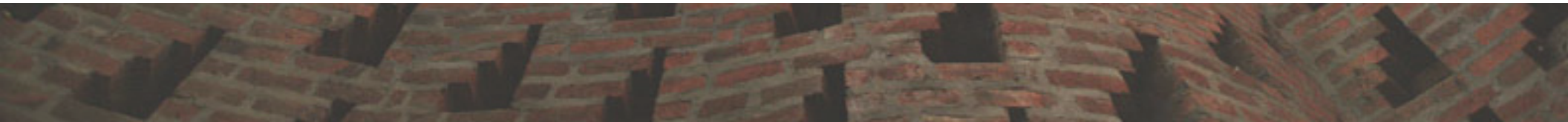




A Travelling Exhibition on  
**Laurie Baker,**  
the Architect: Work and Philosophy

**Saurabh Tewari**  
Visual Communication  
IDC IIT-B

Guide:  
**Prof. Kirti Trivedi**



## Problem, as i see



Today, in a global blast, our country is exposed to several examples of work worldwide.

Unfortunately, most of them are not directly relevant to our context. In this situation, we are very much unaware of our own traditions and our own explorations.

This phenomenon exist in design world also, specifically in the practices of architecture.





dlf









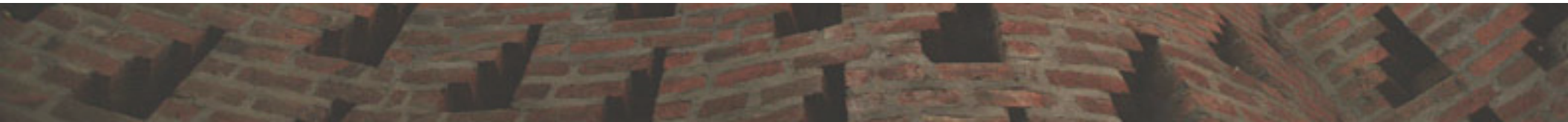




## Problem, as i see

In the current scenario, the students of Architecture are also in a similar trap. With western images dominating their minds they are always disassociated with indigenous practices.

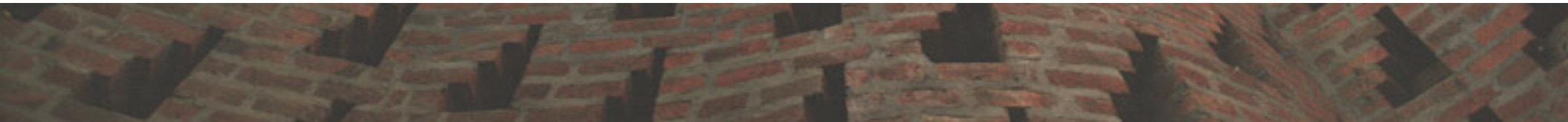
They see them, realise them and at most they acknowledge them. Hardly, any practice is able to inspire them to adopt it, and finally implement it.





The time is to realise the inspirations from self. When there is a breeze of sustainability in design environment, and complex facial approaches towards it, there is a need to look towards comprehensive and simple methods.

**Architect Laurie Baker's work lies in the relevant domain.**









## Why Laurie Baker?

Why not any other architect?

Most of the Indian Icons (Famous Architects) have followed and explored their western mentor's design approach.

### Walter Gropius

H Rehman & AP Kanvinde

### Le Corbusier

Balkrishna Doshi

### Louis Kahn

Anant Raje

and even today...

### Zaha Hadid and Reim Koolhaas

Morphogenesis Studios

### Western Magazines, Internet Images, Coffee-table Books

Contemporary Architecture practices







## Why Laurie Baker?

Why not any other architect?

The modern approaches by these architects were seen as the solution for the developing need of then Indian society. Through the years, they have failed to keep up the promises they made.

H Rehman & AP Kanvinde

Balkrishna Doshi

Anant Raje

Morphogenesis Studios

Contemporary Architecture practices





## Why Laurie Baker?

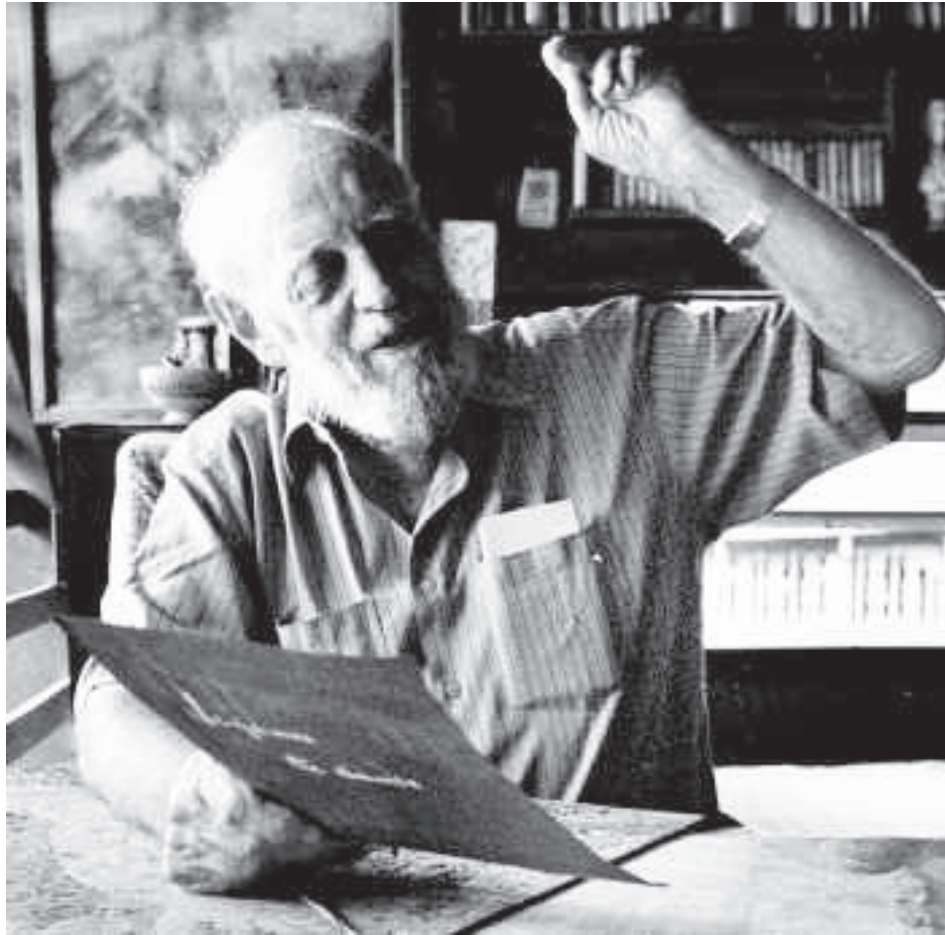
Why not any other architect?

In the whole scenario, the architecture of Laurie Baker seems smiling and still standing tall with ethical foundations.

This is the kind of architecture which is most needed to the current jargonized understanding of sustainability in the way of building.







## Laurie Baker

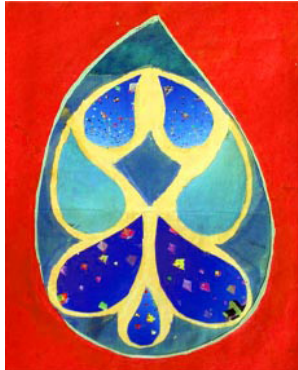
Though being a foreigner, he adopted and adapted India more than any Indian.

Examples from his practices are visible proof of his understanding of culture, climate and context.

He broke away from the approach of typical standardization of design. He falls in the rare category of following a user-centric design approach.

## Resources

Information available



- **Works** by Laurie Baker
- a dedicated **website**, [www.lauriebaker.net](http://www.lauriebaker.net)
- one biography by Gautam Bhatia
- two **documentaries**,  
the Brickmaster and A Biography,  
available on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)
- **CostFORD**, Trivandrum
- **articles**, compiled on  
[www.arvindguptatoys.com](http://www.arvindguptatoys.com)
- his followers and fans.

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## Users

### Target Audience

The project's primary target user/audience is the students of architecture.

The project language and details will focus on them.

However, it can also be comprehensively experienced by any design student or any individual who is seeking a true model of habitat development.



## **Medium**

### **Exhibition Design**

Exhibition Design here, is an event which will happen in Architecture Colleges.

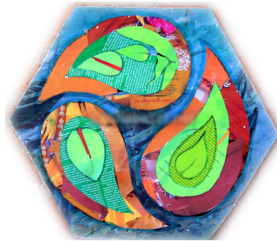
**It intends to ignite debates and discussion on this particular approach during the event, or the time of exhibition.**

The experience would offer a translation of Baker's thoughts in students' language and convince them about the implemental nature of this approach.



# Medium

## Exhibition Design



For me, this medium offers me an opportunity of working in a nostalgic domain of architecture (space) and my current interest, visual communication.

## Type of Exhibition Design



### a Traveling Exhibition

Portable,  
Foldable,  
Light-weight &  
Durable

with package-able, easy to install, flexible  
to layout and self standing units.

To really make it a mobile system, the total  
weight attempts to within 30 kgs.



## Position towards the Project



With the variety of content available, the original works and writings of Laurie Baker have been primarily focused.

Dealing directly with Laurie Baker's work (writing, artworks, architecture etc.) provides a first hand exposure of his life and philosophy.

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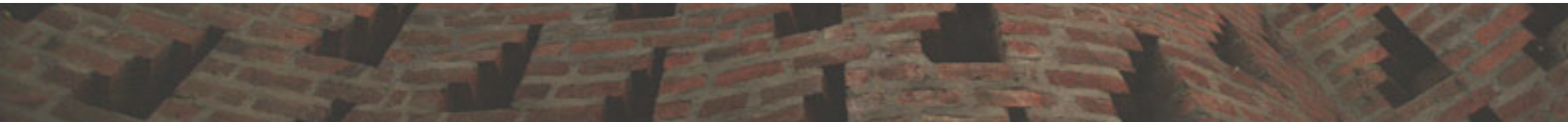
## Design Methodology

towards the Project

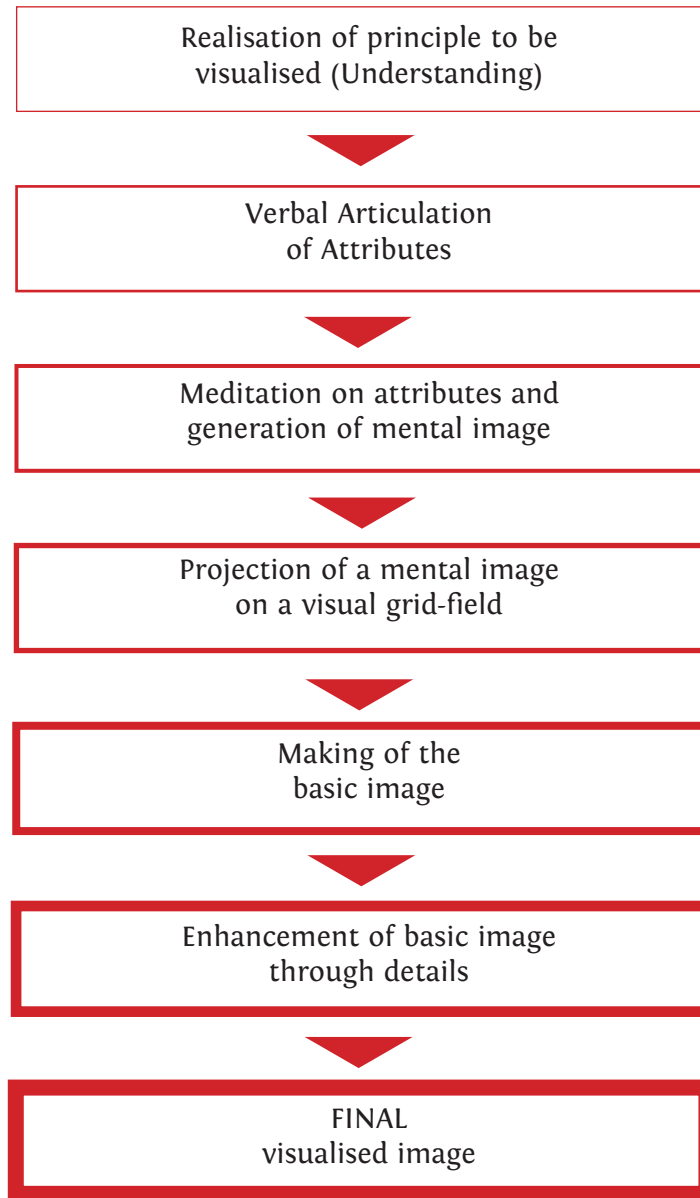
*“From formless arises the form.”*

- Vastusutra Upanishad, 5.21

Methodology based on Prof. Trivedi's paper, **From Formless to Form** - *a methodology for making manifest the unmanifest*, explaining the method as given in Vastusutra Upanishad for creating meaningful symbolic form in non-religious contexts and applications.







## Design Methodology

Visualisation Procedure according to the Vastusutra Upanishad

Image Source: Prof. K. Trivedi

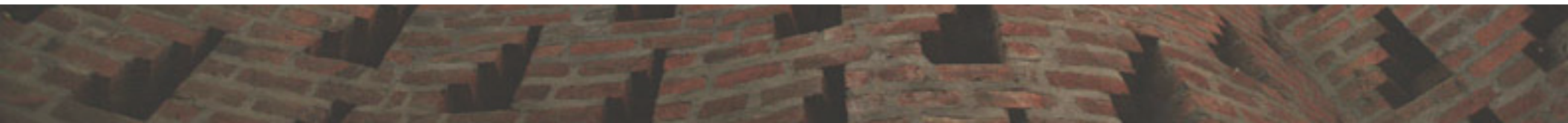


# Baker's Architecture

## a QuickView



\* All images from [www.lauriebaker.net](http://www.lauriebaker.net)





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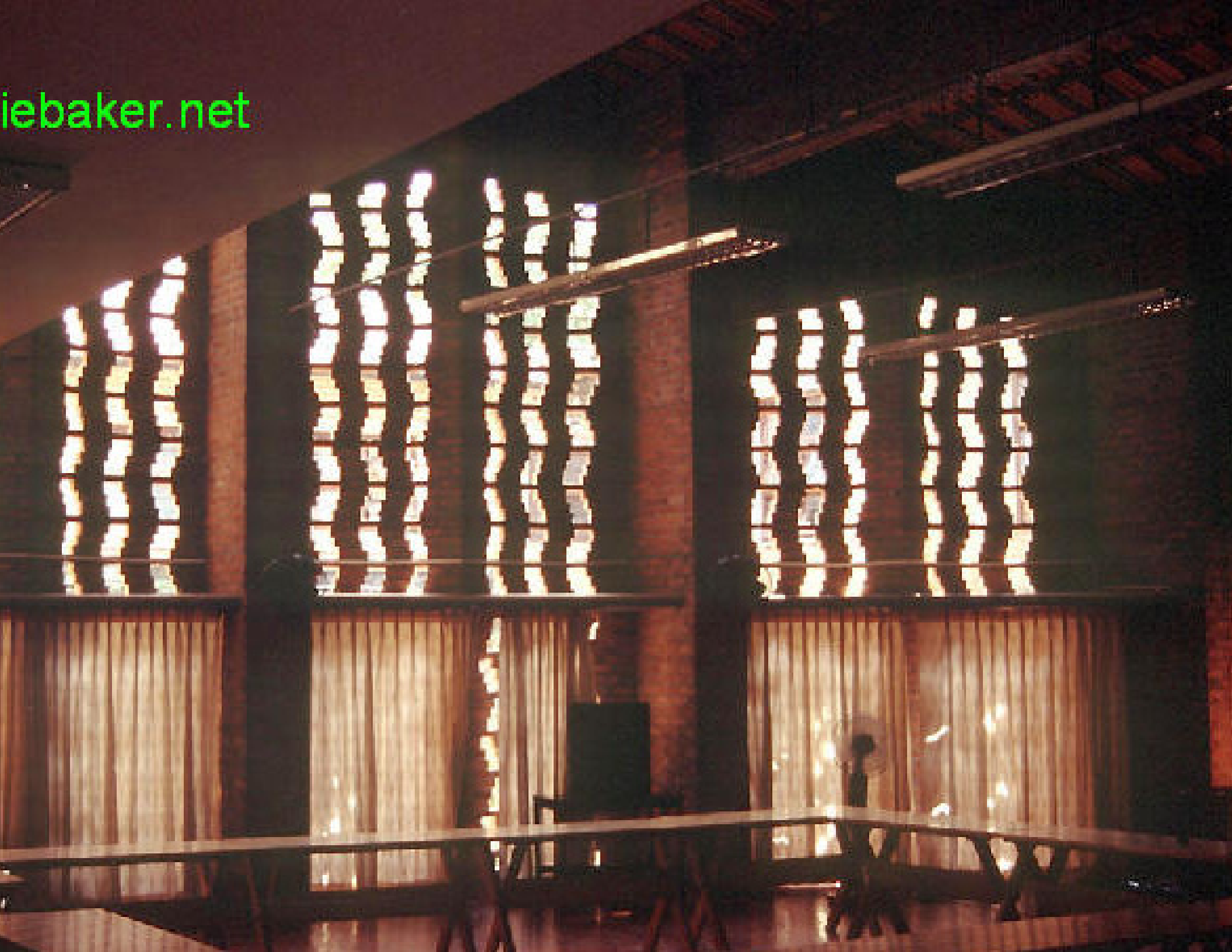
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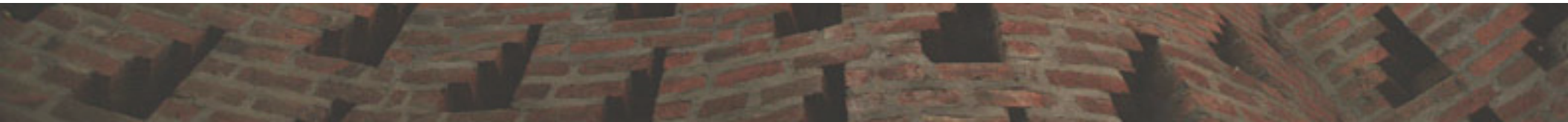


## Baker's Architecture

### Characteristics (Meaning Level)

Human  
Efficient  
Intelligent  
Crafty  
Comprehensive  
Easy to follow  
Locally accessible  
Strong in Character  
Earthy

Creative  
Eco-friendly  
Responsible  
Low Cost  
Rich in Tradition  
Vernacular  
Stylistic  
Individual



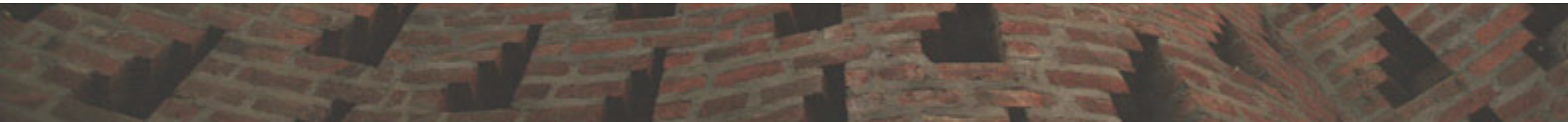


## Developing Narrative

The philosophy and examples of Laurie Baker's works are difficult to categorise and differentiate.

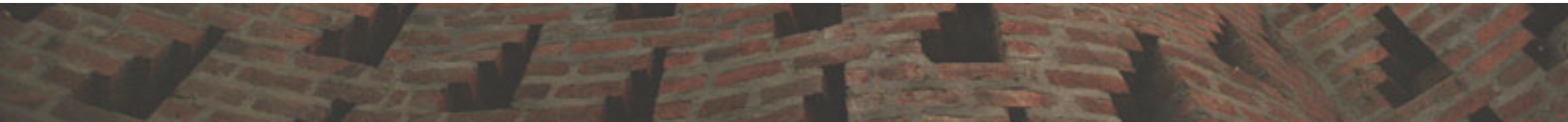
**The whole work is very integrated and interwoven with different thoughts.**

However, being a communication exercise, the content has been categorized to increase the comprehension.





## Developing Narrative Categorization

1. Nation Building
  2. Low Cost
  3. Nature, Sustainability and Materials
  4. Tradition and Vernacular
  5. Incorporating Modernity
  6. Style and Individuality
- 





## Developing Narrative Sequence

### Main Thought

1. Nation Building
2. Low Cost
3. Nature, Sustainability and Materials
4. Tradition and Vernacular
5. Incorporating Modernity
6. Style and Individuality

### Concluding Thought





## **Developing Narrative** Sequence with sub-structure

### **Sub-Structure**

- a. Quote**
- b. Thought Translation-  
Building Example**
- c. Details-  
Architecture  
Photograph**

### **Main Thought**

- 1. Nation Building
- 2. Low Cost
- 3. Nature, Sustainability and Materials
- 4. Tradition and Vernacular
- 5. Incorporating Modernity
- 6. Style and Individuality

### **Concluding Thought**





## Developing Narrative Example

### Sub-Structure

- a. Quote
- b. Thought Translation-  
Building Example
- c. Details-  
Architecture  
Photograph

### Main Thought

- 1. Nation Building
- 2. Low Cost
- 3. Nature, Sustainability and Materials
- 4. Tradition and Vernacular
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### Concluding Thought



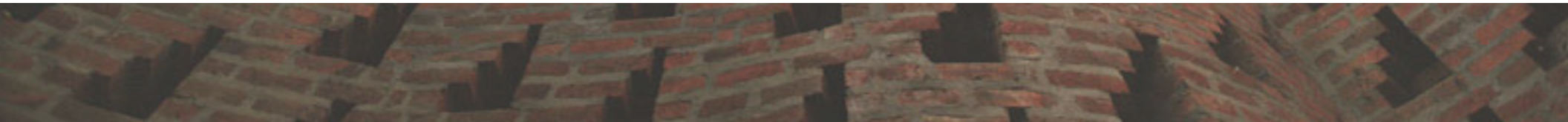




## Tradition and Vernacular Example

### Quote

*“The use of local materials is an example of economy because there are no transport costs. These styles show that people have discovered that there is a right way and a wrong way of putting materials together so that they are strong and durable.”*





## Tradition and Vernacular

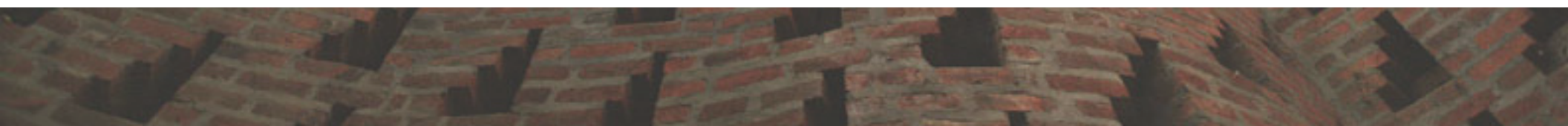
### Example

#### Quote

*“The use of local materials is an example of economy because there are no transport costs. These styles show that people have discovered that there is a right way and a wrong way of putting materials together so that they are strong and durable.”*

#### Thought Translation

Photographs and Type  
Drawings of Vernacular  
House-Forms like  
**Stone**  
**Bamboo**  
**Trees**  
**Sand Bags (from Egypt)**  
**Mud**





## Tradition and Vernacular Example

### Quote

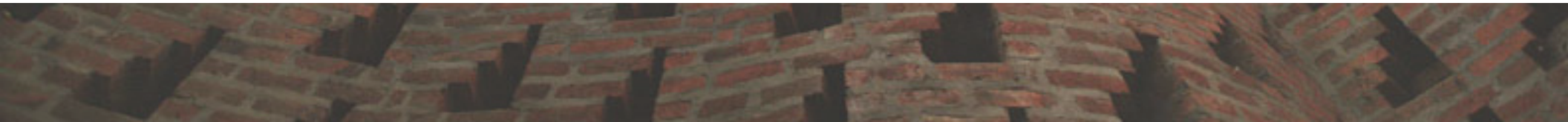
*“The use of local materials is an example of economy because there are no transport costs. These styles show that people have discovered that there is a right way and a wrong way of putting materials together so that they are strong and durable.”*

### Thought Translation

Photographs and Type  
Drawings of Vernacular  
House-Forms like  
Stone  
Bamboo  
Trees  
Sand Bags (from Egypt)  
Mud

### Details (here a Mud House)

Source of Mud, Materials  
Simple Soil Tests  
Stabilizers  
Lime  
Adobe (Sun Dried Brick)  
Other Materials  
Sitting a Mud House?  
Do's and Don'ts  
Mason?







Sub-Structure

a. Quote

b. Thought Translation-  
Building Example

c. Details-  
Architecture  
Photograph

## Working on Sub-structure

Breaking it from categorial view.  
Integrating it!  
Yet, Communicating it!



**Dhanyavaad!**

