

Decoding Craft Expressions: Wood Carvings of Traditional Houses of Gujarat

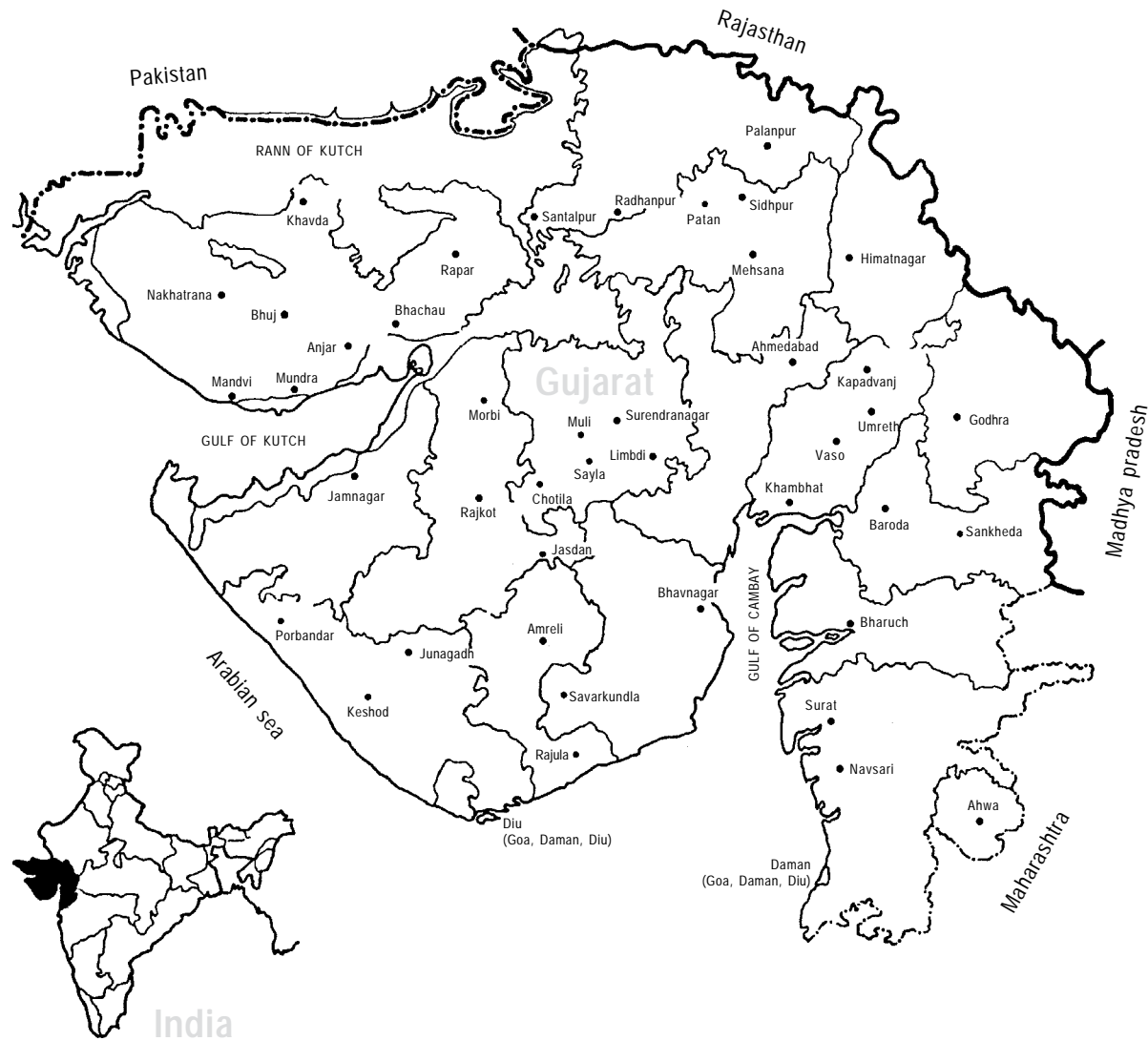


l'École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO)
The French School of Far East
Gujarat and Sindh Studies
Paris, France

Jay Thakkar
Assistant Professor, CEPT University
Research Head, DICRC, India
Author of *Naqsh & Matra*

introduction

**Gujarat
CEPT
DICRC
Matra
Naqsh**



Academics

Associate Professor

Faculty of Design
CEPT University
India

Area of Teaching

Interior Design Studio, Graphic Design, Wood workshop, Craft & Technology, Craft Traditions

Research

Research Head

Design Innovation & Craft Resource Centre (DICRC)
SID Research Cell, India

Author of Books

Matra (2008)
Naqsh (2004)

Professional

Honorary Secretary

Institute of Indian Interior Designers (IIID) - Ahmedabad

Visual Communication Consultant



Centre for Environmental Planning & Technology (CEPT) University

Ahmedabad, India

Faculty

- Faculty of Architecture
- Faculty of Public Policy & Planning
- Faculty of Technology
- Faculty of Design**
- Faculty of Arts & Humanities
- Faculty of Geometrics
- Faculty of Climate Change



Centre

- Centre for Sustainable Environment & Energy (CSEE)
- Design Innovation & Craft Resource Centre (DICRC)**
- Centre for Continuing Education
- Centre for Rural Development
- Centre for Infrastructure
- Center for Urban Transport
- Centre for Research, Development & Consultancy



Design Innovation & Craft Resource Centre (DICRC)

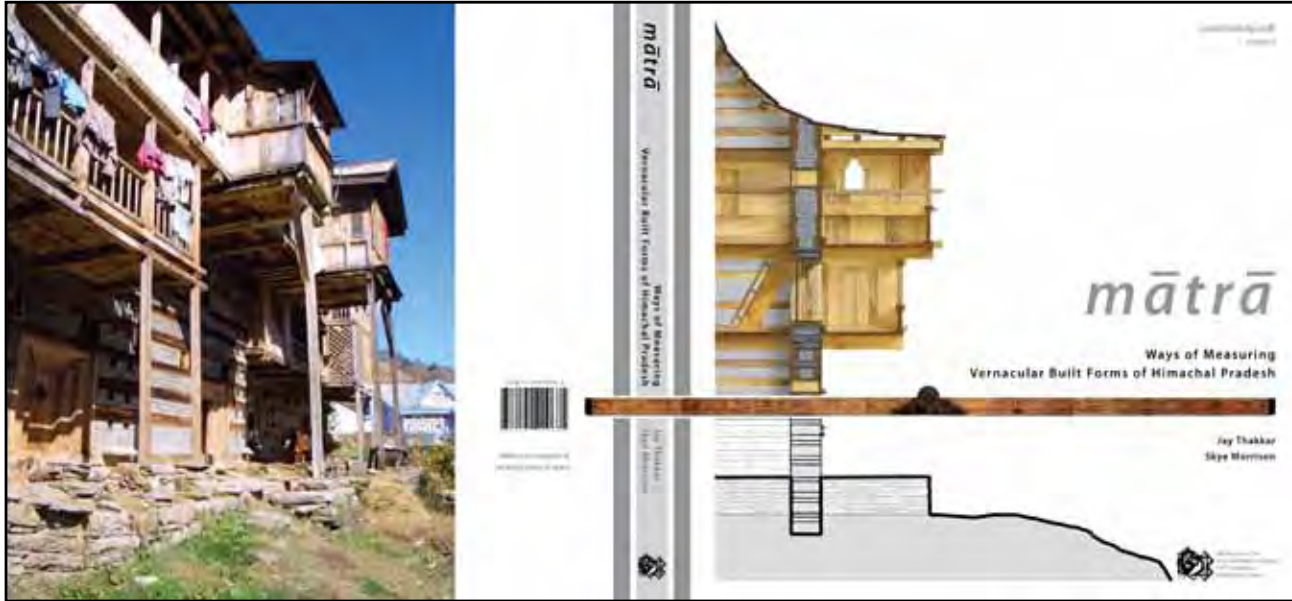
Vision

To document, study, analyse, research and generate resource related to **Space Making Crafts** (SMC) of the vernacular and traditional buildings of India

Undertake research projects addressing social concerns as well as professional and academic interests related to the Space Making Crafts (SMC)

Establish a platform for research scholars to disseminate acquired knowledge

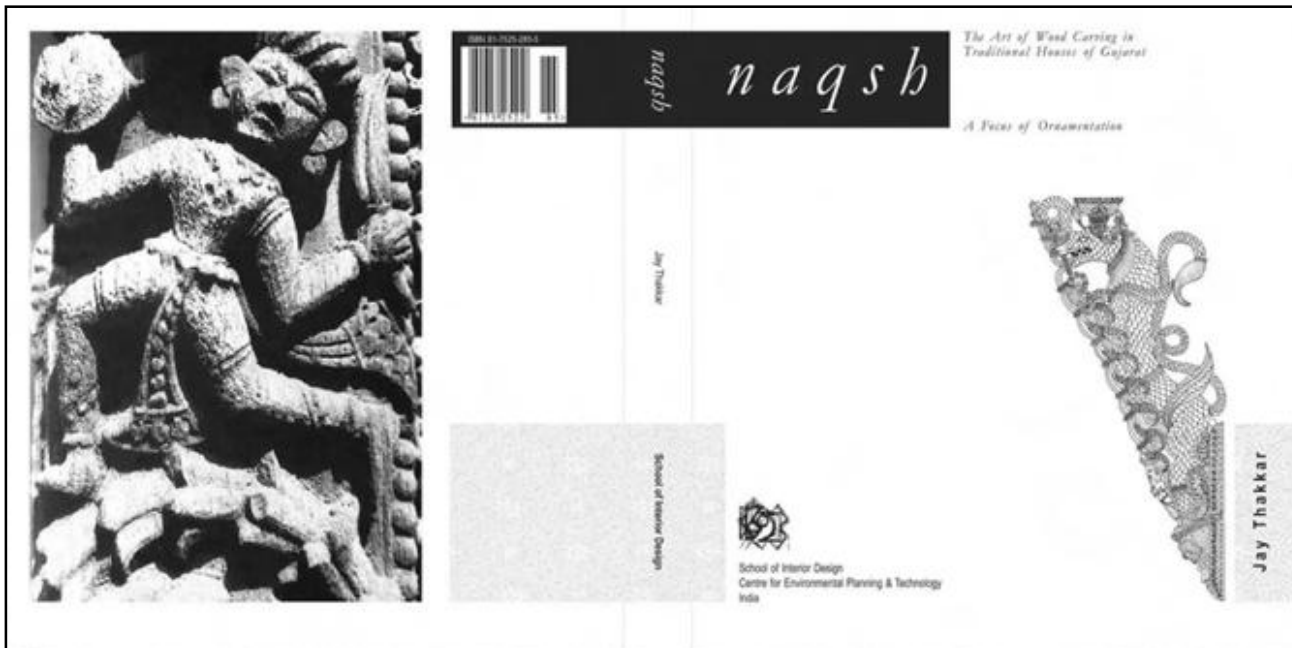
Create opportunities for public involvement (including craftspeople) towards issues of sustainable craft practices and traditional and vernacular built environments



Mātrā: Ways of Measuring Vernacular Built Forms of Himachal Pradesh

Authors: Jay Thakkar & Skye Morrison

Published by SID Research Cell, School of Interior Design, CEPT University in August 08
 ISBN – 819040968-9, Hardbound, 315 pages,
 800 images (sketches, hand measure drawings, technical drawings, 3D CAD drawings, photographs)



Naqsh: The Art of Wood Carving of Traditional Houses of Gujarat: Focus on Ornamentation

Author: Jay Thakkar

Published by SID Research Cell, School of Interior Design, CEPT University in October 04
 ISBN – 817525285-5, Hardbound, 240 pages,
 over 1000 images (B/W, colour, sketches)

Typology of houses

Research is carried out by drawing and then classifying the character of an individual house. The floor plan is classified into three types: 1. The smallest houses are single-story houses, 2. The middle houses are two-story houses, and 3. The largest houses are three-story houses. The floor plan is classified into three types: 1. The smallest houses are single-story houses, 2. The middle houses are two-story houses, and 3. The largest houses are three-story houses.

1. Single-story houses (Fig. 101-103): These are the smallest houses, typically one story high, with a simple rectangular or square footprint. They are often built with brick or stone and have a pitched roof.

2. Two-story houses (Fig. 104-106): These are medium-sized houses, typically two stories high. They have a more complex layout with multiple rooms and a central courtyard. The roof is often a flat or low-pitched roof.

3. Three-story houses (Fig. 107-109): These are the largest houses, typically three stories high. They have a very complex layout with many rooms and a large central courtyard. The roof is often a flat or low-pitched roof.

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Venues

The most common venue is a small hall built in the middle of the village. It is used for various purposes, including religious ceremonies, social gatherings, and community meetings. The hall is usually a simple rectangular structure with a pitched roof and is built with brick or stone. It is often surrounded by a low wall and has a small courtyard in front of it.

1. Small hall (Fig. 101-103): These are the most common venues, typically one story high and rectangular in shape. They are often built with brick or stone and have a pitched roof.

2. Large hall (Fig. 104-106): These are larger venues, typically two or three stories high. They have a more complex layout with multiple rooms and a central courtyard. The roof is often a flat or low-pitched roof.

3. Open-air venue (Fig. 107-109): These are open-air venues, typically built on a raised platform. They have a simple rectangular layout and a pitched roof. They are often used for religious ceremonies and social gatherings.

1. Single-story houses (Fig. 101-103): These are the smallest houses, typically one story high, with a simple rectangular or square footprint. They are often built with brick or stone and have a pitched roof.

2. Two-story houses (Fig. 104-106): These are medium-sized houses, typically two stories high. They have a more complex layout with multiple rooms and a central courtyard. The roof is often a flat or low-pitched roof.

3. Three-story houses (Fig. 107-109): These are the largest houses, typically three stories high. They have a very complex layout with many rooms and a large central courtyard. The roof is often a flat or low-pitched roof.

Woodwork integrated in built forms

Woodwork is an integral part of the traditional houses of Gujarat. It is used for various purposes, including structural elements, decorative elements, and furniture. The wood is usually teak or sal, which are known for their durability and resistance to termites. The woodwork is often carved into intricate designs and is a source of pride for the owners.

1. Structural woodwork (Fig. 101-103): This includes the use of wood for structural elements such as beams, columns, and roof supports. The wood is often carved into intricate designs and is a source of pride for the owners.

2. Decorative woodwork (Fig. 104-106): This includes the use of wood for decorative elements such as carvings, panels, and furniture. The wood is often carved into intricate designs and is a source of pride for the owners.

3. Furniture woodwork (Fig. 107-109): This includes the use of wood for furniture such as tables, chairs, and beds. The wood is often carved into intricate designs and is a source of pride for the owners.

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Living at home

The living at home is a central part of the traditional houses of Gujarat. It is a place where the family spends most of their time, and it is a source of pride for the owners. The living at home is usually a large, open-plan space with a central courtyard. It is often decorated with intricate carvings and paintings. The living at home is a place where the family spends most of their time, and it is a source of pride for the owners.

1. Living at home (Fig. 101-103): This is a large, open-plan space with a central courtyard. It is often decorated with intricate carvings and paintings. The living at home is a place where the family spends most of their time, and it is a source of pride for the owners.

2. Living at home (Fig. 104-106): This is a large, open-plan space with a central courtyard. It is often decorated with intricate carvings and paintings. The living at home is a place where the family spends most of their time, and it is a source of pride for the owners.

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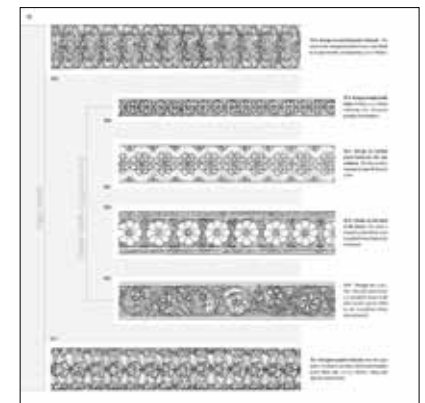
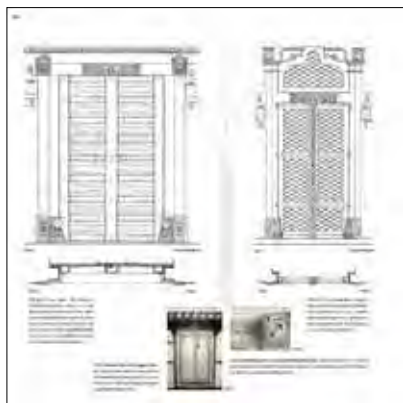
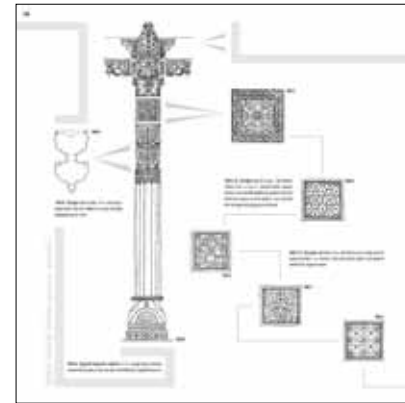
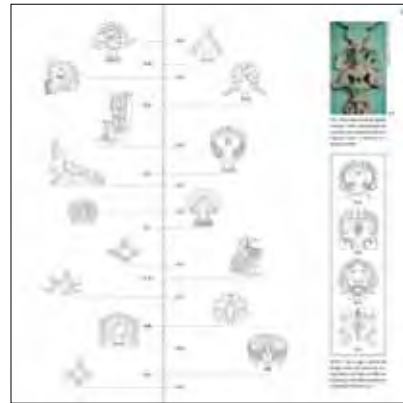
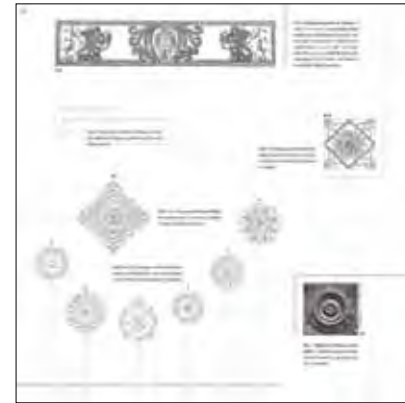
Tower temples

Tower temples are a unique type of temple found in Gujarat. They are tall, narrow structures with a square or rectangular base and a square or rectangular top. They are often built with brick or stone and have a pitched roof. They are often used for religious ceremonies and social gatherings.

1. Tower temple (Fig. 101-103): These are tall, narrow structures with a square or rectangular base and a square or rectangular top. They are often built with brick or stone and have a pitched roof. They are often used for religious ceremonies and social gatherings.

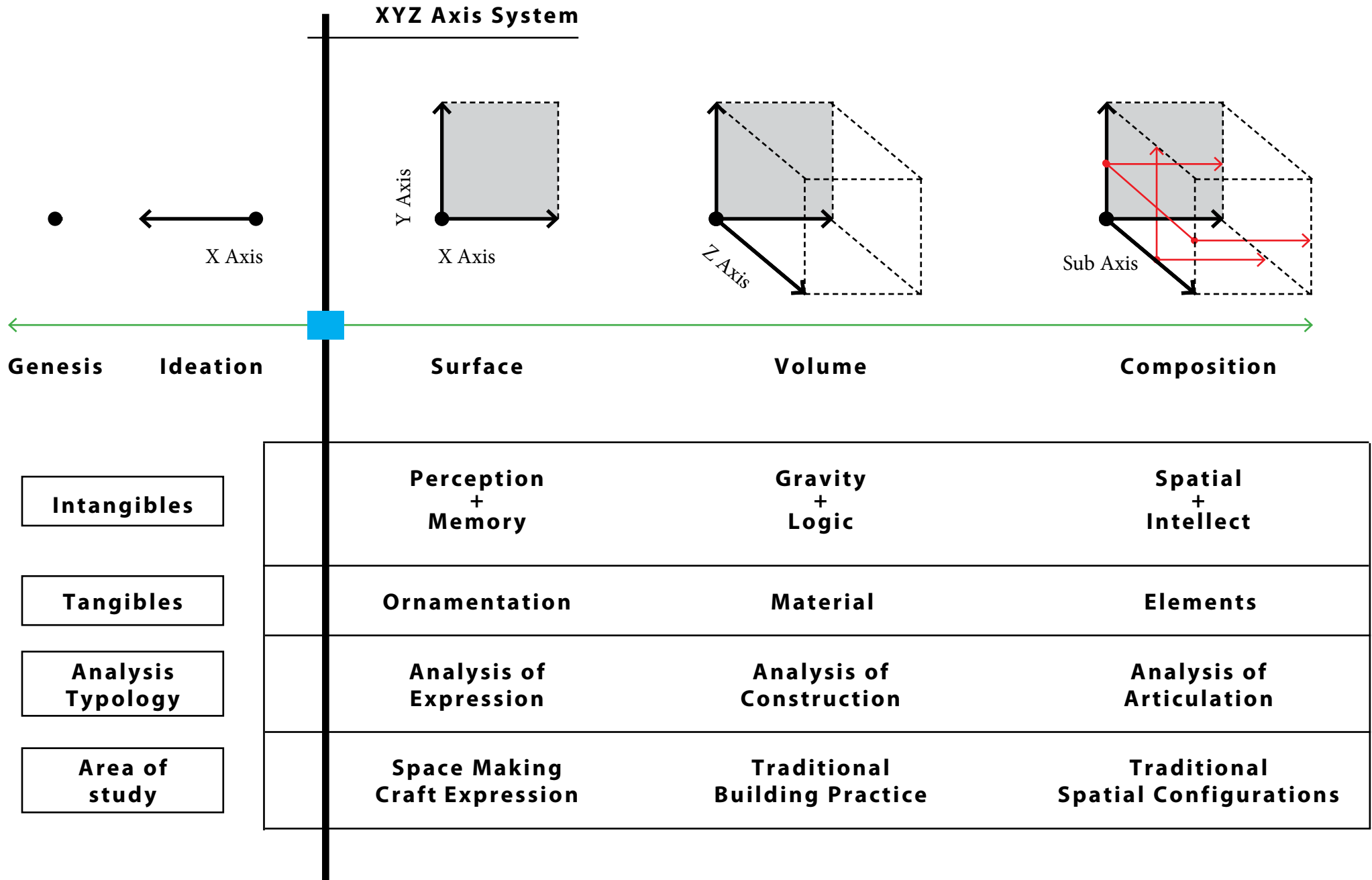
2. Tower temple (Fig. 104-106): These are tall, narrow structures with a square or rectangular base and a square or rectangular top. They are often built with brick or stone and have a pitched roof. They are often used for religious ceremonies and social gatherings.

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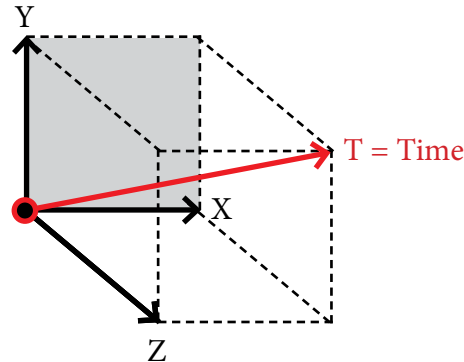


Decoding systems

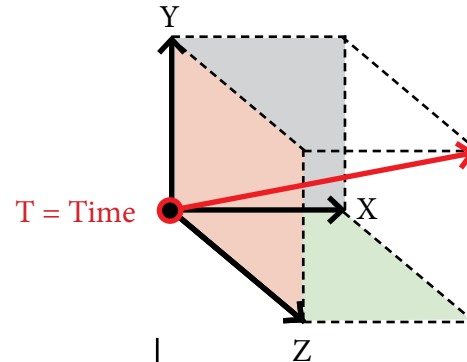
Decoding a building



XYZ-T Axis System = Operational Craft Matrix (OCM)



Process



Application

+
Crafts
Craftspeople
Materials
Tools
Techniques
Context
= OCM



Intangibles

Tangibles

**Analysis
Typology**

**Area of
study**

	History + Achievements	Wisdom + Sustainable Application
	Benchmark & Turning Points	Craft-Design Process
	Analysis of Innovation & Integration	XYZ-T Analysis Application
	History of Space Making Crafts	Contemporary application of temporary practice

Traditional houses of Gujarat

Typologies of traditional houses
Wooden houses
Decoding system - Craft Expressions
Wood Carvings of traditional houses

Typologies of traditional houses

Vernacular Houses
Row House Type Wooden Houses
Individual House Type Wooden Houses
Row House Type Colonial Houses
Individual Bungalow Type Colonial Houses



House, Banni, Kutch District

Source: Jay Thakkar



House, Savarkundla, Amreli District

Source: Sangeetha Priya



House, Ahwa, Dang District

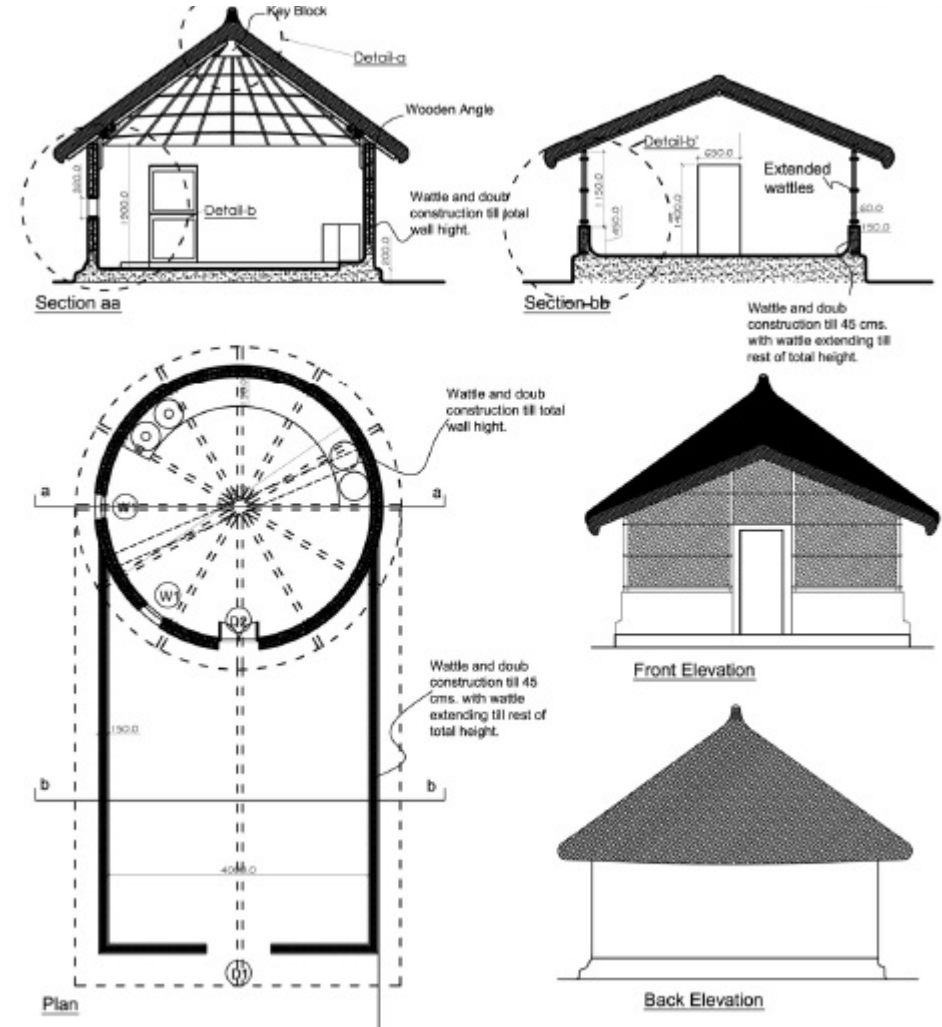
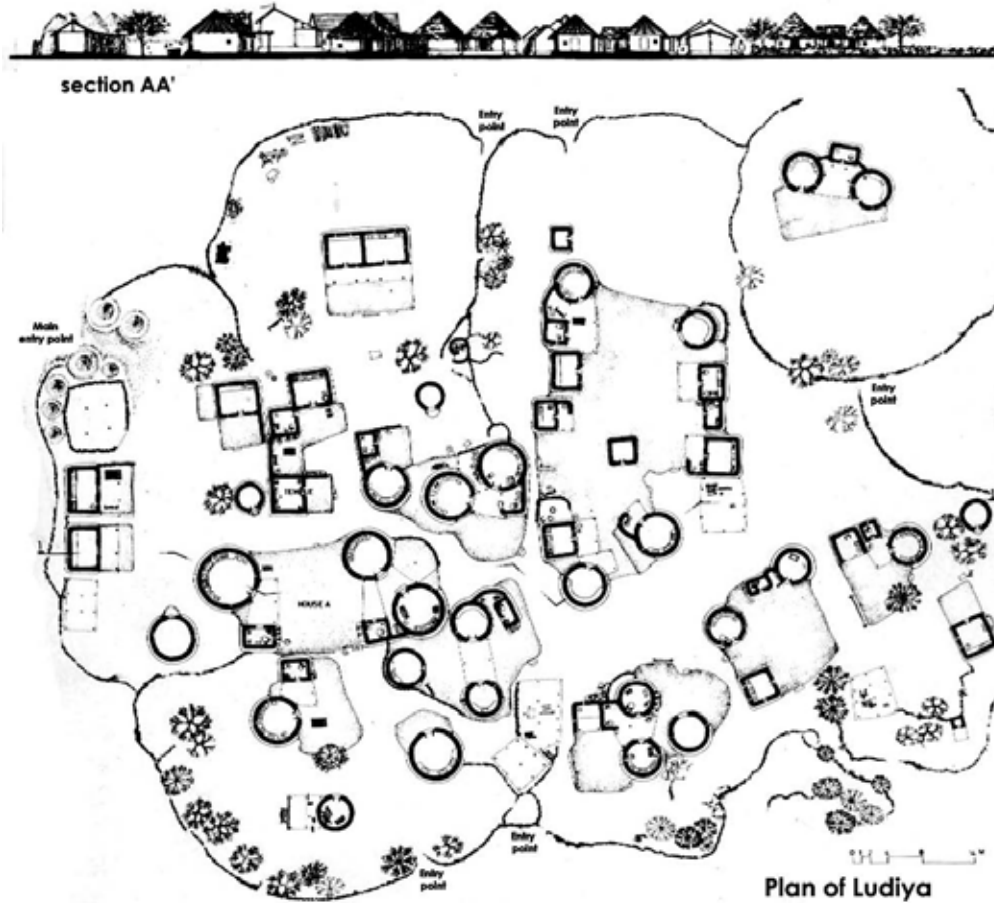
Source: Gaurav Dinodia



House, Amreli, Amreli District

Source: Sangeetha Priya

Bhunga houses in Ludiya and Bunni, kutch
Material: Mud and Grass



Source: "Banni house form, A Study of the phenomenon of change", Aporva Amin, Unpublished thesis, CEPT University



Source: Jay Thakkar



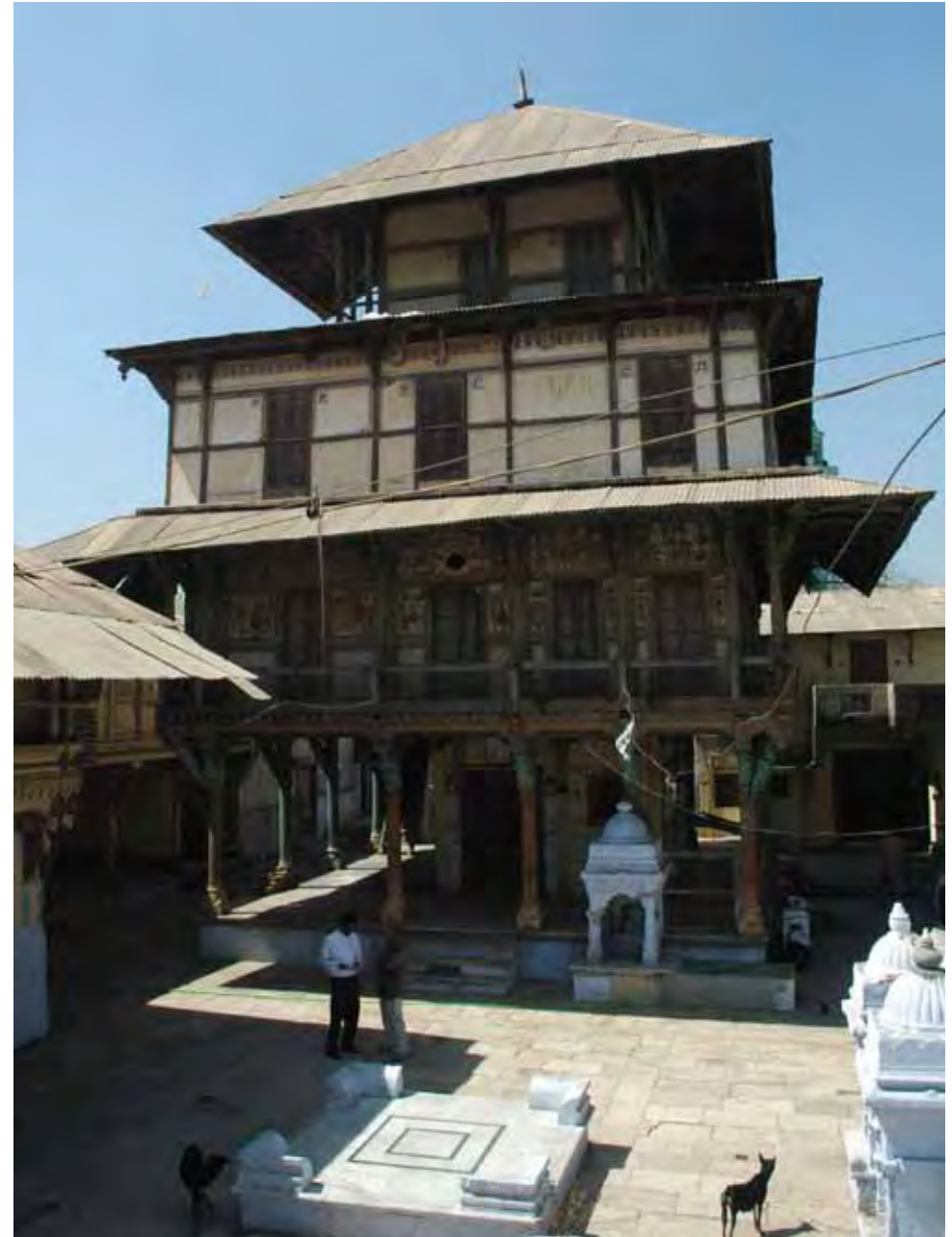
House, Khambat, Anand District

Source: Jay Thakkar



House, Kapadvanj

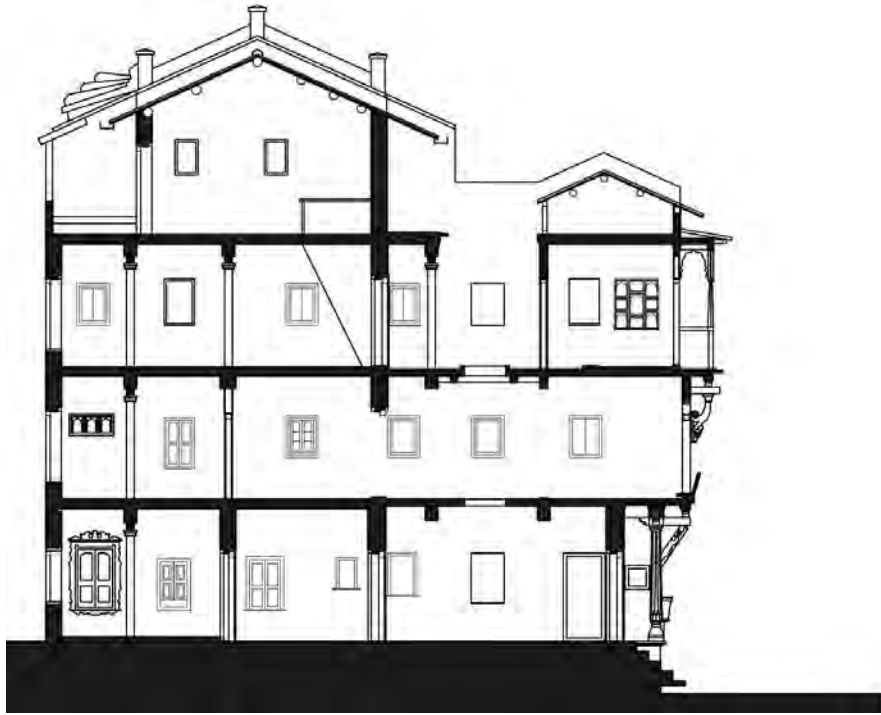
Source: Jay Thakkar



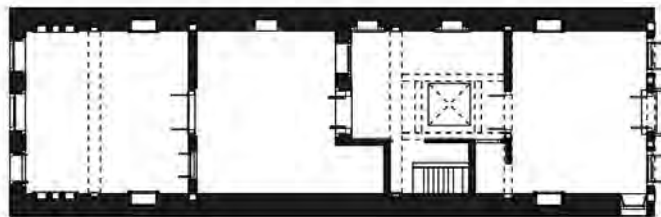
Raj Mahel, Amreli

Source: Jay Thakkar

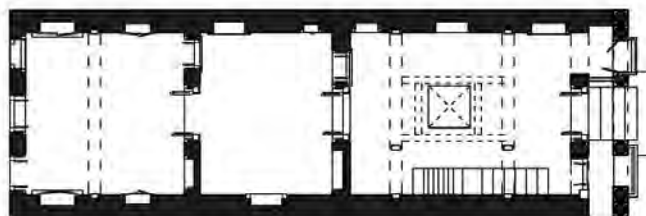
Kapadvanj houses, North Gujarat
Material: Brick masonry with wood



Section



First floor plan



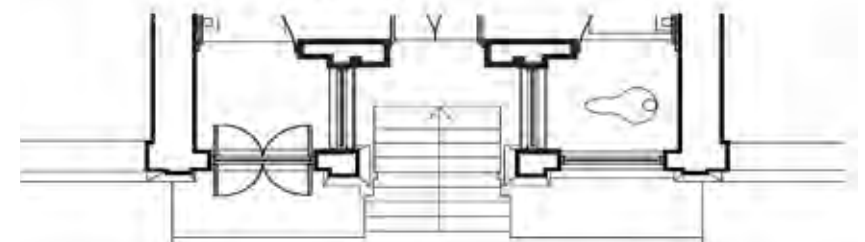
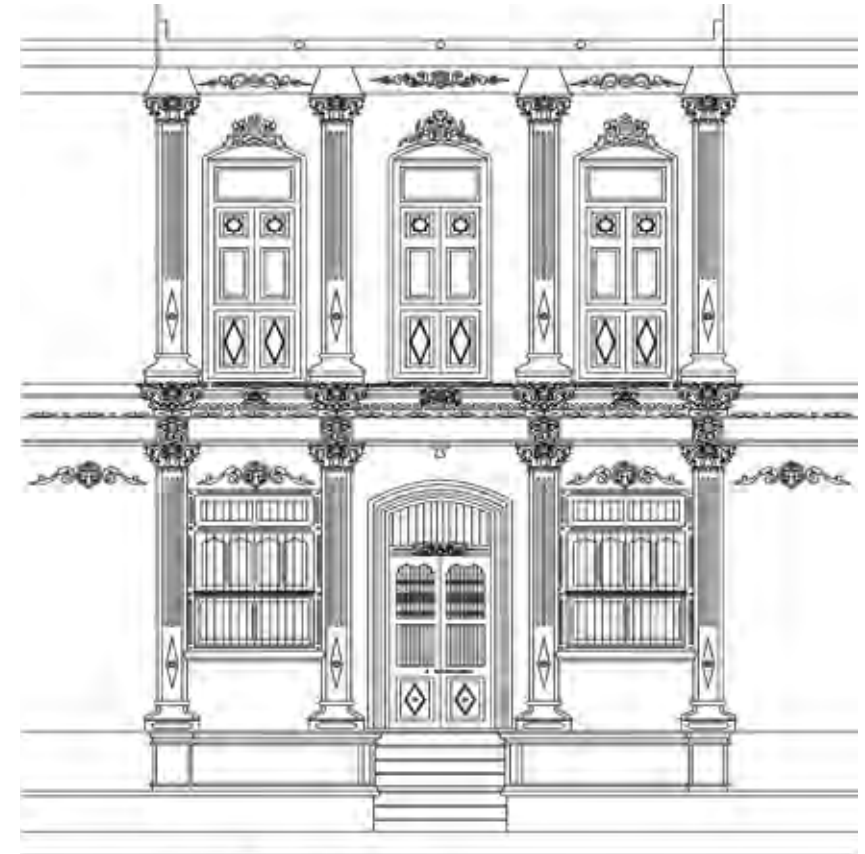
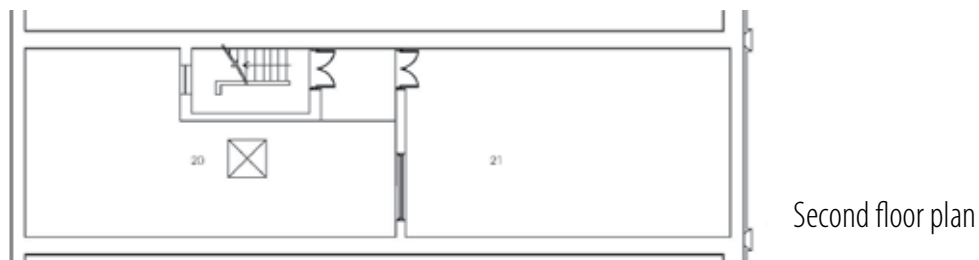
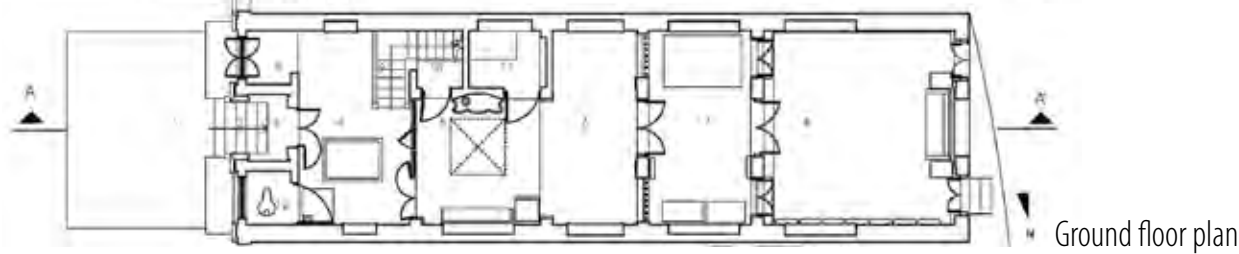
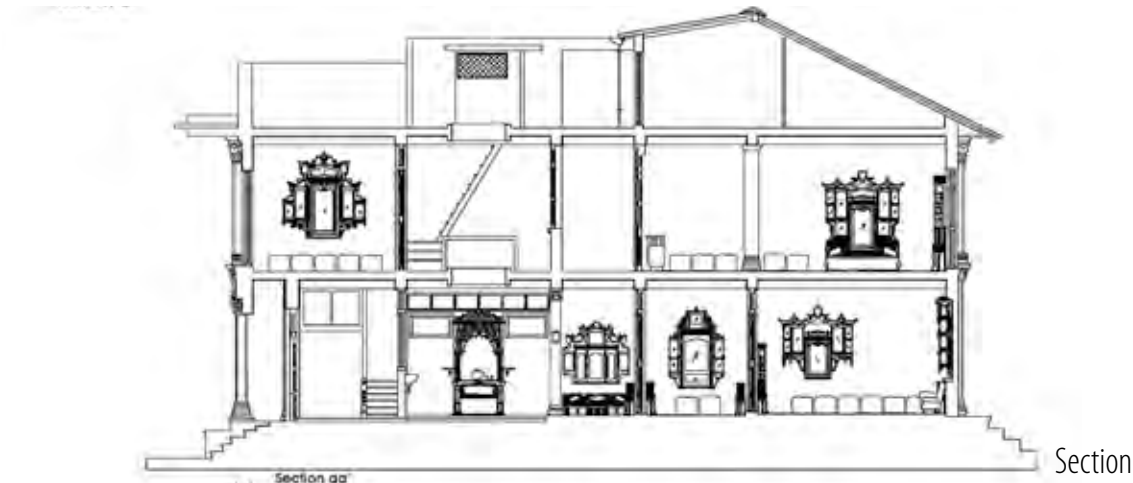
Ground floor plan



Elevation

Source: Cross culture influences and their impact in interior of Bohra houses of Siddhpur. Suthar Shweta, Unpublished thesis, CEPT University

Bohra houses in Sidhpur, North Gujarat
Material: Brick masonry with wood



Source: Cross culture influences and their impact in interior of Bohra houses of Siddhpur. Suthar Shweta, Unpublished thesis, CEPT University



House, Khambat, Anand District

Source: Mitraja Vyas



House, Nadiad, Kheda District

Source: Rishav Jain



House, Nadiad, Kheda District

Source: Rishav Jain



House, Kapadvanj

Source: Jay Thakkar



House, Kapadvanj, Kheda District

Source: Rishav Jain



House, Kapadvanj, Kheda District

Source: Rishav Jain



House, Kapadvanj

Source: Jay Thakkar



Raj Mahel, Amreli

Source: Sangeetha Priya



House, Bhavnagar, Bhavnagar District

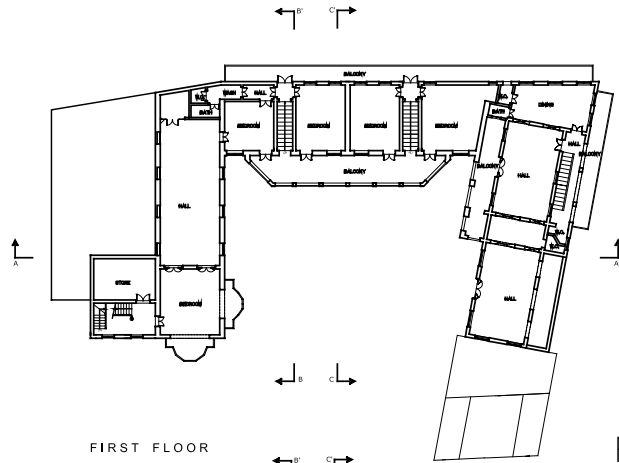
Source: Shri Soumaya



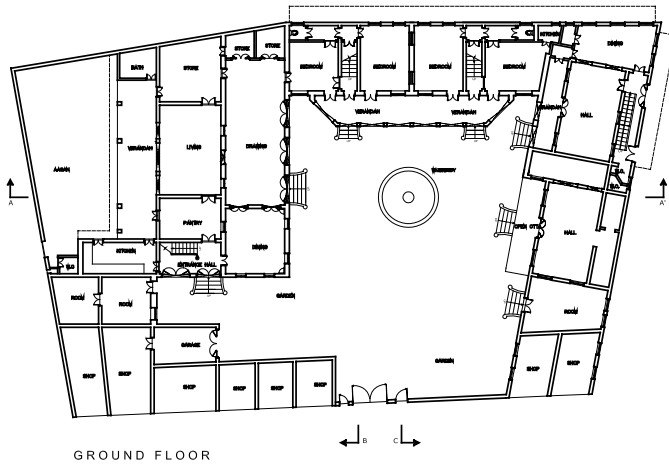
House, Amreli

Source: Sangeetha Priya

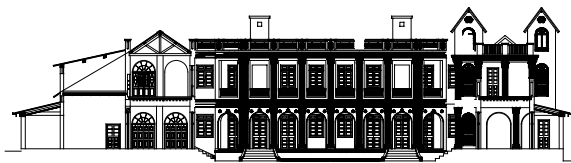
Colonial houses, Ahmedabad, Central Gujarat
Material: Brick masonry with wood



First floor plan



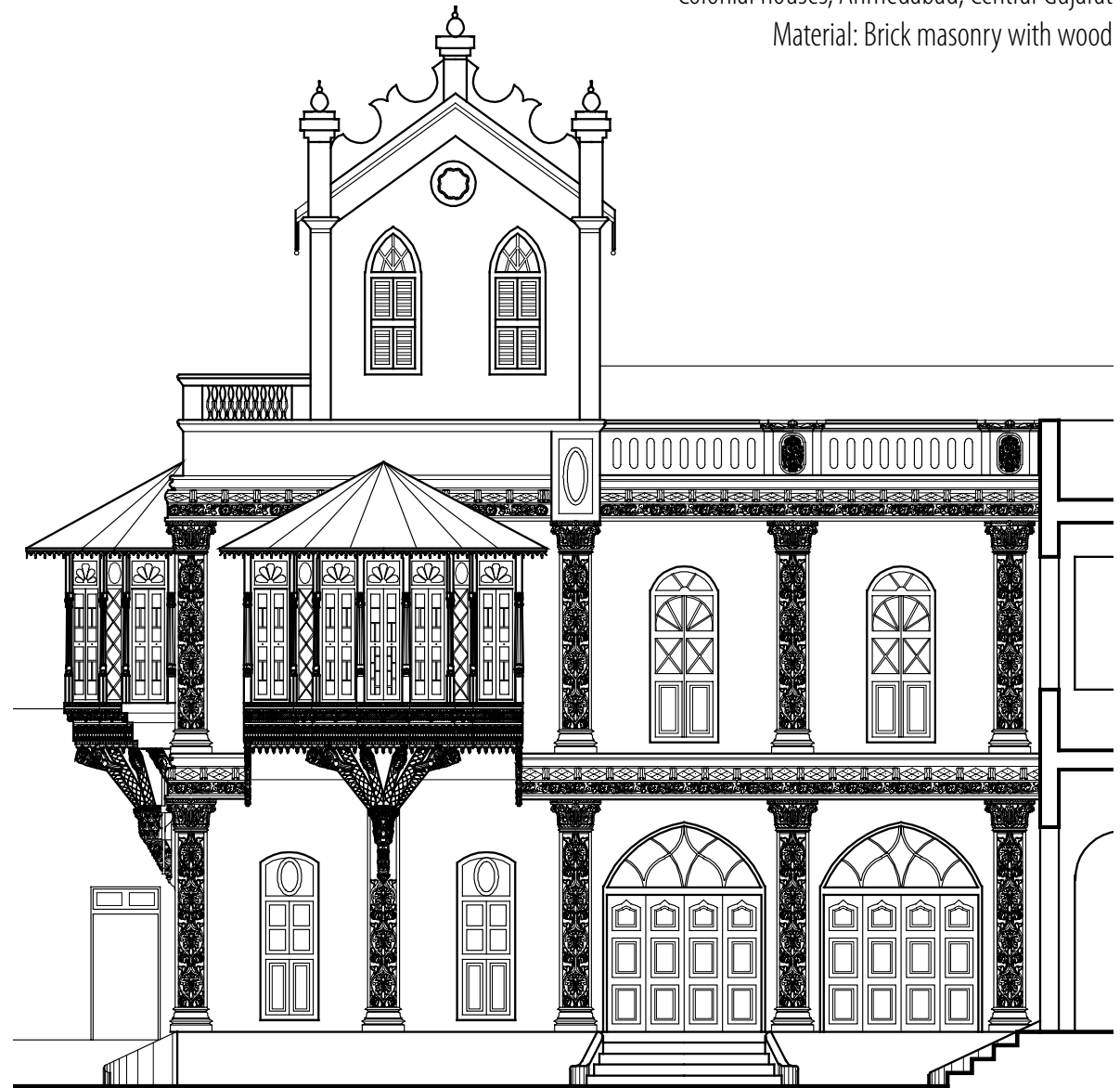
Ground floor plan



Section



Section



Detailed Part Section

Source: Colonial Bungalows of Ahmedabad : A study of characterisation through Interior. Shaikh, Mubassir, Under Graduate Research Thesis, CEPT, 2005.