

Jodhpur Development Authority

Government of Rajasthan (ISO 9001:2015)
(An Autonomous body of Govt. of Rajasthan)



FREEDOM MEMORIAL PARK AT MACHIYA FORT

The Price Of Freedom

The modern history of our country is the history of our freedom movement. It is thus important to correctly record this history in a manner that motivates the youth and make them realize the price we paid for freedom. Remembering our freedom fighters, their values and ideals will help make us better citizens and paying tribute to them will be a befitting “शरधांजलि” to their memory. In consonance with this idea, there is a proposal to further develop Machiya Fort Kirti Stambh Area as

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a befitting memorial to the freedom fighters of Rajasthan who were imprisoned there by the British during the QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT in 1942.



Vision

To Machiya Freedom Memorial the best Regional freedom fighters Museum



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Our vision is to design and construct a memorial that would pay tribute to all freedom fighters by affirming for posterity the legacy of these extraordinary men and women. Memorial Parks generally hold an important role in educating and providing a reminder of our past, they are the footprint of past generations. It is a symbolic representation of stories, lives, and of memories lived.

Today, the complex must serve as a national monument in memory of the blood and toil which the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, started and all these ordinary citizens followed in an extraordinary manner.

Memorials and memory have a symbiotic relationship. A memorial is only given meaning through interaction with its viewers, in addition “it gives shape and consolidates public memory.”

Mission Statement

To collect and preserve the region’s freedom struggle History and honor the brave.

To make available the collection to the public through display, in a user friendly manner.

The Machiya Freedom Memorial

Design Statement

To Build a Memorial that is Worthy of the Heroes they Honour.

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Educating future generations through this memorial park, designed with families and older freedom fighters accessibility in mind, allowing for young and old to take advantage of the park, both in terms of areas of reflection, paths for walking, facilities, and most importantly, this symbolic freedom fighters granite memorial. They are no longer in our midst - but their memory and service to our country still lives in our hearts and in the freedom we enjoy today.

Design Concept

From the entrance gate of the fort, the focal point is the memorial monument and the wall behind it.



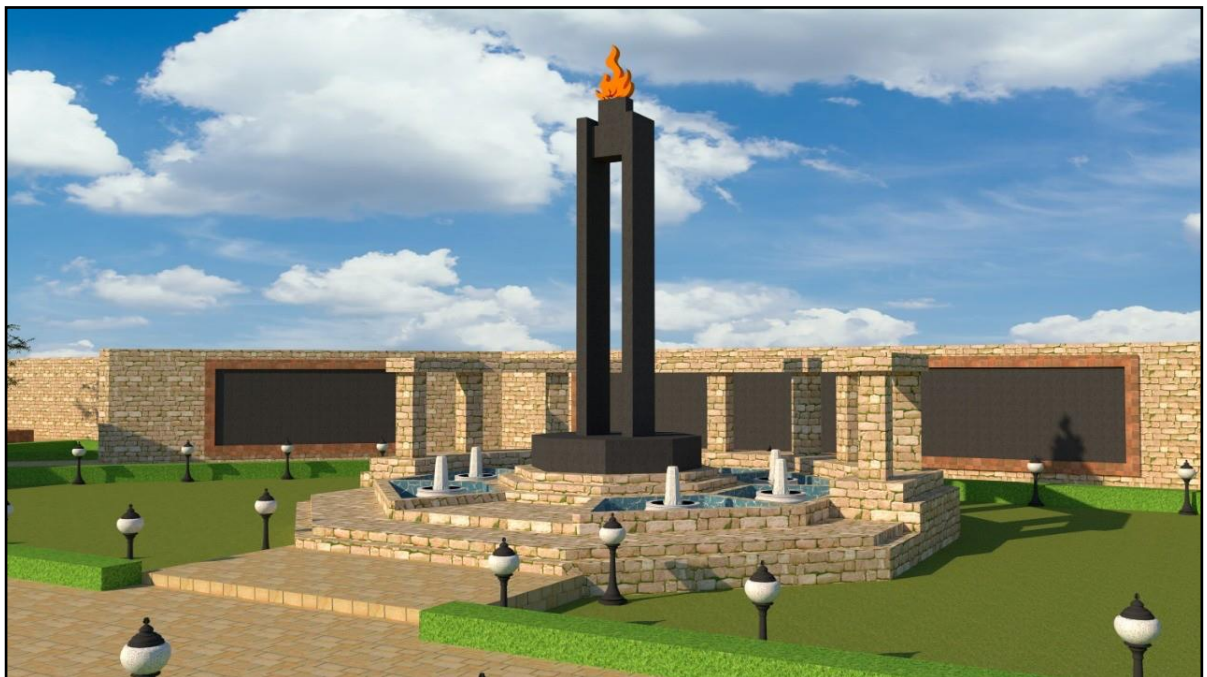
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The Memorial Monument

The memorial has been planned as a a one of a kind freedom fighter memorial monument in black granite to showcase strength and resilience.

THE TWO PILLARS OF THE MONUMENT REPRESENT THE GROUND REALITY OF THIS FREEDOM STRUGGLE - THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO TOGETHER LIT THE FLAME OF RESISTANCE BRINGING US INDEPENDENCE.



This is to remind us of both past and future generations - of the hope, the dedication and the commitment of these heroes. This memorial wall of honour will remind us that there are times when citizens are called

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upon by the nation to set aside their comforts and self-interest and serve a cause greater than ourselves. It will remind and motivate the future generations that we all have a collective responsibility, to defend our country, our way of life and the freedom we too often take for granted. It depicts the uniqueness and independent identity of the TWO and symbolises their struggle - EVEN giving up their lives to give us independence. Together the two columns of the memorial signify independence, interconnectedness, interdependence and unity of purpose through which we pay tribute to our known and unknown freedom fighters.





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Joint at the top through a common cause of burning desire to see our country free of foreign dominance, the flame carved in stone will be suitably lit at night so that it can be seen from all around the area.

In between the two columns will be embedded LED spot lights in saffron, white and green, displaying a tricolor when lit up.

Behind this is the memorial wall which serves as a backdrop. We envision an area wherein the faces and names of these freedom fighters will remind us forever of these ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things. It will serve as a historical narrative about the trials and tribulations they faced and tell a story for generations to come. It is a true representation of lives lived and memories forever etched in stone.

Using high definition laser etching with innovative graphic design techniques we will capture the real beauty of granite, with clear and sharp images.

The Museum

A museum, created within the precincts of this spectacular, yet sombre memorial, must document history, valour, artefacts, sacrifice and achievements of the freedom fighters. The Britishers sent Indian freedom fighters, who they called 'dissidents' and 'mutineers', to this secluded fort in an 'experiment' that involved torture, medical tests, forced labour and, for many, death. In response to poor conditions in

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the prison, including the quality of prison food, numerous prisoners fell sick contracted diseases and died.

The prison authorities confinement was implemented as the British colonial government wanted the political prisoners and revolutionaries to be isolated from one another. This gallery museum is an endeavour



to showcase the spirit of the 'freedom fighters - known and unknown' in a manner such that this space become the subject of ones' aesthetic and holistic experience, while understanding what motivates a common man to give up his life for the nation while attaining martyrdom. It is a



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commemorative imagery and narrative of glory, valour and sacrifice, which flows into a tapestry woven with the underlying sentiments of SACRIFICE AND SERVICE BEFORE SELF.

Thus, the narrative is an interpretation of extreme passion and emotion, of pride, struggle, trails, torture, pain and ultimate freedom. THIS IS A STORY OF UNENDING BRAVERY, GLORY AND SACRIFICE.

The museum must portray a sanitised version of the struggle inside this colonial prison. The twentieth century saw the development of commemorative traditions: customs and narratives by which individuals, groups and nations remember, commemorate and attempt to resolve memories of the traumatic experience that is the freedom struggle. These conventions often also govern museum interpretation of freedom.

Offering an impactful blend of sweeping visual narrative and poignant details, this small Museum features immersive exhibits and dioramas, state-of-the-art multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of artefacts recreated and history to take visitors inside the story of the freedom struggle and what it means today.

This museum tries to avoid traditional forms of commemoration, which could be seen as glamorising the freedom struggle and focuses on the experiences of the freedom fighters with emphasis to Rajasthan. It tells visitors that they must learn from these ancestors the invaluable price we all paid for the democracy we enjoy today.



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The space specifically seeks to make an emotional impact on its visitors: We have avoided the traditional listing of names, facts and dates. We want the visitor to become actively involved and above all, to be touched as a human being. We hope that this emotional approach will help them understand what it is that they are really seeing.

The Memorial will engage visitors through Static and Dynamic displays, along with a very high quality of services and visitor comfort.

The Design Theme

The building need to retain the original sense of place, be in keeping with the original architectural design in both vision and human context.

This is not a space, which needs large display, but rather intimate spaces that tell the narrative, the history of the space and region.

The Site layout needs to take into consideration linkages between the various areas, buildings, amenities area, parking and hard stand seating areas. The narrative needs to be expressed in a manner that is subtle and allows the visitor to flow from one area to another, that gives the visitor time to explore and relax. The layout of the site should take in the need to control access from one location to the various exhibits. The gardens and lawns should remain open for all to explore, as should the café eating areas.

Overall Concept

The overall concept is summarized as under:



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- Construct a unique memorial, whose design itself makes it a must visit place on the tourist attractions of Jodhpur.
 - Make and sell a storyline of the memorial that makes it a year long attraction for both local, Indian as well as international tourists.
 - Create an infrastructure that makes it an attractive destination for conferences, seminars, exhibitions and recitals.
 - Create an extremely high class restaurant that caters for locals as well as foreign tourists.
 - Create an infrastructure that permits local businesses to set up shop in the premises. This is a double whammy - good shops will attract tourists and high footfall will make the quality of shops that much better.
 - Create an attraction that is unique in Jodhpur and because of which tourists make it a must visit destination.
 - Cater for some transportation from the nearest bus stand till the Machiya Memorial Gate to aid the common tourist who do not have their own transport.



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Location Analysis

The location of Machiya Fort makes it a difficult destination to visit as it is not near any established tourist attraction of Jodhpur. However, since 2016, the Machiya Biological Park has come up in proximity. This park presently occupies spot number 17 in Trip Advisor's things to do in Jodhpur. The Machiya Fort is another approximately two kilometers up a narrow hill track road and is situated right on top of the hill with an elevation of 329 meters above MSL. To complicate matters, there is also no public transport that regularly plies to the spot.

However, despite the challenges, the location itself throws up an interesting strength. Being at the top of the highest feature in the area, the view is panoramic and one of a kind in Jodhpur. If that could be coupled with various other attractions, services and correctly marketed, we could have a winner in the Machiya Fort Memorial Complex.

Weather

It should be recognised that Jodhpur during both the dry and wet season can be hot and uncomfortable for visitors, especially during daytime. When creating the linkages between buildings and spaces we have considered visitor comfort. The use of natural shade, verandahs and short exposed areas have been considered. Visitor comfort and safety when examining external displays need to be considered as should the linkages between the car park and the buildings.



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Visitor Comfort

Generally the buildings are set in a garden environment which enhances the sense of arrival. This sense of peace and of somewhere special needs to be retained.

Timings

Most memorials and museums in Jodhpur are open during the day when it is very hot. We propose that this memorial be an evening attraction, with timings from 1600 to 2200 hours. This will give it uniqueness and reduce the competition for must visit attractions during the day. It will also fit in well with the piece de resistance of the memorial - the 3D mapping cum light and sound show.

Phasing

The improvement of the site needs to be managed in phases in case of budgetary constraints. Each phase should form part of the whole but be able to be undertaken and completed in a manner which is able to be handled by the JDA. The design should allow the site to be continually developed over a period of 1 to 2 years. However, it should ideally be completed in one go.

Services Analysis and Environmental Sustainability

There is a full range of utilities services required for the memorial site. When considering any buildings, additional services to the site, the need for the site to be environmentally sustainable should be taken into



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consideration.

Use of natural ventilation, design and management of climate sensitive areas, use of natural shade and breezes, rainwater harvesting, low wattage LED fittings and reticulated automatic sprinkler systems, all should be considered. The carbon footprint of the Museum and its associated areas should be minimised through good design of new the building, their linkages and the landscape.

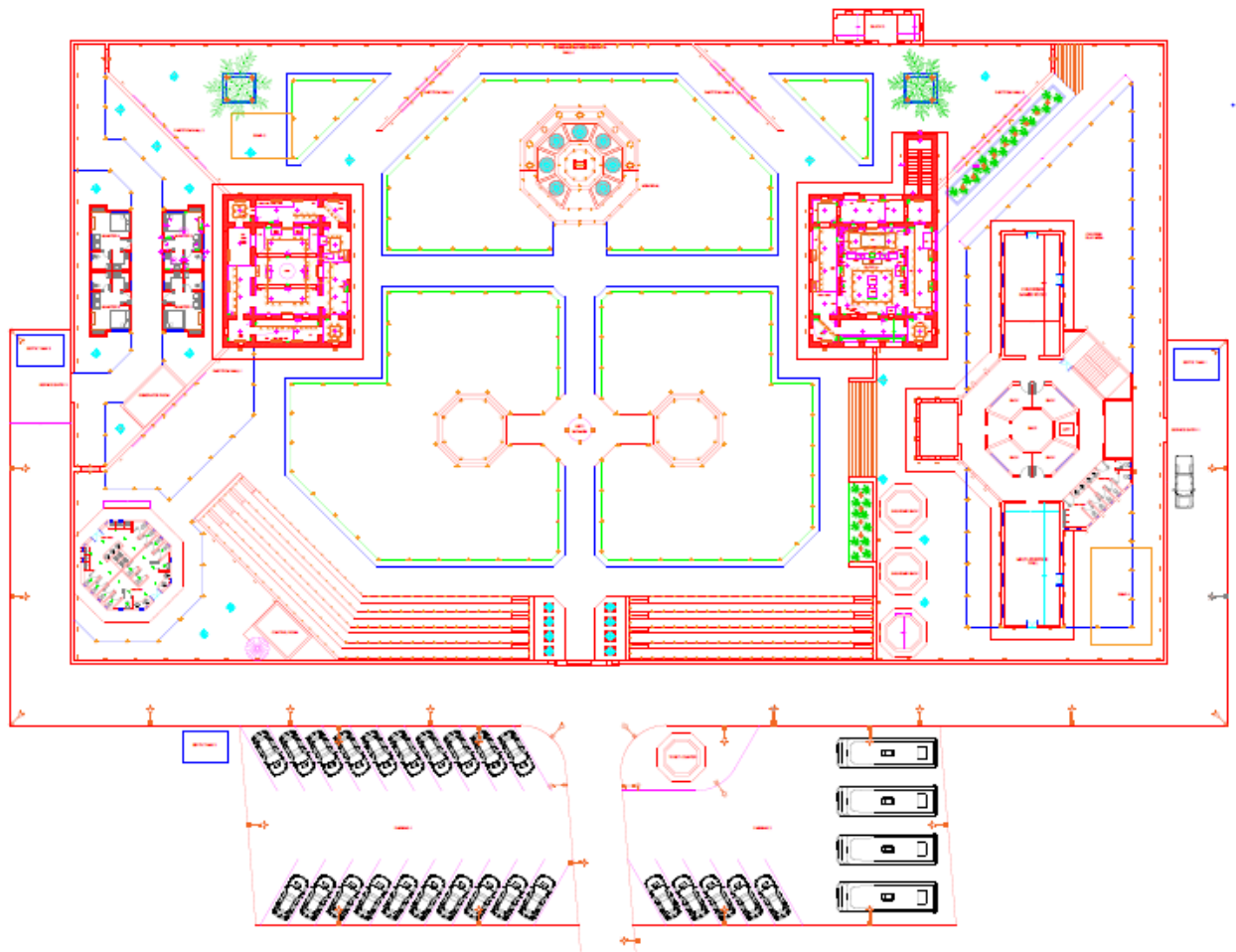
Conclusion

The Machiya Memorial is designed to give a wholesome experience to all age groups, and well as all categories of tourists. As per the concept, repeat visitors are encouraged and the memorial can become a destination for events.

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Site plan





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Google Map of site



प्रधिशायी अभियन्ता (H)
जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण
जोधपुर