

LANDSCAPE AND IDENTITY

LANDSCAPE STUDY OF FORTS IN MAHARASHTRA

JOINT STUDIO

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

DR.B. N. COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PUNE

AND

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE, NEW DELHI

INTRODUCTION

Learn, Interact, Study, Together – 'LIST'

The Joint Studio aims at giving an opportunity to students to learn, to interact, to study together and to exchange their approaches towards the selected topic of study.

Maharashtra as a state represents a peculiar regional landscape with its strategic geomorphologic setting. The natural landscape comprises of three subregions – *kokan* region (seashore on the west of Sahyadri ranges and its inland areas), *maval* region (the east slopes of Sahyadri ranges) and *desh* region (the shallower slopes towards east of Sahyadri ranges)

The natural character of the landscape varies from the windward to leeward, (the rain shadow area) towards the *maval* region. The natural landscape setting is a set of sensitive ecological units composed of rocky rivers in their youth stages, fertile river valleys towards east, forests rich in flora and fauna, seashores and so on.

The natural landscape of Sahyadri as a whole is a setting for the manmade components sited in a peculiar manner throughout ages, influenced and dominated by politics and culture.

One of the important manmade components of this evolution which still stands intact is the 'Forts' in Maharashtra which have a long story to tell in terms of their social, cultural, physical, visual and ecological aspects. Many number of 'forts' is a major contributor in defining the identity of landscape of Maharashtra.

A well explored area by the historians, trekkers, tourists still remains unexplored by the landscape architects in its comprehensive understanding.

The typology of the forts, comprising of 'Sea Fort', 'Hill fort' and 'Land Fort', shows a unique understanding of the landscape setting, exploring the same would be the main focus of this joint studio.

This joint studio between students of Landscape Architecture of BNCA and SPA would give an opportunity to students to understand the landscape structure at regional level and its relationship with the component of 'forts' as a thoughtful manmade overlay. The exercise would introduce to the participants, the values, issues and the contemporary responses by the authorities, experts, local users associated with the 'fort' areas.

The exercise would look in to the aspect of 'Landscape giving identity' to the region from past till present, by studying the various typological settings of the selected representative forts in Maharashtra.

The programme would be a significant event comprising of expert lectures, site visits and interactions.

OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the landscape setting of the study areas selected in terms of their natural and manmade components
2. To document and to analyse the values and issues associated with the study areas to come up with a synthesis of the study in the form of drawings.
3. To understand the role of landscape architect in the comprehensive understanding of such projects and to derive a methodology pertaining to the same.
4. To evolve appropriate landscape planning approach as part of the final proposal with prototypical landscape guidelines, the details of which would take shape as the studio progresses.

TEAMS

Twelve students of BNCA and Twenty one students of SPA would be working jointly on the same. The groups would be formed as follows:

Team A: 11 students (BNCA-4+ SPA-7+ min 2 faculty (1 BNCA+1 SPA)): Sea Fort

Team B: 11 students (BNCA-4+ SPA-7+ min 2 faculty (1 BNCA+1 SPA)): Land Fort

Team C: 11 students (BNCA-4+ SPA-7+ min 2 faculty (1 BNCA+1 SPA)): Hill Fort

PROCESS

a. Preliminary study and analysis

Feb 1 to Feb 7, 2010- BNCA Students' work

- **Preparation of base map**
- **Collection of relevant data including physical data**

- Study of historical context
- Past and Existing proposals
- Site model
- A study report with base maps

b. Joint studio exercise

Feb 21, SUN to FEB 28, SUN, 2010 in groups – VENUE- DEPT. OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, BNCA, PUNE

Stage 1-

Start up Review- Preliminary study analysis done by students of SPA AND BNCA

Stage 2-

On site review- site visits and study and synthesis – IN 3 GROUPS

Stage 3-

Mid review- Landscape values and issues, landscape planning scope and approach

Stage 4-

Final review- Final output – PowerPoint presentations and drawings and model

c. Presentation and conclusion

March 2, 2010: BNCA and SPA students

- Presentation of final output including the process of study
- Review by faculty, experts, guests and students
- Interactive session – feedback, suggestions for future process to be followed
- Exhibition of joint studio work

