

SMEF's Brick school of Architecture...

Understanding Fort Architecture in Sahyadri ranges 2020-2021

Background:

Trekking club is one of the recent clubs formed in our college. It was initiated by one of our 2nd-year students Tanay Lalwani in the academic year 2019-2020. The main idea behind starting this club was to have a buffer of one day every month in nature from this busy schedule of architecture and to help them gain knowledge about the nature and heritage around them. Taking these ideologies, we formulated a course that talks about the heritage structures through an actual site visit to these places. On 16th January 2020, this club was launched by collaborating with GGIM (Guardian Giripremi Institute of Mountaineering) to conduct these visits and our faculties would teach the architectural importance of these structures.

There was an MOU signed between Brick Institute and GGIM to make it more professional. Which followed with the announcement of the first visit planned on 8th February 2020 to Duke's nose, a jungle trek near Lonavala to understand the biodiversity of these ranges. Unfortunately, there was no response from the students for this activity. Hence to find out the reason we conducted a survey wherein we circulated a Google form and we also did a batch meeting asking the reasons for the same. From the survey we understood that the students already spending a lot of expenses on architecture were not ready to spend 1200/- for one single trek, hence the trek was cancelled. To overcome the problem, we calculated our expenses which did not exceed 500/- each i.e., half the cost and so the decision was made to organize our visits without much of the involvement of GGIM.

Eventually, the course was refined, which was then conducted collaborating with the college's trekking club itself. But lockdown was called due to COVID-19 in March 2020 which led to no visits in the year 2019-2020. But as soon as it was opened around the 1st week of January 2021 some of our students from the 3rd year went for a 7-day visit in Sindhudurg district to study an age-old trade route and the significance and architecture of the forts around it.

About the course of 2020 – 2021:

Title: Understanding the Architecture of Forts through an actual visit in collaboration with Trekking club

Aim: The main aim of this course is to make architecture students aware of the heritage around us and also create a healthy lifestyle through trekking activities among the architecture students.

The course was designed for 7 days and the location was chosen as a trade route in the Sindhudurg district starting from Malvan and ending in Dajipur. Trade route topic was chosen as trade and commerce in earlier times was the primary important part for which these forts were built and so to start with this topic which would help them understand the background of these forts.

Also, topics that were covered in this course were:

1. Studying an age-old trade route of Gad River to Phonda ghat
2. Studying the fort architecture and typology along the trade route.
3. Understanding the relationship between these forts to the trade route.
4. Understanding the community and their involvement in the trade.
5. Experiencing the hidden heritage in the neighboring context.

The objectives behind this course are:

1. To gain knowledge about the heritage structures:

The objective was to make students aware of Military architecture which is not much taught and talked of in the university syllabus. It also focuses on students to know more about the history and landscape that are associated with it.

2. Importance of visiting such places and experiential learnings of students:

Students should not only learn from what is thought in the classrooms but also get the experience and feel the essence of that place hence visiting the forts and knowing their architectural and historical importance of them was the main objective behind this course.

3. Architects moral responsibility towards these structures:

As architecture students, they should have a sensitive approach towards these structures and hence these visits will make them realize the same.

4. Trekking in general:

Students get to indulge in many sports for competitive reasons. One such sport is Trekking which connects health to nature and adventure to learnings, this does not have any competitive output but strengthens teamwork and endurance. Hence students should get closer to nature and indulge in these adventures to understand the importance of teamwork.

5. Physical and Mental health benefits:

Trekking not only enhances teamwork but also takes us closer to nature i.e., away from city life which gives peace of mind from the regular schedule. It's a perfect endurance for gaining physical health and the efforts help in building stamina and energy for the rest of the month. Architecture students have a lot of intense submissions hence leading them to health issues. In this course, another main objective was also to have a break in students' schedules so that they could relax and be energetic due to these activities.

Hence to start with this course three lectures were organized of three of the faculties from the college, Ketaki maam talking about overall landscape of that region, Vaidhai maam talking about architecture and heritage in Sindhudurg and Sharduli maam on Culture and settlements of Sindhudurg district.

Another lecture was organised of a famous archaeologist Dr. Sachin Vidhyadar Joshi who has a deep study on Forts of Maharashtra and this Ph.D. was on Forts of Konkan. He spoke on the topic of "Shivkalin Durg Stapatya" in which he started with earlier evidence of forts in India and then came to Maharashtra. He in brief explained the topography of Sahyadri and its advantages to these forts. After this, they briefed on the various typologies that are seen in Maharashtra. He then explained the history and briefed some forts that were built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and what were the ideologies behind them. The session ended with a question-and-answer session which led to a 2-hour knowledgeable session which was organised after their visit.

The end of this course was done by a small session by one of the participant students Tanay Lalwani on the course and over all experience. He briefly told how trade worked in older days and how because of which Fort Architecture of Sahyadri is defined. This lecture gave a brief idea of what were different architectural features seen on these forts and how these fort's military architecture worked out. The session was ended with what moral responsibility we as architects have for this society.

For this course 5 students enrolled for this course visited the region around 4th January 2021- 10th January 2021. They came up with a detailed research report on their overall experience of the topic that was to study. The link to this journal is attached below. For this course, they had special guidance from Dr. Sachin Joshi from Deccan college and Ar. Mrudula Mane from CEPT college.

Timeline of the Course work:

Sr no.	Events	Who conducted	Date
1.	Students' enrolment last date	-	
2.	Session 1 on Konkan and Landform of Sindhudurg.	Ar. Ketaki Gujjar	25 th November 2020
3.	Session 2 on Architecture and Heritage in Sindhudurg.	Ar. Vaidhai Lavand	2 nd December 2020
4.	Session 3 on Culture and Settlements in Sindhudurg.	Ar. Shardulli Joshi	16 th December 2020
5.	Visit to the places: Day 1 - Visited Sindhudurg fort, Padmagad fort, Rajkot fort and Malvan port. Day 2 - Visited Sarjekot fort and Sarjekot port. Day 3 – Visited Achara port and Achara settlement. Day 4 – Visited Bharatgad fort and Bhagvantagad fort. Day 5 – Visited Ramgad fort and settlement. Day 6 – Traveling to Dajipur and visiting Shivgad fort. Day 7 - Explored Phonda ghat and Dajipur wildlife sanctuary.		4 th Jan 2021 - 10 th Jan 2021 4 th January 2021 5 th January 2021 6 th January 2021 7 th January 2021 8 th January 2021 9 th January 2021 10 th January 2021
6.	Review of the process work	Ar. Ketaki Gujjar	12 th February 2021
7.	Session 4 on Shivkalin Durg Stapatya	Dr. Sachin Vidhyadar Joshi	24 th February 2021
8.	Session 5 on Overall experience and observations of the study	Tanay Lalwani (3 rd Year)	23 rd March 2021
9.	Submission of the report		25 th March 2021

Names of the students that enrolled for the course:

1. Tanay Lalwani (leader) – 3rd year Green batch
2. Atharva Sakore – 3rd year Green batch
3. Anushka Deo – 3rd year Orange batch
4. Achyut Vanarase – 3rd year Green batch
5. Kaiwalya Barde – 3rd year Green batch

Conclusions:

This course helped them to get learning about a very different topic of Military architecture in the context of Maharashtra and especially the Konkan region. They developed a journal report where they have analyzed all the collected data and compiled it. The learnings and day-to-day itinerary are given in detail in the journal.

Link of the journal: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19l8MNCmR7N_XyTpgImH-ff9FEHoj4





CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

Kaiwalya Barde

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE

Certificate course on
Understanding Fort Architecture in Sahyadri ranges
conducted by
SMEF'S Brick School of Architecture, Pune
During Nov 25th -2020 to Mar 25th -2021

Pooja Misal

Director & Founder
Smef's Brick Group of Institutes



[Signature]

Principal
Smef's Brick School of Architecture



CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

Achyut Vanarase

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE

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Pooja Misal

Director & Founder
SmeF's Brick Group of Institutes



Principal
Smef's Brick School of Architecture



CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

Anushka Deo

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE

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Pooja Misal

Director & Founder
SmeF's Brick Group of Institutes



eo

Principal
SmeF's Brick School of Architecture



CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

Atharva Sakore

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE

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eo

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