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COURSE NAME : TAMILS & TECHNOLOGY

I YEAR/ II SEMESTER

UNIT –2 DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

TOPIC COVERED

Great Temples of Cholas and other worship places – Temples of Nayaka Period – Type study (Madurai Meenakshi Temple)- Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal – Chetti Nadu Houses, Indo – Saracenic architecture at Madras during British Period.

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AP/CST



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TOPIC 1: GREAT TEMPLES AND OTHER PLACES

1. Iradeeswarar temple, tharasuram:

- Built by Rajaraja Chola II in the 12th century.
- It is smaller than the Gangai Konda Cholapura and Prahadeeswarar temples.
- Features intricate stone carvings, including a chariot-shaped mandapa.
- Indhiran's elephant -iravatham lost its color due to curse . So it worshipped Shiva and got relief from the curse.



2.Thillai Natarajar temple,Chidambaram:

- special place among architecture symbols of the Chola Dynasty.
- The Sanctum Sanctorum of this Temple has been built with golden Vimanam with elaborate stone carvings.
- Parantaka Chola, the son of Adhitva Chola built this golden canopy. Through this, he got the title of 'Ponveintha Cholan'.
- Shiva is worshiped in his cosmic dance form, Nataraja.
- The Chidambara Rahasyam, a mystical belief, symbolizes Shiva's formless nature.

3.Thiagaraja swamy thirukoil, Tiruvarur:

- oldest temples in Tamil Nadu, dates back to the 1st Century.
- moolasthanam of this temple is divided into two parts
- the section dedicated to Vanmiginathar is older than the section dedicated to Thiagaraja



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- instead the usual lingam, a pit (Putru) has been installed.
- A major center for Carnatic music and Tamil Saiva traditions.



4. Pragadeeswarar temple, Thanjavur:

- Built by Rajaraja Chola I in the 11th century.
- The vimana (tower) is 216 feet tall, made of granite.
- Houses a 13-foot-tall Nandi (sacred bull), carved from a single rock.
- fine design, imaginative power, subtleties, impeccable order, meticulous calculations and scientific techniques are imbued in the creation this entire temple



5. Rajagopalaswamy tirukkoil, Mannargudi:

- Area of about 23 acres with 24 Sannidhis, 16 tall towers, 7 courtyards, 7 halls and 9 ponds.
- Built by Kulothunga Chola I and later Nayak rulers.
- Dedicated to Rajagopalaswamy (Krishna)
- Features 108 dance poses in its pillars.



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6.Gangaikonda cholapuram, Ariyalur:

- Built by Rajendra Chola I after his victory over North India.
- Features a massive Shiva Lingam, larger than the one in Thanjavur.
- The temple is known for realistic sculptures and fine Chola art.
- Historical events of the Chola dynasty is displayed in copper plate inscriptions by government .



7.Swedharanyeswarar temple, Tiruvankadu:

- Among 9 Navagraha locations in tamilnadu,it is the fourth temple.
- Lord Shiva,budhan is worshiped for knowledge and wealth
- Has three large temple tanks.
- One of the six holy Shiva temples equal to Kasi.
- Mural painting
- Historical events of kings of Vijayanagar.



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8.Sri kumbeshwarar temple,kumbakonam:

- Built by Cholas, expanded by Nayaks and Marathas.
- Dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Features a nine-tiered Rajagopuram (gateway tower).
- Mahamaha festival celebrated for every 12 years.
- It is 1300 years old temple



9.Sri kambanashwarar temple, kumbakonam:

- Built by Kulothunga Chola I in the 13th century.
- Dedicated to Shiva as Kambanashwarar, meaning “remover of fear.”
- Richly sculpted pillars with mythological stories.
- Separate shrine for Goddess Dharmasamvardhini.



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10. Kalyana pasupatheeshwarar temple, Karur:

- Lord Shiva is worshiped as Pasupatheeshwarar.
- The sacred cow Kamadhenu is believed to have worshiped here.
- The temple has five corridors (prakaram)
- Built by Cholas and later expanded by Vijayanagara rulers.
- It has sculptures depicting wedding scenes of Shiva and Parvati.

11. Jambulingeshwar temple, Tiruvanaikaaval:

- One of the Pancha Bhoota Stalams, representing water (Appu Lingam).
- The temple's sanctum has an underground stream that never dries.
- Built by Chola king Kochenga chola. Has Goddess Akilandeswari's shrine.



12. Someshwarar temple, kumbakonam:

- A Chola-era temple dedicated to Lord Shiva during 13th century
- Known for its unique blend of Chola and Vijayanagara architecture.
- Associated with Soma (Moon God), who is believed to have worshiped here.



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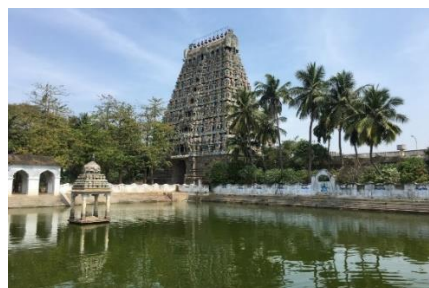


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13. Sri Mayuranathaswamy temple, Mayiladudurai:

- Shiva is worshiped as Mayuranathaswamy, where Goddess Parvati took the form of a peacock.
- Built by Cholas(kulothunga cholas), later expanded by the Nayaks.
- The temple is famous for the Navagraha shrine.
- The Theertham (sacred water) here is believed to remove sins.
- The Sculptures of peacocks throughout the temple are a key attraction.
- Mayura Natyanjali program is held every year for Lord Nataraja.





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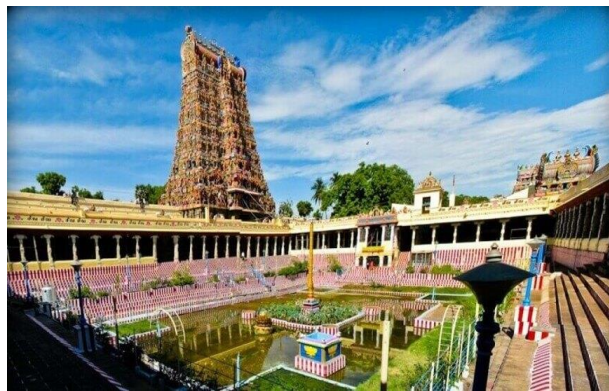
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TOPIC 3: Type study (Madurai Meenakshi Temple):

Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple is one of the most famous and significant temples in India. Here are some important points about it:



Location & significance:

- ❖ Located in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.
- ❖ Dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi (a form of Parvati) and Lord Sundareswarar (Shiva).
- ❖ It is one of the 51 shakthi peedas of Lord Ambigai.

Architectural Marvel:

- ❖ Built in Dravidian architectural style, covering over 14 acres.
- ❖ The temple has 14 towering gopurams (gateway towers) and 2 vimanas with intricate sculptures and colorful carvings.
- ❖ Karuvarai Vimana is called Indra Vimanas supported by 32 stone lions, 64 sivaganams and 8 white elephants.

Towers:

- ❖ The tallest Rajagopuram (East Tower) is 52 meters (170 feet) high built by Pandiyas between 1216 A.D. and 1238 A.D.



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- ❖ West Tower was built by Maravarman Kulasekara Pandiyas in 1323 A.D.
- ❖ South Tower was built by Viswanatha Nayak in 1559 A.D
- ❖ North Tower was started by Muthuveerappa Nayak in 1564 A.D. to 1572 A.D. and completed by vainagaram family in 1878 A.D.
- ❖ The Golden Lotus Tank (Porthamarai Kulam) is a sacred pond where literary works were once judged.
- ❖ The Thousand Pillar Hall features exquisite stone carvings and musical pillars that produce different notes when struck.

Halls or Mandapas:

The temple complex is massive and filled with numerous **mandapas (halls)** that serve both spiritual and ceremonial purposes. Some famous **mandapas (halls)** in the temple.

1. Aayiram Kaal Mandapam (Thousand Pillar Hall)

Name meaning: "Aayiram" = thousand, "Kaal" = legs/pillars.

Highlight: Despite the name, it has **985 intricately carved pillars**, each a sculpture in itself.

Architectural Marvel: Built by the Nayak rulers in the 16th century.

Location: Near the eastern entrance.

Now used as: A museum exhibiting temple artifacts, sculptures, and historic items. It was built in 1494 AD by Veerappa Nayakkar, the ruler of Madurai. It is larger in size than the other halls in the temple.

2. Kilikoondu Mandapam (Parrot Cage Hall)

Name meaning: "Kilikoondu" = parrot cage.

Significance: Home to parrots that are trained to chant the name of **Meenakshi**.



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Spiritual relevance: Parrots are associated with Goddess Meenakshi, who is often depicted with a parrot in her hand.

3. Oonjal Mandapam (Swing Hall)

Purpose: Used for placing the idols of **Meenakshi and Sundareshwarar** on a swing (oonjal) for rituals.

Function: Part of ceremonial worship, especially during Friday rituals when the divine couple is symbolically "swung".

4. Ashta Shakthi Mandapam

Name meaning: "Ashta" = eight, "Shakthi" = goddesses.

Location: At the eastern entrance.

Highlights: Sculptures of eight forms of Goddess Shakti.

Built by: Thirumalai Nayak's wives as a tribute to the divine feminine.

5. Kambathadi Mandapam

Another hall built by Krishnappa Nayaka I in 1564-1572.

Known for: Detailed pillars and life-like sculptures including images of yalis and various forms of Lord Shiva. Meenakshi Thirukalyaana Sculpture is famous one. Nandhi sculpture in front of Swami Sannidhi is of Single stone.

6. Veeravasantharayar Mandapam

It is found in front of the 1000 pillar hall. It is 400 years old and has 7000 sq.ft. area. In the middle of this Mandapam, there is a Nandhi Idol facing the god.



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Sannidhis:

Moolavar Sannidhi:

The Prominent god is Sundareshwarar (Swayambu Moorthy. Other names are Somasundarar, Sokkar and Sokkanathar. By worshipping him, Indran got rid of his sins and built temple for him. The vimanam is called Indira Vimanam.

Ambal Sannidhi

Ambal is Meenakshiamman and her idol is made of Green Emerald. Vimanam was setup by Devendran with 32 lions' image, 64 shiva statues and 8 stone elephants.

Other names of Meenakshiamman are Maragatha Valli, Pachaidevi, Abirama Valli, Komagal, Sundaravalli, Pandipratti, Manikka valli, Mathurapuri Thalaivi, Karpooora valli

Pathivirathai

As Meenakshi is the queen of Madurai, devotees are allowed to see her abisekams. Devotees can see Meenakshi amman after the decoration is fully over. The first Pooja is done to Ambigai Meenakshi. After that, prayers are offered to Lord Shiva. The reasons for this is that Meenakshi Amman always intend to do her faithful duties to her husband. Before waking up her husband, Ambigai completes Abishekam and gets ready. So, the first pooja in the morning performed to goddess Meenakshi.

Parrot

In the appearance of Meenakshi Amman, there is also a parrot. The parrot is believed to be saying, repeatedly to remind Ambigai of the devotees' request. When Indiran came to visit this place to get rid of the curse, the parrots helped him in the worship of Shiva.



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Festivals & Celebrations:

- Meenakshi Thirukalyanam (Celestial Wedding) is the grandest festival, celebrated during Chithirai Festival (April-May).
- Other major festivals include Navaratri, Maha Shivaratri, and Aadi Pooram.
- The temple hosts daily pujas, abhishekams, and processions with beautifully decorated deities.

Mythological & Historical Importance:

Ancient Origins:

- The temple's roots are believed to date back to the 6th century CE, with significant contributions from the Pandya kings, who were great patrons of art and architecture.

Destruction and Rebuilding:

- In the early 14th century, the temple was plundered and damaged by the armies of the Delhi Sultanate led by Malik Kafur.

Nayak Dynasty's Role:

- The Vijayanagara Empire rulers rebuilt the core and reopened the temple, and the Nayak dynasty, particularly Thirumalai Nayak, further expanded and enhanced the temple's grandeur in the 16th and 17th centuries.



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TOPIC 3:Indo-Saracenic Architecture in Madras During the British Period

Introduction

- Indo-Saracenic architecture is a blend of Indian, Islamic, and Gothic styles, developed by British architects in colonial India.
- Madras (now Chennai) was a key center for this architectural movement during British rule.
- This style was used mainly in public buildings, combining domes, minarets, arches, and intricate carvings with European construction techniques.

Key Features of Indo-Saracenic Architecture

1. Fusion of Styles – Incorporates elements from Mughal, Rajput, and Dravidian architecture with European influences.
2. Domes and Arches – Onion-shaped domes, pointed arches, and decorative brackets are common.
3. Minarets and Towers – Inspired by Mughal and Rajput designs.
4. Ornate Facades – Rich carvings and floral motifs enhance the aesthetic appeal.
5. Red Brick and Sandstone – Often used in construction to create a distinctive look.

Notable Indo-Saracenic Buildings in Madras

1. Senate House (1879)

- Designed by Robert Chisholm, a pioneer of Indo-Saracenic architecture.
- Served as the administrative center of the University of Madras.
- Features large domes, stained glass windows, and Islamic-style arches.



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2. Madras High Court (1892)

- One of the largest judicial buildings in the world.
- Designed by Henry Irwin, incorporating Mughal domes and Gothic spires.
- Built using red sandstone, giving it a striking appearance.



3. Victoria Public Hall (1887)

- Built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.
- Features Romanesque arches with Indo-Saracenic ornamentation.
- Used as a town hall and cultural center.



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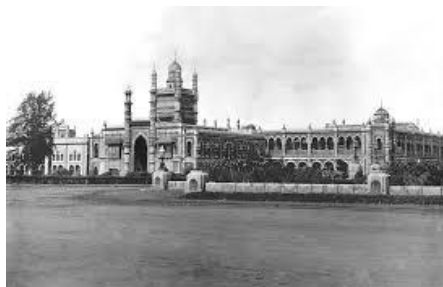
4. Ripon Building (1913)

- A mix of Indo-Saracenic and neoclassical styles.
- Houses the Greater Chennai Corporation.
- Notable for its white façade and grand clock tower.



5. Chempauk Palace (1768)

- One of the earliest Indo-Saracenic structures in Madras.
- Former residence of the Nawab of Arcot.
- Inspired later British architects to develop the Indo-Saracenic style.





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6. Egmore Railway Station (1908)

- Combines Dravidian and Islamic motifs.
- Features a central dome, arched windows, and minarets.
- Still serves as a major railway hub.



7. Government Museum, Egmore (1851)

- Originally built in the neoclassical style, later modified with Indo-Saracenic elements.
- Features large domes and ornate detailing.
- Houses rare archaeological artifacts.



Significance of Indo-Saracenic Architecture in Madras

- Represented the British adaptation of Indian architectural traditions.
- Became a symbol of colonial power and administrative efficiency.
- Many structures continue to function as government and cultural institutions.
- Inspired later architectural developments in South India.



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TOPIC 4: Major Temples of the Nayaka Period:

1. Meenakshi Amman Temple – Madurai, Tamil Nadu

- Built/Expanded by: Tirumalai Nayaka (1623–1659)
- Features: Huge gopurams, 1000-pillared hall, exquisite sculptures
- Located in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.
- Dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi (a form of Parvati) and Lord Sundareswarar (Shiva).
- It is one of the 51 shakthi peedas of Lord Ambigai.

Painting Marvel:

- ❖ It includes 64 colored paintings of Thiruvilayadal scenes, Rani Mangammal Painting on the walls of Potraamarai Pond.
- ❖ Also it include paintings of Meenakshi Thirukalayanam seen by Sokkanatha Nayakkar.

2. Ranganathaswamy Temple – Srirangam, Trichy, Tamil Nadu

Situated on an island between the Kaveri and Kollidam rivers

- Expanded by: Nayakas of Madurai and Tanjore
- Features: World's largest functioning Hindu temple, massive compound walls, tall gopurams

Painting Marvel:

Thiruvaranganathar painting is depicted on towers at Srirangam

Bhagavadha Legend is painted at Thirusutru Mandapam.

Alwar and Acharya paintings are found at Ramanujar Shrine.



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3. Natham Siva Temple

- In the front hall of the Amman temple, the birth scenes of Muruga from the Skantha Purana are painted.
- The front hall of the Swami temple has the image of Nayak and various modifications painted on it.

4. Tanjore Nayaka Temples:

- Patteeswaram temple: Thala Purana is painted in Amman temple and Nataraja dance is depicted in Shiva Temple Tower.
- Chidambaram Sivakaami Amman Temple: Lord disguised as Pichandan with Rishi Women are depicted as paintings
- Tiruvannamalai: Lord Shiva marrying Umaiyal, the Ramayana, Kannan and Valli Murugan Marriage scene are depicted as paintings
- .Chengam Perumal Temple: Telugu Ramayana Scenes, Hanuman beating Mandothari paintings are here

5. Koodal Azhagar Temple – Madurai

- Renovated during: Nayaka rule
- Special: Three postures of Vishnu in one shrine (sitting, standing, reclining)

6. Nellaiappar Temple – Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

- Renovated by: Tirumalai Nayaka
- Special: Huge gopurams, musical pillars, mandapams
- Unique location: Right by the seashore

7. Andal – Azhagar Temple (Srivilliputhur Divya Desam)

- Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu
- One of the 108 Divya Desams (holy Vishnu temples)



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Period:

- **Early phase:** Pandya period
- **Renovations and expansions:** Nayaka period, esp. under **Tirumalai Nayaka**

Historical Importance

- Birthplace of **Andal (Kodhai)** – only female Alvar
- Associated with **Periyalvar**, her foster father
- Famous for **Thiruppavai** – devotional hymns by Andal

Painting Marvel:

- Paintings of Lord Ramar and his brothers and death of Dasaratha are depicted.
- Beginning of Ramayana to End of Yudha Kandam are shown as paintings.

8. Tanjore Great Temple:

- paintings. Durga fighting scene with Monster Sumban and Nisumban and Thirumal plucking lotus from Pond is shown as paintings.

TOPIC 5:Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal – Madurai

Location

- Situated in **Madurai**, Tamil Nadu
- Just about **2 km from the Meenakshi Amman Temple**

Built By

- **King Thirumalai Nayak** (r. 1623–1659 CE)
- Belonged to the **Madurai Nayaka dynasty**



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- A loyal vassal of the **Vijayanagara Empire**

Historical Significance

- Constructed in **1636 AD**
- Served as the **royal palace** and administrative center of Thirumalai Nayak
- Only a **quarter of the original structure** survives today

Architectural Style

- **Indo-Saracenic architecture** (blend of **Dravidian, Islamic, and European** elements)
- Originally inspired by **Italian and Islamic styles**
- **Built using:** Chunnam (shell lime), bricks, and mortared plaster

Key Features

Swarga Vilasam (Celestial Pavilion)

- The **main audience hall**
- Famous for its **massive dome, 30 meters high** with no visible support beam
- Central hall surrounded by **enormous pillars** (~82 feet tall)
- Rich stucco work and graceful arches

Courtyard

- A huge open courtyard in front of the Swarga Vilasam
- Used for royal gatherings and performances

Pillars

- The palace contains **248 giant pillars**, each about **20 meters tall**



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- Carved with floral and religious motifs

Natakasala (Theatre Hall)

- Used for entertainment, including classical music and dance
- Echoes the king's patronage of arts and culture

Original Grandeur vs Today

- Originally, the palace was **four times larger**, including:
 - Royal apartments
 - Durbar halls
 - Garden and temples
 - Residential areas for royals and servants
- Much of it was **destroyed** by Thirumalai Nayak's grandson for materials to build another palace in Tiruchirapalli

Sound & Light Show

- Held daily in English and Tamil
- Recreates the story of **Silappathikaram** and **Thirumalai Nayak's legacy**

Art & Culture

- Reflects the **flourishing art scene** during Nayaka rule
- A fine example of how secular and sacred architecture was blended



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TOPIC 6: Chettinad House

A **Chettinad house** refers to the traditional homes built by the Chettiar community, predominantly found in Tamil Nadu, India. These homes are known for their distinctive architectural style that combines functionality with elegance. Here are some key features of a Chettinad house:

1. Spacious Courtyards

- The Chettinad house is typically built around a central courtyard that is open to the sky, allowing light and air to flow through the house. The courtyard often serves as the heart of the home, where daily activities take place.

2. Grand Entrance

- The entrance is often grand, featuring large wooden doors with intricate carvings. Some houses also have ornate stone archways and pillars leading to the main doors.

3. Vast and High Ceilings

- The rooms in Chettinad houses usually have high ceilings and spacious dimensions, promoting ventilation and cooling in the hot tropical climate.

4. Use of Natural Materials

- The houses are constructed using locally available materials like granite, wood, and tiles. The floors are often made of black-and-white tiles or



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checkerboard patterns, which are a characteristic feature of Chettinad homes.

5. Decorative Woodwork

- Chettinad houses are renowned for their intricate woodwork. Carved wooden pillars, windows, and doors are a hallmark of the design, showcasing the skilled craftsmanship of the community.

6. Arched Windows and Doors

- The windows and doors often have an arched shape and are large to allow natural light to flood the interiors. They are typically made from teak or rosewood, adorned with carvings.

7. Aesthetic Elements

- Walls and ceilings are often decorated with beautiful murals, paintings, or traditional motifs, adding an aesthetic value to the house.

8. Verandas and Porticos

- These houses often have expansive verandas that provide a shaded space to relax. The portico, or a covered entrance, is another notable feature that provides protection from the sun and rain.



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9. Storage and Utility

- Chettinad houses are designed for practicality. There are designated areas for storing grain, vessels, and valuables. They also often have spaces for multiple generations of a family, making them well-suited for joint families.

10. Distinctive Roofs

- The roofs of Chettinad houses are usually sloping and made from terracotta tiles. These roofs help cool the interiors by allowing hot air to rise and escape, especially in the summer months.

Chettinad houses are a perfect blend of culture, tradition, and aesthetics. They reflect the Chettiar community's rich heritage, wealth, and craftsmanship, and many of them are now considered heritage homes that attract tourists and architecture enthusiasts.

