Ahmedabad’s Heritage Movement:
Ahmedabad’s pioneering efforts for revitalizing the heritage of old city for over 2 decades are noteworthy. It is the first municipality in India to have set up a Heritage Cell within the municipal system. As a result, the heritage cell began listing 12000 heritage buildings and formulating necessary heritage regulations and incentives for the restoration and revitalization of these listed heritage properties. The municipal corporation developed partnerships with various organizations and foreign governments to tap into their resources for the heritage movement within the Ahmedabad city, for example - restoration drive of many heritage buildings in the walled city in collaboration with French Government, ongoing collaboration with the city of Valladolid in Spain, the landmark project of ‘Bhadra Fort Plaza development’, actively supporting various ongoing community-based projects and so on. Ahmedabad is also the first Indian city to be nominated in Unesco’s Tentative list of World Heritage Sites.

About City Heritage Centre:
City Heritage Centre is a community-based resource centre that helps the local community in preserving, sustaining and promoting their architectural and cultural heritage in the historic city of Ahmedabad. At its outset, the centre restored a 250 years old traditional wooden haveli, and set its office up in the same. The origin of this magnificent heritage building ‘Diwanji ni haveli’ traces back to Ahmedabad’s Mugal Era. The architecture, intricate wooden carving, lime stucco and stonework epitomize the splendor of our Culture and Traditions.

This one of its kind ‘Institute’ is located in the Historic City Centre of Ahmedabad “Manek Chowk”. It has been providing technical assistance to heritage home owners to restore and revitalize their heritage homes. It has also assisted the heritage home owners in securing financial resources as well as to draw up economic sustainability plans for their revitalized heritage. Moreover, the centre has taken up initiatives to provide much needed training and awareness programmes in close co-operation with the Ahmedabad University’s Centre for Heritage Management - another one of its kind institution in India. In addition to collaborating on organizing various public events, the City Heritage Centre has been an active partner in awareness creation by promoting the various heritage walks of Ahmedabad.

Diwanji ni Haveli
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Experiential learning at the heart of Ahmedabad
A residential course offered by
City Heritage Centre
With academic support from
Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University

Revitalization of Historic inner city of India
Learning from Ahmedabad
Objectives of the Course:
1. To provide a field-based learning opportunity for architecture students from across India and abroad.
2. To make the students aware of heritage resources in traditional/historic towns and neighborhoods, and to encourage them to explore various aspects of good design practices embedded in these neighborhoods.
3. To enrich the students’ design thinking and process by immersing them into real life context of a historic city, and by encouraging them to pursue contemporary architectural design in such contexts.
4. To draw students’ attention towards the issues related to these heritage, and potential field of heritage management.

Course Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, the students will be able to:
1. Distinguish the characteristics of traditional pols (as neighborhoods) and havelis (as individual buildings).
2. Articulate major issues pertaining to traditional neighborhoods in contemporary contexts,
3. Recognize a few design and preservation strategies that may be employed to address the concerns as articulated (no. 2 above).
4. Describe the general process followed in condition assessment and preparation of restoration and management plans for historic buildings, and associated economic scenarios.

Module 1
Understanding Heritage in Old City/neighborhood contexts
- History of the Old City of Ahmedabad.
- The puras and the pols: Space, Activities and Society
- Havelis: Architecture, Space Planning, and Craftsmanship
- Traditional Buildings / Neighborhoods and Contemporary Life: Adaptions and Innovations
- Influences of the traditional concepts in Modern design and planning: Some Case Studies
- Contemporary Culture in the Historic City: Food, Clothing, Music, Art, and so on.

Module 2
Restoring and Managing Heritage: Contexts and Issues (both tangible and intangible) in Old City
- Dealing with the Intangibles: Community Organization and Mobilization
- Restoring the Tangibles: Havelis and Other Structures
- Approaching a Haveli: Damage assessment, restoration process.
- Being Innovative without losing the essence (Materials & Technology)
- Cost Estimates and Economics of Restoration

Module 3
Heritage Management: Economic and Social Sustainability
- Why worry about economic and social sustainability?
- Ahmedabad’s story of inner city revival.
- Case studies of various successful business models of inner city revival.
- Putting revitalization plan with socio-economic context

Module 4
Practical Assignment
- Group formation and introduction of projects
- Condition assessment of heritage buildings
- Socio-economic assessment of the given context
- Preparation of Repair/Conservation/Revitalization Plan
- Presentation & Discussion of the tentative plan

Course Registration/ Schedule Inquiry
Please log on our website

About the Course:
This course is designed to supplement the prevailing architectural education, by bringing in an important enriching opportunity through an experiential learning process. You will walk the narrow lanes but will get a broader perspectives about the contexts as well as design concepts behind the Heritage Buildings. You will explore the wisdom about architectural and planning concepts by experiencing the space, interacting with craftsmen and local residents, and by sketching, photographing and listening to walking lectures. You will be sitting on the public squares watching children playing to understand the community spaces. You will be fulfilling your appetite at the food market while realizing diverse aspects of heritage, and how they all together form the heritage of Ahmedabad. In addition, you will also experience some of the local arts and crafts, as well as a cultural evening in the restored Haveli. The course includes classroom sessions with professors, interactions with master crafts man and artisans at restoration sites, ‘do-it-yourself’ fieldwork on condition assessments, emergency repair plans, restoration and reuse plans for heritage buildings.