

Conceptualising an Open Living Museum beyond Musealization in the Context of a Historic City: Study of Bhaktapur World Heritage Site, Nepal

Authors : Shyam Sunder Kawan

Abstract : Museums are enclosed buildings encompassing and displaying creative artworks, artefacts, and discoveries for people's knowledge and observation. In the context of Nepal, museums and exhibition areas are either adaptive to small gallery spaces in residences or 'neo-classical palatial complexes' that evolved during the 19th century. This study accepts the sparse occurrence of a diverse range of artworks and expressions in the country's complex cultural manifestations within vivid ethnic groups. This study explores the immense potential of one such prevalence beyond the delimitation of physical boundaries. Taking Bhaktapur World Heritage Site as a case, the study perpetuates its investigation into real-time life activities that this city and its cultural landscapes ensemble. Seeking the 'musealization' as an urban process to induce museums into the city precinct, this study anticipates art space into urban spaces to offer a limitless experience for this contemporary world. Unveiling art as an experiential component, this study aims to conceptualize a living heritage as an infinite resource for museum interpretation beyond just educational institute purposes.

Keywords : living museum, site museum, musealization, contemporary arts, cultural heritage, historic cities

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