

Designing colonial theme restaurant reflecting the British era of Kolkata

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■ **ABSTRACT :** The present design project was undertaken with the objectives, (a) to identify the famous historical monuments of British era in Kolkata, (b) to study the design elements used in the interiors of these selected historical monuments, (c) to design a colonial theme Restaurant reflecting British era of Kolkata in Vadodara city. and (d) to estimate the cost of the design developed for the theme project. The observation sheets were used to gather the details for developing case studies on the existing interior features of the wall and its treatment, floor and its treatment, ceiling and its treatment, furniture and furnishings, lighting and accessories of the selected British colonial monuments of Kolkata and the existing status of the restaurant "Trident" of the Revival Lord's Inn at Vadodara. The proposed design project included the schedule of two dimensional drawings made with the support of "AUTO CAD" version 2005-06. The three dimensional drawings were created from new software called "Autodesk Inventor" version 2009. Based on the developed case studies on colonial British era monuments of Kolkata, the flooring, walls, ceiling, lightings and accessories of the selected restaurant at Vadodara was designed. The designing of the present project would be useful as a resource material for the staff, students and institutions pursuing interiors as one of the subjects in their curriculum. It would also be useful for the professionals in the field of Interiors.

■ **KEY WORDS:** Restaurant, Theme, Colonial, Design

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Globalization, migration, industrialization and urbanization has brought noteworthy changes in the lifestyle of the modern families. Today the life-style of the families has become more complex and complicated. The competitive world of the present times, the deadlines, the desire to excel and many such alike factors have made the family living quite industrious and stressful.

The families strive for various modes of relaxation. The simplest method to ease out the stress is to take a break and opt for an outing. Outing is meaningless without eating together outside the home. Restaurant at this point plays an important role in providing an easier, economical and enjoyable mode of relaxation for the family. With an inquisitive nature of man and the wish to have something new, the restaurants' too have been undergone with many revolutionary changes.

Along with the utilities alone, the emphasis is now also being placed on overall ambience in tune with the type of speciality cuisine serve at the restaurant. In a short span of period when a customer dines a speciality food, his dining experience can be made more memorable and relaxing by providing him the similar special environment. With this in mind, the new emergence of "theme restaurants" are becoming more popular among the families these days.

The empirical data on the theme restaurant highlighted that there existed theme restaurants in India as well as outside India too. In India the trend of theme restaurant still in infancy stage was prominent since the last decade only. Whereas outside India their existence was marked since 1950's, almost six decades earlier than India. There was mixture of theme found in the restaurant designed outside India from horror to

devil, cartoonish to film characters, village to contemporary, colonial themes and nature loving themes. The themes found in the restaurant of India were different from the restaurants located outside India. In Indian restaurant folk themes of different communities and traditions were more prevalent. The “motorcycle theme” and “chor bazar theme”, one of its kinds was not found in the restaurant situated outside India. The “colonial theme reflecting the British era of Kolkata” proposed by the designer in the present design project was unique and first of its own kind in Vadodara. The designer did not come across the similar theme in any of the restaurants of India, which inspired them to undertake the present design project.

Besides the style of the restaurant which is based on colonial theme of British culture, the other minute aspects for its designing were also incorporated with precision. The furniture, accessories, finishes all are important elements which are included while giving a colonial environment. Other interior features included the existing floor, wall and ceiling and their treatment that were prevalent in that period, were also used in the present design project. Heavy ornamentations and accessories are also used in the interiors of the restaurant. The Restaurant design aspects were also taken into consideration while designing the project. The elements of design such as line, colour, form, texture and pattern were also given due consideration. The designing was also based keeping in mind the principles of design.

Objectives of the study :

The present design project was undertaken with the objectives, (a) to identify the famous historical monuments of British period in Kolkata city, (b) to study the design elements used in the interiors of the selected historical monuments of the British period in Kolkata city, (c) to design a colonial theme Restaurant reflecting British Era of Kolkata in Vadodara city. and (d) to estimate the cost of the design developed for the theme project. The present design project was limited to the designing on paper and for a selected restaurant of Vadodara city only on the available information derived from case studies of the historical monuments with British colonial theme of Kolkata city.

RESEARCH METHODS

The present project was carried out in two phases. Phase I covered the case studies on the selected famous historical colonial monuments of British era of Kolkata city. The case study method was utilized to develop cases of the selected colonial monuments of British era of Kolkata. The electronic media was used to collect the list of the existing historical monuments constructed during British era in Kolkata city. Of the total list of 12 monuments, only eight were finally selected based on their popularity and accessibility to collect the information for the present project. The observation sheets were used as tool to collect the information. The data gathered

from the primary and secondary sources were meaningfully organized. The data were then utilized for developing the design on colonial theme of British era for the selected restaurant in Vadodara city.

Phase II included the detailed information sought by the client regarding his specific needs and preferences to be used for designing the present theme project. It also involved the development of the design based on the information collected from the interiors of the famous historical colonial monuments of British era of Kolkata city. The proposed design project included the schedule of two dimensional drawings made with the support of “AUTO CAD” version 2005-06. The three dimensional drawings were created from new software called “Autodesk Inventor” version 2009. The cost estimation was achieved at by calculating the cost of each unit along with the material used and the labour cost involved.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The monuments selected were constructed between 17th to 19th centuries and were nearly 300 yrs old. The architectural styles prominently found in these buildings were the combination of British and Indo-Islamic style. In few monuments Gothic style was also found. The findings of the case studies highlighted that the colonial monuments were having white coloured walls. The existing floors were made up of wood, marble and granite with geometrical pattern in them. The walls of the monuments were having mouldings.

In the name of furnishings and lightings, the lights were replaced by the new lights and there were no furnishings. The



Fig. 1 : 3D view of proposed chair 1

monuments had chairs, tables, cabinets, book shelves, and benches as prominent furnitures. The furnitures were made up of polished Mahogany wood. The ceiling was of Mahogany wood and in some of the monuments, it was of cement with square and rectangular design forms.

The designers had designed the entrance and the dining area. The designers had used POP pillars in the entrance. The designers also proposed to have statues in the entrance. The designers had increased the seating capacity from 42 to 52. The designers had used Chippendale and Sheraton style of chairs and tables (Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). To make the project cheaper the teak wood is used and dark red brown polish is applied on it.

The designers have proposed to use marble and granite



Fig. 2 : 3D view of proposed chair 2

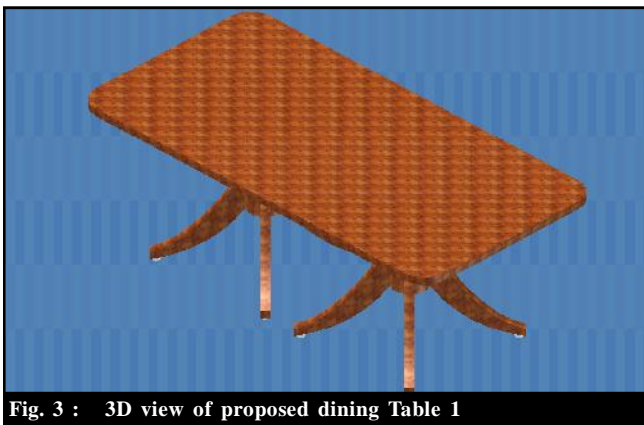


Fig. 3 : 3D view of proposed dining Table 1



Fig. 4 : 3D view of proposed dining Table 2

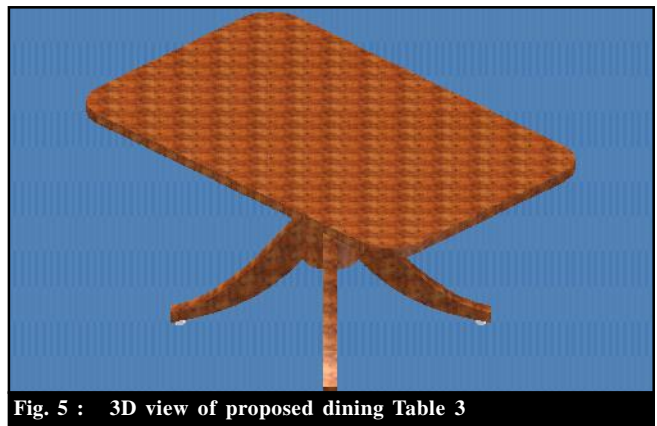


Fig. 5 : 3D view of proposed dining Table 3

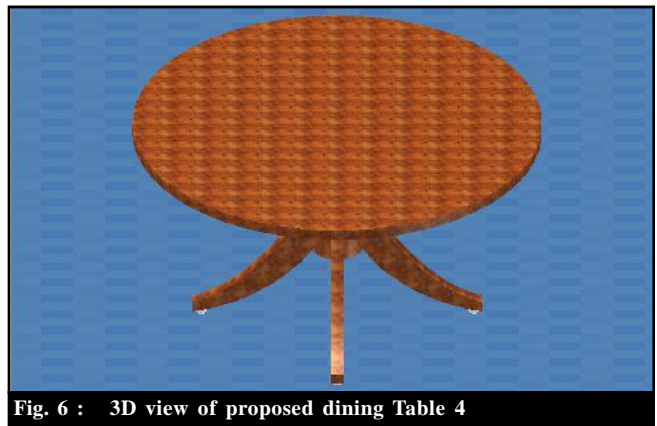


Fig. 6 : 3D view of proposed dining Table 4

in geometrical pattern on the floors (Fig. 8). For the ceiling the designers have used POP and made rectangular and circular drops with 18 lights placed on it.

The walls were proposed to be treated with the POP mouldings in rectangular shapes. The designers have proposed white colour on walls and the ceilings. The designers have highlighted the mouldings with golden colour. There will be wall mounted golden coloured lighting fixtures (Fig. 7).

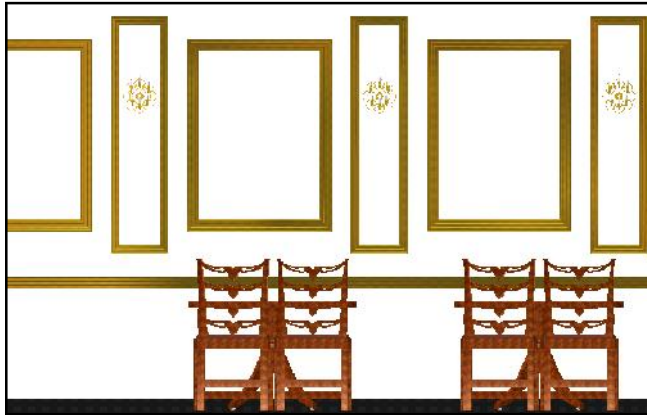


Fig. 7 : Front wall elevation of the seating arrangement of eastern walls

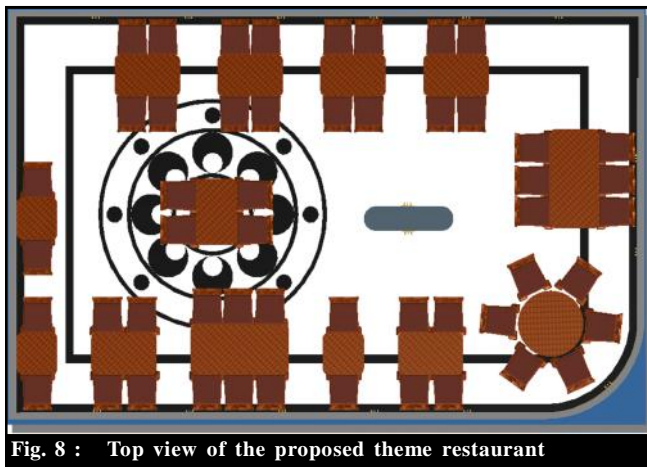


Fig. 8 : Top view of the proposed theme restaurant

The accessories proposed included paintings with golden carved framings, statues, pots and grandfather clock. The designing features proposed in the selected restaurant of Vadodara will be in tune with the features found in the colonial monuments of British era of Kolkata. The total estimated budget, (based on existing rates as on March 2009) for the theme project proposed on colonial theme came to be Rs. 8,04,301/-.

Implications of the present design project :

The findings of the present design project would make the general public to get acquainted with the British culture while visiting the restaurant. The designer in specific on same line will get inspired to develop similar projects or with other ethnic backgrounds of different community of India and outside India. This would also serve as a platform for the new designers, who wish to utilize historical elements with the modern interiors and arrive at a blend of new interiors. This would also provide a base to design other new interiors. While

promoting a base to design other new interiors it would also assist to create the same in other commercial as well as residential interiors.

The present project will also be useful for the student of Home Management with both the specializations *i.e.* Interior design and Hospitality management and other students too who are and will be pursuing education related to interior as it will disseminate knowledge to them about the colonial features of British era of Kolkata. The findings of the study would also enrich the data base of the existing design projects.

Recommendations for future research and design :

It is recommended that the combination of British and other Indian style of restaurant design project can be undertaken on the similar lines. The present design project can also be under taken for the other commercial interiors. The similar restaurant design projects can be undertaken for the other international and regional cultures within our home land.

Conclusion :

After completing the design project of the theme restaurant reflecting British colonial era of Kolkata in Vadodara city, the investigators showed the design presentation to the client. The client agreed and proposed the investigator to use the same design to do the live project of his restaurant.

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