



LEGEND

- 01 - Verka
- 02 - Basarke
- 03 - Attari
- 04 - Modhe
- 05 - Ratan Khurd
- 06 - Kala Sanghyan
- 07 - Kartarpur
- 08 - Sarai Khas
- 09 - Talhan
- 10 - Lambra
- 11 - Nakodar
- 12 - Kang Sabhu
- 13 - Nurmahal
- 14 - Ghumtali
- 15 - Khurshedpur
- 16 - Sidhwan Bet
- 17 - Amritsar City
- 18 - Kapurthala city

Focus on

Amritsar, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana

Overview

Places visited :	18
Distance travelled :	3138 kms
Elements mapped :	317
Scholars approached :	7
Craftspeople approached :	4



Basarke, Amritsar



Sarai Khas, Jalandhar



Kala Sanghiyan, Kapurthala



Khurshedpur, Ludhiana

The third phase of the 'Vernacular Furniture of North-West India' project focussing on the state of Punjab was initiated in May 2018. Punjab, as a region before India-Pakistan partition comprised of present-day Indian states of Punjab and Haryana, and eastern Pakistan. The project focuses on the Indian state of Punjab, comprising of three regions; Malwa, Majha, and Doaba. With Punjab largely being plain in terrain and receiving ample rainfall, agriculture is the primary occupation in the state. Sheesham tree is found abundantly in this region and its wood, locally known as *tali*, is most commonly used in making furniture.

The walled city of Amritsar has many old havelis built using *Nanakshahi* bricks (traditional bricks used in Punjab), which are smaller in dimension than the conventional bricks currently used in India. These havelis have an influence of colonial house forms as well as Sikh architecture. Only a few of these havelis are occupied while most of the inhabitants have settled abroad. Due to this, more furniture was found in the rural regions than in the urban towns. Typical modern houses in the villages have a central courtyard surrounded by rooms predominantly built using modern day concrete and bricks.

Across the Punjab region, many furniture items and objects have traveled from one village to another as a part of bridal possessions. These items include *Sandook* (cabinet), *Manja* (charpoy) and *Charkha* (spinning wheel). These migrations from one place to another are one of the reasons why a lot of variations can be seen in the visual appearance and the proportions of the furniture. During

the field visit, furniture originating from Pakistan was also seen in the western part of Amritsar District.

Furniture like *manja* - charpoy made by weaving cotton or jute ropes on a wooden frame supported by wooden legs - can be seen lying around the courtyards of houses and are used for sitting and sleeping. A smaller variant of *manja* known as *manji* is used by children for sleeping. According to an oral record, a *manja* of about thrice the size of a regular one was commissioned about 70 years ago to be used as a public furniture in a chowk in Amritsar old city. It has since been maintained and used by the residents around for sitting in the evenings and for afternoon naps.

Sandook (cabinets) made of mainly *tali* wood, found in various sizes are mainly used to store mattresses and clothes. Some sandook have secret compartments and shelves which are used to store valuables. A *sandook* found in Basarke village in Amritsar got damaged while the family migrated during the partition. Later to preserve their heirloom, the *sandook* was restored when the family settled in the village. Another commonly found furniture was *pidhi* (stool) which is used mainly to sit while working on *chakki* (hand mill grinder) and *charkha* (spinning wheel). Other furniture found in the visit includes *pidha* (low chair), *chowki* or *phatta* (low seat) and objects like *pakkhi* (hand fan), *chikka* (food cloche), *madani* (butter churner), *danda-kunda* (mortar & pestle), and earthen braziers known as *padauli*.



01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09

01. Manja (Charpoy), 02. Manja (Charpoy), 03. Chikka (Food cloche), 04. Madani (Butter churner), 05. Sandook (Cabinet), 06. Charkha (Spinning wheel), 07. Manja (Charpoy), 08. Pidhi (Stool), 09. Pidha (Low chair)

A monthly report of field visits conducted as a part of study of Vernacular Furniture of North West India | Phase 3 - Punjab

A collaborative research project by:

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