

# Natural and Built Fabric of Pune City

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**Abstract-** *The streetscape of a city plays an important role in forming the visual image of that city. The streetscape can be described as the collective appearance of the natural and built fabric of the street. Streets lacking in correct streetscape design, negatively affect the visual image of the city, tourism and consequently the development of the city. There are streets in Pune which can be improved in terms of practical, attractive and safe streetscape which will automatically reflect in the visual image of the city. Also, various activities taking place on the streets and their locations enhance the character of the streets. This study is to observe and analyse four street sections across the city which differ in characters and what factors and elements affect the character of these streets. The main parameters considered are the activities happening on the streets and their locations.*

**Keywords-** Streetscape, Activities, Street Elements, Position, Proportion

## I. STREETScape

Streetscape is a term “that is used to describe the natural and built fabric of the street, and defined as the design quality of the street and its visual effect.”(Reeman Rehan, Sustainable streetscape as an effective tool in sustainable urban design, 2013,p.1) It is a collective appearance of all buildings, footpaths, landscaping, and street furniture along a street. The concept recognizes that a street is a public place where people are able to engage in various activities. Streetscapes and their visual experience largely influence places where people interact, and it ultimately helps define a street’s aesthetic quality, economic activity and the character of a street. If streetscapes are safe and inviting to pedestrians, people are more likely to walk which can help reduce automobile traffic, stimulate local economic activity and attract residents and visitors to a community. Elements like trees, footpaths, benches encourage pedestrian activity, which leads to social interaction and provides casual surveillance of the street. Studying different sections in a city helps one to understand what elements and factors affect the character of a street. Also, how the activities happening on a street and their locations on that street add up to the character.

Spaces formed alongside the street (i.e. front yards of commercial buildings, steps, plinth, footpaths) are where pedestrians walk, take a pause, shop, interact, wait etc. Thus

activities happening in these spaces play an important role in creating a character for a street. And, the proportions of these spaces also change the character of streets.

## Selection of Streets

Four streets are selected for this research. Each street has a different character to it. All four streets are commercial – residential streets.

The four streets are Fergusson College road, Bajirao road, Lane no. 7 in Koregaon park, and Lakshmi road. All the streets are always active, no. of pedestrians as well as no. of vehicles moving is more as they are commercial streets. Elements considered while observing the streets were such as activities on footpath, hawkers, street furniture, front yards of shops, steps etc. Each street is observed for various activities happening on both the sides of and also the proportions of spaces formed. Then, each street is analysed for the elements and activities that affect the character of these streets.

## Case Studies of Streets

### 1. Fergusson College Road



Fig.1.1



Fig.1.2

The space shown in fig. 1.1 is right next to the Goodluck Chowk on FC road. This footpath is occupied by hawkers. There is a one step drop at the edge of the footpath. The tables are placed right at the drop, where the footpath ends. Because of this arrangement, the width of the footpath does not get occupied. Buyers at the stalls are forced to stand on the edge of the footpath. Thus, pedestrian movement does not get disturbed.

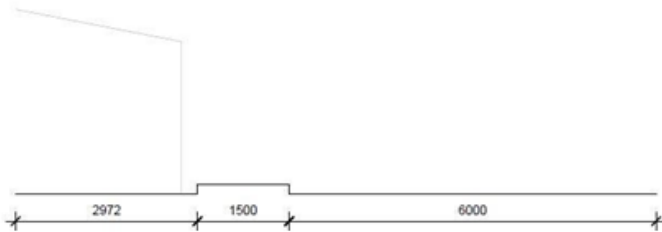


Fig. 1.3



Fig.1.4

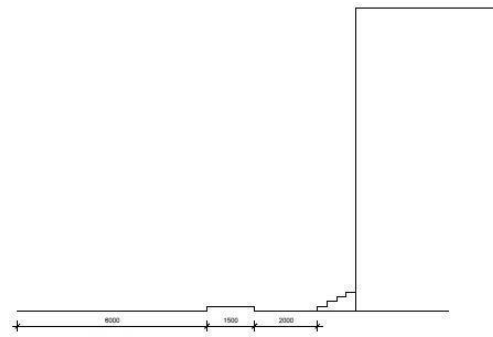


Fig. 1.5

The space shown in fig. 1.4 is opposite to the Westside mall on FC road. There is a spill-over space after the footpath ends and the steps lead to a complex (Sagar Arcade). This spill-over space is occupied by hawkers. The existing trees provide shade to the stalls. The width of this space is sufficient for the people to take a pause while walking and the activity does not disturb the pedestrian movement because of the drop at the edge of the footpath.



Fig.1.6

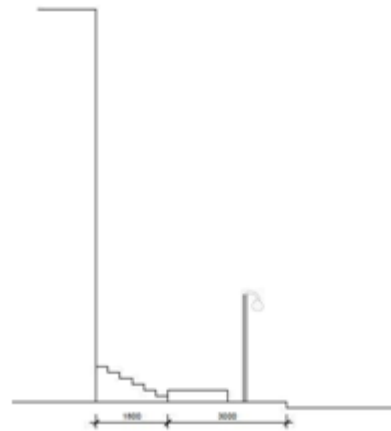


Fig. 1.7

The space shown in fig. 1.6 is opposite Wadeshwar. It is a newly constructed mall (Westside) which adds a totally different character to this space compared to the previous space which is opposite to this mall. Glass façade gives a very smooth and polished surface. The spill-over space which is converted into a sit-out is used by people while passing by.

The lamp post and the sit-out give a different aesthetic quality to this space. But, one element which is common on this street i.e. the hawkers is still there under the foliage of the tree which continues the overall character of the street even when the glass façade breaks the edge and stands out a little.

2. Bajirao Road



Fig.2.1



Fig.2.2

The space shown in fig. 2.1 is the Raja Kelkar Chowk. The man has parked his cart at the junction and resting on it. Bajirao road is a street with high traffic, but this activity does not disturb the vehicular movement probably because of the width of the junction.

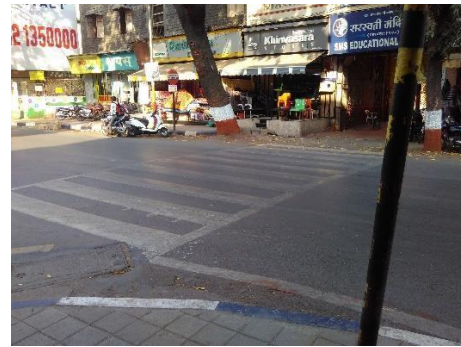


Fig.2.3

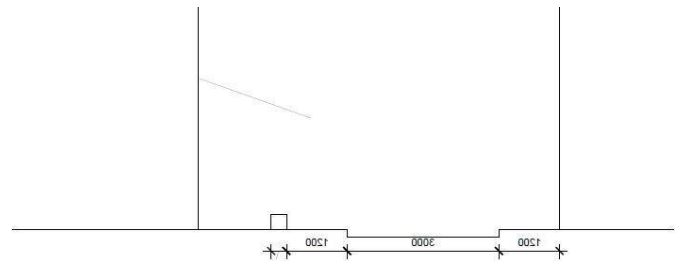


Fig. 2.4

The footpath in the space shown in fig. 2.3 is converted into a plinth which is used for the activities of the store. So the pedestrians have no space (footpath) for walking along the road.



Fig.2.5

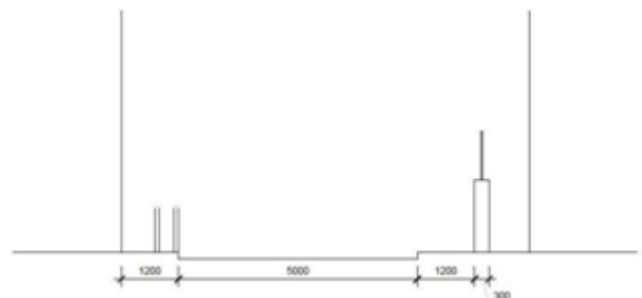


Fig.2.6

The footpath on the other side of the road is well treated with ramps in front of the shops. Barricades are placed so that no vehicle can pass by. Small trees are planted and caged in the center of the footpath which add to the aesthetics of the street.

The road has a footpath on only one side of the road, i.e. the side having all the commercial buildings. The footpath is well worked out and does not cause any disturbance to the pedestrians.

### 3. Koregaon Park



Fig.3.1

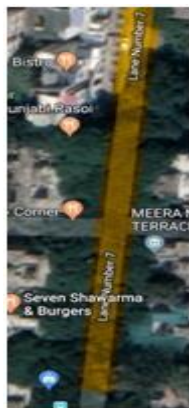


Fig. 3.2

The street, shown in fig. 3.1, in Koregaon Park is well designed as there is enough space provided for both vehicular and pedestrian movement.

This is a two way street and footpaths are provided on both the sides with sufficient width for the pedestrians.



Fig.3.3

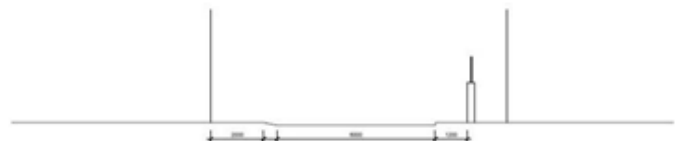


Fig. 3.4



Fig. 3.5

This is a patch of the street shown in fig. 3.5 which has a couple of eateries and the footpath is occupied by the outdoor seating and two wheelers are parked on the road. Sometimes the vehicles are parked in haphazard manner. But this does not disturb the vehicular movement in any way because the street mostly has residential buildings and the traffic frequency is also less. There are many trees planted alongside the road which create a canopy, providing shade to the entire width of the road.



Fig.3.6



Fig. 4.2

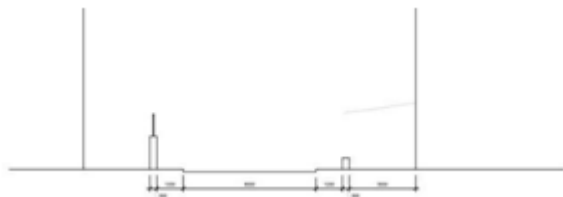


Fig. 3.7

Sufficient width of the footpath and a space for the parking is provided with a ramp which avoids the parking of the two wheelers on the road. (left side footpath).

4. LakshmiRoad



Fig.4.1

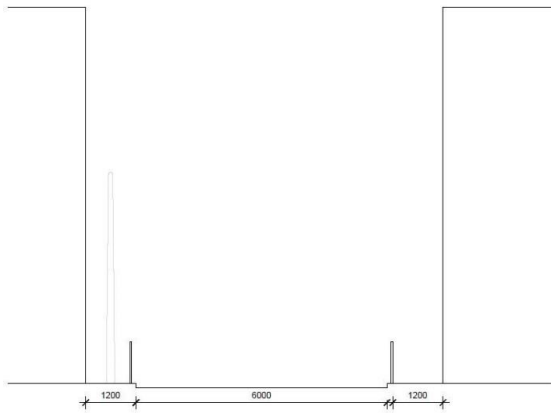


Fig.4.3



Fig. 4.4

Lakshmi road is a commercial street having shops on both the sides of the road. It is a one way street. The street is crowded most of the times. The width of the street is insufficient considering the traffic. Moreover, two wheelers are parked on one side of the road which reduces the width further. Footpaths are provided on both the sides but they do not have sufficient width considering the pedestrian movement. Hawkers have occupied the already insufficient footpaths which causes even more disturbance for the people to walk on them.



Being a very old street, it has elements such as old trees, light poles which are almost two stories high. The street is a combination of old and new in terms of residential as well as commercial facades, which generates a different character to the street.

## ANALYSIS

All the four streets studied above have different characters of their own.

Space utilization in each case adds a unique character to the streets. For ex. Footpaths in case of FC road and Lakshmi rod are occupied by hawkers whereas they are converted into an outdoor covered space (spillover space for shops) which is raised on a plinth, in case of Bajirao road. And in Koregaon Park, footpaths in Lane no. 7 are simply used for standing and chatting; and waiting except for a few cafes which use footpaths as their spillover space. A footpath as an element adds a different character to the street in each of these cases.

Elements like trees, steps, benches, light poles add up to the character as well as the aesthetics of the streets. For ex. Steps as an element are used by hawkers and they are also used as a resting place. Benches are used in the similar manner.

Use of these spaces and elements changes as per the user. Users such as hawkers, buyers, shopkeepers, people who are loitering around etc. use the spaces differently.

## II. CONCLUSION

Each one of the four streets has a key element that gives a character to them. It could be a natural element or a built one. Even an activity happening alongside a street could give a character to that street. In case of FC road, people shopping and interacting with the hawkers give the character

whereas in case of Bajirao road, activities happening on the spillover spaces in front of the commercial buildings give the character to the road. In case of Lakshmi road, the street is always crowded, that creates a character, whereas in case of the Lane in Koregaon Park, recreation is the key factor that gives the character to the street. These key factors are important because they affect the character as well as the aesthetics of the streets.

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