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AR. KAPIL & PARIDHI JAIN

Award for Architecture Category

Client

: Th. Shri Gunnidhan Singh

Rathore

Location

: Talabgaon, Jaipur

Status

: Operational in 2013 with

Area

Additions/ Completion upto 2018 : Built Up Area - 35,145 Sq. Ft. &

Landscaped Area - 38,000 Sq. Ft.

Design

Design Team: Kapil & Paridhi Jain

Consultants : Er. Sharad Gupta - Sanrachna Consultants (Structures) Kanak Automation (Electrical) Water

Management Consultancy

(Plumbing, Sanitation and Fire

Fighting) Construction

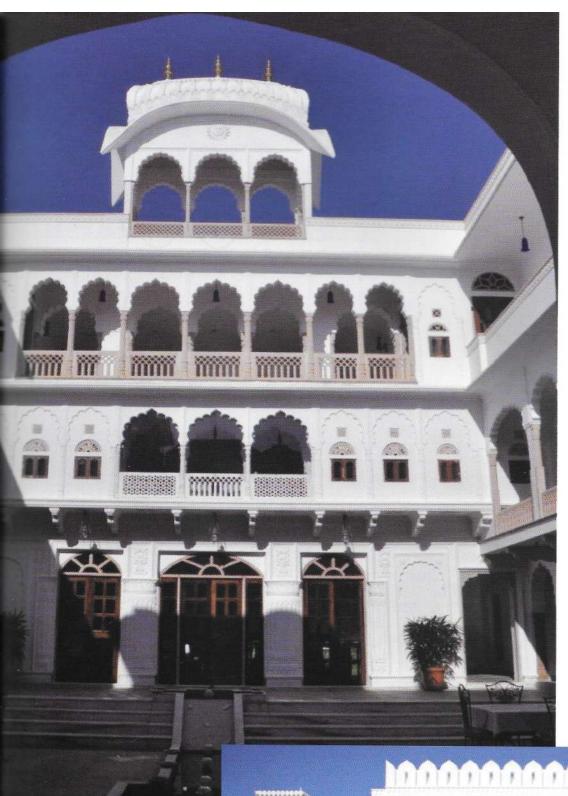
Local Artisans from Lalsot,

Dausa, Chaksu & Jaipur

architectural style has been a living Garh occupied by the family for nearly 200 years. Talabgaon is located in Rajasthan and is 92 kms from Jaipur towards Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. The complex has evolved over the years through changes in architectural styles and the sociological needs of the period. A dream to restore this family home into a Heritage Resort was being sought after. Concept: The process of restoration was initiated with the thought of having a peaceful retreat in a historic setting. The mission was to prevent deterioration, preserve the existing state, consolidate the actual fabric, restore,

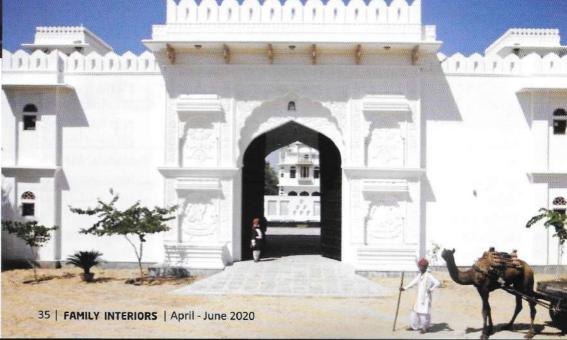
reproduce the missing details, rehabilitate,

Context: Talabgaon Castle, built in the Rajput



reconstruct and add facilities. We felt that heritage conservation doesn't only mean freezing a building in time or creating a museum. Instead, it seeks to maintain and increase the value of buildings by keeping their original built form and architectural elements with adaptive reuse favouring their restoration. And when restoration of a building is a challenge recreating scale, period and character comes into play. The ruins were conserved/restored using traditional materials as well as modern technologies and materials where necessary. The efforts were made to carry out construction with the help of local craftsmen which alone lead to total revival of vernacular architecture.

Constraints: We did not have drawings or photographs of the original palace or not even accurate documentation. Thus extensive exercise to remove the debris was conducted which revealed the foundations along with the existing masonry fabric of originally built structure.





Innovations: The restored Garh comprises of 24 rooms with intricately carved wooden furniture, each with a theme, a multi-cuisine restaurant, a bar, a coffee shop and several well-placed terraces. Today, it is generating revenue to sustain the process of rejuvenation. Each wing or floor has a distinct identity representative of the respective era. The original Baithak of the Garh adjoining the inner courtyard was restored to become a Library whereas an existing Anaj Khana (Grain Store) dividing the inner and outer courtyards was restored to become a Dining Hall. These common spaces like the Dining Hall & Bar became visually connecting spaces between the courtyards with a Baradari on the upper most floor. The design aspect took into consideration the façade on either side of a courtyard and duplicated the same on the others to maintain symmetry. The broken protruding stone slabs and brackets identified the original floor heights of Garh. Restored Garh is part of the Heritage Resort which is planned to be nestled amidst 110 Acres with future planning of a New Haveli, Tented Rooms, 18 Hole Golf

Course, Polo Ground. The family also resides at Talabgaon and takes active part in the upkeep and administration of the hotel.

Innovative Construction Technology: The Kanguras (crenellations) were repaired using lime mortar and small pieces of bricks, maintaining the form by cutting a wooden template from the intact existing Kanguras. The construction of the various elements was entirely done in stone, this included fluted columns, low parapets, Chajjas, curvaceous brackets, bungree (foliated arches). jalis (screens), bollards. Chhatris symbolizing honour and pride of the historic era were constructed to create a skyline with their dome shaped profile and were made of ferrocement to keep the load on the existing structures minimal. These were supported on stone fluted columns. Jharokas were projected from existing blank facades to create standing balconies with expanse garden views. These were made as overhanging stone projections with overhead stone Chajjas and stone brackets to support them.