

CHALLENGES OF A CITY WITH HERITAGE CORE_ CASE OF SURAT CITY

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City cores are not a standalone; they are interwoven with peripheries and the city at large, serving as centre of trade and commerce for centuries. As time passed, city cores transformed themselves into historical core & inner city region. Inner city of Surat is in its transition phase. Like most other developing Indian core areas, it is now stained by several problems. While most of them still stand replete with buildings, artefacts, and other features of historical and cultural value in the city, these living tradition and culture fall into neglect, often as an unintended by-product of rapid urbanization, whereas, it represents opportunity for growth and economic generation. The adoption of modern planning strategies has improvised the faces and quality of life in later developments of the city but neglecting the 'growth and change' of heritage cores.

In the name of modernity & progress, these consolidated & traditional urban areas have been deteriorating and diminishing. The paper is an attempt to generate strategies to accommodate and address the 'Construct and Purpose' of the 'time'.

The act of settling in a place is a continuous process. As conditions change with social transformations, ideological shifts, technological innovations and growth of population, the city is susceptible to change as well. The research addresses this 'internal change' that exams the morphological transformations and modifications that the existing fabric undertakes to accommodate to a newer condition.

The research is an attempt to propagate ways to strike a balance between natural & morphological environment, Land use & population density, Place-making & the Human-Scale-City and Cultural Preservation & Tangible Transformation in the existing fabric through a meaningful approach to urban design;

- One that is truly consequential in teleological approach, that is, driven by purpose rather than defined by disciplines.
- Being catalytic, i.e, generating or contributing to long-term development processes; and
- Being relevant, that is, grounded in first causes and pertinent human values.

