

STUDY TOUR REPORT

Submitted By

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Brief Introduction

School of Planning, Architecture and design excellence of Hindustan University organizes study tours each year to learn beyond the classroom. The students are taken to places of historical importance and modern advancement. Learning from our cities is vital while it provides us with wide space information on history, culture, economics, built mass, un-built spaces, technology and infrastructure facilities and also people and their needs. The students are given opportunity to capture these assets for learning through study tours. Students are introduced and entitled to a different world of opportunities and scope. Exploring landmark places and learning what went in designing those buildings are all a part of this study tour package along with fun filled moments.

The students were accompanied by the following faculty members:

1. Mrs. Swetha
2. Ms. Deepthi Krushnika
3. Mr. Karthikeyan

Conduct of the tour

Day 1 June 14th

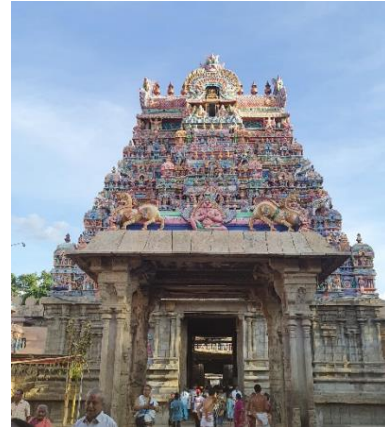
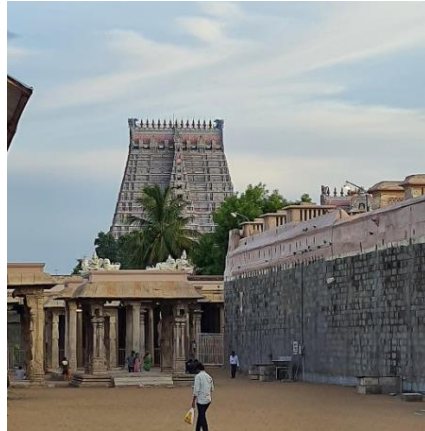
A group of 64 members gathered before the school of building sciences block waiting to board into two buses arranged by TTDC from Padur campus at 6.30 AM. The 7 hr long journey started with lot of excitement and enthusiasm. The hot and humid climate of southern India was felt during the travel. In between the journey, we stopped for breakfast at a hotel in the highways. We reached Trichy at 2.30 in the afternoon and checked into the respective hotel rooms arranged in Tamil nadu tourism hotel in Trichy. After refreshing ourselves, we had a stomach full lunch at a nearby restaurant and gathered at the lobby at 4 PM for site visit.

TIRUCHIRAPALLI: (also called Tiruchi or Trichy) - is an ancient city in India's southern Tamil Nadu state. The kaveri and Kollidam rivers flow around Srirangam Island, which is known for sacred Hindu sites.

Places visited in Trichy:

Sri Ranganatha swamy temple, Srirangam.

Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the Temple Complex is massive in scale and spread over 156 acres (63.131 hectares). According to some scholars, this makes Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple the largest Functioning Temple in the World and is often found ranked amongst the largest religious complexes of the world. The temple occupies an area of 155 acres (63 ha) with 81 shrines, 21 towers, 39 pavilions, and many water tanks integrated into the complex making it the world's largest functioning Hindu temple. The temple town is a significant archaeological and epigraphical site, providing a historic window into the early and mid medieval South Indian society and culture.



Erumbashwarar temple

After dharshan at Srirangam, we visited the erumbeshwarar temple at 7 o clock. **Erumbeeswarar Temple** in Thiruverumbur, Tamil Nadu, India, is a Hindu temple dedicated to the deity Shiva. Built on a 60-foot (18 m) tall hill, it is accessible via a flight of steps. The temple's main shrines and its two *prakarams* (outer courtyards) are on top of the hill, while a hall and the temple tank are located at the foothills.

The day ended when we returned to our hotel rooms for night stay after dinner at the restaurant nearby.

Day 2 June 15th

After spending our night in the hotel room, we got ready in the morning and gathered at the lobby at 7 AM. South Indian complimentary breakfast was served in the restaurant after which we boarded the bus for our next visit.

Rockfort temple, Trichy

Ucchi Pillayar Temple is a 7th-century Hindu temple, one dedicated to Lord Ganesha located at the top of rockfort, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India. Rock Fort temple stands 83 metres (272 ft) tall perched atop a rock. The temple is mystic in its nature with an awe-inspiring rock architecture. The Ganesha temple is much smaller with an access through steep steps carved on the rock and provides a stunning view of Trichy, Srirangam and the rivers Kaveri and Kollidam.



Mesmerised by the breathtaking views from the rock fort temple, we boarded the bus after lunch to take up a tour around the traditional village Karaikudi.

Kanadukathan Chettinad house.

Kanadukathan Palace is a palace situated in Kanadukathan in Sivaganga District, in Tamil Nadu, India. This palace is the composite of art, architecture and tradition. Ornamental lights, teak wood materials, glasses, marbles, carpets and crystals were imported from overseas for

the construction of the building. Valuable teak wood, marbles and granite pillars are found. It has a vast porch. At the entrance beautiful facade is found. On either side of the entrance vast pial, known as 'thinnai'. The doors and the windows which are constructed with the teak wood imported from Burma showcases the beauty of the bungalow. Generally the main doors and entrances of the houses resemble the gateways of the Hindu temples. They are majestic and intricately carved. Potholes are covered with a wire mesh in the streets of Kanadukathan, for rainwater harvesting.



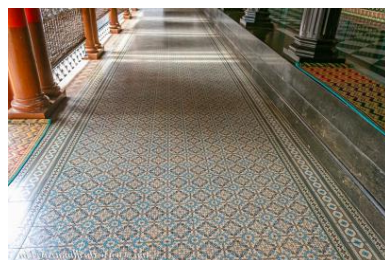
Attangudi palace.

The Athangudi Palace is incredibly grand. And it displays the best of the typical features of a Chettiar home. The open courtyards, elaborate verandah (thinnai) and a gorgeous amalgamation of European and Indian architecture. The stunning mansion has been a location for many Indian films. Japanese tiles blend beautifully with the Athangudi ones while classy Italian marble enhances the colors of these two. The Belgian glass windows create a kaleidoscope of colors on the floor and around the Burma teakwood pillars and doors.



Athangudi tiles factory

After admiring the colourful grandeur of the Athangudi palace, we stopped at the birthplace of those tiles used in the palace. What amazed me was that none of these tiles are made in a bulk. Each one of them is handcrafted. A glass mould is lined with a stencil of the chosen design. This is covered with a mixture of cement and oxides. These oxides are decided based on the colors desired in the tile. Hence, in a single piece, one might have multiple colored mixtures. The entire plate is covered with Athangudi sand but not before removing the stenciled frame. The mould is then curated for 10 days or until the glass plate slips out. Rice husks are used to dry the mix and ta-da! You have one Athangudi tile ready.



After a long tiring day, we boarded the bus and as we snuggled under our blankets, we travelled to Thanjavur, the capital of Chola kingdom.

We checked into the rooms allocated for us in a hotel in Tanjore at 10 PM after dinner and rested peacefully for the night.

Day 3 June 16th

THANJAVUR : formerly Tanjore - is a city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Thanjavur is an important center of South Indian religion, art, and architecture.

Having done with the breakfast at the hotel, we proceeded to visit the Brihadheeshwara temple.

Tanjore Big Temple.

Brihadishvara Temple locally known as Thanjai Periya Kovil, is a Hindu Dravidian styled temple dedicated to the god shiva located in



South bank of Cauvery river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India. It is one of the largest Hindu temples and an exemplary example of a fully realized Tamil architecture. It included gopura, the main temple, its

massive tower, inscriptions, frescoes, and sculptures predominantly related to Shaivism. Built using granite, the vimana tower above the shrine is one of the tallest in South India. The temple has a massive colonnaded prakara (corridor) and one of the largest Shiva lingas in India. It is also famed for the quality of its sculpture and architecture.

Tanjore Maratha Palace.

This was the official residence of the Bhonsle family who ruled over the Thanjavur region from 1674 to 1855. It was originally constructed by the rulers of the Thanjavur Nayak kingdom.

THE SARASWATHI MAHAL LIBRARY in the Maratha palace established around 1700 and located in the premises of the palace, contains over 30,000 Indian and European manuscripts written on palm leaf and paper.



Post lunch at a local restaurant, the place we travelled to is Dharasuram, a place near the southern town of Kumbakonam.

Airavatesvara Temple

Airavatesvara Temple is a Hindu temple of Dravidian architecture located in the town of Darasuram, near Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District in the South Indian state of TamilNadu. This temple, built by Rajaraja Chola II in

the 12th century CE is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, along with the Brihadeeswara Temple at Thanjavur, Temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram that are referred to as the Great Living Chola Temples.



Gangaikonda Cholapuram

Gangaikonda Cholapuram is a Village located near to Jayankondam, Tamil Nadu, India. It became the capital of the Chola dynasty in c. 1025 during the reign of Rajendra Chola I, and served as the Chola capital for around 250years. Chola rulers were patrons of the arts and architecture . They built the temple of Gangaikondacholisvara. The temple has sculptures of exceptional quality. The bronzes of Bhogasakti and Subrahmanya are masterpieces of Chola metal icons. The Saurapitha (Solar altar), the lotus altar with eight deities, is considered auspicious.



After visiting all of the famous historical places of architectural significance, we boarded the bus to return to our college campus at Padur. Our regional study tour came to an end. The 3 day tour culminated with good memories and a great learning experience for the students and the faculties. Students were excited to gather information about the historical sites in order to get it documented for the successful completion of the studio requirements which was allotted to them prior to the trip.

The tour coordinators were very cooperative in arranging guides wherever possible. They made sure we had a comfortable stay and the food served was tasty and hygienic.

Thank you