and have large space with verandah's. as a term to describe the type of dwelling it is used practically in every unit.

So the meaning of bungalow today varies in different countries but they all mean the same thing, large mansion, dwelling set for luxury. Something called a bungalow can be found in all English-Speaking countries as well as many ex-colonial ones. So present day America, United States, Europe, Portuguese and France have bungalows equally as countries which were invaded by these races such as Africa and India that is where the British Raj was very prevalent. Here the bungalows refer to more of a colonial type of buildings. Bungalows can be in different things but all they have common features and common origin. This is the picture of bungalow during the British Raj a little bit of intermediate between the origin and what it is a bungalow today so if you look at it has thatched roof or slopped roof, single

storied, may be 1 or 1.5 storied. So it has verandah spaces where people meet and talk not as a community but the people of higher hierarchy. Today, the word has two or three common meanings, in Europe and North America, it refers to the separate or detached dwelling, principally on one storey and meant for the permanent occupation of one household or family. The family settling down permanently in the large house especially detached single storey separate is termed as bungalow in Europe and North America mostly. It can also describe a simple, lightly or self-built shelter.

So people retiring built their own houses to experiment to kill time so this can also be somewhere in the beach or in the country and meant for temporary or holiday use. This is also called bungalow, in Africa and India it might refer to the older colonial type of bungalow. So west and east are the invaded countries have different reference to bungalows meaning colonial or the period of which the British occupied. It refer to an older, colonial type of house which though perhaps with more than one storey is always detached, or even, in India at least, to any modern house in contrast to more traditional types of dwelling.

So the traditional types of buildings in India are more coupled, they have space together, they have one or more than one dwelling units grouped together with common spaces. This is rather detached or unique compared to Indian vernacular architecture. The term originated in India, meaning 'bengali' and used elliptically for a 'house in the Bengal style. This Asian architectural form and design originated in the countryside of Bengal region in south Asia.

So Bengal East India Company British company that was the origination of the Bengal, the bungalows or the bungalow houses. Such houses were traditionally small, only one storey and detached and had a wide verandah. That that's how it is read. Essentially it was detached and it was the beginning of the bungalow what it was meant. But it was initially small and one storied wide verandah. The verandah's and being detached was an important common feature from the beginning. The term was first found in English from 1696, so the bungalows or bungaloes were accepted as English as a word and they became an important feature called bungalows in India for English sailors of the East India company.

So East India company sailors came in hierarchy and people who were treated as higher ranking and they have to be separately housed in

bungalows. As you see it is separated from dwelling units from other spaces. It is larger and it has verandah's, later it became used for the spacious homes or official lodgings of officials of the British raj, and it was so known in Britain and later America, it became spacious homes. The spacious homes became the new definition of bungalow defined in Britain in later America where it has high status and exotic connotations. Luxury was an important aspect of spacious homes.

So in Britain and later America, luxurious homes termed as bungalows. So for large country or suburban houses built in an Arts and Crafts or other Vernacular style. Being vernacular architecture or detached vernacular architecture, thatched roof and going through the industrial revolution and the Arts and Crafts moment being applied to the same bungalow made it large cottages. The large cottages something that was evolved from the thatched roof separated from spaces. When the British really became the masters of Bengal, new cantonments, or permanent military campus, were established. Here European officers were eventually housed in thatched roofed bungalows with various devices for the thermal control, such as the jaump (a horizontal suspended screen over the verandah), adopted from the local culture.

So you notice it slowly became one or two storied, aristocratic and big. Bungalows are generally raised on a base of brick, one or two or three feet from the ground, and consists of only one storey, the plan of them usually is a large room in the center for an eating and sitting room, and rooms at each corner for sleeping, the whole is covered with one general thatch which comes low to each side. Sometimes the center verandah are converted into rooms, that's how they were evolved. This is other present day bungalow single storied, detached housing large spacing and decorated.

The characteristics of bungalows of those days of revolution in origin was usually 1 to 1.5 stories. Open floor plan, typically opens directly into living room, deep eaves with exposed rafters to keep the thermal mass, large front porch which acts as the outdoor room, easy access to outdoor spaces. Open floor plan maximized for efficiency and flow from room to room with minimal space wasted on hallways.