

Nineteenth-Century Houses of Karachi -Pakistan: 3 Case-Studies



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Karachi since its progression from 17th century onwards, remain center of attraction for multiple ethnic groups due to its economic potential. These groups ranging from Muslims, Hindus, Britishers, Parsi, Jewish etc. All lived in harmony, respecting each other sects, socio-cultural beliefs and principles. However; their respective housing units constructed during 19th century, offer some distinctive architectural characteristics which corresponds to their socio-spatial needs and lifestyle. This study highlighted those space sequence (open, semi open, covered), functional area classifications (private and public zones), material, construction style and other theoretical details which corresponded to their specific cultural beliefs. It also reflected the homogeneous character of Karachi city's built historic fabric; that have never discussed. Methodology adopted for this study comprised of comparative case-studies based documentation, their interpretation and analysis. Some tools used for this study include interviews, field documentation, site-visits and historical records. The research concluded with identifying multiple spatial elements as Karachi's architecture that were resultant of not only socio-cultural setup but its connection with city's climate.

Biography:

I am a Conservation Architect and Researcher by Profession. I have completed my Bachelors in Architecture and Masters in Architecture (Research Stream) from NED University, Karachi-Pakistan, in 2009 and 2015 respectively. I had initiated my professional carrier as Assistant Architect in Heritage Cell-Department of Architecture and Planning: NED University, Karachi. I had performed field survey, historic building documentation, inventory making process and various research based-exercises under KHBRP (Karachi Historic building Resurvey Project) with the supervision of Project Lead. Subjects of historical research and academia is another main attraction for me. I have served in academia at multiple capacities; to teach undergraduate students of both public and private sector universities of Karachi.