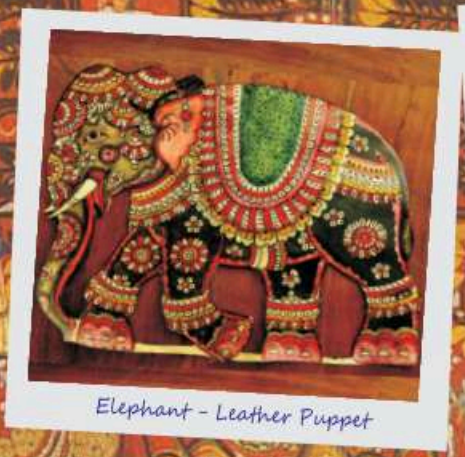
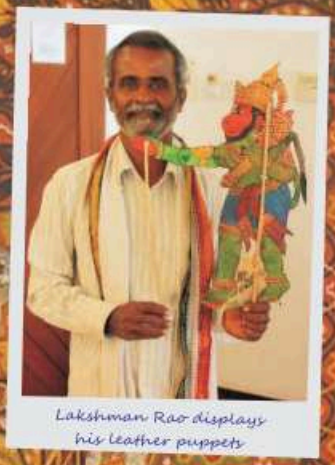
INTACH
MADURAI CHAPTER


Elephant - Leather Puppet


Leather Puppet of Hanuman


Lakshman Rao displays his leather puppets

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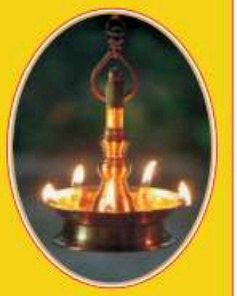
NEW YEAR ISSUE

JANUARY 2015





Convenor's Message



Dear readers,

We are happy to present you, the New Year 2015, e-Newsletter of INTACH - Madurai Chapter! Through this, e-Newsletter, the executive committee members of INTACH - Madurai Chapter hope to reach out to our existing members while encouraging new members to join us. We believe that, jointly, we can do much to create an awareness of the need to promote, preserve and project the uniqueness of Madurai. As you are aware, we are committed to the promotion of Madurai's art, culture and heritage, and have also been making concerted efforts to encourage the young children and youth of Madurai to appreciate their culture, heritage and city.

We invite you to contribute articles, photographs, etc., to this e-newsletter.

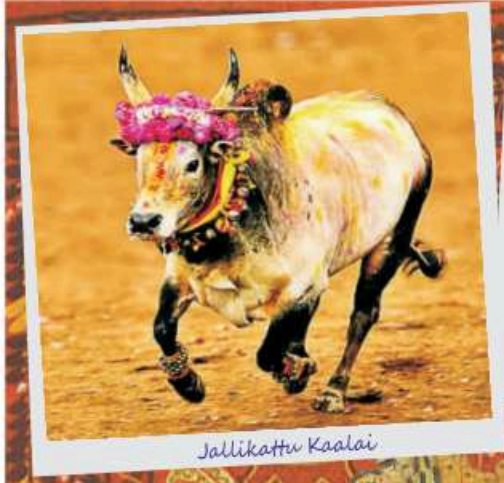
Hope you enjoy reading it!

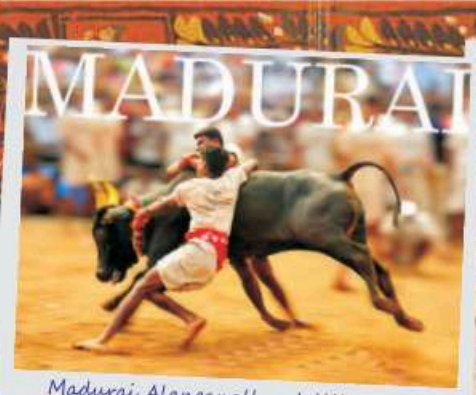
Wish you a very Happy New Year!

- Uma Kannan
Convenor - INTACH Madurai Chapter

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Jallikattu Kaalai



Madurai Alanganallur Jallikattu


Madurai Alanganallur Jallikattu

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMED ON FEBRUARY 2014

1. Mrs. UMA KANNAN
   Convenor
2. Mr. P. RAJESH KANNA
   Co-Convenor
3. Mr. JAYESH J. METHA
   Treasurer
4. Mr. ARAVIND KUMAR SANKAR
5. Mr. R. HARESH
6. Mrs. VALLI ANNAMALAI
7. Mr. M.D.VEL
8. Mr. G. VASUDEVAN
9. Dr. ARAVIND SRINIVASAN
10. Mrs. CHITRA GANAPATHY

INTACH – COMMITTEE
(For the Nine Divisions)


Craft, Community & Heritage


Natural Heritage


Heritage Tourism

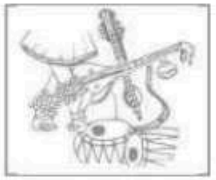

Heritage Education and Communication Service


Documentation


Architectural Heritage


Intangible Cultural Heritage


Material Heritage


Heritage Academy



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CONTRIBUTING TEAMS FOR THE NINE DIVISIONS



Craft, Community & Heritage

Committee Head:
Mrs. Valli Annamalai

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Mital Kailas Lalan
Ms. Mahroon Ismail
Ms. Divya Shyam Gupta
Mrs. Visalakshi Ramasamy
Ms. Mathalaimani Asaikani
Mr. Zafer Salim
Ms. Reshma Zafer



Natural Heritage

Committee Head:
Mr. R. Haresh

Member Volunteers:
Mr. J. Shenbagaraj
Mr. R. Durgaram
Mr. S. Nadanagopal
Mr. Saravanan



Heritage Tourism

Committee Head:
Dr. G. Vasudevan

Member Volunteers:
Mr. D. Gunasekar
Mr. A. Sudhir
Mr. Divya Gupta
Ms. Sridevi Murali
Mrs. Bhavani Vel



Heritage Education and Communication Service

Committee Head:
Mrs. Chitra Ganapathy

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Sita Krishnamoorthy
Ms. Sudha Renganathan



Documentation

Committee Head:
Mr. M.D. Vel

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Sharmila C.Ganesan
Ms. Sudha Renganathan
Ms. Sujatha Srinivasan



Architectural Heritage

Committee Head:
Dr. Aravind Srinivasan

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Shanthi Senthil
Mrs. Vasantham Sundaravel
Mr. Jeyesh Metha
Mr. Rajesh Kanna



Intangible Cultural Heritage

Committee Head:
Dr. Aravind Kumar Shankar

Member Volunteers:
Ms. Shobhana Ramachandran
Mr. Manohar Devadoss





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INTACH - MADURAI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

One Day Workshop on ARCHITECTURAL LISTING IN MADURAI

Venue : Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai
Date : Dec 15, 2014
Resource Persons : Dr. S. Suresh, State Convener - TN Chapter
Dr. R. Venkataraman, Renowned Art Historian
Dr. Jinu L Kitchely, Professor & Head, Department of Architecture, TCE
G. Balaji, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, TCE

The One day workshop was inaugurated auspiciously by a prayer song and the lighting of the traditional kuthuvilaku, by Dr. S. Suresh, Convener, INTACH Tamil Nadu Chapter, Dr. Uma Kannan, Vice President, Thiagarajar College, Prof. R. Venkatraman, Historian, Mr. Rajesh Kanna, Co- Convener, INTACH- Madurai Chapter, Dr. Abhai Kumar, Principal Thiagarajar College of Engineering and Dr. Jinu L Kitchely, Professor and Head, Department of Architecture TCE.

The welcome address was given by Dr. Uma Kannan, Convener, INTACH – Madurai Chapter. She highlighted the significance of preserving the heritage structures, especially in Madurai Region, which is a city rich with cultural heritage. She stated that the prime reason for the fast disappearance of many historic monuments in the city, is because of the "thoughtless vandalism and the sheer neglect" of the public. She urged the importance of protecting the architectural heritage and insisted on the "urgent need to document" the structures for preservation. She also added that, though documentation was important, nothing could match the live spatial experience of the built heritage structure, which is an embodiment of years of cultural history. She concluded by saying that INTACH Madurai Chapter, which was started in the year 2007, is working towards preserving the various heritage structures in the city, by identifying the owners of the heritage buildings and instilling a sense of pride in them.

The welcome address was followed by the Key note address, delivered by Dr.S.Suresh, Convener, INTACH – Tamilnadu Chapter, who also introduced the workshop. Dr.S.Suresh, briefed about the origin and history of INTACH, which dated back to the British Era. He said that, while countries like the UK and the USA started their own National Trusts (National Trust of England & National Trust for Historic Preservation, respectively) to preserve their cultural heritage, in the early half of the 20th century, it took India many more years and INTACH finally materialized in 1984. He added that, INTACH which involves in "documentation and preservation" of any form of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, requires expertise in fields like history, architecture and archaeology for the listing process. He also enlightened the participants about the difficulties that are normally faced during the documentation process. He stated that INTACH Orissa chapter has already achieved complete documentation of all the heritage structures in the state and has also published the same. He described about the various activities of the INTACH Tamilnadu chapter and said that extensive works have been carried out in Thanjavur, Kumbkonam, Thiruvaiyar, Nilgiris, Coimbatore (Urban), Pudukottai & its surroundings, Sriperumbadur and Chennai. He explained the intense works being carried out in Chennai to preserve the heritage structures and also mentioned about the books published by INTACH, titled, "Madras- the architectural guide" and "Celebrating Chennai" (A bi-lingual book for



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school children), which can be bought from the INTACH office. He concluded the key note address by stating that, since extensive work has not been carried out so far in the Madurai region, he hoped that this workshop would initiate the same.

The key note address was followed by an enlightening Special Address on the architectural heritage of Madurai, by Dr.Venkataraman, historian, who is fondly known as "Dr.V". He spoke about the general disparity between the Indian and the Western outlook towards heritage structures, especially in religious buildings. While many students and people from abroad, throng the city to know more about the historic temples and their architectural value, Indians are more concerned about just the one activity of worshipping the deity in the sanctum sanctorum, and fail to recognize the artistic and architectural beauty that lead to it. He was alarmed when the authorities decided to "white wash" the walls surrounding the temple tank of the Meenakshi Temple, and did not care about the 13th century paintings on "thiruvilayadal puranam", that were already fading away. Dr.V, enlightened the participants about a unique heritage building in Madurai that he "fell in love with", the Thiagarajar Chettiar Mansion in TPK road. He stated that this building was a beauty which stands as an example of "A meeting between the best of the east of and west". He explained that the Chettiar Mansion was a very interesting blend of the traditional Chettinad style and the Classical Renaissance style of architecture. He compared the mansion to the famous Villa Rotunda by Andrea Palladio. The mansion has a courtyard planning similar to the Chettinad style, but unlike the usual oblong Chettinad courtyards, the mansion has squarish planning, reflecting the Villa Rotunda style. He described with awe about the rich artifacts used in the mansion, the intricately detailed cabinets, and the elegant sculptures, fountains adorning the lawn, most of which were imported from Italy. He explained how two of the famous Italian sculptor Canova's lion sculptures have been placed in the entrance of the mansion. He concluded by saying that he was saddened by the fact that most of these unique artifacts are now either in bad shape or have been sold out to parts of North India. He urged architects and students to help in preserving the rich heritage of Madurai. He appreciated INTACH for the initiatives they have been undertaking and their future plans of action.

Mr. Rajesh Kanna, Co- Convener, INTACH- Madurai Chapter, then briefed about the recent activities in Madurai region and how a new system of participatory approach has been adopted in the architectural listing process.

G.Balaji, Associate professor from the Department of Architecture, Thiagarajar College of Engineering, spoke in brief about the significance of Madurai in the Heritage picture. He explained about the various aspects that encompasses the same, like, types of heritage, context, focus, methods, and Madurai heritage.

Dr.S.Suresh, then started the technical session on the architectural listing – procedures and problems. He described the various stages involved in the listing process like identification of area, back ground research, etc. He explained in detail to the participants about the proforma and the process of filling up the same.

The forenoon session was concluded by the vote of thanks proposed by Dr.Jinu Kitchley, Professor and Head of the Department, Department of Architecture, Thiagarajar College of Engineering.

Field visit was organized in the afternoon session. 54 students and 4 faculty members were divided into 8 groups and the field trip was made to Thenkarai, a village in Madurai. Around 8 agraharam houses in the village which were more than 100 years old were selected and documented for architectural listing. Dr.S.Suresh concluded the session by summarizing the data collected from field visit for the listing purpose.

PHOTO GALLERY

One Day Workshop on ARCHITECTURAL LISTING IN MADURAI













Photo Gallery

One Day Workshop on ARCHITECTURAL LISTING IN MADURAI













Photo Gallery

One Day Workshop on ARCHITECTURAL LISTING IN MADURAI















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REACH US:

For more details regarding INTACH Madurai Chapter and membership, please contact:

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Treasurer:

Mr. JAYESH J. METHA
Mobile: 94421-03490
E-mail: jayesh27772@gmail.com

Upcoming Events!

South Zone Conveners Workshop

on

Intangible Heritage Documentation

Hosted jointly by

INTACH Tamil Nadu State and Madurai Chapters

1-3 February 2015

at

Thiagarajar College, Teppakulam, Madurai