

Planning and Management of Sustainable Tourism Spaces

Assignment 8

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Student Name: Deepak Chand Ramola

ID Number: DE240295

Adaptive reuse of Colonial Heritage Buildings of Chakrata, Uttarakhand

Overview and Significance of the site.

The town of Chakrata, a cantonment town of Dehradun district, Uttarakhand has many British military buildings of the colonial period, which trace back to the years 1860s. Such buildings as barracks, churches, administrative offices, and the legendary Christ Church (1895) are the great architectural and historic heritage.

Multiple Values

The location has some historical value because of the presence of military infrastructure of the colonial period and a blend of Anglo-Indian architecture. The unique Gothic revival style that has been modified to fit the Himalayan climate, with steep roofs, large stone walls, and wooden structures, is evidence of architectural value. The structures are socially significant to the local communities whose identity is entwined to the built heritage. They are educative as they can help shed light on the past of colonization, military development, and architectural customization. Also, these buildings have scenic importance as they blend with the pristine natural landscape of Chakrata that is at the elevation of 2,118 meters.

Current Threats

The factors of deterioration of these heritage structures are several. Weakness of structure caused by poor maintenance, dampness, timber rot and weakening foundation put stability in danger. The effects of climate such as heavy monsoon, frost, and seismic vulnerability in this Himalayan region add to the degradation. Many buildings after their reduction in military use are abandoned and neglected which results in vandalism and theft of materials. The integrity

and setting are endangered by development pressure posed by the growth of tourism infrastructure in the site. Some of the structures will lose permanently in a decade unless interventions are done.

Proposed Adaptive Reuse

The plan will see the redevelopment of these colonial buildings to be a Heritage Hospitality and Cultural Learning Complex. The Christ Church can be turned into a cultural heritage place and performance site with its spiritual nature. Barracks would be transformed into boutique heritage hotels with little or no additions. A Mountain Ecology and Colonial History Museum could be located in administrative buildings and include both the biodiversity of the region and the history of the region. OQ would become artistic residencies and handicraft workshops creating creative economies.

Preservation of Heritage Values

This is an adaptive reuse model that gives precedence to conservation. Light intervention maintains original cloth condition- retaining load bearing walls, wooden trusses, stone masonry and Gothic architectural features. Things that can be reversed such as adding modern facilities to the available spaces without making permanent changes to the structure do not affect future conservation opportunities. Repair The use of authentic material in repair includes the use of traditional methods: lime mortar, local stone (deodar wood), and fixtures of the appropriate time period.

Functional compatibility makes sure that new applications do not oppose a space planning- large assembly halls will not be divided into smaller parts but will become a gathering space. Interpretive integration involves the exhibition of historical photographs, architectural drawings as well as narrative panels that provide the contextual interpretation of colonial history. The strategy adheres to the principles of the Burra Charter, and acknowledges the cultural significance but permits evolution (Australia ICOMOS, 2013).

Community Benefits

This would bring a lot of benefits to the local communities. The economic opportunities are created by working in the hospitality, guiding, museum management, and craft businesses-they can potentially provide 200+ positions. Improvement of skills in heritage conservation, hospitality management and craft of traditional arts offers youth sustainable livelihoods and minimizes outmigration.

Cultural pride builds up since communities interact with the preserved heritage and this builds identity and transfers the knowledge across generations. The artist residencies and craft workshops would revive the dying traditional arts such as wood carving, and the traditional

Garhwali painting. Heritage tourism enhances infrastructure, such as roads, utilities, sanitation, which is in the interests of a whole community.

This can be achieved by the education improvement program via museum programs, workshops and school partnerships to raise the awareness on heritage among the young generations. Controlled heritage tourism makes Chakrata a sustainable tourism site that is not congested with crowded hill stations, and yields revenue on natural environment conservation. Participatory management which entails the involvement of the local stakeholders guarantees the distribution of benefits and the stewardship of the community.

Conclusion

The former colonial Chakrata has outstanding adaptive reuse. The transformation of these buildings into hospitality and cultural spaces will complement conservation and economic development as the historical authenticity will be preserved without meeting the modern requirements. Heritage conservation is shown to have a positive impact on sustainable tourism, livelihoods, and community identity, which is seen in this model and makes preservation economically viable and socially relevant.

References:

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