

REPORT ON " A Studio-Led Colonial Built Heritage Investigation of Architecture and Craft of Mysore"

Organized by AR Thrishna M and AR Kiruthika Selvi

Date: 24-05-2025

Faculty Co-ordinator : Ar. Thrishna M , Ar. Kiruthika Selvi

Attended by Students: IV Sem B-ARCH

Venue: MYSORE

Organized by: REVA School of Architecture

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF DOCUMENTATION

1. Understand and analyze traditional and colonial architectural elements.
2. Document and preserve artisanal craftsmanship: tools, materials, techniques, and skillsets.
3. Decode symbolism and socio-cultural relevance in built forms.
4. Present findings via infographics, annotated sketches, video interviews, storytelling, and technical drawings.
5. Bridge traditional knowledge systems with modern documentation techniques and tools.

STRUCTURES DOCUMENTED & HIGHLIGHTS

Jagmohan Palace, Mysore

Group Focus Areas: Group 1 (History, Construction), Group 2 (Windows), Group 3 (Columns & Arches), Group 4 (Flooring and roof), Group 5 (Porches & special architectural features), Group 6 (Doors) ,Group 7 (Media Documentation)

Architectural Style: Indo-Saracenic with European classical detailing

Date of Completion: 1861 (restored and modified in 1900)

- **Architectural Style:** Indo-Saracenic with Colonial influences.

- **Materials:** Teakwood carvings, lime plaster, stained glass, terracotta tiled roofs.
- **Crafts Observed:** Intricately carved rosewood doors, painted ceilings (Mysore painting tradition), ornamental stucco moldings.
- **Symbolism:** Peacocks, floral vines (prosperity and beauty), central dome as a representation of royal authority.
- **Craft Communities:** Rosewood artisans from Mysore region.
- **Challenges & Revival:** Limited active artisans; digital motifs and wood-carved panels proposed for modern interiors.

Key Features:

- Originally built as a royal auditorium, later converted into an art gallery.
- Ornate interiors with teak wood, floral motifs, and stained glass.
- Flat roof with central dome-like projection; colonnaded verandahs.

Cultural Significance:

It houses the prestigious Jaya Chamarajendra Art Gallery featuring traditional Mysore paintings and European artworks. A blend of cultural patronage and colonial aspirations is evident in its design.



Devaraja Market, Mysore

Architectural Style: Colonial vernacular with arcaded corridors

Date of Establishment: Mid-19th century **Architectural Style:** Colonial vernacular with symmetrical arcades.

- **Construction Features:** Lime mortar arches, sloping Mangalore tile roof, continuous ventilated corridors.
- **Crafts:** Iron grill jaalis, inlay stone flooring, plaster relief.
- **Symbolism:** Arches as transitional community thresholds; jaali patterns denote privacy and climate control.
- **Craft Techniques:** Masonry vaults with stone bases and brick infill.
- **Proposed Integration:** Revive inlay stone flooring in commercial interiors.

Key Features:

- Long linear market layout with brick masonry and sloping tiled roofs.
- Continuous colonnades and repetitive arched openings.
- Function-oriented spatial planning with vendor stalls and narrow internal streets.

Cultural Significance:

One of the oldest markets still in use, reflecting the vibrant urban life and economy during princely Mysore's colonial engagement.

St. Philomena's Church, Mysore

Architectural Style: Neo-Gothic

Year of Construction: 1936

Architect: Daly (inspired by Cologne Cathedral, Germany)

- **Architectural Style:** Neo-Gothic, inspired by Cologne Cathedral.
- **Elements Documented:** Pointed arches, ribbed vaults, twin spires, stained glass windows.
- **Crafts:** Metal framework in spires, stained glass artwork, carved capitals with floral patterns.
- **Symbolism:** Arches—divine connection; spires—ascension.

- **Craft Influence:** Filigree-like detail from Bidar metalwork, stained glass with local Christian iconography.
- **Revival Proposal:** CNC-based colored glass inserts for chapel lighting.

Key Features:

- Twin spires rising to 175 feet.
- Stained glass windows depicting biblical scenes.
- Latin cross plan with nave, transepts, and a crypt.

Cultural Significance:

A prominent landmark and one of the largest cathedrals in South Asia, exemplifying European ecclesiastical architecture adapted in an Indian context.



Town Hall, Bangalore (K.P. Puttanna Chetty Town Hall)

Architectural Style: Neoclassical

Date of Inauguration: 1935

Architect: Mirza Ismail (Diwan of Mysore)

- **Architectural Style:** Neoclassical with Doric columns and grand staircase.
- **Materials:** Lime stucco, granite stone plinth, iron brackets.
- **Features:** Portico with columns, deep overhangs.

- **Craftsmanship:** Stucco carvings on architraves; colonial-era iron joinery.
- **Symbolism:** Civic pride, classical symmetry denoting governance.
- **Documentation Additions:** Axonometric drawing of porch layering and proportionate elevation study.

Key Features:

- Monumental flight of steps leading to Doric columns.
- White-painted façade with symmetrical proportions.
- Auditorium inside used for civic and cultural events.

Cultural Significance:

A civic symbol of colonial governance and cultural confluence, often used today for performances and public gatherings.

Mysore Palace (Amba Vilas Palace)

Architectural Style: Indo-Saracenic Revival

Period of Construction: 1897–1912

Architect: Henry Irwin

- **Architectural Style:** Indo-Saracenic Revival; hybrid of Hindu, Rajput, Mughal, Gothic.
- **Key Features:** Onion domes, chhatris, intricately carved doors, stained glass ceilings, sculpted pillars.
- **Crafts Identified:**
 - Mysore painting (ceilings and murals)



- Stone inlay (flooring, corridors)
 - Wood carving (doors, paneling)
 - Stucco work (domes, arch trims)
- **Cultural Symbolism:**
 - Elephant motifs—strength
 - Lotus carvings—purity
 - Peacock finials—royalty and grace
- **Revival Strategies:** Craft-based souvenir products; student-driven reinterpretation in public design.

Key Features:

- Multiple domes, arches, and expansive courtyards.
- Intricate stucco and woodwork, stained glass ceiling in the durbar hall.
- Blend of Hindu, Muslim, Rajput, and Gothic styles.

Cultural Significance:

A living royal residence and major tourist attraction. It epitomizes the grandeur and architectural syncretism of colonial India under princely patronage.



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- **Eclectic Architecture:** Each structure reflects a hybrid style merging European planning and ornamentation with local materials and cultural idioms.
- **Urban Evolution:** These buildings marked the transformation of Mysore and Bangalore into modern administrative and cultural hubs.
- **Preservation Challenges:** Many structures face threats from neglect, commercialization, and lack of sensitive restoration.
- **Continuity of Use:** Several buildings continue to function in their original or adapted roles, anchoring community life and public memory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I extend my sincere thanks to Prof. Sudhir Acharya Sir, Director, for granting us the opportunity to undertake this field study and Ar. Kiruthika Selvi for accompanying students to this field study. I am grateful to the faculty members who guided and accompanied the students during this academic exploration. This documentation would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and observations of the participating students.



REVA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN Date: 22.05.2025

Sub: Permission for conducting heritage Sketch documentation.

School of Architecture, REVA University is planning to undertake a *History of Architecture* (HOA) site visit to colonial structures at Mysore on **24th May, 2025 and 25th May, 2025** to acquire a hands-on experience of heritage documentation as per the course curriculum, titled Islamic & colonial period. The Colonial structures covered under this academic exercise include:

1. Jagannohan Palace
2. Kr hospital mysore
3. St philomena church
4. Administrative training institute
5. Devraja market mysore
6. Vanivilas Market
7. Town Hall
8. Mysore palace

A group of 36 students in the IV semester B.Arch. and 2 faculty - **Ar. Kiruthika Selvi K J (Associate Professor) & Ar. Thirishna M (Assistant Professor)**, intend to participate in this site visit. We will ensure that all students will be disciplined and maintain decorum within the premises and all protocols will be followed throughout the site visit. All the materials from this activity will be utilized only for academic purposes.

We would request you to grant us permission to conduct the site visit.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

[Signature] 22/05/25
 Director
 School of Architecture
 (Prof. Ar. Sudhakar Anandya)
 Director, Knowledge Park, Kattigenahalli
 Bengaluru - 560 064
 School of Architecture,
 REVA University,
 Rukmini Knowledge Park,
 Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka,
 Bengaluru - 560064.

REVA UNIVERSITY
 Rukmini Knowledge Park, Yelahanka
 Post, Bengaluru 560064

☎ +91 80 4026 2000
 ☎ +91 80 4027 0445
 www.reva.edu.in

Bukminster Educational

