

LAKHAMANDAL STUDY

A study was conducted by a 2nd-year architecture student from the School of Architecture, Planning and Design (SOAPD) at DIT University on Lakhamandal, a place whose name is derived from the words Lakha, meaning many, and Mandal, signifying temple. This site is home to an ancient Hindu temple complex located in the Jaunsar-Bawar region of the Dehradun district. Designated as a monument of national importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the temple is situated 128 kilometers from Dehradun and 35 kilometers from Chakrata on the Mussoorie-Yamnotri road, past Kempty Falls. Built in the North Indian architectural style prevalent in the rugged regions of Garhwal and Himachal Pradesh, the temple overlooks the Yamuna River in Lakhamandal village. Additionally, nearby lies a cave known as Dhundhi Odaari in the local Jaunsari language, with "Dhundi" or "Dhund" meaning 'misty' or 'foggy,' and "Odaari" denoting 'cave' or 'hidden place.' Local folklore suggests that the Pandavas sought refuge in this cave to escape Duryodhana.

In a recent study conducted by a 2nd-year architecture student with the faculties of the School of Architecture, Planning and Design (SOAPD) at DIT University, the focus was on Lakhamandal, named after "Lakha," meaning many, and "Mandal," signifying temple. The study delved into the neighboring precinct of the ancient Hindu temple in Lakhamandal. Through thorough investigation, the students identified and proposed several bylaws interventions aimed at enhancing the surrounding area. These interventions likely address aspects such as urban planning, landscape design, or architectural considerations to contribute positively to the overall environment and experience of the temple and its vicinity. The study reflects a commitment to both architectural education and community improvement.



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In a noteworthy study conducted by a 2nd-year architecture student in collaboration with the faculties of the School of Architecture, Planning and Design (SOAPD) at DIT University, the focus was on the Katarmal Sun Temple. Built in the 9th century CE by the Katyuri rulers, this temple holds immense cultural and historical significance. Recognized as a sacred site, it has been declared a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958. The unique feature of the Katarmal Sun Temple is that the first rays of the sun directly illuminate its premises, adding to its spiritual aura. The study extended to the neighboring precinct of the temple, where students diligently investigated and proposed various bylaws interventions. These interventions likely aim to preserve and enhance the cultural and architectural heritage of the surrounding area, ensuring a harmonious blend of tradition and contemporary practices. This research underscores the commitment of DIT University's architecture students to contribute meaningfully to the preservation and development of historical sites.



