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Egypt
December
2025



THE ARCHITECTURE EXPERIENCE

Pyramids of Giza

AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COURSE
ON INFLUENCE OF ANCIENT BUILDING
TECHNIQUES IN EGYPT

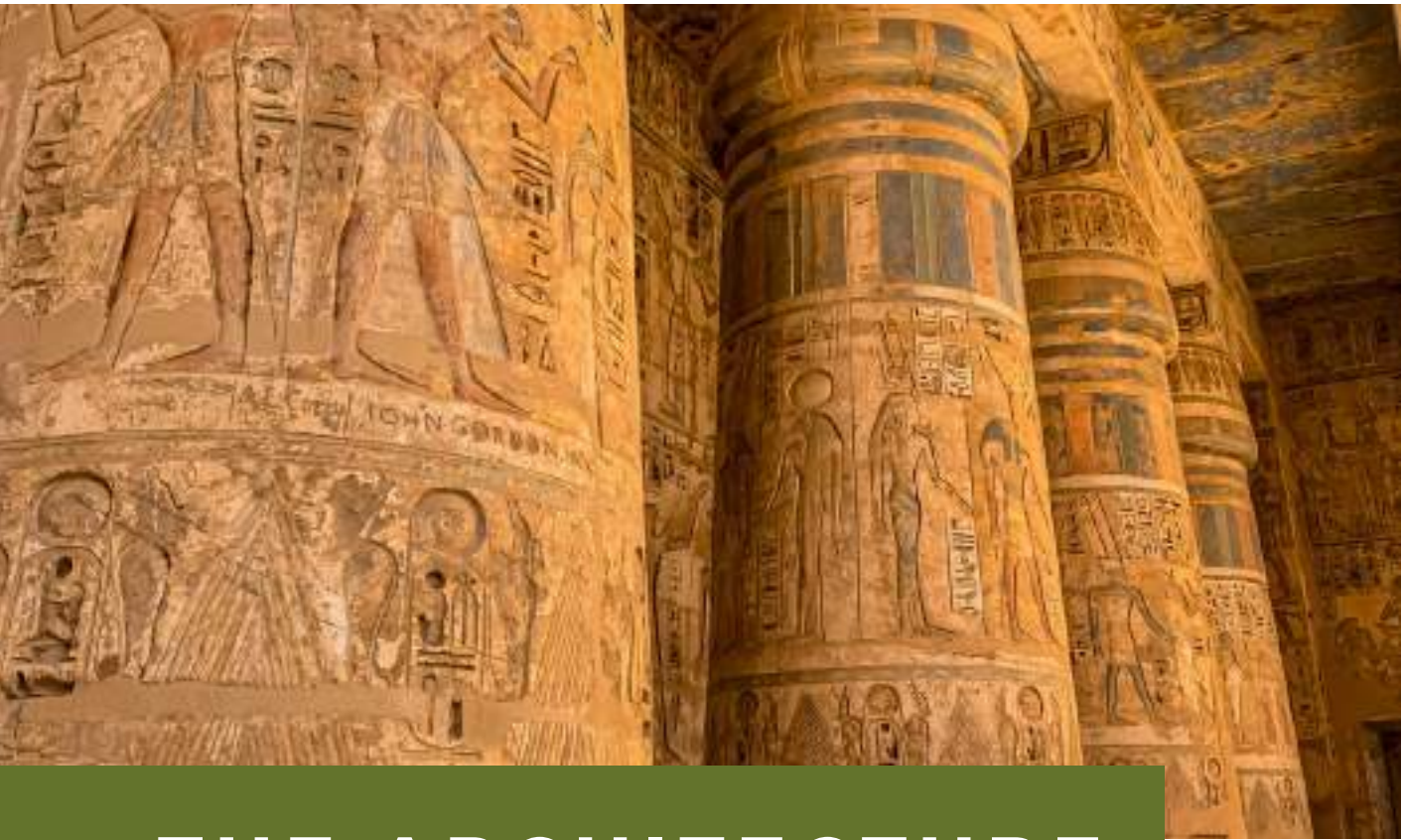


INFLUENCE OF ANCIENT BUILDING TECHNIQUES

The architecture of this ancient civilisation has consistently influenced modern design ideologies worldwide for centuries. It is known to be symbolic, yet functional, and draws a lot of its identity from the relationship between humans and nature, divinity, tradition, climatology and culture. The participants will get to experience the grandeur of these historic structures while studying the intricacies of the finer aesthetic details. Participants can also observe how different cultures, religions, art, and socio-politics of a region have a direct impact on its architecture.

Why Egypt?

Many of the basic principles of architecture, such as symmetry, balance, proportion and geometric harmony, can be studied in the monuments of Egypt. The grand scale of historical monuments like the Pyramids of Giza or the Temple of Isis at Philae gave birth to numerous building technologies and innovations that are still used in construction today. Participants will also get to observe techniques like the ancient stormwater management and drainage systems that laid the foundation for the design of contemporary urban infrastructure. One of the key principles in sustainable architecture today is the seamless integration of buildings with their surrounding landscapes, which can be observed clearly in Egyptian architecture.



THE ARCHITECTURE EXPERIENCE

Mortuary Temple
of Ramesses III
(Medinet Habu)

The best approach to growing as an architect is to learn from experiencing and observing. **The Architecture Experience** aims to do just that. Participants get to experience one of the foundations of architectural history, building innovation, modern engineering, and construction technology.

These visits will help in understanding the influence that the architecture of such an ancient civilisation has on modern-day design by focusing on the evolution of material usage and design principles over centuries. The visits will also help the participants understand the development of sustainable building practices, like the integration of buildings with their surrounding landscapes, that have been used historically and that can play a major role in contemporary practices.

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**15 DAYS,
20 PARTICIPANTS**

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IMPORTANT PLACES VISITED



PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

The Pyramids of Giza are one of the greatest architectural marvels of the ancient Egyptian civilisation. The Great Pyramid complex includes three monumental pyramids, the monolithic statue of the Great Sphinx, and several cemeteries. Located on the banks of the River Nile, the Great Pyramids are the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and were built as funerary structures for the royals.

For centuries, archaeologists have studied these sites to understand the actual construction of the pyramids, which remain a mystery even today. There are numerous theories with regard to the time taken to build these structures, the amount of labour used, the movement of material from quarries, and the building techniques utilised.



BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA

This majestic 85,000 sqm library sits along the picturesque ancient harbour of Alexandria. The beautiful hand-carved stone facade of this circular building pays homage to the ancient library that was built by Alexander the Great over 2000 years ago. It is 11 storeys tall and is one of the largest open libraries in the world, hosting numerous public events. The facade of the building itself is considered a piece of art with its use of Egyptian monolithic granite and intricate carved details.

Today, the library plays an important role as a gathering space for cultural and social activities. It has established itself as an academic powerhouse not only in Egypt but also in the Mediterranean region.

IMPORTANT PLACES VISITED



LUXOR TEMPLE

The Luxor Temple is considered to be the oldest temple in Egypt, standing tall for over 3500 years. This temple was designed as a place of worship for the coronation of pharaohs and was used as such for many centuries. This sandstone structure boasts of beautiful Egyptian symbolism and optical illusions. This temple is one of the best-preserved ancient monuments in Egypt, with a lot of the structure and bas-relief work still intact.

The temple is considered to be a masterpiece of art, history and architecture, highlighted by a complex design and functional planning. The temple bore witness to the changing culture of Egypt and the influence of these different eras can be seen in its architecture.



ASWAN HIGH DAM

Opened in 1971, the Aswan Dam is an important example of Egyptian architecture, engineering and technology towards flood protection and water management along the river Nile. This colossal rock-fill dam is almost 4 kilometres in length and 111 meters high above the bed level and has one of the highest reservoir capacities in the world. This project had been envisioned over many centuries by numerous emperors, but it was finally built with the help of the Soviet Union between 1960 and 1970. Its strategic location helps prevent flooding, aids in the irrigation of many cities and also generates hydroelectric power for millions of Egyptians.

The construction of the dam resulted in the creation of Lake Nasser, one of the world's largest man-made lake spanning over 5000 square kilometers.



CAPSTONE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project work by the
October 2019 batch - A pop
up pavilion design

The experience is designed with the intent of enhancing architectural understanding, by creating a hands on and interactive learning layer on top of a curated travel plan. Throughout the trip, participants will visit architecturally relevant sites.

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**ON TOUR
DISCUSSIONS,
ON SITE
OBSERVATIONS,
ASSIGNMENTS AND
FEEDBACK**

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They will explore methods of observation and documentation while focusing on the basic principles of architecture and understanding their impact on modern global design. They will be given a design project in which they will have to conduct a basic SWOT analysis and identify areas and come up with solutions that could be enhanced by ideologies of climatology and sustainability. Participants will engage with the curator in daily sessions and discussions. Participants will also get to engage in dialogue with professionals from local agencies and draw parallels with their design approach back home in India.



Great Sphinx and the Pyramid, Giza

WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

Participants get to understand ancient building materials and construction technologies and how to draw parallels with contemporary architecture in India and across the globe. Participants will document and consolidate their observations, engage in critical thinking and design exercises, and build a repository of knowledge created over the experience.

**“ RELEVANT PROJECTS,
INTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES,
UNDERSTANDING OF
ANCIENT BUILDING
TECHNIQUES ”**

Post the trip, this work may be published and exhibited with collaborating organisations and media outlets.

From a learning perspective, participants get to understand how their domain of interest approaches sustainability, and how they can work towards Sustainable Development Goals in their projects.

At the end of the Experience, participants will have an improved practical understanding of what they study in college and learn how to implement these strategies into their own project, enhancing their portfolios.

Participants may also get internship opportunities from our partners.

EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

DAY 1

Arrival in Cairo

Orientation on the structure of the tour visits and the project.

Cultural visit: Khan el-Khalili Bazaar and Al-Mu'izz Street, El Tahrir Square.

DAY 2

Topics of discussion: Understanding the historical context, heritage, and culture of Egypt.

Places to visit: Giza Pyramid Complex, including the Great Pyramid of Giza, and the Great Sphinx.

DAY 3

Topics of discussion: Understanding traditional context and functionality.

Places to visit: Ibn Tulun Mosque, Mosque and Madrasa of Sultan Hasan, Al-Rifa'i Mosque, Saladin Citadel (Cairo Citadel).

Cultural visit: Al Azhar Mosque.

DAY 4

Topics of discussion: History of Egyptian architecture and the influence of various religions.

Places to visit: All Saints' Cathedral, Fostat Traditional Crafts Centre, Jameel House of Traditional Arts Centre, Hanging Church.

Cultural visit: Coptic Cairo, Cairo Opera House.

DAY 5

Topics of discussion: Traditional material usage and its feasibility in modern construction.

Places to visit: The Grand Egyptian Museum.

Cultural visit: People of Egypt Walkway.

DAY 6

Topics of discussion: Energy-efficient design strategies in public spaces.

Places to visit: Sabil-Kuttab of Muhammad Ali, Abdeen Palace Museum.

Cultural visit: Dawar El Ezba Cultural Centre.

DAY 7

Free Day

Arrival in Alexandria

DAY 8

Topics of discussion: European influence on the architecture of Egypt.

Places to visit: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Serapeum of Alexandria, Ancient Roman Theatre of Alexandria, Pompey's Pillar.

Cultural visit: Souq as Samak Al Qadim.

DAY 9

Topics of discussion: Understanding how a city can be defined by its architectural identity.

Places to visit: Sidi Morsi Abu al-Abbas Mosque, Qaitbay Citadel.

EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

DAY 10

Arrival in Luxor

Topics of discussion: The history and significance of Egyptian funerary architecture.

Places to visit: Valley of the Kings (Tomb of Tutankhamen), Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, Tombs of the Nobles (Tomb of Ramose), Ramesseum.

DAY 11

Topics of discussion: Preservation and restoration of historical structures.

Places to visit: Luxor Temple, Karnak Temple, Avenue of the Sphinxes.

Cultural visit: Karnak Temple Sound & Light Show.

DAY 12

Arrival in Aswan

Topics of discussion: The uniqueness of Nubian architecture and its influence on modern-day building techniques.

Places to visit: Nubian Museum, Unfinished Obelisk.

DAY 13

Free Day

Cultural visit: Abu Simbel.

DAY 14

Topics of discussion: Understanding the role of the environment and geography on architecture.

Places to visit: Temple of Isis at Philae, Aswan High Dam, Kalabsha Temple.

Cultural visit: Nubian Eco Village.

DAY 15

Arrival in Cairo

Culmination of the tour.

Departure to home country.



Curator -
Ar. Rachita Bhonsle
(B.Arch)

CURATOR & TOUR LEADER

The Architecture Experience Egypt is curated by Rachita Bhonsle, who will also be accompanying the participants on the tour. Rachita is a senior architect at a private firm which specialises in high-rise buildings and high-density residential communities. She has a background in environmental policy management, sustainable design, and energy-efficient planning.

Rachita has worked mainly in the residential, hospitality and educational sectors. She is passionate about climatology-based design, the environmental impact of built spaces and sustainable site planning. These principles have driven her work for the last decade.

Timeline

- 2007-2012 B.Arch, MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore
- 2012-2014 Vishwannath Associates, Bangalore
- 2015 Graduate Certificate Program in Environmental Policy and Management – Major in Energy and Sustainability, University of Denver, Colorado, USA
- 2016 Rogue Architecture, Wheatridge, Colorado
- 2017-2023 Poornakriti Architects, Bangalore
- 2021 - Sustainable Site Planning, MITx
- 2024 - How to use Biomimicry in Architecture, Eduwik
- 2024 - Sustainable Building Design, MITx

ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

KRIYA SHAH

4th Year, Appasaheb Birnale College Of Architecture, Sangli
Participant - The Architecture Experience Sri Lanka (Oct 2023)

This was a productive trip, and everything was enjoyable and worth it. Especially the Heritance Kandalama and Lunuganga site visits, and the meetings with Ar. Palinda and Dominic. I feel my planning and design approach has refined, and service-oriented concepts have become clearer - like how a balance between landscape and built environment has to be maintained. I can say I can implement all of what I learned here in Sri Lanka! It was a fun learning process! Thank you, Ankit - your company was pleasing! I had a good time. And Rachita - will always want to learn from you.

KRASHANG GOSWAMI

4th Year, DIT Dehradun
Participant - The Architecture Experience Singapore (Dec 2019)

The overall experience was excellent. In all the places we visited, the learning experience was highly intuitive. The credits for that could be given to the technological advancements in Singapore, and also to the amazing people who accompanied us on this trip. We got to dive into the Urban development and housing aspects of Singapore. My experience with Reena was amazing. She helped and guided us about everything, and helped us in understanding all the aspects. All the experiences were actually very well integrated, and they complimented each other. So personally, I liked the entire experience. Definitely a 10 on 10!

SARAH SULEKHA

Architect
Participant - The Architecture Experience Japan (July 2023)

The learning experience was not only with regards to architecture, it also included learning about the social and cultural environment. I loved how the trip was very social wherein I got to experience both contemporary and traditional cultures in parallel and also get the opportunity to interact with architects like Florian Busch as well as with the locals. Hats off to Rachita for being so patient and positive in every situation. She made me feel very comfortable and that helped me to have a good time. The team was very enthusiastic and comfortable to work with. The accommodation, transportation and every other basic need was very comfortably organised with the cost in consideration.. The team was very enthusiastic and comfortable to work with. The accommodation, transportation and every other basic need was very comfortably organised with the cost in consideration.

SHHRRUTI JAIN

Architect
Participant - The Architecture Experience Sri Lanka (October 2019)

Studio and site visits were very well organised but what I loved the most were the interactive sessions that we had with various artists and architects in Sri Lanka. Conversations with them were an extremely enriching experience. I got a better understanding in material selection, and the integration of nature in the landscape was eye opening. Prithy and Kshitija curated the experience extremely well and I got to learn a lot from them. About the places as well as the field in general. It was a great experience altogether! Very well planned especially keeping in mind the fact that we were here for a decent number of days and have almost covered everything ranging from the historic places to the modern ones. This trip was worth the money and will definitely influence my design in the future.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

All our Experiences are aimed at implementing and solving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN.

Goal no. 17, Partnerships for the Goals, is key to our Experiences, since we work with a global team of experts to be able to add value to the learning of the participants.

The Architecture Experience focuses on 3 of the Goals primarily -



Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being



Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing
- By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement
- By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production



THE HAPPY LLAMAS

At **The Happy Llamas**, we curate Experiences for participants to show them how their domains work in the real world, and how they approach sustainability. Why?

We believe that the world has a lot to offer, and only on going out and engaging with different cultures in different corners of the world can one get a holistic view of life, and evolve personally and professionally. We also feel strongly about the need to make this planet, the only one that we have, more sustainable.

Keeping these two thoughts in mind, we work with domain and subject matter experts to co-curate Experiences where we inspire today's youth on how to make this world a better place to live for themselves and their peers, and creating positive global impact in their domains of interest.

We invite you to join us in this journey, and be a part of an inclusive and global community of changemakers!

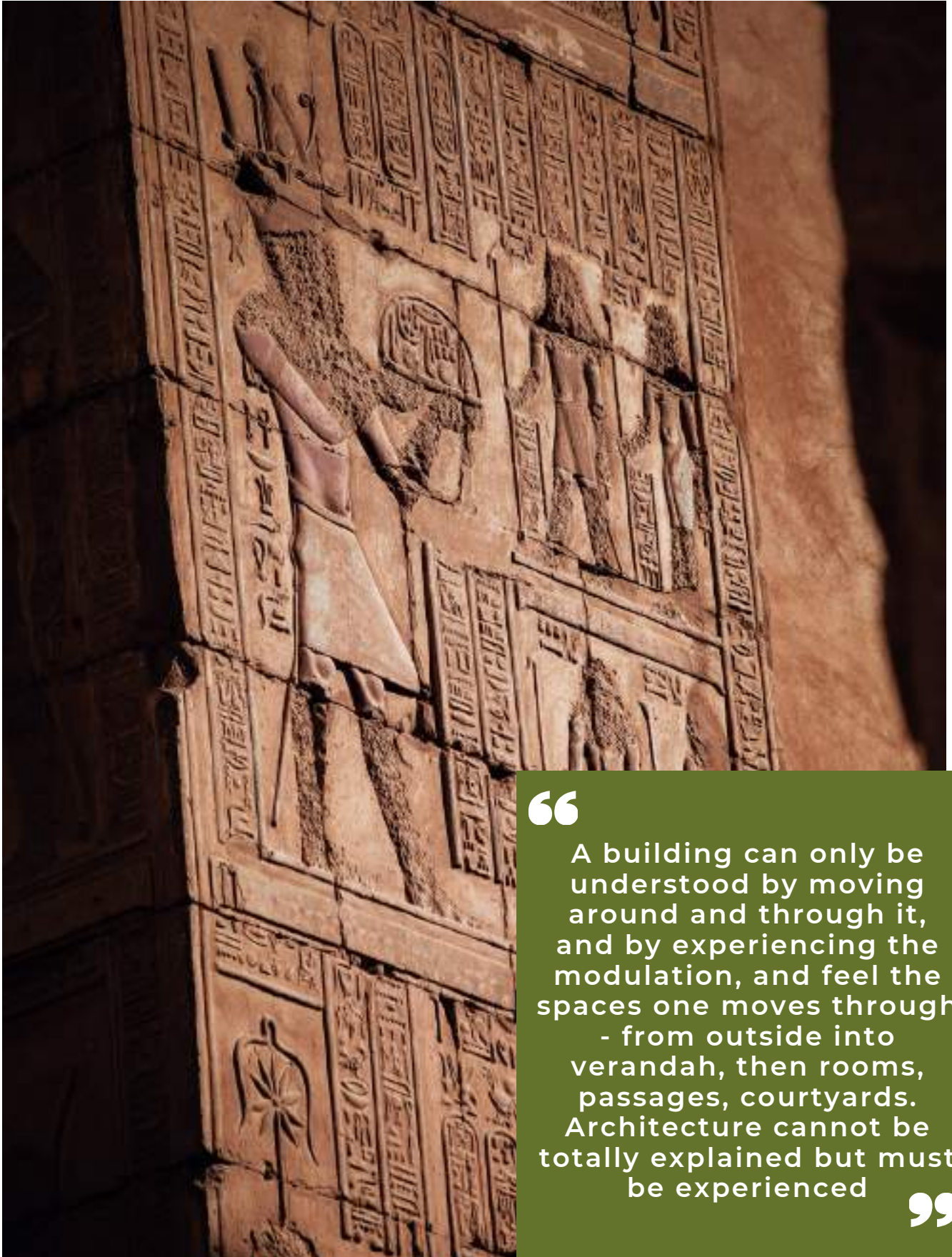
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WE ADHERE TO WORK TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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A building can only be understood by moving around and through it, and by experiencing the modulation, and feel the spaces one moves through - from outside into verandah, then rooms, passages, courtyards. Architecture cannot be totally explained but must be experienced

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GEOFFREY BAWA

Egyptian hieroglyphics at Karnak Temple, Luxor