

Design Resource

## Making of Ravana Effigy

The Art of Creating Mythological Character

by

Prashant Sharma

IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:

<http://dsource.in/resource/making-ravana-effigy>



1. Preparing Bamboo and Glue
2. Making of Bamboo Frame
3. Pasting Base Paper and Cloth
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6. Display along the Road Side
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8. Contact Details

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<http://dsource.in/resource/making-ravana-effigy/preparing-bamboo-and-glue>

## Preparing Bamboo and Glue

Early morning basic job of preparing glue and bamboo cutting starts. Bamboo sticks are cut and finished in desirable and equal sizes, according to the requirement.



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## Making of Bamboo Frame

Point-1

Skilled craftsmen take care of the job of making complex head structure, using bamboo splinters of different sizes and thickness, according to the requirement.



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### Point-2

This art of making complex head structures and torsos is passed on from one generation to another just by involving youngsters in practice, without any written documentation.



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### Point-3

Size of the head ranges from two feet to six feet. Accordingly the torso in same proportions.



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### Point-4

Meanwhile the long bamboo splinters are folded and stuck in an open box structure so that the fibre takes the shape and do not break while making the final structure.



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### Point-5

These folded splinters are then rolled into circular and semicircular forms to create concentric rings for the torso and skirt of the effigy. It's a very important job supervised by the most skilled person, as this contributes to the final structure of the effigy.



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### Point-6

The folding and tying of bamboo is done using wire and pliers.



### Point-7

Then these concentric rings are held by attaching vertically standing bamboo sticks, exactly like latitudes and longitudes of earth, which gives it the final form.



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## Pasting Base Paper and Cloth

Point-1

Glue, which was prepared in the morning, used for pasting paper on top of bamboo structure, to add skin and also helps in strengthening the structure.



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Point-2

In this act of pasting, paper is majority used, while few uses cloth to provide extra strength.



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### Point-3

These craftsmen are working on road side. When the paper is pasted, these structures are dried in sunlight and layer of second paper is applied, if required.



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## Painting Moustache

**Point-1**

One person is appointed, whose only job is to paint all black portions. Moustache and the torsos' back side.

**Point-2**

He finishes off all the displayed and sun dried torsos and faces with black paint.



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## Decorating the Effigy

Point-1

Dried structures are then decorated with Colored papers, different effigy makers have their different styles. Some uses florescent paper. While others use metallic papers and foils to make them look attractive.



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### Point-2

These colourful and attractive structures are displayed along the roadside. Torsos and heads displayed separately on roadsides.



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## Display along the Road Side

Point-1

Lastly, finished structures shimmer in night and ready to be dispatched to their respective destinations.



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Point-2

The road looks like an open art gallery with varied visual form on just one theme. "Ravana".



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### Point-3

Small effigies are carried on hand cart or just like that. While the big one are loaded on trucks, lined up along the roadside, ready to deliver these effigies to their respective destinations.



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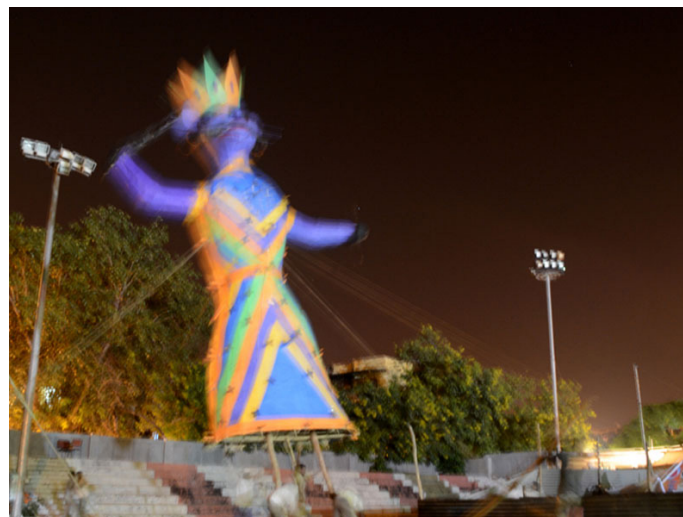
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## Erecting the Effigy in Fields

These effigies, when delivered to the different organizing committees of different areas, they are assembled and erected overnight. Another set of labour is involved in this, different from the makers.



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prashant Sharma at **IDC, IIT Bombay**.

You can get in touch with Prashant Sharma at **[prashant.funks\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:prashant.funks[at]gmail.com)**

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