

# Experiencing Udaipur

Landscape & Urbanity



Earthscapes Consultancy Pvt Ltd

## Experiencing Udaipur: Landscape & Urbanity

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## Preface

India stands at the crossroads of two apparently conflicting paths: conserving natural resources for future or continuing development that deteriorates natural resources. One cannot profess a simple solution to complex issues that scourge the country. When presented with a unique opportunity to develop an institution of national importance – a temple of learning that lights our future path, the vital question is that of setting out exemplary processes.

This document was initiated in response to our firm's landscape development design workshop for the Indian Institute of Management Udaipur (IIMU) held at Udaipur in January 2013. Vastu-Shilpa Consultants had recently won the competition for master planning and comprehensive design of IIMU. The masterplan of IIMU is inspired by Udaipur's inherent interaction with its ecosystem – the lake system, due to which the latter is known as the Venice of India.

The core strategy of the masterplan is to invoke the idea of Udaipur through development of water bodies on the campus, and create great public spaces around them, not just for campus residents but also for general public at large. The water bodies are a part of the water security strategy which defines the landscape development of IIMU. In order to translate a functional landscape into a landmark idea, we naturally turned to study of Udaipur's public spaces. The design team documented Udaipur's old city to understand

various facets of urbanity that make traditional towns a haven for social interaction. The resulting document allows one to experience Udaipur through visual media, and deciphers the language of experiencing Udaipur. Important experiential aspects like landmarks, views & vistas, level differences, frames, scales, background-foreground relationships and nodes were studied for four representative spaces.

Great public places encountered in Udaipur old city exhibit overlapping uses of public spaces, and movement is always negotiated along multi-activity spines that allow one's vision to fluidly change between ground plane and the sky in designed sequences typical of hilly fort cities. Variety and interest is achieved by modulating the proportions of datum, sky and vertical surfaces along the movement spines and in sequential nodes within each district. The open spaces character of a hot arid town consisting of shaded narrow streets and tight openings: "chowks" create an eccentric grid that blends itself within the city's topography. Most of these streets are non-motorable and best traversed by foot. Each change in direction and junction is layered with a node having an important public emblem or vista, allowing a distinct pause. Overall, the old city allows residents to balance their life inside and outside buildings while increasing social interaction.

Sandip Patil

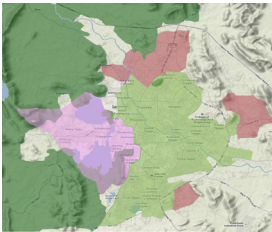
10 June 2013



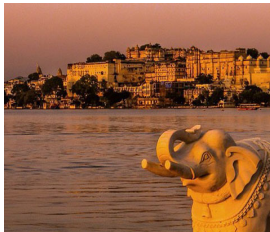


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City map



City palace



Lake pichola



Fateh sagar



Jagdish chowk

# INTRODUCTION

## About the city

Udaipur also known as the city of lakes is one of most incredible city. It is the largest in the area with a population of over a half a million. The city is in a bowl-shaped basin located on the eastern flank of the hilly Aravalli ranges having distinctive features of the lakes, geographically secluded position due to the natural enclosure formed by the surrounding hills and the altitude.

Udaipur is a popular tourist destination in India. The lakes, palaces and lively workplaces and culture attract foreign and domestic visitors.

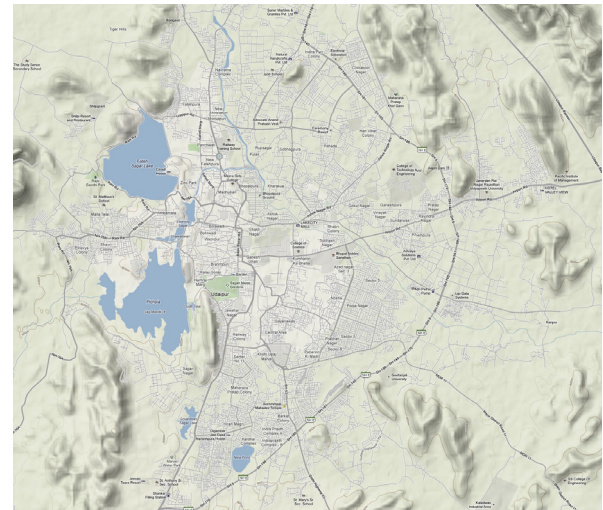
City is often called 'Venice of the East'. The Lake Palace (Jag Niwas) located in the middle of Pichola Lake is the finest example of architectural and cultural marvel. The grand City Palace on the banks of the lake along with the Monsoon Palace (Sajjan Garh) on the hill above enhances the beauty of this magnificent city. Udaipur is also the centre for performing arts, crafts and its famed miniature paintings. The Shilpgram festival is a great crowd-puller on new year.

Location - 24.58°N 73.68°E

Area - 64 km<sup>2</sup>

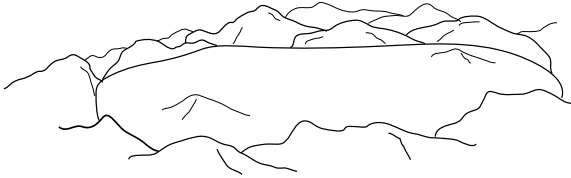
Elevation - 600 m

Population - 3,067,549

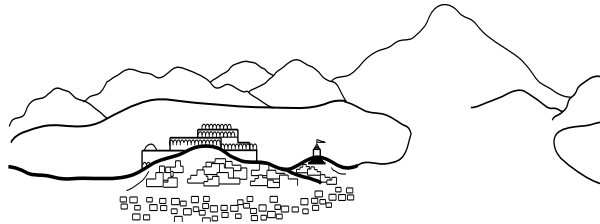


Udaipur City & its environs

## Growth Of Udaipur



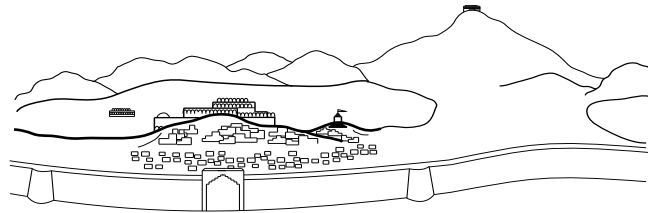
The site was chosen because of its bowl-shaped terrain. Enclosure of hills provided protection from natural elements and outsiders as well as created a pleasant micro climate.



Jagdish Temple was built further down from the palace. By the end of the 16th century, a cluster of houses appeared around the palace.

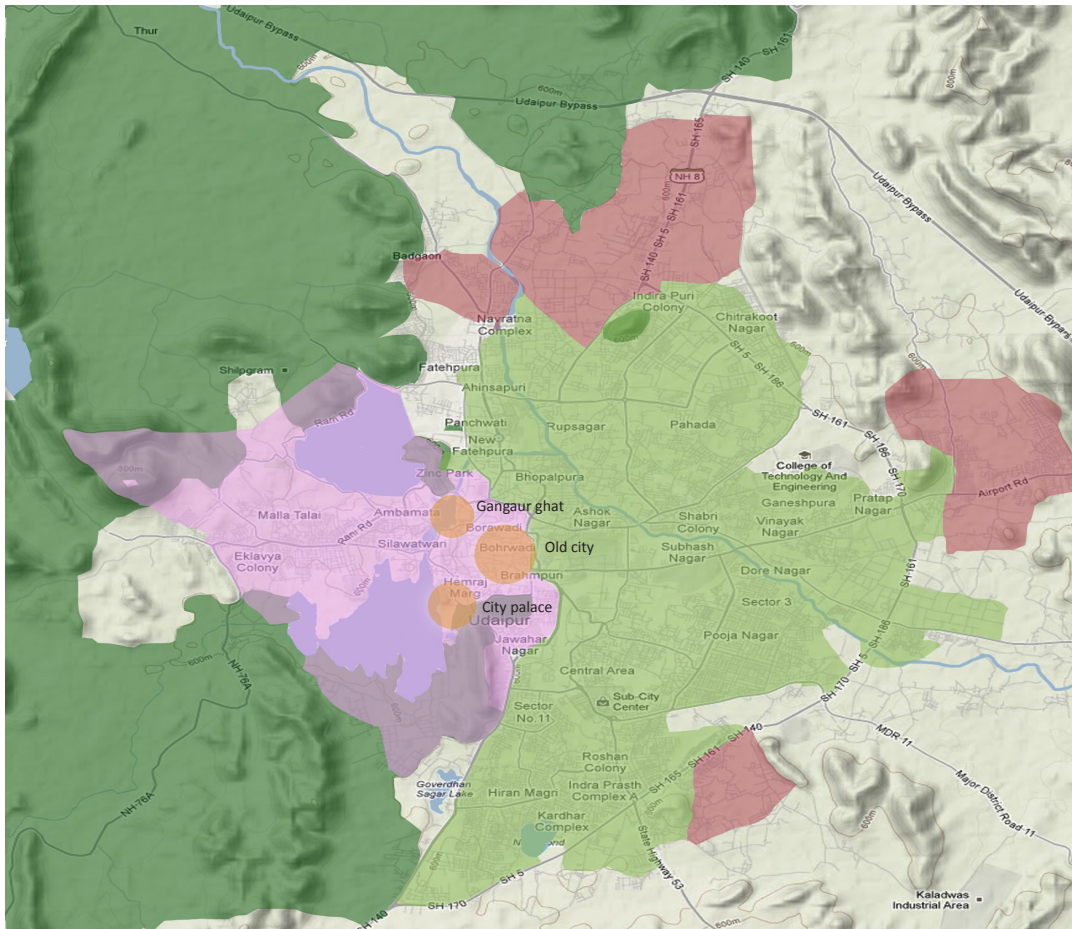


In 1559 Maharaja Udaisingh moved from Chittorgarh and founded Udaipur. City Palace of Udaipur, the seat of political power, was positioned at the highest level on a rock mass that overlooked lake Pichola on its eastern edge.



Over a period of time, different communities built houses on the sloping terrain forming their own community groups. The city was enclosed within massive boundary wall 'SEHAR KOT'. Beyond the fort wall, city started growing towards west.





## City map

This map shows evolution of Udaipur and its landmarks. The city is currently expanding towards east due to scarcity of land on the western side

### Legend

- Old city
- New city
- Expansion
- Centre of Tradition

# EXPERIENCING THE CITY

## JAGDISH MANDIR

Jagdish Temple is a large Hindu temple and a big tourist attraction. The temple was originally called the temple of Jagannath Rai.



Street looks like a jumble of colors – houses, shops, bazaars, snarling traffic and dhabas – all drenching you in a thick coat of religious fervor and enthusiasm.



OLD CITY STREETS

## NEW CITY STREETS

Fast transformation of Udaipur into a modern city is transforming the streets to grow at breathless pace to serve the city.



## JAGDISH CHOWK

Jagdish chowk is the oldest and busiest chowk of Udaipur, as well as the main entrance to the city palace museum.

Gangaur Ghat is a stepped promenade leading to Lake Pichola, the biggest lake of Udaipur.



GANGAUR GHAAT

Lake Pichola is an artificial fresh water lake created in the year 1362 AD, and named after the nearby Picholi village.



LAKE PICHOLA

## SAHELIO KI BARI

Saheliyon-ki-Bari (Courtyard of the Maidens) is a water-garden built for ladies of the royal family, and attracts quite a crowd.



## FATEH SAGAR

Fateh Sagar Lake is an artificial lake constructed by Maharana of Mewar.



## SAJJAN GARH

The Monsoon Palace, formerly known as the Sajjan Garh Palace, is a hilltop palatial residence. It offers a panoramic view of the city's lakes, palaces and surrounding countryside.

## CITY PALACE



The City Palace was built in a flamboyant style and is considered the largest of its type in Rajasthan: a fusion of the Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles.

## Travelling through the city starting with Gulab Bagh...

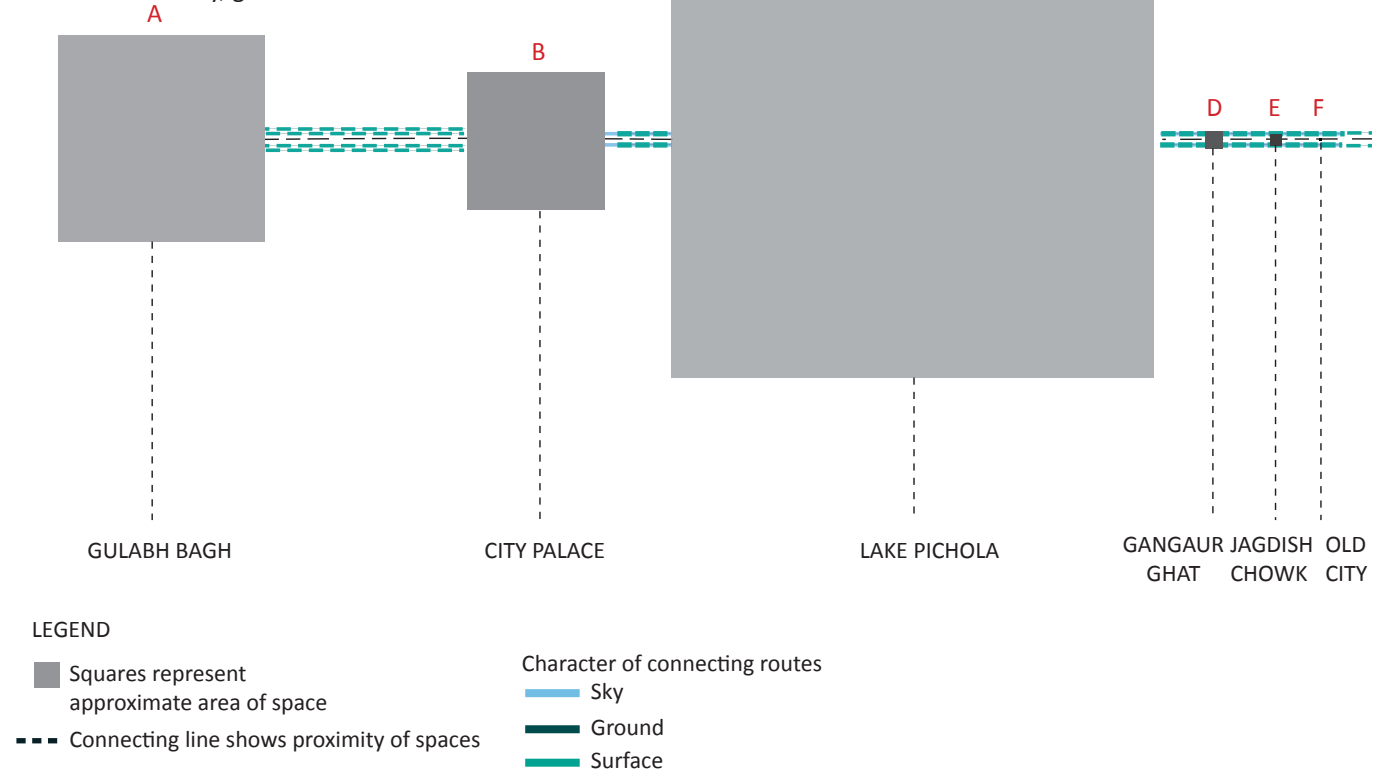


## GULABH BAGH

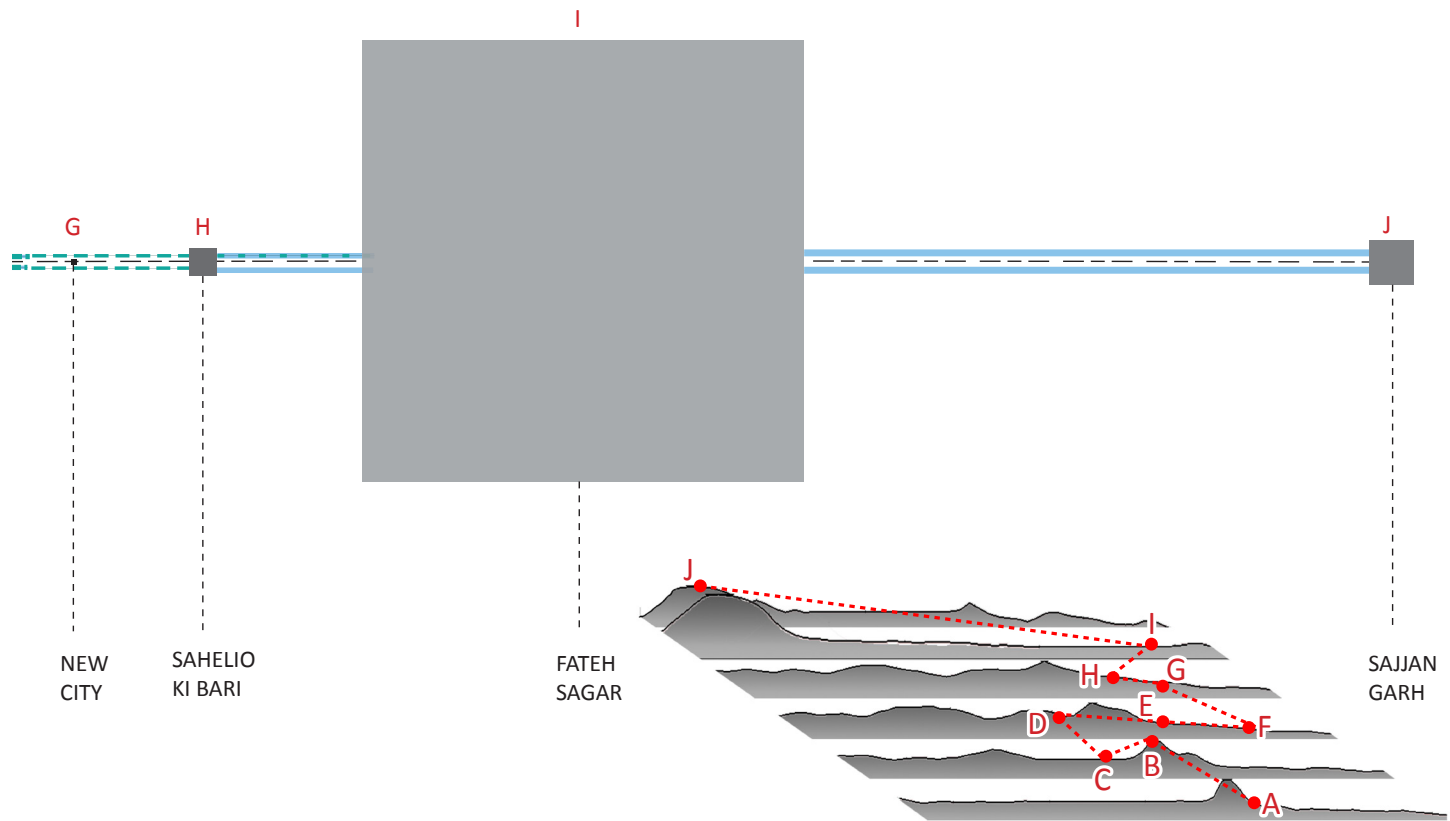
Gulab Bagh (Sajjan Niwas Garden) is the largest garden in Udaipur. It is spread over 40 hectares and has innumerable varieties of roses, from which it gets its name.

## Comparing Scales

The travel route is shown as a single line diagram representing scales of each space on the route along with distances between each space, and character of the travel route in terms of sky, ground and surface content.







Travel route marked on transects of Udaipur to show variations in elevation

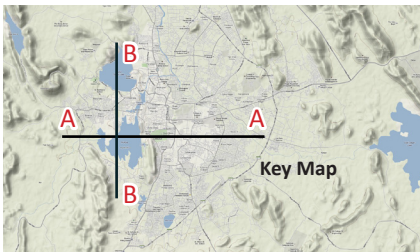
## Transects through Udaipur



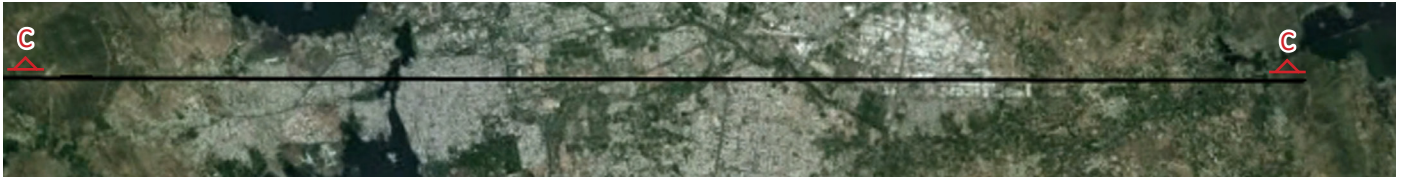
Transect through Lake Pichola and City (A-A)



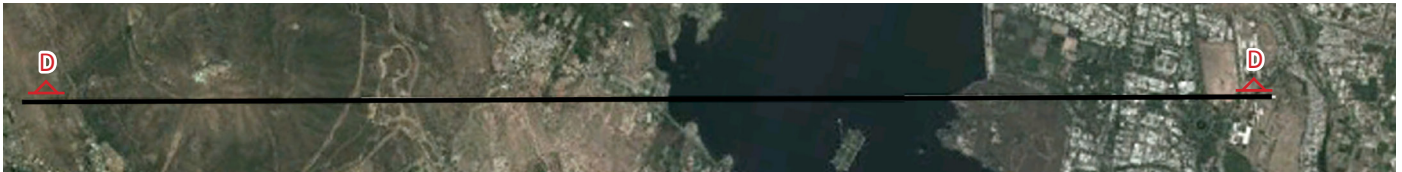
Transect through Lakes (B-B)



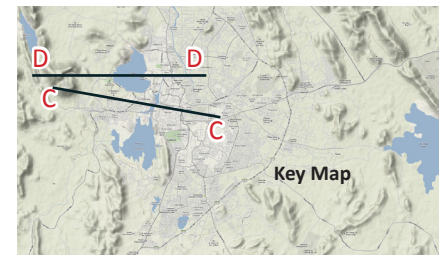
Key Map



Transect through Sajjangarh and City (C-C)



Transect through Sajjangarh and Fateh sagar (D-D)









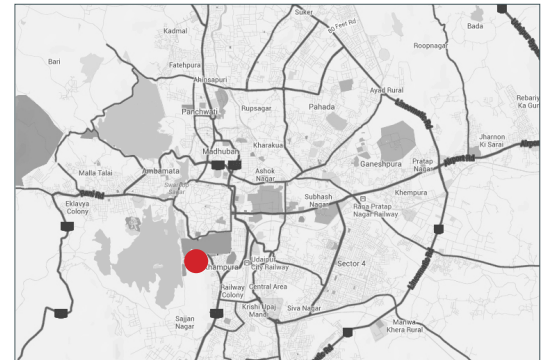
# CITY PALACE

City Palace Complex of Udaipur was built by Maharana Udai Singh to act as the capital of the Sisodia Rajput clan in 1559, after he moved from Chittor. It is located on the east bank of the Lake Pichola and has several palaces within the complex.

A legend is attributed to the selection of the site for the palace complex. Maharana Udai Singh was on a hunting trail in the Udaipur hills, and met a hermit who was meditating on top of a hill above the Pichola Lake. He sought the hermit's blessings, and the former advised the Maharana to build his palace at that very spot.

A series of palaces are packed in the complex, facing east behind an exquisite facade of 244 metres length and 30.4 metres height, were built on a ridge on the east of lake Pichola. They were built over a long period, from 1559 onwards. The Palace was built in a flamboyant style and is considered the largest of its type in Rajasthan, a fusion of the Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles. The complex has been built entirely in granite and marble.

<b>Architectural style</b>	Rajput style
<b>Coordinates</b>	24.576°N 73.683°E
<b>Construction started</b>	1559
<b>Completed</b>	16th century



## Experiencing the City Palace Complex



BADI CHITRASHALI



This courtyard is located between the courtyards of the Badi Mahal and the Mor Chowk, and has perhaps the best view of the Lake Pichola.



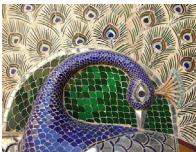
BADI MAHAL

It features a beautiful central garden with flowering shrubs, trees, water basin, fountain and arched pavilions, providing a quiet, shaded spot to rest.

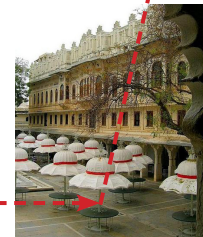


MOR CHOWK

This court is considered the most spectacular in City Palace. Three peacocks adorn the court, which are decorated with works of glass inlay.



ZENANA MAHAL



MARDANA MAHAL

Zenana Mahal or women's quarters has exquisitely designed alcoves, balconies, colored windows, tiled walls and floors.



CHANDRA MAHAL



Chandra Mahal was created by Rana Karan Singh in the early 17th century as a leisure place for the rulers.



RAI ANGAN

Rai Angan is the earliest courtyard of the palace, built by Rana Uday Singh II in the 16th century.

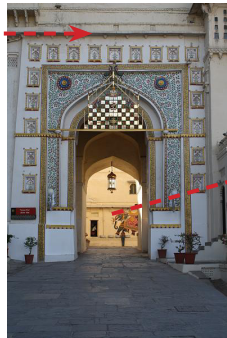


The exquisitely carved, triple-arched Tripoliya (triple arched gate) was built in 1711 AD.

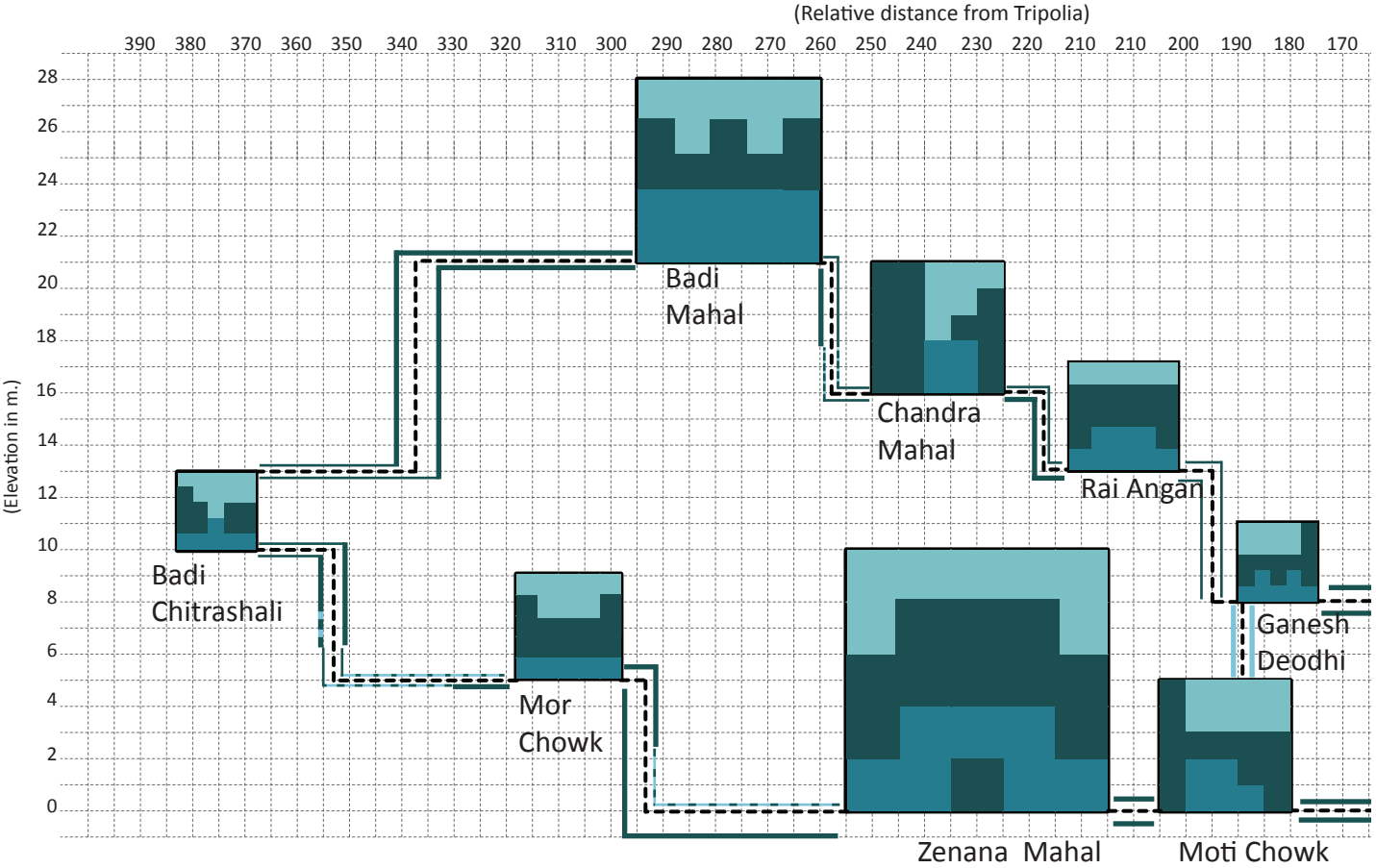


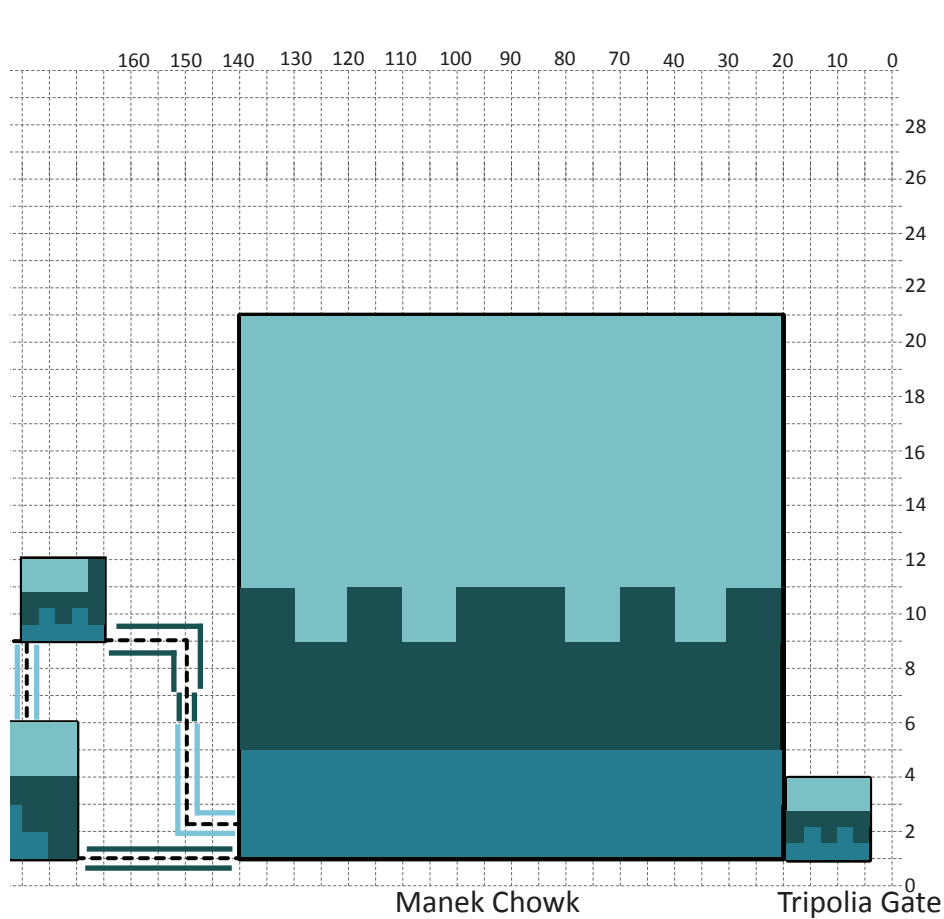
TRIPOLIYA GATE

TORAN POL



# Analysing the experience of City Palace Complex





Scale...surroundings..Sky..Surfaces..Ground  
 Scale..**Surroundings**..Sky..Surfaces..Ground  
 Scale..surroundings..**Sky**..Surfaces..Ground  
 Scale..surroundings..Sky..**Surfaces**..Ground  
 Scale..surroundings..Sky..Surfaces..**Ground**



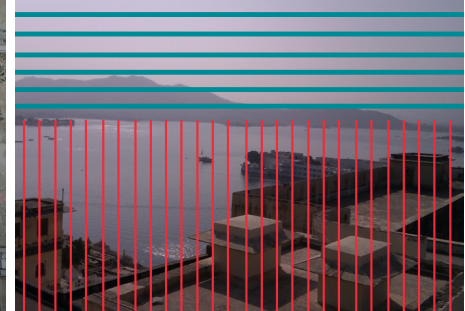
## Deconstructing Views & vistas



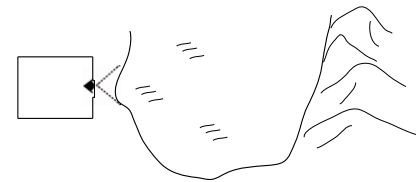
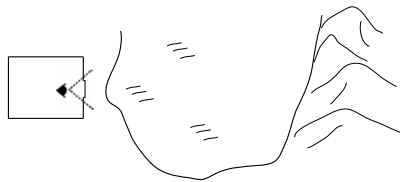
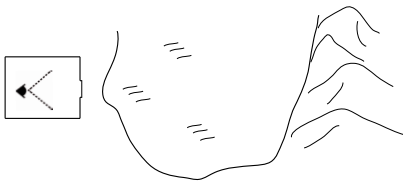
View of Badi Chitrashali from a distance:  
In this view Badi chitrashali itself serves as foreground while lake and mountains are in background.



View near a Jharokha of Badi Chitrashali:  
From this point the viewer feels enclosed by walls of Badi Chitrashali while looking towards Lake Pichola.



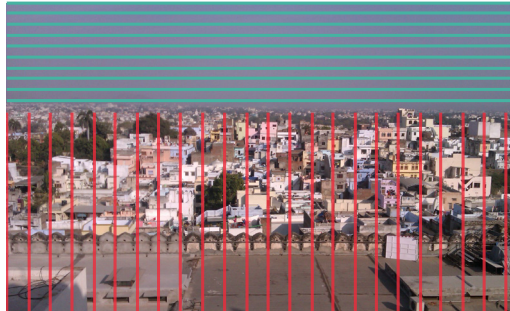
View from a Jharokha of Badi Chitrashali:  
Lake pichola is in the foreground with mountains framing the background, giving a sense of expanse.



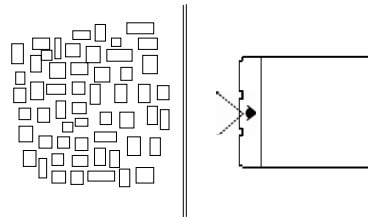
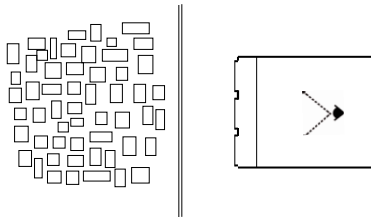
||| Foreground  
||| Background



Foreground is defined by Badi Chitrashali and city is in background.



From the jharoka of Badi Chitrashali:  
City is most prominent and sky acts as the screen of backdrop.



||| Foreground  
||| Background

**Foreground**..background..Sky..Surfaces..Ground  
Foreground..**Background**..Sky..Surfaces..Ground  
Foreground...background...Sky...Surfaces...Ground  
Foreground...background...Sky...Surfaces...Ground  
Foreground...background...Sky...Surfaces...Ground



# LAKE PICHOLA

Lake Pichola is an artificial fresh water lake, created in the year 1362 AD, named after the nearby Picholi village. It is one of several contiguous lakes developed over the last few centuries in and around Udaipur. The lakes around Udaipur were created by building dams to meet the drinking water and irrigation needs of the city and its neighborhood. Two islands, Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir are located within Pichola Lake, and have been developed with several palaces to provide views of the lake.

Three of the numerous lakes found in the vicinity of Udaipur connect with the Pichola lake. Swaroop Sagar is connected by an arched bridge built by Maharana Swaroop Singh (1842-1861) which in turn connects to the Fateh Sagar Lake, the crystal watered lake in the midst of tree lined hills.

The lake's surroundings and the several islands within the lake have been developed over the centuries, with palaces, marble temples, family mansions, bathing ghats or chabutaras.

<b>Coordinates</b>	24.572°N 73.679°E
<b>Type</b>	Freshwater Lake
<b>Catchment area</b>	55km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Max. length</b>	4 km
<b>Max. width</b>	3 km
<b>Surface area</b>	696 ha
<b>Average depth</b>	4.32 m
<b>Max. depth</b>	8.5 m
<b>Water volume</b>	13.08 mcm
<b>Islands</b>	Jag Niwas, Jag Mandir and Arsi vilas



## Travelling along Lake Pichola



City palace - The City Palace Museum is the jewel in the crown of the Udaipur City Palace Complex.



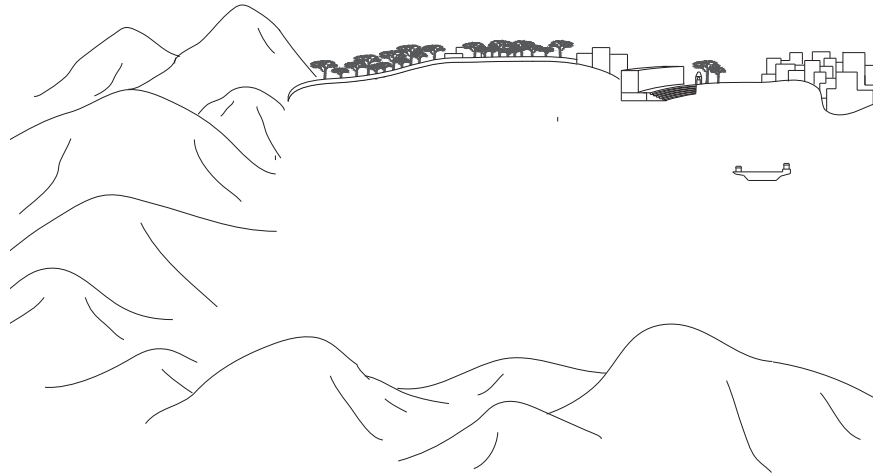
Lake Pichola is enclosed by massive walls, havelis, temples, ghats and gates, pavilions and dwellings that descend down to the water.



Rock and fountain garden from which one can enjoy the sunset view of Lake Pichhola and a panoramic view of old city.

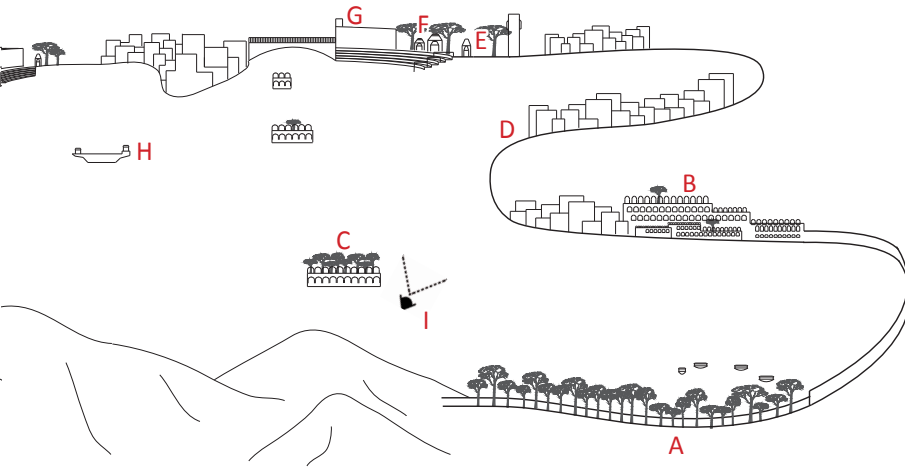


Jag Mandir island in Lake Pichola is known for its garden courtyard. Shah Jahan took refuge here while revolting against his father.



Panoramic View of Lake Pichola and surroundings





Gangaur ghat - Steps leading to the lake, mainly used for cultural activities and for bathing and washing.



Gangaur ghat has temples all around its edge. People take holy dip in the lake after the prayer.



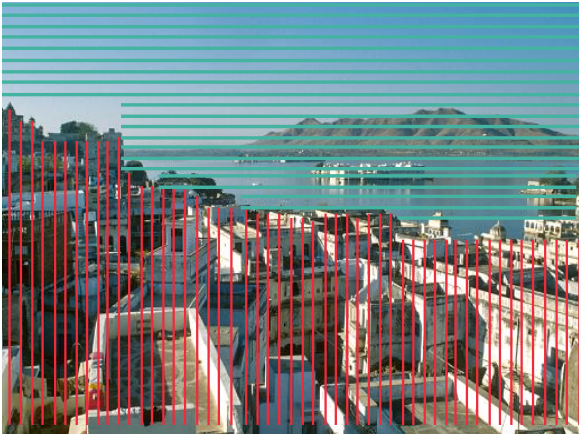
Gateway - City entrance gateway is found on each bridge leading to the old city.



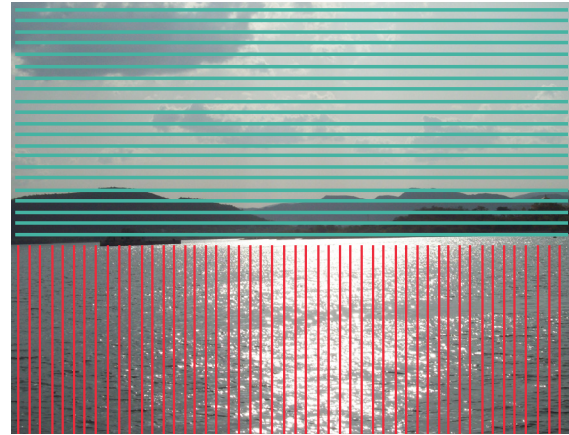
A traditional boat used to celebrate Gangaur festival.



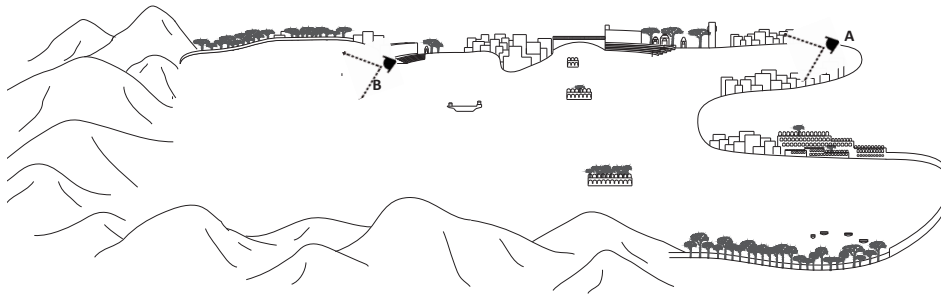
## Deconstructing Views & Vistas



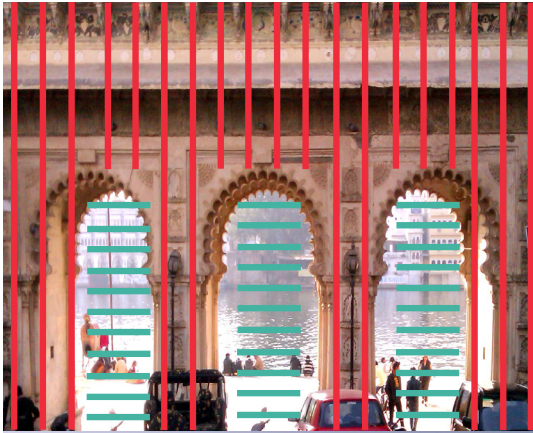
View from city palace:  
the built form dominates the lake edges



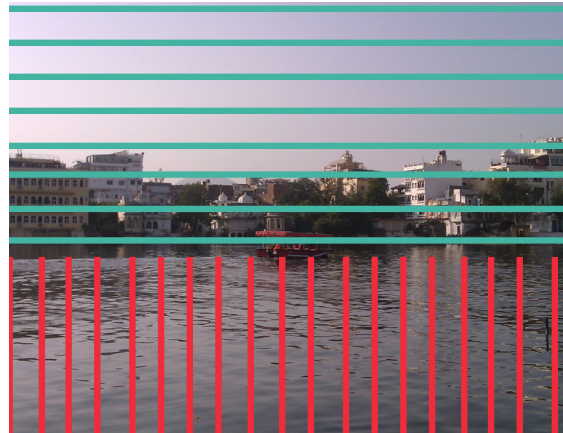
View from the hanuman ghat:  
water touches the edge of the Aravalis



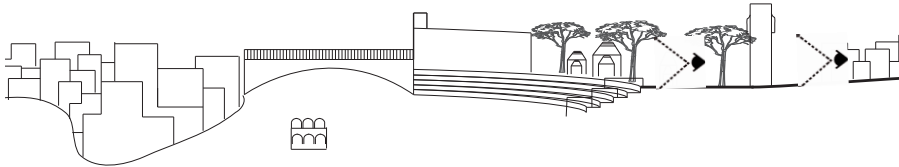
||| Foreground  
||| Background



While looking from the street main gateway streamlines the view of the lake.



In this view from Gangaur ghat, the city seems to emerge from the lake



LEGEND

- Sky
- Surface
- Ground

Sky, Ground and surface content of lake Pichola





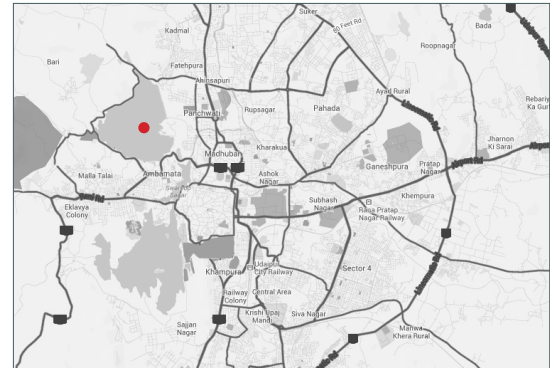


# FATEH SAGAR

In 1687, Maharana Jai Singh first constructed the this lake. Two hundred years later, the earthen bund that held the lake was washed away during floods. Thereafter Maharana Fatah Singh, the ruler of former Mewar State, reconstructed it in 1888. The lake is now named after him - “Fateh Sagar Lake”

Within the confines of the Fateh Sagar are three small islands. The largest of these is the island called the Nehru Park, which is a popular garden with a restaurant and a zoo, accessed by boats from Moti Magri. The second island is the Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO). The third island is the lesser known Aris Vilas.

Type	Artificial lake
Catchment area	54 km <sup>2</sup>
Max. length	2.4 km
Max. width	1.6 km
Surface area	4 km <sup>2</sup>
Average depth	5.4 m
Max. depth	13.4 m
Water volume	2.1 mcm
Shore length	8.5 km
Surface elevation	578 m
Islands	Nehru Park, Udaipur Observatory, Aris Vilas



## Travelling along Fateh sagar



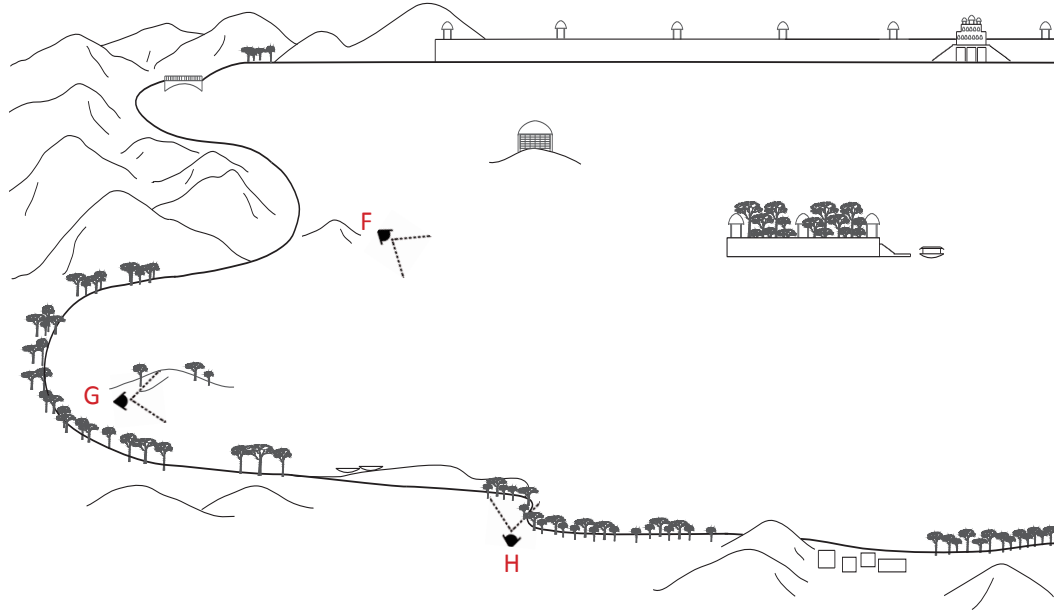
Bombay Market - common hangout place for citizens and tourists

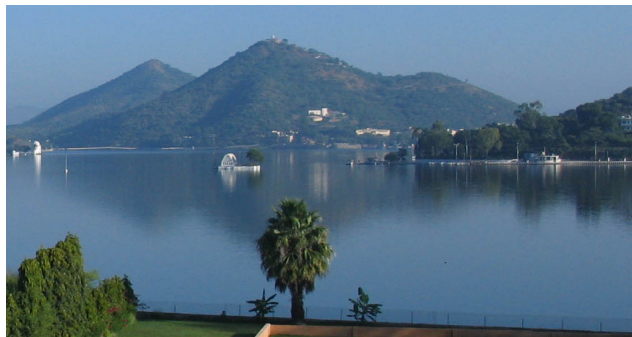
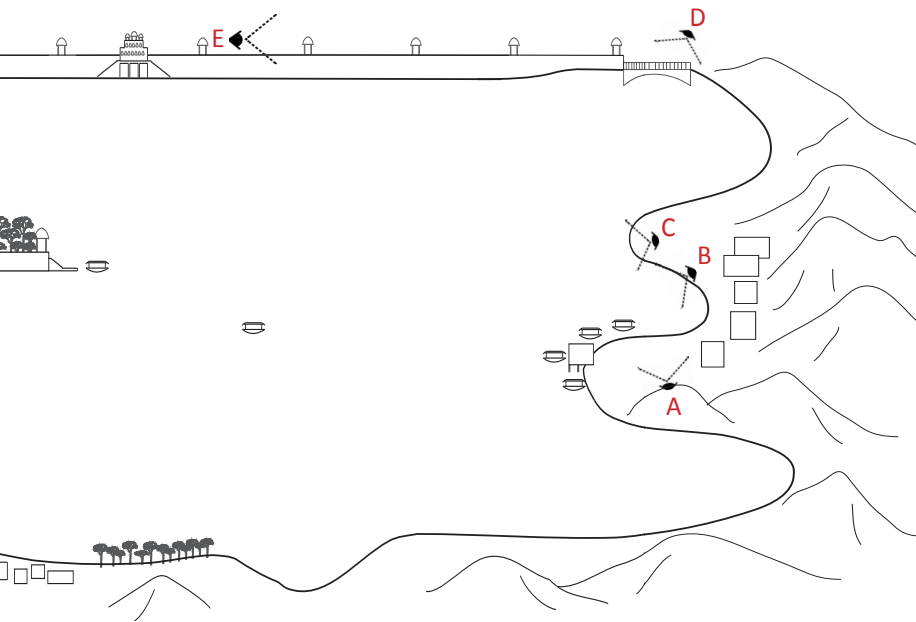


View of nehru garden from Bombay Market



View of sunset from the Paal





View of lake from unbuilt surface at Rani Road



Overflowing water from lake which flows to Ahar river

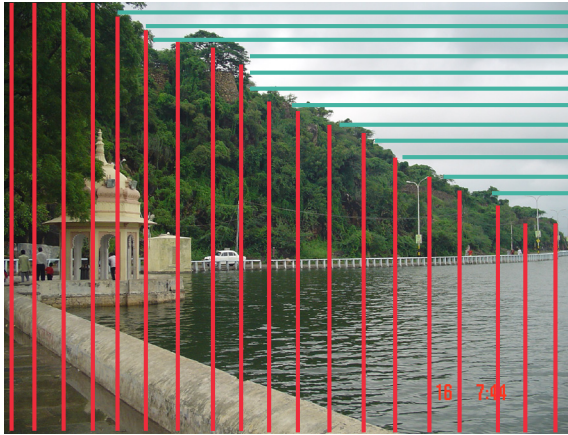


Paal at lakeside is the most famous spot for citizens to socialize and walk



View of lake looking toward Moti Magri

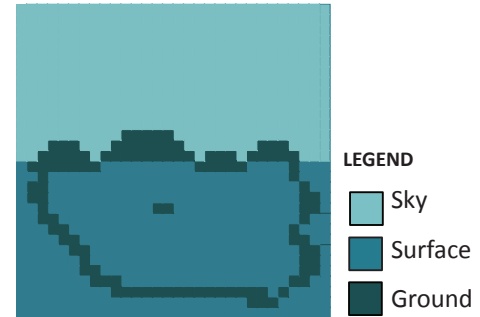
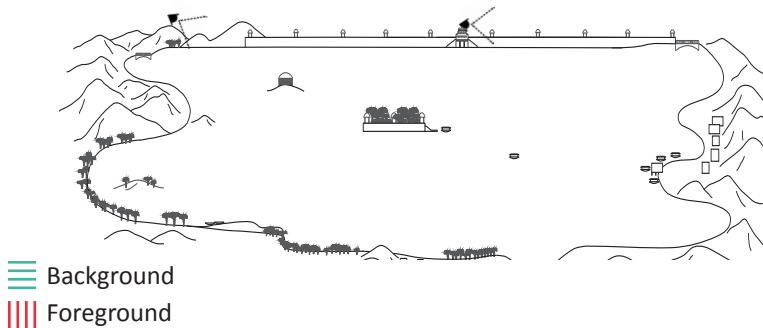
## Deconstructing Views & Vistas



Roads and hills bind the lake with sky as backdrop



This luxuriant vessel harvests water for the city with sky guarding it



Sky, Ground and surface content

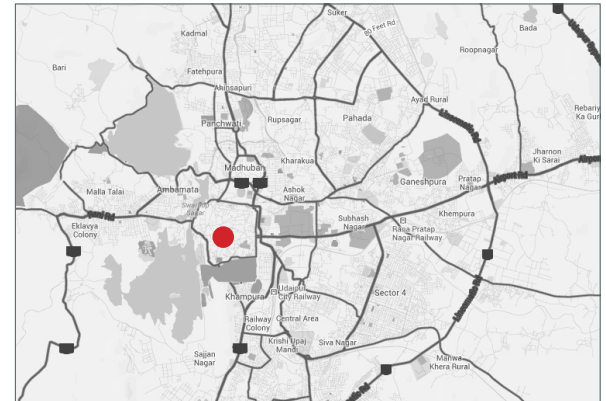


# JAGDISH CHOWK

Jagdish chowk is the oldest square of Udaipur. Though small in scale, it caters to a huge crowd daily. It's the focal point for locals and tourists alike, as one road leads to the city palace, and others to Gangaur Ghat, Gulab Bagh and heart of the old city.

Jagdish chowk market caters to a wide variety ranging from needle to handicrafts. Streets are always full of people, and the whole city gathers here during festivals of Holi and Janmashtami.

The vibrant colours, culture and traditions of the city gel at Jagdish Chowk to fabricate a world of its own.



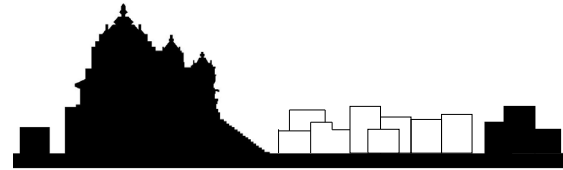


## Analysis of spaces

Jagdish Chowk, the informal entrance court for Jagdish Temple, is surrounded by shops, old residential buildings and havelies now converted into hotels.

Jagdish chowk is an intersection point for streets leading to -

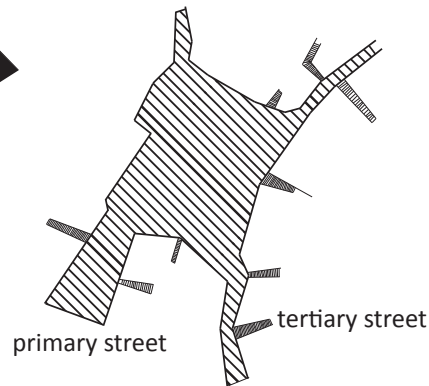
- City Palace Complex
- Old City
- Gangaur Ghat
- Gulab Bagh



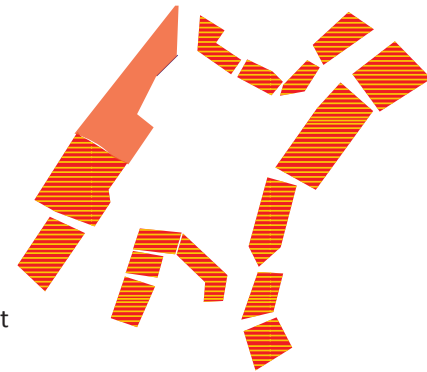
Section through Jagdish Chowk- showing prominence of Jagdish Temple



Jagdish Chowk Figure Ground

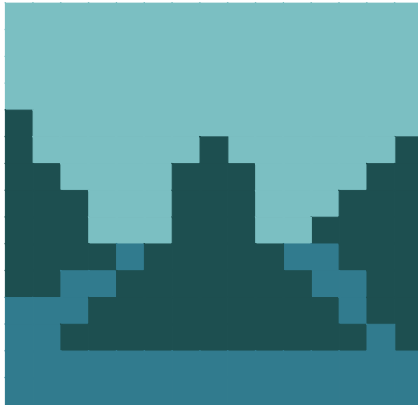


Jagdish Chowk street typologies



Jagdish Chowk land use

- Jagdish temple
- Mix land use



Sky, Ground and surface content

#### LEGEND



#### STREET SECTIONS



Primary street



Secondary street



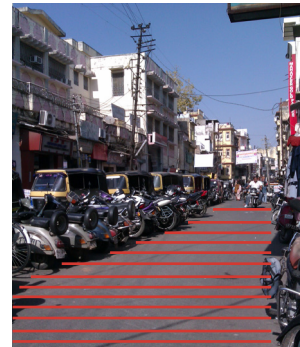
Tertiary street

#### Analysis of spaces

Scale...surroundings...Sky...Surfaces..Ground  
 Scale...**Surroundings**..Sky..Surfaces..Ground  
 Scale...surroundings..**Sky**..Surfaces..Ground  
 Scale...surroundings..Sky..**Surfaces**..Ground  
 Scale...surroundings..Sky..Surfaces..**Ground**



Primary street



Secondary street

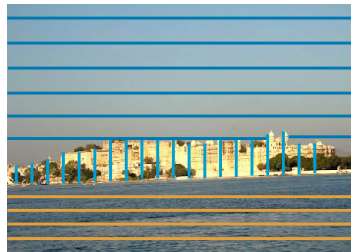
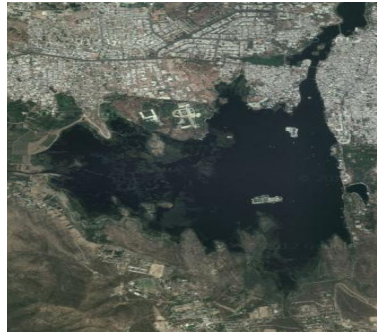


Tertiary street

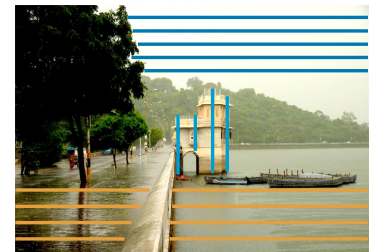
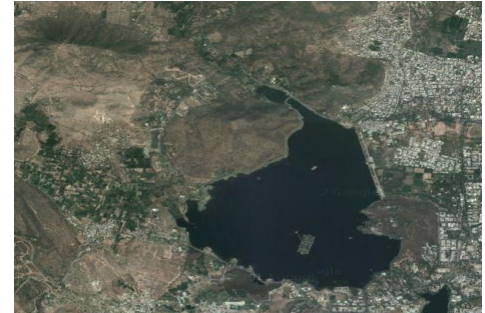
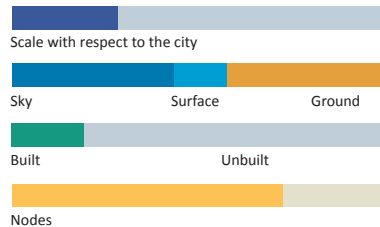
# CONCLUSION

## Spatial Analysis

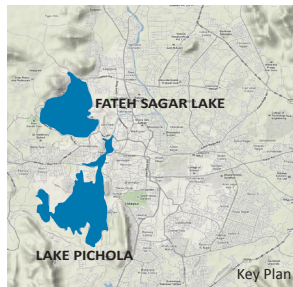
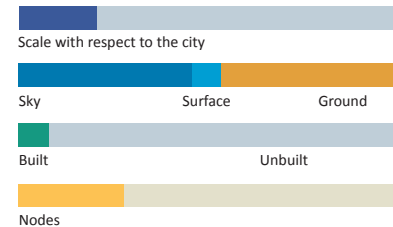
The analysis is done to show the sky, surface and ground line of the particular place through the graph  
The graph shows how much space is covered by the each element.



**Lake pichola**

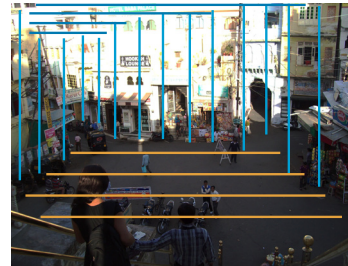
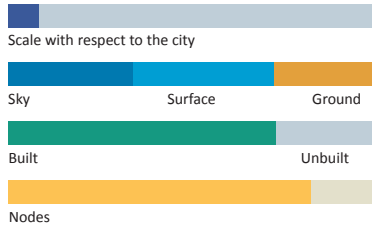


**Fateh sagar lake**

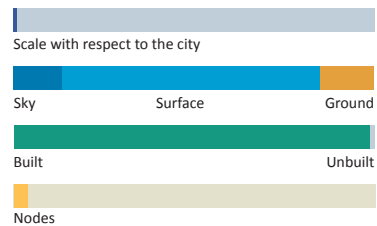




**City palace**



**Jagdish chowk**





## Experiencing culture, tradition and views of the city.







# REFERENCES

- All maps sourced from Google Earth and Google Maps
- Photos on page no. 4,5,14,15,22,24,26,27,30,34,36 and 38 from Google image search
- Content on page 7 and 8 from Journal of sustainable development.

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