

Application of Traditional Design, form, Style and Concepts in Contemporary Interiors

Daketi Srinivas¹

Abstract: Great ancient civilizations often were associated with great built forms, design and technology. The Great Pyramids of Egypt or the civilizations like Indus Valley or Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were always examples of great built forms and built technologies. Built way back in BC and the remains still inspire architects and professionals. Buildings from micro level to macro level urban built forms leaves human great lessons which have been explored and still in exploration. No doubt these were built in the past with minimum available resources in all aspects.

There were structural and technological wonders beside mere daily shelters. Modernization, Urbanization and Industrialization has completely changed the built form discarding the previous Knowledge or technologies and practices those were sustainable.

The building materials, technology, practises, design concepts, form, texture, finishes which were used in the olden days have always been inspiring the architects, designers and professionals.

The paper aims at identifying some of the aspects which were learned and implemented in the modern era and need to identify and learn more from the past.

Keywords: Traditional design, interiors, sustainable, jali, wall finishes.

1. INTRODUCTION

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2. INTERIORS IN MODERN WORLD

Interiors as a subject and as affordability was always treated as for the rich and high societies. This was the thought process in olden days and also until the last decade. Due to modernization or urbanization, the typology of buildings has changed in the present context. There was a major shift and transformation in building types. Hospitals, schools, administrative buildings, theatres, malls, assembly buildings, factories were replaced from forts, palaces, palatial baths, ware houses etc. The scope for interiors has tremendously increased in the modern world. There are architects, professionals and interior designers who were on the job, to take the necessary load from the market. The need for residential interiors also has increased a lot in the present day. Every client/user, coming up with a home is always leaving scope for interiors in the budget. The need and demand always has scope for experimentation in design, innovations, and learning process from the past.

3. LEARNING FROM THE PAST

The vernacular traditional dwelling units or vernacular buildings which were evolved and derived from the basic needs of the human were always good examples of perfect designs and comfortable living.

Man has always been learning from nature and from the past. The learning could be imitation, application of concepts, ideas, methodology, circulation etc.

4. IDEAS FROM JALI AND ITS APPLICATION IN MODERN INTERIORS

A jali is the term for a perforated stone or latticed screen, usually with an ornamental pattern constructed through the use of calligraphy and geometry. Early work was performed by carving into stone, while the later more elegant used by the Mughals employed the technique of inlay, using marble and semi-precious stones. This architectural decoration was used in Islamic architecture as well as in Indian Architecture.

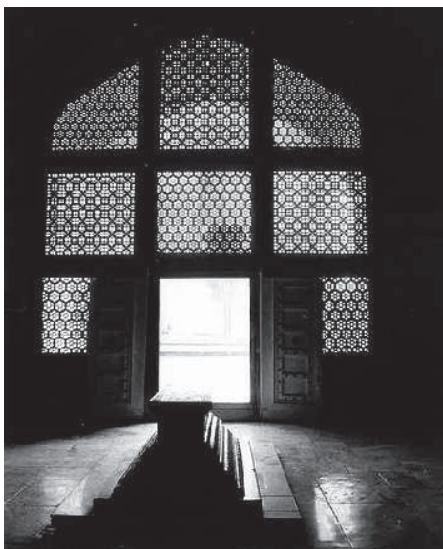


Fig. 1. Jali in Akbars tomb



Fig. 2. Jali in Modern building

The jali in contemporary interiors is used by various architects and designers in many ways. It is imitated with various materials and forms.

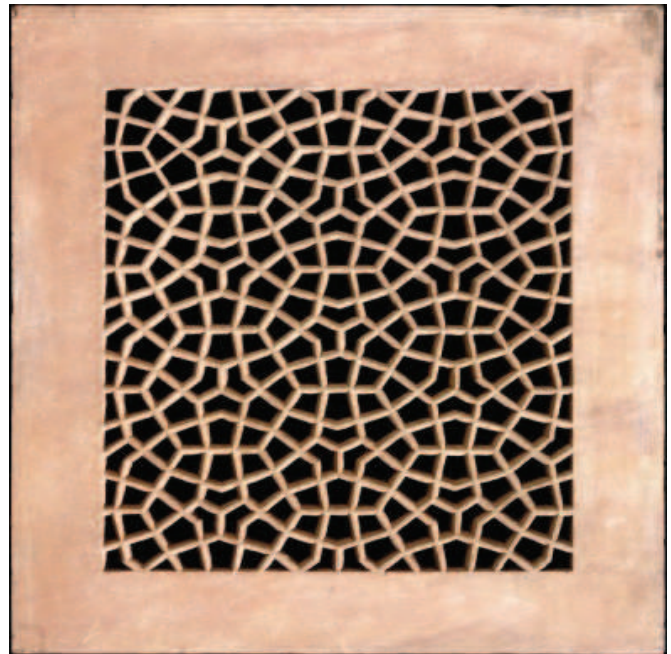


Fig. 3. Jali in old fort



Fig. 4. Jali made of Mdf for modern interiors

Jali in the modern interiors are made of various materials like acrylic, mdf, marble, granite, SS, brass, copper, wood, corian, stone etc. The advancement in technology and machinery has made the job easy, with fewer time frames. The jalis were used extensively in interiors for partitions, paneling, ceiling, door designs and flooring. This is a perfect economical replacement of exclusively intricately carved stone carvings used in olden days.



Fig. 5. Mdf jali partition finished with duco paint used by author for residential interiors at Hyderabad, India.

These jalis are highly appreciated, widely used, with eye pleasing designs that are truly elegant along with durability and strength. They are used in commercial, institutional, corporate and residential interior projects by designers. This is the best example of imitating the past or learning from past.

5. IDEAS FROM WALL SURFACES AND FINISHES:

Granite or stone walls always set an example for royal palaces and forts.



Fig. 5. Original Stone wall

The exposed stone masonry, exposed brick walls or walls with laterite are finishes which enhance the aesthetics in interiors. The clients always wish to differ the finishes or enhance a wall or give a rustic look to the interior surface. Working on way back ways of stone masonry would always be a difficult task in interiors. There is a search for alternative imitative materials or creating the wall panel with the same materials, by reducing the thickness and creating panels which could be easily fixed. An alternative wall surface is the use of wall papers, camphor sheet, texture, and cladding with same finish. Creating texture finishes which reflect the same material is another alternative way of imitating the past.



Fig. 6. Cladding: Stone wall as an imitation in interiors



Fig. 7. Tile used for wall surface to create the stone finished wall surface.

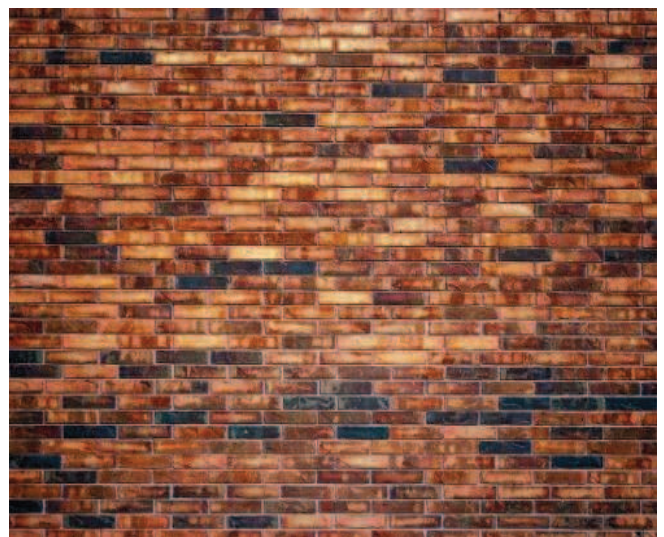


Fig. 8. Wall paper used to create the exposed brick wall surface.

Wood, one of the building materials was widely used for many components of a building. It is widely used in exteriors, interiors and also as structural component. It is always a favorite material for nature lovers and to create better ambience and aesthetics.



Fig. 9. Wood as an interior finish

Wood has become a scarce material in the modern world, but still a material or the finish which is high in demand. Materials like veneer, mdf, block board and other byproducts of wood is the effort to bring back life to the material.

Camphor sheet, vinyl, wall paper, texture finish and more materials are replacement of the same.



Fig. 10. Wall paper to create wood as an interior finish

6. CONCLUSION

The above study aims at rediscovering traditional design, form, style and concepts for contemporary interiors. This is achieved by the study of existing products, materials and projects which are derived from the past experiences in building material and technology. There was numerous effort made by our ancestors to accustom to the present needs of the society. This has created the path for the human to learn and derive from the past. Mere imitation is not the ultimate idea, but the concept and the theory behind the innovation plays a major role for sustainable interiors.

7. REFERENCES

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¹*Daketi Srinivas, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India
daketi@gmail.com*