India by Royal Design

A review of Architecture in Victorian and Edwardian India, *edited by Christopher W. London*

Bombayites will tell you that the imposing Victoria Terminus is the most majestic example of British architecture in India; Madrasis claim that title for the massive Law Courts, while Calcuttans see no competition for the magnificent Victoria Memorial. Certainly, each of these three structures is a tribute to the grandeur of British architecture in India.

But, as wonderful as these buildings are, they represent only one extreme of Anglo-Indian architecture —to put it bluntly, they are more Anglo than Indian. Sure, the Victoria Memorial and the Law Courts wear impressive domed crowns, but little else in their structures shows an Indian influence. And Bombay's beloved railway station is far too Gothic to be Asian.

For the finest examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture, one must travel to what used to be India's princely states, where royal families commissioned Western architects to build grand palaces, courts and schools. Perhaps because their patrons were Indian princes—and not the East India Company or the British government—these master-builders allowed Asian influences to shine through in their works. By focusing on many of these buildings, this book gives them the attention they have long deserved.

For this reviewer, the works of Robert Fellowes Chisholm and Charles Mant in the last two decades of the 19th century are the outstanding examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture. A personal favourite is the Mayo College in Ajmer, designed by Mant. Mayo was built for the scions of the princely states, and its grand, sweeping arches and minarets were clearly meant to give the little royal brats a feeling of home. At the same time, Mant was conscious of the fact that Mayo was meant to inculcate the princes with a sense of English discipline—so, the interiors are frugal rather than fancy. Chisholm's most intriguing works are the gorgeous art gallery he designed for the Maharaja of Travancore at Trivandrum, and the stately Senate house in Madras.

When Mant and Chisholm worked together, the result was breathtaking —the sumptuous Laxmi Vilas in Baroda is probably India's finest palace.

Christopher London and his team of authors have obviously gone to a great deal of trouble finding the best examples of Edwardian and Victorian architecture in India, and the articles selected for this book are both interesting and enlightening. It's a pity that many of the photographs don't do justice to the subject.

Finally, it would be intriguing to know how Shyamali, Rabindranath Tagore's mud-house at Shantiniketa (beautiful as it is), qualifies as either Edwardian or Victorian.

Aparisim Ghosh, Far Eastern Economic Review, December 21, 1995

1 What is the writer's opinion of the three buildings in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta?

A They are the best examples of Western architecture in India
B They are not as famous as their British constructors claim them to be
C They do not give a complete picture of the work of Western architects in India
D They give rise to conflicting views among British architects

2 What is so special about the buildings designed by Western architects in India's former princely states, according to the writer?

The architects...

A were employed by Indians
B lived in India permanently
C had great resources at their disposal
D worked far from the big cities

3 What does the Mayo College look like, according to the text?

A It displays a number of different Asian styles of architecture
B It is imposing on the outside but simple on the inside
C It represents a mixture of modern and antique style
D It looks much bigger on the outside than it really is

4 What is the writer's opinion of the book being reviewed?

A It is mainly of interest to readers with some knowledge of Indian architecture
B The texts are of high quality but the pictures are not
C The articles are thought-provoking even if they do not present any striking new facts
D It gives a superficial overview of British architecture in India

Please turn over

The Tangled Roots of Violence

The failure of expensive prison booms and welfare programs to beat back the historically high violent crime rates of the past 20 years has prepared fertile ground for new approaches to crime control. Encouraged by research that tentatively links a few instances of antisocial aggression with biological abnormalities, some politicians and activists are turning to science, perhaps too hastily, to identify and treat those who are likely to become dangerous.

Take the case of Everett L. "Red" Hodges, a California oil man who has spent more than $1 million to support research that implicates the trace metal manganese as a marker for violent criminal behavior. Hodges was struggling to tame a delinquent son in 1984 when he came across a Science News story on a study that had found high levels of lead, cadmium and copper in the head hair of violent felons. Intrigued, Hodges offered funding to Louis A. Gottschalk, a psychiatrist at the University of California at Irvine, to conduct a controlled study to replicate the results. Analysis of hair clipped from convicted and accused felons at a prison and two county jails in southern California revealed that average levels of manganese were about 3.6 times higher in the alleged felons than in men of similar age and race at local barbershops. "A new paradigm is opening in criminal justice," Hodges says. That judgment may be premature. Critics of Gottschalk's research, published in 1991 in a psychiatric journal, point out that average manganese levels varied from 2.2 parts per million in the prisoners to just 0.71 in one of the groups of jail inmates. Previous studies had found lower manganese levels in inmates than in control subjects

Hodges remains convinced he is on the right track. "Violence can be detected and treated," he argues. In 1987 a mugger fractured the skull of another of Hodges's sons. That year Hodges founded the Violence Research Foundation (VRF) to lobby public officials to experiment with treatment programs that use what he calls "the power of nutrition" to pacify violent criminals.

The VRF found an ally in Senator Robert Presley of California, who pushed through a bill in 1989 authorizing a study of male prisoners by Stephen Schoenthaler of California State University at Stanislaus. In the first part of the study, 402 offenders were divided randomly into three groups and given vitamin-mineral supplements equivalent to the RDA (recommended daily allowance), three times the RDA or a placebo. Preliminary results showed that rule violations among the first group dropped 38 percent during the study. Strangely, the behavior of inmates getting the higher dose did not improve significantly, and violations rose 20 percent among the placebo group.

Although encouraging, the equivocal results are so inconclusive that Schoenthaler has decided not to publish them until he completes further studies with more controls. Hodges, however, has publicized the results widely at conferences and on television talk shows, much to the scientist's annoyance. "We have asked that all reports on the study be embargoed until the final paper goes through the peer-review process," Schoenthaler says, "but Hodges continues to make an example of it."

With two studies in hand, Hodges claims to have the support of former attorney general Edwin Meese, with whom he has met several times, and Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa. "I have an invitation from Utah senator Orrin G. Hatch to come up to Washington as soon as he becomes chairman of the Judiciary Committee," Hodges stated in December.

Trace element deficiencies are just one of many frequently cited but poorly demonstrated claims that nutritional problems can cause criminal and violent behavior. A 1992 report by the Federal Bureau of Prisons stated that correctional facilities in 46 states have incorporated a wide array of dietary intervention and testing programs, even though such programs are perceived by many experts as an incorporation of food faddism into public policy.

Steven Vames and W. Wayt Gibbs,
Scientific American, March 1995

5 What do the authors suggest in the opening paragraph?

A The rising crime rate may be a result of our polluted environment
B It may be wrong to claim that certain individuals are bound to become criminals
C Soft treatment of people regarded as born criminals may be ineffective
D Biologists have almost solved the riddle why certain children become criminals and others not

6 Why did Hodges contact Gottschalk?

A His son had shown him an article which had caught his interest
B He thought Gottschalk could find a cure for his son's mental illness
C His son and Gottschalk had arrived at similar conclusions
D He hoped Gottschalk could find an explanation for his son's misconduct

7 Which of the following statements is in line with Hodges's ideas?

A What you eat may affect your behaviour
B Manganese cures certain psychiatric disorders
C Harder sentences lead to more violence
D Recent research has made it easier to decide if a person is guilty

8 What can be said about the results of Schoenthaler's study?

A They do not support Hodges's ideas in the least
B They show that Hodges's ideas were well-founded on the whole
C They are contradictory and difficult to interpret
D They prove that such studies should not be made

9 Why is Schoenthaler annoyed?

A Hodges has presented the results without his permission
B Hodges has taken all the credit for the success of the study
C Hodges has presented results which are different from the ones obtained by Schoenthaler
D Hodges has negotiated in secret with the Justice Department in Washington

10 What do the writers suggest when discussing "trace element deficiencies" and "violent behavior"? (last paragraph)

A The Federal Bureau should be encouraged to continue its research
B The importance of good health care should be stressed even more
C Thanks to Hodges the authorities are now beginning to treat criminals in a new way
D There may be no link between the two factors mentioned

And here are some shorter texts:

Jersey Investors

The Jersey parliament is preparing to publish a "vigorous and robust" defence of the island's reputation in response to criticisms over the loss of up to £17 million ($26.5m) of investors' money. The island, an offshore centre home to investment funds worth nearly £25 billion, has been accused of failing to effectively police investment companies following the collapse of a fund run by a British trader. Senator Pierre Horsfall, president of the island's finance and economics committee, said the criticisms levelled against Jersey were "misleading, unfounded and untrue".

11 What has Jersey been accused of, according to the text?

A Wasting taxpayers' money
B Neglecting legal control of financial transactions
C Imposing too many regulations on companies
D Allowing foreign investors to take over the nation's industry

Cultural Imperialism

A problem arises from our tendency to regard Western liberal values as universal, while at the same time desiring to safeguard other cultures which subscribe to different values. To encourage the adoption of education, Western medicine, electricity, comfortable housing, let alone promote anti-racism and women's rights in non-Western society, is perhaps an example of Western cultural imperialism.

The question is whether such cultural imperialism is necessarily wrong. Many societies have been eager to adopt Western culture and should surely be free to do so. However, where there is resistance, it is important to respect (if not to accept) the values of those whose attitudes are inimical to our own.

12 What is implied here?

A There can be no excuse for Western cultural imperialism
B There are some things in non-Western cultures that Western culture may benefit from
C Western culture has probably had some beneficial influence on other cultures
D Other cultures will eventually adopt Western standards of value

Edinburgh

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Edinburgh was like nothing so much as a frontier town in the American West. Men from great lords to little lairds regularly went armed and were quick to pursue hereditary quarrels and ancient feuds. As civilisation encroached, the native tendency to dispute everything, combined with the fear of losing national identity after the union with England, led to the legal profession's acquiring an importance here which is impossible to exaggerate. The nation survived in her laws. Edinburgh is still a city of lawyers: what vitality it possesses now resides with them.

13 Why, according to the author, is Edinburgh "a city of lawyers"?

A For centuries the crime rate has been relatively high in Edinburgh
B Lawyers have been much in demand here since the Scots are particularly anxious to protect their rights
C Edinburgh may have attracted the legal profession since the city symbolized the union between Scotland and England
D To be an Edinburgh lawyer has always meant high status

Female Migrants

While migration provides productive labour and an economic lifeline for millions of Asian women, the dramatic plight of unprotected female migrant workers has become an increasing source of public concern as evidence of abuses mounts. A report on the status of Asian migrant women concludes that efforts by sending countries to improve their working conditions are limited in their effectiveness and that more government and international efforts are necessary to guarantee the basic human rights of this vulnerable group.

14 What is stated in the text?

A Illegal female migrants are a growing problem in many Asian countries
B Governments must make it easier for female migrants to find jobs
C Many sending countries deny female migrants basic human rights
D Measures must be taken to give Asian female migrants better protection

Languages

It seems to me that many scholars, tracing languages to historical roots and grouping them in families, unwittingly gave scientific support to the artificial segmentation of humans by culture and 'race'. As I write, I have before me a popular linguistic family tree from the late 1950s, with English, German and Dutch as the uppermost branches and Arabic, Hebraic and Bantu so low that they almost touch the ground.

15 What does the writer suggest about the scholars mentioned?

A They were wrong about the relations between the world's languages
B They classified languages in an unscientific fashion
C They were more interested in races than in languages
D They gave the impression that certain languages were inferior to others

In the following text there are gaps which indicate that something has been left out. Study the four alternatives that correspond to each gap and decide which one best fits the gap. Then mark your choice on the answer sheet.

How Plants Beat Drought

A Savanna plant with a phenomenal ability to endure dry conditions owes its tenacity to a glass-like substance that preserves its cells until the rains return. The discovery, by a Dutch biophysicist and his students, could one day help biotechnologists to develop crop varieties that are less vulnerable to drought.

Like other plants, *Craterostigma plantagineum*, a native of southern Africa, shrivels up when **.....16.....** scarce. But unlike most, it can revive again. Henk van As's team from the Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands think they know why.

Dry conditions mean death for most living tissues because membranes inside cells stick together when the moisture in between them disappears. Even if water returns to the cell, the membranes cannot be **.....17.....** without becoming irreparably damaged.

Scientists in the US suggested some time ago that some living things can survive in extreme drought by using a sugar solution that can dry to form a glassy substance. Glass is a very slow flowing fluid, which can replace **.....18.....** in a cell's structure, so that the cells shrink less than they would otherwise.

Scientists knew that many seeds form glass-like tissue which enables them to survive for months in dry form. Until now, however, no one had seen **.....19.....** exploit the same process.

It turns out that *Craterostigma* uses its stores of sucrose to "vitrify" the fluid around its chloroplasts, the structures within cells where photosynthesis occurs. "We suspected that *Craterostigma* played this trick because we knew it makes huge amounts of sucrose when it is **.....20.....**," says van As.

If the researchers can find out what makes the plant switch on its "vitrifying" process, the genes which are responsible for this process may be transferred to crop species so as to make them more resistant to drought.

Herbert Blankesteijn, New Scientist, 20 July, 1996

16 A leaves are
B samples are
C water is
D heat is

17 A changed
B separated
C created
D treated

18 A sugar
B water
C tissue
D substance

19 A plants
B fluids
C germs
D roots

20 A reviving
B vegetating
C growing up
D drying out

That is the end of the English test. If you have time left, go back and check your answers.