



CHANGU NARAYAN CONSERVATION TRAINING PROJECT

A Bid to Preserve both the Tangible and Intangible Heritage

by

Heritage and Environment Conservation
(HEC) Foundation Nepal

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Changu Narayan Mandir- one of UNESCO's seven World Heritage Sites located in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal - is one of the most significant religious complexes in the Valley with spectacular vistas towards the Himalayan range. Changu is an architectural masterpiece and is the home to a diversity of 5th – 7th century Lichhavi art from the golden period of Nepal's history.

The devastating earthquakes in April and May 2015 caused extensive damage to the Changu Narayan Temple, its surrounding courtyard buildings (sattals) and many smaller shrines within the temple complex. This highly significant hill sanctuary is a great historic and artistic World Heritage Site and deserves immediate care and attention, as it is one of the least developed locations in the Valley.

The focus therefore is directed towards the development of a comprehensive master plan for the conservation of the temple complex and the protection of the sculptures, the hittis, and other artifacts associated with Changu Narayan; as well as providing visitors a more stimulating experience. Essential services will be improved; more inspiring restaurants and cafés will be provided; and visitors will be invited to experience the unique community life of Changu Narayan.

The opportunities for developing special programmes in Changu are extensive.

As the Changu Narayan Conservation Project (CNCP) expands and grows, the site will become a remarkable destination for researchers and scholars and as well as continue as a didactic conservation centre, providing further opportunity for the local community to gain experience and eventually become more self-dependent.

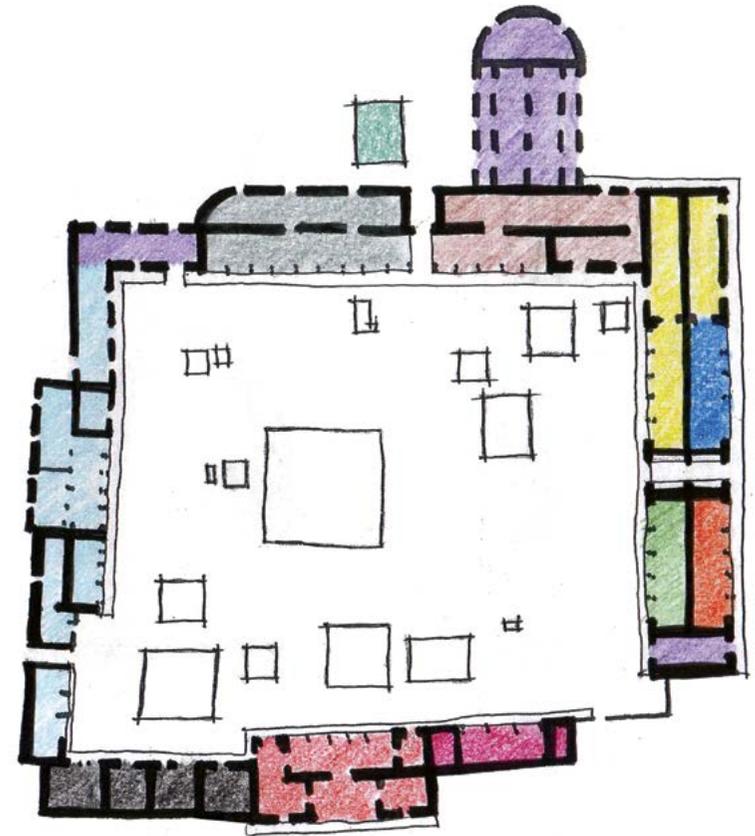
THE BUILDING CONSERVATION UNIT

A fundamental aspect of the CNCP is to create a 'Building Conservation Unit', a training centre for site management and the conservation and repair of historic structures. In close collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, the Government of Nepal, and the Heritage Environment & Conservation Foundation Nepal (HECFN) is fund raising to establish local and international awareness for this highly significant World Heritage Site and to provide opportunities for the local community to benefit from the revenue generated locally. The local community will be the source for training local craftsmen to undertake the extensive programme for the restoration and re-establishment of Changu as a World Heritage site.

The Building Conservation Unit will be augmented by skilled craftsmen from the Kathmandu Valley, young professionals from the Department of Archaeology and other governmental organisations. This work force will gain valuable on-site experience relating to historic conservation that could be transferred and replicated in other, highly significant monument sites across Nepal also in need of conservation.



- Priests' Quarters
- Community Meeting Space
- Community Library
- Museum and Data Archive
- Store for Chariots
- Visitor Information Centre
- Security Guards Centre
- Religious Music (Bhajan)
- Extension of LTM Museum
- Amatya Sattal
Existing LTM Museum
- Privately Owned Land
- Toilet Facilities



PROPOSED USE OF COURTYARD - GROUND FLOOR PLAN

VISITOR CENTRE AND SITE MUSEUM

The enclosing courtyard structure formerly served as rest houses (sattals) which provided space for pilgrims to stay during the many festivals that took place in Changu. They also served as space for the local community's rituals and daily functions. During the recent earthquakes, the sattals were badly damaged (left) and most were partly demolished as deemed unsafe.

Plans are being developed in collaboration with the local community to re-establish the original uses at ground floor level while at first floor level, a national Changu Museum will be introduced to exhibit the many historic artefacts associated with the temple, accompanied with an Archive and Data Centre. Consideration will be given to re-establish the facades overlooking the courtyard which are currently under private occupation.

KILESHWOR TEMPLE

First completed Post-earthquake Historical Structure

Situated in the Southwest corner of Changu Narayan Courtyard is the Kileshwor Temple, a small, unique shrine founded in 1770 and dedicated to Shiva. It is the only shaivite shrine in the Changu Narayan temple complex and is dedicated to Pashupathi. Kileshwor Temple was badly damaged during the recent earthquakes and was threatening collapse.

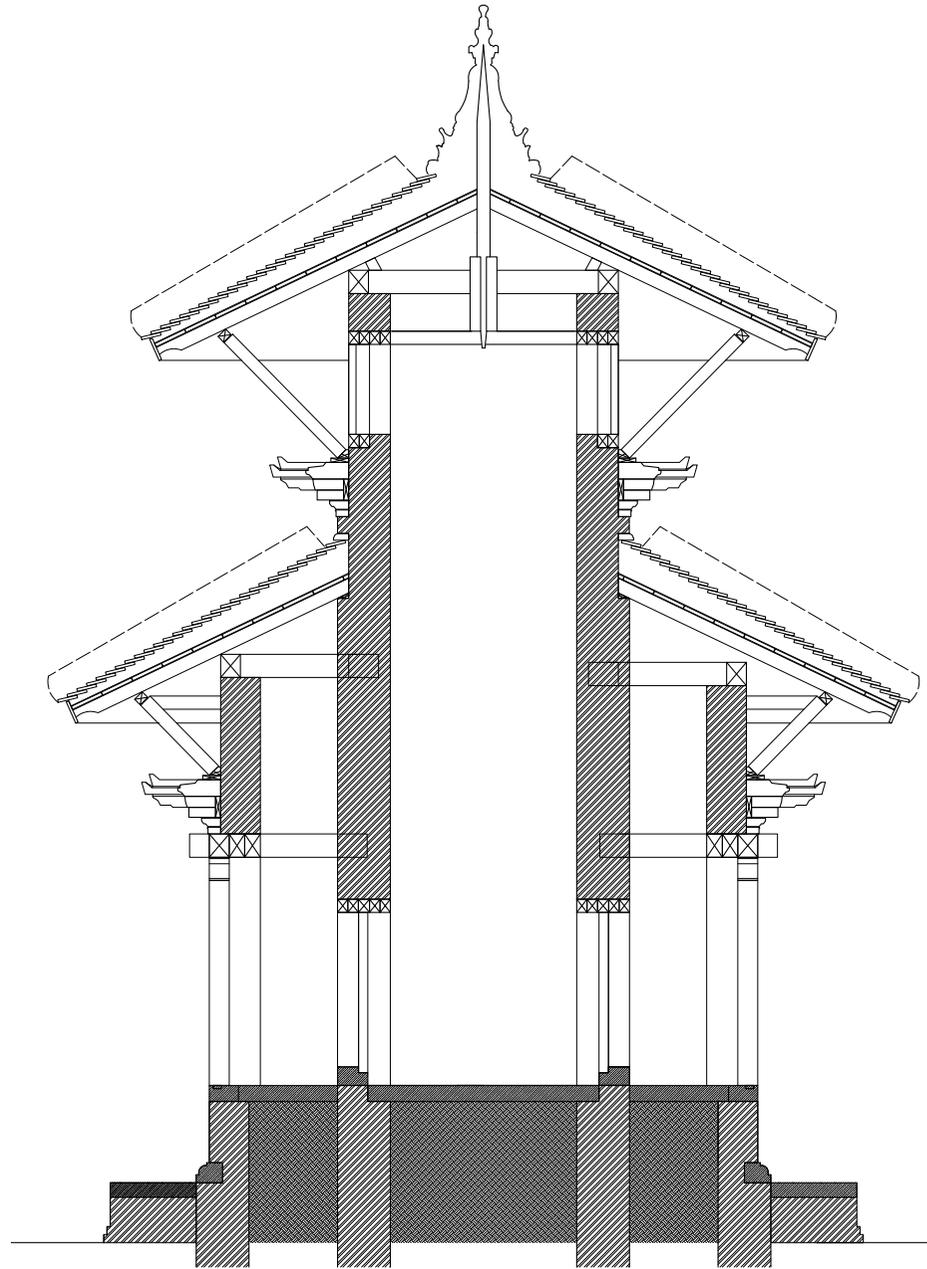
Fortunately in December 2015, the German Embassy provided funds for Kileshwor's structural repair and conservation (top right /middle right) and in April 2016, it was re-dedicated as the first post-earthquake historic structure to be completed.

REDEVELOPMENT OF LAXMI NARAYAN

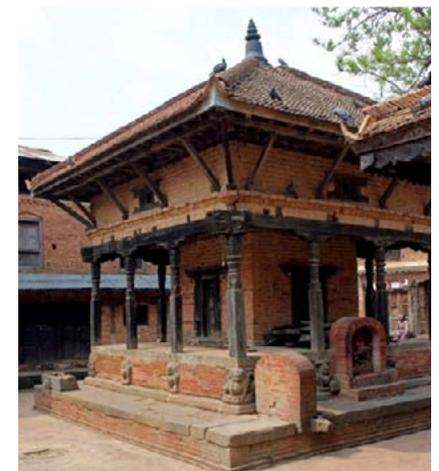
Due to the success of the Kileshwor Project, the CNCP will focus on the reconstruction of the Laxmi Narayan Temple, adjacent to Kileshwor (bottom right) which suffered total collapse during the 2015 earthquakes.

Laxmi Narayan Temple was built around the same time as the Kileshwor Temple with similar style and woodcarvings. Prior to the 1934 earthquake local knowledge has confirmed the temple had a second upper roof. The temple suffered partial collapse in the 1934 earthquake and was reconstructed with a single roof. Since the temple's complete collapse in the recent earthquakes, elements of its original timber structure and wood carvings timber structure have been recovered and stored for safe-keeping to use in its reconstruction. The local community is keen to reconstruct the Laxmi Narayan Temple.

After careful research, an almost identical double-roof temple structure has been found and serves as a suitable model for Laxmi Narayan's restoration (drawing), reusing as much of the original salvaged material as possible.



Proposed Laxmi Narayan Section





SCULPTURE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Changu Narayan is a place where fine art interacts with religious use. The sculptures are among the most important stone carvings preserved in Nepal. Not only do they date back to the Lichhavi period (5th- 7th century), but the works are also of superior workmanship and refinement. Nevertheless, these priceless reliefs remain in the courtyard, with no protection, closely associated with the myriad of local small shrines. Aside from their artistic and historic value, these images are 'gods' and the objects of veneration and accessible to pilgrims and visitors. The sculptures are subject to daily worship (below left), which involves their being daubed with red tikka powder, and showered with milk and yogurt. Worshippers also burn oil and butter lamps directly in front of the statues causing further deposits on the stone images. This worship is causing an accelerated deterioration of the stone and is leading to the loss of fine and detailed workmanship due to black encrustations and flaking from the surfaces of the sculptures. These priceless sculptures need very careful cleaning, consolidation and repair. Ideally they should remain in situ with added protection to enable them to be worshipped continuously and thus preserve both the tangible and intangible heritage that is so vital to Changu Narayan.



THE HISTORIC COURTYARD

Within the courtyard, as well as the Lichhavi sculptures, there are a multitude of small stone elements consisting of statues, bell frames and inscribed columns that contribute to the history of the temple complex. Many of these are damaged, broken or misplaced. It is proposed to set up a stone workshop on site for the restoration of these architectural elements as part of the upgrading of the courtyard. The courtyard itself is paved with a unique triangular terracotta courtyard paving tile. Many of the original tiles have been replaced with new tiles and some of the originals can be found elsewhere in the Changu vicinity. Hopefully the misplaced tiles will be reunited and a proper drainage slope will be reset at the time of relaying the courtyard.



LANDSCAPING & SUPPORT THE REAFFORESTATION OF THE TRADITIONAL CHAAP FOREST

The Changu Narayan Monument Zone is also a great example of a natural landscape. Originally there was a forest of Chaap- from which the name Changu is derived from - which encircled the crown of the Changu Hillock. The site is green throughout the year however due to deforestation, there have been successive landslides around the Changu Narayan Hillock.

It is planned to establish an agro-forestry programme to provide a sustainable plan for local farmers and to re-establish the historic and traditional forest. There are also plans to establish gardens for herbs and floral offerings for use in the rituals and a proper drainage slope will be reset at the time of relaying the courtyard.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

A Fundraising Campaign has been set up to support the Changu Narayan Conservation Training Project, Kathmandu, Nepal. In collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, the Nepal Government and the NGO Heritage & Environment Conservation Nepal (HECFN), besides the actual restoration work, the funds allocated below cover training of local professionals and craftsmen community support programmes. Details of the works proposed are set out in this brochure:

Fundraising Target:	\$2.2 Million
Project Completion:	December 2020
Fundraising Targets for:	
• Main Temple	Nepal Govt
• Budget for Total Restoration	\$2.6 Million

Funds for each unit specified include complete two storey structure and roof above (please refer to plan)

Chaugara Sattal (Enclosing Courtyard):

• Rehabilitating 3 Priest's Quarters	\$500,000
• Community Library	\$280,000
• Religious Music (Bhajan)	\$240,000
• Extension of LTM	\$200,000
• Community Meeting Space	\$320,000
• Security Guards Centre	\$260,000
• Museum and Data Archive	\$350,000
• Toilet Facilities	\$50,000

TOTAL \$2,200,000

Proposed Changu Narayan Museum:

• Interior Design and Museum Fit-out	\$320,000
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Projects within the Courtyard:

• Laxmi Narayan Temple Restoration	\$80,000
• Conservation of Stone Elements	\$90,000

Reforestation and Landscaping:

• Replanting Chhaap Forest	\$75,000
• Landscaping and Access	\$75,000

ADOPT A STATUE (Local fundraising effort) to support the renovation of courtyard:

• Conservation of Lichhavi Sculptures (for conservation of stone elements)	\$20,000 per statue
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by HEC Foundation Nepal in association with John Sanday Associates

The Heritage and Environment Conservation (HEC) Foundation Nepal is a Nepalese NGO and non-profit organization established to promote and support various cultural and natural conservation programmes in Nepal. HEC Foundation Nepal believes 'culture not only constitutes a country's identity, it is also at the very heart of a development'. HEC endeavors to save Nepal's precious cultural heritage and natural environment through participatory process of conservation and development.

John Sanday Associates Pvt. Ltd (JSA) is an architectural and engineering consultancy dedicated to meet the needs of appropriate design for construction in Nepal. The company's conservation vision was born out of John Sanday's long-standing involvement with the conservation and repair of Nepal's traditional and historic architecture. The vision broadened to encompass architectural and engineering design including seismic vulnerability assessments.

JSA is a Nepalese registered company with foreign and local partners and incorporates a team of both Nepalese and expatriate architects and engineers dedicated to the creation and maintenance of a harmonious environment.

Full Report and Budget available on request

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