Dashain

New civic places for a society in transformation

P4 Presentation

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Dashein

/dəˈzaɪn/
noun

1. A fifteen-day-long national festival, which celebrates the victory of good over evil, renewing community ties. The Dashain is the most important festival for the city of Kathmandu.
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Introduction

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Methodology

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Introduction
The last day of Dashain, on September 16th 2015,
the new constitution of Nepal is signed
Secularism

Freedom of expression

Federalism
Research
How could this new chapter in Nepal history affect the architecture and the built environment of Kathmandu?
Facilities and work mainly in Kathmandu

Massive migration

Unplanned urban development

Political instability

Civil war

Privatization

Disappearance of traditional public spaces

Origin of informal public space

Claim of space from citizens

Tactics

Rise of private places as place of venue
The expansion of the city was based on a medieval Hindu text, underlining the importance of the **architectural element** as a means of creating harmony between the inhabitants and the city.
Long lasting kingdoms

Type of courtyard in a Hindi school

Type of courtyard in a civic building

Type of courtyard in a Buddhist school

Type of courtyard in a dwelling house

Courtyard
Long lasting kingdoms

Dictatorship

Unstable governments

Type of courtyard in a Hindi school

Type of courtyard in a civic building

Type of courtyard in a Buddhist school

Type of courtyard in a dwelling house
Mandapas

Types:
- **Type A**
- **Type B**
- **Type C**
- **Type D**
Long lasting kingdoms

Dictatorship
Unstable governments

- Family exchange
  - Image
  - Fabric
  - Perception
  - Users: Family members and acquaintances

- Social exchange
  - Image
  - Fabric
  - Perception
  - Users: Neighborhood residents

- Economic exchange
  - Image
  - Fabric
  - Perception
  - Users: People from different districts of the city

- Political exchange
  - Image
  - Fabric
  - Perception
  - Users: All the citizens
Long lasting kingdoms

Dictatorship

Unstable governments
Urban planning during long lasting kingdoms

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Land → Infrastructure → Building → People
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Urban planning during dictatorship

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People → Land → Building → Infrastructure
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Long lasting kingdoms

Unstable governments

Dictatorship

Type
Urbanization and urban growth in urban areas in Nepal

Figure 1.2 Urbanization and Annual Growth Rate of Urban Population in Nepal, 1950–2050

Source: UNDESA 2012.

Note: Urbanization is defined as the share of population living in settlements administratively designated as urban areas. Growth rate of urban population includes reclassification (conversion of rural areas into urban areas).

Figure 1.3 Spatial Distribution of Population and Nonfarm Employment, 2008

Sources: CBS 2009; UNDESA 2012.

Note: Nonfarm employment includes service and manufacturing employment.
Urban expansion

Population growth of Kathmandu in the next 10 years
Urban expansion

Kathmandu, 1967
Urban expansion

Kathmandu, 1991
Urban expansion

Kathmandu, 2000
Urban expansion

Dharara, Kathmandu, 1983
Urban expansion

Dharara, Kathmandu, 2016
Urban expansion

Long lasting kingdoms

Dictatorship

Unstable governments
Urban expansion
How Urban Planning Failed Kathmandu

Haphazard urbanization and rampant building code violations in Nepal pushed up the earthquake death toll.

TANVI MISRA | @Tanvirn | Apr 26, 2015 | 20 Comments

Indian-led relief efforts in Kathmandu, Nepal (AP images)
Public spaces
Public spaces
Public spaces
Urban morphology over the time

The medieval urban morphology with its full and voids.

The expansion over the dictatorship, much more liquid.

The modern expansion, the adjoining sector of the city center, where there is no a design of the block and the blocks are much bigger in comparison on the other two.
Methodology
Public spaces

Family exchange

Social exchange

Economic exchange

Political exchange

Family members and acquaintances

Neighborhood residents

People from different districts of the city

All the citizens
The urban block

The district

The nation
Social exchange

Economic exchange

Political exchange
Pavilions
Forum
Assembly
Urban block

District

Nation
Three types of Mandapas

- **Mandapa**: Covered square pavilion with open sides on a raised platform, which seems to be the oldest of the building types introduced in the city of Kathmandu, back to the Licchavi period.

- **Pati**: It refers to the smallest and most widely distributed of the houses. As well as being a shelter for travelers, it serves the closely interwoven Newar society living in its neighborhood as a meeting place for games or social and religious gatherings.

- **Sattal pati**:
  - **Sattal mandapa**: Ground floor, Upper floor.
  - **Sattal house/chapat**

**Elements**

- **Platform (at least 60 cm to provide a seat)**: For the political building, the platform could integrate offices/spaces as it used to be in the Kathmandu Sattal-mandapa, allowing for a large open hall.

- **Pillars**: One of the most peculiar elements of the local architecture which defines the boundaries of the public spaces.

**Open plan or not?**

- An open plan could work for the political building AND for the courtyards but for the district building, it might be worth considering an open plan to use the space in between two linear buildings.
Three types of Mandapas
Three scales of project
The project
First scale: the urban block
The “courtyards” now

dump

parking lot

dump
Gardening Pavilion
Laundry Pavilion
Crafting pavilion:
Urban strategy on three scales

1:1000
Intervention area
Application

Community dining

Exhibitions

Open air theatre
Application
Second scale: the district
Third scale: the nation
National Assembly

Parliament is the space where politics literally takes shape. Here, collective decisions take form in a specific setting where relationships between political actors are organized through architecture.

Parliament during the dictatorship
Parliament after the end of the dictatorship
Parliament after the end of the constitutional monarchy
Current parliament built in 2006 after signing the first constitution

The architecture of spaces of political congregation is not only an expression of a political culture, it also shapes this culture.
Conclusion