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Formulating architectural elements for legislative assembly complex: Case of Pondicherry

Sub theme: Goal 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities

Kashish Vaibhav Shah

*Student, Shri Shivaji Maratha Society's College of Architecture,
Pune, Maharashtra, India.*



Abstract:

India is thought to be one of the world's most democratic countries. As a result, the smooth operation of those democratic systems needs efficient venues to house its institutions. From Parliament House of India to the Palace of Westminster, London, and from Washington's capitol to ancient Roman Pnyx, these spaces have traditionally been designed as iconic structures and are often seen as symbols of larger political ideas of national identity, pride, and power. Hence, the need has been understood to study and formulate architectural elements for legislative assembly complex. The goal of the comparative examination of the buildings was to examine and comprehend the relationship between political culture and architecture. It also helps us to analyze how these structures symbolize the state they're inbuilt, reflect the culture of the people and become their identity. This article also examines the interaction between built and unbuilt areas, as well as the security measures implemented to ensure the safety of these buildings. This paper also aims to grasp how some architectural elements such as aisles, spatial relationships with the opposite surrounding legislative structures, seating arrangement, and chambers help to shape and manifest the political culture of the place it is in-built. As a result, the author was able to develop the architectural components required to support the final year architectural design through descriptive and analytical research in context with Pondicherry.

Keywords:

Political culture; Democracy; Architectural elements

1. Introduction

Democracy today is a phrase used to describe a form of popularly elected governance. The constitution upholds law and order, defends citizen rights, and places restrictions on government bureaucracy. Therefore, in a democracy, the people have the real power. According to Abraham Lincoln, the government of the people, by the people, for the people - cultivates a crucial interaction between bureaucracy and democracy by employing people as a connecting means.

In the past, government buildings were constructed in a way to demonstrate their might and authority. There is a need for change in the shape and structure of administrative buildings, nevertheless, given the shifting times and the

nature of government Administrative and civic spaces must be inclusive while also reflecting the dignity of the government that occupies them. Such places must be welcoming and open to everyone, not exude an intimidating aura.

The other issue is that the context isn't taken into account; most government buildings are the same regardless of the location's geography, climate, or history and culture. It is safe to argue that the majority of governmental structures situated in hills would not appear odd if they were suddenly moved to lowlands. Such is the disregard for the situation's context.

Leaders construct buildings as major symbols of vision and, in the modern era, democracy, to portray, in whatever ways are possible, the local heritage and culture. They do this through regulating architectural symbols and influencing the structure used to see the world. This includes utilising the latest technology, environmental practises, and new ideas available in the modern world while preserving the innate beauty of the local culture and heritage.

As an ideal for all public places, a democratic public space is one that is publicly owned, universally accessible from all points of view and at all stages of design, allows for a variety of voices and users, permits flexibility of use, is freely accessible to all people, and promotes the right to free speech.

2. Broad Requirements:

- Lower house assembly chamber
- Upper house assembly chamber
- Administrative areas
- Office space for ministers
- Lobbies/lounge
- Press rooms
- Public areas
- Members recreation halls
- Canteens
- Library
- Exhibition gallery
- VIP dining
- Auditorium
- Meeting rooms
- Banquet hall
- Fitness centre
- Kitchen areas
- Debating chamber

3. Literature review

The pure beauty of politics itself has been instrumental in bringing civilisation to this point. It is about using power, authority, and effective administration for the benefit of humanity.

Politics has a lot of different facets. Many political regimes use symbols, especially a strong physical environment, in addition to the power demonstrated by a charismatic figure, an unstoppable military presence, an entrenched bureaucracy, or the enforcement of the system of laws and statutes. All groups, institutions, and societies engage in politics on some level. All interactions, institutions, and structures that are involved in the production and reproduction of things are affected by it.

It manifests itself in all cooperative, adversarial, and competitive efforts to consume, produce, and distribute resources. The development is focused on the state of our entire political and social lives. These are tools for bringing about social transformation and conflict resolution. The art of finding a voice has always been important in politics.

Architecture's history parallels that of man. Each structure tells a unique story about the social, political, and economic circumstances of the eras that influenced its construction without using words. Since art is a component of life, not the total, and can never exist on its own, the history of architecture cannot be separated from the history of man.

4. Methodology

The paper combines the articles and conference proceedings by searching the keywords and the original content and data from official websites. The research paper illustrates the theoretical foundation i.e. knowledge of the legislative process and its relationship to the capitals. Study of the governmental structures in the world's largest capital cities and research on India's most recent complex legislative ideas. The primary data is collected through interviews by preparing a questionnaire, case studies where as the secondary data is collected by referring similar research papers and books

5. Results and Discussion

Symbolism in Architecture :

The power of a copy has always been symbolised by architecture, which has always played a crucial and dominant role. For instance, the Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi, the parliament building in Dhaka, or the Kremlin in Russia all have recognisable shapes that convey the strength of the nation both literally and figuratively. Earlier, such plutonic levels of representation were reached by buildings that were directly connected to the government.

National emblems are also buildings that exemplify the spirit of development and progress. Civic symbols like the Supreme Court building, the embassy complex, etc. further represent the state's ideas and culture. They represent the dynamics of the area through their architectural configuration. Form, material, structure, and landscape are some factors that significantly aid in the development of a theme that projects the required aesthetic qualities.

Scale in context:

The simplest way to communicate the most fundamental concepts, such as power or weakness, is through scale. Buildings' scale reveals the order of importance in a given situation.

- Sizes (volume and area): Greater size equates to greater power
- Height: Greater authority is indicated by taller objects.
- Weight : More mass equals greater stability and dominance.
- Compatibility with surroundings: greater contrast results in greater distance and oddity

Official form and expression

These basic definitions of scale are elevated to a greater level of expression in buildings through formal form and formal vocabulary, such as a massive A dictatorial, neoclassical structure that attempts to pass itself off as preserving an old ideal.

- Symbolic representation :More decoration indicates that it is being glorified symbolically.
- Visibility and transparency: more opacity equates to greater mystique
- Complexity: Less clarity equates to higher abstraction
- Space organisation :is employed to censor the current social order.
- Accessibility and invitation: a clear invitation results in increased segregation
- Complexity: Greater complexity equals greater security
- Flow:Formal flow implies greater control.

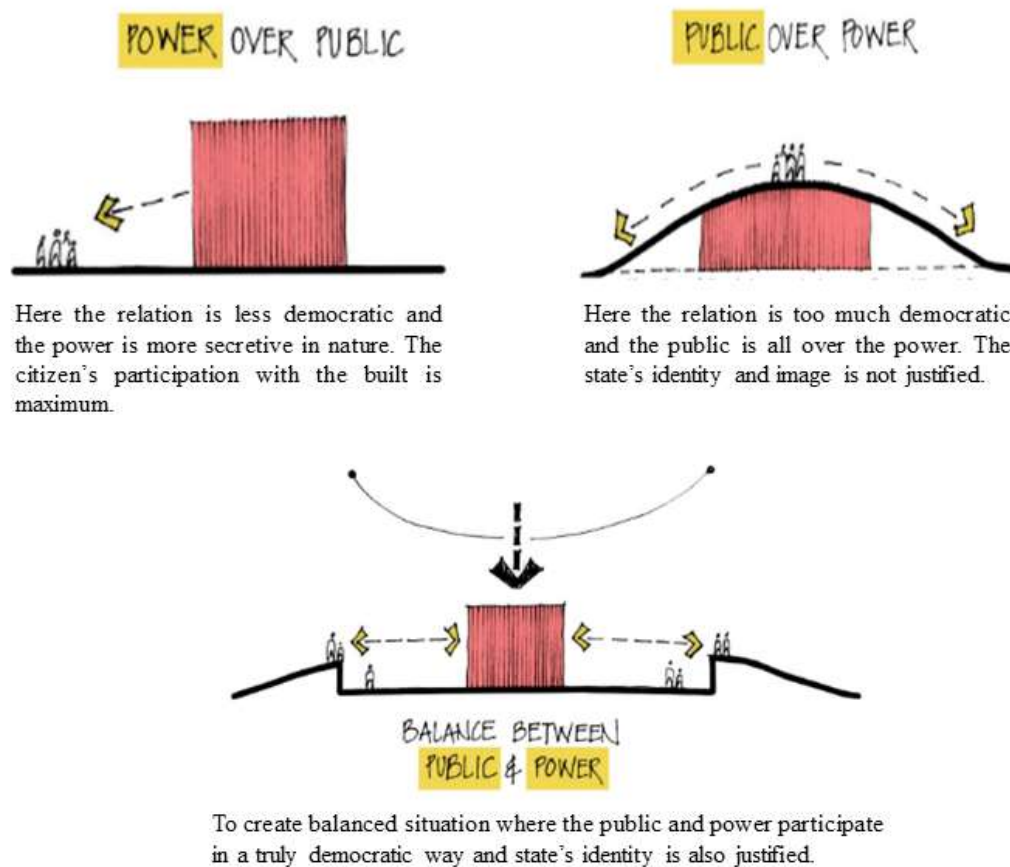


Figure 1 Interaction of power and public

“ There is a strong requirement for symbolism, thus the building must contain elements that touch people's hearts ”..... Tange Kenzo.

“ State symbols provide permanence and strength over time” Christopher Charles Benninger (January 2009 issue of Architecture + Design Symbols of State).

When an image permanently fuses with "a meaning system" in the public's imagination, it becomes a symbol.

The parliament is more than simply a structure; it is a place of order and chaos, drama and inaction, passionate debates, and outbursts of emptiness. Within the confines of the assembly region, it establishes the political and historical status of a country.

The setting in which democratic debates actually occur can be understood as a physical manifestation of how people relate to democratic concepts. The concept of public engagement in democratic architecture originated in ancient Rome. Since this is no longer the case, public places' importance as a setting for fostering democracy has diminished, turning these civic institutions into little more than ornamentation.

1. Active areas

Encourage people to take part in the democratic process by developing transparent structures that are open to the public to symbolise democracy.

2. Spatial attributes

In order to create a more engaging public architecture, it is important to pique people's interest in a structure, particularly through the contrast of light and shadow, hard and soft, new and ancient, transparent and opaque.

3. Context

The structure should be in conversation with the surrounding environment and sit lightly on the site instead of imposing itself as a stern memorial.

4. Urban

By promoting public engagement in the democratic process, the assembly building, which is accessible to the general public, symbolises democracy via the art of interaction.

5. Spatial awareness

The Capitol Assembly gives a sensory experience through a variety of vistas by using circulation patterns as a form of narrative trip.



Figure 2 Dhaka Parliament : The interaction of public with the parliament building seems not very participatory. the scale of the building is also very dominating.

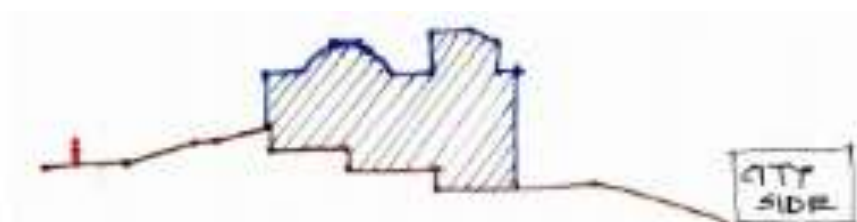


Figure 3 Vidhan Bhavan Bhopal : The buildings sits on a hilly site and the public entry into the building is from the topmost side of the hill. It depicts that the building overlooks city.

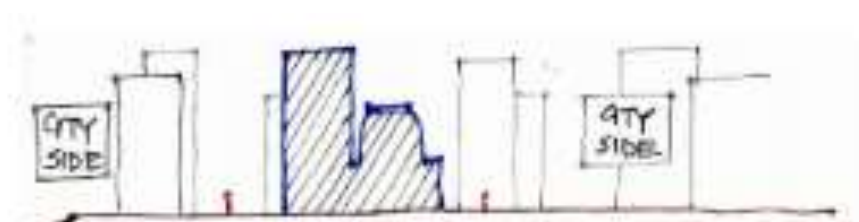


Figure 4 Vidhan Bhavan Mumbai : The building is very consolidated and is part of Mumbai's high rise locality near the Nariman Point. The building is highly secured and isolated.

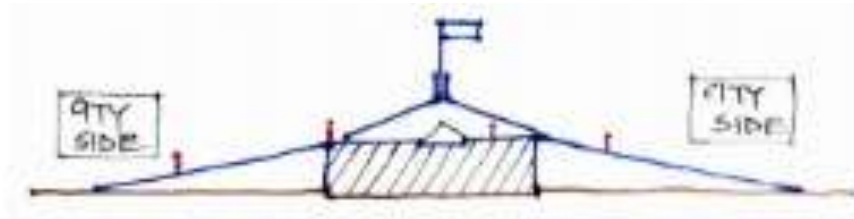


Figure 5 Parliament Canberra : This building could be seen as more democratic in nature. The interaction of the building with the public is such that the public can access the building.

6. Conclusion

History demonstrates that when a country develops and gains riches, its municipal structures take on a pompous, almost totalitarian appearance, with expansive landscape gardens, high walls, and steep setbacks.

The Gothic Palace A.W.N. Pugin designed in Westminster, as well as the imposing dome of the U.S. Capitol, personify the spirit of the citizens we exist to serve. Amphitheatres from the classical civilization and Viking outdoor meetings also serve as examples of this. Numerous buildings, ambitious utopian visions, and the reconstruction of recent history in Brasilia, Chandigarh, and Dhaka have been built in the service of democratic values.

There are several examples of undemocratically planned urban architecture with palace-like features in India today. These structures give off an ominous vibe, and their size and architectural design may have a negative effect on the populace and the government. "We mould our structures, and also they take on their final form," as Winston Churchill famously stated. Before the public loses interest in its city or architecture and a society that just doesn't come together and isn't worth caring about is created, architects must understand the value of democratic spatial relationships.

Among the most democratic rights is the right to participate in public life since it is impossible to comprehend public life and space without acknowledging their political aspect. Therefore, the users' fundamental needs, their spatial rights, and the meaning they seek should all be taken into consideration while designing and managing public places.

As areas and functions alter, so do meanings. A space must be deeply ingrained in its setting in order to possess a greater and more lasting value. The fundamental setting is the natural environment of the site. The secondary context is provided by the history of the area and the location. Additionally, a space's democratic management greatly contributes to people's feelings of pride, ownership, and connection to the space.

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