



## School of Planning of Architecture, Vijayawada

(An institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)  
Survey No.4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada-520008, Andhra Pradesh, India.

### DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

STUDIO PROGRAM AND DESIGN BRIEF			
Course	MACO111 - Conservation Studio-I	Internal assessment	<b>500</b>
Class	M.Arch (AC) 1 <sup>st</sup> Year 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	External assessment	<b>500</b>
Contact hours	15	Total marks	<b>1000</b>
Attendance	75%	Passing marks	<b>500</b>
Faculty: Ar. Sanjay Bhandari (Studio Coordinator) + VF			

### **"Rediscovering Chebrolu's Heritage: Tracing Buddhist Roots and Dynastic Capitals in Andhra Pradesh"**

#### **Summary of the studio**

*Chebrolu is a historically rich village located in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, India. It serves as the headquarters of Chebrolu mandal in the Tenali revenue division. This village is notable for its extensive historical and cultural heritage, reflecting its significance through various periods of Indian history. Chebrolu was once a prominent Buddhist site and served as a territorial capital during the reign of the Kakatiya dynasty. Archaeological excavations in the area have revealed significant Buddhist artefacts dating back to the Satavahana and Ikshavaku periods. During the Satavahana dynasty, the village was known as Tambrapuri, indicating its ancient roots and historical prominence. Another notable name for Chebrolu is Chattúrmukhapuram, coined by Raja Vasireddy Venkatadri Naidu, a zamindar of Chintapalle. This name translates to "the city facing the four points of the compass," reflecting its strategic and cultural importance.*

*In 2019, an inscription in Sanskrit, dated to the reign of the Satavahana king Vijaya (c. 3rd century), was discovered during the restoration of the local Bheemeswara temple. This inscription records construction activities related to a Saptamatrika temple at Tambrape, further emphasizing Chebrolu's historical significance.*

*Several temples were constructed during the reign of Chalukya king Bhima (892-922 AD), and inscriptions from the Chola period, including those of the Velanadu Chodas, have been found here. The region was also influenced by the Eastern Chalukyas, as evidenced by Satyashraya's military campaigns in the area.*

*Chebrolu is home to more than 100 temples, each with great historical importance. One of the most notable temples is the Chaturmukha Brahma Temple, built by*



Figure 1 Sri Chaturmukha Brahma Lingeswara Devalayam, Chebrolu ; Source: SB

*Vasireddy Venkatadri Nayudu. This temple is among the few and earliest in India dedicated to Lord Brahma. Other significant temples include the Nageswara Swamy Temple and Galigopuram, constructed by the Devabhaktuni brothers, Kantanna and Murthanna. Remarkably, Chebrolu also hosts the only Jewish Synagogue in Andhra Pradesh, dedicated to the Children of Yacob, highlighting its diverse cultural heritage. Additionally, a Jain temple of Ananta Jina, mentioned in an inscription by Jayapa from 1213 AD, underscores the village's multi-religious history. The discovery of a large horde*

of Satavahana coins bearing a ship figure with two masts further illustrates Chebrolu's historical importance as a hub of economic activity.

#### References:

- R. Krishna Kumar (25 December 2019). "Earliest Sanskrit inscription in South India found in A.P." *The Hindu*.
- *Andhra Pradesh Government Archaeological Series, Issue 50; Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, 1978, p. 17*
- *Indian Monuments by N.S. Ramaswami, Abhinav Publications, 1971; p.115*
- *Jews and India: Perceptions and Image by Yulia Egorova, Routledge, 2008; p. 119*
- *Jainism in South India by P.M. Joseph, International School of Dravidian Linguistics, 1997; p.59*
- *Revisiting Two Inscriptions from Chebrolu, Andhra Pradesh; Journal of the Asiatic Society LXII, (No.2.):75ff; January 2020*
- *Coinage of the Ikshavakus : a treasure trove from Sekuru (V), Chebrolu (M), Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh by P. Chenna Reddy B. Subrahmanyam, J. Vijaya Kumar, K. Padmanabha ; general editor; January 2011*

#### **The studio program consists of the following stages:**

**Stage 1: Basics/Foundation (Two Weeks)(16/8/-30/8/24):** Orientation to the subject of Architectural Conservation. Fundamentals of site, context, historicity. Introduction to the concept of archival research.

Understanding the Context both contemporary and the context of historic Chebrolu. During the first month of the exercise, students are required to review relevant literature and sources related to various heritage components in Badami, period, style, and historicity which will later proceed to the larger historic context.

Review 1: (25 Marks)

**Stage 2: Observation & Enquiry (Two Weeks)(2/9/24-13/9/24)** Training to observe and making enquiry of a heritage building / monument. Exercises to inculcate critical thinking.

The students need to understand the historic architecture of Chebrolu by examining the various layers of history along with the heritage resources right from historic times to till today. Students must conduct thorough archival research to understand the historical context of Chebrolu. Assimilate the development of Chebrolu over the period of time by detailed investigation and mapping of the identified historic heritage components from archival sources.

Review 2 :(25 Marks)

**Stage 3: Fieldwork & Measure Drawing (Two Weeks) (Phase 1-14/9/24-22/9/24 Tentative)**

Exercise of measure drawing a Heritage structure. Focus on manual documentation techniques and translating site sketches/drawings to presentation drawings.

Students are required to visit Chebrolu Village to examine the various layers of history along with the heritage resources from prehistoric times to the present day. Applying their literature studies and site surveys, ending with an assessment, appraisal and description of Chebrolu's historic architecture. Assess the setting, significance, materials, construction techniques, architecture styles and determinants that shaped the structures.

Review 3 :(75 Marks)

**Stage 4: Understanding a Heritage Building (Five Weeks)(23/9/24-18/10/23)** During this stage, students will study various aspects of heritage buildings in Chebrolu Village, including building types and typologies, materials, construction systems, and architectural influences.

Students will explore different types of heritage buildings such as residential, religious, commercial, and their distinct characteristics. This stage will emphasize how typologies vary across historical and cultural contexts. A detailed study of traditional building materials such as stone, brick, and timber. Focus will be on understanding their properties, durability, and suitability for different architectural styles and periods. Examination of historical construction techniques and systems. Students will learn about load-bearing walls, timber framing, arches, vaults, and other methods that have shaped the structural integrity of heritage buildings.

Review 4: (50 Marks)

Review 5-Mid Semester Assessment (100Marks)

**Stage 5: Associated Intangible Aspects (Three Weeks)(21/10/24-1/11/24)** Deciphering the Intangible Aspects of Heritage Sites

In this stage, students are required to explore the intangible aspects associated with heritage sites, focusing on people, communities, culture, and practices. The objective is to understand the socio-cultural context and significance of heritage beyond its physical attributes.

Review 6: (75 marks)

Review 7 Final Internal Jury (150 marks)

***\*Phase II of field work to be conducted in coordination with stage 5***

Subject experts and local resource persons will conduct lectures and demonstrations on tools and methodologies for deciphering intangible heritage aspects. Topics may include ethnographic research methods, oral history collection, and community engagement strategies. Practical demonstrations on-site to illustrate the application of different tools and

techniques for documenting intangible heritage aspects. Students will learn firsthand how to conduct interviews, gather oral histories, and assess cultural practices.

**Detailed Documentation:** Students will conduct a comprehensive study and documentation of a selected historic heritage building or site. This will include:

- Physical Aspects: Detailed architectural documentation and condition assessment.
- Socio-Economic Aspects: Analysis of the socio-economic impact of the heritage site on local communities.
- Environmental Aspects: Assessment of environmental factors affecting the site's preservation and sustainability.
- Governance Aspects: Examination of governance structures and policies influencing the site's management and conservation.
- Understanding Setting and Significance: Through site visits and documentation, students will gain insights into the setting, significance, and determinants that have shaped the historic building or site.

**Deliverables shall include drawings and report. Progressive presentations shall be made for reviews at various stages.**