

CHAPTER : 12

PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

I Selecting A Suitable Site :.....

Selecting a suitable site for a museum is as important as planning the museum building. What site should be selected for a museum ?

The museum is situated inside a lovely park. Museum is always meant for visitors. There should be plenty of open area round the museum building for the sake of architectural beauty and sense of openness. Open area becomes useful and gives visitors an opportunities to browse. In a bigger city an area of 6000 sq.ft. is small but in a district the same area should be enough.

Coleman said¹ It is a mistake to build during the early stages of museum's Career. A museum is not a building but an organization and unless the organization has taken shape; it is short sighted to attempt to house it."

Proper environmental location of a museum is very important. It should have sufficient set-back from main road so that it is not affected by road traffic noise. Good garden around it is very essential for pleasant environment.

1. Coleman, Vail Laurence, Museum Buildings, American Association, Washington, 1950.

Working space for the Curator, where he can attend to administrative matters and his Curatorial responsibilities, is surely necessary. Similarly toilet facilities or provision of drinking water will have to be thought of

The built-up area of museum is about 6000 sq.ft.

The breakup of the ground floor area is as follows :

	Carpet area
Ground floor gallery	1296.0 sq.ft.
Auditorium	756.0 "
Living dioramas	850.0 "
(Passage) Corridor, lobby, foyer	1000.0 "
Depository	582.0 "
(Storage and reserve collection)	
Office	440.0 "
Studio, lab, library, reserch etc.	440.0 "
Toilet	130.0 "
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Total	5494.00 "

Out of space 6000 sq.ft. only 32.30 sq.ft. can be utilized as a display area to which the public has normally access. Efforts should be made to cut down a minimum space allotted to Corridors, lobby, foyer etc.

In the exhibition hall or display hall of a small museum, where the display cabinets are aranged against the wall, the height above which objects are placed is

usually 3 to 3½ ft. The lower portion of the display cabinets and pedestals can be judiciously utilized for built-in storage space for objects which are to be stored away from the visitors. This would reduce the demand for space in the depository, at least for small objects. Some of the bottom racks could be utilized to house books, periodicals and films which are required by the museum authorities from time to time. Similarly the hall for temporary exhibitions can be utilised for other purposes. If the exhibits are arranged near the wall, the open space at the centre can be used as a lecture hall or as a film show auditorium.

Dr. Grace Morelay said, 'There is a great temptation for everyone when planning a museum to remember one that he had enjoyed and admired and therefore to have that duplicated possibly in reduced size, without giving thought to how his museum differs from the model, but specially forgetting how times have changed and the whole concept of museum as well².

Parking facilities for cars, scooters, cycles and even buses should be allowed for and must therefore be considered the beginning of a scheme.

The museum building can be divided into two zones : (a) The Public Zone and (b) Private Zone.

A check-room is needed for coats, umbrellas, parcels etc. for visitors' convenience and for maintaining the security.

2. Morelay, Dr. Grace, Proceedings of All India Museums Conference, Museum Association of India, New Delhi, 1971, P.16.

Museum Building :

Museum uses its limited resources more effectively. Its contributions of every kind to its community, to people whom it serves. The tribal museum is not only the centre of attraction to tribal population but also to non-tribals also. The museum belongs to the people of the place and seeks to serve them in an intimate way. The museum remains close to people and to every day life and deal in non-technical language.

The building's size is the most obvious aspect of it In the initial stage one gallery as a semi-permanent, exhibition room is needed to display objects from time to time in order to maintain public interest as well as to assure the standard of good maintenance of museum function. The other gallery then be kept for changing exhibition. It attracts the public to feel familiar with exhibits and to reply to an invitation to visit the museum. The changing exhibitions provide a reason for frequent visits and contribute to forming a museum public with the habit of regular visits.

The other public areas are important for this concept of a museum friendly to the public and devoted to its service. Comfortable, attractive areas for sitting, resting and waiting must be provided.

An entrance lobby where an inquiry counter and a sales desk may be combined, some benches, for the public. Enough space for a group of upto 50 people to assemble before, would it fit requirements of economy of space.

An auditorium or modest lecture room or multipurpose hall would be convenient with movie and slide projectors on a movable stand, a movable screen, folding chairs, an exhibition gallery can be transported into a reasonable efficient lecture room. A garden must be provided in the museum. It is useful to reserve for the future extension of building.

In cultural and instructive programmes can be presented or movies can be projected against building wall for an audience seated on the garden lawn. The shamiana or Pandal in the garden can serve a special large meeting or cultural programme. Wide veranda provide extra space for public comfort, in shelter from sun and rain, they also provide space for workshops or hobby groups to meet and work. In short, the use of the out doors to expand the enclosed space to supplement, but without risk to security of exhibition or of storage.

Clean cool water in a convenient but unobtrusive place, Public Convenience as well as staff facilities for locker and wash room must be arranged and well maintained. The museum must have some space behind the scenes for storage and for work. Well organized space for storage of the collection is essential for safe keeping of materials. In this store room, the objects may be systematically arranged. All storage areas must be secure and well maintained.

A small library open to the public for reference reading, with some of the leading periodicals on the subjects would be desirable. The daily practical activities to help to do research.

There must be two offices for curator in charge and an assistant (deputy or guide lecturer or education officer). Space is required for several office workers (clerk, accountant, typist, etc) and for storage files, work shops, space for a carpenter and helper as well as gallery work, studio space where molding may be done.

Museum equally requires conservation laboratory. A dark room is needed for the photographer.

Any proposed expansion of the museum building.

- (i) Administrative and Curatorial Offices
- (ii) Accommodation for research collections as distinct from the public galleries.
- (iii) Laboratory, including a good Chemical Laboratory for restoration conservation taxidermists, and artists.

Building for Museum :

Introduction :

From the functional point of view a museum has to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret its collection.

A store-room cannot be utilized for a film show or for demonstration of technique etc. but by adequate fore thought and planning, flexible spaces can be designed.

If auditorium is built on a levelled floor rather than a sloping one, it can be used for temporary exhibitions or Seminars. If a gallery is spacious and has no exhibits, it can be used for small meetings or cultural performances in spite of walls lined with paintings or showcases with exhibits. If the auditorium is planned as multipurpose hall, its lighting and ventilation, level of the floor, finishing of the walls will need consideration right from the beginning as a multipurpose space. If a series of small galleries are built with flexible partitions, these partitions can be easily removed for making it look like a large uninterrupted space for installing a large single exhibition for short period. It will be possible to use open area for purposes of exhibitions or cultural programme, if they are located internally and are well secured. If galleries are inter connected and if the verandahs are planned of greater width in advance, they can be utilized for small exhibitions. Ofcourse, these verandahs should be covered on all sides and can be converted into lookable spaces. Internal courtyards, if planned can be used for out-door temporary exhibitions for stone sculptures and such other objects that are not affected by the weather.

Except for the spaces of adjustable and flexible nature, the small museum building is governed by the same principles which are applicable to the museum buildings in general.

In planning the museum galleries, maximum provision should be made for walled space, eliminating windows as far as possible and introducing artificial illumination. Pillars should be avoided so as to secure that feeling of spaciousness which is so essential for the aesthetic appearance of the gallery.

If windows are eliminated or reduced, ventilation becomes a problem especially in summer. Exhaust fans in the walls near the ceiling should therefore be fitted up wherever possible and where funds permit, air conditioning may be introduced. Air conditioning appears to be necessary at least for the art galleries. Lighting also should be carefully controlled. The modern tendency is to replace it with suitable artificial lighting but since the latter is more tiring to the eye, it is better to adopt a judicious and effective combination of both natural and artificial light.

In planning the museum buildings due consideration should be given to the comforts of visitors. Changing the colour scheme from gallery to gallery helps to reducing Museum Fatigue. Comfortable seats should be provided at convenient spots in the galleries for the comfort of visitors and water closets with modern sanitary fittings should be provided within easy reach of the visitors. Other conveniences such as parking space and a cafeteria are also essential amenities in a museum.

Museum Building and its Planning :

1. Museum building is centrally located
2. The plot for the building is ample and should allow for future growth.
3. The plot is dry, free from dampness, it should be far from pond or tank.
4. If the plot is to have northern exposure, when the building is to be constructed on it, its choice may be preferred because sun's rays are never strong in the direction.

5. Museum building is to be planned according to the material contents of it and also kind of work to be done with due reference to character of the community intended to be served by the museum.
6. Plan for the building should allow for future growth and development.
7. Interior arrangement should be planned carefully before exterior is considered.
8. The arrangement should be such as might enable the building to be administered economically for arrangement.
9. Exhibition rooms should be as near the main entrance as is practicable. There should be well-ventilated and well-grilled storage facilities in the building.
10. So far as possible, offices and working room should be accessible from the entrance without passage through exhibition rooms.
11. The lecture hall should have a separate entrance, so that its use may be independent of museum hours. A fire proof projection booth should be provided for this lecture hall; the workshop if provided should not have access through exhibition rooms or galleries.
12. There should be provision for toilets.
13. There should be safe deposit vaults provided for the safe-keeping the valuable objects and doors and windows of the building should be grilled.
14. There should be provision for conservation and photographic laboratories.

Museum should use natural light controlled by shades and supplement the same, when necessary by artificial light. By placing windows and ventilators high, wall space may be conserved, but all windows and ventilation should be grilled

nicely. The best lighting is afforded by two of windows immediately below the ceiling along each of the layer walls. The size of the opening would depend upon the size of the room. The windows should reach the ceiling, the height of which is fixed usually by the size of the room and the area of light openings required. The minimum height may be about 13 feet.

The museum building has to be both damp and fire resistant.

Mosaic or cement floors are the best for small museum. The cement cement surface may be painted with gray floor enamel to lay out the dust.

The building must be flexible. It must be so designed that later rearrangements of its interior be possible in future from time to time. This is particularly necessary with museum's galleries or exhibition room. The rooms or galleries should be in such a position as to permit subdivision in different ways not only in the light of technical progress in the field of museology, but even that of the development of the collections and of the evolution of scientific and educational concepts. The building should also be so designed that it may be expanded without presenting any problem. The architecture must be so functional that it may be able to meet and express the respective needs of exhibition spaces, storage, services, reserves and areas used for various activities like lecture rooms, workshops, laboratories for conservation and photography and office etc.

Geographical and climatic conditions should not be ignored in any way. The use of local material is preferable if these are economical.

Not more than one entrance and exit should be provided for the visitors going into and coming out of the museum.

Protective measure against theft, fire, dust, which are great enemies of the museum, must be made before the museum is opened to the public. The doors should be made fire proof and lined with rubber so as to make them close fitting. The door must be made to open out so that in the case of a fire, exit may not be impeded. In order to ensure security to objects, one gallery should connect with the next with very few entrances and few exits.

Planning of Public Area :

If the building site is in a busy locality, it is advisable to set back the entrance considerably from the road by means of trees, flower-beds which will separate it from the traffic and it will also allow space for a public parking. In case a building is located in a part of garden then it is advisable to have it separated by a compound wall for security but the wall should not form a barrier for viewing the building³.

3. Baxi. Smita. J and Dwivedi. Vinod. P., Modern Museum, Abhinav Publication E-37; Hauskhas, New Delhi.

Proposed Plan for Ethnographic Museum :

I Museum building: Total area (Plan according to scale)

Ground Floor :

One house of Rathwas

- (1) Living gallery – six nos.
- (2) Auditorium
- (3) Administrative Office including (a) Curator office (b) General office (c) Guide office (d) Photo graphic Studio (e) Laboratory (f) Visitors room (g) Water cooler (h) Toilet for staff and visitors (i) Store room for museum objects OR Reserve Collection room (j) Library and Reserch room.
- (4) Space for other purposes (eg. museum functions, meeting, get to gether etc)
- (5) Garden – Surrounding museum and space for future extansion of museum

1. Proposed Museum

2. What to be displaying in walking diorama.

(Proposed plan of walking dioram) Marriage Aggriculture Implement, Rituals.

3. Collection for Museum :

1. Ethno–archeological collection (Hist.Map)
2. General Tribes of Gujarat – Models of Tribes in Scuplture form with their geog., and cultural environment.
3. Social, Cultural, Eco., Agri. etc.

4. Exhibition :
 1. Permanent on Ground floor.
 2. Temp. – Festivals, Fair, Rituals etc. in the open courtyard.
5. Administration of Museum .
 1. Staff – Curator (1), Asstt. Curator (1)
 2. Gallary (1)
 3. Guide Lect.(1)
 4. Librarian (1)
 5. Conservator (1)
 6. Artist (Photo, Artist)
 7. Clerks (Sr. & Jr.) (2)
 8. Gallary Atten. (2)
 9. Office Peon (4)
 10. Sweeper (2)
 11. Gardener (1)
 12. Research Asstt. (1)
6. Security
7. Financial Problems :
 - (a) Source of Income
 - (b) Budget