

Integration of Built and Unbuilt Spaces

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Abstract: Buildings are the forms or structures which are influenced by the ideas, beliefs, activities and relationship of society. Therefore, it is important that good architecture in all its forms must give meaning to everyday life and be accessible to all with an expression of relationship between both built and unbuilt environment. The aim of this paper is to highlight the use of built forms and unbuilt spaces together also examine, identify and analyze how these spaces can be used as a strategy in architecture for the development of social structure. Through various case studies relations between built and unbuilt spaces is derived and inferences were made using parameters such as scale, degree of enclosure and degree of permeability. The study come to conclude that the built and unbuilt spaces can have a positive impact and together can be used innovatively for the benefit of the society.

Keywords: Built and Unbuilt relation, Social Structures, Architecture, Positive impact.

1. Introduction

Architecture has always been important as it not only depict the social life but also act as a symbol of social values and aspirations. Architecture create the image of the city or place making it distinguishable and memorable. The most important and present objective of an architectural design is to combine the functional needs required by the user within a favourable design environment. This blend of function and form leads to the formation of a built environment.

A man has always been seen admiring the built forms as this is where they can prove their creativity. They rarely realizes the impact created on them by the unbuilt spaces. Unbuilt spaces should be designed and developed over a changing period of time and steps to be taken to create the awareness among people about the potential these spaces have and the need to integrate and design such unbuilt spaces with built forms.

2. Advantages

A. Ecological and Environmental Importance

The built forms must have high green coverage rate in the surroundings, such green spaces can improve the climate and reduce environmental damage. Another benefit is that such green open spaces can help in reducing urban heat island effect.

B. Social Importance

The open spaces within a built form can help residents in adjusting to the healthy lifestyle and also create a chance for interaction between people.

C. Aesthetic Importance

The built and unbuilt spaces can preserve the natural beauty and also determines the characteristic of the settlements.

3. Case study

A. Manav gulzar community center, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Manav Gulzar is a community center located in the slum community of Ram Rahim No tekro in Behrampur, Ahmedabad. It was founded in 2013 by NGOs, Manav Sadhna and Flowering Tree for education of underprivileged children.

Manav Gulzar was built by Ar. Hiren Patel inside a public space that was under severe neglect. It consists of temple, mosque, academic facilities, several multipurpose spaces which are used for health awareness, skill training, administrative services.

The center has a predominant built envelope characterized by glass bottles and bamboo used as a shuttering material in pivoted windows providing a high degree of intricacy. The interior however is characterized by semi open spaces which dominates the built environment. The open spaces are hardscaped but due to numerous planters and variation in paving material & pattern these unbuilt spaces were broken down into visually contrasting units. The built form provides a very low degree of enclosure.



Fig. 1. Manav Gulzar community centre, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

B. Sambhavna trust clinic, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Sambhavna Trust Clinic is a community-based, non-governmental medical initiative that offers an innovative blend of modern and traditional therapies free of cost to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims. It was opened in 2005 and designed and built by House of Consultants (Good Earth), Bangalore.

It acts as a community space for the development and

increase of awareness among people. It consists of administrative block, clinics, cafeteria, botanical garden, medicine dispensary and drug manufacturing area.

This clinic consists of large envelope of unbuilt space with a high density of built form along the east and west side of the site with high permeability in these areas. The built forms are arranged along a courtyard with a high density of plantations and water body.

The built form is characterized by exposed bricks giving an earthy feel to the built environment with a high degree of fenestration cover.



Fig. 2. Sambhavna Trust Clinic, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

4. Case study analysis

Table 1
Comparison of built and unbuilt spaces

Case Study	Manav Gulzar	Sambhavna
Site Area	873.82 Sq.m	8093.71 Sq.m
Ground Coverage	259.07 Sq.m	1297.7 Sq.m
Unbuilt Area	614.75 Sq.m	6796.01 Sq.m
% Of Unbuilt Area	70.3%	83.9%
Ratio Between Unbuilt And Built	2.37:1	5.23:1

Table 2
Deriving observations from the unbuilt spaces of the case studies, following inferences can be made

Case Study	Manav Gulzar	Sambhavna
Degree Of Enclosure	Low degree of enclosure	Very low degree of enclosure
Degree Of Permeability	High degree of permeability	High degree of permeability
(the higher the degree of visual and physical permeability, the space seems to be more accessible.)		
Function	Community gathering multipurpose space with academic facilities.	Acts as a clinic and community space.

5. Possible problems

1. Now-a-days, the design process focuses solely on built mass and volume, therefore it is important to understand the value of unbuilt spaces in the built environment.
2. There is lack of awareness among people about the ratio between open and built spaces and how much positive influence these spaces have on them.

6. Solutions

1. Open spaces or voids must be taken into account during the designing stage of a building or space. It will help to make a space more functional and improve the lifestyle of the residents.
2. A user circulation can be directed by these unbuilt spaces which highly influence the permeability and accessibility of the site.

7. Conclusion

A city's abundant unbuilt spaces have key impact on the quality of life, therefore, these spaces should not be left unattended. This can be stopped if creative development is done by integrating such spaces with large built forms. The projects studied here are making a huge difference in the society and community and also display a pattern of unbuilt spaces in a given environment which can be broken down into-

- Planned open spaces
- Buffer/zones of transition
- Marginal open spaces

The areas on the site were left unbuilt by giving proper attention to its scale, accessibility and permeability. It was observed that unbuilt spaces in both the case studies were organised in a different manner.

In Manav Gulzar, planned Open Spaces were placed around the built form, transitional buffers were placed in the centre of the site and marginal Open Spaces were on the outermost side of the site whereas in Sambhavna, Planned Open Spaces were placed in the centre of the site, transitional buffers were placed around them and marginal Open Spaces were along the side boundaries.

Hence, the built spaces indicate the purpose of the built form whereas the unbuilt spaces signify the spirit of the place. Buildings are the outcome of the functions occurring inside them and these functions explain themselves in the built form as well as unbuilt spaces.

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