

RE-ASSOCIATING AND RE-CLAIMING HERITAGE THROUGH MODERN PERSPECTIVE ANEW.

Researcher: Assistant Professor Muhammad Zeeshan Zaheer
Department of Architecture & Design Comsats Lahore
M. A (Honors) DIA Germany, B.Arch (Honors) NCA Lahore.
zeeshanzaheer@ciitlahore.edu.pk
03214789285

Abstract

In this era of globalization, consumerism and mass production; national heritage steadily acts as a catalyst for sustaining national identity. A heritage building reflects upon economic conditions, social hierarchy and other aspects of the society in the time when it was built. Fast forwarding in time, same heritage echoes back at the society, by sublimely influencing social behavior, as a city and would further define human behavior at district level followed more intimately at neighborhood level.

Looking through the lens of time, Pakistan's cultural identity has been struggling to sustain itself albeit the inconsistencies in political dictatorship and religious extremism running through the country. Meanwhile, as backdrop; some of the remaining heritage buildings that have endured, they too unfortunately have witnessed decaying layers of culture. To place things in better perspective, the phenomena of time acts as a force showing its effect on heritage structures, they remain as a fixed constant in physical reality, on contrary the urban fabric of cities is at an exponential rate of change. This gap of "adaptation to evolve" keeps widening against the heritage buildings, as time flows. This concept is revealed in Darwinian theory "survival of the fittest", where strongest genes survive within the pool of genes that are not so strong. This gap instigates lack of ownership between present-day citizens and heritage buildings, and consequently causes abandonment in collective ownership of inherent culture. Skeptics believe that this gap poses a threat to the ownership of inherent culture from a society that is hypnotized with "Vegas effect".

This paper will discuss certain aspects of the inevitable globalization in context of evolving cities, whilst keeping heritage conservation in mind. A theoretical framework will be discussed, that sets a methodology towards reclaiming ownership of inherent cultures, and ultimately laying a hypothesis that is set toward an authentic, yet modernizing culture.

Keywords: Old and New, Heritage, Modernization, Globalization, Adaptation and Evolution, National Identity, Ownership of Culture.

