

Case study - Reconceptualising urbanism - Refurbishing the Golden Temple complex, Amritsar, India.

Golden temple is one of the most visited sites in India recording close to 60,000 people every day, reaching up to half a million during festivals.

Shri Harmandir sahib (Golden temple) is an internationally renowned pilgrim which is on the tentative list of India to be proposed for nomination under world heritage UNESCO listing.

Due to high density of population and visits from pilgrim tourists the city was under high pressure to curb congested traffic, un-managed pedestrian walk-ways, overcrowded/unorganised business spaces, unsystematic parking lots and buildings.

In order to rationalise the growth and development of the city a master plan was drawn out to create a traditional style heritage complex around the shrine.

A complete recreational revamp was given by adding Heritage facades, light and sound, huge public displays, refurbishing 170 buildings around the complex, creating large scaled pedestrian walkaways, re-creating accessibility options for old aged or disabled visitors.

Technology has been creatively put to use to keep pedestrian flow organised whilst wrapping the walking experience to the Sikh heritage using photographs, artefacts, sculptures, statues, fountains, interactive portals to spread knowledge about the Sikh religion and philosophy, increased security, plantations. Pedestrians can now actually feel the activities conducted at the shrine from sunset to sunrise. This has indeed uplifted the city walk culture, Added economic benefits to the local businesses, more culturally aware and resourcefully equipped population, Increased quality of air around and sound around the busiest complex of the city.

Hence it provides the world an example of uplifting a poor, congested pedestrian experience into a completely new urban recreational walkable experience.

Links

https://books.google.com.au/books?id=wQUBCwAAQBAJ&pg=PA78&lpg=PA78&dq=new+look+Golden+Temple%27s+document&source=bl&ots=sD7a4NKL0b&sig=ACfU3U2a5E9D5oit-o9NIXkx7-3J7e5Ymw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwig_vWRk5jkAhUbfiKHRXKBr4Q6AEwFnoECAcQAQ#v=onepage&q=new%20look%20Golden%20Temple's%20document&f=false

<https://www.deccanherald.com/content/583306/vintage-look-amritsar-city.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Brtclnet4w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz8Zz4gtw8k>

Before



After



