



Study of Portuguese Architecture in Goa, India

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ABSTRACT

Portugal started the Age of Navigation in the 15th century, and has also colonized Goa in India for more than 450 years. For more than 400 years, Goa has not only been managed by the Portuguese, but also the ideas of urban construction, urban planning, and architectural styles have also been affected to varying degrees. While elements of Portuguese architecture go back to the days before the founding of Portugal in the 12th century, they continue to resonate today not only in Portugal, but in other parts of the world as well. The Portuguese-style gravel roads with urban characteristics are also one of them. This study analyzes the case of the former Portuguese colonial city of Goa. It is hoped to provide reference for the subsequent design of Calçada Portuguesa.

INTRODUCTION

While elements of Portuguese architecture go back to the days before the founding of Portugal in the 12th century, they continue to resonate today not only in Portugal, but in other parts of the world as well (Eduardo Moerschbaecher, 2022).

The “Portuguese” style is however far from static and has changed innumerable times within history, with each ethnic group that lived in the Portuguese Empire implementing some of their own cultural and aesthetic adaptation across the different structures that were built – including ports, castles, shops, houses, squares, among others. As European architecture passed from the romantic to the contemporary style, certain elements remain “typically Portuguese”.

Portuguese pavement, known in Portuguese as calçada portuguesa or simply calçada is a traditional-style pavement used for many pedestrian areas in Portugal. It consists of small flat pieces of stones arranged in a pattern or image, like a mosaic. It can also be found in Olivença (a disputed territory

administered by Spain) and throughout former Portuguese colonies. Portuguese workers are also hired for their skill in creating these pavements in places such as Gibraltar. Being usually used in sidewalks, it is in town squares and atriums that this art finds its deepest expression. One of the most distinctive uses of this paving technique is the image of Saint-Queen Elizabeth of Portugal, (Santa Rainha Isabel) in Coimbra, designed with black and white stones of basalt and limestone.

METHODS

This paper analyzes and expands by examining historical archives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION Portuguese Colonial Cities

The Atlantic exploration of Portugal in the 15th century and the conquest of Ceuta in 1415 marked the beginning of Portugal as a maritime power, the first global colonial empire in history, and the earliest and longest-established colonial

empire in Europe (1415-1999). After the 18th century, Portugal concentrated on its colonial rule in Brazil and Africa. The catastrophic earthquake of 1755 severely damaged the international standing of the Portuguese capital Lisbon, the independence of Brazil in 1822 and the British crackdown on its expansionary attempts in Africa in 1890, all contributed to the decline of the colonial empire. It was not until Macau was handed over to the People's Republic of China on December 20, 1999 that the colonization of the Portuguese Empire came to an end. However, in nearly five hundred years of Portugal's overseas expansion, many cities influenced by Portuguese culture were born, which can be regarded as Portuguese colonial cities.



Figure 1. Geographical location of Goa (Image source: Zoufangjianzhu)

Goa is the smallest state in India and the fourth smallest state in population. It is located on the west coast of India, bordered by Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south. Goa's earliest history dates back to the 3rd century BC and it was part of the powerful Mauryan dynasty. Historically, Goa was a Portuguese colony. In 1498, the first European, Vasco da Gama, arrived in Goa. At that

time, Da Gama needed to find a foothold in India on a trade route. He first landed at Kozhikode in what is now Kerala, India, and then moved to what is now "Old Goa". At that time, the traditional land spice trade route from India to Europe was interrupted by the Ottoman Empire, and Portugal's goal was to establish a colony in India to monopolize the maritime spice trade from India to Europe. In 1510, the Portuguese fleet commander Albuquerque defeated the Punjab king, who had sovereignty over the local chieftain, Timaya, and occupied the old city of Goa. Unlike other Portuguese occupied enclaves along the Indian coast, Portugal not only stationed troops in Goa, but also hoped to build Goa into a colony and naval base.

After India became independent in 1947, it requested Portugal to hand over the sovereignty of Portuguese India, mainly Goa, to the Indian government, but Portugal rejected India's request. On December 12, 1961, India recaptured Goa. The army entered Goa and two other Portuguese Indian regions, Daman and Diu, and occupied Goa after 26 hours of small-scale battles. At the beginning, the three places were formed as a federal territory of India; by May 30, 1987, Goa was upgraded to the 25th state of India, while Daman-Diu continued to remain a federal territory. The Portuguese side recognized India's sovereignty over Goa with official documents and declarations until the "April 25 Revolution" in 1974. The Portuguese colonial period, which lasted about 450 years, also brought the architectural style into Goa.

Development of Portuguese style in Goa

In many areas of Goa, Indo-Portuguese style buildings are also preserved, such as the Wilhas Conquistas area. In some villages, however, historic buildings were damaged to a certain extent. The fountain area of Panaji is now a cultural sanctuary, a living museum showcasing Goan life, architecture and culture. Portuguese influences can also be seen in some of the temples in Goa, notably the Manguish Temple. After 1961, many temples were demolished and rebuilt, restoring the original Indian style. The old city of Goa was built in the 15th century.

It was an important port city in the era of the Vijayanagara Dynasty and the Bahmani Sultanate. In the Adil Shah Dynasty, it was the capital of the Bijapur Sultanate. It is surrounded by a moat and built with Sultan's palaces, mosques and temples. Beginning in 1510, the Portuguese ruled the Old City of Goa, which became the administrative center of Portuguese India. Until 1759, the Governor's Palace moved to the current state capital of Panaji (then called Panjim). Goa was incorporated into the Republic of India in 1961.

As the capital of Portuguese India and a center for the spread of Christianity (mainly Roman Catholic), Old Goa is home to many churches and monasteries. From a religious and historical perspective, it has witnessed the history of the spread of Christianity to Asia, and has a very important position. In terms of architectural style, it reflects the influence of Portuguese Manueline and Italian Mannerist and Baroque art in Asia in the early 16th century.

Portuguese architecture in Goa

Today, Goa is a small Indian coastal state with a strong Portuguese flavor. Divided into Old Goa and New Goa, the city has a good mix of Indian and Portuguese culture.



Figure 2. Portuguese architecture in Goa (Image source: Zoufangjianzhu)

Goan architecture is not monolithic. Although the area is heavily influenced by Portuguese architectural style. However, local residents have added many Western elements to traditional Indian houses. The main building materials involved in Goan houses are all sourced from indigenous laterites, stones, woods, metals, tiles and carvings,

with various prints. The houses are brightly colored, and the interiors are dominated by natural styles. In addition, the people of Goa love beauty, and many flowers and trees are planted indoors and outdoors.



Figure 3. Portuguese architecture in Goa (Image source: Zoufangjianzhu)



Figure 4. Portuguese architecture in Goa (Image source: Zoufangjianzhu)



Figure 5. Portuguese architecture in Goa (Image source: Zoufangjianzhu)



Figure 6. Portuguese architecture in Goa (Image source: Zoufangjianzhu)

Calçada Portuguesa

Calçada Portuguesa is no exception, a decorative design that symbolizes a strong Portuguese style and is also used in the squares in front of buildings in Goa. However, there are not many preserved buildings so far. There are many buildings mainly converted from Portuguese country villas near the beach into accommodation hotels.

Three Bedroom Villa on Vagator Beach

Among the most photographed beaches in Goa, Vagator Beach is a crescent-shaped paradise nestled in Caisua Bay along the Chapra River. Spread over a wide area, this beach has been favored by most tourists due to its swaying palm trees, beautiful coast and views of the beautiful Chapora Fort. The beach is divided into two parts, Big Vagator Beach and Little Vagator (Ozran Beach). It's the perfect spot for partying by the sea on nights during peak tourist season, and it also overlooks the Chamora Fort perched on a small hill.

The three-bedroom villa on Vagator Beach is a typical Portuguese villa that can accommodate up to nine people. The back porch features a private pool with a wooden deck in a well-maintained garden. The villa is painted a vibrant Mediterranean blue, and the tiled pyramid roof adds to its traditional charm. The arched entrance features wooden windows, while teak columns and intricately carved awnings add to the façade's classic appeal. A high rafter bamboo wood ceiling and wide wall arches with vaulted porches create a lovely dramatic effect in the spacious living room. Gorgeous floors show off beautifully varnished tiles in a floral pattern and create an eye-catching decorative dimension. Antique furniture such as an ornately sculpted loveseat with rattan support throughout the space, a pair of Victorian armchairs and antique × frame stools, a lovely walnut baroque marble top dining table takes centre stage, a A large dining table for six with Queen-Anne chairs, and tall carved wood candlesticks ensure the table is well lit. An old rattan lounge chair near an arched

alcove provides a convenient place to stand and read.

The Portuguese-style gravel paving in front of the villa's entrance is mainly off-white with few patterns.



Figure 7. Vagator Beach Portuguese Villa

(Source:

<https://planetofhotels.com/en/india/vagator/portuguese-villa-guesthouser>)



Figure 8. Vagator Beach Portuguese Villa

(Source:

<https://planetofhotels.com/en/india/vagator/portuguese-villa-guesthouser>)



Figure 9. Vagator Beach Portuguese Villa

(Source:

<https://planetofhotels.com/en/india/vagator/portuguese-villa-guesthouser>)



Figure 10. Vagator Beach Portuguese Villa

(Source:

<https://planetofhotels.com/en/india/vagator/portuguese-villa-guesthouser>)

Joystreet-Beachy Blossom Hotel in Siolim

Joystreet - Beachy Blossom is located in a gated and trendy community of Siolim village, just 6 km from Chapora River. This villa features an outdoor swimming pool, fitness centre, bar, private parking and a shared lounge. The villa comes with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, bed linen, towels, a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, a dining area, a fully equipped kitchen, and a balcony with pool views. The nearest airport is Dabolim Airport, 44 km from the property. The surrounding of the villa building is paved with black and white Portuguese pavement, mainly in concentric circles and fan-shaped patterns.



Figure 11. Joystreet - Beachy Blossom Portuguese Villa (Source: <https://private-villas.com/goa/>)



Figure 12. Joystreet - Beachy Blossom Portuguese Villa (Source: <https://private-villas.com/goa/>)



Figure 13. Joystreet - Beachy Blossom Portuguese Villa (Source: <https://private-villas.com/goa/>)

Ludo Private Pool Villa

Located 3 km from Calangute Beach, Ludo Private Pool Villa, WiFi-Caretaker-Parking, North Goa features an outdoor swimming pool, a garden and a patio. Ludo Private Pool Villa, WiFi-Caretaker-Parking, North Goa is 5 km from Britto's. Beige Portuguese paving is used at the entrance, without too many decorative patterns.



Figure 14. Ludo Private Pool Villa (Source: <https://private-villas.com/goa/>)

Radisson Goa Candolim

Radisson Goa Candolim is located in Bammon vaddo, Candolim, 403515, Goa, India. The hotel opened in 1999. The plaza at the entrance of the hotel lobby uses off-white Portuguese pavement without excessive pattern design, forming concentric circles around the central tree pool.



Figure 15. Radisson Goa Candolim

(Image source:

<https://www.trip.com/hotels/candolim-hotel-detail-2700605/radisson-go-a-candolim/>)



Figure 16. Radisson Goa Candolim

(Image source:

<https://www.trip.com/hotels/candolim-hotel-detail-2700605/radisson-go-a-candolim/>)

W Goa Resort

The upcoming super small fresh meat W Goa has moved the fashion and luxury hotel show to India. This resort on Vagator Beach in North Goa, next to Chapora Fortress, takes Goa's hotels to the next level. The hotel fully integrates the localized design of South India. Whether in the abstract rhombus pattern or the white wooden structure with the deepest imprint of the colonial era, it restores the history and spirit of Goa. The use of a large

number of local plants also highlights the hotel's submission to nature, and a small holiday ecology is built around the villa area, which is amazing.



Figure 17. W GOA RESORT (Source:ecoid)



Figure 18. W GOA RESORT (Source:ecoid)

CONCLUSION

The existing Portuguese-style buildings in Goa are mainly distributed in world cultural heritage urban areas, country villa hotels, and newly built resort hotels. Overall, the degree of preservation is relatively intact, but the distribution is discontinuous. Most buildings remain private property.

Some local websites and platforms in Portugal have also mentioned that paving gravel roads is a technical job that tests endurance and perseverance. However, the salary of gravel road technicians (Calceteiros) is very low, and young people are reluctant to take over such low-income jobs. The labor industry is facing the phenomenon that generations are difficult to succeed.

In terms of craftsmen, raw material production, and process flow, Portugal is the birthplace of Calçada Portuguesa, and the corresponding "supports" are relatively complete. In terms of influence, Goa, India is currently more prominently

decorated on the ground of some country villas, but there are no churches or other important building squares in the old city, which is a big difference from Portugal. Also due to travel restrictions due to the outbreak of the international pandemic, this paper fails to conduct in-depth fieldwork and is currently an area for improvement.

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