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Architectural documentation of heritage buildings in UAE

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Architectural documentation of heritage buildings in the United Arab Emirates has gained momentum in the past decade with the rapid urbanization of the Emirates including Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, UAE. This has been spearheaded through various government departments focusing on architectural conservation of these historic buildings. The school has delved into architectural documentation as a part of the bachelor of architecture program to give students a hands-on insight of the built environment and deconstruct the details into drawings since 2012. As a part of this academic journey, Al Mahatta, the first airport of the Middle-East Region was documented in 2014-15. This documentation led to the consolidated project of preparing a conservation management plan for the museum. This was followed by two projects representing Al Mahatta within the urban fabric of the Emirate of Sharjah as well as the neighborhood where it is currently located. This paper delves into the importance of incorporating smart materials in architectural conservation. The paper further delves into the relevance of the technology domain in architectural education and the impact of smart materials of students' approaches to learning.



References

1. AGI "Approaches to Learning in Architectural Design - A Classification," Abstract No. 65 in RIBA President's Awards for Research 2017 - Book of Abstracts.
2. AGI & Kairmein Deboo, "Archiving an Impression – Al Mahatta and Sharjah," Conservation Management Plan and Urban Analysis at Al Mahatta Museum, Sharjah, UAE from June 2017 to Jan 2018

Recent Publications

1. Ashok G Iyer (2015) Review of approaches to learning adopted by architecture students in the coursework of architectural design archi DOCT. *The e-Journal for the Dissemination of Doctoral Research in Architecture*; 3(1): 21-30.
2. Ashok G Iyer & Andrew Roberts (2014) A Phenomenographic Study in Understanding Architecture Students' Approaches to Learning the Coursework of Architectural Design. *Journal for Education in the Built Environment (JEBE)*; 9(1): 89-109.

Biography

Ashok Ganapathy Iyer is the Chairperson of School of Design & Architecture (SoDA), Manipal Academy of Higher Education Dubai (MAHE-Dubai). He is currently pursuing his PhD Studies at Welsh School of Architecture. His research interests are at the classification of the approaches to learning adopted by students in their design coursework through the five years of the architecture program. He has pursued his Masters in Architectural Studies at Sir J.J College of Architecture, Mumbai, India and Bachelor's degree from Pillai College of Architecture, Navi Mumbai, India. He was a Faculty at Sir J.J College and Rizvi College of Architecture Mumbai. His other research interests include urban studies and historic architectural developments to construct pattern language, issues of sustainability in contemporary architecture, fine arts and architecture heritage cum documentation.

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