
67th Year - NASA India

LIK Program Ahmedabad

LIK DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMME

8th to 10th February 2025, Ahmedabad University

The LIK DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMME was held at Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad from 8th of February to 10th of February 2025. Vaidehi Mancharkar from 2nd year of Dr.Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture attended this programme on being selected, representing our unit Z310.

On January 15th, I received an exciting phone call informing me that I had been selected for the **Louis I. Kahn Documentation Program**. Being one of the 39 students chosen was an honor and a truly memorable moment for me. I promptly shared the wonderful news with my Unit Designee and Faculty Coordinator.

The selection process required the submission of a resume and a Statement of Purpose (SOP). Although I had never visited Ahmedabad before, the programme's brief immediately captivated my interest, motivating me to apply with full dedication. I carefully prepared my resume and crafted an SOP highlighting my deep appreciation for my hometown, Pune, and my passion for conserving its heritage. This effort ultimately led to my selection, marking the beginning of an exciting journey.

DAY 0 :

7th of February - The day I arrived in Ahmedabad, the first thing that caught my attention was how impeccably clean the city was – easily the cleanest I've seen in India! After reaching the hostel, I met a new friend, and we quickly bonded over our shared excitement. Together, we decided to explore the city, starting with a visit to Manek Chowk. After soaking in the charm of Ahmedabad, we returned to our accommodations, ready and excited for the adventures of the next day.

DAY 1 :

On Day 1, 8th February, we started with breakfast and then headed to Ahmedabad University. The students of the Heritage Management program welcomed us warmly and gave us a tour of the impressive campus. We then moved to our classrooms, where we were introduced to the faculty and key figures of the programme, including **Prof. Devnath Tripathi, Provost; Prof. Shobha Das, Dean of SOM; and Prof. Molly Kaushal, Director of CHM. Prof. Neel Kal Chapagain** provided an overview of the workshop, highlighting the differences between Architectural Documentation and Architectural Heritage Documentation, among other key topics

- Documentation & Interpretation
- Importance of documenting spaces, materials, and construction techniques.
- Consideration of what implications certain architectural elements have.
- The need for clear documentation to understand and analyze built forms.
- Architectural Aspects & Construction Techniques
- Observations on facades and their functional or aesthetic roles.
- Consideration of structural details and how they contribute to the overall form.
- The role of different materials and their application in Ahmedabad's architecture.
- Cultural & Human Interaction with Architecture
- The relationship between built spaces and human activity.
- How traditional architecture influences daily life and movement in spaces.
- The importance of historical and cultural context in architectural design.
- Critical Reflections & Inquiries
- Questions about the adaptability of traditional techniques in modern contexts.
- Consideration of how spatial planning impacts user experience.
- Observations on the typology of housing and urban planning in Ahmedabad.

After the lecture, we had a tea break, which turned into the perfect opportunity to connect with students from other colleges. During our conversations, we exchanged views on architecture, exploring what it means to each of us and discovering how deeply passionate everyone was about their surroundings. These discussions offered us fresh perspectives and new ways of thinking. By the end of the break, friendships had begun to form. After the lectures, we planned to explore the city together and admire its beauty

We got back to our lectures, Prof. Ioannis Poullos gave us the case study for defining boundaries of heritage : approach and challenge : A case study of the acropolis in Greece. Here we got to know about the following things

- The classical ideal associated with Athens and its perception as the center of the Western world.
- The role of authenticity and the imposition of Western dominance on the site.
- Different types of boundaries, including those in terms of time, space (priority), symbolic, and physical aspects.
- The use of the site for residential, religious, archaeological, and tourism purposes.
- The impact of authenticity and museum specialization on how the site is perceived and maintained.

After the lecture, we had a lunch break. The spaces at Ahmedabad University left a lasting impression on us—they were thoughtfully designed to capture and absorb sunlight, creating naturally well-lit areas that felt deeply connected to the earth

We headed back to our classrooms to understand the Conservation Session :

Examining the Surface Layers and Decorative Layers, here we learnt the following things

- Origins of Indian Art: Tracing it back to Ajanta paintings and elements like the "Carpet of Ajanta" (700 years old) and Kailashnath Temple.
- Materials & Techniques: Mention of cannabis figs and leaves being mixed with the plaster in the Ajanta Caves.
- Junagadh: Algae play a role in separating protein and sugar, influencing water absorption.

Other Architectural References:

1. Rai Mahal, Orchha, MP
2. Lapis stone found in valleys of Afghanistan
3. Crown wall
4. Dwarkadhish Temple
5. Taj Mahal

Following the session, we visited the laboratory, where we observed techniques for removing stains from paintings without causing any damage. After a quick tea break, we explored an exhibition by the master's students of Heritage Management, titled "**Ganga Kinare**", which documented various aspects of Banaras.

We wrapped up the day on a high note by visiting **Amdavad ni Gufa**, an iconic structure designed by MF Hussain and B.V. Doshi. We also enjoyed the serene beauty of the Sabarmati Riverfront before heading back to our accommodations, excited and ready for the next day.

DAY 2 :

We began our day bright and early, gathering at 8 a.m. to visit the **Old City of Ahmedabad**, a remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Exploring the Timeless Charm of Ahmedabad's Old City

Our journey through Ahmedabad's Old City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, began with the serene beauty of the Swaminarayan Temple. The intricate carvings and vibrant colors of the temple set a peaceful tone for the morning, offering a glimpse into the city's deep spiritual roots.

From there, we wandered through the historic pols of Ahmedabad, the heart of the old city's unique urban fabric. Walking through these narrow lanes, we admired the beautifully carved wooden havelis, hidden courtyards, and charming chabutras (bird feeders) that embody the city's centuries-old sense of community and architectural brilliance. Each pol had its own story, whispering tales of the past through its intricate designs and lively atmosphere.

Our next stop was the majestic Jama Masjid, one of India's most remarkable mosques, built in 1424. Stepping into its grand courtyard, we were awed by the harmony of Indo-Islamic architecture, with its 260 intricately carved pillars and expansive open spaces creating a sense of peace and grandeur.

To end our visit on a delicious note, we indulged in a soft, fluffy dhokla, a quintessential Gujarati delicacy. The perfect blend of tangy and sweet flavors made for a delightful conclusion to our exploration, leaving us with a taste of Ahmedabad's rich cultural and culinary heritage.

This brief yet immersive journey through the old city gave us a deeper appreciation of Ahmedabad's vibrant history, architectural legacy, and warm traditions—an experience to cherish forever.

After that we went to the site which we were going to document that is SARKHEJ ROZA

Sarkhej Roza - Brief Overview & Documentation Process

Overview of Sarkhej Roza

Sarkhej Roza, located in Ahmedabad, is a significant heritage complex that showcases Indo-Islamic architecture blending Persian, Hindu, and Jain styles. It is an important cultural and spiritual center, once a prominent hub for Sufi traditions influenced by Saint Ahmed Ganj Baksh. The complex includes several elements such as mosques, tombs, pavilions, and a large stepped tank that was historically used for water conservation.

Key architectural elements include:

- Jalis (perforated stone screens) – Used for ventilation and intricate light play.
- Domes & Arches– Structural elements showcasing Indo-Islamic fusion.
- Pavilions & Courtyards – Open spaces for spiritual gatherings.
- The Sarkhej Lake – Once a major water management system.

However, the site faces conservation challenges due to acid rain and environmental factors that deteriorate its intricate carvings

Documentation Process

The documentation of Sarkhej Roza is structured around different themes:

1. Stakeholder Mapping : Identifying authorities, institutions, and communities involved in the site's management.
2. User Behavior & Narratives: Observing how people interact with the site, their cultural practices, and spiritual connections.
3. Deep Documentation:
 - Historic Layers: Studying the evolution of the site.
 - Art & Aesthetics: Recording architectural symbolism.
 - Material & Conservation Analysis: Assessing material durability over time.
4. Intangible Cultural Heritage: Exploring Sufi traditions, music, and spiritual activities once associated with the site.
5. Nature-Culture Linkages: Aligning conservation efforts with sustainable development goals (SDGs), focusing on the relationship between heritage and nature.

This documentation involves various methods such as:

- Photographs & Sketches to capture architectural details.
- Mapping & Drawings for spatial analysis.
- Interviews & Surveys to understand historical and cultural narratives

This structured approach ensures Sarkhej Roza's heritage is preserved while acknowledging its historical, cultural, and environmental significance. Let me know if you need a more detailed analysis of any aspect.

The bus travelled back to the University and we were addressed to Pursuing Research on Architecture Heritage and Documenting Different Layers of Built Heritage : Experiences in Historic Settlements of Gujarat by Ar. Piyush Pandya, Director, AWHCT

Architectural Heritage Documentation - Beyond the Built Form

This section discusses the methodology of documenting architectural heritage, extending beyond the physical structure to include cultural, social, and historical contexts.

Key Aspects of Documentation:

- Scales of Study:
- Street or Cluster: Observing how buildings interact within a neighborhood.
- Neighborhood Context: Understanding the influence of the surroundings.
- Archaeological Boundaries: Identifying historical significance.
- Individual Buildings: Detailing architectural elements.

Types of Surveys:

- Baseline Survey: Collecting essential data on heritage sites.
- Literature Survey: Researching historical documents and existing studies.
- Primary Survey: Conducting field studies and observations.
- Graphic Preparation: Creating visual representations like maps and sketches.

- Documentation Challenges:

- Heritage is a living entity, constantly evolving.
- Every site has unique stakeholders whose needs must be understood.
- The process involves a dynamic relationship between preservation and adaptation.

Sarkhej Roza - Documentation Focus

The study of Sarkhej Roza involves several architectural and heritage aspects:

- Craftsmanship & Architectural Style – Analyzing Indo-Islamic elements.
- Material Study – Understanding construction materials and their longevity.
- Topography & Elements – Assessing the physical landscape of the site.
- Structural Systems & Spatial Arrangements – Evaluating the functional layout of the complex.

State vs. Value Approach in UNESCO Heritage Recognition

- State-Based Data: Collecting factual, measurable information about a site.
- Value-Based Data: Understanding the cultural and historical importance that makes a site deserving of UNESCO recognition.

This documentation approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of architectural heritage, balancing tangible and intangible aspects for preservation and future management.

After the visit, we gathered to discuss the group presentation we were scheduled to give the next day. Our topic was **Nature and Culture Linkages**, and I was fortunate to work with a group of highly intellectual individuals who emphasized detailed documentation. We divided the subtopics among ourselves and began preparing the presentation.

Later, we returned to our accommodations to freshen up, have dinner together, and then got back to work. The night was long but productive—we worked tirelessly until 3 a.m. before finally catching some sleep to prepare for the next day.

DAY 3 :

We started the day dressed in formals, ready for our presentation. There was a mix of nerves and excitement as we prepared to showcase our research. We presented our work and received valuable feedback.

Our documentation included:

1. Historical Significance:

- Built during the Sultanate era and completed in 1451, it integrates Persian, Hindu, and Jain architectural styles.
- Originally a spiritual, social, and cultural hub, it housed a mosque, mausoleum, and other structures.
- Associated with Khattu Ganj Baksh, a revered Sufi saint.

2. Architectural Features:

- Exemplifies the Indo-Saracenic style, blending Islamic and local aesthetics.
- Features intricate sandstone carvings, jalis (lattices), and a large water reservoir.

3. Cultural Linkage:

- The site reflects the connection between nature and human craftsmanship, with sustainable materials like sandstone that harmonize with the environment.
- Activities like boating, communal events, and prayer gatherings were central to its past.

4. Modern Challenges:

- Urbanization, pollution, and neglect have led to the deterioration of the lake and other structures.
- Practices like illegal mining and reduced community engagement have weakened its cultural and environmental links.

5. Current State:

- The site is now more of a heritage landmark visited by tourists.
- Efforts are needed to revive its spiritual, cultural, and ecological integrity.

6. Potential Solutions:

- Reviving green spaces and water bodies.
- Increasing awareness and community involvement.
- Better maintenance and sustainable management.

The document highlights Sarkhej Roza's transition from a vibrant cultural site to a neglected heritage location and the urgent need for preservation efforts.

After all the presentations were completed, we headed for lunch and received our certificates, marking the end of an unforgettable journey. It was finally time to say goodbye, with hearts full of gratitude and eyes brimming with tears. We promised to meet again someday, cherishing the bonds we had formed.

The **LIK Program** taught us so much, not just academically but socially as well, leaving us with invaluable memories and life lessons.





CLASSROOM OF UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY MERCHANDISE



LABORATORY



PRESENTING THE ANALYSIS



SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR



OLD CITY OF AHMEDABAD



GROUP PHOTO OF THE STUDENTS AT LIK PROGRAM WITH FACULTY AND ZONAL PRESIDENT OF ZONE 2

67th Year - NASA India

LIK Program, Karaikudi

LIK DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMME

February 21st – 23rd 2025

The LIK documentation programme was held at Mithilapatti, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu from 21st to 23rd February 2025. Vaishnavi Bhide and Aparna Hinge from third year of Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture attended this programme on being selected, representing our unit Z310.

On February 14th we received an exciting phone call informing us that we had been selected for the **Louis I. Kahn Documentation Programme**. Being two of the twenty students chosen was an honour and a truly memorable moment for us. We shared this news with our Unit Secretary and faculty coordinator.

The selection process required the submission of a resume and a Statement of Purpose (SOP). We had never visited Tamil Nadu before so the programme's brief immediately captivated our interest and motivated us to apply for the programme.

During the programme we stayed at a cozy homestay walking distance from our site which offered us authentic Chettinad style breakfast, lunch and dinner. The event was very well planned and thoughtfully designed to make the most of out of it.

DAY 0: 20th February – We reached Mithilapatti around 8.30 pm on Day 0. We were immediately greeted with a warm welcome dinner. Post dinner, we had an ice breaker session wherein we were introduced to the fellow members of the programme.

DAY 1: 21st February – Post breakfast we headed to a walk through the town wherein we explored the local temples and houses. On retuning, we visited the site where the moderators Ar. Keerthana and Ar. Sharmila briefed us about the documentation process that was to be followed. Post this session, we started working on our tasks. The day ended with a hearty meal and compilation of the days work.

DAY 2: February 22nd – Post breakfast we continued working on the given tasks and started the final compilation. This was followed by a lecture by Ar. Keerthana on Lime Plaster. The lecture was very insightful and we gained deeper knowledge of vernacular plastering methods. The day ended with the presentation for our final compiled documentation work.

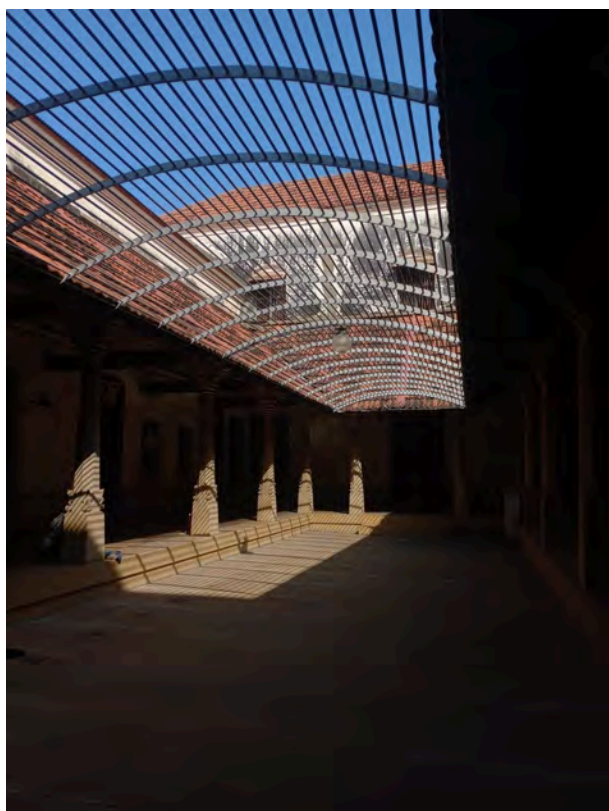
DAY 3: February 23rd – On the last day we explored the town of Athangudi and Karaikudi. Athangudi is very well-known for its Athangudi tiles and we were fortunate enough to visit a tile workshop. This was followed by a visit to the Athangudi Palace – a typical Chettinad style house.

Post lunch we visited the very popular Kanadukathan Palace – the epitome of Chettinad style palaces. This palace belongs to the royal family of Chettiyars. We also got the opportunity to visit a few heritage houses in the vicinity.

We were dropped at the Karaikudi bus stand where the programme officially ended. Our main aim at this programme was to understand a new style of architecture which was definitely achieved. Coincidentally, the Chettinad architecture style is very similar to Wada architecture native to our city. This was a very interesting learning from the programme. The LIK programme taught us so many things, not only academically but also socially challenging us to survive in a state where no one speaks our language!

DAY 1- 2

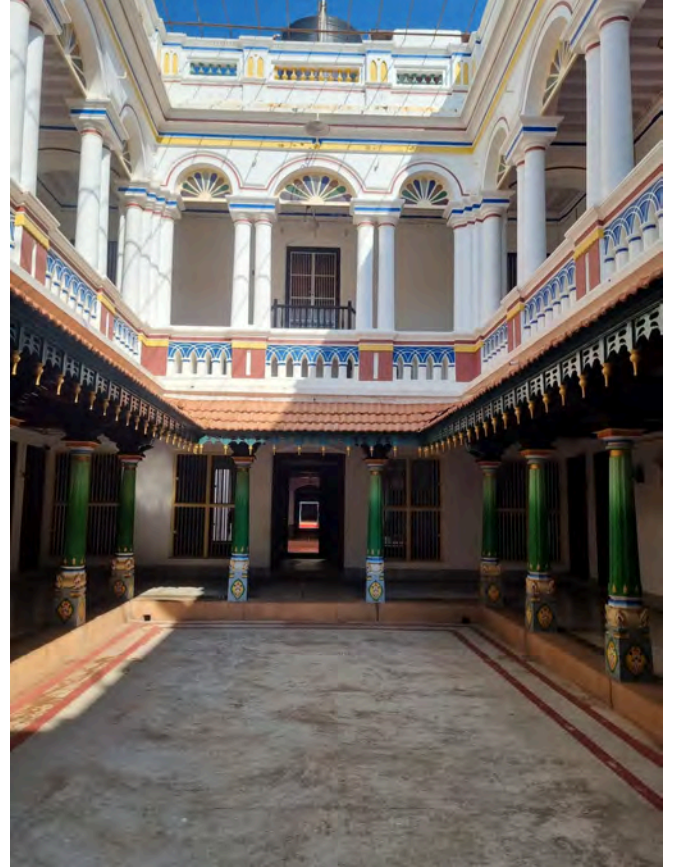
DOCUMENTATION PROCESS



DAY 3



ATHANGUDI PALACE



KANADKATHAN PALACE



ATHANGUDI TILES

