REFLECTIONS OF VERNACULAR SPACE AND FUNCTION ON CONTEMPORARY STYLE

Praful Bhoge
Sheffield university
MAAD - Thesis
14 January 2013

Vernacular architecture to my knowledge is a space designed by its user fulfilling all the required need by all users of that space. It also comprises use of locally available materials and climate protective designing. These structures were built without architects and with full participation of the end user as designer. Whereas now, vernacular architecture is practiced by very few architects. The regional community designs their architectural style to suit their needs and climates. “I believe that no one can understand the function of an architectural space better than its end user.”

Indian vernacular architecture can be categorized broadly into Kachcha, Pukka and semi-Pukka. These categories are based on different materials used in different regions like for kachcha natural materials, pukka manmade materials and semi pukka combination of natural and manmade materials. But still there are many other category variations due to different local materials available in different regions. Today in India vernacular architecture is on the verge of extinct. People of India who believe in traditions, prefer vernacular spaces which are more sustainable. Today in India many architects practice contemporary architecture, that fascinates many users, but most of the practice is done in a hybrid style, which leads to covetous architecture without considering the user to the fullest extent. Even in some cases due to lack of proper convey, the user who has maximum power to take decisions in his project, can ask for a requirement which is important for him and he feels that it is lacking in the design. Which make the design ultimately some thing else as user cannot imagine as architects can.

“What can be a user’s response on its space designed by contemporary style of architecture with reflected vernacular spaces and functions?” The Proposal is all about how in Indian vernacular architecture, implementation of different habitable spaces,
their function and connectivity within the spaces required by its end user (in relation to Aesthetic, climatic response and local materials used), which can be modified and reapplied with contemporary style in day today architectural practice. This can help me to apply better parameters and end user thoughts on it’s space in order to satisfy the user requirements. In vernacular architecture there are other types of architectural styles like traditional vernacular, contemporary vernacular etc.. But specifically I would like to concentrate on Residential vernacular architecture and current contemporary practice in India with a design based end product of a bungalow/villa with existing user.

Probably I would start by researching on various types of indian vernacular architectures for residential buildings from ancient times like wada, palaces, residential surrounding spaces and step wells. This research will be done from region and surrounding regions where I will propose a prototype for my end product or similar regions, also including user information and materials. Further detailing out on various spaces interpreted by its user in internal, external areas with their volume and functioning of those spaces. It will be interesting to find out the interrelationship of two or more spaces. On the other hand I will make a similar research in abstract with documentary of current architectural practice in that region. Then I will identify similar spaces from both studies, differentiate between them and try to incorporate the essential knowledge into current architectural spaces as a trial and error to improve them from a user point of view. For better and different understanding I will also study a different vernacular architecture example other than india in detail, which will give me clear idea how the new spaces are created in contemporary style. The end product would be a design based project which will be at a scale of bungalow or villa.

To achieve these knowledge I will use regular sources like books, internet, literatures, videos, referring interviews, online questionnaire with people of same interest, possible site visits…….
Websites:

1. link - http://www.vernaculararchitecture.com
   Writer - Gabriel Arboleda
   date - 26/12/2012

2. link -
   Writer - not displayed on website
   date - 2/01/2013

3. link - http://threeblindmen.photoshelter.com/gallery/G0000nLcEb3MXaXQ
   Writer - Three blind men - Dominic Sansei, sebastian Posingis, Ruction Jayewardene.
   date - 2/01/2013

Books:

1. India’s vernacular architecture as reflection on culture.
   Author - Masalski, Kathleen Woods

2. A India: Vernacular architecture in tuning culture
   Author - Yang an Ning

3. After the masters (contemporary indian architecture)
   Author - Vikram Bhatt, Peter Scriver