

WHV – Capturing the essence of Kathmandu: learning from the past

Kathmandu Valley, Nepal

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1979)

PROJECT DATES

17 October - 28 October 2024

THE SITE - Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property is inscribed as seven Monument Zones. These monument zones are the Durbar squares or urban centres with their palaces, temples and public spaces of the three cities of Kathmandu (Hanuman Dhoka), Patan and Bhaktapur, and the religious ensembles of Swayambhu, Bauddhanath, Pashupati and Changu Narayan. The religious ensemble of Swayambhu includes the oldest Buddhist monument (a stupa) in the Valley; that of Bauddhanath includes the largest stupa in Nepal; Pashupati has an extensive Hindu temple precinct, and Changu Narayan comprises traditional Newari settlement, and a Hindu temple complex with one of the earliest inscriptions in the Valley from the fifth century AD. The unique tiered temples are mostly made of fired brick with mud mortar and timber structures. The roofs are covered with small overlapping terracotta tiles, with gilded brass ornamentation. The windows, doorways and roof struts have rich decorative carvings. The stupas have simple but powerful forms with massive, whitewashed hemispheres supporting gilded cubes with the all-seeing eternal Buddha eyes.

OBJECTIVES - After its members joined one of the World Heritage Volunteers projects in Bangladesh in 2023, the Baakhan Nyane Was organisation will implement a local camp to connect its core expertise in traditional storytelling and intangible heritage with the promotion of a better understanding of Kathmandu Valley built heritage.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will take part in a program combining skills experiences and training with the local artisans in charge of the renovation of the heritage buildings, and they will create new narratives and storytelling to spark interest in young people about the importance of traditional craftsmanship in the preservation of the World Heritage sites in the valley.

PARTNERS - Kathmandu Metropolitan City; Lalitpur Metropolitan City; Swayambhu Yuwa Pariwar; Kartik Naach Preservation Committee; Bauddha Darshan Adhyayan Puchha; Airlift Technology Private Limited; Galli Maps.

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