

Pratyush Shankar
Lecturer – Faculty of Architecture
CEPT University
November 13, 2006

ABSTRACT

Framework for understanding Moodabidri temples as public places

The traditional notions of public life and space need to be understood in greater depth in order to understand the idea of public places in India. The temples of Moodabidri have been studied to explore the idea of them being generators of public life and space

The study of nature of settlement itself is the first step towards understanding the intentions and attitude of the community towards public life. The first indicator that has been considered at settlement scale is the formation of land and water with respect to built mass. An attempt has been made to discover special gestures of location, nature of placement and their importance to establish the morphological expression of the attitude towards community and public life. The relationship between various parts – temples, residences and rest of the areas has been elaborated upon

The Basadi Street of Moodabidri is the next scale that has been studied from the point of view of its morphology, processes and meanings. The formation of the street is of particular interest due to the constant negotiation of its edge with the temple complex. The paper establishes how the key ingredients of the street in terms of its character are the result of the architectural expression of the temple complex itself. This is the case of temple space extending beyond their perceived boundary. Certain elements of the street like the façade, steps and roof have been documented and understood in terms of their symbolic meanings pertinent to public life. The temple complex have been studied first as a diagram with a particular focus on understanding the approach towards edges, open spaces and subsidiary structures. These parts are then analyzed together as forming the stage for community activity

The last part of the paper tries to tie up the above mentioned morphological studies and co-relates them with socio-cultural ideals and practice in Jainism of the study area that pertains to community life, public realm and its mental construct