

DOI: [10.38027/ICCAUA2022EN0011](https://doi.org/10.38027/ICCAUA2022EN0011)

Discourse on Lost Pages of History: Architectural Works of Vasudev Kanitkar in Western India

Dr. Vaidehi Lavand¹*, Ar. Onkar Khebudkar²
SMEF's Brick School of Architecture, Pune India¹
SKN College of Architecture, Pune India²

E-mail: vaidehilavand@brick.edu.in, onkar.khebudkar@gmail.com

Abstract

Ample western historiographical resources are available to understand Colonial Architecture in India. Architectural language evolved during Colonial period in India was a collaborative effort of British Royal and Local engineers from several parts. Eclectic architectural language of British India is a product of amalgamation of western models and eastern knowledge simultaneously. They worked in collaboration with Indian philanthropists, engineers, contractors and artisans. Much is available to read about royal engineers as a pride for British sovereign but contributions of local engineers who equally built colonial India lost in the pages of history.

This Paper tried to document and discuss works of local contractor Vasudev Kanitkar born in Baroda and worked at several places in Western India. With the help of archival resources and primary secondary surveys conducted this research paper compiles architectural contributions of Vasudev Kanitkar less known for his many landmark edifices he designed and built in western India.

Keywords: Eclectic Architecture; Colonial India; Local Contractors; Royal Engineers; and Public Architecture.

1. Introduction and Framework of Study: Role of Locals in Building Western Part of Colonial India

Western India was mostly under the presidency of Bombay during British rule in the nineteenth century. Royal engineers in collaborations with locals proposed and construct notable architectural works under Bombay presidency. Many local engineers and contractors were involved in decision-making at various levels during the actual implementation of public buildings on site. There were roadblocks in the execution process, including as opposition from locals and a lack of funds. Colonial sovereignty was built on democratic ideas to some extent. Documents such as old newspapers and municipal records may be sufficient proof that choices appear to be made democratically with the cooperation of local leaders and people. Correspondence between officers and commissioners about decisions made in the selection of appropriate sites for specific projects and its character in general can be found in municipal and PWD archives (Aziz Amen & Nia, 2017). Detailed estimates, material selections, and local community responses appear in the overall paperwork, although names of local contractors appear to be included in the files linked to public buildings completed very rarely. (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) Framework shows how colonial rule was percolated and reached at grassroots levels. How the architectural vocabulary of colonial urban heritage and landscape could be interpreted in time and space. (Munasinghe, 2022)

Numerous articles published in Professional Papers on Indian Engineering by Indian local contractors such as Teekaram, who worked primarily in Lucknow, Babu Shumbhoo Dass, whose works can be seen in Bahwalpur, Pakistan, Rai Bahadur Kunhya Lal's and Sir Ganga Ram's legendary projects in Lahore, Pakistan, Muncherjee Beyzunjee at Hyderabad during the Nizam reign, are excellent resources indicating their contribution to the architectural vocabulary developed^{1 2} (Chopra, 2011, Lavand, 2017) Researchers such as Preeti Chopra states extraordinary works of Murzbaan in Mumbai in her writings. On the other hand local engineers such as Narso Ramchandra, Vasudev Kanitkar from Pune and some other towns in Deccan were never got recognized and documented extensively for their contributions in the development of architectural character. These are important unexplored figures in the context of Pune. Their names and associations transiently appear in the history of Pune. This chapter seeks to review account of who built Pune in colonial context on ground. Further discourse tries to detail out development of Vasudev Bapuji Kanitkar as an engineer and designer. Perhaps lack of resources and primary sources related to his own

¹ Preeti Chopra in her Book *A Joint Enterprise* on the page number 76 mentions name of Sir Ganga Ram as legendary figure who worked for PWD in Lahore now in Pakistan.

² Lavand Vaidehi, "Public Architecture And Role Of Local Contractors In Late Nineteenth Century, Case Of Pune." In *Urban Regeneration*. Nashik, 2017

opinions for his projects he executed may lead in missing links in the few of descriptions. This is due to the negligence in documenting biographies of local engineers and exploring their influences in their social contexts.

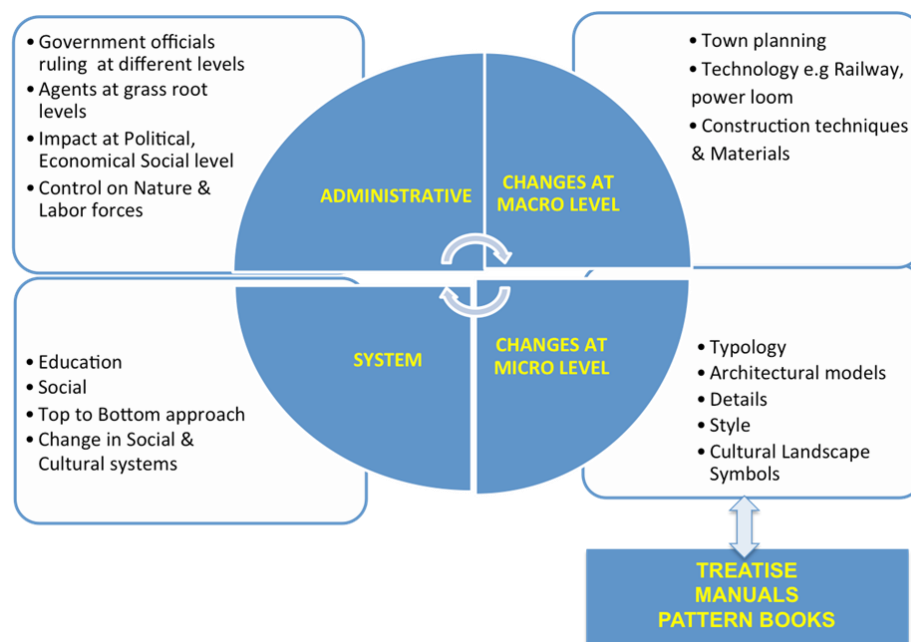


Figure 1. Structure of the Study (Developed by Author).

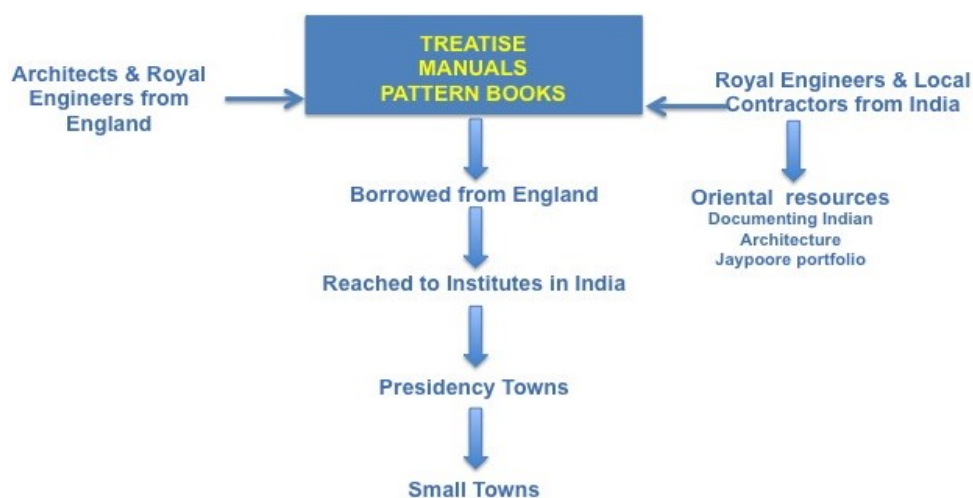


Figure 2. Image showing transmission of primary sources in small towns as reference to trigger construction activity, Top to Bottom approach. Source: Author

2. Early life of Vasudev Kanitkar

Research could uncover particulars of family and background of Vasudev Kanitkar (Fig. 3) perhaps his contribution as an engineer to some extent with the help of books *Kanitkar Kul Vrittant*³ by Shankar Kanitkar published in the year 1948 and *341 Sadashiv Va Amhi* by Moreshwar Kanitkar published in 1992. (Kanitkar, 1948) As per the records mentioned in the book it had documented names and brief background of members of Kanitkar family in Maharashtra their decedents and family tree. The books refer to details about Vasudev Kanitkar and his involvement in the field of architectural landmarks in brief though he was not formally trained as an engineer or architect. Vasudev Kanitkar was born in Baroda Gujarat in the year 1829 or 1830.⁴ His father was in the service of Patwardhan the then minister of the princely state of Baroda. It is indispensable to mention that he had never went through formal engineering training like Murzbaan who was trained as an engineer in Pune Engineering College. Vasudev

³Kanitkar Kul Vrittant the name of book suggests tidings of Kanitkar

⁴ Two different years mentioned in both the books, so not very sure about exact day and year whether 1829 or 1830.

Kanitkar (Lethbridge, 1893, reprinted 2013) completed his education till old matriculation. He had good knowledge of engineering. He stayed in Karachi now located in Pakistan for larger period of time where he worked on several construction sites and must have gained experience in the field of Architecture and Engineering. Unfortunately, this part of his life couldn't be traced much, due to lack of resources.⁵



Figure 3. Image of Vasudev Kanitkar, Ref: Image at Reay Market

3. Observations and Discussions: Architectural contributions of Vasudev Kanitkar



Figure 4. Laxmi Vilas Palace at Baroda Designed by Charles Mant in 1878 and partly executed by Vasudev Kanitkar
Ref: Image by Author

Further discourse tries to highlight notable projects by Vasudev kanitkar. His works at various levels with several people enriched his experience. Vasudev Kanitkar was honored as Rao Bahadur for his proficiency in the field of architecture. The title was given to him as personal distinction on 1st January 1877, on the occasion of the

⁵ Kanitkar Shankar Ramchandra, *Kanitkar Kul Vrittant*, / Tidings of Kanitkar family (Pune, 915/1 Shivajinagar Vitthal Hari Barve, Aaryabhushan Mudranalay, 1948), 146; Kanitkar Moreshwar, 341 Sadashiv va amhi/ 341 Sadashiv and us, (Pune, Moreshwar Kanitkar, 1992), 89 it's a autobiography re written on Vasudev Kanitkar's step brother's son Balukaka Kanitkar. 341 Sadashiv was residential address of Balukaka Kanitkar. In the description about Vasudev Kanitkar very respectfully he mentions his kind nature and connections with several reformists and activists in Maharashtra. He raised Balukaka Kanitkar after his father's death that was a great support to the family.

Proclamation of Her Most Gracious Majesty as Empress of India.⁶ (Lethbridge, 1893) Few references are available to see with for Laxmi Vilas Palace (Fig. 4) designed by Royal engineer Charles Mant in 1878 and partly executed by Vasudev Kanitkar. This iconic palace located in Princely state of Baroda in western India known for its unique Indo-Saracenic style.

High court at Mumbai was another structure partly worked out by Vasudev Kanitkar built in between 1871-1878. John Augustus Fuller R.E. prepared design with Massive central tower, Turrets and Basalt rock resembling much to medieval castle. The prominent central tower is covered with steeply sloped roof with number of dormer windows. Main access is through porch on western façade adjacent to which two octagonal towers of spiral staircase and pinnacles are located. Christopher London criticizes the overall composition as “exaggerated massing in the muscular neo-gothic style”.⁷ (Christopher, 1994) Preeti Chopra in her discourse mentions that colonel Fuller proposed Vasudev Bapuji Kanitkar, Mukund Ramchandra and Muncherji Cowasji Murzban to be designated as assistant engineer in 1869. She also states the position of local engineers in colonial hierarchy the link between rulers and local workers, which is very much relevant to Vasudev Kanitkar.

Very unique structure designed and built by Vasudev Kanitkar was Reay market (1884-1886) (Fig. 5). It was the sixth market in the series of covered markets built in pre-independent India.⁸ Despite a lot of opposition from local Communities the project was successfully raised at the heart of native town. Reay market later named as Phule Mandai was a unique design for a market in India. Spatial organization of market majorly resembles plan of a Jail. After studying various typologies and models followed in 19th century especially from *professional papers on Indian Engineering* and *Roorkee Treatise*, it could be observed that very simple plan of barrack and jail was preferred for designing this market. Its prominent central tower and rectangular flanges projecting out of eight sides indicates image of jail. Perhaps this was chosen with the concern of capturing ample light and cross ventilation in structure. Its probably expression of a bigger model of Lambert Market, Karachi detailed out with Neo-Gothic style. As Lambert market was located at the center of town at a junction of roads market accessible from all sides must have been the criteria in selection of that particular model. Unfortunately no much information is available on Lambert Market of Karachi so cant be discussed beyond certain point. Prevailing form and fine stonework mark its exceptional presence in the medieval town of Pune. Grippingly, the building is visible from long distance on the main axis of old town connecting to the fortress of *Peshwas*. Residence of Vasudev Kanitkar is located at a close distance exactly behind Vishrambag Wada.⁹



Figure 5. Aerial view of Reay Market, Pune Ref: Kimaya Pune

⁶ Lethbridge Sir Roper, *The Golden Book of India*, (London, Macillan and co., 1893, reprinted 2013), 566-7, <https://archive.org/details/bookofindi00lethgoldenrich>

⁷ London Christopher W., *Bombay Gothic...cit.*, 53.

⁸ Before partition of 1947 Pakistan was part of India. Earlier examples of covered markets built were Lambert Market in Karachi (1864), Tollinton Market Lahore (1864) earlier built as community hall later converted in market by Rai Bahadur Gangaram well-known local government engineer, Crawford market (1867) Mumbai designed by architect Sir William Emerson, Hogg Stuart Market Calcutta (1872) and Bolton Market Karachi (1883). Commencement year of Empress Market Karachi was probably same as Reay market (1886) it was 1884. In later decade of the century Connaught or Shivaji Market (1885-1886) and Moore market Madras (1898-1900) were built.

⁹ As Earlier residence of Kanitkar family was located behind Vishrambag Wada close to Pushkarni tank

On the same axis of the street a very important public library well known as *Nagar Vachan Mandir* (1884-1890) was built to promote literature in local language. Designed and built by Vasudev Kanitkar the library contains immense archival documents, books and various resourceful materials written in Marathi and English. In all the archival documents it was named as Pune Native General Library. As a part of inculcating modern education and governance amongst locals Sir George Clark the then governor of Bombay presidency proposed establishment of a library named as Pune Native General Library in the year 1848. Initially located in Budhwar Wada. The mansion was burnt down in 1879 that boosted a need for a separate space allocated to the library. Eminent personalities such as Justice Mahadeo Govind Ranade¹⁰, Lokhitwadi Gopalrao Hari Deshmukh¹¹, Krishnashastri Chiploonkar and so many have contributed in the process of establishment and running of the library. The location was selected after long discussions and the space was borrowed from Belbagkar family¹² on 15th May 1882 at the cost of Rs 4000/-. Vitthalrao Vasudev Gujar proposed initial plan and estimate for the library. Later Vasudev Kanitkar reworked on design and execution of the project. Library building was started in the year of 1887 and in two years two-storied building was completed. Earlier cost of the project was assumed to be Rs 24476/- but at the end of it costed around Rs 25176/-. Mumbai Government donated fund of Rs 12080/-, and Rs 12080/- collected from various philanthropists from Pune. Raja Holkar donated watch of Rs 500/- put on east façade at the entrance. Pune Municipality helped in getting service of maintenance of watch from Pendol Watch Company that was installed on front facade. Governor of Bombay Presidency Lord Reay invited for the opening of 2-storied library on 30th July 1889. Three clocks were installed on three different buildings at the same time, naming Sassoon Hospital, Reay Market and Nagar Vachan Mandir those were maintained by Pendol watch Company.¹³ Symbolism of using clock as modern age and industrialization in front facades of public buildings was becoming trend in all parts of the country. This native library is considered as pioneering work in promoting local literature and had played important role as a hub during freedom movement. Various resources contributed to the overall building process of the Library. In true sense this was a public architecture in the old core of Pune city.

Institute of Anandashram¹⁴ (Fig. 6) was the next important project completely designed and constructed by Vasudev Kanitkar in the year 1891. The edifice is located in the same premise close to Reay market and Shaniwarwada. Reformist and Philanthropist Mahadev Chimanaji Apte founded the institute at the heart of old town. It comprises administrative office, library, and hostel for Brahmin boys from economically weaker families from nearby towns. Along with that a large temple of *Sachchidananda Shiva*¹⁵ is located at the center of complex. A property and trust record of institute shows Vasudev Kanitkar was one of the trustees of the center. Stone and iron building built is one of the fine works in the vicinity and credit was solely given to Vasudev Kanitkar.¹⁶ He was involved in designing and execution of the project. Overall plan follows introvert planning. Which include typical Wada plan with central courtyard followed as a model for design. The Architectural details are Indo-western in at several levels. Construction materials such as Iron, lime concrete, colored glass, imported Minton tiles and local stone are wonderfully amalgamated in the composition. Exclusive woodwork in front façade and on temple reminds indigenous floral forms worked out by local craftsmen. Spiral staircase built in stone and finished with Marble tiles is exactly the same as one built in Reay market in wood. External façade of the whole institute resembles a Wada or royal mansion in Pune, whereas temple built in rectangular form with central nave and aisle on both sides. Minton tiles and glass windows remind old colonial structure in Bombay. Wooden arches at the joining point of columns and ceiling follows *Mahirap*/ Maratha Style cusped arch form typically used in Royal mansions of Maratha ministers. Entry point to ground floor

¹⁰ Ranade: Mahadev Govind Ranade was social reformer, founding member of Indian National Congress, was judge in Bombay Highcourt

¹¹ Lokhitwadi: Gopal Hari Deshmukh part of Freedom movement, scholar, social reformer. Taken strong stand against child marriages, dowry, caste system

¹² Belbagkar Raosaheb Mahadev Ballal Phadnis was one of the Ministers of Peshwas was one of the owners of precious land in the old town.

¹³ <http://www.punenagavachan.org/>; Dixit M. S., *Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir Didshe Varshancha Itihas 1848-1998*, (Pune, Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir Prakashan, 1998), 23,24; Shrigondekar G. N., *Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir Shambhar Varshancha Itihas 1848-1948*, (Pune, Sadashiv Keshav Nerugaonkar, nagar vachan mandir, 1949), 40,41; Mumbai, Elphinston college, Maharashtra State archives, *PWD General*, 1868-89 Vol. 563; Mumbai, Elphinston college, Maharashtra state archive, *Bombay public works proceedings imperial and local 1886*,135; *PWD General* Vol. 563, 1868-89, Elphinston college, Maharashtra State archives Mumbai; Correspondence mentioned in appendix 12,13,14 supports the details of expenditure and comments on sanctioning process of the building.

¹⁴ As per synopsis of activities briefly mentioned by institute, "Anandashram *Sanstha*" founded in the year 1888 by late Mahadev Chimanaji Apte was advocate of Bombay High court. Institute has great collection of manuscripts and books related to Sanskrit and Indology to support researchers in world.

¹⁵ Shiva is one of the important deities worshipped in India. *Sachchidananda* means total bliss.

¹⁶ Schedule "A" in will by Mahadev Chimanaji Apte, , Schedule "B" written in 1891, page no. 7, 11.

library adorned with segmental arch covered with ornamented overlooking gallery and three-arched door. On top of the sloping roof a small scale Shikhara¹⁷ is placed as representation of temple. It is interesting to note though Vasudev Kanitkar worked on restoration works of Tulasi Baug and Kasaba Ganpati temples he has not followed same architectural language in this Shiva temple located at the center of the institute. As it was built entirely in stone, it has a very strong presence in the complex.



Figure 6. Roadside View of Aanadashram, Pune Ref: Author

Two landmark structures built during the last decade of the 19th century were residence of reformist Dr. Bahndarkar¹⁸ was known as Sangamashram¹⁹ (1892) and Fergusson College main building (1892-1895). Unfortunately, Sangamashram doesn't exist anymore but main building of Fergusson college still stands out in the whole campus. Both these buildings were built in local basalt rock are admired for there workmanship and character. Vasudev Kanitkar being good friend of Dr. Bhandarkar designed and built his own house in Pune at a confluence of two rivers. Perhaps Sangamashram described as one of the best amalgamation of western and oriental style in spatial arrangement by Kamalini Damale and Sulabha Panandikar in their books.²⁰ Various references and descriptions given by Sulabha Panandikar shows that the house was built for joint family so all arrangements and sizes of rooms such as halls, common rooms were of good enough size to accommodate all family members. Though layout wasn't explained much as per its glimpses in writings some inferences are discussed further. The model that was followed was rectangular and not a typical of Wada courtyard style. Perhaps resembling to old English house, Orientalized with the use of several elements changed the pattern of design. Kitchen and toilets were detached from main house. This was generally followed in old Indian houses. Two gable ends were adorned with rose windows at top usually used in western style structure. Central part of the structure was covered with flat roof used as terrace known as *Gacchi* in local language. Simple straight planning followed in all respect. Layout was made to catch maximum southwest wind. Study room mainly used by Dr. Bhandarkar was located on the west. In addition it had semicircular arches in front façade highlighting the entry.²¹ (Kanitkar, 1948) Western comfort was seen in furniture design whereas in dinning area Indian traditional seating arrangement generally on ground was used as per number of family members. Surrounding area was developed as a garden with several trees and plants. The building had a small tank as well. This house was passed on to another owner and was finally demolished due to unknown reasons. This place had great significance in terms of associational and architectural value. Enterprise of education as an effort

¹⁷ Shikhara is an ornamental pyramidal roof adorned with sculptures located on top of temples in India.

¹⁸ Bhandarkar: Dr. Sir Ramkrishna Gopal Bhandarkar wellknown in late 19th century for his research work on Indian history and his extensive contributions in freedom movement in terms of literature, lectures he conducted in several Indian communities.

¹⁹ Name "Sangamasham" residence of Dr. Bhandarkar suggests its picturesque location of site near the confluence of two rivers in Pune. *Sangam* is confluence and *Ashram* is a secluded building generally used as religious retreat or instruction in Hinduism.

²⁰ Damale Kamalini, *Shrimati Ahilyabai Bhandarkar Smriti Grantha*, (Pune, Shrimati Ahilyabai Bhandarkar Smarak Granth Prakashan Samiti Wadia College, 1966); Panandikar Sulabha, *Vyakti Titkya Prakruti*, (Pune, A.V. Gruha Prakashan, 1958).

²¹ Kanitkar Shankar Ramchandra, *Kanitkar Kul Vrittant*,/ Tidings of Kanitkar family...cit. 146; Panandikar Sulabha, *Vyakti Titkya Prakruti*/ One of the Marathi phrase referring each one his own, (Pune A.V. Griha Puublications, 1958), 199-208; http://www.fergusson.edu/upload/document/77939__History.pdf; Damale Kamalini, *Shrimati Ahilyabai Bhandarkar Smriti Grantha*, (Pune, Shrimati Ahilyabai Bhandarkar Smarak Granth Prakashan Samiti Wadia College, 1966), 6 this book particularly written as a biography of Ahilyabai Bhandarkar. She was grad daughter of Dr. Bhandarkar; Karnataki Shreenivas, *Guruvarya doctor Sir Ramkrushna Gopal Bhandarkar yanche Charitra*, (Pune, S.N. Karnataki, 1972), 67.

of the Government and Indian people resulted in dawn of new education system that could be termed as formal Indo-western style perhaps reflected in architectural style.

Education policies initiated by British Government in India and focus was upon creating more workforces to support empowerment of colonial empire. But eventually it appeared that educational empowerment helped in increased number of reformists who fought in the freedom movement in various ways. Pune was the education hub during the 19th century. Wood's Educational Dispatch (1854)²², the Educational Commission of 1882 and the Hunter Commission (1891) were suggestive of collective efforts of British Government and locals as enterprise of education. Several names of reformists such as Mahatma Phule, Maharshi Karve, B.G. Tilak, G.G. Agarkar and so on were associated in educational reforms focusing on philosophy of education for all despite of cast, class and gender of communities. One of the very important examples of those was Deccan Educational Society established by Vishnushastri Chiplunkar, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, Mahadev Ballal Namjoshi, and Vaman Shivram Apte in 1880. In the year 1891 land of 37 acres was acquired at outskirts of old town on lease. Foundation stone was laid in the year 1892 was named after the then governor of Bombay James Fergusson (1880-1885). He donated Rs 1200/- for the construction of main building.²³ Fergusson College (**Fig. 7**) was one of earliest institute in Pune that was run in collaboration with Government and locals. Vasudev Kanitkar carried out design and execution of the main building.



Figure 7. View of Fergusson College, Pune Ref: Author

Similar to other contemporary institutional models in India simple form of “C” shape was adapted. Porch is projected little out highlighted as entrance gateway. Semicircular arches are used throughout the structure. Rose windows are used on ground and first floor highlighted with lime plasterwork. Segmental arches are used at entrance porch. Unfortunately, as like the other structures designed by Vasudev Kanitkar original handmade drawings are not available for further research. But one of the finest works in institutional typology that is fortunately preserved well by the management of institution in good condition. English tracery is used for window details and façade treatment. Decorative wrought Iron and wooden railing are used for upper floors adorning the elevation. Decorative elements such as windows arches and overall composition in elevation are very similar to the Reay market building.

4. Conclusions

Despite of not being architect or engineer Vasudev Kanitkar worked on landmark structures those represented urban public spaces in Bombay and Pune. While looking at the typology of projects built by Vasudev Kanitkar mainly he has

²² Wood's Educational Dispatch (1854) speaks about right to education for all and discourse on inculcating western knowledge in “Natives”. This was in order to create a class of civil servants for empire. Charles Wood was the President of the Board of Control of the East India Company.

²³ http://www.fergusson.edu/upload/document/77939_History.pdf; Sundaram M.S., “A Century of British Education in India 1857-1957”, *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, Vol.107, No.5035, (June 1959), 491-507, Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41368746>. Author in his article mentions “There was a network of autonomous, self –supporting decentralized school system all over the land. The village priest and the village craftsmen played the role of teachers in addition to their religious and occupational pursuits.” This explains the state of indigenous education system at the beginning of 19th century. Educational Commission of 1882 and the Hunter Commission (1891) gave emphasis on primary secondary education of masses in India. William Wilson Hunter was one of the members of the Indian Civil Service well known as statistician, later he was Vice President of Royal Asiatic Society.

contributed in public oriented projects working in association with the government and local philanthropists. Reay market in Pune being a first of its kind stands out in whole series of his works, which marked its presence predominantly in old town of Pune that later triggered further extension of town towards south. Its design and actual construction on ground was a great collaborative effort of R.E.²⁴ Walter Ducat and Vasudev Kanitkar. This structure has importance in the context of urban landscape of Pune, as it changed the skyline and brought covered market as an important typology for citizens in the context.

Looking at the graph of all architectural landmarks built by Vasudev Kanitkar it is clearly observed that he had practiced with western models modifying it in local context of important Indian towns under Bombay presidency. Bombay is considered as starting point of Neo-Gothic style as well as Indo-Saracenic style Architecture. Similar style, features and detailing were carry forwarded and modified by him while constructing in the case Pune that was then Monsoon capital under Bombay presidency. Perhaps in his designs in Pune to mention few as Reay market, Fergusson College, followed extensively Bombay Gothic models. Architectural elements, material and techniques, Anandashram widely shows his proficiency in rigorous workmanship. He might have borrowed elements such as prominent central tower with dormer windows, finials at top and use of polychromatic scheme from High court and Secretariat for the model of Reay Market built in Pune. Both of these examples mark their significance metaphorically as supremacy of sovereign. Being purely colonial structure built at the heart of the old town Reay Market followed similar language of prominence.²⁵

Names of Walter Ducat and Vasudev Kanitkar mentioned in Bombay University Calendar²⁶ under the list of faculty of civil engineering in the year 1868 and 1874 simultaneously. Unfortunate demise of both Walter Ducat (1902) and Vasudev Kanitkar (1905) occurred during the same decade. Ascending graphs of the works of both are noteworthy in the Bombay Presidency those are important cultural heritage sites in the context. It is worth noticing that that Vasudev Kanitkar was well associated with Colonial ruling agents as well as local philanthropists and reformists that progressed in executing pioneering projects in a very conservative historic core of Pune. Precise knowledge of construction and extensive experience of local materials and craft helped him in quite successful execution of projects during late 19th century. Scant original resources and correspondence between the designer and Vasudev Kanitkar are missing links in understanding many of the architectural development accomplished by him. All these important landmarks still retain their character and tells the story of this very noteworthy self learnt, experienced, dedicating designer and engineer in the Indian context.

Acknowledgements

This research paper did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- Aziz Amen, M. (2017). The inspiration of Bauhaus principles on the modern housing in Cyprus. *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs*, 1(2), 21–32.
- Aziz Amen, M., & Nia, H. A. (2018). The dichotomy of society and urban space configuration in producing the semiotic structure of the modernism urban fabric. *Semiotica*, 2018(222), 203–223.
- Chopra, Preeti. *A Joint Enterprise: Indian Elites and the Making of British Bombay*. University of Minnesota Press, 2011. <https://doi.org/10.5749/minnesota/9780816670369.003.0003>
- “Colonial Modernities: Building, Dwelling, and Architecture in British India and Ceylon. Scriver, Peter and Prakash, Vikramaditya (Eds.) (2007), London and New York: Routledge.” *Cities* 24, no. 5 (n.d.): 393. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203964262>
- Das, Pradip Kumar. *Henry Irwin and the Indo Saracenic Movement Reconsidered*. PartridgeIndia, 2014.
- Diddi Jaymala, Samita Gupta, Pune Queen of Deccan (Elephant Publication, Pune 2010), <https://doi.org/10.1177/001946460304000207>
- Gupta, Samita. “SOME INDIAN INFLUENCES ON COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE IN BOMBAY.” *Bulletin of the Deccan College Research Institute* 47/48 (1988): 99–108.

²⁴ R.E. refers to royal engineers

²⁵ Kanitkar Shankar Ramchandra, *Kanitkar Kul Vrittant (Pune, 915/1 Shivajinagar Vitthal Hari Barve, Aaryabhushan Mudranalay, 1948)*, 146; Mehrotra Rahul and Dwivedi Sharada, *The Bombay Highcourt The story of the building 1878-2003*, (Bombay, Eminence Designs Pvt. Ltd., 2004), 39.

²⁶ The Bombay University Calendar for the year 1874-75, (Bombay, Thacker Vining & co., 1874)

- Hodson, V. C. P. *List of the Officers of the Bengal Army 1758-1834*. Constable, London, 1927.
<http://archive.org/details/dli.csl.6933>. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nq/191.11.241d>
- Kaye, John William. *Lives of Indian Officers: Illustrative of the History of the Civil and Military Service of India*. London : Strahan, 1867. <http://archive.org/details/livesofindianoff02kayeiala>.
- Lavand Vaidehi, "Public Architecture and Role of Local Contractors in Late Nineteenth Century, Case Of Pune." In *Urban Regeneration*. (Nashik, 2017)
- Kanitkar Shankar Ramchandra, *Kanitkar Kul Vrittant* (Tidings of Kanitkar family), (Pune, 915/1 Shivajinagar Vitthal Hari Barve, Aaryabhushan Mudranalay, 1948).
- Lethbridge Sir Roper, *The Golden Book of India*, (London, Macillan and co.,1893, reprinted 2013)
- London, Christopher W. *Bombay Gothic*. 1st edition. (Ahmedabad: Jaico Publishing House, 2014)
- Major A.M. brandreth. *Professional papers on Indian engineering*, 1879.
<http://archive.org/details/professionalpap02brangoog>.
- Medley, J.G., A.M. Lang, Thomason Civil Engineering College, and A.M. Brandreth. *Professional Papers on Indian Engineering ... Thomason Civil Engineering College Press*, 1872.
<https://books.google.co.in/books?id=FDIFAQAAMAAJ>.
- Munasinghe Harsha, "Proclaiming Colonial Urban Heritage: Towards an Inclusive Heritage-interpretation for Colombo's Past" How to cite this article: Munasinghe, M. (2022). Proclaiming Colonial Urban Heritage: Towards an Inclusive Heritage-interpretation for Colombo's Past. *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs*, 6(1), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.25034/ijcua.2022.v6n1-1>
- "Notes from Memorandum the Civil Engineering College for India," December 10, 1870. 7 Oct. 1870 {Citation}, Infra L/PWD/8/7; British Library London.
- "Notes from Memorandum the Civil Engineering College for India, 7 Oct. 1870 {Citation}, Infra L/PWD/8/7; 'The New Indian Service', Anonymous Article from The Spectator, 10 Dec 1870, 1472, Infra L/PWD/8/7 p 11, Source: British Library London.," n.d.
- Publications, Marg. *Architecture in Victorian and Edwardian India*. Edited by Christopher W. London. 1st edition. Bombay, India: South Asia Books, 1994.
- Raulet, S., A. Garde, and L. Vernière. *Maharajas' Palaces: European Style in Imperial India*. Vendome Press, 1997.
<https://books.google.co.in/books?id=4kDqAAAAAMAAJ>.
- Sandes, E.W.C. *The Military Engineer in India*. The Military Engineer in India, v. 2. Institution of royal engineers, 1935.
<https://books.google.co.in/books?id=GLZ-AAAAIAAJ>.
- Stamp, Gavin. "British Architecture In India 1857-1947." *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts* 129, no. 5298 (1981): 357-79.
- Tillotson, G. H. R. *Paradigms of Indian Architecture: Space and Time in Representation and Design*. Routledge, 2014.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315026923>
<http://www.punenagarvachan.org/>; Dixit M. S., *Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir Didshe Varshancha Itihas 1848-1998*, (Pune, Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir Prakashan, 1998)
- Shrigondekar G. N., *Pune Nagar Vachan Mandir Shambhar Varshancha Itihas 1848-1948*, (Pune, Sadashiv Keshav Nerugaonkar, nagar vachan mandir, 1949)
- Mumbai, Elphinston college, Maharashtra State archives, *PWD General*, 1868-89 Vol. 563; Mumbai, Elphinston college, Maharashtra state archive, *Bombay public works proceedings imperial and local 1886*, 135; PWD General Vol. 563, 1868-89, Elphinston college, Maharashtra State archives Mumbai; Correspondence mentioned in appendix 12,13,14
- Panandikar Sulabha, *Vyakti Titkya Prakruti/* One of the Marathi phrases referring each one his own, (Pune A.V. Griha Puublications, 1958)
http://www.fergusson.edu/upload/document/77939__History.pdf; Sundaram M.S., "A Century of British Education in India 1857-1957", *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, Vol.107, No.5035, (June 1959)
- ", *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, Vol.107, No.5035, (June 1959), 491-507, Stable URL:<http://www.jstor.org/stable/41368746>
- The Bombay University Calendar for the year 1874-75, (Bombay, Thacker Vining & co., 1874)