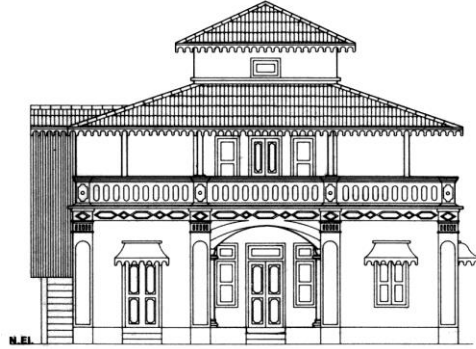


## **Abstract**

# **The Cultural Expression of the Bungalow in India: The Colonial Legacy and its Post-Colonial Manifestation**

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The British and other colonial rulers left a far-reaching impact on the architecture and urbanism in India. Of this colonial legacy, one of the important socio-spatial concepts-the 'bungalow'-remains a dominant house form. Towards the turn of the twentieth century, it emerged as a new generic dwelling type when a major conceptual/cultural shift occurred away from the various existing traditional dwelling systems, bringing about a historical revolution in its plan, form, style and structure. Begun as a basic tropical dwelling by military engineers, it metamorphosed into an imperial house that responded to the transitional technological, political and cultural forces. From a homogeneously conceived spatial lay out, it developed heterogeneous variations (including in the hill stations) at pan Indian level in response to regional climate, mostly hot or humid and culture, almost becoming an agent of social change. It was also influenced by international styles as ideas traveled from overseas.

The suburbs became the new hygienic and ordered landscapes based on modern scientific and philosophical thoughts that modified the urban geography of cities. The bungalow, located in the new suburbs, evolved along with the trajectory of the society, with the changing role of genders, family structures and lifestyles profoundly effecting the spatial organisations. In the cultural production of the bungalow, the European and the indigenous interacted and modified the original type in terms of building materials, technology, craftsmanship and symbolism. The constant theme, however, was the idea of modernity as the Indian society embraced the future. Through empirical research and extensive illustrations this discourse analyses the concept of cultural transfer in the marginalized genre of domestic architectural history in colonial and postcolonial South Asia.