

Built Environment in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands: A Tradition on the Brink of Disappearance

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ABSTRACT The tranquil panorama of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is undergoing a drastic change from the point of view of 'built environment'. The town of Port Blair had been built mainly with the locally available resources, which gives it a unique tradition of built environment as well as a pattern of utilizing the local resources optimally. In recent years, drastic changes are occurring in the construction of buildings. There is a shift from traditional wooden buildings to concrete buildings mainly due enormous increase in population in the last 50 years or so. Many recently constructed 'modern' buildings are depleting nonrenewable environmental resources leading to a skewed alteration of the traditional built environment. Much of accelerated growth of non-traditional built environment in and around Port Blair needs to be rationalized to maintain the continuity of the islands' tradition of its built environment