

FAQs

1. State the various components of Vernacular architecture.

- **CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES** – walling materials and construction, foundations, roofing shape, materials.
- **CULTURAL BACKGROUND** – geographical location and evolution
- **PLANNING** – documented through plans, sectional forms to show how the internal arrangement of these buildings are done and how they are revealed on the exterior
- **ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL** – windows, staircases, external and internal ornamentation.
- **OTHER DATA** – place, time, context, use, user group.

2. How would one make a study on vernacular architecture?

A complete Vernacular study includes operations at four levels:

- **EXTENSIVE RECORDING** - A systematic method of recording relevant details in a superficial way. It is basically the reconnaissance survey including the visual impacts.
- **INTENSIVE RECORDING** – Survey of selected examples from extensive recording based on Typologies and its significance in the study area.
- **SOCIO ECONOMIC STUDY** – includes the historic survey, archaeological survey, documentary evidences such as title deeds, revenue departments etc.
- **VISUAL STUDY**

3. Describe the Vernacular architecture of India.

- **The ‘vernacular’, in India**, denotes low cost, traditional village and small town settlements, where construction is carried out without the help of architects and professionals, where building activity is regulated by a long tradition that stretches back for many centuries, in many cases.
- Vernacular settlements in India often take on the shape and form that is dictated by the climate they are in, or the socio-cultural norms that they are designed to preserve and protect.
- For example, village settlements in Uttaranchal are often characterized by **houses of stone, timber** and mud mortar on slopes, with thick stone walls of coursed rubble masonry designed to ward off cold, with a shelter for animals below the main house (the heat given off by mulch animals heats the house above further).

4. How can vernacular architecture classified in a broad sense in India?

Despite the diversity, Indian Vernacular architecture can be broadly divided into three categories.

- KACHCHA
- PUKKA
- SEMI-PUKKA

5. Describe Kaccha houses in India.

- A Kaccha is a building made of **natural materials** such a mud, grass, bamboo, thatch or sticks and is therefore a short-lived structure.
- Since it is not made for endurance it requires constant maintenance and replacement.
- The practical limitations of the building materials available **dictate the specific form** which can have a simple beauty.
- The advantage of a Kaccha is that construction materials are **cheap and easily available** and relatively little labor is required.