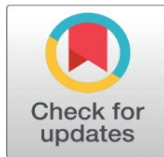
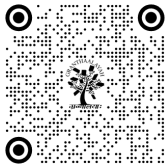


IMBIBING CULTURAL ETHOS IN INTERIORS RESIDENTIAL SPACES IN AHMEDABAD

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ABSTRACT

This research delves into the topic of incorporating cultural ethos into interior design, with a particular focus on residential spaces in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. Cultural elements play a significant role in interior design, alongside color, line and furniture. Ahmedabad is an excellent example of a city with a rich cultural heritage, where traditional and modern interior design styles can be distinguished from each other. The essay examines various design elements that showcase the cultural heritage of Ahmedabad, including traditional motifs, color palettes and locally sourced materials. The research explores the significance of socio-cultural values in Ahmedabad and how it affects the interior design of residential spaces. The aim of this research is to highlight the importance of cultural ethos in interior design and provide designers and architects with valuable insights for creating culturally rich and meaningful spaces. The findings indicate that incorporating cultural elements in residential interior design can create a unique and authentic living experience that celebrates the cultural heritage of the society. The study concludes that the integration of cultural ethos in interior design is essential to creating a harmonious and culturally rich living experience for residents.

Keywords: Cultural Interiors, Cultural Ethos, Residential Spaces, Interior Design, Traditional Elements, Heritage, Identity, Aesthetics

1. INTRODUCTION

Interior design is a multifaceted discipline that encompasses the art of crafting spaces that are not only functional but also visually captivating, indoors or outdoors, with a primary focus on addressing human needs and proportions. Achieving this entails a comprehensive integration of various knowledge domains, spanning architecture, culture, human behavior, science, and the environment. The core objective is to elevate the quality of life by enhancing both the tangible and intangible facets of these spaces.

In the specific context of India, interior design is profoundly influenced by a tapestry of diverse cultures, each leaving its imprint on the elements that comprise

interiors, such as furniture and handicrafts. For instance, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, a city deeply rooted in its cultural heritage, residential spaces are remarkable showcases of this heritage through their architectural designs, artistic expressions, and overall interior compositions. Traditional motifs, indigenous color palettes, locally sourced materials, and cultural artifacts are seamlessly woven into the very fabric of these spaces.

This research endeavors to delve into the intricate ways through which the cultural ethos is woven into the interior design of residential spaces in Ahmedabad, elucidating the myriad elements and principles that confluence in defining the city's cultural identity. The city's cultural identity is a unique amalgamation of Hindu, Islamic, and Jain influences, and this study will uncover how these influences are manifested in its interior design.

Culture is not a mere appendage to our existence; it is an inherent and pervasive force that influences our cognitive patterns, behaviors, and perceptions of the world [Gupta and Arora \(2019\)](#). The concept of culture transcends mere customs and traditions; it resonates deeply with how we conceive and adorn our living spaces. This research paper aims to explore the profound integration of cultural ethos within the interiors of residential spaces in Ahmedabad, a city that stands as a testament to the amalgamation of rich cultural heritage and architectural wonders.

While Ahmedabad's architectural and design aesthetics are undeniably influenced by the confluence of Hindu, Islamic, and Jain cultures [Mehta \(2016\)](#), there is a conspicuous gap in the integration of the city's cultural ethos into modern residential interiors. This research paper seeks to examine the potential avenues through which interior designers can incorporate the city's cultural heritage into the design of contemporary residential spaces. The objective is to create a symbiotic fusion of tradition and modernity, where the rich cultural tapestry of Ahmedabad finds a harmonious coexistence with contemporary design.

Through an in-depth exploration of case studies featuring residential spaces in Ahmedabad, this research paper will illuminate the methods and strategies employed by designers who have successfully intertwined cultural elements into the interiors of modern homes. In tandem, the paper will scrutinize the challenges faced by designers in navigating this complex terrain, offering pragmatic solutions to overcome these obstacles. In essence, this research paper contributes to the expanding body of knowledge on the pivotal role of cultural heritage in interior design and provides valuable insights into how designers can produce culturally sensitive and contextually relevant spaces that mirror the exceptional heritage of Ahmedabad.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The integration of cultural ethos into residential interiors represents a crucial facet of contemporary interior design, as it goes beyond mere aesthetics to create authentic and meaningful spaces that reverberate with the values and traditions of the society they encapsulate. This analytical exploration draws on a range of scholarly perspectives to delve into the intricate interplay between culture and interior design, focusing on the rich cultural tapestry of Ahmedabad as a quintessential case study. The analytical journey begins with an examination of the pivotal role of cultural heritage in interior design, extends to the assessment of the specific disconnect between traditional and contemporary design styles, and further scrutinizes how the incorporation of cultural elements can enhance the residents' sense of belonging, identity, and living experience.

2.1. CULTURAL HERITAGE IN INTERIOR DESIGN: A FOUNDATION

Sharma and Sharma (2020) underscore the significance of incorporating cultural ethos into residential interiors to engender spaces that genuinely resonate with the values and traditions of a society. This underscores a fundamental principle in interior design – creating spaces that are not mere physical shells but living narratives of culture and heritage. Culture, in this context, extends beyond superficial customs and traditions; it weaves through the very fabric of interior spaces, shaping the interactions, experiences, and emotions of the occupants. In the case of a city like Ahmedabad, which boasts a rich cultural heritage marked by the confluence of Hindu, Islamic, and Jain influences, this resonance is particularly profound. In essence, cultural heritage provides a foundation upon which interior design can weave its tapestry.

2.2. AHMEDABAD: A CITY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Mehta (2016) delves into the architectural and design aesthetics of Ahmedabad, specifically exploring the influence of cultural heritage. The author notes a distinctive challenge – the limited incorporation of cultural elements into modern residential spaces within the city. This observation speaks to a broader issue prevalent in many culturally rich urban areas. The architectural heritage of a city often coexists with contemporary design, yet the interior spaces may remain disconnected from their cultural roots. This gap reflects a tension between preserving tradition and embracing modernity within the realm of interior design.

2.3. THE ROLE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY IN INTERIOR DESIGN

Alshaikh and Sharmin (2019) accentuate the pivotal role of cultural identity in interior design, particularly within residential spaces. They argue that incorporating cultural elements into the interiors of a home can heighten the residents' sense of belonging and identity. This observation aligns with the broader concept of a sense of place. When interior spaces reflect the culture, history, and identity of their inhabitants, a stronger and more personalized living experience emerges. The home becomes not just a shelter but a mirror to the occupants' cultural identity, thereby imbuing the space with a deeper sense of meaning.

2.4. INFUSING CULTURAL INFLUENCES: THE BROADER PERSPECTIVE

Gupta and Arora (2019) provide an overarching perspective on the influence of culture on interior design, underscoring the need to incorporate cultural influences. They assert that the infusion of cultural elements into interior design is imperative for creating spaces that authentically reflect the values and traditions of society. This perspective extends beyond the boundaries of Ahmedabad and resonates with a global discourse on the role of cultural heritage in interior design. In this context, culture becomes a dynamic component, and its seamless integration into interiors ensures the creation of authentic, meaningful spaces.

2.5. GLOBAL CASE STUDIES: CULTURE IN INTERIOR DESIGN

To expand this analytical journey, we move beyond Ahmedabad to examine case studies from diverse cultural contexts. [Wu \(2019\)](#) delves into the integration of Chinese cultural elements into contemporary interior design. This perspective underscores the importance of preserving cultural heritage in modern design practices, emphasizing the role of cultural elements in crafting distinctive and personalized living experiences. This insight aligns with the universal challenge faced by interior designers in preserving cultural identity while embracing modernity.

[Kim \(2019\)](#) brings forth the interplay of traditional Korean architecture in contemporary interior design. It emphasizes the vital role of cultural identity in creating meaningful and relevant spaces, echoing the values and traditions of the society they cater to. This case study demonstrates that the clash between tradition and modernity, often evident in interior design, can be harmonized through cultural integration.

[Chen and Chen \(2017\)](#) extend the discourse by focusing on the creation of personalized living experiences. The authors argue that incorporating cultural elements not only personalizes the living experience but also aligns it with the broader values and traditions of the society, fostering a deeper sense of connection and belonging. This reflects a core aspiration of interior design – to create spaces that are not just functional but deeply resonant with the lives of the inhabitants.

Cultural heritage is not limited to a specific geographical location. [Rahman et al. \(2018\)](#) delve into the integration of Islamic architectural elements in residential interior design, highlighting the importance of cultural identity in shaping meaningful spaces that respect and reflect the values and traditions of the society. This case study broadens the discourse by illustrating the global relevance of incorporating cultural elements into interior design.

[Yunus and MohdRadzi \(2018\)](#) explore the influence of Malay culture on residential interior design in Malaysia. Their study underlines the importance of cultural heritage in shaping a personalized and meaningful living experience, which is crucial in reflecting the values and traditions of the society. The analytical framework here extends to the global scale, emphasizing the universal need for cultural resonance in interior design.

2.6. HARMONIOUS LIVING THROUGH CULTURAL INTEGRATION

[Jani and Jani \(2020\)](#) assert that infusing cultural elements into residential interiors creates a more harmonious and culturally rich living experience for residents. This study underscores the necessity of preserving and perpetuating cultural heritage within interior design, particularly in diverse cities like Ahmedabad. The tension between tradition and modernity is an overarching theme in such cities, and the integration of cultural elements is the bridge between these two worlds.

[Chitkara and Vashisht \(2017\)](#) probe the influence of Indian culture on interior design, highlighting the importance of incorporating cultural elements to create a unique and authentic living experience. This analytical perspective extends to India's rich tapestry of cultures and traditions, underscoring the need to weave

these elements into interior spaces for a more personalized and authentic living experience.

[Alam et al. \(2018\)](#) extend the exploration of cultural identity in creating meaningful and relevant residential interiors. Their research highlights the importance of incorporating cultural elements in crafting personalized living experiences that reflect the values and traditions of the society. This case study presents a broader perspective, emphasizing the universality of the need for cultural resonance in interior design.

2.7. GLOBAL INSIGHTS: CULTURAL INFLUENCE ON INTERIOR DESIGN

[Gohar and Hameed \(2019\)](#) delve into the influence of Pakistani culture on residential interior design. The authors contend that incorporating cultural elements can create a more authentic and meaningful living experience that mirrors the values and traditions of the society. This perspective underscores the global dimension of cultural integration in interior design, demonstrating that this issue transcends geographical boundaries.

[Phan et al. \(2018\)](#) study the impact of Vietnamese culture on residential interior design. Their research emphasizes the significance of cultural heritage in creating pertinent and personalized living spaces that honor the values and traditions of the society. The analytical lens widens here to encompass a multitude of cultural influences, highlighting the universal challenge of integrating culture into contemporary interior design.

[Abdul Rashid and Abdul Rashid \(2018\)](#) scrutinize the influence of Islamic architecture on contemporary interior design. The authors argue that incorporating cultural elements into residential interiors can create a more authentic and meaningful living experience that reflects the values and traditions of the society. This global perspective underscores the universality of the challenge faced by interior designers in preserving cultural identity while embracing contemporary design.

2.8. KOREAN CULTURE IN INTERIOR DESIGN: A CASE STUDY

[Lee and Joo \(2019\)](#) examine the influence of Korean culture on residential interior design. The study highlights the importance of incorporating cultural elements in creating a unique and personalized living experience that resonates with the values and traditions of the society. This case study exemplifies the rich interplay between tradition and modernity, and how cultural integration serves as a bridge between the two.

In summation, these diverse scholarly perspectives underscore the vital role of cultural heritage in interior design. They advocate for the incorporation of cultural elements to create spaces that are not only visually appealing but deeply meaningful, reflecting the values and traditions of the societies they serve. The analytical framework herein spans from the local context of Ahmedabad to the global scale, revealing a universal challenge faced by interior designers – the preservation of cultural identity while embracing modernity. This comprehensive exploration underscores the fact that the integration of cultural ethos into residential interiors is not only a matter of design but a profound expression of identity, history, and culture.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research approach used in this paper is focused on understanding the socio-cultural significance of different residential scales in Ahmedabad. To achieve this, we have used a qualitative and pragmatic research methodology that involves analyzing case studies from various time zones in Ahmedabad. The city of Ahmedabad is well known for its rich socio-cultural heritage, making it a suitable location for studying the impact of culture on interior design.

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design for this study is a site visit-based design that involves visiting selected residential spaces and conducting observations. The purpose of this design is to examine how cultural elements are incorporated into residential interiors to create a personalized and meaningful living experience. The study aims to collect data on the different cultural elements used in residential interiors, their significance, and the impact on the living experience.

3.2. DATA COLLECTION

The data collection procedures for this study include observations. The observations will be conducted by visiting the selected residential spaces and noting the cultural elements integrated into the interior spaces. The observations will be recorded using a camera, and notes will be taken on the different cultural elements used. To document this research, we have used both conventional and digital methods. These methods include taking on-site measurements and making building observations, as well as capturing drawings and pictures during site visits. By utilizing both conventional and digital documentation methods, the researchers can ensure that their research is comprehensive, and they can capture all relevant details and data.

3.3. DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected from the observations and interviews will be transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis. The thematic analysis approach involves identifying patterns or themes within the data that relate to the research questions. The identified themes will be grouped and analyzed to develop a comprehensive understanding of the cultural elements integrated into the residential interiors.

The data collected from the site visits and observations is then used to analyze different elements of interior design. This includes analyzing the use of space, the selection of design elements such as colors and motifs/symbols, the choice of furniture, and the display of artifacts. By analyzing these different elements, the researchers can gain a better understanding of how culture influences interior design.

Overall, the research approach used in this paper is focused on providing a comprehensive analysis of the impact of culture on interior design in Ahmedabad. Through the use of qualitative and pragmatic research methods and the documentation of site visits and observations, the researchers aim to provide valuable insights into the role of culture in shaping interior design.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

4.1. CASE STUDY 1: DEEWANJI NI HAVELI

The DeewajiniHaveliwhich is 250 years old is situated in the Khadia area of Ahmedabad, specifically in Sankdi Sheri. After being restored in 2016 by the city heritage center located within its premises, this haveli, which was once a private residence.

Figure 1



Figure 1 Front View
Source AMC

The entrance of Deewajini Haveli is adorned with intricately carved wooden columns, doors, and windows. The first-floor railing features stunning carved motifs that enhance the overall appearance of the front facade, with wooden elements set against a white background.

Figure 2

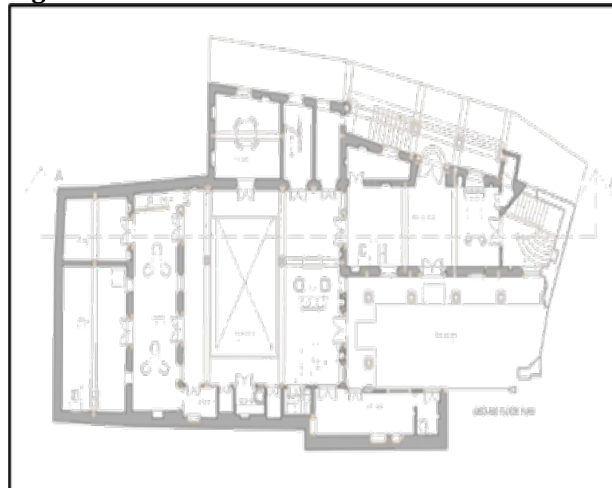


Figure 2 Ground Floor Plan
Source Indus University

The Deewanjinihaveli is a four-story wooden house with a spacious central courtyard that serves as the focal point for all corridors leading to specific areas. The

ground floor comprises public and semi-private spaces, while the remaining three floors consist of private and semi-private areas.

Figure 3



Figure 3 Section AA'

Source Indus University

Haveli displays a diverse range of interior features, including the staircase and windows. For instance, the gathering hall is adorned with colorful glass windows in an arch, while others are plain rectangular windows with intricate wooden carvings. The haveli boasts two separate staircases, strategically placed to provide easy access to all four areas and enhance connectivity with the courtyard.

Figure 4



Figure 4 Reception Area

Source BhaviJasani

Upon entering the haveli, visitors are greeted by a variety of wooden furniture and hanging lights made of glass that exude an ancient feel. Moroccan tiles illuminate the space, and soft thresholds divide each area, with beams and columns

adding to the overall aesthetic. The haveli has been converted into a bed and breakfast and is also open for visits.

Figure 5



Figure 5 Gathering Space in Lobby Area

Source BhaviJasani

The hallway adjacent to the courtyard provides a space for gathering, allowing for a cool breeze to flow through the courtyard. The furniture in this area is made of bamboo and includes traditional Gujarati furniture Jhullo, which is accentuated by vibrant, traditionally-block printed pillow covers and cushions that serve as a focal point.

Figure 6



Figure 6 Courtyard

Source AMC

The walls on the first floor that face the courtyard have been painted yellow to accentuate the windows and grill. Additionally, small Diya jarokhas have been added in white to further enhance the area. To differentiate each floor, carved wooden

beam runners and white borders have been added to all three floors, creating a unique and individual look for each level.

Figure 7



Figure 7 Bedroom
Source Bhavijasani

The Haveli's rooms exude a luxurious and antique ambiance, featuring four-poster beds, Moroccan tiles, wooden ceilings, and glass windows. The accent wall's vibrant hue adds warmth and coziness to the spacious bedroom.

Figure 8



Figure 8 Arieal View of Haveli
Source AMC

Observing from an aerial perspective, the Haveli's terraces are adorned with brightly colored traditional mosaic designs, embellished with various motifs along the borders and centers. Two of the terraces are open, situated on opposing sides of the courtyard, while the remaining two are roofed on wooden balustrades and purlins

with asbestos sheet above it and achieving the heritage identity by coloring it as Mangalore tiles.

4.2. CASE STUDY 2: NAZIM HUZAIN ALAVIS HOUSE

Located in Ahmedabad's Khadia area, this house belonged to the renowned Urdu writer WarisAlvi and has stood for nearly a century. It still carries the essence of the Urdu community's cultural heritage, despite undergoing several renovations to accommodate the family's needs. Nonetheless, it retains many of its original interior elements, serving as a reminiscent memory lane to its past.

Figure 9



Figure 9 Front View

Source Bhavijasani

The green wooden door with antique jali not only adds a pop of color to the entrance but also reflects the cultural significance of intricate craftsmanship. The door's blend with the pastel green fencing wall enhances the aesthetic appeal of the house's entryway.

Figure 10

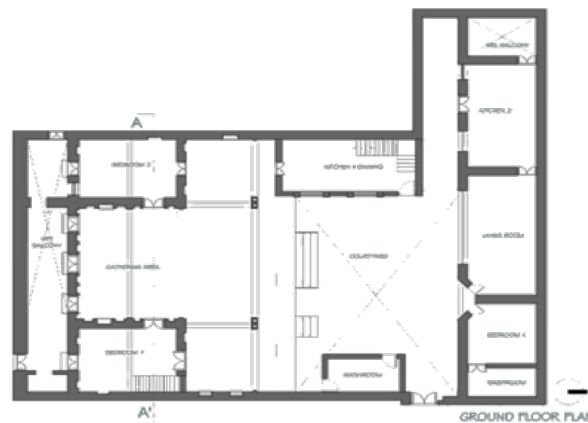


Figure 10 Ground Floor Plan

Source Bhavijasani

The impressive two-story residence boasts a generously sized and appealing courtyard that, in line with climate considerations, also serves as a social hub. This space includes an adjacent vestibule, which functions as a shared area for the sons and their families. The bedrooms and individual kitchens for each family are positioned on the northern, southern, and western aspects of the wing, respectively.

Figure 11



Figure 11 Section AA'

Source BhaviJasani

The building features stunningly designed jharokhas on the ground floor that serve both aesthetic and functional purposes. The metal grill is also beautifully carved. On the first floor, intricately crafted doors and windows showcase skilled workmanship with visually appealing carvings that create a sense of luxury and elegance.

Figure 12



Figure 12 Courtyard

Source BhaviJasani

The vestibule of the courtyard is distinguished by the circular-shaped balconies on the ground and first floor, featuring exquisitely crafted railings and stunning brackets. The courtyard's periphery is adorned with green and grey shades on the walls and railings, which blend harmoniously with the overall color scheme of the

common space. Despite the use of multiple colors, the courtyard remains a cohesive and integrated part of the architecture.

Figure 13



Figure 13 Columns of Vestibule

Source Bhavijasani

In order to distinguish the courtyard and vestibule, beyond the subtle level difference of the soft threshold, columns are utilized and given special attention by being painted in vibrant colors such as blue and maroon. The rest of the vestibule is adorned with shades of cream, green, yellow, and white, creating a harmonious color palette.

Figure 14



Figure 14 Vestibule

Source Bhavijasani

The vestibule regions are separated by gentle thresholds, such as ceilings. The space is designed as a family seating area with a wooden ceiling painted in a soft pastel blue, white walls, and antique pop borders that accentuate each area. As we enter the space, the yellow border draws attention to the area, followed by the blue border.

Figure 15



Figure 15 Sankheda Furniture
Source Bhavijasani

Figure 16



Figure 16 Pitaro
Source Bhavijasani

Figure 17

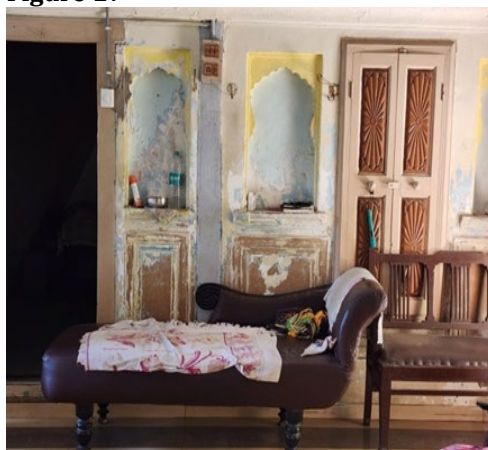


Figure 17 Divan and Niches
Source Bhavijasani

Figure 18



Figure 18 Carving On doors

Source BhaviJasani

The house features a blend of Indian furniture, including Diwans, Pitaras, wooden bench, carved doors, and Sankheda furniture. These pieces are adorned with decorative fabric pillows and a Damask rug, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere in the space.

4.3. CASE STUDY 3: JAGDIP MEHTA'S HOUSE

Located in the MotaSuthar no Vadoneighborhood and the surrounding area of Khadia, Jagdip Mehta's house boasts a facade that blends traditional architectural elements with European influences.

Figure 19



Figure 19 Front View

Source AMC

The front exterior of this dwelling exudes a distinct vibe from a traditional haveli, featuring a jhulla that leads to a shared courtyard among four houses. The

front facade is adorned with a thin, lively-colored border and pastel yellow background that accentuates the panel doors and windows.

Figure 20



Figure 20 Ground Floor Plan
Source Jagdip Mehta

The house features two courtyards or chowks, located at the entrance, serving the purpose of providing natural light to the rooms. Both courtyards are positioned on the left side, while everything else is situated on the right side. The kitchen and dining areas are separated from the chowks by a difference in levels and a solid wall barrier, but with a slight degree of transparency provided by a window.

Figure 21



Figure 21 Courtyard and Living Room
Source AMC

Distinctive Moroccan tiles distinguish the larger courtyard from the corridors, which serve as seating areas featuring intricately carved antique wooden sofas adorned with vibrant colored tapestries on the jhulas.

Figure 22



Figure 22 Passage
Source BhaviJasani

The corridor on the first floor that overlooks the ground floor courtyard exudes a tranquil ambiance, primarily due to the soft peach background color. Moreover, the colorful glass above the lintel imparts a Gujarati traditional feel that complements the connection with the seating area on the ground floor.

Figure 23



Figure 23 Bedroom Window
Source Jagdip Mehta

Jagdip Mehta, being a folk singer, has a riyaz room on the first floor that features ground seating, exuding a Gujarati vibe, with a stunningly crafted POP ceiling. The flooring and ceiling boast a mix of dark and poppy colors balanced by white walls in between. The traditional furniture adorns the walls alongside artifacts, enhancing the room's regal appeal.

Figure 24



Figure 24 Bedroom Window

Source Bhavijasani

The vibrant hues of the glass windows in this house not only serve as a source of natural light but also add an artistic element to the interior. When illuminated by sunlight, the colors cast lively shadows that bring a sense of liveliness and energy to the space.

4.4. CASE STUDY 4: VILOO MIRZA'S HOUSE

Nestled in the Parsi colony of Maninagar, this stately Colonial house boasts a rich history of 75 years. Its distinct characteristics, reflecting the colonial architectural style, are a testament to its enduring charm, as proudly stated by its owner, VilooMirza.

Figure 25



Figure 25 Front Façade of Parsi House

Source Bhavijasani

The bungalow's grand entrance is accentuated by courtyards on both sides, while the lush greenery surrounding the white villa creates a tranquil ambiance. The symbol of the sun atop the bungalow serves as a visual representation of their belief and adds to its aesthetic appeal.

Figure 26

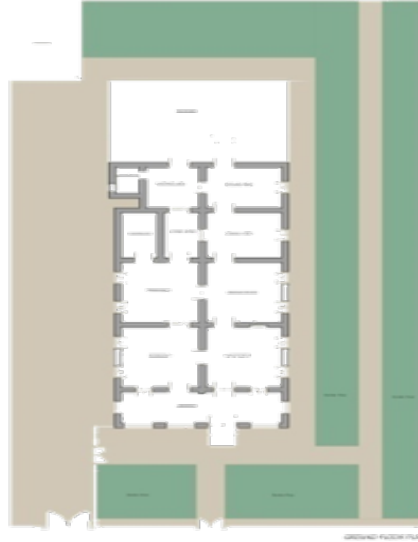


Figure 26 Ground Floor Plan

Source BhaviJasani

The bungalow is organized in a linear fashion, separating the public and private areas. Its distinct feature is the placement of doors in the middle of the wall, dividing the peripheral spaces, and positioning the service area towards the end, emphasizing privacy. Additionally, the bungalow has an outdoor seating area at the back same as colonial style.

Figure 27



Figure 27 Front Elevation of Parsi House

Source BhaviJasani

The iron grill that adorns the front elevation of the house not only enhances its visual appeal but also serves a functional purpose. It creates a sense of privacy for the verandah while still allowing for a connection with the outside, making it an ideal spot for relaxing and enjoying the surrounding views.

Figure 28

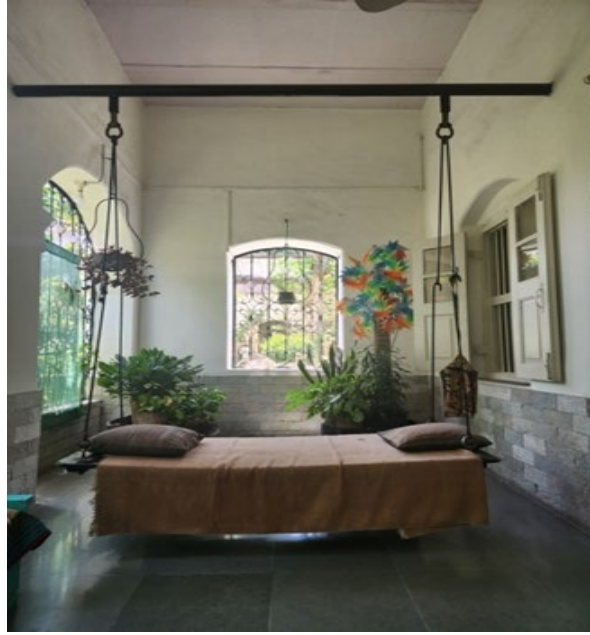


Figure 28 Vestibule Area of Parsi House
Source BhaviJasani

The vestibule of the house offers a unique space that seamlessly connects to the garden, creating a tranquil and semi-private environment. Adorned with a swing, Kota flooring, and white walls, it exudes a serene ambiance, perfect for family gathering.

Figure 29

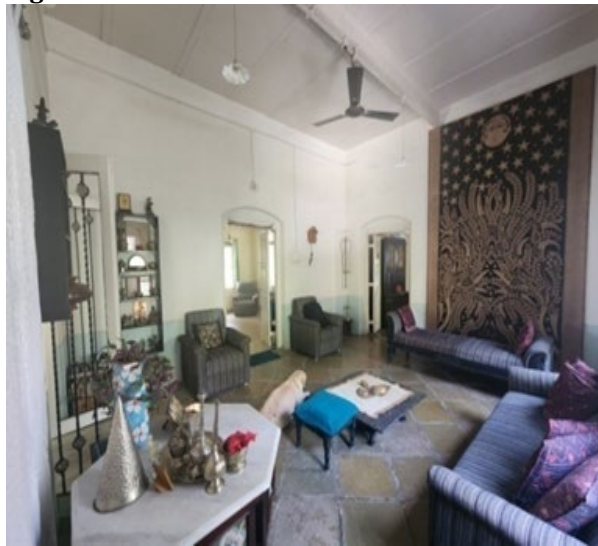


Figure 29 Living Room
Source BhaviJasani

The family room is decorated with a vibrant mix of colors and handcrafts, creating a lively and inviting atmosphere. The yellow kota flooring, purple upholstery, and green and purple single-seaters all contribute to the playful and dynamic design of the space.

Figure 30



Figure 30 Kitchen
Source BhaviJasani

Adhering to Parsi cultural traditions of using natural chimneys, the kitchen boasts a stunning RCC chimney adorned with purple mosaic, while its towering height of 13 feet adds to the luxurious ambiance.

Figure 31



Figure 31 Backyard
Source BhaviJasani

The backyard seating area has been thoughtfully designed to create a relaxing and inviting space that blends seamlessly with the natural environment. The use of kota flooring, a sea blue bench, and wooden table, along with the surrounding greenery, all contribute to the serene and peaceful atmosphere of the outdoor retreat.

Figure 32



Figure 32 Metalware
Source Bhavijasani

Figure 33



Figure 33 Importance of Symbolism
Source Bhavijasani

Figure 34



Figure 34 Artifacts in Drawing Room
Source Bhavijasani

Figure 35



Figure 35 Antique Trophy and Artifacts Shelf
Source Bhavijasani

This house is a treasure trove of Parsi cultural artifacts that have been thoughtfully incorporated into the decor to add character and charm. From the ascent bowl and nature-inspired rug to the beautifully carved wooden artifacts and trophy stand, each piece tells a unique story and adds to the overall aesthetic appeal of the home.

4.5. CASE STUDY 5. DHODIA HAVELI

Situated in the Doshiwadani Pol of Ahmedabad, this 180-year-old haveli has recently undergone a renovation that beautifully restores its cultural heritage while also adding a unique identity. Owner Chandrakant Dhodia's vision was to revive the original charm of the property, making it a prime example of cultural residences in Ahmedabad.

Figure 36



Figure 36 Front Façade of Dodhiya Haveli
Source Betterinteriors.in

The Haveli's front facade is adorned with various traditional elements, including carved brackets, columns, and wooden windows. These features, along with metal railings and colorful glass, add to the overall aesthetic of the building, creating a charming and authentic look. Additionally, the bright yellow shade on the inner side of the Chajja serves as a vibrant and eye-catching accent, which enhances the traditional essence of the Haveli.

Figure 37

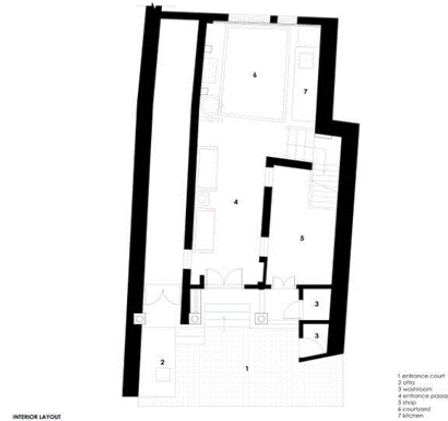


Figure 37 Ground Floor Plan of Dodhiya Haveli

Source H+N design Partners

To optimize the use of space and accentuate the courtyard, this three-story house has designated a specific function for each floor. The dining area, designed for four people, is located on the ground floor to create a spacious and lively feel, while maintaining order and organization. Meanwhile, the first and second floors are designed as individual bedrooms to ensure privacy and spaciousness for each person.

Figure 38



Figure 38 Entrance Lounge

Source Betterinteriors.in

Upon entering the lounge area, a warm and inviting atmosphere is immediately felt, created by the use of a bright yellow color scheme, balanced with white on adjacent walls and ceilings, and dark brown wooden beams and runners. The placement of frames and pictures on the wall adds to the ambiance. To enhance the spaciousness of the area, a beautiful geometrical rug with horizontal lines is placed on the polished Kota stone flooring, further adding to the warm and cozy vibe of the space.

Figure 39



Figure 39 Dining and Kitchen Area

Source Betterinteriors.in

The courtyard is elevated with a soft threshold created by mosaic flooring featuring linear patterns that align with the color scheme of the house. The addition of a stunning Gujarati painting known as Pachhedi on the wall, along with the use of blue dining chairs, adds visual interest and focal point towards the center of the courtyard. Adjacent to the courtyard, the kitchen is designed in a linear form with mosaic tiles used as dado, creating a lavish and traditional interior ambiance through the use of dark green color and yellow epoxy.

Figure 40



Figure 40 Bedroom on 1st Floor

Source Betterinteriors.in

The bedroom exemplifies opulence and vintage style, featuring a magnificent high four-poster bed adorned with luxurious curtains that exude a sense of comfort, complementing the room's lofty height and marble flooring. A vibrant oval-shaped rug is strategically placed to add a touch of contrast to the geometric patterns created by the bed and the exposed beams on the ceiling.

Figure 41



Figure 41 Bedroom on 1st Floor
Source Betterinteriors.in

Beneath the staircase lies a secluded study area, ideal for studying and writing in solitude. The area is adorned with vivid glass accents that reflect stunning colors onto the study table, setting it apart from the wooden wall. The blue chair in the study area draws attention towards it, while the black flooring provides a bold contrast. Furthermore, a metallic watch strategically placed at the staircase area, directly opposite to the bed, stands out due to the surrounding wooden elements.

Figure 42



Figure 42 Staircase Area
Source Betterinteriors.in

Figure 43



Figure 43 First Floor Passage Area
Source Betterinteriors.in

Figure 44

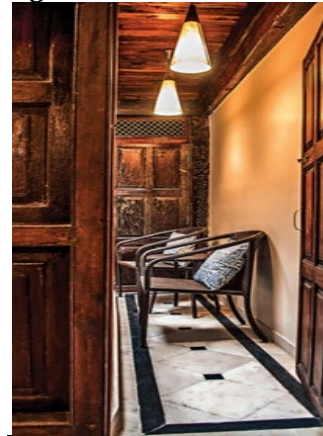


Figure 44 Balcony On 1st Floor
Source Betterinteriors.in

Figure 45



Figure 45 Second Floor Bedroom
Source Betterinteriors.in

The cultural influence is evident in every aspect of this house, from the flooring to the ceiling, windows to doors, lights to artifacts, upholstery to rugs. As you descend the staircase, you'll notice the beautiful woven work known as "chakado," adding a cultural touch to the entire area. Moving through the passage, you'll catch a glimpse of the courtyard adorned with a "pachedi" painting, featuring a vibrant yellow background that exudes a soothing effect. The bedroom balcony offers a different flooring area with wooden furniture for relaxation, providing a view of traditional houses, accentuated by an overhead hanging light. The second-floor bedroom features a green table and chair, along with a blue pitara and a geometric rug that blends harmoniously with the room's color scheme without being overpowering. Additionally, the walls are painted in white to highlight each furniture piece in the room.

4.6. CASE STUDY 6. AMIT AMBALAL HAVELI

Amit Ambalal, a renowned artist, scholar, and art collector, resides in this unique home called "Sumeru." Fondly known as Amit bhai, he comes from a prominent Gujarati mercantile family in Ahmedabad. Sumeru, located in the Navrangpura area near St. Xavier's College, is a prime example of a modern house that beautifully combines Gujarati and Maharashtrian cultures within its walls.

Figure 46



Figure 46 Main Hall

Source BharathRamamrutham

Upon entering the main hall of Amitbhai's home, one is immediately greeted with a stunning Pichvai painting along with several other colorful paintings. In addition, the Yali sculpture and various other artifacts also play a significant role in the space. To ensure that all corners of the house are equally highlighted, the walls and ceiling have been painted plain white, while the flooring is made of kota. To allow natural light to fill the space, skylights and transparent glasses have been incorporated into the design.

Figure 47



Figure 47 Main Hall

Source BharathRamamrutham

In the main hall of the house, a bajot takes center stage as a coffee table, surrounded by a blue sofa and various artifacts. The room features a collection of items including a 19th-century wooden Garuda and other polychrome sculptures from South India, a crow painting by artist Anjolie Ela Menon, a 5th-century Vishwaroop sculpture from Shamlaji, a late-18th-century Gopashtamipichvai, an M.F. Husain drawing, and other objects. These pieces are displayed on wooden tables or shelves, creating a captivating space that draws the eye from one corner to another. To further enhance the area, a red rug has been placed to help focus attention on these precious artifacts.

Figure 48



Figure 48 Passage Towards Courtyard

Source BharathRamamrutham

The vestibule or passage is adorned with stunning red-colored wooden "hichko" pieces arranged in a linear manner, providing a perfect view of the

courtyard. In addition to the beautifully carved hichko side table, chairs, and bajot, adorned with a lovely flower bowl, it creates a cozy seating area for the whole family. The presence of planters and the open courtyard allows for fresh air and a rejuvenating atmosphere.

Figure 49

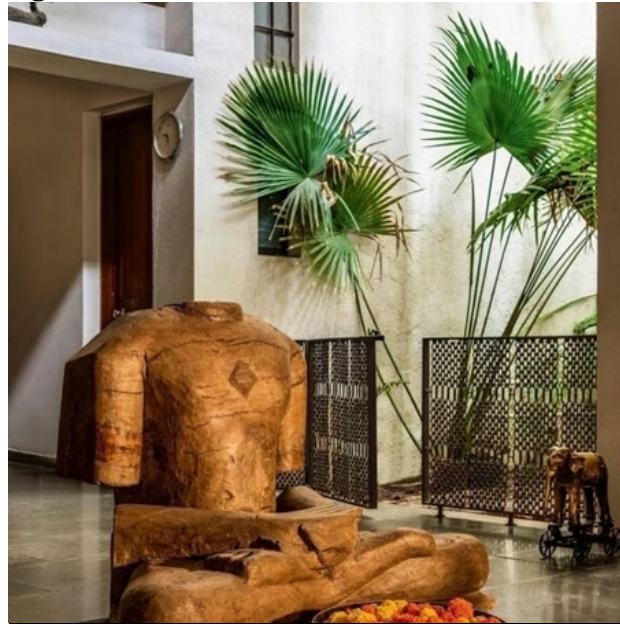


Figure 49 Sculpture in the Passage

Source BharathRamamrutham

Strategically placed in the passage, a 16th-century wooden torso of Mahavir from Gujarat serves as a sculpture that creates a serene ambiance, with its focal point drawing attention towards it. The presence of palm planters in the courtyard adds to the overall peaceful atmosphere.

Figure 50

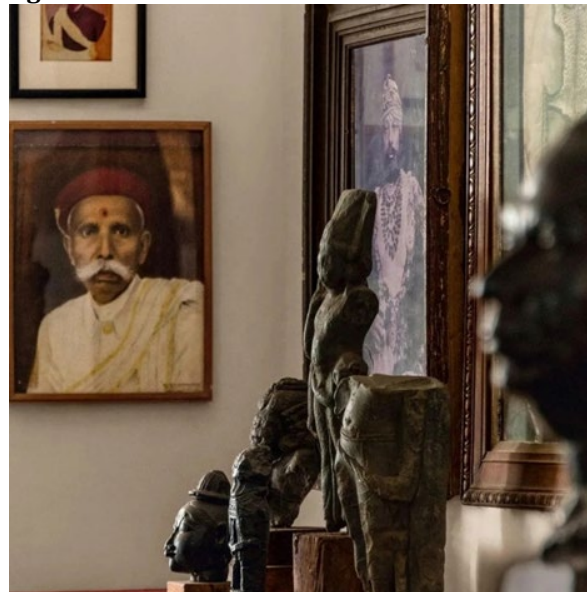


Figure 50 Sculptures Near Dining Area

Source BharathRamamrutham

The house features a carefully curated collection of historic sculptures from the 4th century, strategically placed throughout the space to avoid overwhelming the overall aesthetic. Alongside these sculptures, family pictures of elders are thoughtfully displayed in unique antique frames, intentionally avoiding a monotonous or overly harmonious appearance.

Figure 51



Figure 51 Dining Area

Source BharathRamamrutham

The dining area of this house boasts a stunning sunroof that allows natural light to filter through the surrounding trees, bringing the feeling of nature indoors. The wooden furniture beneath an antique hanging light adds to the cozy ambiance, while the sculptures placed around the perimeter of the area make it one of the most soothing and aesthetically pleasing spaces in the house.

Figure 52



Figure 52 Courtyard Area of AmitAmbalals Studio

Source BharathRamamrutham

The courtyard of the Studios features exquisite heritage doors and windows, which are accentuated by the use of exposed brick walls. Additionally, a metal carved gate adds a touch of elegance and enhances the overall ambiance of the courtyard area.

Figure 53



Figure 53 Terrace area of Amit Ambalal's Studio

Source BharathRamamrutham

The pavement, cornice, and windows of the Studios terrace have been refurbished from the old haveli of Amit Ambalal. The wooden and stone carvings that have been used give this studio within the house a stunning and awe-inspiring appearance.

Figure 54



Figure 54 Inside Studio

Source BharathRamamrutham

Upon entering the studio, one will come across a chowk known as Kamal. This area boasts stunningly crafted brackets and columns that draw attention to a 1800's Pichvai painting. The sculptures surrounding the painting add to its aesthetic appeal, while the black flooring and intermediate lighting seamlessly blend everything together.

Figure 55

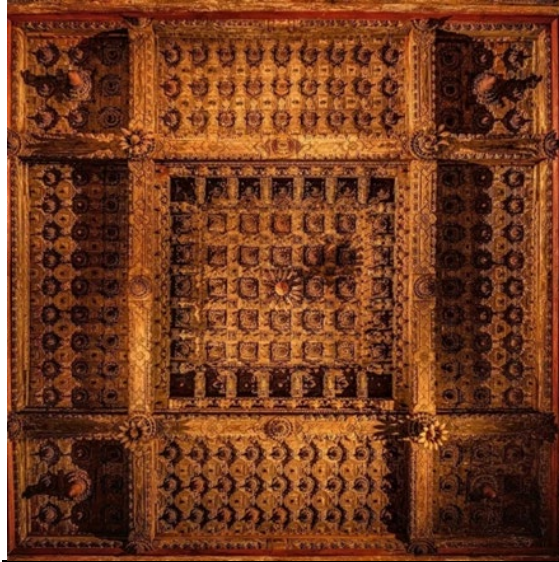


Figure 55 Ceiling of Studio

Source BharathRamamrutham

The ceiling of Kamal Chowk is an exquisite work of art that is sure to catch one's eye. It is made of intricately carved wood and is designed in a grid pattern. The woodwork is sourced from Barhanpur, a city located in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, known for its traditional craftsmanship.

Figure 56



Figure 56 Amit Ambalal's Work Space

Source BharathRamamrutham

Amit Ambalal's workspace is not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing. The doors and windows are adorned with beautiful carvings that add a touch of elegance to the space. The ceiling is also noteworthy, as it creates a sense of height and spaciousness in the work area. In addition to this, Amit Sir's paintings are a sight to behold, and they complement the overall beauty of the space.

Figure 57



Figure 57 Kamal Chowk

Source BharathRamamrutham

The house designed by Amit Ambalal showcases not just the Gujarati culture but also the Maharashtrian culture through the use of Pichvai paintings. His emphasis on nature and interior elements further highlights the significance of these paintings, reflecting his passion towards his work

4.7. CASE STUDY 7. BHOOMI DANI'S HOUSE

BhoomiDani and Priyam Shah, the founders of Vrajbhoomi clothing and textile brand, have created a culturally-inspired interior design for their 3BHK flat in Ahmedabad. They have accomplished this by incorporating furniture from Kutch and using Pichvai print upholstery, which has resulted in a simple yet elegant look. The founders have successfully revived traditional elements of the region, and their efforts have resulted in a soothing and serene atmosphere in the space.

Figure 58



Figure 58 Entry Area

Source Beautiful Homes

Upon entering the apartment, one is greeted by a traditional carved wooden door that sets the tone for the rest of the space. A console table with intricate wooden carvings and a collection of artifacts adorns the wall, while a Lippan wall frame adds to the soothing ambiance. Despite the predominantly white color scheme, each piece of furniture stands out and holds its own unique identity in the area. To unify the overall look, a simple brown rug is placed to maintain a neutral tone.

Figure 59



Figure 59 Entry Area
Source Beautiful Homes

The entrance space features a "khatlo" from Gujarati furniture, complemented by blue pillows and frames that harmoniously blend together, creating a calming ambiance. Adjacent to it are plantations, making it a perfect spot for reading the newspaper or having a casual conversation with a friend.

Figure 60



Figure 60 Bedroom 1 Console Table
Source BhoomiDani

The console table is decorated with four pots covered in a waste cloth, placed against a Lippan background. The table is intricately carved in a geometrical grid and circular pattern, creating a soothing and visually appealing view. The Lippan background, made of clay and cow dung, contrasts with the modern-looking table and adds an interesting element to the display. Overall, the combination of decorative elements creates a beautiful and harmonious area.

Figure 61



Figure 61 Living Room

Source BhoomiDani

The Drawing Room is a space designed to reflect the beauty and culture of Gujarat. To achieve this, the room features beautiful wooden carved sofas, which are the focal point of the space. These sofas are adorned with pichvai printed cushion covers, a traditional form of textile art that originated in Rajasthan, but is also prevalent in Gujarat. Additionally, the room showcases the use of fabric wall frames, which add an extra layer of texture and warmth to the space. The combination of these elements, along with the use of simple and elegant colors, creates a cohesive and visually appealing room that pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of Gujarat.

Figure 62



Figure 62 Dining Area

Source BhoomiDani

In the dining area, neutral-colored hand-woven wall pieces are complemented by blue cloth block printed with intricate designs. The center of the table is adorned with essence sticks, adding a pleasing fragrance to the space. Additionally, wooden hanging balances add a unique visual focal point as they transition from a horizontal to vertical orientation.

This house serves as an exemplary representation of how modern construction has incorporated Gujarati furniture and cultural elements in a harmonious way to create a soothing atmosphere. One notable feature is the use of Pichvai prints, which are created through the traditional and natural method of block printing. These prints are strategically placed throughout the house to enhance its aesthetic appeal and reflect the rich cultural heritage of Gujarat.

Overall, this house demonstrates the fusion of modern and traditional elements to create a unique and visually appealing living space. It highlights the importance of preserving cultural heritage and incorporating it into contemporary designs to create a harmonious and authentic environment.

5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Case Study 1: Deewajini Haveli Deewajini Haveli is a prime example of incorporating cultural elements into residential interiors. The intricate wooden carvings on the entrance, windows, and doors showcase the traditional craftsmanship of Ahmedabad. The use of colorful glass windows and arches in the gathering hall adds a vibrant touch to the interior. The choice of furniture, Moroccan tiles, and traditional Gujarati furniture in the reception area and gathering space reflects the cultural heritage of the region. By analyzing this case study, we can observe how cultural elements are seamlessly integrated into the interior design, creating a personalized and meaningful living experience.

Case Study 2: NazimHuzainAlavi's House NazimHuzainAlavi's House showcases the preservation of cultural heritage within a residential setting. The green wooden door with antique jali, the carved jharokhas, and intricately crafted doors and windows are reminiscent of traditional architectural elements. The courtyard and vestibule area serve as communal spaces, highlighting the importance of family and social interactions in the Gujarati culture. The use of Sankheda furniture, Pitaras, and Diwans further reflects the cultural identity of the residents. This case study emphasizes the significance of incorporating cultural artifacts and architectural elements to create a sense of nostalgia and connection with one's heritage.

Case Study 3: Jagdip Mehta's House Jagdip Mehta's House demonstrates the fusion of traditional and European influences in interior design. The front facade with a jhulla and shared courtyard reflects the traditional haveli architecture. The use of Moroccan tiles, antique wooden sofas, and vibrant glass windows adds a touch of elegance and cultural significance to the interior spaces. The house's linear organization separates public and private areas, emphasizing the importance of privacy while maintaining a connection with traditional communal spaces. This case study highlights the ability to incorporate cultural elements while embracing modern design sensibilities.

Case Study 4: VilooMirza's House VilooMirza's House showcases the colonial architectural style while incorporating cultural artifacts and elements. The front facade with lush greenery and a sun symbol reflects the colonial charm and the owner's belief system. The placement of doors in the middle of the walls and the

separation of public and private areas emphasize privacy and organization. The use of traditional Parsi furniture, antique frames, and cultural artifacts adds character and charm to the interior spaces. This case study emphasizes the importance of preserving cultural heritage while embracing the influences of the colonial era.

Case Study 5: Dhodia Haveli Dhodia Haveli exemplifies the restoration of a heritage property while incorporating cultural elements. The front facade with intricately carved wooden elements and colorful glass windows preserves the traditional architectural style of a haveli. The courtyard with mosaic flooring, traditional paintings, and unique furniture arrangements adds a cultural touch to the living spaces. The use of traditional Indian furniture, artifacts, and art pieces further enhances the cultural ambiance of the haveli. This case study highlights the significance of restoring and reviving cultural heritage in residential interiors.

Case Study 6: Amit Ambalal Haveli Amit Ambalal Haveli showcases the integration of art, cultural artifacts, and traditional elements within a modern context. The main hall with Pichvai paintings, sculptures, and antique frames creates a visually captivating and culturally rich space. The incorporation of skylights and transparent glasses allows natural light to enhance the display of artwork. The studio area with intricately carved wooden elements and traditional ceiling design reflects the fusion of art and cultural influences. This case study emphasizes the importance of incorporating cultural elements as an expression of personal identity and artistic appreciation.

Case Study 7: BhoomiDani's House BhoomiDani's House represents a successful incorporation of traditional elements into a modern residential setting. The carved wooden door, traditional furniture, and Lippan wall frames create a welcoming and culturally inspired entry area. The use of Pichvai print upholstery, hand-woven wall pieces, and artifacts in the living and dining areas showcases the cultural heritage of Gujarat. This case study highlights the ability to create a soothing and serene atmosphere by reviving traditional elements in interior design.

6. CONCLUSION

The study focused on understanding the socio-cultural significance of different residential scales in Ahmedabad and the impact of culture on interior design. Through qualitative and pragmatic research methods, the researchers analyzed case studies that showcased the integration of cultural elements into residential interiors.

The case studies demonstrated the diverse ways in which cultural elements are incorporated into interior design. From intricate wooden carvings and colorful glass windows to traditional furniture and artifacts, each case study showcased a unique blend of cultural heritage and personal expression. The preservation of traditional architectural elements, the use of traditional craftsmanship, and the inclusion of cultural artifacts all contributed to creating a personalized and meaningful living experience.

The research findings emphasize the importance of cultural identity in interior design and the role it plays in creating a sense of belonging and connection. By integrating cultural elements into residential interiors, individuals can create spaces that reflect their heritage and values while embracing modern design sensibilities.

Overall, the study provides valuable insights into the impact of culture on interior design in Ahmedabad. It highlights the significance of preserving cultural heritage, reviving traditional elements, and embracing the fusion of cultural influences in creating meaningful and aesthetically pleasing residential spaces.

In conclusion, the integration of cultural elements in interior design is not merely an aesthetic choice but a powerful means of expressing and celebrating the unique identity and traditions of a community. The case studies presented here, spanning from the vibrant residential spaces in Ahmedabad to the diverse homes of Nazim Huzain Alavi, Jagdip Mehta, Viloo Mirza, and Amit Ambalal, exemplify how cultural artifacts, artwork, color schemes, lighting, furniture, upholstery, flooring, and decor items can be thoughtfully incorporated to craft living spaces that resonate with the cultural heritage of the homeowners.

Indian interior design, for instance, is marked by its bold and vivacious color palette, with earthy tones like brown, tan, ochre yellow, and umber infusing a sense of liveliness and opulence into the living spaces. These vibrant colors need not saturate every inch of a room; a strategically placed pop of color on a column, an accent wall, or an upholstery item can achieve the same effect, rendering a living space that is both unique and culturally authentic.

Furniture, a cornerstone of interior design, embraces solid wood pieces adorned with intricate carvings, inlay work, and gracefully curved edges, drawing inspiration from India's rich architectural and historical traditions. Traditional furniture, including Diwan, Pitara, Manjus Chest, Baithak, Patlo, Jhula, Galicho, and Sankheda, offers a direct reflection of India's cultural heritage. These elements can be harmoniously woven into interiors, infusing them with character and cultural significance.

Flooring, a significant design element, showcases materials such as marble, mosaic tiles, terracotta, and wood, creating a rich tapestry that evokes warmth and homeliness. Hand-woven fabrics, featuring intricate patterns and vibrant colors, bring a warm and inviting atmosphere to interiors. These textiles can be used to establish focal points, infusing spaces with character and personality.

Décor elements, often composed of traditional artifacts, handwoven textiles, and art, accentuate the cultural significance of interior design. Traditional Indian elements, like statues, bells, idols, and embroidered rugs, enrich the interiors with cultural depth. Handwoven fabrics, a hallmark of Indian craftsmanship, appear in drapes, cushion covers, bedspreads, and decorative items. These textiles, featuring detailed work in weaving, embroidery, and block printing, convey cultural authenticity while imparting warmth and charm.

Patterns and motifs, integral to Indian interior design, celebrate the nation's culture and traditions. Vibrant designs such as paisleys, flowers, birds, and mandalas are frequently incorporated into decor, serving as visual representations of Indian heritage. Art, including Rajasthani and Madhubani paintings, enriches the spaces with unique elegance. Statues of animals, made from terracotta and metals, become focal points that honor tradition.

The overarching message is clear: cultural ethos in interior design is a dynamic means of expressing and celebrating identity, history, and culture. By thoughtfully and artfully incorporating these elements into living spaces, interior designers have the power to create not just aesthetically pleasing environments but also meaningful and authentic ones that reflect the values and traditions of a society. This endeavor transcends borders and communities, and its potential for positive impact resonates on both personal and communal levels. Interior design becomes a cultural narrative, a vibrant and personalized story told through spaces that offer a true sense of belonging and identity to their occupants.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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