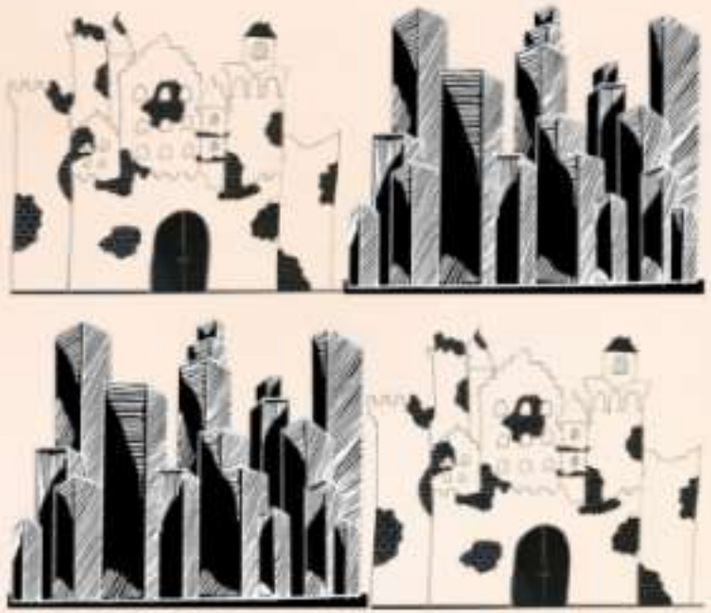
ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO

2018-2025

BY

IPSHITA SETH



CONTENTS

THE WAREHOUSE ASSEMBLY

The thesis project, "The Warehouse Assembly", located in the historically famous Strand Road, in Kolkata, is essentially a convention centre near what is locally known as the "*office para*" but is unique in the aspect of being designed inside the skin of a 120 year old warehouse. Presently, the warehouse is functioning as a godown under a Central Government organisation and the condition is dilapitated to the extent of being declared a dangerous building with no access allowed to the first and second floors. The project proposal aims to retain and strengthen the skin of the Canning Warehouse while creating a new building from the ground up, along with an ancillary multi-level parking facility.

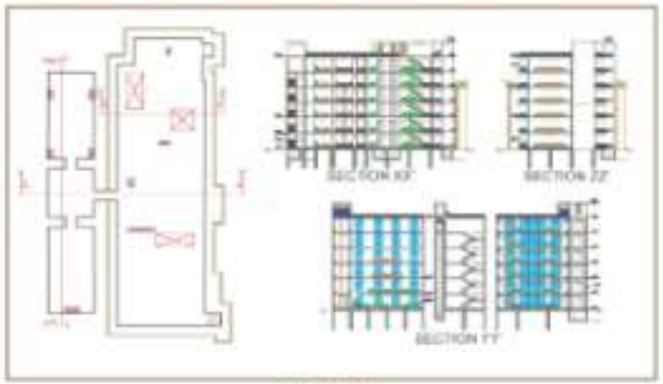
The design and planning of the new building is inspired from the Colonial features of the warehouse, but also has been modernized to an extent to create the story of the passage of time. The main building is also interspersed with courtyards to bring much needed greenery into the site.

Since it was a thesis project, I was required to do comprehensive literature study of the area to justify the need of such a project, draft all the technical drawings, make the 3d visulaizations, and also do a preliminary structural specification, all while ensuring that the by-laws are followed properly.

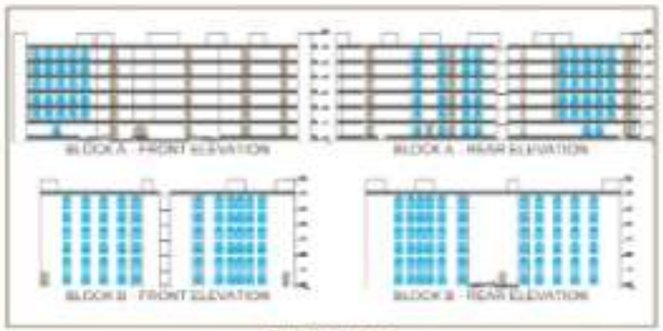
SITE PLAN

EXISTING AND MODIFIED ELEVATION

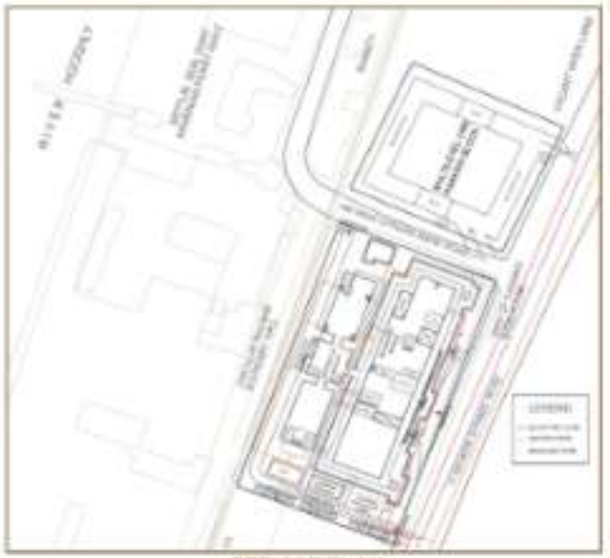
FLOOR PLANS



SECTION



ELEVATIONS



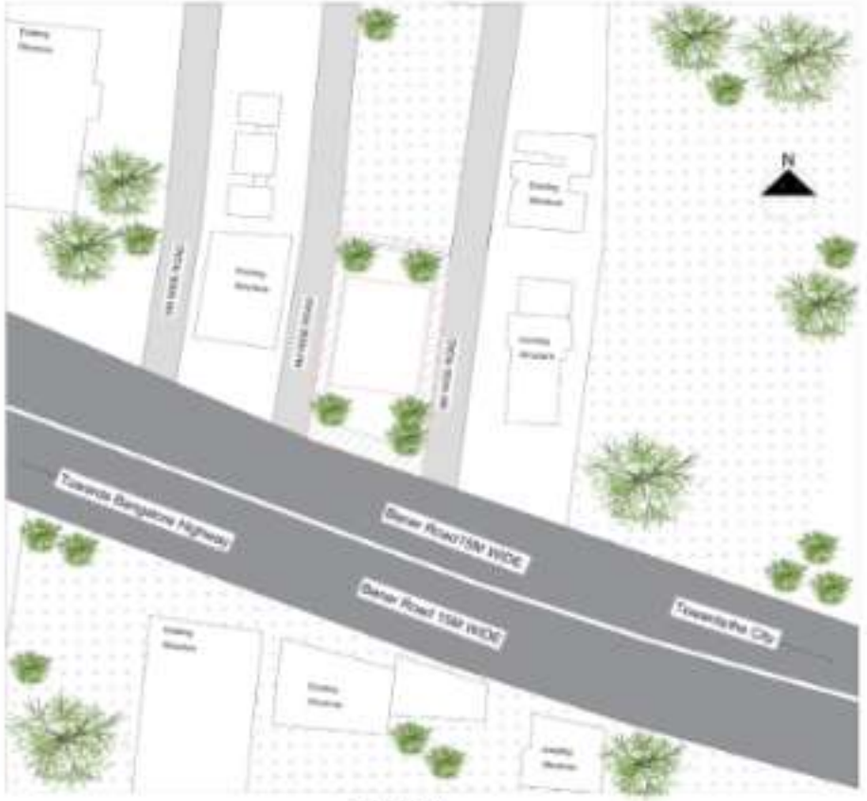
SERVICE PLAN

ZONING

TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

THE WHIMSICAL ATELIER

The project is multi-functional and multi-dimensional building that has been designed with open planning in order to let designers and architects (who will be using this space) open up the creativity in their minds.
Located in the heart of the city, it is a prime spot for not only establishing an office, but also create cafes and muti-purpose pavillions.
Be it the pavilion on the ground floor, café on the first or the office spaces on the topmost level, all the spaces are vast and have a certain amount of flexibility in use. Glass has also been used heavily in the façade, to bring in natural light and to establish a visual connection with the surrounding. The planning establishes a flow into the spaces, a gradual movement from public to private spaces and creates a sense of interactiveness instead of the rigidity of an office space.
The overall planning cannot be explained by any particular principle of design, hence the project has been named "The Whimsical Atelier"-the randomly designed multi-faceted building, made from repurposing of old, 40 feet shipping containers.
As this was a competition, I colloborated with a friend from university to produce the deliverables specified.



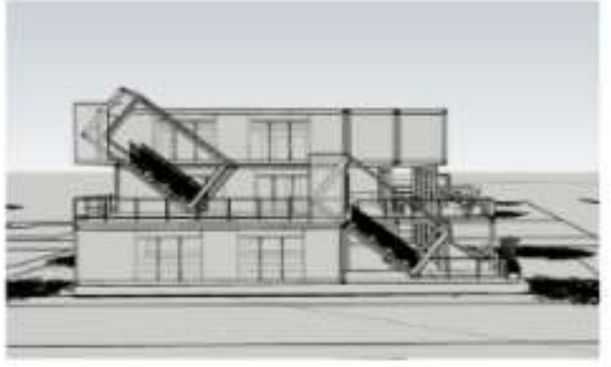
SITE PLAN

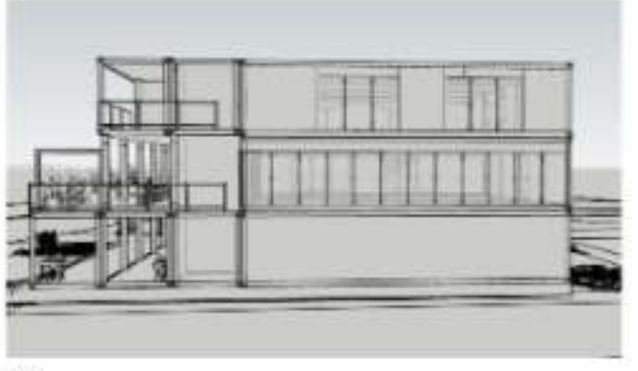
ISOMETRIC VIEWS

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN





ELEVATIONS

TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

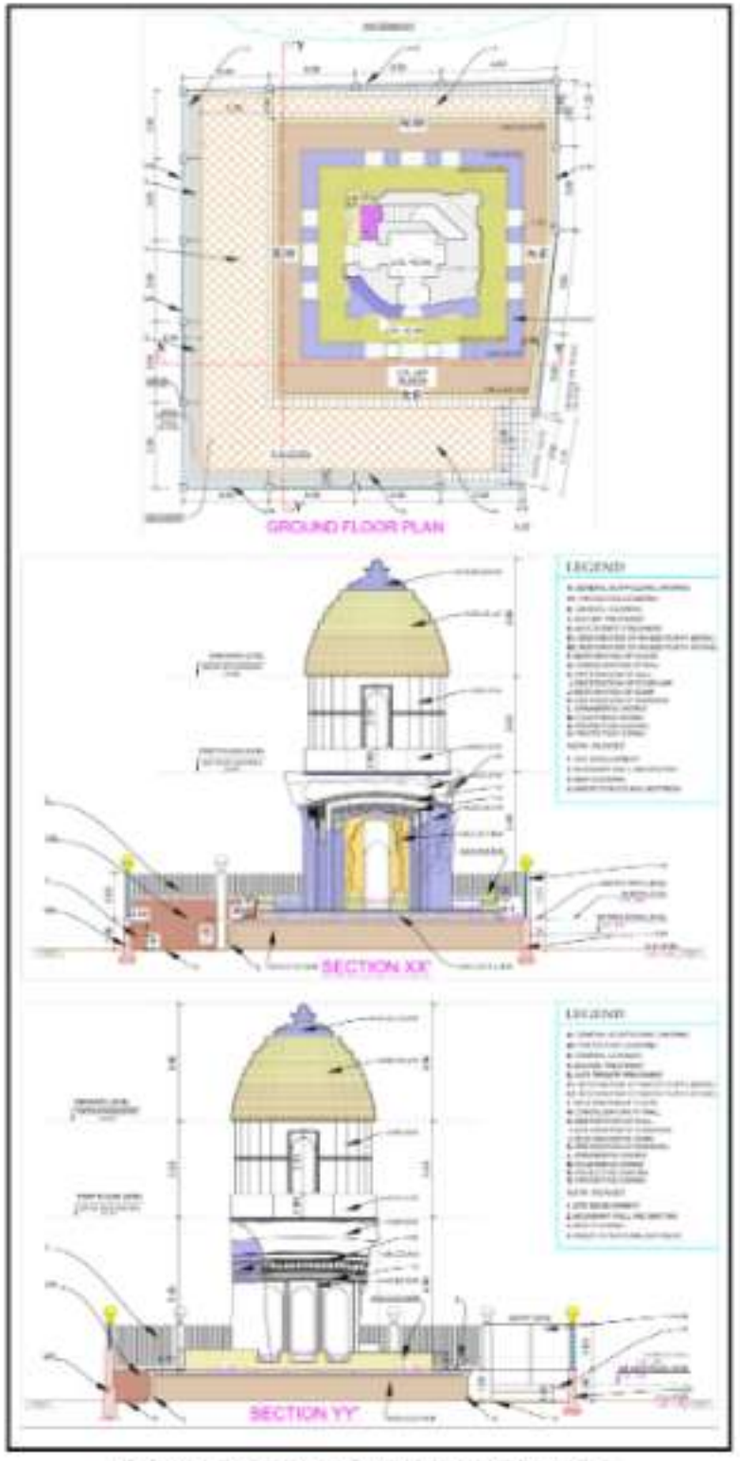
CONSERVATION AT GARH PANCHKOT

Located in the district of Purulia in West Bengal, India, Garh Panchakot is a 16th century fort and temple complex located at the foot of the Panchakote hills. The Garh Panchakot complex was built surrounded by a semicircular moat that started from one end of the foothill to the other, and has elements like guard's quarters and stone temples at strategic location. Being a witness to the Bargi attack of 18th century which ultimately lead it to being abandoned and in ruins, the complex is an important part of the history of Bengal and has attarcted tourists from all over the country and even the rest of the world.

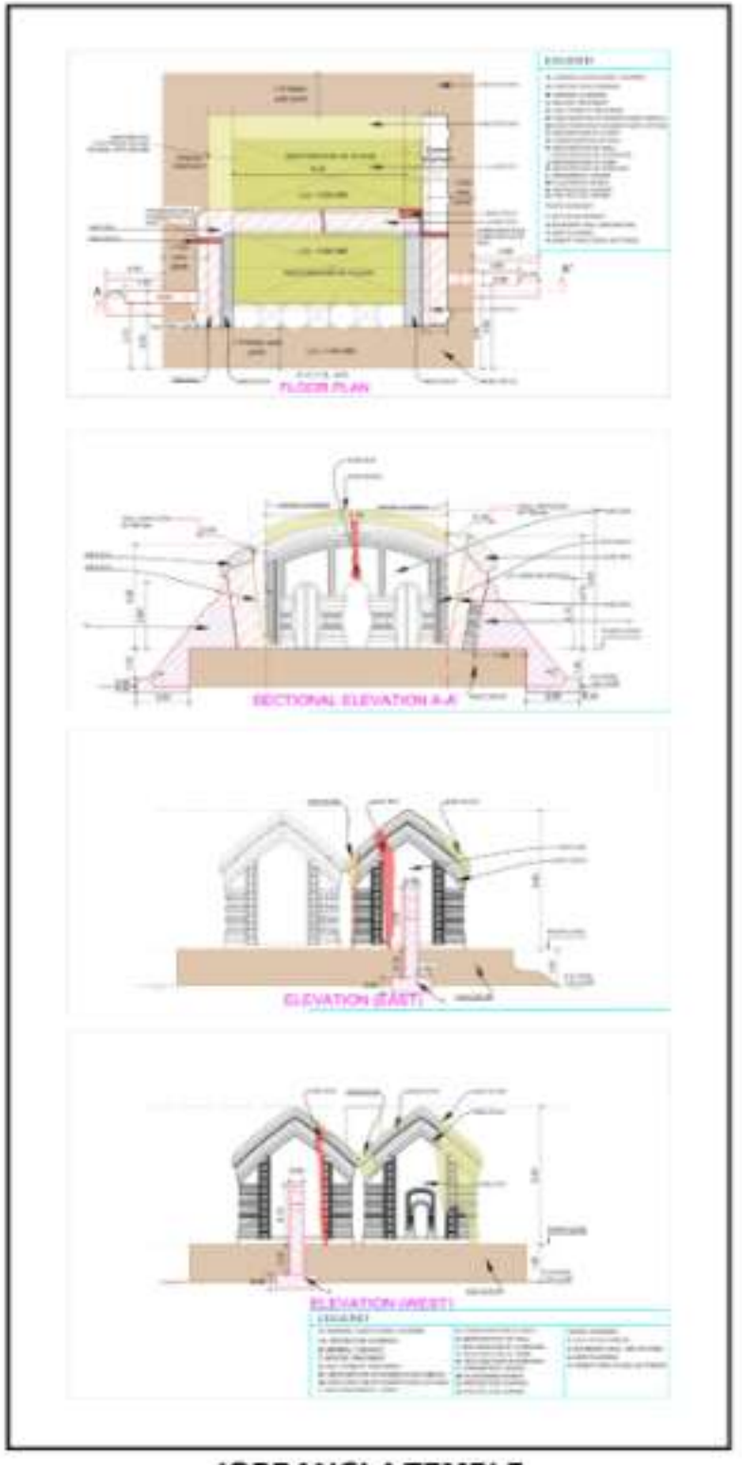
Work began at the site in the year 2016, and is still contin uing as even though some structures have been conserved, new discoveries are made everyday.

The goal of the project, since its beginning has been to restore the structures in a way that gives people a sense of the garndeur it once possessed while also not destroring the marks of history it gained since its inception.

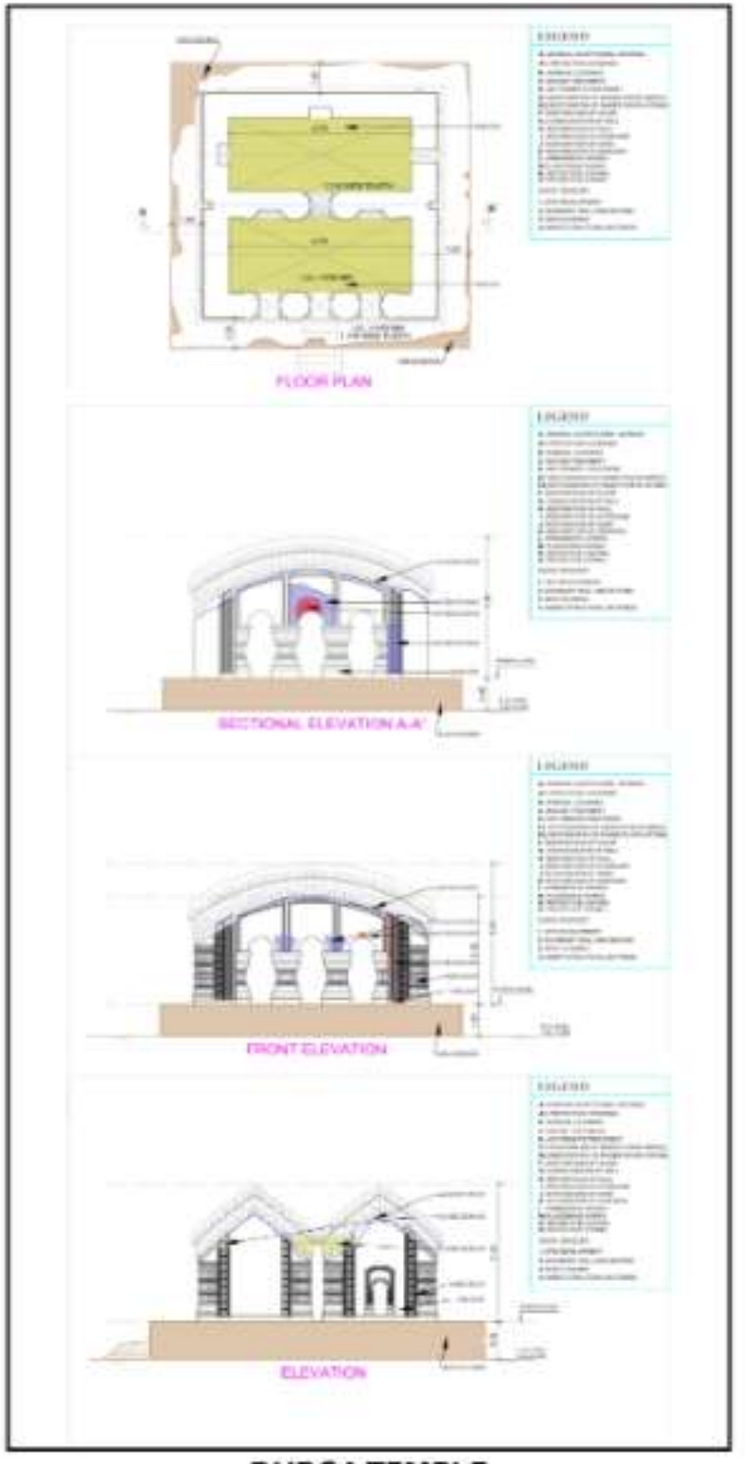
As I was working on this project during my internship, I was only responsible for preparing good-for-construction drawings specifying all the cleaning treatments, preservation procedures like crack-filling and also adding strengthening pillars to keep the crumbling walls upright.



BHANGA PANCHARATNA TEMPLE



JORBANGLA TEMPLE

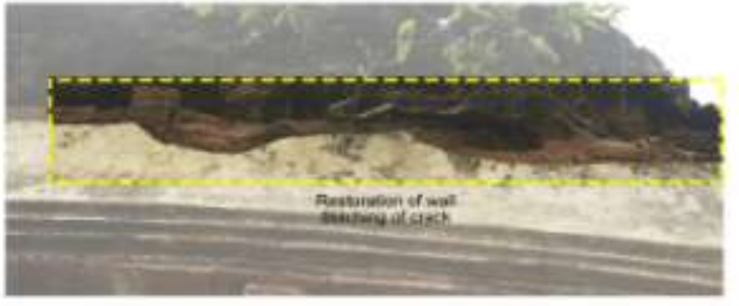


DURGA TEMPLE


Lime surkhi plaster


Restoration of wall
Stitching of crack
Reform matching
as original
Restoration of raised plinth


Reconstruct / restore
footprints as original
Reconstruct / restore
footprints as original


Restoration of wall
stitching of crack


Reform matching as
original
Reform matching as original


Reform matching as original
Reform matching as original

RENOVATION OF JETTY BUILDING

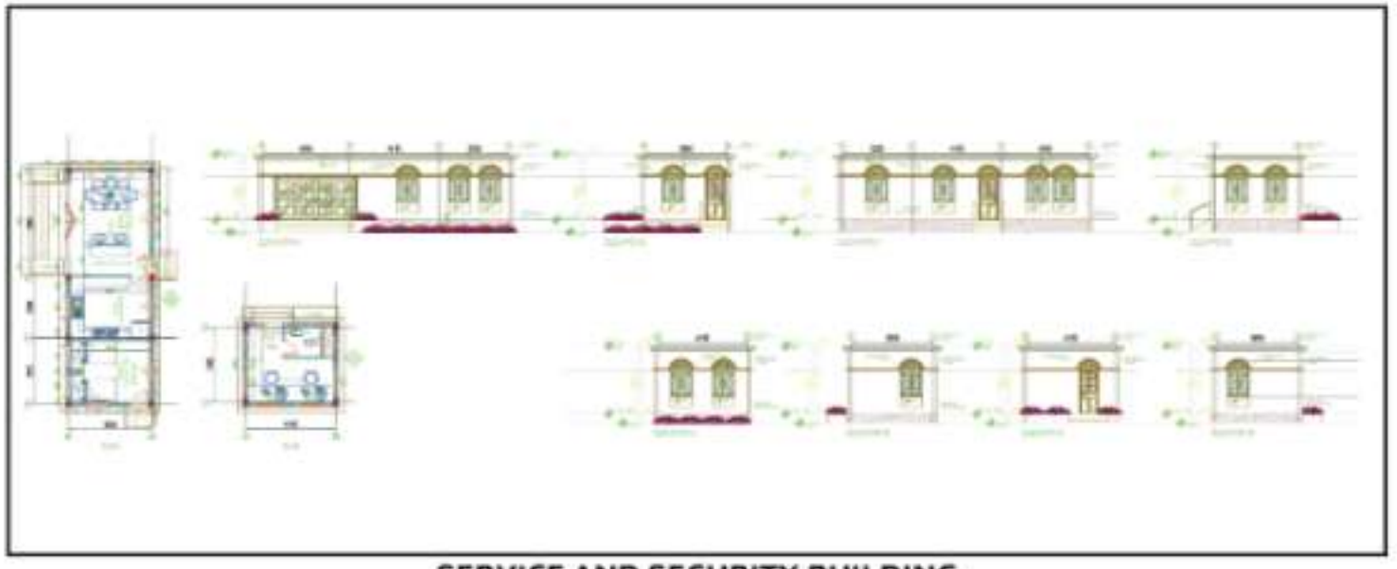
Located in Gloster Jute Mill at Bauria, Howrah, West Bengal, the Jetty Building is a 150-year old Colonial structure that is being transformed from 1BHK residential units into guest houses and 2BHK and 3BHK units for senior officers working at the mill.

The building, which stands on the banks of the river Hooghly and is surrounded by lush greenery possesses floor-to-ceiling arched windows, high columns and moldings, all of which will be restored, along with putting structural reinforcements in place to increase the life of the building. The area around the building will also be developed with proper pathways, parking spots, manicured gardens and open-air sitting arrangements. Additionally, a service block and a security building are also being added to the overall site to improve the functionality of the building.

The ongoing project has reached a stage where the reinfrocement work is being done and the interior walls are being demolished and new walls are being constructed according to the new plans. The developement of the overall site and the two new blocks will be done eventually once the work on the main Jetty Building is completed.

As the project architect for this project, I was responsible for all the technical drawings and 3d-visualizations, and also responsible for coordinationg with contractors and consultants to ensure smooth workflow on site.

JETTY BUILDING



SERVICE AND SECURITY BUILDING

ELECTRICAL DRAWINGS

CONSERVATION OF CHAMARIA VILLA

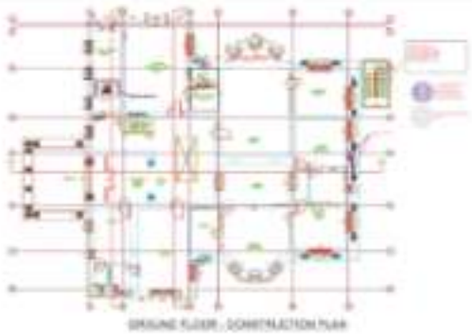
Located in the neighbourhood of Alipore in the city of Kolkata in India, an area known for its glamorous and often old residential buildings, the Chamaria Villa is an almost 100 year-old house that has belonged to the Chamaria family for generations.

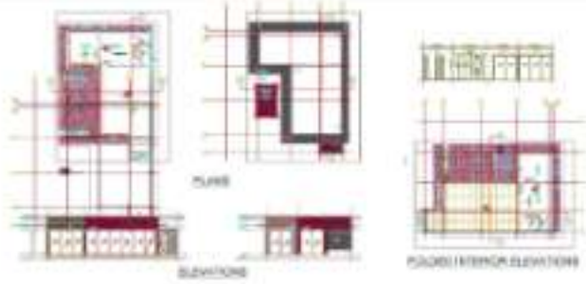
Th aim of the project is to restore and stregthen the exterior of the villa, along with making alterations to the interior planning of the building to better suit the changing needs of the family. The original wooden design elements will be kept, but they will be fashioned from more modern materials like aluminium and UPVC to ensure their longevity. A floor will also be added to the villa to make space for a special guest of the family.

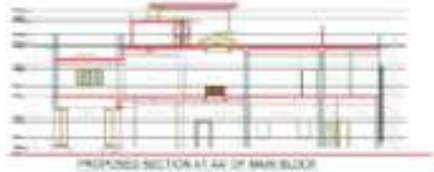
Additionally, a new cabana will be constructed on the lawn to give the family a new space to entertain guests without affecting the privacy and sanctity of the living qaurters.

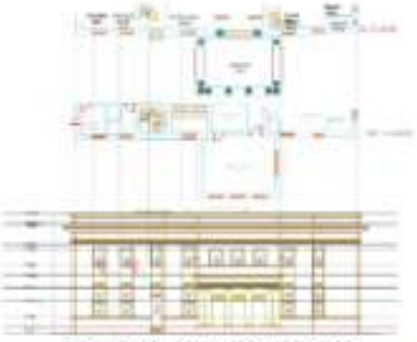
Currently, working is ongoing at the site to improve the existing exterior and to demolish and add new features, along with digging foundation for the new cabana. Work on the interior of the building will be started once the exterior work has been completed.

As the project architect for this project, I was responsible for all the technical drawings and 3d-visualizations, and also responsible for coordinationg with contractors and consultants to ensure smooth workflow on site.









GROUND FLOOR - DEMOLITION PLAN

GROUND FLOOR - CONSTRUCTION PLAN

ROOF PLAN

PLANS

ELEVATIONS

FOLDED INTERIOR ELEVATIONS

SECTIONS

FIRST FLOOR - DEMOLITION PLAN

FIRST FLOOR - CONSTRUCTION PLAN

PROPOSED SECTION AT Y'Y' OF MAIN BLOCK

PROPOSED SECTION AT X'X' OF MAIN BLOCK

PROPOSED SECTION AT A'A' OF MAIN BLOCK

FRONT ELEVATION - CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION - CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

LEFT SIDE ELEVATION - CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

REAR ELEVATION - CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

CREMATORIUM AT WATGUNJ

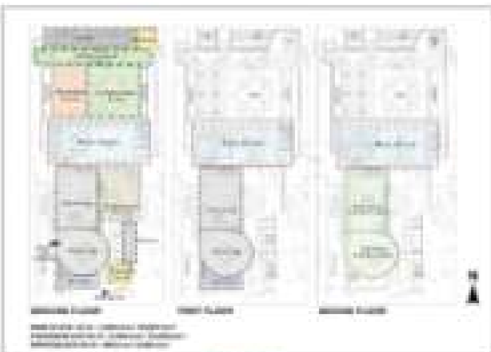
Located in the outskirts of the city of Kolkata, at an area near the docks known as Watgunj, the Crematorium is a project that was proposed to aide with the lack of required number of crematorium facilities compared to the ever growing population of the city.

The site has been chosen as it is flanked by the river Ganges on one side, a river that holds significance in the cremating rituals of the Hindu religion, and the planning of the spaces has been done according the regulations given by the government for such spaces. An eco-brutalist style has been adopted for the entire site to show the contrast between life and death and also because of the fire resistant nature of concrete. Along with the required ritualistic spaces, other amenities like a cafe, waiting halls, bathing areas, material stores and offices will also be provided on the site for the ease of all vistors. Additionally, a stepped garden with a waterfall wall has been designed on the site to allow the visitors a quiet space away from the gloominess of it all.

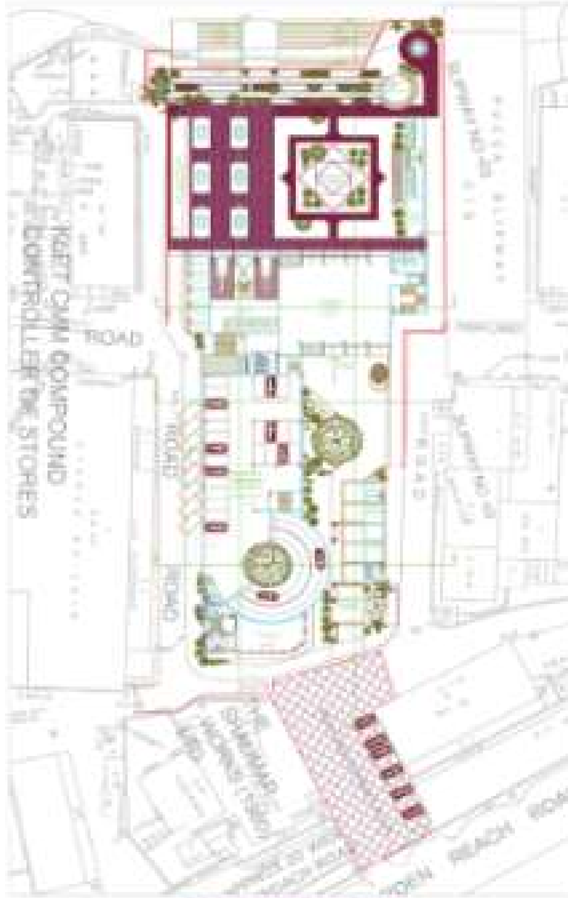
The project is currently at a design stage, with work undergoing on the site to clear out the area and carry out required soil testing for calculating the structural support required for the propsed built structures.

As I was co-heading the project with a colleague, we divided the requirements of producing the presentation drawings, and producing the preliminary structural layouts and cost calculations equally amongst ourselves.

SITE CONTEXT

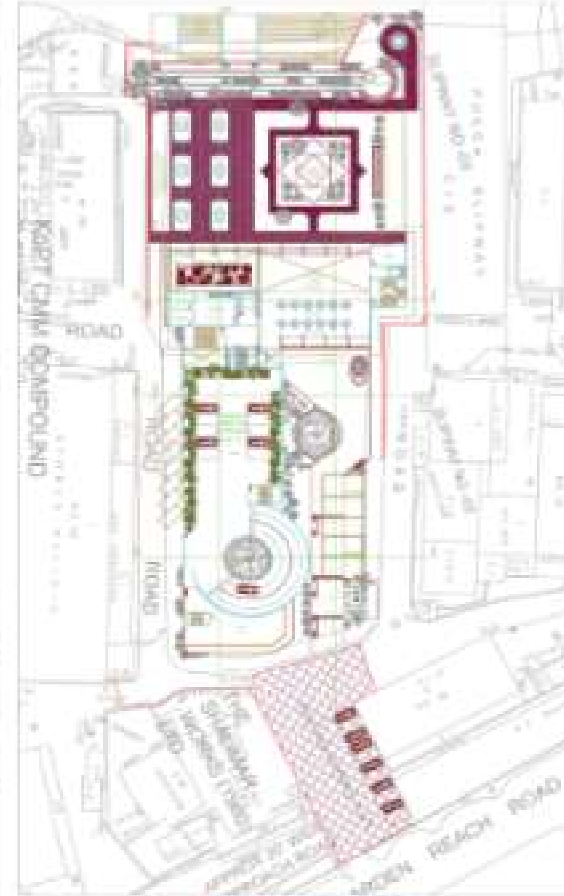


ZONING



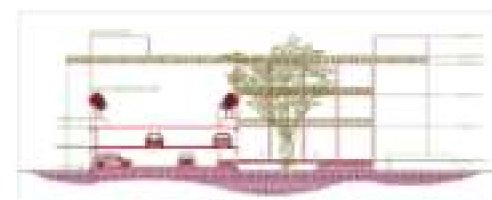
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

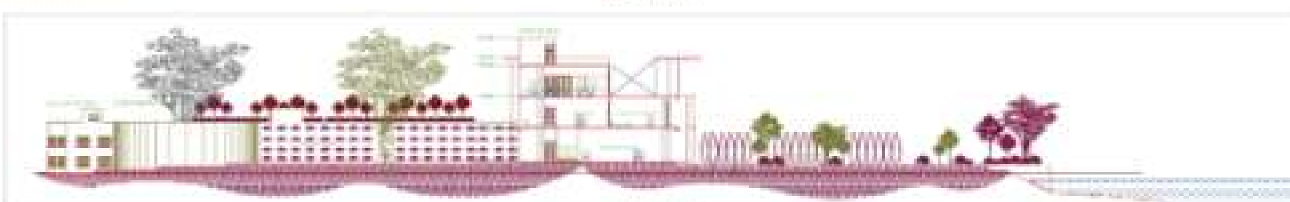


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

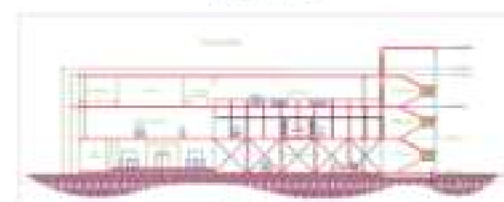
SECTION 1



SECTION 3



SECTION 2

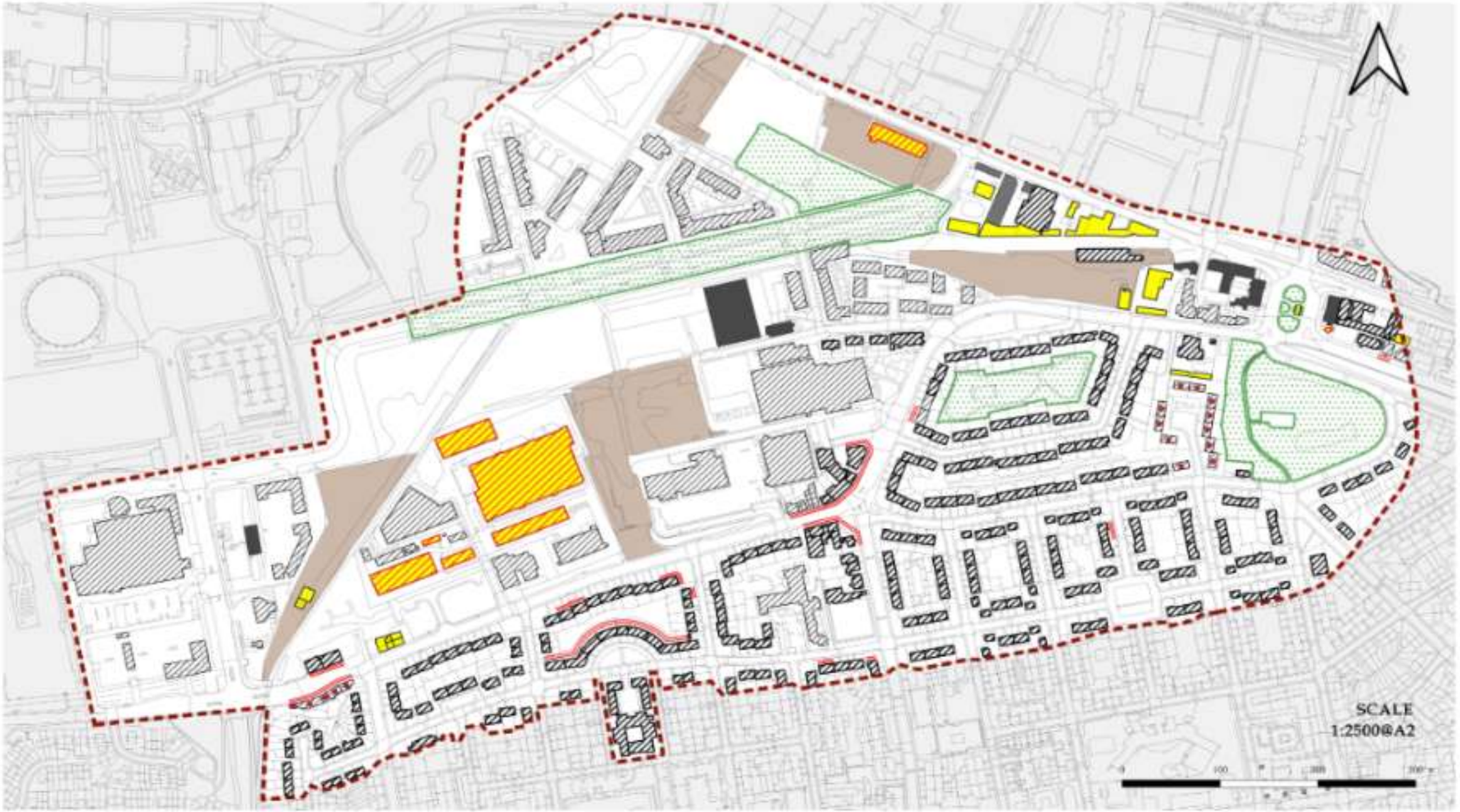


SECTION 4

TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

MASTER'S COURSEWORK

The following pages are examples of work I undertook in the course of studying Architectural Conservation at the University of Edinburgh.
They include Conservation Plans drafted using ArcGIS, creating panels summarizing the research done on a building, and also survey drawings demarcating the different decays on stone walls, done either individually or as part of a group.



LEGENDS

Listed Building: Category B

Listed Building: Category C

Conservation Area Boundary

Buildings that contribute strongly to the specific character of the historic centre for which retention and careful evalua-tion of future interventions is advisable.

Buildings that are neutral from the point of view of the character of the area, for which replacement is possible, but are advised to be within the existing footprint and volume.

Buildings that detract from the specific character of the area, for which re-modeling or replacement is advisable in the future, in order to achieve a better architectural quality and integration with the historic urban fabric.

Buildings that detract from the specific character of the area, for which demolition is advisable to achieve a better quality and integration

Green Areas that contribute strongly to the specific character, for which retention is advisable

Roofs that need to be addressed, either through restoration of their historic fabric or revision of retent interventions (form and materials) that detract from their value to thecharacter of the historic centre

Facades that need to be addressed, either through restoration of their historic fabric or revision of recent interventions (form and materials) that detract from their value to the character of the historic centre

19th Century Interventions

Patrick Geddes started acquiring properties on Riddle's Court starting from 1887 as part of his university halls programme and improvement plans were drawn up in three phases by different architects – in 1887 by Sydney Mitchell and Wilson, in 1892 by Stewart Henbest Capper and finally in 1895 by J.S. Aitken. Geddes's 19th century interventions also made significant changes to the circulation pattern within the building. The connection between the first floor straight staircase and the turnpike stairs had been ditched off during this time, making it possible to reach the Drawing Room or Salon Room only by walking across the Dining Room or Geddes Room. The turnpike staircase was connected to the rest of the building through a narrow passageway which reflects the practical modifications that were required to fit new purpose into a historic terms.

Ground Floor Plan

First Floor Plan

Pentice Stair, Outer Court

Seating Niches, Salon Room

Geddes's Lawnmarket Interventions

Patrick Geddes's impact extended beyond Riddle's Court. On north Lawnmarket, Geddes connected five buildings into university halls to create communities representative of his "Scientific Diocesan" ideology: Ramsay Lodge, 2 Mound Place, Wilkie's Court, James Court, and Macrae House. The flats in these buildings had a communal upper and were subdivided to create individual accommodations. At both Ramsay Lodge and Charles Court, Stewart Henbest Capper and Sydney Mitchell added an additional storey. Each of these halls were self-governing, increasing civic engagement. The alterations and additions made at Wardrop's Close and Ramsay Gardens illustrate his conservative surgery and opening out approaches in Edinburgh. In collaboration with Capper, Geddes erected Bonnie Lythe at Ramsay's Close and Ramsay Lane Arms-Common adopting traditional Edinburgh style to create new housing during the Edinburgh housing crisis. At Ramsay Gardens, the extension of halls allowed the students and graduates in the adjacent hall to interact with people outside of their academic circle. Geddes also converted the Tall Cardonnel into the Outlook Tower to provide a centre for post-graduate students and civic improvement, setting a small observatory. These structures along Lawnmarket illustrate Geddes's lasting impact on education and city planning in Edinburgh.

Timeline of Events

Geddesian Ideologies

Inspired by the theories of Thomas Huxley, Charles Darwin, Frédéric Le Play and Auguste Comte, Patrick Geddes developed his own theories of urban planning, philosophy, evolution, and social behaviour during his free time while teaching botany in Scotland. A visitor he coined during this time, 'Vivendo Discimus' ('by living we learn'), became a saying associated with University halls, working to say who in an inscription above the inner court archway (see image below). Riddle's Court reflected this motto through its crossover of living and learning for the students within one space, each student learning from one another and from their surroundings as Riddle's Court and the city of Edinburgh as a whole. These students gathered in the Geddes and Salon Rooms on the first floor, the Geddes Room celebrated being a synoptic view of the city through a commissioned ceiling painted by Thomas R. Bonnar in 1897. Split into four quadrants, the design of the ceiling holds several layers of deeper significance in its ornamental panels. Starting in the southwest corner of the room and working anti-clockwise, the panel look of the 'left through' film central was for in a grid of symbols of Edinburgh and Scottish history alongside important figures and phrases associated with the development of the building and Geddes's ideologies.

The implementation of "conservative surgery" on Riddle's Court and other university halls became a target theme as Geddes's projects with local architects became more common, taking only what was truly unsalvageable and replacing it with architectural features that would allow for healthier and safer living like city such as cuts for additional sunlight and fresh air. Geddes hoped to raise collective consciousness by providing the inhabitants of Riddle's Court with proper living conditions and an opportunity to learn by examining their surroundings, noting that representational democracy could be the key to the evolution of cities. Geddes was convinced that a change in public consciousness would manifest physical changes in the world. His holistic, multidisciplinary approach to the understanding of humanity and our link to nature has given us tools to strive towards a more diverse, modern society.

Synoptic View

Geddes worked at Outlook Tower emphasise his emphasise on a synoptic view of the world in his teachings using new technology to nature-inspired to project the image of Edinburgh from a new angle over the top of the surrounding. Geddes hoped to inspire the masses into considering a regional and global perspective to make decisions, and form opinions about the world outside. In using individual and democratic, in technology into the natural science helped to emphasise Geddes's idea of a "wonderful" approach to living as well, choosing people over profit after industrialisation.

Thinking Machines

Geddes's thinking machines were developed in response to his interest in interdisciplinary work, typically involving fields/players that intersect and to connect different cycles, processes and times of study. They embody the depth of his thought process and careful consideration for a multitude of aspects of the human condition, both tangible and intangible.

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

THE SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION STUDIES

Riddle's Court Reimagined: Patrick Geddes's Ideology & Legacy

Group 3: Emily Copeland, Maria Bucskar, Elizabeth Hood, Joao Meras, Jiaxin Qian, Ipshita Seth, Cheryn Zhao

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Pathologies

Water Damage
- Alga Colonization
- Wet Stain
- Faulty Pipes & Gutters
- Wet Spot

Stone Decay
- Scaling
- Iron-oxide Patina
- Erosion
- Black Crust/Soiling

Unsympathetic Alterations
- Concrete Replacement
- Unsympathetic New Design
- Boarded-up Window
- Removal of Original Design Feature
- Cracks

Pathologies

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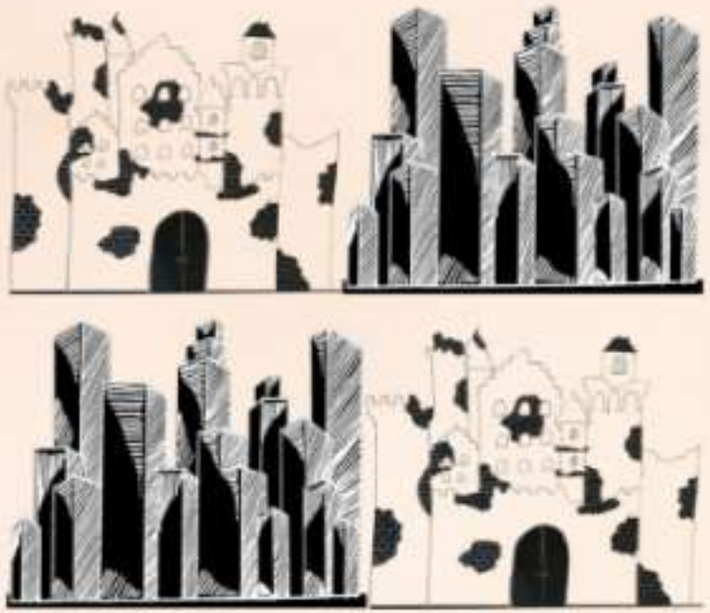
THANK YOU



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