

GIRLS INNOVATION CENTER

Restoration of Government Girls Highschool

Ellis Bridge Road, Khadia, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
/Heritage Structure / Grade 2A / 5299-A Raikhad /

A STEP TOWARDS BUILDING INCLUSIVE CITY & SOCIAL EQUALITY BY PROMOTING INNOVATION & HERITAGE RESTORATION

Proposal Submitted by



With the support of



// INITIATIVE PURPOSE //

***“Physical heritage only prevails to future relevance when it represents inclusion, equality & innovation.
Our core purpose is to bring the best urban heritage spaces, buildings and streets to common citizens”***

In 2016, Ahmedabad was set to become an exemplary smart city model and, in 2017, was further awarded the prestigious recognition of UNESCO World Heritage City.

Ahmedabad, however, faces the same challenges as most Indian cities. In the race for rapid mass infrastructure, green innovation & technology solutions, fundamental rights to equality, access & inclusiveness are getting completely diluted.

Each smart city project arrives with a new title, but serves up the same old offering – a soft version of neo-feudalism, where the best urban amenities are offered to the elite. The widest and greenest roads, best located buildings, parks, and maintained public spaces are almost exclusively reserved for the most financially privileged sections of our society.

The scenario worsens when it comes to historic cities. Most of the heritage sites are either abandoned, or have been restored by private players as exclusive resorts, again restricting the average citizen's access to explore their own history.

In last 10 years, 52 heritage buildings were restored in Ahmedabad. Only one is accessible to common citizens for community/ social use.

LxS aims to transform this path, setting a statement where a heritage building is not merely a physical monument, but a unique platform for social integration, innovation and inclusion. In ancient times, what we consider heritage today, was often created exclusively for the elite. We have the chance to transform this preconceived notion and set a new standard for the 21st century, preserving and restoring our treasured heritage for every Indian to share. Let every building represent our growth and purpose as a progressive society, which seeks to enhance and promote equality.

In keeping with our core purpose, we are set to build an Innovation Center for Underprivileged Girls, through restoring a 150-year-old abandoned colonial building in the walled city of Ahmedabad.

***“A statement and determined gesture towards social inclusion,
where an iconic urban building will be transformed into a platform for local communities
– a center for care, innovation and opportunity.”***

// VISION //

SHORT TERM VISION (2021-25)

- + To build an **Innovation Centre for underprivileged girls through restoring 150-year-old abandoned colonial building** in the walled city of Ahmedabad.
By intervening the existing space, we aim to rise the standards of practice on heritage rehabilitation. The updated building will represent the physical manifestation of an inclusive oriented new way of making the city.
- + **To conduct the very first Architecture Biennale of India in 2022.** This event, –together with the status of UNESCO Heritage World City, architecture institutions, modern buildings, and the recently awarded Pritzker Prize B.V. Doshi- will consolidate the city as the architecture landmark and built environment hub of India. We expect 7 to 9 lakh domestic & international visitors.
- + To establish a **city-level collaborative implementation framework for holistic development** of social heritage, education, tourism & upliftment of micro-entrepreneurs in local communities.

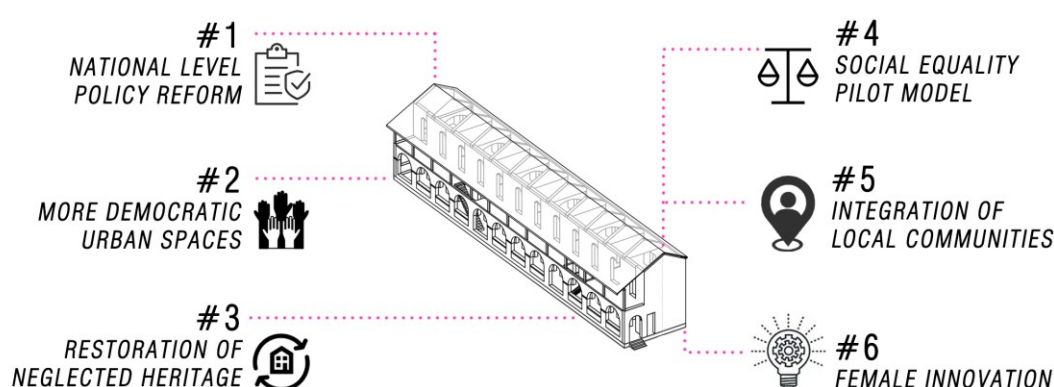
LONG TERM VISION (2025-30)

- + To set up an **implementable & replicable pilot model for building inclusive urban development projects across India**, combining an affordable and economical strategy of subtraction of all damaged and irreplaceable elements, treatment and reparation of the existing structure, and addition of new components and facilities, emulating a respectful dialogue between the old heritage and the new intervention.
- + Furthermore, to draft **national level policy guidelines to support nationwide policy reforms in the area of neglected urban spaces & communities.** Expected guidelines will follow the national and international policies as Hriday (Heritage City Development & Augmentation Yojana guidelines, GOI), UNESCO and SGD (Sustainable Development Goals Principles)

// TRANSFORMING NEGLECTED SCHOOL BUILDING IN GIRLS' INNOVATION CENTRE (GIC)//

The proposed project school building is located in the walled city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. This is the last remaining fully-funded public girls high-school in entire urban Ahmedabad area. This means that girls in the city who wish to pursue free higher education have no other recourse anywhere in the city. The majority of school students are from marginalized families, struggling to survive.

The building received a formal grade ii heritage status in 2018. Consequently, during 2019, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) proposed to convert this building to non-education use and furthermore, made a formal appeal to Education Department to handover ownership to AMC. This decision of the AMC - to convert a gravely essential female education facility to non-academic tourism-oriented use - exhibits a lack of empathy, vision and support for female empowerment, education & gender equality.



Following this issue LxS, Alliance Française and INTACH have decided to join forces to revitalize abandoned school by developing Innovation Center for underprivileged Girls for Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The building will come back to life by adding an updated functionality that complements the school's program and adapt to the new contemporary uses and activities. A flexible space that can host tuition classes, coworking areas, workshops, labs, etc. An academic mix-used space to support and promote the creativity and personal growth of young users and visitors.

We believe this project will set a framework in India and around the world for how heritage buildings can be restored as community spaces that contribute to building brighter futures for generations to come.

+ Project location	// Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
+ Building status	// Current condition is abandoned, not in post 2001 earthquake (Refer: annexure picture)
+ Project Area	// Proposed intervention will cover the total area of 858 Sq Mt
+ Project Budget	// 3.21 Cr (INR); 434,967 USD
+ Timeline	// Sept 2021 to Sept 2023 (24 Months)
+ Current ownership	// Education Department of Gujarat,
+ Current government approval status	// In-principle approval has been given from Education Department of Gujarat (EDG) to carry out the envisioned project. Formal proposal has been submitted to EDG. Final approval is expected to be given in February, 2021.
+ Maintenance & sustainability	// Post completion of the project, donor agency will handhold (in form of manpower & monetarily support) education department, state government for 3 years in setting up operations & maintenance framework. Also, providing support forming nodal committee for long terms operations, if required.
+ Key project Partners	// Education Department of Gujarat Government UNESCO Delhi LxS (local to society) Foundation, Indian National Trust for Art & culture (INTACH) Alliance Française d'A Ahmedabad

existing condition



proposed intervention