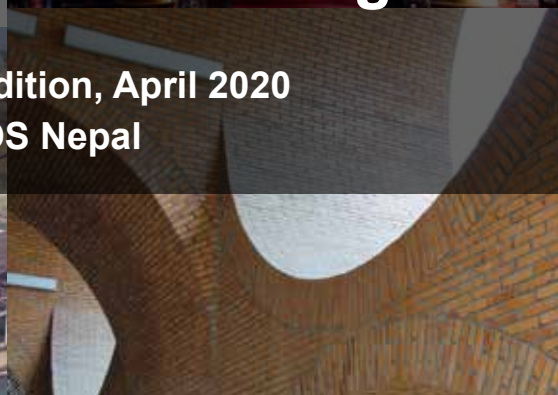


Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

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ICOMOS Nepal



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal
Volume I, 1st Edition
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2020

COVER PHOTOS:

1st quadrant - Anti-clockwise from top right

1. Use of cast iron for the balustrade and railings, Singha Durbar, 2019 | Anie Joshi
2. The pressed tin ceiling was extensively used in the palaces in the early 20th century in Nepal, Gaddi Baithak, 2017 | Anie Joshi
3. Bifurcated staircase creates the focal point in the interior, Keshar Mahal | ttnotes.com
4. The regular repetition of the arch on the facade, Durbar High School, 1967 | Rich Pfau

2nd quadrant - Anti-clockwise from top right

1. The arched niches used at the entry gate, Chhauni Durbar, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
2. The Mughal architectural elements were widely used in the early 19th century in Nepal like cusp arches and column pilasters, Dhukuti, 2017 | Anie Joshi
3. The parade of soldiers depicted on the frieze, Paltan Ghar, 2013 | Anie Joshi
4. The use of floral arabesque and circular columns in early 19th century building, Sisha Baithak, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari

3rd quadrant - Anti-clockwise from top right

1. The wings like parabolic roof casted in RCC, Laboratory School, 1969 | Dough and Nancy Hatch
2. Reinforced concrete molded brise soleil, TU central Library, 2018 | Anie Joshi
3. The curved sun shade and rectilinear opening details, General Post Office, 2019 | Anie Joshi
4. The private outdoor spaces created in a circular block of the lodge, Fishtail Lodge, 2017 | Anie Joshi

4th quadrant - Anti-clockwise from top right

1. The metal framed window placed in the circular units, Taragoan Musuem, 2019 | Sneha Shrestha
2. The high ceiling walkways made in brickwork allows cooling of the interior spaces, Lumbini cultural center, 2018 | Kai Weise
3. Use of metal to imitate the traditional structural details, Gokarna Forest Resort, 2018 | Anie Joshi
4. Minimalistic facade in exposed brick, CEDA, 2019 | Anie Joshi

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

INTRODUCTION

The term modern heritage might seem to be a contradiction. Heritage is something from the past and modern usually refers to something contemporary. This contradiction is further underlined by legislation, for the Ancient Monument Preservation Act considers heritage to have to be older than a hundred years. This however does create a certain dilemma since important monuments and artefacts that are not yet a hundred years old can easily be neglected or even systematically destroyed. This has particularly been the case after the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake when the opportunity was taken to demolish buildings that could have easily been restored with the justification that they were not over a century old.

We also don't have any legislation to protect buildings designed by internationally renowned architects and many iconic early modern designs done by Nepali architects and engineers.

To address this issue the Nepal national committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS Nepal) has initiated the preparation of an inventory of modern heritage in Nepal. The inventory includes two main sections. The first section deals with architectural heritage from the 19th and 20th century. The second section of the inventory will focus on Industrial Heritage.

The inventory identifies such monuments to provide some protection to this neglected history of the country. Much of this history has been lost to modernisation, neglect, pilferage or destruction. We have already lost many important buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries that should have been protected. Since beginning this inventory process we have lost one building in each category which has been marked in red. Hereby the inventory also includes the memories of lost modern heritage.

This Volume I, 1st Edition has listed initial entries only in the first section of the inventory i.e. the architectural heritage from the 19th and 20th centuries. The architectural works of the national masters for Category A-4 has not been included in this volume.

19th and 20th Century Architectural Heritage

The architectural heritage of the 19th and 20th century would target the post-Malla architecture that had influence from various neighbouring regions. The following categories have been proposed to help determine individual entries to the inventory.

Category A-1

Early 19th century defined by the introduction of Islamic elements during the Shah period. This was largely defined by Bhimsen Thapa and the various buildings built during his reign as Prime Minister.

Category A-2

The late-19th up to mid-20th century defined mainly by European neo-classical styles. These were introduced by the Rana Prime Ministers and are often called Rana Style buildings.

Category A-3

The early modern buildings which would span from the 1940s to the 1960s, largely defined by the early use of reinforced cement concrete.

Category A-4

The contemporary era focusing mainly on 1970s and 1980s but could include more recent buildings if considered to be representative of the period, of outstanding quality and influencing the architecture field. This would include the designs of international and national Masters.

Industrial Heritage

The traditional small-scale industries in Nepal were largely linked to agricultural and cultural products. It was only during the 20th century that industrial products imported from Europe came into use under the Ranas. The following categories have been proposed to help determine individual entries to the inventory.

Category I-1

The various forms of industrial production would be included under this category. This would include the early factories.

Category I-2

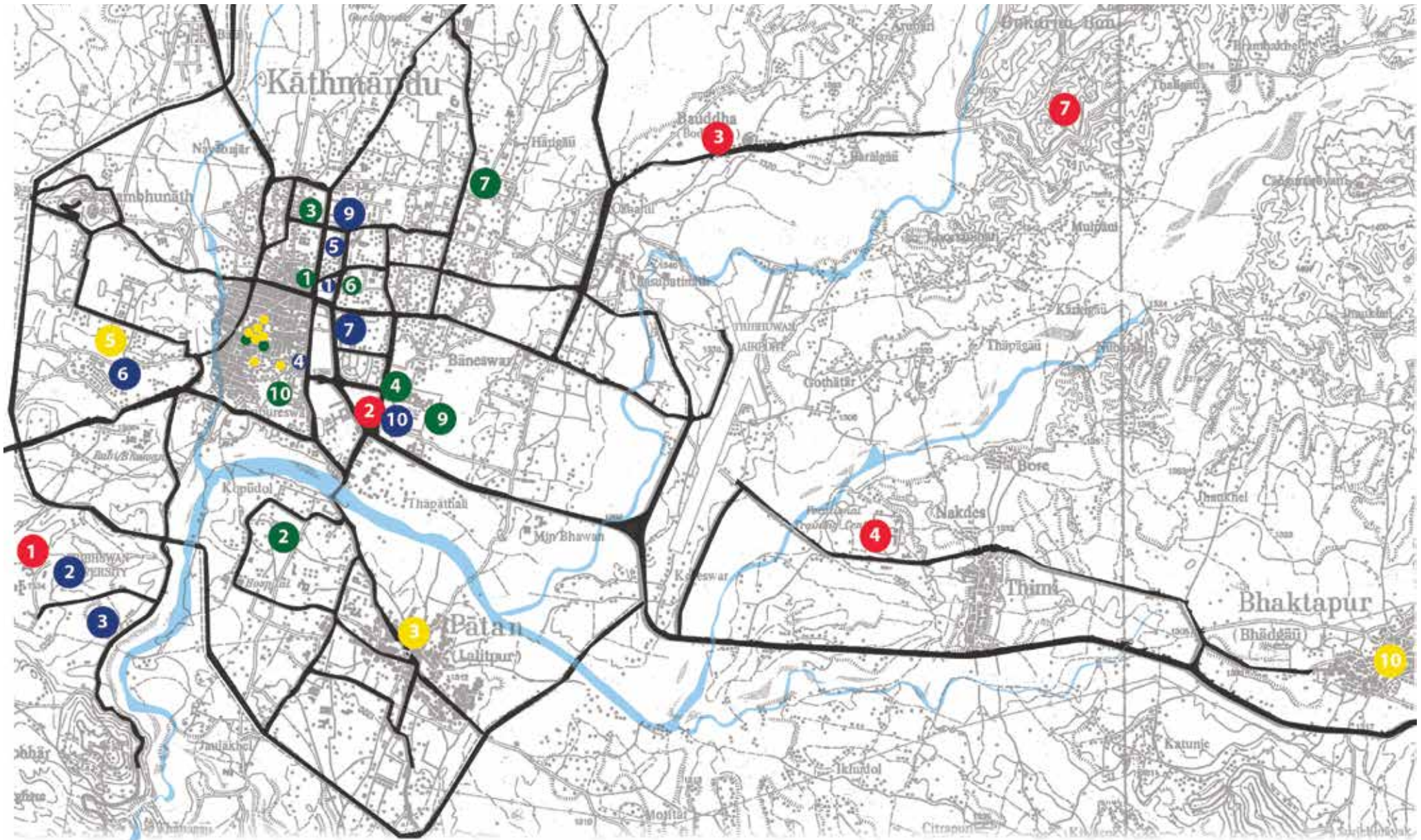
Industrially manufactured means of transportation as well as related facilities. This would include the railways and the ropeways as well as the various metal bridges including early suspension bridges.

Category I-3

Early facilities of production and distribution of services such as electricity and water. This would include the early hydro power plants, as well as electrical distribution systems. The water supply and hydrant system and early lamp posts would also be included here.

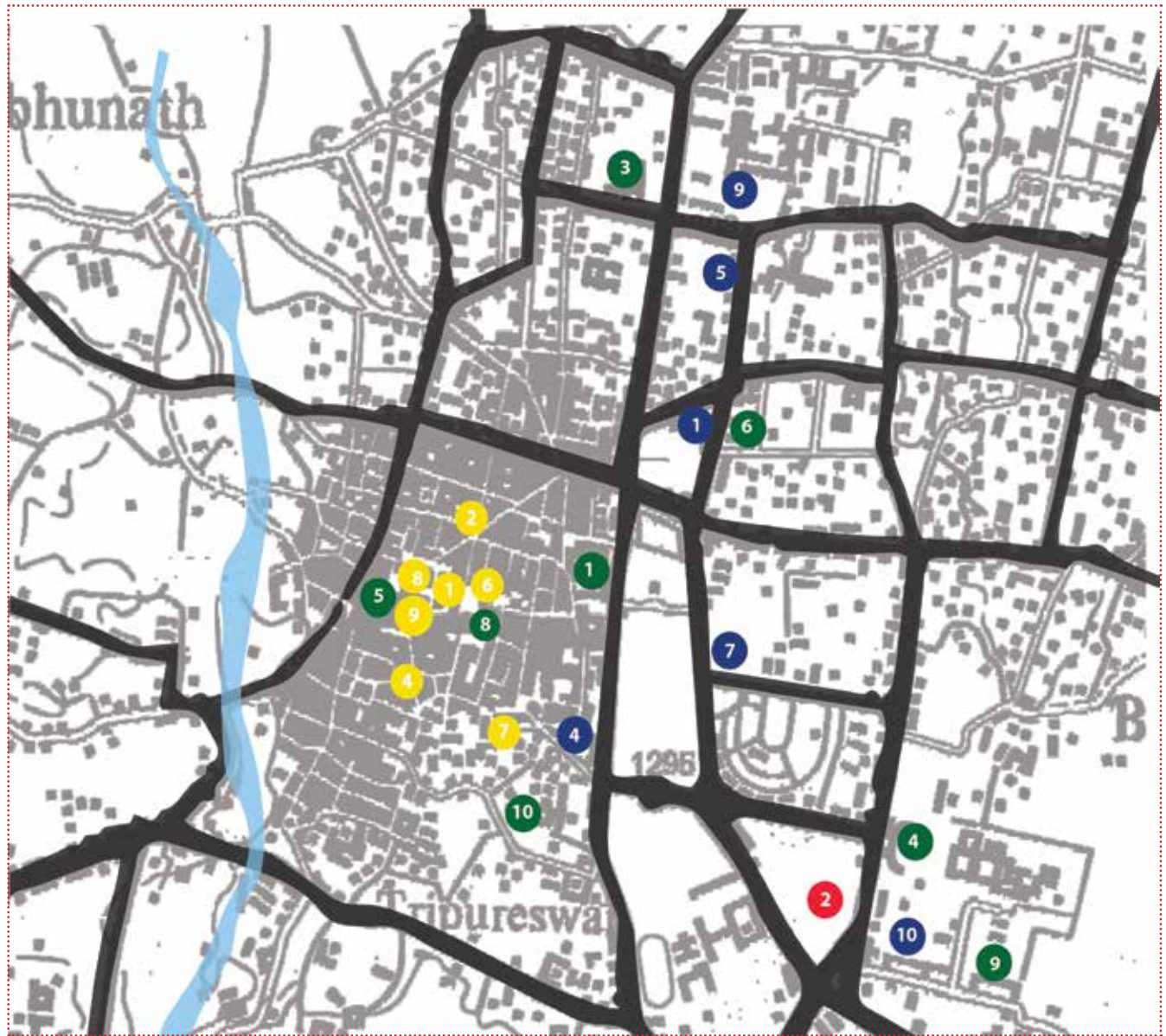
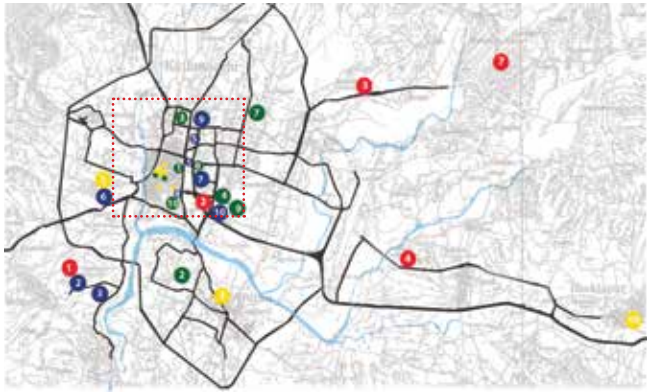
Category I-4

The fourth category includes all industrially produced products as well as miscellaneous items of interest.



Kathmandu Valley Map | Location of heritage structures

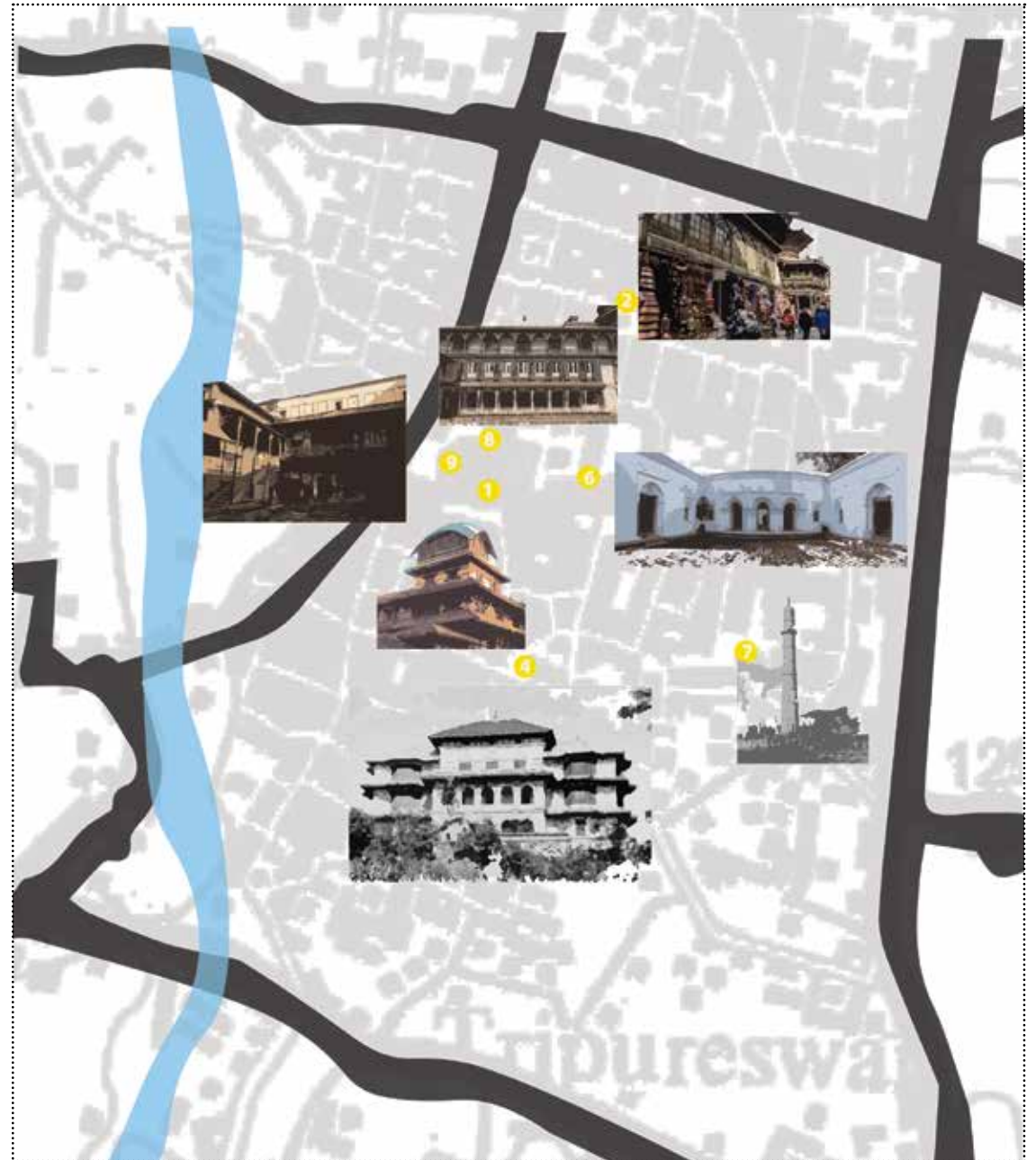
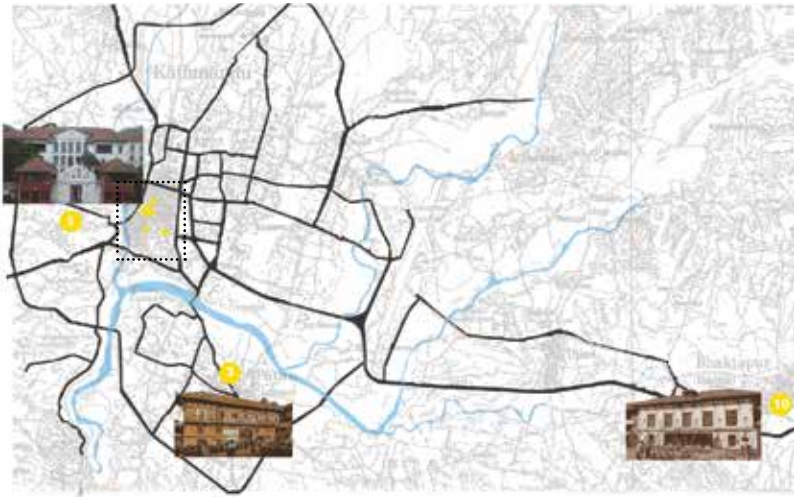
Source: Lehrstuhl für Kartographie und Reproduktionstechnik der Technischen Universität München, München
 Based on the 1:10000 edition of Kathmandu Valley Map by E. Schneider
 Annotation: Ateliers AJ



Kathmandu Valley Map | Location of heritage structures

Source: Lehrstuhl für Kartographie und Reproduktionstechnik der Technischen Universität München, München
 Based on the 1:10000 edition of Kathmandu Valley Map by E. Schneider
 Annotation: Ateliers AJ

- | | |
|---|--|
|  A-1 |  A-3 |
|  A-2 |  A-4a |



Kathmandu Valley Map | Location of heritage structures | Category A-1

Source: Lehrstuhl für Kartographie und Reproduktionstechnik der Technischen Universität München, München | Based on the 1:10000 edition of Kathmandu Valley Map by E. Schneider

Annotation: Ateliers AJ

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Category A-1

Category A-1 targets the significant architectural structures that were originally built during the early Shah period in the first half of the 19th century defined by the introduction of Islamic elements. Many of these buildings were commissioned by Bhimsen Thapa during his reign as Prime Minister or by his close family and confidants.

Historic Setting 1768-1846

With the conquering of Kathmandu Valley by Prithvi Narayan Shah in the late 1760s the unification of Nepal moved rapidly forward. By 1774 the Gorkha soldiers had reach Sikkim to the east. After Prithvi Narayan Shah's death in 1775 the expansion moved west. By early 1790s the Gorkha troops had reach Garhwal in the Western Himalayas reaching the Sutlej River in 1806. The same year Bhimsen Thapa became mukhtiyar and ran the country for the following three decades under the regency of Queen Tripurasundari. With the death of the Queen, Bhimsen Thapa was soon disposed of in 1837 and the following decade saw political struggles between various courtiers vying for the post of mukhtiyar.

In terms of architectural history, the late 18th century seems to have been a continuation of the Malla style of architecture. Certain changes were carried out such as with the construction of the palace towers at Basantapur and Nuwakot. However, the introduction of an entirely new architectural vocabulary took place only in the early 19th century. With the expansion of Nepal, particularly towards the western Himalayas, an entirely new style of architecture was encountered. This seems to have been taken as a possible means for the rulers, particularly Bhimsen Thapa, but also other generals, to introduce a foreign architectural style that distinguished themselves from the local identity. This brought about some very interesting examples of architecture which needs to be identified and protected.

Criteria for Entries:

The criteria that the nominated entries have to fulfil would be:

1. Originally be from the first half of the 19th century
2. Have elements of Islamic / Mughal design or ornamentation
3. Is a good example of architecture from the early 19th century
4. Preference will be given to buildings in good condition

Buildings that have lost large parts of their original structure will only be considered if they still remain in a well restored manner, is retained in the memory of the local community for symbolic or historical reasons.

THE ENTRIES UNDER CATEGORY A-1

The first ten entries of this category have been chosen by ICOMOS Nepal for their importance to the architectural history of Nepal. Some of these buildings do not exist anymore or only parts survived. The memory of each of these buildings must however be safeguarded.

- A-1:2 Kirtipur Tower (late 1770s)**
Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu
- A-1:2 Baithak of Paltan Ghar (1777- to be confirmed)**
Ason, Kathmandu
- A-1:3 Bahadur Shah hall (1790s)**
Patan Durbar, Lalitpur
- A-1:4 Lagan Durbar (Silkhana) (1805)**
Lagan, Kathmandu
- A-1:5 Chhauni Durbar (National Museum) (1819)**
Chhauni, Kathmandu
- A-1:6 Dhukuti(1820s)**
Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu
- A-1:7 Dharahara (1825)**
Sundhara, Kathmandu
- A-1:8 Sisha Baithak (1826)**
Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu
- A-1:9 Farashkhana (1820s)**
Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu
- A-1:10 National art museum (1870s)**
Bhaktapur Palace, Bhaktapur

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Kirtipur Tower**
Code: **A-1:1**
Year: **late 1770s**
Location: **Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer : **Unknown**
Original use: **View Tower**
Current use: **View Tower**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: consent:

Significance:

Kirtipur Tower is a unique pavilion on the fifth floor and north-west corner of the building encompassing Lohan Chowk, part of the Hanumandhoka Palace complex. Its uniqueness lies in its curvilinear roof form borrowed from a Bangla roof style and it is said to have been constructed by craftsmen from Kirtipur. The tower architecture was introduced to Nepal after Prithvi Narayan Shah's victory over Kathmandu Valley.

The pavilion exhibits the complex roof form of Indo-Islamic Architecture which carefully merges with traditional timber technology of Kathmandu Valley. Timber rafters and purlins were crafted into curved pieces for the frame of the roof structure. The roof, elongated in the corners, is covered with copper sheets with ribs following the roof line. The roof rests on the timber structure provided with arched windows and traditional lattice. The intricate carving technique in wood was a traditional skill developed in Kathmandu Valley, however, the use of the motif of images of peacock and snakes in the struts signifies the adaptation of foreign motifs, mainly Persian and Islamic, during this period.

Location coordinates: **27°42'14.7"N 85°18'27.6"E**



Anticlockwise from Top:

1. Kirtipur Tower with Bangla roof style, 1973 | Tod Ragsdale
2. Wooden frame structure supporting the roof, 2017 | Anie Joshi
3. Decorative struts with snake motif supporting curve roof, 2019 | Namrata Pandey
4. View of Kirtipur Tower from Nasal Chowk, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Baithak of Paltan Ghar**
Code: **A-1:2**
Year: **1777** (to be reconfirmed)
Location: **Ason, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Meeting hall**
Current use: **Commercial use**
Current owner: **Private** (Basnyat families)

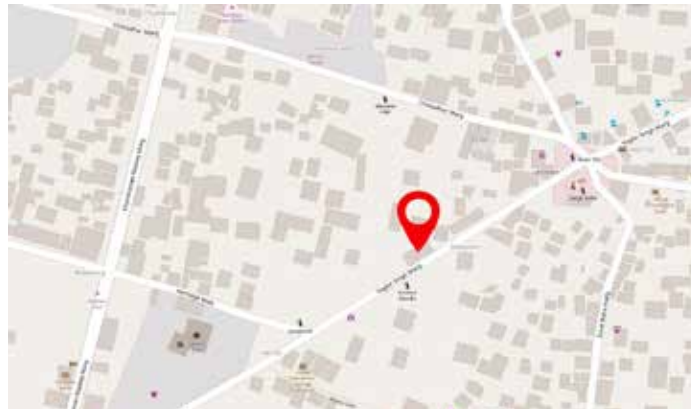
Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Paltan Ghar was the residence of Kaji Abhiman Singh Basnyat, one of the prominent Commander-in-Chiefs of Unified Nepal. It is strategically located at an equal distance between the Royal palace and city boundary at Bhotahiti. This two-storey building on the main street used to lead to seven connected courtyards among which only three are accessible today. One can still find the amalgamation of both Mughal and Newari styles of architecture in this building complex which showcases a unique character within the streetscape. The mural of miniature soldiers on the frieze displays military power and its importance to the national defence during 18th century Nepal.

The front building used to serve as a bhaithak area where national and international delegates used to meet, and the inner houses were living quarters. This building also houses the oldest ayurvedic shop of the town known as Tilanga Aushadhalaya. The entire building is in a dilapidated condition and due to multiple owners, which has hindered the maintenance of the building.

Location coordinates: **27°42'24.9"N 85°18'40.0"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Balkumari temple and Paltan Ghar during Seto Macchinra Jatra, 1973 | Tod Ragsdale
2. Front facade with the long windows of the Hall and shops on the ground floor, 2018 | SPACES
3. The elaborate decoration on the window posts and bracket and unique army parade stucco decor on the frieze of Paltan Ghar front facade, 2019 | Prakriti Bandari
4. The Newari style windows with the arch is a later development, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Bahadur Shah Hall**
Code: **A-1:3**
Year: **1790**
Location: **Patan Durbar, Lalitpur**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Hall**
Current use: **View Tower**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The Bahadur Shah Hall building in the northern section of Patan Durbar was constructed in the 1790s by the regent Bahadur Shah after his return from Benares. The design was influenced by the Anglo-Indian style already prevailing in India at that time. The rectangular building consists of a tall reception hall (baithak) above two shorter floors. The reception hall's large- interiorspan, soaring ceilings, and fireplace departs radically from all interior spaces of previous eras, making the Bahadur Shah Hall the first building of its kind in the country. The composition of the façade is governed by regularized fenestration around a two-storey high gate at the center to allow elephants to enter the stables in the backyard.

The building was used as an armory for much of the 19th century. After the 1934 earthquake, it housed the Earthquake Loan Branch, a local office in charge of providing loans to those affected by the earthquake. In 1973, it was leased to Adarsha Kanya Niketan Girl's School.

Location coordinates: **27°40'24.9"N 85°19'32.3"E**



Anticlockwise from Top:

1. The front facade of Bahadur Shah Hall building, 2015 | Kai Weise
2. The long projecting wooden balcony along the hall, 2015 | Kai Weise
3. The wooden beams are supported by the projecting brackets, 2013 | Anie Joshi
4. The hall is illuminated by large windows, 2013 | Anie Joshi
5. The Bahadur Shah hall, 2014 | KVPT

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Lagan Durbar**
Code: **A-1:4**
Year: **1805**
Location: **Lagan, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Residence**
Current use: **Demolished**
Current owner: **Kathmandu Metropolitan City**

Informed: x consent: x

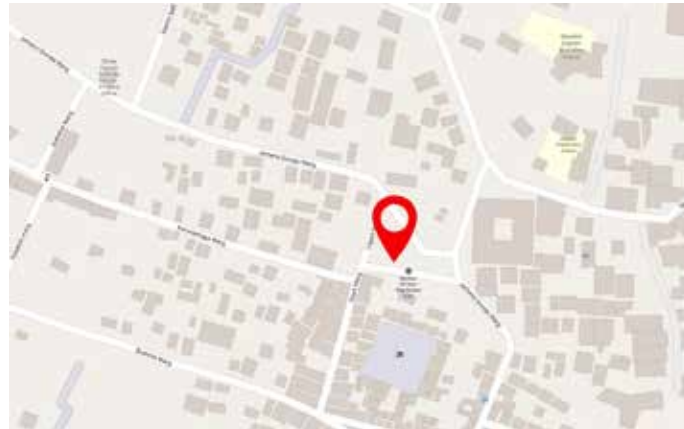
Significance:

Lagan Durbar was built as a residence by Kazi Bhimsen Thapa, one of the most prominent Prime Ministers of Nepal, for his brother Ranabir Singh Thapa. After the downfall of the Thapas in Nepali politics, the building was used to store weapons, so is commonly known as Lagan Silkhana or armoury.

This historic building presented an entirely new facade to the architecture of Kathmandu Valley with the introduction of Islamic motifs and ornamentation styles. Use of false cusped arches and the arabesque decorations on the pediments and brackets reflect the adoption of Mughal ornamental elements. The introduction of the bay windows and balcony in this building was unique.

The building was in use for storage of arms till 2000. During the 2015 earthquake, this building was damaged. Hence, under this pretext the Kathmandu Metropolitan City demolished the building. KMC has plans of setting up a city green park on this site.

Location coordinates: **27°41'57.8"N 85°18'26.4"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Lagan Durbar with its elaborately decorated facade and bay windows | Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya
2. The change in style of windows in this building from the early 1800, 2018 | Rajan Chaudhary
3. The facade towards the courtyard with open colonaded space on the ground floor, the arms stored were sorted and sold in 2000, 2000 | International Military Antiques
4. The elaborate carving on the wooden elements 2000 | International Military Antiques

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Chhauni Museum**
Code: **A-1:5**
Year: **1819**
Location: **Chhauni, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Residence**
Current use: **Museum**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Chhauni Durbar is one of the only existing palace complexes built by Bhimsen Thapa. The building served as an arsenal and the top floor was used as a private retreat from the city. Later Bir Shumsher used it as a private museum for weapons and guns and was turned into Chhauni museum by Chandra Shumsher.

The symmetry prevailing in the traditional architecture of the Kathmandu Valley has been retained on its façade, however, at the time; the scale of the building completely changed the skyline. On the main facade the traditional three-bay windows flank the central French windows that are separated by Corinthian columns. The elaborate use of the ogee arches, column pilasters on the facade and use of round wooden columns dominating the façade, indicate the change in the architectural style prevailing in palaces during the early 19th century Nepal. These palaces were provided with a compound wall and gates in similar ornamentation which were not present in the preceding palace buildings.

Location coordinates: **27°42'20.2"N 85°17'20.3"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Front facade of Chhauni Durbar, 1975 | Protective inventory of Kathmandu Valley Vol. 2
2. Front facade with arched french windows and corinthian column, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
3. The pilaster columns and use of ogee arches as pediment, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
4. The entry gate to the main building has arched niches, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
5. Use of circular wooden post was introduced in early 1800, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
6. The side facades has french windows with cusp and ogee arch pediments and pilaster, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Dhukuti**
Code: **A-1:6**
Year: **1820s**
Location: **Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Royal treasury**
Current use: **Museum gallery**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: consent:

Significance:

Dhukuti, the old Royal Treasury building within the premises of Hanumandhoka Palace complex is built around two courtyards with a single opening on the exterior façade, which is the main entrance door. The building is significant for its vaulted roof supported by massive 1.5 metre thick brick masonry walls. Suspended flooring has been provided with air vent ducts.

The interior spaces are slightly illuminated by natural light using stone lattice windows. For security the wooden doors are provided with metal straps/nails and the door jambs, lintels and threshold are made of stone. The facade towards the courtyard reflects the influence of Mughal architecture with the use of cusped arches and pilasters in the openings.

Location coordinates: 27°42'15.1"N 85°18'30.4"E



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Panoramic view of one of the courtyards in Dhukuti, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
2. Museum Gallery inside Dhukuti with its vaulted roofing, 2017 | Anie Joshi
3. The stone jamb, lintel and threshold for the doors along with cusped arch and pilaster framing the door opening, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
4. The wooden door panels are provided with metal straps and nails, 2017 | Anie Joshi
5. The stone Lattice window illuminating the gallery space, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
6. 3 bay cusped arch opening at entry towards the courtyard, 2017 | Anie Joshi

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Dharahara**
Code: **A-1:7**
Year: **1825, Reconstructed 1935**
Location: **Sundhara, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Viewing Tower**
Current use: **Memorial**
Current owner: **Kathmandu Metropolitan City**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Dharahara, a tower resembling an Islamic minaret was constructed during the reign of Muktiyar Bhimsen Thapa. There were actually two Dharaharas built during this period and both the towers collapsed during the 1934 earthquake. The existing Dharahara was a reconstruction by Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher in 1935 on top of the original plinth.

Dharahara, is a nine storey cylindrical tapered tower built in brick masonry. The viewing deck on the top floor is a projected circular balcony with metal railings accessed by 213 steps from the ground floor. This tower influenced by the Islamic minaret has little ornamentation but is crowned by a bronze gajur. The area around the tower is fenced off with a huge white washed masonry boundary wall.

The tall white tower amid the urban landscape was a prominent landmark which again collapsed during the 2015 earthquake and today the remains of the plinth and part of the ground floor is being preserved as memorial.

Location coordinates: **27°42'02.5"N 85°18'43.1"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Dharahara tower in its vicinity, 1920s | Images of the century
2. Dharahara, an influence from Mughal minarets with its fencing, 2009 | Nepal Advisor
3. The metal view deck on the top of Dharahara with final gajur, 2009 | Rupan Poudel
4. The arched and mini tower designs on the compound wall of Dharahara, 2015 | Nur Photos
5. Massive construction around the ruin of Dharahara for a new tower, 2019 | Republica
6. The tower collapsed during the 2015 earthquake, 2015 | Nur Photos

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Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Sisa Baithak**
Code: **A-1:8**
Year: **1826**
Location: **Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Palace hall**
Current use: **Meeting hall**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: consent:

Significance:

Sisa Baithak, the northern wing of Nasal Chowk of the Hanumandhoka Palace, used to be the audience chamber of Malla kings. Later, during the reign of King Rajendra Bikram Shah, it was renovated and Mughal architectural elements were introduced.

The building, particularly on its southern façade, showcases the extraordinary details of Mughal Architecture merged with the traditional Newari architectural scale. Series of ornate columns and French windows create harmony within the façade. The ground floor has an open hall with series of cylindrical double columns with decorative arches and floral patterns from where the cultural events on the Nasal chowk were observed. The long facade of the first floor with a series of windows with glass is believed to be the first wing with glass in Hanumandhokha Palace, hence its name that translates to 'glass hall'. The regularity continues on the top floor with a long verandah provided with wooden columns and brackets with motifs influenced by Mughal architecture.

Location coordinates: **27°42'15.6"N 85°18'26.7"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Aerial view of Sisa Baithak, 1920s | Images of the century
2. Aerial view of Sisa Baithak, 2017 | Anie Joshi
3. Intricate details of the carving are lost in layers of enamel paint, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
4. Southern facade of Sisa Baithak with large window panel and Mughal influence ornamentation, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
5. Ground floor open hall gives view to the Nasal chowk, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Farashkhana**
Code: **A-1:9**
Year: **Early 1820s**
Location: **Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Store for furniture and furnishing**
Current use: **Store**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: consent:

Significance:

The Farashkhana building that forms the eastern wing of Nhuchhen Chowk at Hanumandhoka Palace was constructed during Shah period to store furniture and furnishing materials. The three-storey building contrasts to the adjoining Newari architecture in terms of its scale, composition as well as the ornamentation of various elements.

The facade towards the courtyard has a series of open spaces; open hall on the ground floor and along verandah on the first floor with a large enclosed hall behind it. The upper floor hall is provided with a series of sash windows and doors fixed to the wooden posts. Cylindrical timber posts are used, which are provided with decorative floral patterns. The struts have a peacock motif which is unique to this period.

A large single flight stone staircase leads to the first floor and its massiveness is further accentuated by a roof shade supported on long slender timber posts along the stairway.

Location coordinates: **27°42'14.8"N 85°18'24.8"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Mohan Shamsheer's first Durbar at Nhuchhen chowk in front of Farashkhaha, 1948 | Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya
2. The front facade of Farashkhana with colonaded spaces, 2019 | Ananda Manandhar
3. The monumental stone stair leading to the first floor hall, 2019 | Ananda Manandhar
4. Interior large span room are supported on wooden posts, 2019 | Ananda Manandhar
5. The circular wooden posts and peacock motifs on the struts are peculiar features of early 1800 architecture in the monumental buildings, 2019 | Ananda Manandhar
6. Long balcony is provided with wooden carved brackets, 2019 | Ananda Manandha

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **National Art Museum**
Code: **A-1:10**
Year: **1870s**
Location: **Bhaktapur Palace, Bhaktapur**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Palace hall**
Current use: **Museum gallery**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The National Art Museum is the only white washed building within the Bhaktapur Palace Complex. This building, with a huge hall on the first floor, has large windows which contrast with the traditional Newari architectural scale of the adjoining buildings.

Though the façade reflects the influence of Mughal architecture with the extensive use of arches and floral friezes, elements of traditional Newari architecture is present with the use of carved wooden post and brackets on the ground floor. This could be material that was reused from the previous building that stood in the same location. Alternating false window and French window placement in the upper floors contrasts the symmetry on the ground floor. The floral patterns in the frieze have been provided with a crimson tone.

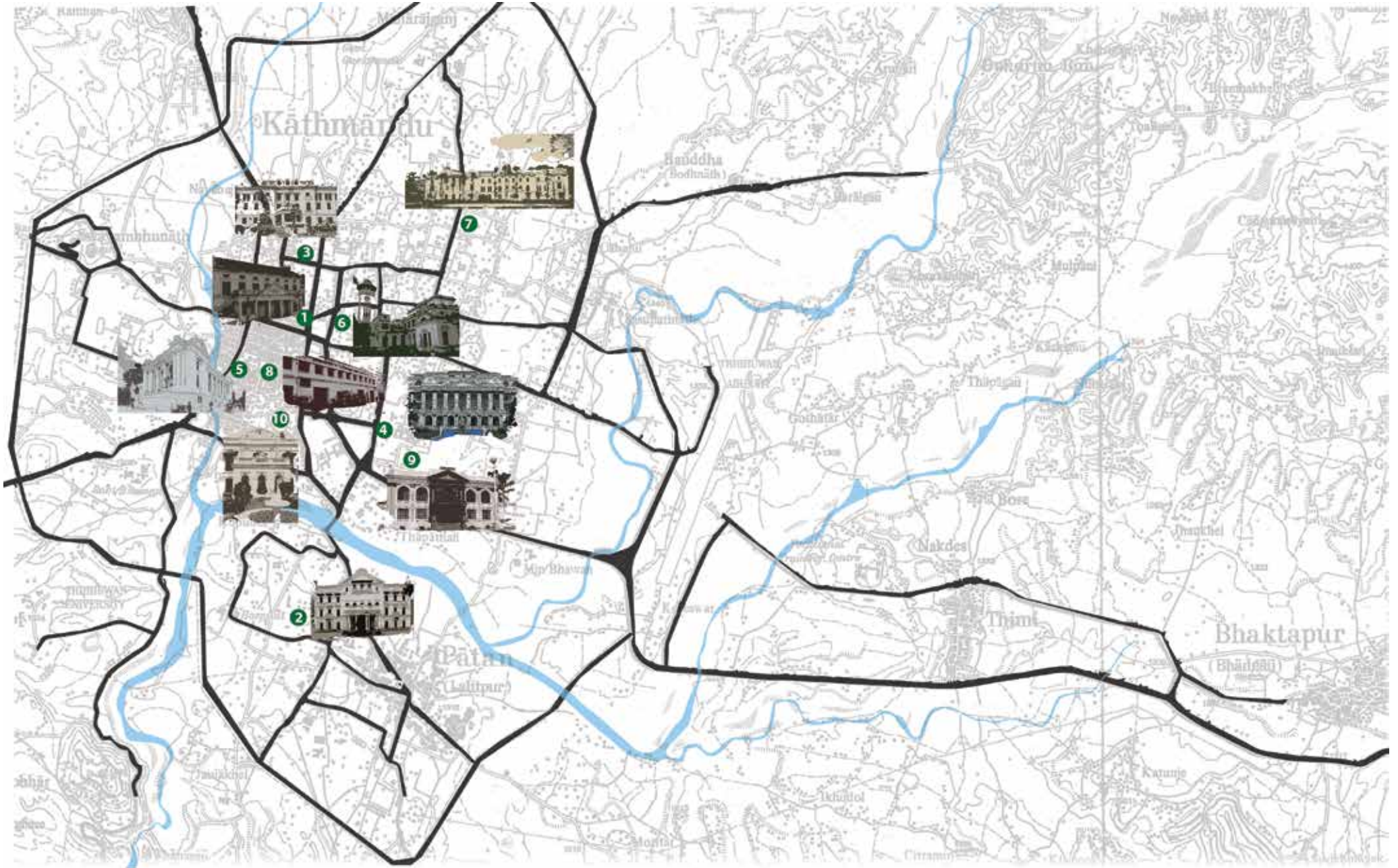
The interior of the hall has a long span and the rafter beams are provided extra structural support by a series of brackets.

Location coordinates: **27°40'20.0"N 85°25'41.1"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The National Art Museum building before 1934 earthquake, early 1900 | Images of the century
2. Front facade slightly damaged by the 2015 earthquake, 2018 | Anie Joshi
3. French windows framed with pilaster columns and cusped arches, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
4. The carved details on the wooden elements and stucco frieze, 2019 | Prakriti Bhandari
5. Interior of the hall on the first floor | Brian McMarrow



Kathmandu Valley Map | Location of heritage structures | Category A-2

Source: Lehrstuhl für Kartographie und Reproduktionstechnik der Technischen Universität München, München | Based on the 1:10000 edition of Kathmandu Valley Map by E. Schneider
Annotation: Ateliers AJ

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Category A-2

Category A-2 targets the significant architectural structures that were originally built during the late-19th up to mid-20th century defined mainly by European neo-classical styles. These were introduced by the Rana Prime Ministers and are often called Rana Style buildings.

Historic Setting 1846-1951

The political chaos of the mid-19th century ended with the Kot massacre in 1846 and Jung Bahadur Rana usurping power. In 1850 Jung Bahadur Rana visited Europe to view the magnificence of London and Paris. He was so enamoured by the cities that he would have rather remained there. On returning to Kathmandu Jung Bahadur began the trend of Rana aristocrats to take on the style of the Europeans. The Rana Prime Ministers kept cordial relationship with the British in India, supporting the East India Company suppress the Indian Mutiny in 1857.

The Rana aristocrats built themselves large palaces in an eclectic assortment of European Neo-classical styles, locating these away from the historic cities in large estates. Many institutional buildings were also constructed in the European Neo-classical style, now often referred to as Rana Style. Major construction took place after the 1934 earthquake which included individual palaces but also urban restructuring plans such as around Basantapur and Juddha Sadak (New Road).

The era of Rana power lasted for 105 years, a period defined by limited development taking place outside the Kathmandu Valley. There were certain centres of power created to govern the country such as in Tansen to the west and Dhankuta to the east. The industrial and infrastructural development as well as linkages to the Kathmandu Valley that took place during this period is dealt with in a separate section "Industrial Heritage".

Criteria for Entries:

The criteria that the nominated entries have to fulfil would be:

1. Originally be from the late-19th up to mid-20th century
2. Have elements of European neo-classical design or ornamentation
3. Is a good example of architecture from the early 19th up to mid-20th century
4. Preference will be given to buildings in good condition

Buildings that have lost large parts of their original structure will only be considered if they still remain in a well restored manner, is retained in the memory of the local community for symbolic or historical reasons.

THE ENTRIES UNDER CATEGORY A-2

The first ten entries of this category have been chosen by ICOMOS Nepal for their importance to the architectural history of Nepal within Kathmandu valley. Some of these buildings do not exist anymore or are only partially surviving. The memory of each of these buildings must however be safeguarded.

- A-2:1 Durbar High School (1892)**
Ranipokhari, Kathmandu
- A-2:2 Ananda Niketan (1892)**
Pulchowk, Lalitpur
- A-2:3 Keshar Mahal (including Library) (1895)**
Kantipath, Kathmandu
- A-2:4 Singha Durbar (Parliament) (1903)**
Ramshah Path, Kathmandu
- A-2:5 Gaddhi Baithak (1908)**
Basantapur, Kathmandu
- A-2:6 Trichandra College and Ghantaghar (1918)**
Ranipokhari, Kathmandu
- A-2:7 Sita Bhawan (Bal Mandir) (1930)**
Naxal, Kathmandu
- A-2:8 JuddhaBarun Yantra (Fire Brigade) (1937)**
Basantapur, Kathmandu
- A-2:9 Gallery Baithak (1937)**
Naxal, Kathmandu
- A-2:10 Hari Bhawan (1940)**
Sundhara, Kathmandu

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Durbar High School**
Code: **A-2:1**
Year: **1892**
Location: **Ranipokhari, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **School building**
Current use: **Demolished**
Current owner: **Ministry of Education**

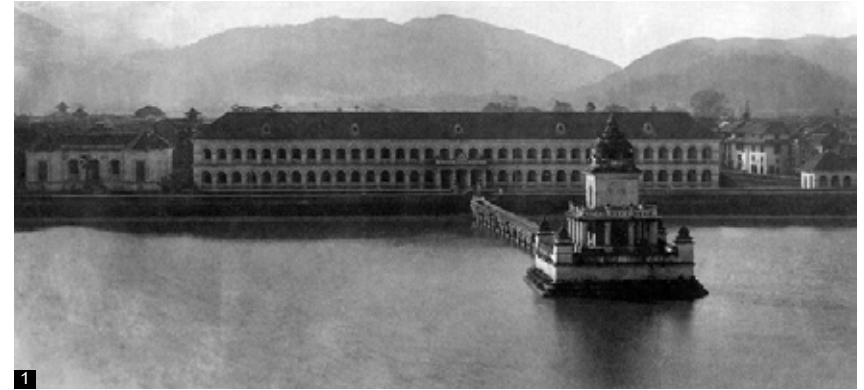
Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Durbar High School was the first school building in Nepal which was built in 1892 to educate the elite Rana family members. It was opened to public in 1951. It is a long symmetrical two storey building with a hip roof and dormer windows. Originally the eastern façade was accentuated by two rows of 35 arches and the central porch. It had minimal decoration, yet a harmony was formed by the arcade on the walkway leading to the classrooms. The building portrayed an impressive façade influenced by neoclassical architecture.

An extension was later added which connected the school building to the town hall to the south. The building served as the school under different administrations over the century. The school building suffered damage with collapse of the first floor arcade and has in the meantime been demolished to be replaced by a new school building.

Location coordinates: **27°42'28.8"N 85°18'50.6"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Durbar High School original building, 1890s | Dirgha Man Chitrakar
2. East façade after the 2015 earthquake | Kai Weise
3. East façade with the arched colonaded walkway, circa 1970 | Rich Pfau
4. First floor walkway with the arcade, 1968 | Doug Hall
5. West façade after 2015 earthquake | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Anand Niketan**
Code: **A-2:2**
Year: **1892**
Location: **Pulchowk, Lalitpur**
Architect | Engineer: **Kishor Narshing**
Original use: **Anand Shumsher's residence**
Current use: **College Administration Building**
Current owner: **Tribhuvan University**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Bir Shumsher built Ananda Bagh as a residence for his wife and son, Ananda Shumsher. Ananda Shamsher designed the garden of which a smaller portion is still intact at the front.

A central square entrance portico is provided with double ionic columns and jack vault with an accessible terrace. The central bay has double height serpentine fluted colossal pilasters. On the other wings, the floors are separated visually by a horizontal cornice band. There are French windows on each floor with louvers shutters, different type of pediments which are elaborately decorated with floral motifs, and cast iron balustrades. The quoins are provided with horizontal bands.

The entrance lobby has mosaic flooring including the staircase leading to the first floor. There are huge internal timber beams that support the floor made up of joists and timber planks topped with a layer of mud and floor tiles.

Location coordinates: **27°40'51.8"N 85°19'06.9"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Front facade of Ananda Niketan, 2019 | Sadar Bhandari
2. Facade towards the courtyard, 2019 | Sadar Bhandari
3. Corridor towards the courtyard, 2019 | Sadar Bhandari

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Keshar Mahal**
Code: **A-2:3**
Year: **1895**
Location: **Thamel, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Kishor Narshing**
Original use: **Keshar Shumsher's residence**
Current use: **Public Library building | Government**
Current owner: **Ministry of Education**

Informed: x consent: x

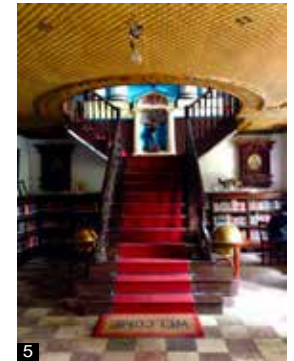
Significance:

Field marshal Keshar Shumsher developed his resident, Keshar Mahal with an extensive garden and his private library. After his death in 1964, his wife donated the library to the government of Nepal, which was made accessible to the public in 1968.

This three-storey rectangular building is in neo-classical revival style. The front façade of the east wing is highly decorated with emphasis on the verticality by using ionic order pilasters running through the two floors and protruding facades. The tapered front portico is unique to this building and extensive use of stucco decoration can be seen, along with the use of variety of windows and use of circular openings. However, the façade towards the courtyard has minimum decoration.

The interior of the building is equally elaborate with extensive use of pressed tin ceilings and stucco decoration. A bifurcated wooden staircase leads to the upper storey library.

Location coordinates: 27°42'52.7"N 85°18'52.4"E



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Front facade of Keshar Mahal in early 1900 | Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya
2. Front facade with few modifications in the original building, 2017 | NRA
3. Elements of neo-classical architecture on the facade, 2018 | Anie Joshi
4. The stucco decorated fireplace and tin false ceiling integrated, 2018 | Anie Joshi
5. The bifurcated wooden staircase | tnotes.com
6. Elaborate pressed tin ceilings used in interior, 2018 | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Singha Durbar**
Code: **A-2:4**
Year: **1903**
Location: **Ramshah Path, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Kumar and Kishor Narshing**
Original use: **Chandra Shamsher's residence**
Current use: **Secretariat of the Government**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Singha Durbar, which was commissioned by Chandra Shamsher, is always remembered for its grandeur in scale and ornamentation. It is believed to have been the largest palace building in the early 1900 in entire South-east Asia, with more than 1000 rooms built around seven courtyards. Only the western wing remains after a fire in 1973 engulfed most of the palace.

The historical front wing of the Singha Durbar reflects the neoclassical influence with double height Corinthian fluted columns and arched corridor with elaborate cast iron balustrades. The stairs in cast iron contributes to the elegant interior of the building. The central part consist of the State Hall with elaborate interiors of marble, crystals and glass which is still one of a kind in Nepal.

This grand structure built in brick masonry has been provided with metal ties and I sections and adaptation of local craftsmanship can be seen in the interiors through imitation of stucco plaster in wood and stone.

Location coordinates: **27°41'52.5"N 85°19'26.3"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Front facade Singha Durbar with garden early 1900 | Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya
2. Cast iron balustrade with engravings of Chandra Shamsher, 2019 | Anie Joshi
3. Elaborate stucco decor in columns and cornices, 2019 | Anie Joshi
4. Imitation of arabesque in stone panel, 2019 | Anie Joshi
5. Use of metal ties in ceiling wooden structure, 2019 | Anie Joshi
6. Elaborate stucco decor used in interior of the state hall, 2019 | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Gaddhi Baithak**
Code: **A-2:5**
Year: **1908**
Location: **Hanumandhoka Palace, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Kumar and Kishor Narshing**
Original use: **State Hall**
Current use: **Museum**
Current owner: **Ministry of Culture**

Informed: consent:

Significance:

Gaddi Baithak is the latest addition to the Hanumadhokha Palace complex. It was commissioned by Chandra Shamsher to receive the foreign delegates visiting the palace. During Indra Jatra foreign delegates were invited to observe the Kumari chariot festival, a tradition that still continues.

The colonnaded balcony on the southern façade, which used to have in its original design a large stairway leading to the main hall from the square, exemplified the grandeur of the hall. The decors from Greek and Roman architecture are reflected in the motifs used in the exterior as well as interior of the building.

The hall is embellished with pressed tin ceilings and appliqué on the wall, along with crystal chandelier, Venetian mirrors, a stained glass door as well as an elaborately carved wooden showpiece.

Location coordinates: **27°42'14.5"N 85°18'24.3"E**



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. Grand hall of Gaddhi Baithak, 1910 | Dirgha Man Chitrakar
2. Grand staircase leading to the hall in the original building, 1910 | Dirgha Man Chitrakar
3. Procession of Kumari Jatra in front of Gaddhi Baithak, 2019 | Anie Joshi
4. Minimum damage caused to the hall during 2015 earthquake, 2017 | Anie Joshi
5. The stucco decor with fissure caused by 2015 earthquake, 2017 | Anie Joshi
6. Pressed tin cornice inside the hall, 2017 | Anie Joshi
7. Crystal chandelier in the hall, 2018 | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Tri-Chandra College and Gantha Ghar**
Code: **A-2:6**
Year: **1892**
Location: **Ranipokhari, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Campus building**
Current use: **Campus building**
Current owner: **Tribhuvan University**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Founded by Chandra Shumsher under the name of King Tribhuvan and himself, Tri-Chandra college is a pioneer institute in the history of higher education in Nepal. The Ghanta ghar, a clock tower was also built within the premises which was severely damaged during the 1934 earthquake and was rebuilt.

The campus building is composed of five blocks and is placed symmetrically, with the Ghantaghar at the central axis, along with a huge hall behind the tower. The blocks on either end have high ceiling halls while the middle three-storey blocks are classrooms. The function is reflected in the architectural design of this college building. The front façade is well composed with open arcaded corridors on the ground floor and huge rectangular piers with pilasters supporting jack vaults on the first-floor corridor which provide access to the classrooms. Minimum decoration has been provided, only the use of cornice, pilasters and pediments.

Location coordinates: **27°42'28.2"N 85°19'01.7"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Front facade of Trichandra campus early 1900 | Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya
2. Ghantaghar
3. Arched colonaded walkway on the ground floor, 2019 | Suraj Lama
4. The deterioration of the facade due to moisture, 2019 | Suraj Lama
5. The metal stair leading to the top of the Ghantaghar, 2019 | Suraj Lama

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Sita Bhawan**
Code: **A-2:7**
Year: **1930-31**
Location: **Naxal, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Dilli Jung Thapa**
Original use: **Bhim Shumsher's residence**
Current use: **Bal Mandir | NAFA**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Bhim Shumsher had this building built for his wife. She lived in this palace for about four decades and extensive additions were made when Bhim Shumsher became the Prime Minister.

Two large private courtyards have been used to centrally govern the functioning of spaces. A series of large rooms are assembled along the narrow hallway, which leads to different sections of the palace. A huge circular front porch on the west façade and two bay windows on the south elevation of the palace are unique to this building. The façades have elaborate stucco decorations.

Interior walls are covered with fresco paintings and highly decorated pressed tin ceilings reflect adaptation of western art in the building.

Location coordinates: **27°43'30.3"N 85°19'46.0"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. Western façade of Sita Bhawan, 2016 | Ashim
2. The circular portico with large colonaded terrace is prominent, 2019 | Suraj Lama
3. Courtyard with modest facade | Saurav Koirala
4. Second courtyard | Kalpit Chaulagain
5. Interior hall with elaborate decoration and crystal chandelier | Saurav Koirala

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Juddha Varun Yantra**
Code: **A-2:8**
Year: **1937**
Location: **Newroad, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Fire Brigade**
Current use: **Fire Brigade**
Current owner: **Kathmandu Metropolitan City**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Through the initiation of Juddha Shumsher Rana, the first fire brigade was established in the Kathmandu Valley after the 1934 earthquake named Juddha Varun Yantra. The building with a curved façade forms the entrance to the Basantapur Durbar Square.

The building is a simple two-storey structure. The ground floor space with high ceiling is reserved for the fire trucks. The upper floor rooms, with access through an open corridor, are offices and residence for the firefighters.

The building has been constructed in two phases, and has been provided with a construction joint. It has massive brick load bearing walls. Metal I sections have been used for the opening lintel on the ground floor. A timber staircase connects the floors. The inner façade features small arched windows.

Location coordinates: **27°42'12.7"N 85°18'31.9"E**



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. Fire brigade initial block, 1930s | Images of the century
2. Construction of Fire brigade, 1930s | Images of the century
3. Front facade with large opening for the entry of fire engines, 2019 | Kai Weise
4. The building at the entrance of Basantapur Square with Juddha Salik, 2019 | Kai Weise
5. Use of metal I section at lintel, 2018 | Anie Joshi
6. Old fire trucks, 2019 | Kai Weise
7. Facade towards the courtyard, 2019 | Kai Weise

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Gallery Baithak**
Code: **A-2:9**
Year: **1937**
Location: **Singhadurbar, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Meeting hall**
Current use: **Parliament Secretariat**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

This historic building was the theatre hall within the Singha durbar premises and is considered to have been largely remodeled in 1937 with the innovative skylight in the hall area. For its novel lighting effect it was also called the "Lighthouse".

This building built by Juddha Shamsheer has experimented on the use of hybrid ornamentation. The traditional elements of Newari architecture, Mughal architecture and western architecture have been integrated in the interior and exterior of the building, which indicates the changing political circumstances in the mid-20th century.

The Greek key, Kalasha and cusp arches all in one building is rare to find, which is unique to this building. The front facade is dominated by the neoclassical ornamentation and a large glass and metal canopy.

The building has been slightly damaged by the 2015 earthquake and concerns have been raised as the government is planning to demolish it.

Location coordinates: **27°41'55.9"N 85°18'43.4"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The Gallery baithak building, 1973 | Tod Ragsdale
2. The interior of Gallery Baithak, 1948 | Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya
3. Use of the Kalasha and greek key motifs together, 2014 | Shristina Shrestha
4. The Juddha Shamsheer emblem inside the hall 2014 | Shristina Shrestha
5. The hall lit naturally by the use of skylight, 2014 | Shristina Shrestha
6. The front facade of Gallery Baithak, 2014 | Shristina Shrestha

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Hari Bhawan**
Code: **A-2:10**
Year: **1940**
Location: **Sundhara, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Unknown**
Original use: **Hari Shamsheer's residence**
Current use: **Office building**
Current owner: **Kathmandu Metropolitan City**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

After the destruction of Bagh Durbarin 1934 earthquake, the building was constructed by Prime Minister Juddha Shumsher as a present to his son Hari Shumsher.

The three-storey building with courtyard has a garden at the front. Further, thick white walls and large arched openings with external green louvered shutters accentuate simplicity in detailing and perfection in craftsmanship. Architectural appreciation of traditional Malla architecture is expressed with the inclusion of a central courtyard, which governs major functioning of the spaces. Dramatic use of vertical pilasters and circular columns in addition to pediments on plain walls delineate great magnitude of proportionate geometry.

Location coordinates: 27°41'55.9"N 85°18'43.4"E



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. Use of neoclassical ornamentation on the facade, 2019 | Suraj Lama
2. Entrance porch, 2019 | Sadar Bhandari
3. Back facade, 2019 | Sadar Bhandari
4. Courtyard, 2019 | Suraj Lama
5. Bifurcated stairs in the interior, 2019 | Suraj Lama



Kathmandu Valley Map | Location of heritage structures | Category A-3

Source: Lehrstuhl für Kartographie und Reproduktionstechnik der Technischen Universität München, München | Based on the 1:10000 edition of Kathmandu Valley Map by E. Schneider
Annotation: Ateliers AJ

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Category A-3

Category A-3 targets the significant architectural structures that were originally built during the early modern period which would span from the 1940s through the 1960s. These buildings are largely defined by the early use of reinforced cement concrete and greatly influenced by architectural and engineering designs that go beyond historicity. The buildings are designed by professional engineers or architects.

Historic Setting

The Rana regime kept Nepal in isolation controlling interaction with the outside world. Though we see certain developments in infrastructure and services, with the import of materials and equipment from abroad (refer section on industrial heritage) the architecture during the Rana period remained Neo-classical. There are however only a few designs constructed of concrete such as the Saraswati Sadan built in 1943 based on designs by engineer B.P. Lohani who had returned after studying in Bombay.

The Rana regime came to an end in 1951. The government of the Republic of India that had only recently gained independence from Great Britain helped King Tribhuvan escape the clutches of the Ranas and be reinstated while introducing democracy. Elections followed, however the fledgling government was removed by King Mahendra in 1960. The follow decade was a period of planned development under the monarchy, keeping in mind the need for a national identity under the patronage of the King.

The architecture of this early period of modernism is defined by several Nepali architects and engineers such as Lohani, Bhatta and Rimal. There were furthermore works done by Swiss Architect Robert Weise as well as Calcutta based Benjamin Polk. Most of these designs show elements of modernism with links to the local context of Nepal.

Criteria for Entries:

The criteria that the nominated entries have to fulfil would be:

1. Originally be built between 1940 and 1970
2. Have elements of "modern" architecture
3. Is a good example of architecture from the early modern period
4. Preference will be given to buildings in good condition

Buildings that have lost large parts of their original structure will only be considered if they still remain in a well restored manner, is retained in the memory of the local community for symbolic or historical reasons.

THE ENTRIES UNDER CATEGORY A-3

The first ten entries of this category have been chosen by ICOMOS Nepal for their importance to the architectural history of Nepal. Some of these buildings do not exist anymore or are only partially surviving. The memory of each of these buildings must however be safeguarded.

- A-3:1 Saraswati Sadan (Bed Prasad Lohani 1943)**
Ranipokhari, Kathmandu
- A-3:2 Tribhuvan University Central Library (Robert Weise 1963)**
Kirtipur
- A-3:3 Laboratory School (Benjamin Polk 1965)**
Kirtipur
- A-3:4 General Post office (1960s)**
Sundhara, Kathmandu
- A-3:5 Annapurna Hotel East Wing (Robert Weise 1965)**
Durbar Marg, Kathmandu
- A-3:6 Hotel Soaltee– original block (Ganga Dhar Bhatta and Shankar Nath Rimal 1966)**
Kalimati, Kathmandu
- A-3:7 Rastriya Sabha Griha (Ganga Dhar Bhatta 1967)**
Pradarsani Marga, Kathmandu
- A-3:8 Fishtail Lodge (Robert Weise 1967)**
Pokhara
- A-3:9 Narayan Hiti Royal Palace (Binoy K. Chatterjee and Benjamin Polk 1969)**
Durbar Marg, Kathmandu
- A-3:10 Ministry of General Administration (Shankar Nath Rimal 1960s)**
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Saraswati Sadan**
Code: **A-3:1**
Year: **1943**
Location: **Ranipokhari, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Bed Prasad Lohani**
Original use: **Campus building**
Current use: **Campus building**
Current owner: **Tribhuvan University**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Saraswati Sadan is the milestone in the history of modern architecture in Nepal as it is the first concrete structure to be built in Nepal. It was built using new and innovative materials and technology including reinforced concrete and reinforced brick concrete.

It is also known as Golghar due to its curved front facade. The design by Lohani is simple, functional and structurally stable. Massive walls and deep beams have been used in order to give large spans. Inverted beams have also been used to give a free floating cantilever effect to the balconies. Similarly, Lohani has tried to play with levels and light in the design. Skylights and clerestory windows have been used in order to allow natural diffused light to enter into the building.

Location coordinates: 27°42'24.9"N 85°18'40.0"E



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. View of Saraswati sadan behind Ranipokhari | Dave Oconnor
2. The projecting concrete slab, 2019 | Dipti Mainali
3. The use of skylight and the ceiling design in the lower lobby of the northern wing, 2019 | Dipti Mainali
4. The use of skylights more as a monitor light, 2019 | Dipti Mainali
5. The cantilever balconies and projections, 2019 | Dipti Mainali

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Tribhuvan University Central Library**
Code: **A-3:2**
Year: **1963**
Location: **Tribhuvan University Campus, Kirtipur**
Architect | Engineer: **Robert Weise**
Original use: **Library**
Current use: **Library**
Current owner: **Tribhuvan University**

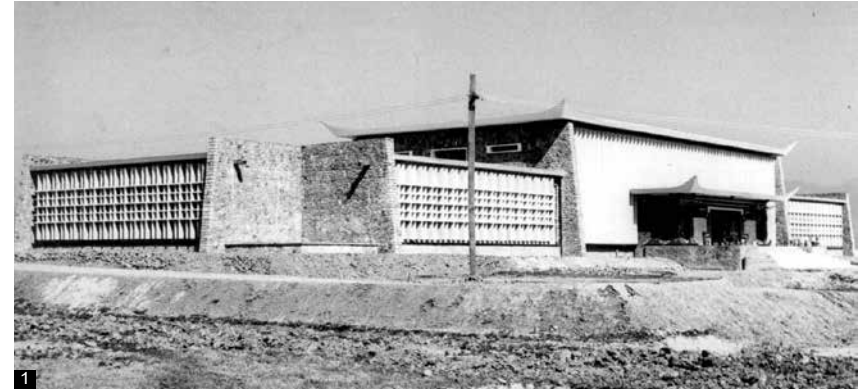
Informed: consent:

Significance:

The first library building built within the premises of the Tribhuvan University Campus contributed largely to education in Nepal. The architecture blends the local architecture of various region of Nepal contrasted by the brise-soleil. The use of stone as building material represents the hilly region of Nepal, whereas the strut and window designs were borrowed from traditional Newari architecture. This building reflects a wonderful balance between traditional and modern styles.

The quality of workmanship for the casting of the RCC brise-soleil is commendable along with the use of the metal sections for the doors and windows. The two-storey central block was separated from the original single-storey side wings with construction joints. The later extension on the terrace blends well with the original design; however, the quality of construction is less robust.

Location coordinates: **27°40'54.6"N 85°17'06.2"E**



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. The central Library original building, 1970s | TU archive
2. The rooms on the first floor were added later, 2019 | Anie Joshi
3. The entrance imitates the traditional ornamentation using cement concrete, 2018 | Anie Joshi
4. The brise soleil casted in cement concrete reflects the good workmanship despite the new material, 2018 | Anie Joshi
5. The grand staircase leading to the first floor, 2018 | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Laboratory School**
Code: **A-3:3**
Year: **1965**
Location: **Kirtipur**
Architect | Engineer: **Benjamin Polk**
Original use: **School**
Current use: **School**
Current owner: **Private**

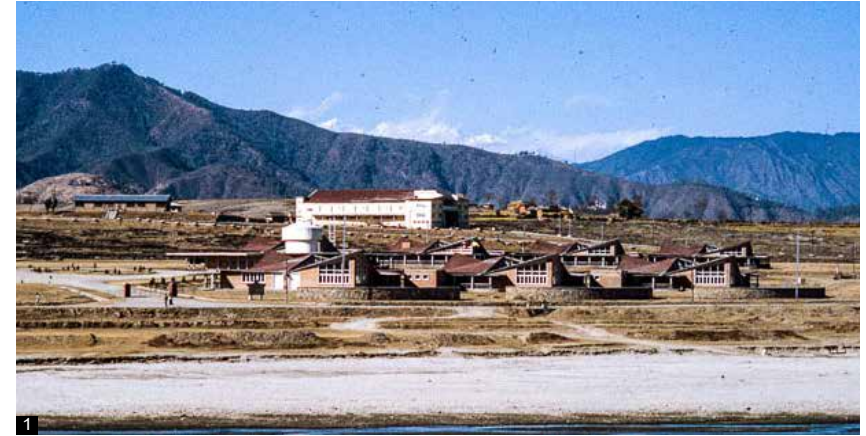
Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Laboratory school was formerly opened as a 'laboratory' for upcoming teachers to practice teaching. It is one of the pioneer schools in Nepal which started co-education for visually impaired students, who study together with sighted students.

The design of the school complex displays exceptional planning and building form, reflecting the progressiveness of modern education in Nepal. It has a linear configuration of total seven rhombus modular units around an administration block located in the center. Every module has a set of four square classrooms and each classroom has a parabolic concrete roof aligned in different direction. A pair of two parabolic slabs gradually rising up in opposite direction resembling a bird in flight with spread wings. This unique design, and the composition of the blocks, enhances the natural lighting, as well as ventilation within the classrooms. The units, which are built in exposed brick, have a peripheral colonnaded corridor with flowing spiral slabs and parapets in raw concrete, serving to create a playful environment for students.

Location coordinates: **27°40'38.6"N 85°17'40.5"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The premises of the Laboratory school, initially opened as TU demonstration school, 1969 | Dough and Nancy Hatch
2. The classroom blocks aligned with its wing like parabolic RCC roof, 1969 | Dough and Nancy Hatch
3. The clerestory windows below the winged concrete slab, 2019 | Sneha Shrestha
4. The playful walkway along the administration block with flowing concrete slab edge, 2019 | Sneha Shrestha
5. The corner windows illuminating the interior of the classrooms, 2019 | Sneha Shrestha

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **General Post building**
Code: **A-3:3**
Year: **1960s**
Location: **Sundhara, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **India central public work department**
Original use: **General post building**
Current use: **Demolished**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The postal service is one of the country's earliest government organizations. The general post office building was one of the very first buildings, constructed between the mid-60 and early seventies, dedicated to the development of institutions related to modern communication.

Designed by architects of the Indian Central Public Works Department, it represents the modern architect's concern of translating modern functions into new architectural expression. The building exhibits a certain rigor of design and detailing as well as an acknowledgement of the civic context. Unlike the traditional architecture of valley, the building paved its way to modernity through its slightly curved facade with repeated use of vertical elements. It also provided some of the early exposure of modern construction to the residents of Kathmandu Valley. However, the building has been completely demolished as it was part of the Dharahara tower reconstruction plan, which included underground parking covered by a public park.

Location coordinates: **27°42'02.9"N 85°18'47.5"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. General Post building with nearby Dharahara, 1967 | Wyane Stinson
2. The main entrance building to the General Post, 1970s | Shirley Vosburg
3. The projecting RCC portico at the entry | The Kathmandu Post
4. The second block facade with projecting curvilinear shading, 2019 | Anie Joshi
5. The demolition of the General Post Office building for a urban regeneration project of Dharahara, 2019 | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Annapurna Hotel East wing**
Code: **A-3:4**
Year: **1965**
Location: **Durbar Marg, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Robert Weise**
Original use: **Hotel**
Current use: **Hotel**
Current owner: **Private**

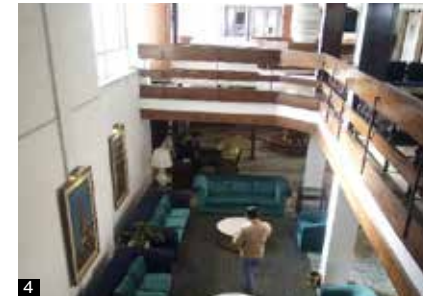
Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The front wing of Hotel Annapurna was the first building specifically designed as an international hotel. The hotel opened in 1965. The design is considered an exquisite harmony of modern and traditional architecture style in Nepal.

The simple rectangular building with white plastered façade and large openings exhibits the modernist style however, it adapts to the traditional scale of the building in the valley with continued use of the sloped roof with wide projection. This three-storey building block is built in load bearing brick masonry and timber joist flooring which emphasizes on the traditional construction system.

Location coordinates: 27°42'40.2"N 85°18'59.7"E



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. Front facade of the east wing of Hotel Annapurna during 1970s | Robert Weise Archive
2. Original entry porch, 1970s | Robert Weise Archive
3. Natural light in the interior lobby, 1970s | Robert Weise Archive
4. Double height lobby, 2019 | Sonal Shrestha
5. Front facade with later constructed entry porch, 2019 | Sonal Shrestha

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Hotel Soaltee-original block**
Code: **A-3:5**
Year: **1966**
Location: **Kalimati, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Ganga D. Bhatta and Shankar N. Rimal**
Original use: **Hotel**
Current use: **Hotel**
Current owner: **Private**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The original block of Hotel Soaltee is the first international style tall building within the skyline of Kathmandu. The innovative building construction systems of reinforced cement concrete framed structure with a basement and raft foundation were introduced to create this modern building.

The modernist cube design with plastered façade, which represented the international style, has been completely changed when, during the refurbishment of the building in the 1990s, brick cladding and sloped roofing were introduced.

Location coordinates: **27°42'02.7"N 85°17'27.7"E**



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. The Soaltee hotel premises, 1969 | Allain Fairbank
2. The regular modern facade of the hotel Soaltee, circa 1966 | Dwarika Das Shrestha
3. The original Soaltee hotel building, 1972, Ray Jewell
4. The building after the facade relifting in 1990s | Goingnepal

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Rastriya Sabha Griha**
Code: **A-3:7**
Year: **1967**
Location: **Pradarshani Marg, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Ganga Dhar Bhatta**
Original use: **City Hall**
Current use: **City Hall, Government Office**
Current owner: **Kathmandu Metropolitan City**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Rastriya Sabha Griha (National Assembly Hall) also known as City Hall is the first public assembly building for indoor functions built in Kathmandu. The function is clearly reflected in its form, with the massive curved façade enveloping the main hall.

The front façade of the city hall reflects the modern architectural style with the use of cantilever slabs and transparent façade elements. The use of reinforced concrete for the auditorium hall, cantilevered curved slab, the grand frontal stair, as well as the main entry gateway to the premises reflects the versatility of this modern material. The transparent façade creates openness to the exterior in the lobby area.

Location coordinates: 27°42'10.1"N 85°19'02.1"E



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. Construction of Rastriya Sabha Griha, 1967 | Doug Hall
2. Front facade with large glass area and monumental staircase, 2019 | Sonal Shrestha
3. Rastriya Sabha Griha with creative use of forms,
4. The stairs leading to the first floor lobby supported on the RCC frame, 2019 | Sonal Shrestha

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Fishtail Lodge**
Code: **A-3:8**
Year: **1967**
Location: **Lakeside, Pokhara**
Architect | Engineer: **Robert Weise**
Original use: **Resort**
Current use: **Resort**
Current owner: **Jayanti Memorial Trust**

Informed: x consent: x

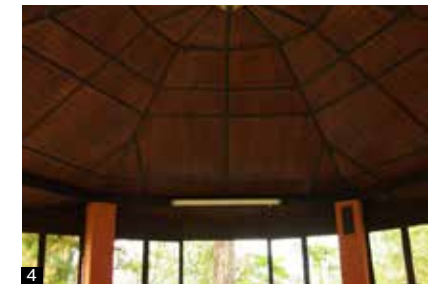
Significance:

Fishtail Lodge is the first luxury tourist accommodation built in Pokhara. Its location on the opposite bank of the Fewa lake, with a backdrop of the forest and no road access, makes it's a unique.

The single-storey circular blocks scattered within the property has been very efficiently designed with a central service courtyard and large frontal openings giving visual access to the natural landscape.

Single-storey stone masonry units with timber sloped roofs finished in slate reflects the local construction style. Most of the circles have however in the meantime been rebuilt with brick walls and concrete slab, but has largely retained the unique design. One of the circles still retains the original design.

Location coordinates: **28°12'02.3"N 83°57'50.9"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The single story living units from the original design, 1970s | Robert Weise
2. The original units are well preserved, 2016 | Anie Joshi
3. The circular restaurant pavilion, 2016 | Anie Joshi
4. Woven Bamboo panels used in the roof interior in a sitting pavilion, 2016 | Anie Joshi
5. The outdoor space created for each unit within a pavilion, 2016 | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Narayan Hiti Royal Palace**
Code: **A-3:9**
Year: **1969**
Location: **Durbar Marg, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Binoy Chatterjee and Benjamin Polk**
Original use: **Shah Kings's Palace**
Current use: **Museum**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The original royal palace of the Shah Kings after they conquered Kathmandu Valley was at Hanumandhoka. It was towards the end of the 19th century that the Rana Prime Ministers moved the King outside the old city to Narayanhiti Durbar, a neo-classical Rana period building. Once King Mahendra got to power in the 1950s, he quickly worked towards creating a new national image for Nepal. The old Neo-classical Palace building was demolished to build this modern structure within the Narayan Hiti Palace premises.

The design of a new palace block within the Narayanhiti Palace complex reflects the new vision of modern Nepal projected by late King Mahendra. A two tiered pagoda roof dominates the central structure as a reminiscent of the past, while the design of the nearby modern tower represents the future. The plastered towers rise out of a plinth in exposed brickwork.

Location coordinates: 27°42'50.5"N 85°19'04.1"E



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. The old Naraynhiti Palace which was demolished, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya
2. The procession of coronation of King Birendra, 1975, Rich Pfau
3. The front facade with the two towers dominating the facade, 1971 | Dave Oconner
4. The towers, 2007 | Brian McMarrow

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Ministry of General Administration**
Code: **A-3:10**
Year: **1960s**
Location: **Singhadurbar, Kathmandu**
Architect | Enginner: **Shankar Nath Rimal**
Original use: **Government office**
Current use: **Government Office**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Experimentation with new architectural expression was being undertaken in the late 1960s. The design of the Ministry of General Administration building emphasizes the purity of form represented by superimposed cubes. The introduction of reinforced cement concrete made it possible for taller buildings to be built and this is expressed in the tower-like structure with large glass facades of the Ministry of General Administration building.

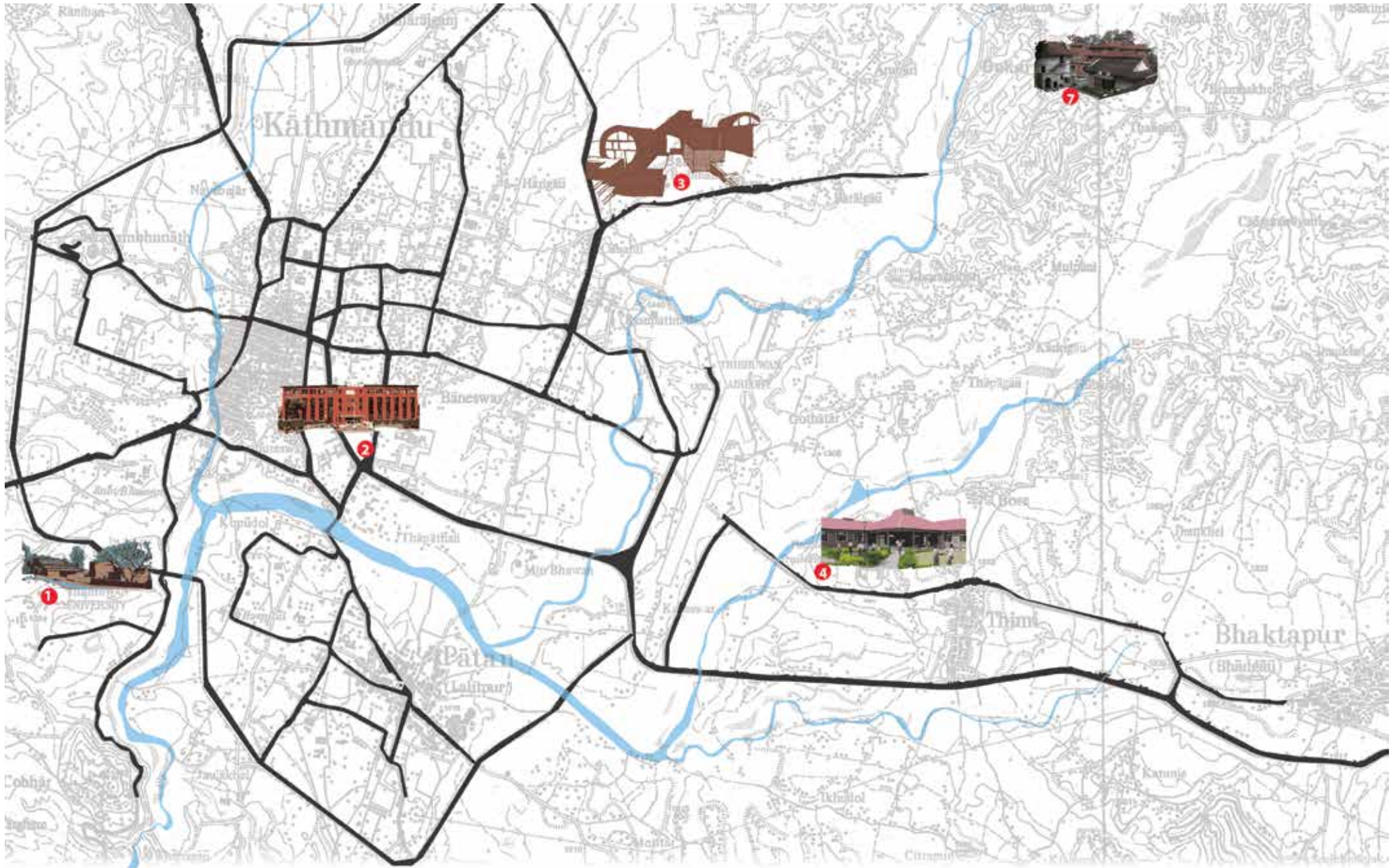
The expression of minimalism and harmony without symmetry, created by a composition of forms, is unique to this building.

Location coordinates: 27°41'48.3"N 85°19'22.3"E



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The modernist minimalistic facade of Ministry of General Administration, 2017 | Biswovijay Pandey. Picassa web
2. The tower with large glazing facade, 2016 | Prakash Bandari



Kathmandu Valley Map | Location of heritage structures | Category A-4a

Source: Lehrstuhl für Kartographie und Reproduktionstechnik der Technischen Universität München, München | Based on the 1:10000 edition of Kathmandu Valley Map by E. Schneider
Annotation: Ateliers AJ

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Category A-4a

Category A-4 targets the significant architectural structures designed by foreign architects from the contemporary era focusing mainly on 1970s and 1980s but could include more recent buildings if considered to be representative of the period, of outstanding quality and influencing the architecture field. They would include the designs of international Masters.

Historic Setting

The 1970s and 1980s can possibly be defined as a period of growth. In the 1970s there was a lot of planning carried out in the Kathmandu Valley. Much of this was done by international consultants such as Carl Pruscha who assisted the Department of Housing and Planning. There was also the planning of Lumbini throughout the 1970s by Kenzo Tange and his team leading to the Master Plan. The implementation however took time and many of the buildings were only completed towards the end of the 1980s. In the meantime there were also designs by Louis Kahn and Tadao Ando that were implemented, even though it must be noted that they were not their best works.

There were continued projects by Robert Weise as well as several architects who had worked or trained in his office such as Tom Crees (Darjeeling) and Narendra Pradhan (Sikkim).

Criteria for Entries:

The criteria that the nominated entries have to fulfil would be:

1. To have been designed and built in the 1970s and 1980s
2. Have extraordinary creative designs and good detailing
3. Is a good example of contemporary architecture
4. Preference will be given to buildings in good condition

Buildings that have lost large parts of their original structure will only be considered if they still remain in a well restored manner, is retained in the memory of the local community for symbolic or historical reasons.

THE ENTRIES UNDER CATEGORY A-4a

The first eight entries of this category have been chosen by ICOMOS Nepal for their importance to the architectural history of Nepal by foreign architects. Some of these buildings do not exist anymore or are only partially surviving. The memory of each of these buildings must however be safeguarded.

- A-4:1 Centre for Economic Development and Administration (Carl Pruscha- 1970)**
Kirtipur
- A-4:2 Ministry of Health and Population (Louis I. Kahn-1970)**
Ramshah Path, Kathmandu
- A-4:3 Taragaon Resort (Carl Pruscha-1972)**
Baudha, Kathmandu
- A-4:4 SOS Children's Village (Robert Weise-1972)**
Sano Thimi
- A-4:5 Lumbini Museum (Kenzo Tange-1978)**
Lumbini
- A-4:6 Children's Hospital (Tadao Ando-1994)**
Butwal
- A-4:7 Gokarna Forest Resort (Rajiv Khosla-1996)**
Kathmandu
- A-4:8 Kathmandu University (Niels Axel- 1990s)**
Dhulikhel

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Centre for Economic Development and Administration**

Code: **A-4a:1**

Year: **1970**

Location: **Tribhuvan University Campus, Kirtipur**

Architect | Engineer: **Carl Pruscha**

Original use: **Educational center**

Current use: **Educational center**

Current owner: **Tribhuvan University**

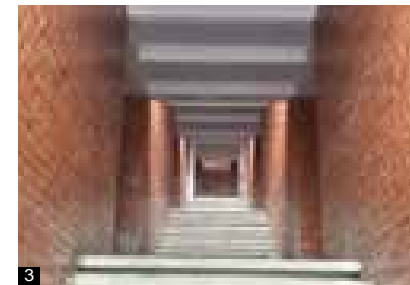
Informed: ✓ consent: x

Significance:

The CEDA building is one of the most distinguished works of modern Nepali architecture. It attempts to break the conventional form of buildings by introducing a combination of various geometrical forms in one building.

This building offers a complex composition, however sits well in the landscape. It is one of the few early examples which demonstrate a special prefabrication system for concrete panels, replacing the use of wood for ceilings and floors. Meanwhile, the use of brick as the major building material reflects the local style. Additionally the innovative use of natural light, rainwater harvesting designs and solar orientation of the building shows a conscious design approach considering local and natural setting.

Location coordinates: **27°40'58.5"N 85°17'05.7"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The play of geometrical forms, 1970s | Carl Pruscha
2. The Main Building block in brick facade | Shirshak Baniya
3. The use of brut concrete on the steps | Shirshak Baniya
4. The skylight, 2019 | Sonal Shrestha
5. The brick parapet, 2019 | Anie Joshi

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Ministry of Health**
Code: **A-4a:2**
Year: **1970**
Location: **Ramshah Path, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Louis I. Kahn**
Original use: **Ministry of Health**
Current use: **Ministry of Health**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The Ministry of Health represents an idealistic statement style of internationally acclaimed architect Louis I. Kahn. Only a single block of the entire complex was built. This building is notable for its pure geometric forms and play between natural light and materials. It features innovative engineering such as waffle ceiling. A symmetrical composition of exposed brick piers interspersed by vertical strips of wooden windows offers Kahns' signature monolithic and monumental style.

The open roof terrace is encircled by a false façade, as a continuation of the lower floor facades. However, in 1995, the Ministry of Health, decided to put a metal roof over the terraces to create more floor space. Indeed one could argue that the essence of building was completely compromised when the design was altered without understanding its architectural integrity.

Location coordinates: 27°41'44.0"N 85°18'20.9"E



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. The model of Ministry building by the Louis Kahn, Louis Kahn Archive
2. The front facade of the building with the roof added in 1995, 2019 | Shristi Maharjan
3. Waffle ceiling use along with the construction joint, 2019 | Shristi Maharjan
4. The large wooden windows on the facade, 2019 | Shristi Maharjan

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Taragon Museum**
Code: **A-4a:3**
Year: **1972**
Location: **Chabahil, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Carl Pruscha**
Original use: **Hostel**
Current use: **Museum**
Current owner: **Private**
(Government land managed by Nepal trust)

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Taragon was an endeavor to offer an alternative composition of building form to architectural context of Kathmandu Valley. The complex has a small central plaza created with a cluster of 16 small units grouped around a communal building, for which the brick barrel vault is used instead of the pitched roofs normally found in the valley. The introduction of these vaults makes it distinctive from other architectural styles, as it demonstrates a new form of architecture using bricks.

The design also respects local material, human scale and proportion. The play with levels in planning had helped the whole complex to blend with its landscape.

Location coordinates: 27°43'13.0"N 85°21'22.4"E



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The tube like blocks of Taragon, 1970s | Carl Pruscha
2. The units of Taragon museum, 2019 | Sneha Shrestha
3. The interior with the circular ceiling, 2019 | ecs
4. The stepped window for illuminating the interior, 2019 | Taragon museum

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **SOS Children's Village**
Code: **A-4a:4**
Year: **1972**
Location: **Sano Thimi, Bhaktapur**
Architect | Engineer: **Robert Weise**
Original use: **School and Children's village**
Current use: **School and children's village**
Current owner: **Foundation**

Informed: x consent: x

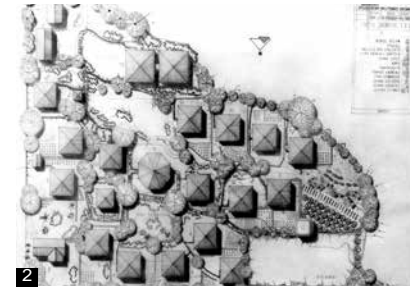
Significance:

SOS Children's village is a pioneer residence and school complex for orphaned children based on the visionary concept of the founder, Hermann Gmeiner. Families are established in different bungalows.

The building style re-introduced the local architectural scale and the sloping roof forms, evoking two very significant characteristics of the traditional architecture of the Valley.

The landscape and the building both are coherently designed thus giving a new outlook to the entire complex. The well articulation of ramp in planning provides accessibility to all throughout the site. Thus, the building seeks to provide an architectural style deep-rooted in the modern function, but tied to geographical and cultural context.

Location coordinates: **27°41'02.2"N 85°22'17.0"E**



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. The SOS buildings separated by the pathways, 2019 | Dipti Mainali
2. Master plan of SOS, 1972 | Robert Weise Archive
3. The use of traditional architectural elements, 1970s | Robert Weise Archive
4. The administration building with tiled roof, 2019 | Dipti Mainali
5. The communal hall, 2019 | Dipti Mainali

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Lumbini Cultural Center**
Code: **A-4a:5**
Year: **1978**
Location: **Sacred Garden Area, Rupandehi**
Architect | Engineer: **Kenzo Tange**
Original use: **Cultural center**
Current use: **Cultural center**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The Lumbini Cultural Centre includes the Lumbini International Research Centre and Lumbini Museum, as well as the proposed U Thant Auditorium. The Lumbini Cultural Centre is located at the northern end of the project area, near the New Lumbini Village and envisioned entrance to the complex.

The design of the buildings of the Lumbini Cultural Centre is based on a barrel vaulted cylindrical modular style, inspired by the early vaulted Buddhist monasteries of Central Asia. The modules follow the same structural principle. These wide arches and vaults create higher floor height and clerestory windows, allowing more natural light and ventilation, which is particularly important in this hot climate area. The configuration of each module is placed in such a way that it forms courtyard allowing cross ventilation.

Location coordinates: **27°29'21.3"N 83°16'37.9"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The tubular structure of Lumbini Cultural Center dominating the landscape of Sacred garden, 2020 | Google
2. The museum facade is dominated by the tubular forms and has perfect harmony and symmetry | LDT
3. The high ceiling walkways allow the cooling of the interior spaces, 2018 | Kai Weise
4. The innovative use of the traditional material brick in this structure is impressive, 2018 | Kai Weise

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Siddhartha Children and Women's Hospital**
Code: **A-4a:6**
Year: **1994-1998**
Location: **Kalikanagar, Butwal**
Architect | Engineer: **Tadao Ando**
Original use: **Hospital**
Current use: **Hospital**
Current owner: **Government of Nepal**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The hospital was materialised by the support of Japanese newspaper 'Mainichi' after being impressed by the efforts of Nepalese doctors in the rescue operation of 1995 Kobe Earthquake. This shows the phenomenal exchange of resource between two countries- Nepal and Japan.

Siddhartha Children and Women Hospital has the distinguishing mark of Tadao Ando which reflects a progressive approach to design that seeks to mediate between the global and the local languages of architecture. Ando used exposed brick instead of exposed concrete to respect the typical material of Nepal. A hierarchical interplay between multiple cuboids, both solid and voids can be observed formed by blank and uninterrupted brick facade. These prominent cubical volumes, consisting of the ramps, intersect the main body at a sharp angle, creating an emphasis to accessibility to all.

Location coordinates: **27°41'29.3"N 83°28'47.2"E**



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. The cube composition with the brick facade in the minimalistic design of Tadao Ando | SPACES
2. The ramp intersects the main building | SPACES
3. Entrance of the hospital building | SPACES
4. The rear facade are provided with no fenestration | Tumblr: eigogamed

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Gokarna Forest Resort**
Code: **A-4a:7**
Year: **1996**
Location: **Gokarneshwor, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Rajiv Khosla**
Original use: **Resort (hunting)**
Current use: **Resort**
Current owner: **Private**
(Government land managed by Nepal trust)

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

The original buildings were built as a hunting ground for Rana families. The land was leased out by the government for private investment to build a golf course and a luxury hotel in 1996. The hotel built along with the golf course was designed by renowned Indian architect Rajiv Khosla.

The resort spread over 470 acres mainly forested land in Gokharan. The hotel is built on a higher plateau. The architecture of the resort expresses a perfect blend of Malla and Rana architecture in contemporary time. The buildings respect Malla architecture, not only in terms of elements like *tham*, *meth*, *nidal* and *struts*, but also the human scale. However, the modern materials are used for the replication of the traditional elements. The entire resort complex also presents a perfect balance of closed and open spaces, forming different scale of courtyards.

Location coordinates: **27°43'36.1"N 85°23'53.8"E**



Anti-clockwise from top:

1. The reflection of the traditional architecture with the tiered towers | Gokarna Forest Resort
2. Pavilions of different styles integrated within the premises, 2016 | Ashesh Rajbansh
3. The use of metal for the replication of the traditional structural elements is creative, 2017 | Anie Joshi
4. Use of traditional design in modern materials in the interior | Gokarna Forest Resort
5. The two storey block are provided with the interpretation of the traditional elements like the *gaajhya* and *struts*, 2016 | Ashesh Rajbansh

An initiative of:



Inventory of 19th and 20th Century Architectural and Industrial Heritage of Nepal

Name: **Kathmandu University**
Code: **A-4a:8**
Year: **1990s**
Location: **Dhulikhel, Kathmandu**
Architect | Engineer: **Niels Axel**
Original use: **University**
Current use: **University**
Current owner: **Private**

Informed: x consent: x

Significance:

Kathmandu University is built on a hillock just west of the old Dhulikhel town. The buildings are reinforced cement concrete structures with exposed brick walls. Though in contemporary style, the brick detailing and strict proportions reflect elements of traditional architecture.

The buildings are designed on the slopes of the hillock leaving the top as an open quadrangle. The buildings adapt themselves to the slope in an innovative manner. The main block has a large stairway entrance providing majestic entry to the building while respecting the natural terrain. Colonnaded concrete pathways surround a central courtyard, creating an open green area for interaction.

Location coordinates: **27°37'09.6"N 85°32'19.1"E**



Anti-clockwise from top right:

1. The site topography has been carefully integrated into the masterplan, use of large stairway, 2017 | Ajay Thapa
2. The main block of KU has brick facade and sloping roof | Kathmandu University
3. The boys hostel courtyard view, 2014 | Bibek Shrestha
4. The corridors of the hostel room lit at night, 2014 | Bibek Shrestha
5. The boys hostel block with octagonal courtyard | Kathmandu University

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