



The CHC Journal



Volume I Issue IV
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Point of View

Our rich past and bright future is linked by heritage. If chief amongst them are values and traditions then monuments and buildings were their nursery. These are physical embodiment of our history. That invaluable connection requires preservation, conservation and reuse.

India possesses diverse artistic, cultural and built heritage with each region displaying some unique and incomparable characteristics; Calcutta has the most coveted spot in the eastern region. Calcutta became home to people from all over the world who brought in their art, culture, architecture, commerce and pioneering spirit to create institutions, societies, mansions, monuments thereby giving birth to a unique Calcutta. Each lane and by-lane is peppered with magnificent structures and institutions.

As the virtual world becomes all encompassing, the need for stabilizing roots can be found in our heritage. My point of focus is to not only instil pride in the next generation but to engage with them to find ways for the preservation and reuse of our collective heritage.

My vision for CHC is to reinstate the distinctiveness of Calcutta. With an eye on growth and the future, the change that CHC pursues can be achieved through consultation with educational institutions, debates and quizzes, seminars and discussions for reuse, visits, exchanging of ideas and the use of social media. Through its leadership and path breaking Private-Public initiatives, CHC shall become a beacon of hope.

~ **Sangeeta Dudhoria**, CHC Trustee



A black bronze Angel of Victory, holding a bugle in her hand was placed at the apex of the dome above the Memorial. It is fixed to its pedestal with ball bearings and acts as a weathercock when the wind is strong enough. Mr. A. C. Mitra, Bengal Engineering and Science University-alumnus, was Engineer-in-Charge in the construction project of the Victoria.

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/under-my-wings-a-wind/cid/1835673>

The Bengal Story

Derived straight from the word, 'paise', which is considered the lowest denomination in Indian currency, the Pice hotels originated during the British Raj in the 1900s, across the then commercial capital of Calcutta. Back then, 'Pice' was a monetary unit of British India equivalent to one quarter of an anna. Unpretentious in their decor, these eateries provided simple, wholesome meals for a few paises to satiate the hunger of thousands of migrants moving to the city in search of a livelihood. A



concept that operated to complement the burgeoning 'mess' or paying guest accommodations, a majority of these migrants would be bachelor men from lower-middle class and middle-class families, who did not know how to cook and would miss homely meals. The food prepared was strictly traditional. The service was environmentally sustainable much before it became a buzzword. Food was served on banana leaves and the customers would be seated on mats on the floor. The daily changing menu would be handwritten on a blackboard and memorised by the servers. To ensure zero wastage and low overhead cost, customers would have to pay individually for everything they consumed, even the banana leaf and a small sliver of lemon.

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/263077/best-food-kolkata-famous-pice-hotels-history-british-india/>

Conservation Trivia

Reconstructing Heritage Buildings

“**Conservation**” approach refers to the strategies of looking, studying after a place so that the building maintains its historic, architectural, aesthetic, cultural importance and includes renovation, restoration, reconstruction, & adoption or coalescence of more such methods.

The **Preservation** method invokes an approach that includes maintaining the structure, fabric of an area in its current domain, and then slowing down its decline.

The **Restoration** method incorporates returning the actual material, the texture of a site to what it was earlier by doing away with accumulation or reconstructing elements.

Finally, the **Reconstruction** stratagem consists of destabilizing a place as almost as viable and protruding by the advent of substances into the texture.

<https://cpwd.gov.in/Publication/ConservationHeritbuildings.pdf>

Down Memory Lane

Have you unearthed any buried treasures lately? Not gold or silver but the kind of family treasures whose value is measured in people places and memories rather than in rupees and Paise. Heritage a word often confined to the Past dictates my daily life. I recall the innumerable instances with my grandmother where she would pass on behavioural dictates or “sanskars “as she termed it. My posture, gait, cooking skills , house upkeep down to fruit cutting were all an integral part of my childhood and teen years. While I have treasured many saris, ornaments, ivory razors, a stunning velvet and Zari carpet (which still looks like new after 70 years)not to mention a mini live canon which I have inherited from my grandparents. What has marked my life the most have been those silent lessons which I now choose to and hope to pass down in full to the generation I raise ~ **Udita Rajgharia**

Double silver bangle



Lock and key given by Bikaner Maharaja



Ivory hand painted chopar discs



Heritage in the News

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/darj-toy-train-logos-registered-two-decades-after-heritage-tag/articleshow/87573863.cms>

https://blogs.bl.uk/untoldlives/2021/10/william-shakespeares-family-in-calcutta.html?_ga=2.175433451.8589105.1635253980-2090701785.1635253979

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2018/12/19/how-britain-stole-45-trillion-from-india>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/plaque-unveiled-in-memory-of-toru-arudutt/articleshow/86948392.cms>

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/places/where-adda-is-the-oxygen-and-the-glue/cid/1838611>

Know your CHC Members



"There is no force more powerful than a woman determined to rise"

Mita Agarwal

is a strong and ambitious woman with determination and perseverance. After completing her schooling from Modern High School, Ashok Hall and Shri Shikshayatan, she graduated from Loreto College. Mita lost her husband and was left alone with not only her two kids but also a business that she knew nothing about. She began her entrepreneurial journey by getting into an association with American Remedies Pvt Ltd as their C&F agent. Dr. Reddy's acquired American Remedies and she became their C&F agent in Kolkata. Mita achieved remarkable sales results of a whopping 28 crore per month and was featured in their annual report for financial year 2010-11. Mita is a member of Rotary Presidency, Vice President of Jails Reform Council WICCI, Bihar Marwari Mahila Manch, Marudhara and Issyoga Patna. She is the owner of Priyam Agenices Pvt Ltd and is a super stockist for Veeba and Cornitos.



Munish Jhajharia, an industrialist by profession and a heritage enthusiast by passion is a Founding

Trustee of the Calcutta Heritage Collective. He is a Committee member in the MCC chamber of Commerce and Industry, chairing the Infrastructure & Real Estate Council, Governing Body Member at Bengal Rowing Club & member of the CESC Consultative Committee. A voracious reader and collector of rare books. He believes that built heritage can be saved through a mix of awareness, education and pragmatic policy and legislation. A vocal advocate for TDR (transferable development rights) policy for West Bengal which already exists in many cities in India such as Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and more. He firmly believes that preservation of built heritage is a responsibility of every citizen for the sake of progeny! It is a story which engrains us to our culture and our past.

CHC has organised an exciting road trip to Murshidabad from 17th to 19th. December. Two days with a packed itinerary - sightseeing, breakfast on the river, some cultural programmes. A stay at Bari Kothi with its exquisite Sheherwali cuisine. Contact us for reservations

Members are welcome to contribute for any of the journal sections. We would love to publish your articles/notes. Please message Vibha Mitra (+919830933434) or Ipsita Ganguli (+919831283192) or send an email to contact@calcuttaheritagecollective.com

The CHC Connect

Congratulations Ayan Sen on receiving the Design Honour Award 2021 for Hospitality Architecture by Glitz Architecture and Interiors



Rupande Shah
Rupande Shah & Associates



J P Agrawal
Agrawal & Agrawal

Rupande Shah and **JP Agarwal** were on the panel of speakers at FOAID's Design Perspective D-Talks 20x20, Topic: Story of Inside & Outside

Vibha Mitra talked about her love for textiles while giving a presentation on traditional textiles at an event organized by Amity School of Design Kolkata

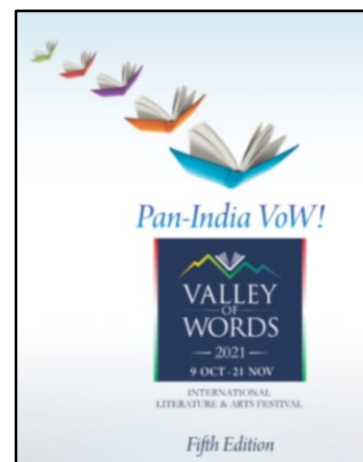


Heritage is something very close to my heart since I have been a History teacher for many years - and I greatly appreciate the role of CHC in creating awareness among children through this initiative ~ Amita Prasad, Director, Indus Valley World School

MBWA are the winners of CHC Heritage Quiz Series For Schools 2021

The nostalgia it evoked along with its unique blend of fun facts and futuristic thinking made it so appealing ~Anjana Saha, Principal, MBWA

The Valley of Words Lit Fest conducted at Bengal Club had many CHCians



participating. **Anjum Katyal** curated the programme, **Oindrilla Dutt** moderated a session, **Sunil Bhandari** and **Supriya Newar** had a poetry session.

Rupande Shah and **Ayan Sen** were on the panel of speakers at The Talk of Town event where they discussed Design Shifts Post Pandemic



RUPANDE SHAH
Principal,
Rupande Shah &
Associates



AYAN SEN
Principal, Ayan
Sen Architects
Urban Designers
& Planners

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Mukul Agarwal : Publisher
Rajiv Soni: Advisor
Vibha Mitra: Editor
Ipsita Ganguli : Co-Editor
Nikita Kejriwal : Creatives