

## Recent Books from Nepal – Aug 2023

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### *Architecture*

The Nepalese Caitya: 1500 Years of Buddhist Votive Architecture in the Kathmandu Valley / Niels Gutschow, Bijay Basukala & David Gellner  
Lumbini International Research  
Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2023  
332p.  
Includes Bibliography  
9789937733311  
\$ 150.00 / HB  
2086gm.

Includes not only architectural information, but also the cultural significance of these Buddhist monuments.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853416>

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Monuments of the Kathmandu Valley Before and After the 2015 Earthquake: Achievements in Seven Years / Rohit Ranjitkar  
Kathmandu: Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, 2023  
vi, 626p.  
9789937135047  
\$ 150.00 / PB  
2134gm.

Monuments of the Kathmandu Valley: Before & After the 2015 Earthquake is a sort of post mortem of how the historic temples, shrines, monasteries, stupas, rest houses and Rana palaces were rebuilt from the ground up – with both good and bad examples.

But it is a tribute to Ranjitkar and his colleagues that restoration has been sensitively done, reusing salvaged material, and employing modern items only when necessary for structural purposes. Cement was not used, and stainless steel dowels only inserted inside stone columns to make them safe.

Ranjitkar is director of the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT), and within minutes of the earthquake at 11:56 on 25 April 2015, he was out on Patan Darbar Square, helping rescue not just those trapped under the rubble but also mobilising Patan's community to carry valuable stone carvings, wooden columns and fallen bronze idols for safekeeping in the nearby Patan Museum. In the week after the earthquake, he stopped Nepal Army bulldozers from clearing the debris from the 12th century Hari Shankar temple and the 400-year-old Char Narayan temple so items could be retrieved.

Many of these were classified and restored to the exact place on the temples. In the store room of Patan Museum were artifacts from the 1934 earthquake which were also put back in their right places.

Destructive earthquakes happen every 80 years or so in Nepal and this allows the skills, craft and knowledge of restoration to pass from one generation to the next. This book is a part of that tradition.

Ranjitkar provides numerous examples of damaged wooden struts and tympanum that were replaced, repaired, and missing pieces recarved from scratch.

The 625-page volume is lavishly illustrated with photographs and drawings of the reconstruction process. This makes the book itself a treasure house of information.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853417>

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Preserving Charnarayana : The Rebuilding of a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Temple on Patan's / (Eds) Niels Gutschow & Raju Roka

Kathmandu: Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, 2022

346p.

9789937097338

\$ 80.00 / PB

1252gm.

Rebuilding the 16th Century Temple on Patan's Royal Square.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853418>

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Restoration of Itumbaha: Buddhist Kathmandu Campaign – Itumbaha Initiative 2002-2016 : A Campaign for Architectural Preservation Initiated by the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust in Collaboration with the Kathmandu Metropolitan City and the Department of Archaeology (DOA) / Dr. Niels Gutschow (et al.)

Kathmandu: Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, 2023

202p.

9789937136372

\$ 50.00/ PB

710gm.

Itumbaha, one of the five principal monasteries of Kathmandu, is one such worthy site not only for its ritual importance in Newar Buddhism, but also for its wealth of early woodcarvings and architectural configuration, largely intact from the 13th century. Itumbaha preserves its original two story configuration and roof form as well as numerous building components including carved windows, pillars, and roof struts from the 13th century. The courtyard is dotted with additional votive structures, some of great artistic importance such as the 17th century caturmukhi caitya (lit. four faced stupa).

The cluster of early Buddhist architectural monuments in and around this monastic quadrangle represents the last opportunity to save an ensemble of historical structures of this artistic importance and continuity in Kathmandu. Of some 83 Buddhist monasteries in the old city, only three preserve their historical shape without modern encroachments. That the ownership of this monastery is still controlled by the sangha, the monastic community of elders, makes it one of the very few monuments in the city where interventions are even possible. The lack of vehicular access in and around the outer courtyards of Itumbaha guarantees the restored complex an appropriate atmosphere and respite from chaotic modern Kathmandu.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853419>

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*Art*

Lok Chitrakar (Solo Exhibition, March 25 to April 26, 2023) / Ursula Manandhar (Ed) Sworup Adhikari

Kathmandu: Museum of Nepali Art, 2023

132p.

Includes Bibliography

\$ 50.00 / HB

830gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=853420>

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