

How Vernacular Attributes of Traditional Buildings Can Be Integrated Into Modern Designs - A Case Study of Thirumayilai, Mylapore

Authors : Divya Ramaseshan

Abstract : The indigenous beauty of a space supported by its local context is unmatched. India, known to be a hub for varied cultural significance, has one of the best uses of vernacularism. This paper focuses on the traditional houses present in Thirumayilai, Mylapore, one of the oldest and most populous cities in Chennai. The Mylapore houses are known for their Agraharam style with thinnai, courtyard, and sloping roof characteristics. These homes had a combined influence of Indian, Islamic as well as Neo-classical architecture in their design. The design of the houses reflects the lives of Brahmin communities which have almost vanished from sight now. According to the growing demands of local residents as well as urbanization, many houses have been renovated. Some of those structures have been conserved in certain streets showcasing their historical identity. Other structures have either been demolished or redesigned based on people's needs. Those structures have been identified and studied to understand the comparative features that have been changed. Many of those were in direct relevance to the city's climate, family size, socializing habits, and local materials. Being a temple town, Mylapore has contour variations sloping towards various water bodies. These factors have been considered for building homes as well. The study aims to list down the possible design guidelines that could be effective in today's construction field. The pros and cons are analyzed, and the respective methodologies are framed. Our modern construction technologies have brought in the best visual aesthetics in a short frame of time, but the serene touch of teak wood, walking through paved stones, daydreaming in the sunlit courtyards, and chitchatting in porticos are always cherished. Architects around the world are trying hard to achieve such appreciated design elements in upcoming projects with the best use of modern technology. This will also improvise people's mental health in the comfort of their homes.

Keywords : Agraharam, Mylapore, traditional, vernacularism

Conference Title : ICVAL 2023 : International Conference on Vernacular Architecture and Landscape

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : April 13-14, 2023