

Sponsored Thesis Project Competition on "Re-imagining Urban Rivers"

Waves of Devotion : Transforming Braj Bhumi's Kund Heritage through Interactive Krishna Kathas

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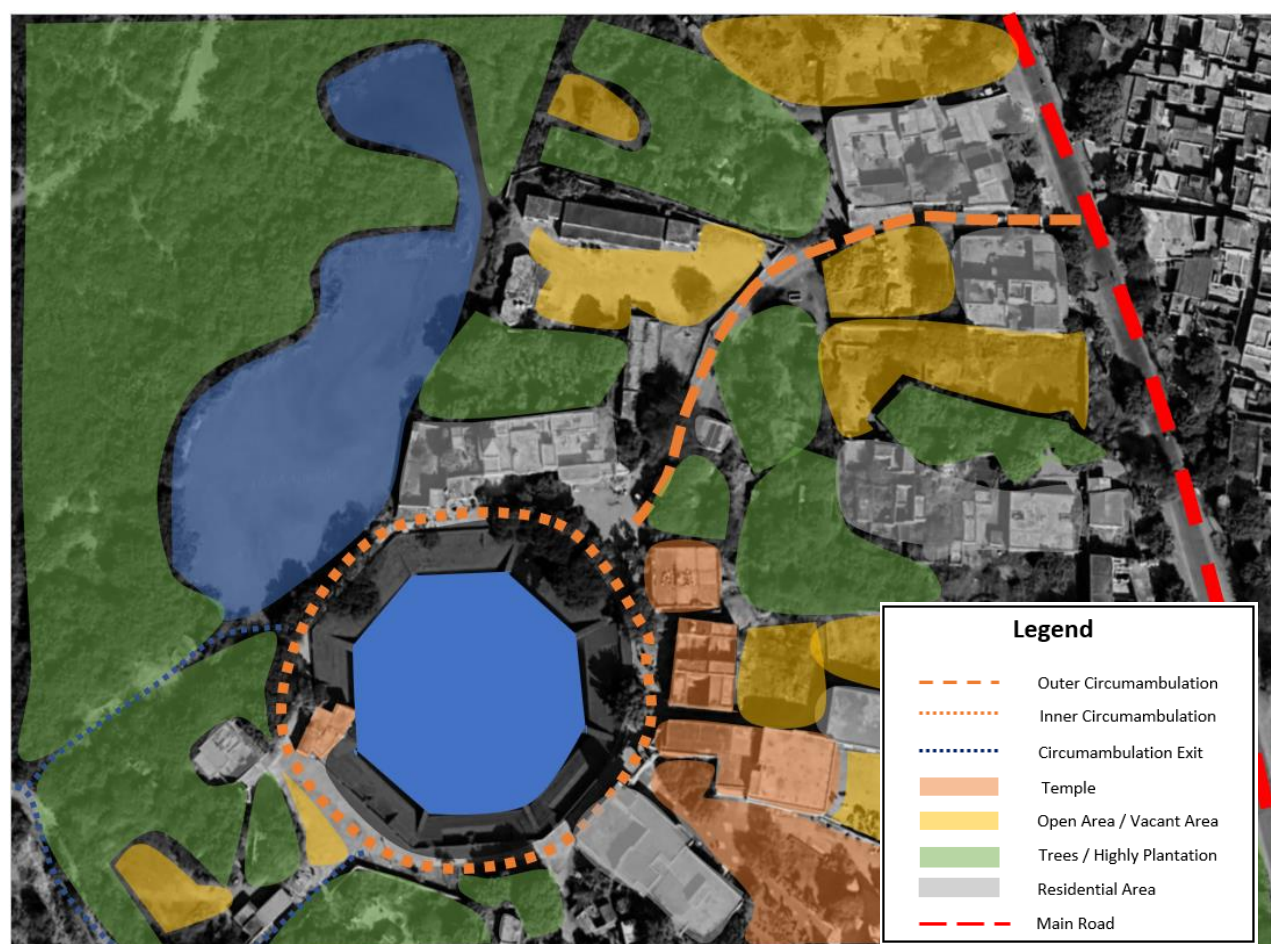
Introduction

In India, kunds are ancient tanks or reservoirs that are an essential part of the nation's history and culture. These buildings, which can be seen all over Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh, provided communities with essential water supplies and were frequently constructed with elaborate designs that showcased regional skill. Beyond their utilitarian use, kunds have cultural significance as symbols of spirituality and purity that are frequently connected to festivals, rituals, and religious rites. From a historical perspective, they symbolize centuries-old sustainable water management techniques, reflecting India's enduring relationship with water as a vital resource and emphasizing the convergence of realistic thinking, creativity, and spirituality in Indian culture.

Objectives

- To understand the activity pattern and usability of people around the kund premises.
- To develop a strategy for the transformation plan of Braj Bhumi's Kund.
- Directing the heritage to revive the historical significance in order to draw more people towards Kunds.

Site Proposal



Area of Study

As the Land of Lord Krishna, Braj Bhumi is spread over Rajasthan, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, with an area of 4000 sq km and more than 108 kunds, according to the India Water Portal Report (2010). This hallowed area has several kunds, each containing a distinct account of Lord Krishna's life that has spiritual importance and profound teachings to be learned. In addition to serving as sources of water, these reservoirs include religious and cultural artifacts that draw visitors and pilgrims to Braj Bhumi. Visitors are able to establish a strong connection with the teachings and legend of Krishna through these kunds, which elevates Braj Bhumi to a highly esteemed location renowned for its profundity of spirituality and historical significance.

Key Issues

Lack of water is endangering Braj Bhumi's Kunds, causing deterioration and threatening its historical and cultural significance. Sustaining these holy locations, preserving their spiritual heritage, and guaranteeing that they will arouse devotion and draw tourists for many years to come will need effective resource conservation.

Analysis

Many kunds in Braj Bhumi are currently dilapidated, lacking water and suffering from broken infrastructure. Without intervention, there is a risk of these kunds becoming depleted over time. It is imperative to prioritize their revival to ensure both water security and the preservation of cultural practices. These kunds are crucial not only for local religious ceremonies but also for maintaining ecosystem balance, supporting both human and animal communities in the region.

Intervention

The majority of the kunds in Braj Bhumi are flanked by temples, and the kunds themselves are fairly closely grouped. We can improve both locals and visitors' experiences and activities around the Kund by utilizing the existing architecture.

- Installing gateway doors adorned with Lord Krishna pictorials for a mesmerizing entry.
- Lining pathways with trees to foster a natural connection.
- Create exercise zones, satsang points, and sitting areas for emotional, physical, and mental well-being.
- Introducing music-oriented spaces to enrich tourist experiences and convey kund history.
- Maintaining kund cleanliness by using aquatic plants and fish to regulate fungi and oxygen levels.

Way Forward

The project's results will contribute to water conservation, preserve cultural legacy and heritage, and strengthen ties between people, the past, and culture and strengthen the economic factor of nearby people.

