



**NAVRACHANA
UNIVERSITY**

a UGC recognized University

Navrachana University

CENTER FOR HERITAGE RESEARCH

Exhibitions and Walking Tours, April 14-19, 2021

The Heritage Center at Navrachana University that was established recently, undertook four projects to develop research depth and spread awareness. The first stage of all the projects is now complete, and a public exhibition, lectures and walking tours will be organized between April 14-19th to showcase the following projects:

Listed below are the four projects of the Navrachana University Center for Heritage Research

Laurie Baker in Vadodara

Architect Laurie Baker is known for his cost-effective and sustainable approach to architecture using local materials and building practices. It was in mid-1970's when he was invited by the industrialist Nanubhai Amin to work in Vadodara

Nanubhai Amin, the Chairman and Managing Director of Jyoti Industries, was a visionary who believed in the environmental approach to be the path for better future of country. With his intention to make environmentally responsive and sustainable buildings, he involved Laurie Baker in designing several buildings for Jyoti industries and Navrachana Education Society in Vadodara.

As part of the larger project to study the modern architectural heritage of Vadodara, three of these buildings were documented by the students of School of Environmental Design and Architecture, Navrachana University

Project Team: Prof. Pragya Shankar and Darshil Patalia.

Dwellings of Western India: A Publication Series

Related study program is an essential part of the pedagogy in Bachelor of Architecture program at SEDA, Navrachana University. The students during the course of the three RSPs that they undertake, spent time in different part of the country (in both rural and urban settlements) and undertake on-site documentation followed by analysis and representation. The aim here is to sensitize our students to different traditions of architecture both classical and vernacular through experiential learning. This initiative gives holistic view of the society, and helps student to understand the larger idea of city and society. Along with this the other intentions of these programs are to develop critical thinking and research skills amongst the students. It also helps create a larger pool of heritage resources that are useful for future research. Students at School of Environmental Design and Architecture (SEDA) have been documenting various historical settlements in the country. As a way to bring this wealth of information to public domain the Heritage centre has initiated a publication series on the Vernacular Dwelling types of various regions of India. The centre will be launching two booklets as part of this series on Dwelling types of Bundi and Udaipur, also Vadodara soon.

Project Team: Krunali Rathod, Manali Bhadra and Anjal



Vad of Vadodara: A community participatory mapping project

Vad or Banyan is the tree from which the city of Vadodara gets her name. For the city of Vadodara, the tree is a part of the cultural identity and heritage.

The conspicuous presence of these trees at the banks of Vishwamitri River is one of the explanations for the origin, the another one points towards earlier name of the city, Vatodar, which means "in the heart of the Banyan trees". Nevertheless, Vad tree has been widely accepted as the basis for name of the city.

These trees, many of which are around a century old, are present in the many historical precincts, public places and roadside in Vadodara . In the recent past many Vad trees have been removed, largely due to pressures of development. This raises a concern that the tree has become more of an historical object, far removed from imagination of urban setting and environment. Hence, it is important that the cultural importance of these trees in past and its relevance in present is better comprehended.

"Vad of Vadodara" is a multi-disciplinary research project under the Heritage Research Centre, Navrachana University. It would attempt to look the relevance of these trees from cultural and environmental perspectives. As the first stage of the study, this exhibition is an effort to initiate public participation in mapping and documentation of Banyan trees in Vadodara.

Project Team: Pragya Shankar and Priyanka Kanhare

Railway Heritage of Vadodara

In the history of Vadodara the period of rule by Maharaja Khanderao is considered important, as the city of Vadodara witnessed various initiatives and reforms; from the fields of education to art and architecture. One such initiative was the 'Gaekwad Baroda State Ralway' (GBSR) established in 1862. The GBSR ran its route across the then Baroda Constituency, which was not of the first princely states to open the railway line in its territories besides the British Indian Railways.

The project is an ode to an important part of history - to the Nation's first Narrow Gauge Railway which began a change in the landscape of India in terms of travel and transport.

It is a nostalgic visit to the beginning of a new cultural and social fabric of Vadodara and its surrounding areas as we know of today.

Project Team: Shalini Amin, Sanjana Samel and Chirag Choudhary

