

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF MALDIVES AND ITS REVIVAL THROUGH TOURISM

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ABSTRACT

Developing countries like Maldives often reject cultural heritage in the wake of globalization and fast development as a symbol of backwardness but as they progress they start to revive what is left of it. Similarly since the 1960s, Maldives has been developing and transforming at a fast pace and its architectural heritage started vanishing fast. The architectural heritage, that include the traditional island settlements, traditional buildings, traditional building methods and materials are changing and replaced by modern structures and materials. But after the introduction of tourism in 1972 the architecture of the tourist resort emerged and with it came, to some extent, a renewed appreciation and adaptation of traditional building methods and materials. Today tourism master plans argue that cultural heritage tourism could be promoted along with the key attractions of sun, sand and sea.

This paper presents an overview of the architectural heritage of Maldives and the architectural development of the tourist resort using reviews and findings from recent studies. The purpose is to highlight the role of tourism in the revival and preservation of architectural heritage of Maldives.

Keywords: architectural heritage, tourism, Maldives.

INTRODUCTION

Maldives has been inhabited for more than 4000 years and was known to have traded with cowry shells as far back as the Indus Valley civilization (Heyerdahl, 1986; Mohamed, 2012). Located in the middle of the Indian Ocean it has a culture that evolved through its survival in the middle of the ocean and its interactions with the cultures across the ocean. From the beginning Maldives has been a melting pot of many cultures from the Indian Ocean. Its cultural heritage consists of an intangible heritage based on the unique language, performing arts, arts and crafts, cuisine and a tangible heritage based on based on its maritime heritage and architectural heritage from pre-Islamic and Islamic periods.

The Maldivian craftsmanship and skills were admired from a very early period. The coir rope; a hand made product from coconut fibre was mentioned by early travellers and scholars of the region as far back as 362 (Mohamed, 2008). Lacquer work; *Liye laajehun*, mat weaving;

Thundu kunaa, embroidery; *Kasabu* work and weaving are famous Maldivian crafts with their products included in the ancient trade, annual tributes and presents to foreign lands as far back as 362. Products from weaving and plaiting of coconut leaf are also important crafts and their products like thatching and woven baskets; *Mulhi* and *Gonu* were used in everyday life (Shafeegu, 1988).

Maldivians mastered the art of boat building from very early times and were also admired by many early travellers and scholars who visited the region. Al Idrisi in 1150, the famous traveler from Magrib, Ibn Batuta in 1343 and the great Chinese mariner Cheng He's chronicler Ma Huan in 1425 are among those who admired the sewn boats of Maldives (Mohamed, 2008). The Maldivian boats are planked boats similar to the dhows of the African and Arab region with closest resemblances to the dhows of east Africa. They are well built and have many types specializing for different needs.

The first Maldivians did not leave any archaeological evidences, as their structures would have been made from perishable materials like wood and coconut thatching. Despite its old history and cultures, the first people to leave physical evidence were the early Buddhists and Hindus when they started using coral stone structures in the 3rd century (Bell, 1940; Mikkelson, 2000). Today, there known 78 pre-Islamic archaeological sites (Mohamed, 2008). The architectural heritage, that survive are traditional settlements, traditional buildings and traditional building methods and materials.

Since the 1960s, Maldives has been developing, transforming and embracing globalization at such a fast pace that its architectural heritage started vanishing fast. Traditional architecture was not appreciated and became a symbol of backwardness for many Maldivians. The traditional islands started transforming and many traditional buildings were replaced by modern structures. Traditional building methods and materials were replaced by faster and cheaper systems. But, after the introduction of tourism in 1972 a different form of architecture: that of the tourist resort emerged, and with it came, to some extent, a renewed appreciation and adaptation of traditional building techniques and materials. Resort architecture extended and reinterpreted the traditional methods and materials of construction. Today tourism master plans argue that cultural heritage tourism could be promoted along with the key attractions of sun, sand and sea (MTAC, 2013).

This paper presents an overview of the architectural heritage of Maldives, the architectural development of the tourist resort and analyses the role of the architecture of the resorts in the revival and preservation of architectural heritage of Maldives. It presents reviews and analysis of non-numerical data from archival/historical sources, visual sources and interviews using of qualitative research techniques. The data for architectural heritage were acquired through literature reviews and from past studies. Data for the tourist resort architecture were acquired through literature reviews, the ministry of tourism database and interviews from the industry professionals. Objective is to highlight the role of tourism in the revival of architectural heritage of Maldives.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The architectural heritage, that survive are traditional settlements, traditional buildings and traditional building methods and materials. The traditional settlements includes the traditional island settlements and architectural heritage of Male', which has almost disappeared. The traditional buildings include the structures within the traditional house compound, the traditional mosques, structures for special purpose and the pavilions.

Traditional settlements

The traditional islands are built natural landscapes that illustrate a traditional way of life, evolving over hundreds of years through harmonious interaction between people and nature. They are low lying coral islands, surrounded by a reef that is breached in a few places to allow access to the island by boats. The typical layout of a traditional island have the reef entrance called *Neru* and landing area for boats and a main road lined with houses and other structures. The landing area on the beach have, *Dhoni Haruge'*; Boat houses, *Holhu Ashi*; small beach pavilions and sometimes small jetties. The main buildings of the island includes the traditional houses, the mosques, pavilions and *Haruge'*; structures for special purposes (Jameel, 2012).

Male' is the capital of Maldives with history of more than 900 years but today it is heavily built up and densely populated and its architectural heritage is hardly visible. According to legend a prince from the Malabar coasts visited Male' around 1117 and was welcomed by its natives 'Giraavaru People'. He united the country under one rule and made Male' the capital. Male' was the centre of the 800 year old sultanate where sultans rule the country from the main palace (Maloney, 1980; Mohamed, 2008). During that time it was a walled city with bastions, gates, palaces, great mosques, bazaars and harbours. Unfortunately what is left of old Male' are few mosques and buildings. Male' old Friday mosques is most important architectural heritage of the country.

Traditional buildings

The traditional houses with its compound have most to contribute to the architectural heritage but they do not survive due to the type of materials used in construction. The traditional house compound; *Goathi* is the extension of the traditional house and consist of the *Ge'*; main house, *Badhige'*; kitchen, *Koshaaru*; granary, *Valhu*; well and *Gifili*; an open-air toilet area and sometimes '*Undhoalige'*'; swing house. It offers an indoor-outdoor lifestyle that is common to many tropical countries. Most daytime activities take place in the compound under the shade of the large trees or semi outdoor spaces like the veranda; '*Fenda'*' of the house or '*Undhoalige'*'. Large trees such as mango and breadfruit are common trees in the courtyard with seating often hung from these trees as swings or *Joalis*; traditional hammock chair. Other plants that are common in the compound are coconut, fruit bearing trees, areca palms with betel plants and plants used for cooking. Plants of fragrance such as jasmine are also found near the entrance of the houses.

The main house is the central element in the compound. It primarily comprise of *Beyruge'*; outer chamber and *Etherege'*; inner chamber. Depending on the affluence and size of family the house gets extended with verandas; '*Fenda'*' towards northern and southern sides. The outer chamber is the area for men and children. Two platforms; *Bodu ashi* and *Kuda ashi*, a coir rope strung bed and big wooden chests are common furniture in the outer chamber. The inner chamber with two beds referred as north bed and south bed is the domain of the women.

The house has two entrances from the outer chamber giving access to the front and the back of the compound.

The kitchen stands totally separate from the main house and granary. With no chimneys, smoke extraction and ventilation was often through perforated walls that are made out of coconut fronds; *Fanthoshi*. Wooden trellis was placed above the hearth for drying fish and walls were sometimes lined with open shelves for cooking utensils. Most of the food preparation work was done out in the semi open areas. The granary, where grains and other foodstuff are stored was an important part of the household in agricultural islands. This is an independent unit with timber walls and floors, mounted on large blocks of coral stone to keep it from the ground and has a thick plaited thatched roof sheltering it from the rain. The water wells located near the kitchen and open-air toilet are used for bathing, washing and cleaning fish. These shallow water wells are an important component of a house.

The traditional mosques are the oldest architectural heritage in the country. Today four types of traditional mosques survive. They are built between 14th century and 20th century and are categorized by their use of material and type of construction (Jameel, 2012). They are as follows:

- Mosques using Veligaa or coral sand stone masonry construction technique. An example of this type of mosque is Gen Miskiy in Fuvahmulah. The date of construction is unclear but believed to be built in the 1400s.
- Mosques using both Veligaa or sand stone and Hiriga or coral stone masonry construction technique. Typical example of such a mosque is Vadhoo old Friday mosque believed to be built in late 1500s.
- Mosques using Hiriga or Porite coral stone “carpentry” construction technique. Examples of this type of mosques are Male’ Old Friday Mosque built in 1657, Male’ Eid Mosque built in 1815 and Fenfushi Old Friday Mosque built in 1695.
- Mosques using chipped coral rubble masonry for construction. Examples of this type of mosques are Male’ Bihuroazu Kamana Miskiy rebuilt in 1919.

The traditional mosque is also set within a mosque compound with water wells, a sundial dial, cemetery and occasionally small minarets and bathing tanks. It is of different sizes built from the time of conversion to Islam until the 1950s. The typical mosque has a rectangular prayer hall and a combination of the veranda like antechambers called *Dhaala/Fenda* and occasional *Mihrab* chambers. It is built on a raised plinth and entered through rising stairs from the eastern side. On both sides of the stairs are timber ledges, which are used as seating for the elderly and the disabled. The roof form is tiered, hipped and steeply sloped with large overhangs and are finished with plaited coconut thatching, clay roofing tiles or metal roofing sheets. All mosques have a timber coffered ceiling and many with a central stepped recessed area called *Laage’*. The window openings have diagonal lattice timberwork called *Miskthu Jaali*. The types of doors vary depending on the type of traditional mosques but mostly have sliding doors. The iconography of decoration is based on organic and geometric patterns with calligraphic writings from the Quran in *Thuluth* Arabic script (Jameel, 2012).

The water wells in the mosque compound used for ablution and are located near the entrances of the mosque building. They are about a meter across and 3 meters deep with steppingstones leading up to the mosque entrance. The sundial showing prayer times and Qibla is located in a clear area near the entrance of the mosque compound and is mounted on a pediment. The

cemetery is lined with tombstones and Mausoleums. The tombstones are made from intricately carved one-piece coral stone. Mausoleums are tombs of revered people are placed within an enclosed shelter. Boundary walls and entrance gates are occasionally found in mosques located in populated areas. The landscaping with paths leading to the mosque building and wells are neatly laid with white sand and special plants like Jasmine and Basil (Jameel, 2012).

The beach pavilions; '*Holhu ashi*' are the most popular type of pavilions in Maldives and are still found through out the country. These structures are located near the beach side and are important places of social interaction where people would rest, listen to news/gossip, exchange views and play games. They are raised platforms, often with a roof above. The posts and platforms are usually made from screw pine trunks and the roof is made from coconut thatch. Other pavilions include '*Ashige*'; a meeting place inside islands often used for prayers by women or elders, '*Maizan*'; public meeting pavilions, '*Mariyaadhuge*'; a formal meeting pavilions in palaces and stately houses.

The structures for special purposes include boat houses; '*odi/dhoni haruge*', permanent and temporary structures build for functions, recitals, education etc. They include recital halls; '*Mauloodh haruge*' and schools; '*Edhuruge*'. These structures are usually simple structures built with timber frames and coconut thatched walls and roof.

Traditional building methods and materials

Since early structures were built using perishable materials such as timber and coconut thatch, there are very few old buildings in Maldives but much of the architectural heritage is seen through the traditional building forms, building methods and materials. The traditional building forms and methods were developed over many centuries as a result of the experience of many generations. Experiences are that of responding to climatic conditions, available materials, changing technology and changing socio-cultural needs including the religions of different periods. Due to the limited availability of materials that time, there was a great need to find the method for handling the material and an aesthetic that was right for each other.

Traditional methods of responding to the climate were effective and sophisticated in Maldives. Most buildings are aligned with the gable ends towards east and west to minimise direct sunlight and avoid driving rain. The overhanging roof becomes the dominant element in the protection of heat and driving rain and at the same time giving protection to doors and windows. Thatched walls and roofs provided good insulations and stopped condensation and fungal growth due to its ability to 'breath'.

Coconut thatching is the most widely available and oldest form of roofing in the humid tropics from the pacific regions to the Indian Ocean. Woven coconut leaves were used as roof and wall thatching. In Maldives the traditional roofing material was coconut thatch until corrugated metal roofing became common in the 1960s. The early walls were also made of coconut thatch or combined with timber panelling. Coconut thatching mats are laid in overlapping layers and tied to horizontal battens. Thatching was applied to roof structures at a slope of more that 30°.

There are two ways of preparing coconut thatching. In the first method the leaf blades are stripped from the stem and then stitched tightly using three coir ropes to form mats. The principle for making the most durable mats is to make sure that the leaf blades are squeezed

tightly and neatly together as they are stitched together. The second method is to split the stem in two so the leaf blades hang from one side. The two pieces are laid back to back and the leaf blades woven together to form a mat. This technique, which is commonly practiced in many countries including Sri Lanka and south India, is not as durable as the first as the rapid discharge of rainwater is impeded by the weaving pattern.

The most common type of timber used in the traditional construction is timber from coconut palm, used mostly for the super structure of post and beam. Such timber was favoured for its abundance, strength and durability. For the infill boards, doors and windows timber from *Artocarpus Altilis* (Bread fruit tree) locally known as '*Bambukeyo*' is common. Other local timbers that are used are *Cordia Subcordata* known as '*Kaani*', *Hernandia Ovigera* known as '*Kandhu*', *Thespesia Populnea* (Bendy tree) known as *Hirundhu* and *Hibiscus Tiliaceus* (Sea Hibiscus) known as *Dhiggaa*.

Round timber construction or timber pole construction were often used for the panelling of the walls. Coconut fronds; '*Fanthoshi*', *Ochrosia Oppositifolia* locally known as '*Dhumburi*', *Thespesia Populnea* (Bendy tree) known as *Hirundhu* and *Hibiscus Tiliaceus* (Sea Hibiscus) known as *Dhiggaa* are the main types of timber used for wall panelling. Timber panelling, timber doors and windows were often used in houses of the affluent and sometimes, imported teak are used. Timber structures of the mosques were highly decorated with lacquered finishes.

Coral stone was the only long lasting materials available for construction during the early periods and thus became the favoured material for all monumental buildings like mosques. Porite corals from *Scleractima* family are the types that were mined for construction in Maldives (Naseer, 1997). In Maldives, coral stone construction techniques varied during different historic periods. During the classical pre Islamic period and medieval Muslim period coral stone was shaped and set in mortar. Examples are found in archaeological sites like Kashidhoo Archaeological site excavated by Mikkelson (Mikkelson, 2000) and in structures like Boadha Miskiy in Koagannu, Hulhumeedhoo built around 1403. Coral stone construction became refined with the increase of travel and trade in the Indian Ocean during the early colonial periods around 17th century. Boat building skills and construction techniques acquired through exchanges of the period fused with the existing techniques of the earlier periods lead to a sophisticated shaped and interlocking coral stone construction system without mortar that has intricate decorative carvings and mouldings. Many early visitors to the country admired the coral stone mosques of Maldives. An early description of coral stone construction was by Francois Pyrard de Laval, the French traveller in 1617 who described in detail the mosque, and admires the skill of the people in coral mining and preparation of the Porite corals for construction (Pyrard, 1619).

New coral stone construction techniques were introduced during the British colonial period of late 19th century. Masonry techniques using coral rubble with lime mortar and plaster became the type of construction for mosques and other monumental buildings during this period. Porite corals were mined from the sea and broken into rubbles and kept in the rain and sun until they were dried. Corals of the stony coral family were mined and burned to make lime. The rubble was set in lime mortar and finished with fine lime plaster and lime wash. The like of Bihurozukamana Miskiy in Male', built in 1920s are good examples of this type of

construction. Coral and sand mining declined after mining from the house reef of inhabited island was banned in 1992.

The coir rope was well known from an early period. ‘At one time this rope was considered the best in the world for use on sailing ships and was sought after by merchants from Arabia, China and Europe’. Coconut husk is soaked and the fibre extracted and dried. The fibre strands are woven by hand to form ropes of varying thickness. Rope making is a speciality of the women of the islands, and different regions of the country are known for different quality of ropes.

A different type of weaving and plaiting using screw pine leaves was also an important part of the Maldivian traditional culture. Woven screw pine leaves called *Sataa* and *Saanthi* were used in lining the interior of wall panels and used as mats for sleeping and seating (Shafeegu, 1988).

ARCHITECTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST RESORTS

In the late 1960s the UNDP advises the Maldivian government that Maldives has no potential for the development of tourism at that time but in 1972, it was introduced by local pioneers and an Italian George Corbin (Neville, 2012). Since then tourism has been developing fast bringing prosperity and fast development to the country. It is now the biggest industry in the country with more than 800,000 tourists visiting in 2014 (MT, 2014).

Today there are 105 tourist resorts with a bed capacity of 22935, 17 city hotels with a bed capacity of 1488, 113 guesthouses with a bed capacity of 1542 and 57 safari boats with a bed capacity of 932 (MT, 2014). Following are some of the milestones of architectural development of the resorts;

First resort was Kurumba Village, built in 1972.

First water bungalow was built in Gangehi Island Resort, in 1985.

First on-water restaurant complex was built in Paradise Island Resort and Spa, in 1990s.

First Spa was built in Kanuhura Resort and Spa, in 1990s.

First underwater restaurant was built in Conrad Maldives, previously Hilton Maldives, in 2004.

First Underwater spa was built in Per Aquum Niyama, in 2003.

Resort architecture has gone through four phases of development. The styles of architecture and facilities responded to the tourism development master plans, changing demands and need of the industry.

Development phase 1: 1972 – 1982

Examples:

Kurumba Village - 1972

Bandos Island Resort - 1972

Club Med Faru - 1973

Baros Holiday resort - 1973

Alimatha Aquatic Resort – 1975

Kuramathi Tourist Resort - 1977
Kuda Hura Four Seasons - 1977
Kuredhu Island Resort – 1978
Fun Island Resort – 1980
Rihiveli Beach Resort - 1980
Biyaadhoo Tourist Resort - 1982

This was the unplanned phase based on individual initiatives. The resorts of this period had simple structures and layouts. Structures comprise of a jetty, reception/admin area, guest accommodation/toilets, restaurant/kitchen/store, staff quarters, powerhouse and a dive school. Guest accommodations were simple connected rooms with attaches toilets or individual rooms with toilets. Stylised bungalows and open-air toilets emerged later during this period. Construction during this stage was basic with coral stone masonry or thatched walls, corrugated metal or thatched roof, white sanded or cemented floors. The furnishing and interior decorations were also basic and simple (Kundur 2012).

Kuda Hura Four Seasons, Baros Holiday Resort and Kuramathi Tourist Resort originally had camping units during this period. The guest rooms were very simple in design with thatch roofs sand floors. The toilets and showers and washbasin areas were built in a common block to group of rooms.

Development phase 2: 1983 - 1995

Examples:

Makunudhu Island - 1983
Sonevafushi resort - 1983
Nika Island Resort - 1983
Kudahithi Resort -1984
Veligandu Island - 1984
Kandoomaa Island Resort - 1985
Ari Beach Resort - 1988
Rangali Finolhu - 1992
Lily beach Resort -1994
Holiday Island - 1994

The first master plan was introduced in 1983 laying the foundation for sustainable development. It called for development controls, measures of environment and reef protection. By 1984 resort registration and development approvals controlled building heights, built up space, nature of rooms facing the beach, beach setbacks and quality of services and facilities (MT, 1996; Kundur 2012). Resorts became more stylised with more comprehensive designs and the structures of this period comprise of a guest jetty, service jetty, reception/admin, shops, guest accommodation/toilets, restaurant/kitchen/store, staff quarters, powerhouse/boats section and a dive/surf schools. Guest accommodation also became more stylised with bungalows style structures with verandas and open-air toilets. First water bungalow was built in Gangehi Island Resort, in 1985.

Construction during this phase improved with plastered masonry walls, thatched roof, open timber structures white sanded floors. The furnishing and interior decorations were also refined.

Development phase 3: 1996 - 2006

Examples:

- Kuda Hura Four Seasons was upgraded to be the first five star resorts in c.1996.
- Rangali Finolhu was upgraded as Hilton Maldives to be the second five star resort in 1997.
- Sun Island Resort -1998
- Reethi Beach Resort - 1998
- Hakura Club -1999
- One and Only Kanuhura - 1999
- Meedhupparu Island Resort - 2000
- Royal Island – 2001
- Cocoa Island (Makunufushi) upgrade - 2001
- Dhonakulhi Hideaway Resort and Spa - 2005
- Four Seasons Resort Landaa Giraavaru – 2006

The second master plan was introduced in 1996. Through competitive bidding and new development guidelines, innovative designs and quality services became popular. Resort development became sophisticated with complex designs. (MTCA, 2007; Kundur, 2012). The structures of this period comprise of jetties and harbour complexes, reception/admin/shops, guest rooms/toilets, restaurant/kitchen/store, swimming pools, entertainment centres and club rooms, open air courts and playing field, staff quarters, powerhouse/boats section, dive schools and water sports centres. High quality water bungalows with large private decks became popular during this period.

Construction became sophisticated with prefabricated building systems and timber panelling. New methods of building over water like piling systems were introduced. Different types of roofing materials, flooring, furnishing and decorations were also introduced.

Development phase 4: 2007 – 2012

Examples;

- Alidhoo Cinnamon Island - 2007
- Herethere Island Resort - 2007
- Medhafushi Hilton - 2008
- Handaha Park Hyatt - 2009
- Villingili Shangrilla - 2009
- Olhuveli Six Senses - 2011
- Muddhoo Dusit Thani - 2012
- Meradhoo Jumeira - 2012

The third master plan was introduced in 2007 and renewable energy, nationwide environmental protection and waste management became priority (Kundur, 2012). Famous international hotel brands started arriving and with it came their own design and standards

Development phase 5: 2013 - 2015

Examples

- Mushimasmigili Safari Island - 2013
- Fushi Velavaru Velaa Private Island - 2013

The fourth master plan was introduced in 2013 and with it came luxury hotel brands and unique individualistic designs by famous designers (Kundur, 2012). The quality of construction and finishes are of the highest standards often by international contractors.

ANALYSIS

The following analysis describes the use of different elements of architectural heritage in resort architecture. It shows the contribution of resort architecture in the revival of architectural heritage of Maldives.

Use of traditional architectural forms in the resorts

Traditional islands: The traditional island forms or layouts are not used in the resort architecture. However many elements of the traditional island are used. The most commonly used element is the traditional jetty. Many resorts of the early phases had jetties built in the traditional manner. Examples are found in Club Med Faru, Baros Holiday resort, Alimatha Aquatic Resort and Rihiveli Beach Resort.

Traditional house: The traditional house form is often adapted and used in many resort of phase one, two and three. The concept of open-air toilet comes from the traditional *Gifili*. The hammock type of chair is commonly used. Examples are found in Rihiveli Beach Resort, Ari Beach Resort and Kandoomaa Island Resort.

Traditional mosque: The form of the traditional mosques is not used in resort architecture however many detailing such as the plinth moulding shapes, are reinterpreted and used in contemporary manner among the decorations of a few resorts from phase three. Examples are Reethi Beach Resort. The coral carvings designs and details are often found in many interior designs as decorative elements.

Beach pavilions and *Haruge*: The forms and details of beach pavilions and *Haruge* are often used in the architecture of the resort. They are of course reinterpreted and modified to suit the needs of the resorts. Raised platforms are not common but the A-frame shape of boathouses was used many times in resort architecture. Examples can be found in the second face structures of Ari Beach Resort built in the early 1990s.

Use of traditional building methods and materials in the resorts

Thatched construction: Coconut thatching is the most popular form of roof construction in resorts construction. It was also used in the wall panelling of the early resorts. It is still found in interior decorations. Coconut thatching is an important renewable and ecologically sound local material that blends well with the natural environment of Maldives. It is an important local industry that is sustained because of the tourist industry.

Timber components: Local timbers are no longer used because of the limitations in availability. Traditional methods of panelling and use of round timber was popular in the early phases of resorts like Rihiveli Beach Resort. Nevertheless timber panelling is popular in resort constructions but traditional methods are hardly seen now.

Coral stone construction: Coral-stone walls were common in the early resort construction however since the ban on coral stone mining in 1992 the new resorts do not use coral stone. Coral stone construction is no longer possible in Maldives but still recycled stone are selectively used indoors and outdoors in some of the resorts like Four Seasons Landa Giraavaru.

Marine structures: Reinterpretation of maritime themes can be seen among some of the resorts. Example traditional boats and its details are applied in the design of water bungalows. Wooden timber decks are also built taking advantage of boatbuilding techniques. Some of the themes can be observed in Cocoa Island (Makunufushi) upgraded, Hakura Club and Ari Beach resort.

CONCLUSION

The architectural heritage of Maldives that was inherited by our forefathers which provides the hard evidence of our past is vanishing fast due to fast development and lack of appreciation by the local people. However it was observed that some parts of the architectural heritage are being revived and reinterpreted in the architecture of tourist resorts. It was observed that the architecture of the earlier resorts contributed more towards the revival of architectural heritage. Today tourism is the biggest contributor to renew appreciation and revival or architectural heritage of Maldives.

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