

**THE CITY OF
AHMEDABAD**

THE MANCHESTER OF INDIA

Subject: Urban & Regional Planning

Topic: Ahemdabad

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MARATHA PHASE

- The city became a sad sight in the eighteenth century as the Marathas made no effort to expand or improve the existing urban settlement.
- The Marathas administrative system was not equal to the task of governing a great commercial city like Ahmedabad, nor did their financial troubles permit them to regard it as more than a source of aggrandizement.

COLONIAL PHASE

- Colonial rule greatly modified the urban growth and character of Ahmedabad. East India company developed this city into the military and administrative centre of the region.
- The laying of railway line and textile mills were the main achievements in this phase.
- Ellis bridge, was the first bridge made on the river Sabarmati. Due to acceleration in development there was need of other bridges so, Sardar bridge and Gandhi bridge were made.
- Ahmedabad had Telephone in 1897, electricity in 1915, and city bus service in 1921.

POST INDEPENDENCE ERA

- Due to growth and development in western zone there was a need for more links over Sabarmati. Therefore Nehru bridge and Subhash bridge were constructed.
- The Gujarat University was put up in 1950, this gave rise to the major educational institutions like Indian Institute of Management., School of Architecture and other buildings like Textile Industries Research Association, and Indian Space Research Organization.

ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY

- Le Corbusier designed four buildings here in the fifties-two private residences and two public institutions. Bringing futuristic vision for the contemporary architect.
- He came back in the 60s to design the IIM and set a fine example for creating a modern India ethos through form material and technique.
- Two other landmark edifices of this era were ATIRA building in international style by A P Kanvinde, and the Gandhi Sangrahalaya by Charles Correa.
- The sixties and seventies also found many Indian architects who had been educated abroad returning to start their practices in Ahmedabad, noteworthy among them being B V Doshi, A D Raje and Hasmukh Patel.



IIM AHMEDABAD



- IIM AHMEDABAD



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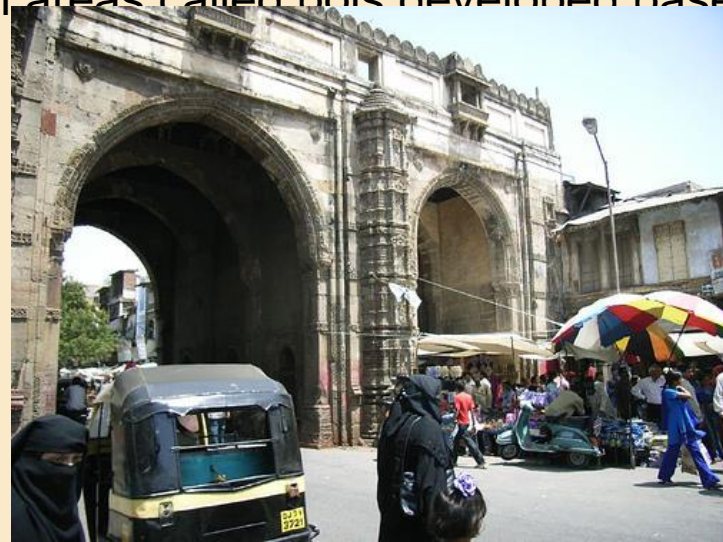
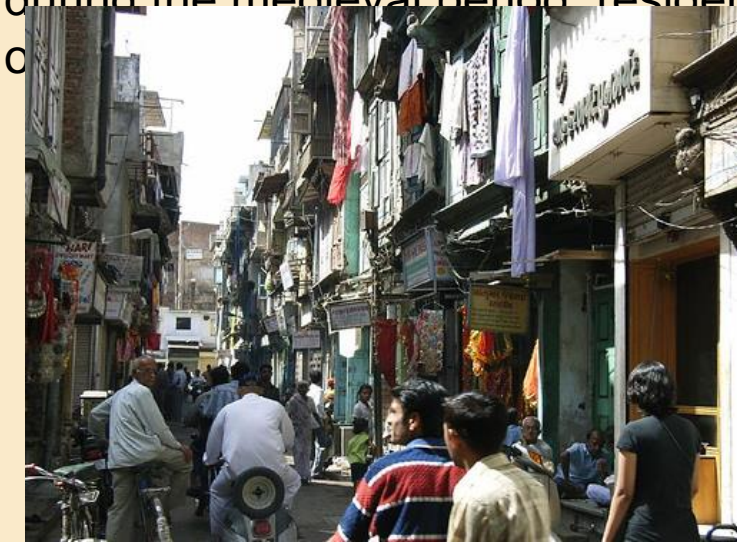
- REVOLVING RESTAURANT BY HASMUKH PATEL



GANDHI ASHRAM

INNER CITY AND ITS ARCHITECTURE

- The inner city contains high density residential sections, organically developed between the streets.
- The city's morphology is abstractly analogous to a large tree with main trunks (major roads), sub branches, twigs, (internal roads), and the leaves (houses).
- As an extension of the need for physical security and communal identity during the medieval period, residential areas called nols developed based



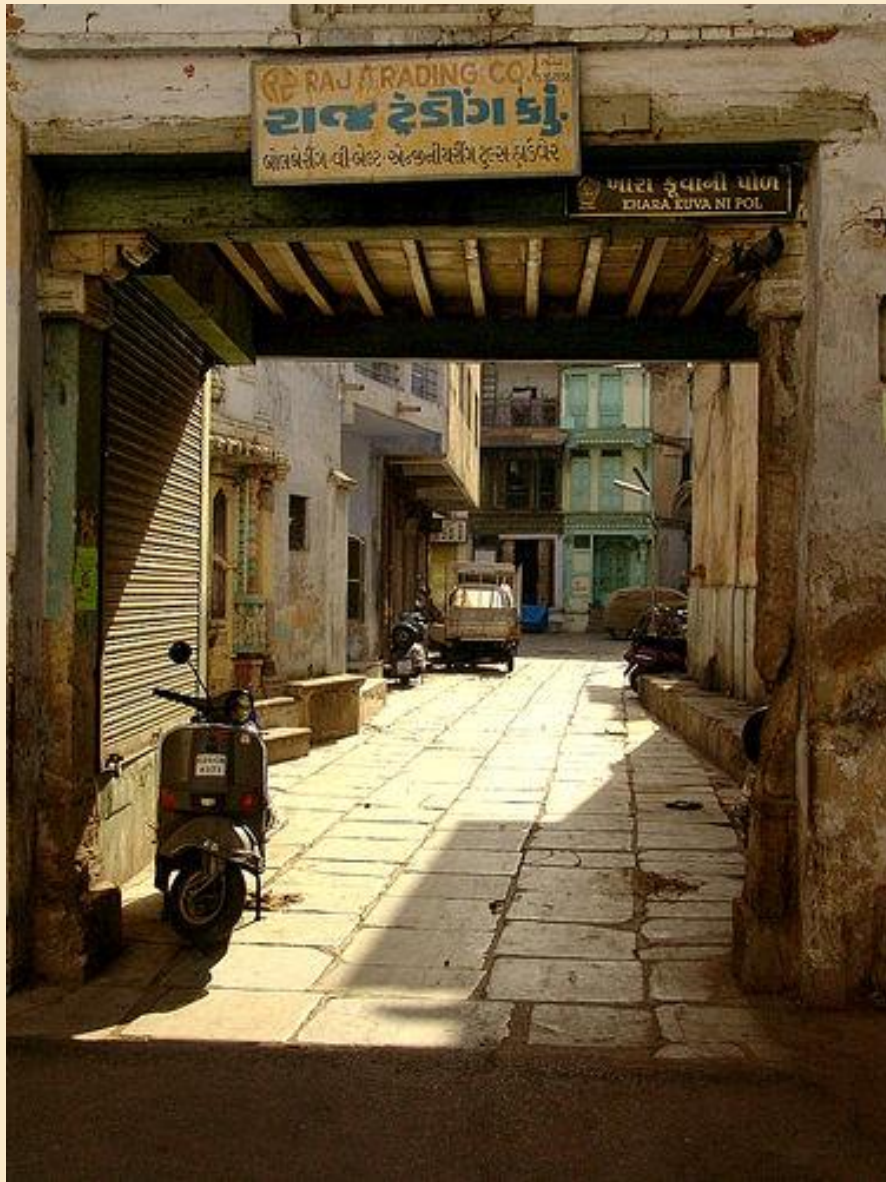
THE POLS

- The pol is a small residential unit, consisting of a single street with a group of houses. It is a kind of micro neighborhood, usually protected by a gate at the entrance.
- Compact housing clusters with dead end streets formed distinctive residential patterns.
- The pols were self sustained over a period of time since each house had its own storage for water and food grain, a tradition that continues today.





VIEW OF A POL



ENTRANCE GATE OF A POL
HOUSE IN OLD CITY



ENTRANCE OF A



- INTRICATELY CARVED BRACKET
A POL

A BIRDFEEDER IN A CHOWK IN



- JAIN TEMPLE

THE FUTURE

- Whatever its past grandeur and glories, today the city suffers from the usual problems of urban sprawl, pollution, traffic and population explosion.
- The closure of several textile mills had severely affected the economy of the city and it is still recovering.
- The eastern and western side of river are growing into an unhealthy balance.
- The urban land prices are sky rocketing, and as a result the available land in and around Ahmedabad is increasingly coming under the ownership of developers.
- Conservation of heritage buildings must be an important factor for further development.