

## **An Artistic Exploration of Jain Havelis in Bikaner: A Blend of Opulence and Spiritual Values**

**Sonu Pareek**

Research Scholar

Tantia University, Sriganganagar-335002 (Raj.), India

**Dr. Sonia Rani**

Assistant Professor

Sriganganagar-335002 (Raj.), India

### **Abstract**

This paper presents an artistic exploration of Jain Havelis in Bikaner, Rajasthan, India. These opulent mansions, built by wealthy Jain merchants, exhibit a fascinating blend of architectural grandeur and spiritual values. Through a detailed analysis of their architectural features, decorative elements, and the socio-cultural context of their creation, this study examines how Jain aesthetics are interwoven with the pursuit of material comfort. The paper investigates the interplay of opulence and asceticism in these structures, exploring how the lavish lifestyles of Jain merchants are reconciled with the principles of their faith. By examining the use of Usta and Aala-Geela art, the intricate carvings, and the incorporation of religious symbolism, this study sheds light on the unique artistic and cultural significance of Jain Havelis in Bikaner, offering valuable insights into the intersection of art, religion, and social history.

***Keywords: Jain Havelis, Jain Architecture of Bikaner, Decorative Elements, Usta and Aala-Geela Art, Opulence and Asceticism, Spiritual Significance of Jain Havelis.***

### **1. Introduction**

Bikaner, a city steeped in history and cultural richness, boasts a remarkable architectural heritage, particularly evident in its magnificent Havelis. These opulent mansions, built by wealthy merchants and aristocrats (Prasad, 1987; Jain, 2004), stand as testaments to the city's prosperous past. Among them, the Jain Havelis (Fig. 1 & 2) occupy a unique position, showcasing a fascinating blend of architectural grandeur and deep spiritual values. Characterized by intricate carvings, vibrant colors, and a harmonious integration of art and religion, these structures offer a captivating glimpse into the lives and beliefs of the Jain community in Bikaner. Magnificent Havelis have been built by prominent Jain merchant families such as: Rampurias, Dhadhhas, Kotharis, Banthias, Baidis, Sethias, Chopras, and Nahata. This paper delves into an artistic exploration of these Jain Havelis, examining how they exemplify a remarkable confluence of opulence and asceticism, reflecting the unique ethos of Jainism within the context of material prosperity.

Jain Havelis of Bikaner exhibit the following unique characteristics:

- Blend of Opulence and Asceticism
- Intricate Carvings and Usta and Aala-Geela Art (Kochar & Quadri, 2010)
- Integration of Jain Philosophy (Muni Nyayavijayji, 1998)
- Social and Cultural Significance

In this exploration, **Qualitative Research Method** (Kothari, 2004; Marczyk et al., 2005) was selected for collecting and analyzing research data. Steps followed were: (1) Archival Research, (2) Sample Selection, and (3) Field Work and Observations. After deep archival research, a sample of Jain Havelis was selected on the basis of their historical significance, architectural characteristics, artistic ornamentations, and symbolism. Photographs of artistic elements, decorative motifs, carvings, and paintings were taken. Visual analysis of these photographs was performed to gain the insight of architectural features, decorative elements, and the socio-cultural context of their creation.

## **2. Historical and Socio-Cultural Context**

To fully appreciate the artistic and spiritual significance of Jain Havelis in Bikaner, it is crucial to understand the historical and socio-cultural context of their emergence (Glynn, 2001). Bikaner, a princely state founded in the 15th century, witnessed a period of significant economic and cultural growth under the patronage of the Rathore rulers (Goetz, 1950). This period saw the rise of a prosperous merchant class, including a thriving Jain community. The Jain merchants, known for their entrepreneurial spirit and adherence to strict ethical principles, played a crucial role in the economic development of Bikaner. Their wealth and patronage fostered a flourishing artistic and cultural milieu, leading to the construction of magnificent Havelis that reflected both their material success and their deep-rooted spiritual values.

### **Historical Overview of Bikaner**

Bikaner, a city steeped in history and cultural richness, was founded in 1488 by Rao Bika, a Rajput chief of the Rathore dynasty. He established the city as an independent principality, carving out a kingdom in the arid Thar Desert region of Rajasthan. The early years of Bikaner were marked by struggles for survival against neighboring kingdoms and adapting to the harsh desert environment. However, strategic alliances with the Mughal emperors, particularly under the reign of Rai Singh (1571-1611), brought significant political stability and territorial expansion to the state.

The strategic location of Bikaner on important trade routes connecting Central Asia with the Indian subcontinent played a pivotal role in its economic development. The city flourished as a center of commerce, with merchants engaged in trade of spices, textiles, and other valuable commodities. This thriving trade fostered a prosperous merchant class, including a significant Jain community.

The Jain merchants of Bikaner were renowned for their entrepreneurial spirit, business intelligence, and adherence to strict ethical principles. They played a crucial role in the economic growth of the state, contributing significantly to its wealth and prosperity. Their patronage of arts and crafts, including architecture, further enriched the cultural landscape of Bikaner, leading to the construction of magnificent Havelis that stand as testaments to their wealth and cultural influence.

## The Rise of the Jain Community in Bikaner and their Contributions to the City's Development

The Jain community has a long and significant history in Bikaner, deeply intertwined with the city's development. Their involvement in trade and commerce contributed significantly to the city's prosperity.

- **Economic Contributions:** Jain merchants were actively involved in various sectors of the economy, including trade, finance, and banking. They established successful businesses, contributing to the city's wealth and economic stability.
- **Philanthropy and Patronage:** The Jain community was known for its philanthropic activities. They generously supported the construction of temples, religious institutions, and charitable organizations. Their patronage of arts and crafts, including architecture, significantly enriched the cultural landscape of Bikaner.
- **Social and Cultural Influence:** Jain values of non-violence, compassion, and respect for all living beings had a significant impact on the social and cultural fabric of Bikaner. The Jain community promoted education, literacy, and social reforms, contributing to the overall development of the city.

The rise of the Jain community in Bikaner was a pivotal factor in the city's economic and cultural development. Their contributions to trade, philanthropy, and social welfare have left an enduring legacy on the city's history and identity.

## The Socio-Cultural Context of Jainism and its Influence on the Architectural Style of the Havelis

The socio-cultural context of Jainism significantly influenced the architectural style of the Havelis in Bikaner. Jain philosophy, with its emphasis on non-violence (Ahimsa), reverence for all life, and detachment from worldly possessions (Kachchara, n.d.), is subtly reflected in the design and decoration of these opulent mansions.

- **Non-violence (Ahimsa):** This core principle is evident in the careful selection of materials and the avoidance of sharp corners. The use of natural materials like sandstone and wood minimizes harm to living beings during construction. The smooth curves and rounded arches in the architecture also reflect this principle.
- **Reverence for Life:** The intricate carvings and decorations often depict flora and fauna, showcasing a deep respect for nature. The inclusion of motifs like the lotus, a symbol of purity and detachment, further emphasizes the Jain emphasis on reverence for all life.
- **Detachment from Worldly Possessions:** While the Havelis are undeniably opulent, Jain philosophy encourages detachment from material possessions. This is reflected in the incorporation of religious symbols and motifs that remind the inhabitants of the impermanence of worldly pleasures and the importance of spiritual pursuits. The emphasis on simplicity and functionality in certain aspects of the design also reflects this principle.
- **Emphasis on Purity:** Jainism emphasizes purity of thought, word, and deed. This is reflected in the meticulous cleanliness and hygiene maintained within the Havelis. The use of courtyards and open spaces allows for ventilation and natural light, contributing to a clean and healthy living environment.

In essence, the architectural style of Jain Havelis in Bikaner represents a unique blend of opulence and asceticism. While showcasing the wealth and prosperity of their owners, these structures also reflect the core principles of Jainism, reminding the inhabitants of their spiritual values and the importance of living a life of compassion and detachment.

### 3. Architectural Features of Jain Havelis

Jain Havelis in Bikaner exemplify a unique blend of architectural grandeur and intricate craftsmanship. While sharing many features with other Havelis of the region, such as the use of courtyards, Jharokhas (balconies), and intricate stonework, Jain Havelis exhibit distinct characteristics that reflect the aesthetic sensibilities and spiritual values of the Jain community. These structures are characterized by a harmonious integration of form and function, with a focus on creating spaces that are both aesthetically pleasing (Verma & Brar, 2020) and conducive to spiritual contemplation. The intricate carvings, vibrant colors, and the skillful use of materials like sandstone and wood contribute to the overall visual appeal of these magnificent structures, making them a testament to the artistic and architectural prowess of the region.

#### 3.1 Overall Architectural Style:

Bikaner Havelis, including those belonging to the Jain community, exhibit a rich tapestry of architectural elements that are characteristic of the region. Some of the typical features include:

- **Jharokhas and Jaalis:** Jharokhas (Fig. 3), or projecting balconies, are prominent features, offering a view of the street while maintaining privacy. Jaalis (Fig. 4), intricate latticework screens, adorn windows and balconies, allowing for ventilation and filtered light while providing a sense of seclusion.
- **Chhajjas:** Overhanging eaves, or Chhajjas (Fig. 5), are another distinctive feature. They provide shade and protection from the harsh desert sun, while also adding to the aesthetic appeal of the facade.
- **Stone Carvings:** Elaborate stone carvings (Fig. 6) adorn the facades, bas-reliefs (Fig. 7), windows, and balconies of Bikaner Havelis. These intricate carvings depict a variety of motifs, including floral patterns, geometric shapes, and religious symbols.
- **Courtyards:** The central courtyard (Fig. 8) is a hallmark of traditional Indian architecture, and Bikaner Havelis are no exception. These open spaces serve multiple purposes, providing light and ventilation, acting as a social gathering area, and creating a sense of openness within the otherwise enclosed structure.
- **High Wooden Ceilings:** High wooden ceilings (Fig. 9) are common in Bikaner Havelis, contributing to better ventilation and creating a sense of spaciousness.
- **Use of Local Sandstone:** Red sandstone, readily available in the region, is the primary building material for most Havelis in Bikaner. This gives the city a distinctive reddish hue and contributes to the overall aesthetic appeal.

These architectural elements, while common to many Havelis in Bikaner, are often adapted and embellished in Jain Havelis to reflect the unique aesthetic sensibilities and spiritual values of the community.

## Jain Aesthetics reflected in the architectural design

Jain aesthetics are subtly yet distinctly reflected in the architectural design of these Havelis.

- **Emphasis on Simplicity and Functionality:** While opulent, Jain Havelis often prioritize functionality and simplicity over excessive ornamentation. This reflects the Jain emphasis on detachment from worldly possessions and the avoidance of flamboyant displays of wealth.
- **Incorporation of Religious Symbolism:** The architecture and decorations often incorporate religious symbols (Zimmer, 1992) and motifs that are significant in Jainism. These may include:
  - **Lotus:** A prominent symbol of purity and detachment.
  - **Swastika:** An auspicious symbol representing good fortune and spiritual well-being.
  - **Tirthankaras:** Depictions of Jain Tirthankaras (spiritual leaders) may be found in carvings or paintings within the Haveli.
- **Focus on Natural Light and Ventilation:** The design often emphasizes natural light and ventilation, creating a sense of openness and airiness. This aligns with the Jain emphasis on purity and cleanliness.
- **Harmony with Nature:** The use of natural materials like sandstone and wood reflects a respect for nature (Coomaraswami, 1934; Sinha, 1995) and a desire to minimize harm to the environment. The integration of courtyards and gardens within the Haveli creates a connection with the natural world.

By subtly incorporating these elements, Jain Havelis demonstrate a harmonious blend of architectural grandeur and spiritual values, reflecting the unique aesthetic sensibilities of the Jain community.

### 3.2 Decorative Elements:

Beyond the architectural framework, the true artistry of Jain Havelis lies in their intricate decorative elements. These structures are adorned with a profusion of carvings, paintings, and embellishments that showcase the skill and creativity of local artisans. Two prominent art forms, Usta and Aala-Geela, are particularly evident in Jain Havelis, contributing significantly to their visual splendor and cultural significance.

#### Usta and Aala-Geela Art

Two prominent art forms, Usta and Aala-Geela, contribute significantly to the visual splendor of Jain Havelis.

- **Usta Art:** This intricate art form involves inlaying thin sheets of gold or silver onto various surfaces, such as wood, leather, and even camel hide (Pareek & Sonia Rani, 2023). The artisans, known as "Ustas," possess exceptional skill and patience, meticulously crafting intricate designs and patterns (Sharma, 2005). Usta art (Fig. 10) adds a touch of opulence and refinement to the Havelis, adorning doors, windows, and other surfaces with shimmering metallic accents.
- **Aala-Geela Art:** This vibrant art form involves painting intricate designs and patterns on walls and ceilings using natural pigments. The name "Aala-Geela" (Fig. 11 & 12) translates to "wet colors," reflecting the technique of applying multiple layers of wet

paint to create a rich and textured effect. Aala-Geela artists skillfully depict a variety of motifs, including floral and geometric patterns, mythological figures, and scenes from daily life. These vibrant paintings add a touch of vibrancy and life to the interiors of the Havelis.

Both Usta and Aala-Geela art forms are deeply rooted in the cultural heritage of Bikaner. These artistic traditions have been passed down through generations of artisans, contributing to the unique aesthetic identity of the city. In Jain Havelis, these art forms are often used to depict religious motifs, stories from Jain scriptures, and philosophical concepts, further enriching the spiritual significance of these structures.

**The decorative elements of Jain Havelis in Bikaner:** showcase a masterful interplay of materials and techniques.

- **Sandstone:** The primary building material, sandstone, lends itself beautifully to intricate carvings. Skilled artisans meticulously carve delicate floral patterns, geometric designs, and intricate figures of deities and mythical creatures onto the sandstone surfaces.
- **Wood:** Wood is another important material used in decorative elements. Intricately carved wooden jharokhas (balconies), doors, and window frames add a touch of elegance and warmth to the Havelis. Usta art, the technique of inlaying gold or silver onto wood, is often employed to further enhance the decorative effect.
- **Plaster:** Plasterwork is used extensively to create intricate patterns and designs on walls and ceilings. Aala-Geela, the vibrant painting technique, is often applied over plaster, creating a stunning visual effect.
- **Decorative Techniques:**
  - **Carving:** A wide range of carving techniques, from delicate filigree work to bold, deep reliefs, is employed to create intricate patterns and designs.
  - **Inlay Work:** Usta art involve inlaying thin sheets of precious metals like gold and silver onto wood or other surfaces.
  - **Painting:** Aala-Geela painting involves applying multiple layers of wet paint to create vibrant and textured effects.
  - **Mirror Work:** Small pieces of mirror are often embedded in the plasterwork, creating shimmering effects and adding a touch of sparkle to the interiors.

These diverse materials and techniques, skillfully employed by local artisans, contribute to the unparalleled beauty and artistic richness of Jain Havelis in Bikaner.

**The carvings and decorations on Jain Havelis in Bikaner:** are not merely aesthetic embellishments; they are imbued with deep religious and philosophical meaning.

- **Depictions of Tirthankaras:** The most prominent motifs are depictions of Jain Tirthankaras, the 24 enlightened spiritual leaders. These figures are often portrayed in meditative postures, symbolizing the path to spiritual liberation.
- **Religious Symbols:**
  - **Lotus:** A ubiquitous symbol in Jainism, the lotus represents purity, detachment, and enlightenment. It emerges from the mud unstained, symbolizing the ability to rise above worldly attachments.

- **Swastika:** This ancient symbol, though often misconstrued, holds auspicious significance in Jainism. It represents good fortune, prosperity, and the eternal cycle of life.
- **Omkar:** The sacred syllable "Om" is often incorporated into the decorative motifs, representing the divine sound and the ultimate reality.
- **Stories from Jain Scriptures:** Scenes from Jain scriptures, such as the lives of the Tirthankaras and their teachings, are often depicted in the carvings and paintings. These narratives serve as reminders of Jain principles and inspire virtuous living.
- **Philosophical Concepts:** The intricate carvings and patterns often symbolize philosophical concepts like impermanence, karma, and the cycle of rebirth. These subtle reminders encourage contemplation and introspection, reminding the inhabitants of the deeper meaning of life.

By incorporating these religious motifs and philosophical concepts, the decorations on Jain Havelis transcend mere ornamentation. They become a visual testament to the faith and values of the Jain community, enriching the spiritual experience of those who reside within these magnificent structures.

While predominantly reflecting Jain beliefs, the decorative elements of these Havelis also showcase a fascinating blend of religious influences. Hindu deities, such as Krishna, are often depicted alongside Jain Tirthankaras. Scenes from Hindu epics, like the Bhagavad Gita, and stories from Hindu mythology are also incorporated into the carvings and paintings. For instance, depictions of Krishna with Gopalas (cowherds), Radha, and cows are frequently encountered. This syncretism reflects the harmonious coexistence and cultural exchange between Jain and Hindu communities in Bikaner. It highlights the shared cultural heritage and the interconnectedness of religious beliefs within the region.

#### 4. Opulence and Asceticism in Jain Havelis

Jain Havelis in Bikaner present a fascinating paradox: they are opulent mansions, built by wealthy merchants, yet they reflect the core principles of Jainism, which emphasize simplicity, detachment, and non-violence. This section explores the interplay of opulence and asceticism within these structures, examining how the lavish lifestyles of Jain merchants are reconciled with their spiritual values. By analyzing the architectural features, decorative elements, and the socio-cultural context, we can understand how these Havelis serve as a testament to the unique blend of material prosperity and spiritual pursuit that characterizes Jainism.

##### 4.1 Opulence

The Jain merchants of Bikaner amassed significant wealth through their involvement in trade and commerce. This prosperity is reflected in the lavishness of their Havelis. These mansions served not only as residences but also as symbols of their social status and economic success.

- **Material Opulence:** The use of high-quality materials like sandstone, marble, and precious metals like gold and silver is evident throughout the Havelis. Intricate carvings, vibrant paintings, and lavish decorations testify to the wealth and extravagance of their patrons.
- **Patronage of Arts:** The Jain merchants were ardent patrons of art and architecture. They commissioned the finest artisans and craftsmen to create these magnificent

structures, fostering a thriving artistic and cultural milieu in Bikaner. This patronage not only resulted in the creation of stunning architectural masterpieces (Kramrisch, 1954) but also supported the livelihoods of countless artisans and craftsmen.

The Havelis stand as a testament to the wealth and prosperity of the Jain merchants and their significant contribution to the artistic and cultural heritage of Bikaner. However, it is crucial to remember that this opulence was not merely a display of material wealth but also a reflection of their social and economic standing within the community.

### **Luxurious materials and intricate craftsmanship in the Havelis:**

Jain Havelis are a testament to the opulence and craftsmanship of their patrons. The use of luxurious materials and intricate techniques is evident throughout these magnificent structures.

- **Luxurious Materials:**
  - **Sandstone:** High-quality sandstone, meticulously carved and polished, forms the foundation of these structures.
  - **Marble:** Inlays of white marble add a touch of elegance and sophistication to the facades and interiors.
  - **Precious Metals:** Gold and silver are generously used in the form of inlays (Usta art), embellishments, and decorative elements.
  - **Fine Woods:** Richly carved wooden Jharokhas (balconies), doors, and window frames add warmth and elegance to the interiors.
- **Intricate Craftsmanship:**
  - **Stone Carving:** The intricate stone carvings are a testament to the skill and dedication of local artisans. Delicate floral patterns, geometric designs, and intricate figures of deities and mythical creatures adorn every surface.
  - **Wood Carving:** Elaborate wood carvings, often embellished with gold leaf, showcase the mastery of local woodworkers.
  - **Aala-Geela Paintings:** The vibrant Aala-Geela paintings, with their intricate designs and rich colors, are a testament to the artistic prowess of local painters.
  - **Mirror Work:** Small pieces of mirror are embedded in the plasterwork, creating shimmering effects and adding a touch of sparkle to the interiors.

The combination of luxurious materials and intricate craftsmanship creates a visual spectacle within these Havelis, showcasing the wealth and artistic sensibilities of the Jain merchants who commissioned them.

### **Haveli served as a display of wealth and social status:**

The Jain Havelis of Bikaner not only served as residences but also functioned as powerful symbols of their owners' wealth and social status. These opulent structures were a conspicuous display of economic success and social standing within the community.

- **Architectural Grandeur:** The sheer scale and grandeur of these Havelis were a testament to the wealth and influence of their owners. The intricate carvings, lavish decorations, and use of luxurious materials were intended to impress and awe visitors, showcasing the owner's affluence and social prominence.



- **Social Gatherings:** The Havelis served as important social centers, hosting gatherings, feasts, and celebrations. These events provided opportunities for the owners to display their wealth and hospitality to their social circles, further solidifying their social standing.
- **Community Recognition:** The construction of such magnificent structures brought prestige and recognition to the Jain community as a whole. It demonstrated their economic success and their significant contribution to the cultural and architectural landscape of Bikaner.

In essence, the Jain Havelis were not merely residences; they were carefully constructed expressions of wealth, power, and social status, reflecting the aspirations and achievements of the Jain merchant class in Bikaner.

## 4.2 Asceticism

Despite their opulence, Jain Havelis are not merely displays of material wealth. They also reflect the core principles of Jainism, which emphasize simplicity, detachment, and non-violence. This section explores how these principles are subtly yet significantly integrated into the design and decoration of these magnificent structures, demonstrating a remarkable balance between material prosperity and spiritual pursuit.

### **Jain philosophy emphasizes simplicity, detachment, and spiritual purity:**

While these Havelis showcase the wealth and prosperity of their owners, they also subtly reflect these core Jain values.

- **Simplicity amidst Opulence:** Despite the opulence, the design often prioritizes functionality and simplicity over excessive ornamentation. This is evident in the clean lines, open spaces, and the absence of ostentatious displays of wealth. The focus is on creating comfortable and functional living spaces rather than simply accumulating material possessions.
- **Detachment from Worldly Possessions:** While the Havelis are undeniably luxurious, they also incorporate subtle reminders of the impermanence of material possessions and the importance of spiritual pursuits. The inclusion of religious symbols and motifs, such as the lotus (symbolizing detachment) and depictions of Tirthankaras (enlightened beings), serves as a constant reminder of the transitory nature of worldly comforts.
- **Spiritual Purity:** The emphasis on cleanliness and hygiene within the Havelis reflects the Jain emphasis on spiritual purity. The use of courtyards and open spaces allows for ventilation and natural light, creating a clean and healthy living environment. The incorporation of religious symbols and motifs creates an atmosphere conducive to spiritual contemplation and introspection.

These subtle yet significant reflections of Jain values demonstrate a remarkable balance between material prosperity and spiritual pursuit. The Jain merchants, while enjoying the fruits of their labor, remained mindful of their spiritual obligations and sought to integrate their faith into their daily lives, even within the confines of their opulent mansions.

### **The integration of religious symbols and motifs within Jain Havelis:**

transcends mere decoration; they serve as powerful tools for spiritual contemplation and introspection.

- **Visual Reminders:** The constant presence of religious symbols like the lotus, the swastika, and depictions of Tirthankaras serves as a constant visual reminder of Jain principles. These symbols subtly guide the thoughts and actions of the inhabitants, encouraging them to remain mindful of their spiritual path.
- **Aids to Meditation:** The intricate carvings and paintings, often depicting scenes from Jain scriptures or philosophical concepts, can serve as aids to meditation. Contemplating these images can inspire reflection on the impermanence of worldly pleasures, the importance of non-violence, and the path to spiritual liberation.
- **Creating a Sacred Space:** The incorporation of religious motifs helps to create a sacred atmosphere within the Haveli. These symbols transform the living spaces into spaces for contemplation and spiritual growth, reminding the inhabitants of their connection to the divine.
- **Intergenerational Transmission:** The presence of these religious symbols and motifs also serves as a means of intergenerational transmission of Jain values. They educate younger generations about Jain philosophy and inspire them to live a life of virtue and compassion.

By carefully integrating these religious elements, the Jain Havelis not only serve as opulent residences but also as spaces for spiritual growth and enlightenment, fostering a deeper connection between material prosperity and spiritual values.

### **5. Conclusion**

The Jain Havelis of Bikaner stand as remarkable testaments to the unique blend of opulence and asceticism within Jainism. These magnificent structures, built by wealthy merchants, are not merely displays of material wealth; they are a harmonious integration of artistic expression, religious values, and social aspirations. Through an intricate interplay of architectural features, decorative elements, and the socio-cultural context of their creation, these Havelis demonstrate how Jain merchants successfully reconciled their material prosperity with the core principles of their faith. The emphasis on simplicity, detachment, and spiritual purity, subtly interwoven within the opulent framework, highlights the profound impact of Jain philosophy on the lives of these merchants. The study of Jain Havelis in Bikaner provides valuable insights into the rich tapestry of Jain art, architecture, and culture, offering a unique perspective on the intersection of material success and spiritual fulfillment. The preservation and conservation of these architectural treasures are crucial for understanding and appreciating the unique contribution of the Jain community to the cultural heritage of Bikaner and Rajasthan.

### **References**

Coomaraswami, Anand K., (1934). *The Transformation of Nature in Arts*. New York: Dover Publications.

Glynn, S. (2001). The haveli: a social history. In G. Tilotson (Ed.), *Stones In The Sand: The Architecture of Rajasthan* (pp. 102-111), The Marg Publication, Bombay.

- Goetz, H., (1950). *Art and Architecture of Bikaner State*, Oxford: Bruno Cassirer.
- Jain, S., (2004). *Havelis: A Living Tradition of Rajasthan*, Gurgaon: Shubhi Publications.
- Kachchara, N. L. *Basic Principles of Jainism*. (<http://www.jainfoundation.in>)
- Kochar, U.C. & Quadri, J.U.H. (2010). *Hazar Havelliyon Ka Shahar Bikaner*. Pustak Mandir, Bikaner.
- Kothari, C.R. (2004). *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*. New Age International (P) Publications, New Delhi.
- Kramrisch, Stella, (1954). *The Art of India*. London: The Phaidon Press Limited.
- Marczyk, G., DeMatteo, D. & Festinger, D. (2005). *Essentials of Research Design and Methodology*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New Jersey (USA).
- Muni Nyayavijayji (1998). *Jain Philosophy and Religion, Tr., Nagin J. Shah*, Motilal Banarasidass, New Delhi.
- Pande, Anjali (2020). Vegetation in Indian Art. *ShodhKosh: Journal of Visual and Performing Arts*, 1(1), 28-38.
- Pareek, S. & Dr. Sonia Rani (2023). Bikaner Ki Prasidh Havelliyon Ke Saundaryikaran Mein Usta Kala Ki Yogdaan. *JETIR*, 10 (4), a435-a443.
- Prasad, S., (1987). *The Havelis of North Indian Cities*. London: Unpublished study for the Visual Islamic Art Unit of the Royal College of Art.
- Sharma, G. (2005). *Bikaner Ki Chitrangan Parampara*. Jawahar Kala Kendra and Kalasan Prakashan, Bikaner.
- Sinha, Amita (1995). Nature in Hindu Art, Architecture and Landscape. *Landscape Research*, 20(1), 3-10.
- Verma, T. & Brar, T. S. (2020). Vernacular Havelis of Bikaner: Indigenous Method for Thermal Comfort. *International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering (IJITEE)*, 9(4S), 172-178.
- Zain, Z. (2018). Tracing the Origin of Jharokha Window Used in Indian Sub-Continent. *Journal of Islamic Architecture*, 5(2), 70-76.
- Zimmer, Heinrich, (1992). *Myths and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilization*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Images Of Jain Havelis of Bikaner



Fig. 1 : Bhairondan Kothari Haveli  
(Source : <https://www.flickr.com>)



Fig. 2 : Chand Mal Dhadhdha Haveli  
(Source : Self)



Fig. 3 : Jharokha (P. C. Kothari Haveli)  
(Source : Self)

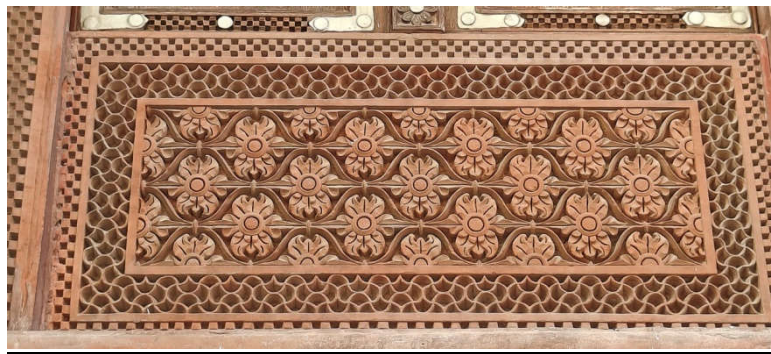


Fig. 4 : Jaali (Banthia Haveli)  
(Source : Self)



Fig. 5 : Chhajja & Chhajwal (Rampurja Haveli)  
(Source : Self)

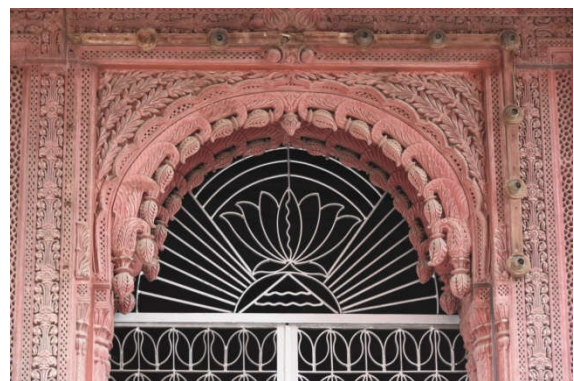


Fig. 6 : Stone Carving (Jaichand Rampurja Haveli)  
(Source : Self)

### Images Of Jain Havelis of Bikaner



**Fig. 7 : Bas-relief (Bhairondan Kothari Haveli)**  
(Source : Self)



**Fig. 8 : Courtyard (Rampuria Haveli)**  
(Source : Self)



**Fig. 9 : High Wooden Ceiling of a Jain Haveli**  
(Source : Self)



**Fig. 10 : Beautiful Usta Art (Rampuria Haveli)**  
(Source : <https://www.flickr.com>)



**Fig 11: Aala-Geela Art (Meghraj Nahata Haveli)**  
(Source : Self)



**Fig. 12: Aala-Geela Art (P. C. Kothari Haveli)**  
(Source : Self)