Symposium Note & Objectives

The National Scientific Committee (NSC) for Shared Built Heritage & ICOMOS India East Zone are organizing a one day symposium at Kolkata on 4th December 2017 on the theme of “Shared Built Heritage of Bengal: Issues & Opportunities”.

The symposium is part of the tour organised for the International Scientific Committee (ISC) of Shared Built Heritage which focuses on Kolkata, Serampore, Chandernagore, Chinsurah and Murshidabad. Participants will comprise select international delegates, who are members of the ISC Shared Built Heritage. They will subsequently attend the 19th General Assembly & Scientific Symposium 2017 for ICOMOS organised between 11th - 15th December in New Delhi on the theme of “Heritage & Democracy”.

The Symposium is designed to provide a platform for Shared Built Heritage of Bengal, as a dialogue between Indian and International delegates. Issues on focus would include policy, governance, the role of the private and voluntary sector along with learning from academic and professional projects being undertaken in the region. The symposium is envisioned as a public event attended by key decision makers, students, professionals and citizens of Kolkata at large. The week-long tour is an opportunity for putting forth the Indian/South Asian perspective and approach to Shared Built Heritage in India, of which the Symposium is critical for the Bengal discourse.

Venue Partner : Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR
INTRODUCTION
As a country with a rich civilizational history, embedding complex, multi-layered narratives that are in a state of cultural continuum, Indian cities offer a dynamic canvas to explore many hidden layers and meanings of the past. Within this rich tapestry, the strand of shared built heritage in India takes on many forms and meanings, the most challenging being the layer associated with country's colonial legacy. The questions that remain at the core of this debate is whose heritage is this anyway? When the custodians are not the creators of the heritage, do we look to the glory of the past or move towards the future? What approach is appropriate for the treatment of shared built heritage in India? Over the last three decades there have been many initiatives, some government led, some privately steered and some ground-up community programmes that have explored the many complexities faced by shared built heritage across the country. The tour is planned to explore the shared built heritage of each of these settlements that is linked by the Hooghly river and the symposium shall provide the opportunity to explore the issues and challenges faced for their conservation and development. The tour will be stationed in Calcutta, also the symposium venue, and short trips would be designed to familiarise the participants with the area as well as the context of this heritage.

About the Resource Persons:

Aishwarya Tipnis is the principal architect of an eponymous architectural practice based in New Delhi working on architectural and urban heritage conservation in India. An alumnus of the School of Planning & Architecture New Delhi, she has Master's Degree in European Urban Conservation with distinction from the University of Dundee, Scotland in 2007. She is recipient of the UNESCO Award for Heritage Conservation in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2016. She was selected to represent India at the Global Cultural Leadership Programme, First Edition as part of the European Union's Cultural Diplomacy Platform in 2016. She is also the recipient of Commonwealth Professional Fellowship 2011 and Bonjour India Travel Fellowship 2010. She is the author of "Vernacular Traditions: Contemporary Architecture" published 2012. She is part of the UNESCO expert team preparing the CCMP for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway World Heritage Site and consultant to the Doon School, Dehradun.

aishwaryatipnisarchitects@gmail.com

Kamalika Bose is an urban conservationist with experience in heritage-oriented planning and advocacy, design education and research. She is a Fulbright Scholar (2011-13), a SAH-Getty International Fellow (2016), and former Assistant Professor at CEPT University, Ahmedabad (2008-15). She obtained a Master's in Historic Preservation Planning from Cornell University in 2013. Kamalika gained international work experience in neighborhood preservation and cultural heritage through positions at Historic Districts Council, New York and Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, New York. She has authored three books, including 'A History of Interior Design in India, Vol 1: Ahmedabad.' She was Research Associate for 'Architecture in India: Since 1990' by Rahul Mehrotra (2011) and Project Manager for the seminal exhibition 'The State of Architecture: Practices & Processes in India' in 2016. She is consultant to Cha Project for Kolkata’s Chinatown and Murshidabad Heritage Development Society.

kamalikabose@gmail.com

TOUR SCHEDULE:

Fri  Dec 01: Arrival in Kolkata
Welcome Reception & Dinner hosted by INTACH, Kolkata

Sat  Dec 02: Walking Tours of Kolkata
1. Dalhousie Square : by Calcutta Walks
2. Chinatown & Confluence of Cultures by Calcutta Walks
3. Scottish Cemetery by Neeta Das

Sun  Dec 03: Day Trip to the former European - Trading Settlements in Bengal Serampore led by Fleming Aalund, Serampore Initiative, Chandernagore & Chinsurah led by Aishwarya Tipnis
Return to Kolkata by night

Mon Dec 04: Day-long Symposium
SHARED BUILT HERITAGE OF BENGAL : ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES
Venue: Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR, Kolkata

Tue Dec 05: Walking Tours of Kolkata
1. South Kolkata Art Deco Neighbourhoods by Calcutta Architectural Legacies
2. Indian Botanical Gardens, Howrah by Nilina Deblal
3. College Square : by INTACH, Kolkata
4. North Kolkata Mansions & Neighbourhoods : by Kamalika Bose & Indrani Sarkar

Cultural Evening at Sovabazaar Natmandir

Wed Dec 06: Trip to Azimganj, Murshidabad Heritage Walk by Murshidabad Heritage Development Society Seminar on Place-making as part of “Silk River Project 2017” by Kinetha UK Dinner Reception at Dudhoria Rajbari

Thu Dec 07: Day Tour of Murshidabad
Visits to Hazarduari Palace, Katra Masjid, Katgola Palace Lunch at Cossimbazaar Rajbari
Return to Kolkata by night

Fri  Dec 08: Free day, Kolkata sight-seeing
Return to Delhi by evening flight