

# CULTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

LOCATION : MYSURU, KARNATAKA.

INTRODUCTION



## MYSURU DISTRICT

Mysuru district has a rich history with many pre-historic sites, monuments, forts, temples, mosques and churches depicting the archaeological, architectural and heritage value of the region.  
 The district possesses excellent fauna and flora, rivers, hillsides, lakes and a moderate climate.  
 Mysuru city is the headquarters of Mysuru district which forms one of the southern most district of Karnataka State.  
 Mysuru is the name by which Karnataka State was known prior to 1957.  
 The city is in the south-western direction from Bangalore at a distance of 139 km and is well connected by rail and road.  
 It covers an area of 128.42 Sq. Km, having City Municipal Corporation since 1972.  
 The population of the city is 8,87,416 consisting of 4,43,815 males and 4,43,633 of females as per provisional report of Census India - 2011.

The city with the majestic Mysuru Palace, the royal museums, public buildings, gardens, water bodies and planned markets exhibit an indelible impression of the vision of the Maharajas, their Deans and other talented luminaries of the City Municipality, as early as 1862.

The total harmony of buildings, sites, lakes, parks, open spaces of Mysuru and the back drop of Chamundi hills add to city's attraction.



The antiquity of Mysuru dates back to the days of the Mahabharata. Tradition identifies the place as the abode of Mahishasura whom Chamundeshwari killed and the name Mysuru is associated with a Maharama and Devarajama, the two Pundhrit Katis, allies to the despatch of Bhadrith missionary Mathava to the Masuru emperor Asoka to Mahishasuramarka to propagate Hinduism.  
 The epigraphic speak of Mahishasura, Mahisharajama and Mahisharajama.  
 Ornamantal of Tamil classics is also identified as Mysuru and an inscription dated 562 AD from Kadalar in Mandya taluk refers to the place as Mysuru.  
 In the 10th century, the city was called Mysuru Naha of 70 villages. After 1429, this town was clearly mentioned as Mysuru.



## MYSURU DASARA

The Mysuru city and its surroundings have a large number of industrial units.  
 The city is an educational centre and in addition to many colleges and the Mysuru University.  
 The city has the oldest Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens and many parks and gardens.  
 There are a few lakes in the city of which Langubalu, Kulkarashali and Kanari are very popular.

The city is also known, throughout the world, the traditional Dasara Festival is held here annually during the Navaratri.  
 The tourists would throng the city from all over the country and abroad to witness the Jambore Sarafal (elephant) procession, the occasion in which decorated elephants with the procession route, majestic. The Maharaja used to sit in the howdah earlier.  
 The tradition was maintained in full vigour for more than a decade even after the country acquired independence.  
 Now, under the changed political and administrative conditions, Dasara is being organised in the city in a modified form as Naada Habba, festival of the land.  
 On the tenth day of the festival, the grand procession of Goddess Chamundeshwari accompanied by lamp-bearers is the chief attraction.

## MYSURU SILK

Karnataka produces 9,000 metric tons of mulberry silk of a total of 14,000 metric tons produced in the country thus contributing to nearly 70% of the country's total mulberry silk. In Karnataka, silk is mainly grown in the Mysuru district.  
 In 1960 the Silk rearing factory was handed over to Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Ltd., a Govt. of Karnataka's enterprise and is popularly known as KSI.  
 About half a century ago, cultivation of these small green caterpillars were spread over at least 100 acres from Pavani to Chelavari in Old Agrahara to Vikarajapuram junction that connects Mysuru-Nanjangud Road.  
 It was also cultivated in neighbouring areas spread over some 500 acres.  
 Mysuru 'Chigirek' was preferred most as it has an unparalleled taste.  
 Probably the unique climate and soil in this stretch gave the leaves a unique taste that earned it the name 'Mysuru Chigirek'. But, with years, gradual denaturation of the market, chewing betel leaves is becoming a thing of the past, limiting it to religious ceremonies.

## MYSURU PETA

Mysuru has its own specialty 'Mysuru Peta'. In a traditional indigenous attire worn by the erstwhile Kings of Mysuru.  
 Kings wore a richly bejeweled turban made of silk and jani (gold threaded lace) to match with colorful dresses as part of the royal dress.  
 Kings wore the traditional Mysuru Peta as headdress during the Durbar.  
 The attractive and colorful turban is a headdress made up of long scarf like single piece of cloth made of silk or cotton wound round the head cap and is often decorated with golden or silver laces and beautiful metal pendants that adds to its glory and grandeur.  
 Distinguished people are honored by the award of a Mysuru Peta in formal functions.

## MYSURU SANDAL

Sandalwood has been a part of the religious and spiritual traditions of India and has been used in traditional medicine.  
 The Mysuru Kingdom in India was one of the largest producers of sandalwood in the world.  
 It was also one of the major exporters of the wood, most of which was exported to Europe.  
 During the First World War, large reserves of sandalwood were left over because they could not be exported due to the war.  
 In order to make good use of these reserves, Nairadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, the king of Mysuru established the Government Soap Factory in Bangalore.  
 Factory, which was set up in 1916, started manufacturing soaps under the brand name Mysuru sandal soap using sandalwood oil as the main ingredient.

## MYSURU BETAL LEAF

Mysuru pak is a sweet dish of Karnataka, India, usually served as dessert.  
 It is made of generous amounts of ghee (clarified butter), sugar and gram flour.  
 Pak or Paka in Kannada means the sugar syrup or generally paka (also referred to as a dish resembling mullapaka and Bhimpapaka).  
 Legend is that Mysuru pak was first created in the kitchen of the Mysuru Palace by a palace cook named Kalkaru Madappa out of the above ingredients.  
 The sweet that was termed delighted the royals so much that it became a 'Royal Sweet' a delicacy from the Mysuru Palace.  
 The king relished the sweet so much that he got Madappa to set up their outside the palace grounds so that it could be made available to common people.



## MYSURU GANJIFA CARDS

This is miniature painting from Mysuru school.  
 This playing card is painted with superior brush using natural colors and gold.  
 This is executed in different shapes of ivory-board or sandal-wood sheets.  
 Originally this one thousand year old playing card from India was known in Sindh in 'Kirooda Pata'.  
 A masala dosa is made by stuffing a dosa with a lightly cooked filling of potatoes, fried onions and spices.  
 The dosa is stuffed around an onion and potato curry.  
 It is also cited as top ten tasty foods of the world (2012) and also it is listed as number 29 on World's 50 most delicious foods in 2011.  
 This came to be known as masala dosa, from sandalwood or spearmint during the preparation of the potato palya.

## TRADITIONAL MYSURU PAINTINGS

This unique style of painting originated about AD 1525. During the reign of Maharaja King Krishnaraja Wodeyar III (1799-1868) of Mysore.  
 The painting procedure comprises the basic 'Sissa' Work and the use of Traditional colors and thin red gold leaf for embellishment.  
 The most popular themes are the traditional deities of the Hindu pantheon, and royal traditions.  
 Mysuru style painting is characterized by intricate use of colors and fine relief work to be preserved as prized possessions for ever.

## MYSURU MALLIGE

Mysuru Mallige.  
 Botanical name: *Isatis tinctoria* L. of the Brassicaceae family is the most popular among the three varieties of Jasmine endemic to the Haldagi Mallige; *Isatis tinctoria* (L.) Ait. (Vello and Udupi Mallige) (*Isatis tinctoria* (L.) Ait.)  
 Faded workbooks for their fragrance, all the three flower varieties have been patented and registered under Intellectual Property Right.  
 Mysuru Mallige derives its name since it is grown mostly around Mysuru city and partly in Srirangapatna taluk in Mandya district in Karnataka state.  
 The Jamma's association with the city of Mysuru, patronized by the Wodeyars of the Kingdom of Mysuru, became its fragrance as a powerful as the famous Dasara Festival held every year in the city during October.  
 Apart from the local market, the flower is in demand in parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.



## DEVARAJA MOHALLA SHIVRAMPETE

### Silver Jubilee Clock Tower (Dodda Ghadyara)

This 75-foot, square tower is topped in Indo-Saracenic style, the curvilinear chhatra lending a Rajasthani touch to the domed canopy which rests on a conical base just above the 3-foot diameter clock.  
 Height: 75 feet tall square.  
 Diameter: 3 feet diameter.  
 Clock Architecture: Early English Church.  
 The grandest accent of the two lower stories is well proportioned and there are handsome design features like double arches framing six windows of Early-English church architecture. The structure is appropriately set on a base similar a well-tended circular square.

Chikka Ghadyara breaks the more formal shop fronts with open space designed for easy, traditional bargaining over fruits, vegetables, flowers and the like with a clock tower in the centre. The market is very pleasant to sit in this square because vehicle parking is banned in the spot.



Chikka Ghadyara also known as Dullerian Clock Tower.  
 The clock tower is built on a foundation of eight pillars covered by railings. A decorated fountain at the center is the showpiece of the structure. The local people call the clock tower Chikka Ghadyara or the small clock tower. The clock tower has historic importance of its location in front of the monumental Devaraja Market.

The market was a two story structure with ground and first floor, due to various reasons parts of the market collapsed and the upper floor is presently not in use. The market has temporary structures in between.

## AGRAHARA

An agraharam or agrahara was a grant of land and royal income from it, typically by a king or a noble family, to religious purposes, particularly to Brahmins to maintain temples in that, or a pilgrimage site and to sustain their families.  
 Agraharams were also known as chaturvedimangalam in ancient times.  
 According to the traditional hindu practice of architecture and town planning, an agraharam is held to be two rows of houses running north-south on either side of a road at one end, a temple to vidyas.

## AGRAHARA

The row houses sharing a common wall had a long verandah running along the front portion, supported by stone and wooden pillars.  
 The houses had verandah at the entrance for social activities and a platform slightly raised from the street which runs the entire length of the row houses. It also acts as a transition from the street to the dwelling.  
 A passage which starts at the street faceruns through the house ending at the backyard.  
 The agrahara were usually followed a linear planning, quite in contrast to the arrangement of rooms around the courtyards as in the houses.

## PLANNING

The agraharas were usually followed a linear planning, quite in contrast to the arrangement of rooms around the courtyards as in the houses.  
 The planning of the agraharams followed grid iron or concentric ring patterns with the temple forming the main focus.  
 The row of houses is either single or double storied with the traditional pitched roof from striking a significant profile against the sky. The streets were narrow and formed an integral extension of the 'living space'.

## DEVARAJA MARKET

In Mysuru's main town and vegetable market, laid over a mallah. Year planned shopping along the Street.  
 Koo road with styled frontages also leads you to this market plaza.

## DEVARAJA MARKET

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## COURTYARDS

The courtyards and houses of agrahara show a direct response to the climatic conditions of the place, in the hot humid climate conditions of this region, the courtyard ensures easy ventilation. The opening in the roof provides light to the windowless rooms.



# CULTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

TOPIC: DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHITECTURE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURE  
 LOCATION: AGRAHARA, MYSORE, KARNATAKA.

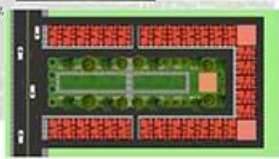
## PLANNING OF AGRAHARA

### INTRODUCTION

- The origin behind planning of the agrahara's in mysore was to give the poverty people housing facilities.
- So king nalwadi krishna raja wodeyer saw the poor people settlements around the elephant stable where it used be forest before.
- That area had different caste of people living in huts as their dwellings.
- Their main occupation was fishing (backward class) & making horse-shoe (muslims).
- The king decided to give shelter to these people by making their respective community as one group.
- He wanted to give them all the facilities for their betterment of life to live in the community.
- So he provided electricity, sanitation, street light, parks for interaction, radio house as well for people entertainment.
- They had 21 houses in total in rajaram layout. Every house same layout.
- Size of each unit is 17 x 24 ft.
- They had interior road inside the layout 5m.
- They have secondary road made out of stone pavers connecting the layouts.
- They have central park as main interaction zone.
- Where they have jogging track and radio house as main entertainment.
- They had good services connectivity as well water & sanitation.

No. of floors

	MYSORE AGRAHARA	RAJARAM AGRAHARA
FIRST FLOOR	3	11
SECOND FLOOR	12	0
THIRD FLOOR	5	0



## MYSURU - RAJARAMA AGRAHARA

### AGRAHARA :

- An agrahara or Agrahara was a group of land and roof rooms from it typically by a king or a noble.
- Being, to religious practices performed by Brahmins (priests) that had a religious or a village deity.
- Aggraharas were also known as Agraharashala or Agraharashala.
- According to the traditional Hindu practice of Agrahara and Agraharashala, an Agrahara is a group of houses having north-south or other form of a grid or a row and a central street.



### LOCATION :

- Rajaram Agrahara is located Rajaram 8<sup>th</sup> cross.
- Distance from railway station is 4.5 km.
- From bus station the distance is 3 km.
- They had 21 houses in total in rajaram layout.
- The street facing from the Agrahara is 100 m.
- The distance from old bus station of Agrahara is 1.5 km.
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### EVOLUTION OF RAJARAM AGRAHARA:

- The plan was first created for the Mysuru Agrahara whose situation was from the history and land in the city.
- It was when the king plan for his temple towards the temple for the history of the children living in the place without shelter and decided to make arrangements for their basic needs.
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### PLANNING :

- The planning of the Agrahara is influenced with a central street and surrounding one house with a central street.
- It has a central street for community meeting and the area for children's.
- Every house has a front verandah, or verandah and a central street.
- Large scale operation and purchase will add to the existing layout.

### STREET STUDY :

The main concept of design the layout was first they wanted to give services like water & sanitation in grid form.

The second concept was to give the interaction space to people in each of their layout which is very common culture in Mysore.

The form of the layout pattern and grid.



The planning of the houses was rectangle spaces interlocking.

- They wanted an interaction zone in front of the each house.
- They divided the house into public, semi-public, private zones.
- Size of each unit was 17' x 23' ft.
- The old houses in the agrahara had one bedroom.
- The present houses has 2 bedroom by the renovating their houses.
- The houses has slope roof with lean-to - FANS INFRONT OF THE HOUSES.



## ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

### RAMARAJA AGRAHARA



Rise window on the top of the doors for day lighting and ventilation.



Windows in the facade for ventilation and lighting. It can also be used for interaction and for get outside view for security purpose.



2 columns in the floor of each house to support the sloping roof.



Staircase made by Mangalore tiles.



### SRINIVASA AGRAHARA



Similar to Ramaraja Agrahara houses.



The front floor is covered with Mangalore tiles.



The roofs are more sloping than Ramaraja house roof.



Used for sitting or parking of vehicles.



Used as attic above the bedrooms, since the houses are small.



Used to drain out the rain water.

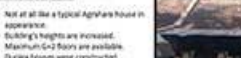
### TYPOLGY 1



Similar to Ramaraja Agrahara houses.



The front floor is covered with Mangalore tiles.



The roofs are more sloping than Ramaraja house roof.



Used for sitting or parking of vehicles.



Used as attic above the bedrooms, since the houses are small.



Used to drain out the rain water.

### TYPOLGY 2



Similar to the typical Agrahara house.



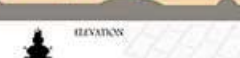
The residents made changes according to their needs.



Some building materials were used in construction like steel columns in design.



Window size, facade design were changed.



Columns were kept similarly in the floor to support the sloping roof.



Some drains were covered in front of the houses.

### TYPOLGY 3



Not all as a typical Agrahara house in appearance.



Building's heights are increased.



Maximum G+2 floors are possible.



Double floors were constructed.



Residents started giving houses on rent.



Occupied less space horizontally.

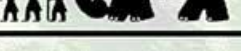
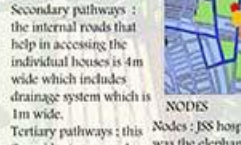
### ARCHITECTURAL MATERIALS

Rajaram Agrahara : (Old traditional style)

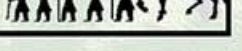
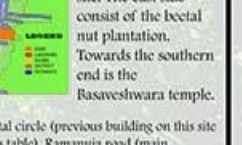
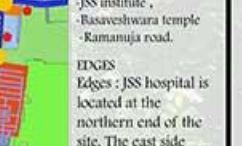
- Roof : Mangalore tiles and timber rafters-pitched roofing.
- Floor : Red oxide
- Wall : Brick wall

Srinivasa Agrahara : (Modern style)

- Roof : Flat roof - concrete slab, pitched roof - Mangalore tiles.
- Floor : Tiles
- Wall : concrete walls and brick walls.



### STREET STUDY



## COMMON FEATURES IN BOTH THE AGRAHARAS



The middle house stood out among others.



2 floors in a row - main, kitchen and verandah.

## COMMON FEATURES IN BOTH THE AGRAHARAS

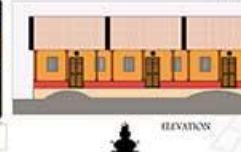


Level difference since it was a sloping site.



It was a tradition in Mysore to give a park in the complex of many houses. The parks were common in Agraharas.

## COMMON FEATURES IN BOTH THE AGRAHARAS

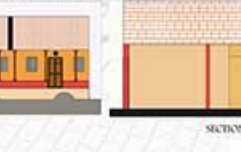


Parks were given of roads to connect 2 Agraharas.



Parks are surrounded by houses from 3 sides.

## COMMON FEATURES IN BOTH THE AGRAHARAS



Plan view of section.



Plan view of section.

## COMMON FEATURES IN BOTH THE AGRAHARAS



Plan view of section.



Plan view of section.

## LANDMARK

- JSS hospital,
- JSS institute,
- Basaveswara temple - Ramanuja road.

## EDGES

- Edges : JSS hospital is located at the northern end of the site. The east side consist of the beetal nut plantation.
- Towards the southern end is the Basaveswara temple.

## NODES

- Nodes : JSS hospital circle (previous building on this site was the elephants table). Ramanuja road (main circulation road).

## DISTRICT

- District : Ramachandra Agrahara.
- Landmark : JSS hospital, Basaveswara temple, Ramanuja road.



