



International Council on Monuments and Sites  
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ICOMOS International Scientific Committee  
on Shared Built Heritage

**West Bengal Study Tour & Symposium 2017  
participants contributions**



SBH Study Tour welcome and dinner in the board room of *The Calcutta Swimming Club* (1 Strand, Dalhousie, Kolkata). The Club is the oldest in India, began in 1887 although this building dates from c1923. [photo: Gwynn Jenkins]



St Olav's Church c1806 in the Danish settlement of Frederiksnagore, now Serampore. It was restored by the National Museum and Serampore Collage, with assistance from the Danish Ministry of Culture Fund. It won the 2016 UNESCO Asia Pacific Award. The entrance has an open portico of twin columns under a broken-base pediment containing the royal monogram of King Christian VII. It reflects the designs of British India, in particular those in Calcutta, which in turn were inspired by contemporary designs popular in Britain, such as St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London [photo: Gwynn Jenkins]



A roof terrace  
reception on the

*Roxburgh House* c1794 on the banks of the Hooghly River in the Indian Botanical Garden at Shibpur, Howrah. Many botanists were recruited by the East India Company, a being Scot William Roxburgh, regarded by many as the founding father of Indian botany [Gwynn Jenkins]



Chandannagore Court House in the former French trading post established in 1673. It was the main commercial centre for Bengal until a series of French-British wars, after which commerce moved to Calcutta [photo: Ai Tee]





Kolkata Botanical Gardens - the SBH group under the canopy of the 250 year old *Great Banyan Tree* covers 3.5 acres, and claimed to be the widest tree in the world [photo: Ai Tee]



British Deputy High Commissioner, Bruch Bucknell, with SBH members during a discussion evening in a Masanbad ancestral mansion house. [photo: Ai Tee]



French foreshore promenade and pavilion at Chandannagar (formerly Chandernagore) alongside the Hooghly River - a cultural landscape one would not easily expect to find in India. Since it is standing in India, it is a fine example of shared heritage, now a landmark for the city. [photo: Ai Tee words: B Goes]



South Kolkata Art Deco Neighbourhood walk on 5 December lead by Jawhar Sircar (centre blue shirt) [photo: Ai Tee]





British High Commissioner with SBH members at Mass mansion and local cultural displays in Masanbad [photo: Ai Tee]



The trip to West Bengal in December was a great experience, well organized by our new India colleagues, ever elegant as they are.  
This was at the former 17th century Dutch fort barracks at Chinsurah, still in use by the local community now the madras school. [Photo: Benedict Goes]



Aishwarya Tipnis, ICOMOS India National Scientific Committee for Shared Built Heritage, next to a plaque in the public square of Chinsurah, erected by a local initiative and sponsored by the Dutch Embassy, highlighting the shared heritage all over the city. [photo: Benedict Goes]

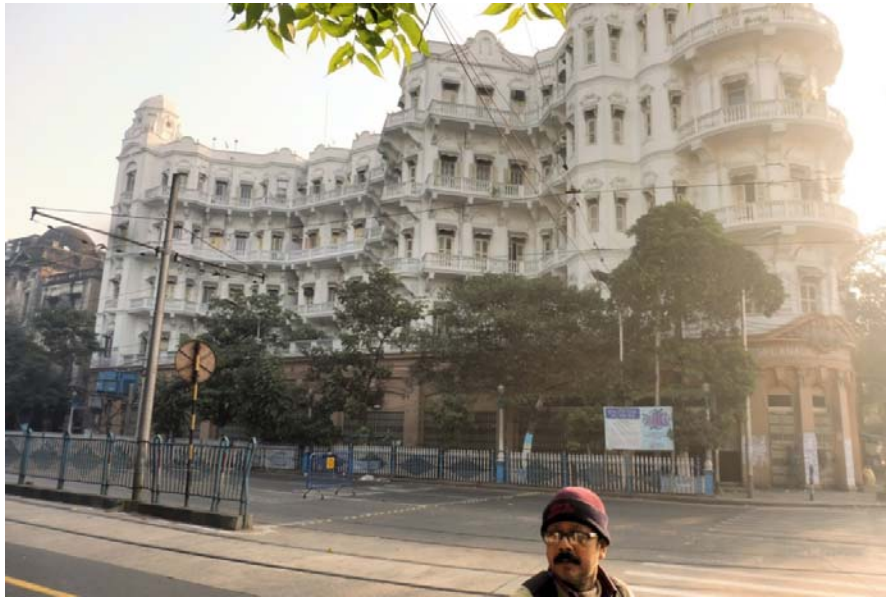


An example of seemingly 'alien' architecture in India, the Olav Church in Serampore, crowned with the initials of King Christian VII of Denmark. [photo: Benedict Goes]



The British High Commissioner, Bruce Bucknell, in Murshidabad as a guest of honor at Cossimbazar Rajbari (Royal Palace) flanked by its proud pater familias, Mr Prosanta Kumar Roy, his wife and son. When the British shorter passage by cutting-off the meander of the Ganges River, it caused Cossimbazar to lose its important as a port city and commercial hub. The Roy family continue to operate a silk business in the town and in Kolkata. [photo: Benedict Goes]





India is a remarkable country with its long history of invasions and Kolkata (and area) is a unique example of the coming together of many cultures to create a new city. The apartment block, *Esplanade Mansion*, is on Marx Engels Beethi Rd. in Calcutta near BBD Bagh. This remarkable building has elements of European architectural styles yet is adapted to the climate of Calcutta to take advantage of any breezes. Another example of SBH that I was most intrigued with was the adaptation of Art Deco which was introduced well after independence. [Photo: McGillivray]



Some of the SBH group at the Armenian Church of St. John the Baptist c1695-1707 in the then Dutch colony of Hooghly-Chinsurah. It is the second oldest Christian church in West Bengal, and the oldest Armenian church in India. [photo: McGillivray]





The British Deputy High Commissioner, Bruce Bucknell, carrying one of the Thames River flags in the launch of the *Silk River Project* cultural heritage event in Azimganj. The flags were displayed at the Hazarduari Palace, previously known as *Bara Kothi*. It was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, under the reign of Nazim Humayan Jan; under the auspices of the British Governor-General, William Cavendish: the architect was Duncan MacLeod. [Photo: McGillivray]



Another example of SBH that I was most intrigued with was the adaptation of Art Deco in South Kolkata which was introduced well after independence. [photo: McGillivray]



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ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Shared Built Heritage Annual General Meeting part B  
held on 9 December 2017 in New Delhi, India [photo: John Ward]