

# Report on Study Tour to Udaipur and Mount Abu

B.Arch., 1st Year from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

## Introduction:

First year B. Architecture Students of MUJ, visited Udaipur and Mount Abu as part of their educational tour from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The students were accompanied by faculty members of School of Architecture & Design, Ar. Swati Dutta and Ar. Mohammed Nauman. Students visited a variety of historical monuments, urban precincts and buildings like palaces, museums, temples, havelis, etc. and explored the heritage value of the city of Udaipur and Mount Abu.

## Objective:

The objective of the tour was to enable students to see and appreciate the architectural worth of historical buildings in and around Udaipur and Mount Abu like City Palace, Bagore ki Haveli, Ahar Cenotaphs, Shilp Gram, Dilwara Jain Temples, etc.

The tour was also intended to expose students to the ancient/medieval planning principles adopted in the Jain Temples in Ranakpur and Mount Abu while giving them ample opportunity to study and analyze the works in terms of the elements and principles of design, types of spatial organizations and construction techniques adopted as learnt in the subjects of Architectural Design, History of Architecture, Building Construction and Materials, etc.



**At Jagdish Temple, Udaipur**



**City Palace, Udaipur**

The study tour started with a visit to the Jagdish Temple – the largest temple of Udaipur since 1651 followed by the City Palace. While Jagdish Temple is a splendid example of the Māru-Gurjara architecture decorated by beautiful and ornate carvings, the City Palace in Udaipur was built in a flamboyant style and is considered the largest of its type in the state of Rajasthan. It was built atop a hill, in a fusion of Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles, providing a panoramic view of the city and its

surroundings. In the City Palace, students explored and experienced different public spaces and gathered knowledge about design of courtyards, pavilions, exhibition halls, etc.



**At City Palace, Udaipur**



**View of the Garden and Forecourt at City Palace, Udaipur**

The students also visited Bagore ki Haveli that has now been converted into a museum and got new insights about adaptive reuse of a building. The day concluded with a visit to the Ahar Museum and Ahar Cenotaphs. Students made sketches to understand the architectural elements and features.



**Visit to Bagore Ki Haveli Museum and Ahar Museum – Adaptive Reuse versus Contemporary Design**



**Students sketching and measuring the Ahar Cenotaphs, Udaipur**

On the second day of the tour, students visited the Wax Museum, Shilp Gram (Artisan's Village) and the site for their Weekend Retreat Project to understand the context. The visit to Shilp Gram was an exhilarating experience as it was a treat to see and understand the vernacular construction techniques, arts and crafts of the four states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh all showcased within a single complex spread over an undulating terrain of 70 acres of land surrounded by the Aravali Mountains.



**With famous personalities at the Wax Museum, Udaipur**



**Shilp Gram, Udaipur**



**Vernacular Construction Techniques at Shilp Gram, Udaipur**



**Arts and Crafts, Local Dance Forms and Pottery Making at Shilp Gram, Udaipur**

On the third day, students visited a few temples in the historic town of Ranakpur, namely, Surya Narayan Temple and Chaturmukha Dharanavihara Jain Temple. Light colored marble has been used for the

construction of this grand Jain temple which occupies an area of approximately 60 x 62 meters. The temple, with its distinctive domes, shikhara, turrets and cupolas rises majestically from the slope of a hill. The visit gave students an understanding of the ancient construction styles and techniques of the Indian temples that they are studying as part of History of Architecture.



**Chaturmukha Dharanavihara Jain Temple, Ranakpur**

On the fourth day, students visited the Brahma Kumari Universal Peace Hall and the world famous Dilwara Jain Temples at Mount Abu. The calm and serene atmosphere of the Peace Hall with a short talk about the life and philosophy of the Brahma Kumaris' left the students enriched.

The Dilwara Jain temples were built between the 11th and 13th centuries AD and are famous for their use of marble and intricate marble carvings. The five marble temples of Dilwara are a sacred pilgrimage place of the Jains. The temples have an opulent entranceway, the simplicity in architecture reflecting Jain values like honesty and frugality. The temples are in the midst of a range of forested hills. Dilwara temples are believed to be the most beautiful example of architectural perfection. The ornamental detail spreading over the minutely carved ceilings, doorways, pillars and panels is simply marvelous. The visit to the Dilwara temples was a memorable experience and left an indelible mark in the students' minds.



**Universal Peace Hall, Mount Abu**