

UNESCO  
Asia-Pacific Awards for  
*Cultural Heritage  
Conservation*

2021

**Award of Excellence (1)**

**Nizamuddin Basti, New Delhi, India**

**Award of Distinction (2)**

**Jingdezhen Pengjia Alley Compound, Jiangxi, China**

**Kesenuma Historic Citiscape, Miyagi, Japan**

**Award of Merit (3)**

**Doleshwar Hanafia Jame Mosque, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Thai Pak Koong (Ng Suk) Temple, Penang, Malaysia**

**Baan Khun Phithak Raya, Pattani, Thailand**

**New Design in Heritage Contexts (2)**

**Shajing Ancient Fair, Shenzhen, China**

**Songyang Culture Neighborhood, Zhejiang, China**

**Special Recognition for Sustainable Development (4)**

**Shajing Ancient Fair, Shenzhen, China**

**Nizamuddin Basti, New Delhi, India**

**Kesenuma Historic Citiscape, Miyagi, Japan**

**Mrigadayavan Palace Woodshop, Phetchaburi, Thailand**

# Nizamuddin Basti

New Delhi, India



## Special Recognition for Sustainable Development

### Award of Excellence

The Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative in this famed pilgrimage hub demonstrates outstanding achievement in placing heritage at the heart of the sustainable development agenda. The project embodies the exemplary approach of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in leveraging cultural assets for the socio-economic benefit of the historic Nizamuddin Basti community in New Delhi. Through an innovative People-Public-Private Partnership model, the project overcame major socio-economic challenges and improved health, education and well-being, particularly for women and youth. It is notable that the development initiatives preceded the conservation efforts, which encompassed the meticulous restoration of over 20 historic monuments clustered around the 14th-century mausoleum of the revered Sufi saint, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. From conserving monuments to reviving local crafts, improving the urban environment and creating new jobs, the project has brought about the revitalization of the living historic urban landscape in its truest sense.

# Kesennuma Historic Citiscape

Miyagi, Japan



## Special Recognition for Sustainable Development

### Award of Distinction

The inspirational rehabilitation of six historic buildings in Kesennuma from a state of severe damage following the devastating 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake marks a turning point for the town. The project rallied townspeople to restore not only these significant landmarks in the historic urban landscape, but their morale as well. Painstaking efforts to recover building components that were washed away by the tsunami, combined with vernacular construction techniques and skillful seismic retrofitting, resulted in a very high technical standard of work. Now in vibrant use, the buildings symbolize renewed pride of place in this historic seaside community. In the spirit of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the project stands to have a major catalytic impact in advocating the crucial role of cultural heritage in urban resilience and sustainable development.

# Jingdezhen Pengjia Alley Compound

Jiangxi, China



## Award of Distinction

The revival of the historic Jingdezhen Pengjia Alley Compound is a remarkable achievement in the face of mounting urban redevelopment pressures. The project shines a new light on the role of civilian kilns and their associated built and social heritage in the 1,000-year history of the Jingdezhen ceramic production centre. The conservation initiative revived the continuity of use in the neighborhood in a sympathetic manner, through the restoration of the alley-side shops and the conversion of the abandoned courtyard houses and ancient porcelain workshops into a boutique hotel. Detailed research and investigations informed the restoration methodology and adaptive reuse design. The retention and interpretation of significant ancient features such the drying pond contribute to telling the story not only of the compound, but also of this renowned industrial heritage site.

# Doleshwar Hanafia Jame Mosque

Dhaka, Bangladesh



## Award of Merit

The restoration of the Doleshwar Hanafia Jame Mosque on the outskirts of Dhaka sets a welcome precedent for privately-supported restoration and valorizes heritage in a historic village context. Dating to the 19th century, the mosque had suffered from burgeoning pressures from the growing population as well as inappropriate repairs that had compromised the authenticity of the historic architecture. The project reversed the ill effects of prior interventions and restored the original character and aesthetic through the use of traditional artisan skills and materials. The conversion of the mosque into a Quran study centre for local youth ensures its on-going centrality for the community and coming generations.

# Thai Pak Koong (Ng Suk) Temple

Penang, Malaysia



## Award of Merit

The high-calibre restoration of the 200-year-old Thai Pak Koong temple is a noteworthy example of excellence in technical conservation that complements and extends the established high standard prevalent within the George Town World Heritage site. Initiated by the temple committee with broad support from other residents, the project skillfully responded to serious dilapidation problems and inappropriate previous repairs. Careful attention to historic evidence, alongside the use of traditional building techniques and engagement of master artisans from Fujian, ensured the preservation of the temple's authenticity. The refurbished temple, with its splendidly-restored decorative works and historic architecture, has been reinvigorated for on-going use as an important spiritual centre for the Chinese community of Penang.

# Baan Khun Phithak Raya

Pattani, Thailand



## Award of Merit

The loving restoration of Baan Khun Phithak Raya in honor of the clan matriarch has preserved an important chapter in family history as well as a prominent building in downtown Pattani. Extensive research ensured the authentic conservation of the house, in keeping with its original layout, structural system and material palette. Moreover, the findings became the basis for a well-designed heritage interpretation and public education programme, showcasing the contribution by one of the town's many ethnic communities to the multicultural social fabric of Pattani. The revival of the century-old shophouse serves as an inspiration for other homeowners in Southern Thailand in renewing the vitality of urban settlements in the context of prolonged unrest and volatility.

# Shajing Ancient Fair

Shenzhen, China



**Special Recognition for Sustainable Development**

**Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts**

The Shajing Ancient Fair project skillfully employs an “urban acupuncture” approach to insert minimal design interventions and programming at key locations to rejuvenate a traditional commercial settlement dating back to the mid-Qing dynasty. Guided by extensive research on local heritage and socio-economic conditions, the participatory project led to beneficial impacts in improving the well-being of the residents in multiple dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. Restoring the river front and repurposing existing structures and public spaces to create new facilities in a low-cost, low-tech way have strengthened community interactions while respecting the ancient urban morphology. Along with the revival of local lifeways, the project demonstrates the role of urban innovation in sustaining historic urban landscapes in a holistic manner.

*Summary: 9 Winners / Bangladesh (1)/ China (3) / India (1) / Japan (1) / Malaysia (1) / Thailand (2)*

# Songyang Culture Neighborhood

Zhejiang, China



## Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

The Songyang Culture Neighborhood project introduces sensitive urban and architectural design to regenerate public space and reknit together layers of historic urban fabric. Built in a contemporary material palette with appropriate massing and scale, the elegant new walkway and structures create a refined counterpoint between old and new. The new insertions enhance the legibility of the original layout while improving the accessibility and functionality of the complex. Reinstated as a center of communal activities, the Songyang Culture Neighborhood provides an alternative model for urban revitalization that bridges traditional culture and modern daily life without over-commercialization.

## **Mrigadayavan Palace Woodshop**

Phetchaburi, Thailand



### **Special Recognition for Sustainable Development**

Set in the grounds of Mrigadayavan Palace in Cha-am, the new carpentry woodshop engages in a thoughtful dialogue with the historic buildings while evoking a new contemporary spin on sustainable architecture. The minimalist design echoes the proportions and construction systems of the Rama VI-era palace, which itself was an innovative response to the seaside setting using a European architectural vocabulary. Built entirely from recycled timber salvaged from a disassembled building in Bangkok and relying on passive ventilation, the woodshop sits lightly on the site and in harmony with the historic trees. Its use as a training facility for conservation carpenters celebrates Thai timber building traditions and contributes to their continuity.