

ROLE OF SURFACE RENDERING IN SPACE MAKING, RAJASTHAN (SHEKHAWATI)

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RESEARCH THESIS | IMIAD (BUILDING CRAFTS) | CEPT UNIVERSITY

The Shekhawati region in Rajasthan is known for its highly embellished and painted structures. Nearly all the surfaces of the buildings, may it be domestic, religious, civic or even funerary are filled with some form of rendering. Out of the varied forms of surface rendering present, fresco work is seen the most on the surfaces. The towns of this region are hence known as 'the painted towns of Shekhawati'.

'Shekhawati', meaning the land of Shekha's den, derives its name from the ruler Rao Shekha, of the Kachhwaha family of Jaipur. Located towards the north of Rajasthan, it comprises of significant towns like Nawalgarh, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Lakshmangarh, Fatehpur and so on. Shekhawati consisted mostly of mercantile settlements. These affluent traders and merchants constructed lavish havelis replete with ornamentation, murals, frescos, as well as paintings in the towns of Shekhawati.



A haveli in at Nawalgarh, Rajasthan

Haveli, as an individual entity is a systematic arrangement of spaces responding to the function, aesthetics, geography, as well as the climate of the specific region. The haveli is in itself a system in which every component has its own contribution towards space making. All these components contribute towards our perception of that space. Surface rendering of any kind, may it be filigree, carvings, plasterwork, or even paintings and frescos are often seen as an additional layer just to make the surfaces more appealing to one's eyes. But what more does it contribute as a component to the space?

The research aims at understanding whether surface rendering is truly just an overlay for aesthetical purposes as it is often considered to be or does it reciprocate by adding a language to the space.



The Morarka Haveli, Nawalgarh, Rajasthan



The Utaara Haveli, Nawalgarh, Rajasthan

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What is the impact of Surface Rendering on Space Making?

SUB-QUESTIONS:

How does Surface Rendering contribute to the quality of the space?

What impact does it create on cognition of the space?

FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY:

Part I Secondary Data Collection

Understanding what is meant by surface rendering and perception.

How are surface rendering, space making and perception related?

Part II First Hand Data Collection

Identifying probable case studies

Photographic documentation of havelis. Identifying the different spaces in the havelis,

Identifying, documenting and classifying various types of surface rendering present

Part III Analysis and Conclusion

What is present?

Where is it present?

Does it affect the space?
Does it affect ones' perception of the space?

If yes, how?

Conclusion

CASE STUDY:

Four havelis in the region of Nawalgarh were studied, namely,

1. The Morarka Haveli
2. The Utaara Haveli
3. The Bhagat Haveli
4. The Koolwal Haveli



The Morarka Haveli, Nawalgarh



The Utaara Haveli, Nawalgarh



The Bhagat Haveli, Nawalgarh



The Koolwal Haveli, Nawalgarh



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