COLONIAL INFLUENCES ON GOAN HOUSES

- Goa is India's smallest state in terms of area and the fourth smallest in terms of population.
- Located on the west coast of India in the region known as the Konkan, it is bounded by the state of Maharashtra to the north, and by Karnataka to the east and south, while the Arabian Sea forms its western coast.
- The historic city of Margao still exhibits the cultural influence of the Portuguese, who first landed in the early 16th century as merchants and conquered it soon thereafter.
- Goa is a former Portuguese colony, the Portuguese overseas territory of Portuguese India existed for about 450 years until it was annexed by India in 1961. Renowned for its beaches, places of worship and world heritage architecture.
- Goa is visited by hundreds of thousands of international and domestic tourists each year. It also has rich flora and fauna, owing to its location on the Western Ghats range.

ARCHITECTURE OF GOA

- The architecture of Goa is a combination of Indian, Islamic and Portuguese styles.
- Since the Portuguese ruled for four centuries, many churches and houses bear a striking element of the Portuguese style of architecture.
- Goan Hindu houses do not show any Portuguese influence, though the modern temple architecture is an amalgam of original Goan temple style with Dravidian, Hemadpanthi, Islamic, and Portuguese architecture.
- The original Goan temple architecture fell into disuse as the temples were demolished by the Portuguese and the Sthapati known as Thavayi in Konkani were converted to Christianity though the wooden work and the Kavi murals can still be seen.

DESIGN INFLUENCES

The following factors affected house design in Goa:

- Protecting oneself from the fierce monsoons was the basis of architectural form.
- Portuguese rule allowed Goans to travel abroad; when they returned they brought with them ideas and influences from other countries. The Goan master builders executed these ideas using local building materials, making the Goan house a mixture and adaptation of design elements and influences from all over the world.
- The architectural style of Portuguese-built churches.
- The European lifestyle was encouraged in an attempt to separate newly converted Goan Christians from their cultural roots. They adopted a European outlook but did not cut themselves off from their Indian roots completely. The resulting cultural fusion affected the house design.

The traditional pre-Portuguese homes were inward-looking with small windows; this reflected the secluded role of women. The houses opened into courtyards, and rarely opened onto streets. The Catholic houses built or refurbish between the middle of the 18th and the 20th centuries were more outward- These balcões are bordered by looking and ornamental, with balcões ornamental columns that sometimes (covered porches) and verandas facing continued along the steps and added to the street. the stature of the house. The large balcões had built-in seating, This, together with the plinth, which open to the street, where men and usually indicated the status of the women could sit together and ‘see and owners. The houses of rich landlords be seen’, chat with their neighbours, or had high plinths with grand staircases just enjoy the evening breeze. leading to the front door or balcão.

BALCAOS are porches with seats built into the sides. Balcaos are commonly found in Goan houses and generally understood to be dating from the time Goa came under Portuguese rule, and in the years after. Alternately, a balcao is a wide veranda running along the front of the house and occasionally along its sides and at the back; seats are built into the sides where the front entrance opens out on the street outside.
WINDOWS
- Large ornamental windows with stucco mouldings open onto verandas.
- These may appear purely decorative, but have their origins in similar mouldings in the windows of Portuguese houses.
- The design is therefore an import but serves a similar purpose in Goa: to help construct the identity of the home.
- Windows gradually became more decorative, ornate, and expressive.
- Front doors were flanked by columns or pilasters.
- Railings were the most intricate embellishment in a Goan house.
- Pillars, piers, and colours do not seem to be influenced by any style in particular; rather they conform to a rather mixed architectural styles.

The interiors have a high ceiling Well Typical rooster motifs on rooftops The Typical courtyard Kothar - Store room

HINDU HOUSES
- Style : Indo Portuguese Style
- Internal courtyard with rooms built
- Materials : Baked Clay tiles, Laterite
- Windows With Wooden Frames

CHRISTIAN HOUSE
- Porch (balcao),
- Tall European style columns around it.
- Building Materials : Laterite stones, Local bricks & Mangalore tiles

TRADITIONAL HINDU HOUSE
- Rectangular in plan • Single storey • Central courtyard with tulsi maadam • Central entrance has a verandah
- The rooms are arranged around a central pillared courtyard A typical Hindu home is low-scaled with a low plinth, a small seating porch with short bulbous columns and a loft like upper floor with windows.
Goan traditional Hindu houses have the following features:

- A courtyard called as **Rajangan**, where a Tulsi Vrindavan is seen.
- **Chowki** - space next to the courtyard, where family activities take place – internal verandah
- **Deva kood** - a place for prayers and their rituals.
- **Raanchi kood** - a kitchen with a door which is
- **Soppo** - space used for relaxing, called Magil daar
- **Saal** - a hall
- **Balantin kood** - A room special for pregnant and
- **Kothar** - store room nursing mothers.
- **Vasri** - Dining Hall
- **Manne** - Bathrooms located next to the well
- **Gotho** - Goshala

**USE OF COLOUR**

**CORNICES**
- Dramatic and startling colour— Country tiles used as a corbel are a initially achieved with vegetable and feature peculiar to Goa. natural dyes—plays an important role in Goan architecture. pleasing, giving the roof projection. Colour was decorative and used solid, moulded appearance. purely to create a sensation

**INTERIORS**
- Painting on walls, Walls up to dado height finished with glazed tiles, Floral pattern below the cornice
- Floral painted tiles adorn the doorways to the houses

**CHRISTIAN HOUSES**
- The Portuguese imprint on the already strong architectural identity of Goa created a unique amalgam, unmatched in edifices across the world
- The arrival of the Portuguese brought foreign influences and opportunities for Goans to travel.
- The contours and colours of the houses began to change.
- Goans who embraced Christianity sought new identities, and their houses were one facet of cultural expression.
Houses acquired ‘balcaos’ (sit-outs facing the street) with built-in seating at the entrance of the houses. Columns line the balcaos, and large, Gateways to the houses were lofty and ornamental windows with varying elegant in the 18th century later they designs helped sailors spot their were replaced by towering gateways. houses as they sailed into port. Railings were the most intricate. The rich tropical colours of these embellishment in a Goan house. edifices add a wealth of character too. Pillars, piers and colours do not seem to Goan architecture. Windows gradually become more allowed to remain white, and the law decorative, ornate and expressive.

Almost all Goan houses have a false colour. ceiling of wood. The houses thus were painted deep. The Kitchen in Goan house was at the ochre, sapphire and claret. farthest end of the house. The facade of most houses was symmetrical with the entrance door occupying the place of honour. The broad elements of Goan houses result form a mixture of Indian and Portuguese styles. Homes that are Portuguese in origin are usually two-storeyed and façade oriented; Whereas those of Indian origin are single-storeyed with a traditional courtyard based orientation.

Between the two also, there is wonderful mixing and marrying of ideas, resulting in nuanced, hybrid architecture that is both impressive and inspiring- for example the two- storeyed house in which the top story is functional while the ground floor is merely ornamental. It was Portuguese custom to segregate the lower storey of the house for the household staff and retainers. The upper class Goan aristocrats sought to emulate and even surpass the grandeur of the residences of their Portuguese counterparts. The examples of this trend are many- The practice of building grand staircases in the entrance halls, many windowed facades; busts of classical Renaissance figures in the pediments of façade windows, grand dance halls as a focal point of the Baroque style staircase home.

Other interesting and unique aspects of the houses one will encounter in the state are the use of locally available building material such as laterite stone, which make for sturdy and durable structures. Additionally, in many homes, readily available mother-of-pearl is used to line window shutters. The window shutters are particularly enchanting. In the early days of Portuguese rule, only churches and other religious structures were permitted to use white to color their exteriors. The domestic residential structures automatically adopted bold and sensational colors subsequently achieved with the use of vegetable and natural dyes in the past. House with a High-seat Window shutters lined with pearl escent capiz shells & mother of pearl.

SETTLEMENT PATTERN AND HOUSING TYPOLOGIES IN COCHIN HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF KOCHI
The development of Kochi as a prime city of Kerala is closely linked with the political and administrative history of the Malabar Coast. Kerala was an important maritime country in the dawn of the Christian era. Its early rulers had their capital at Tiruvanchikulam located about 18 km north of Kochi. The ancient port of Muziris (now Kodungallur on the southern part of Thrissur district) served as an international centre of trade and the main emporium of transit of goods between China and Rome. The trade links attracted settlers to Muziris from many maritime commerical nations of ancient world. The erstwhile rulers of Kochi established their headquarters at Thripunithura, the present neighbouring town of Kochi, most probably since the present Ernakulam was a waterlogged area then. Cochin Port was formed in 1341, when the heavy floods of that year silted up the mouths of the Muziris harbour and the surging water forced a channel past the present inlet into the sea. The old merchants of Muziris shifted to Kochi as soon as the new outlet became more or less stable. As the harbour gained prominence, the then ruler of the region shifted his capital also to Kochi, giving impetus to the growth of the town. The early settlement of Kochi was at Mattancherry, facing the protected lagoons in the east, which provided safe anchorage to country crafts in all seasons. Mattancherry was linked to the entire coastal stretch of Kerala through these inland waters. Thus gradually it grew into a busy settlement. Nicolo Conti recorded that, by 1440, Kochi was a city 5 miles in circumference and that Chinese and Arabs carried on brisk trade with the natives of this town.

MATTANCHERRY MARKET TOWN
- Mattancherry, meanwhile, had developed as a typical oriental market town, with commercial activities distributed along the waterfronts.
Agricultural produces from the vast hinterland flowed to its markets to be sold or exchanged for textiles, metals and other products of the European countries. Jews and Muslims had their settlements at Mattancherry. Trading communities from Gujarat and the emigrants from Goa also established trading centres in Mattancherry along with the native Hindus and the early settlers. The then rulers found this an opportunity to strike balance of economic power with the European traders. Mattancherry grew into a market town with cosmopolitan character attracting foreign traders. However developments in the adjoining Fort Kochi were strengthened by the foreign traders.

**DEVELOPMENT OF FORT KOCHI**
- From the 16th century, Kochi witnessed rapid changes through the trading and colonizing attempts of European powers.
- Portuguese were the first to arrive at Kochi.
- They founded Fort Kochi, established factories and warehouses, schools and hospitals and extended their domain in the political and religious fronts.
- The fall of the Portuguese in Kochi came with takeover of the Fort by the Dutch in 1663.
- The Dutch East India Company tried to persuade the local rulers into giving them monopoly in pepper trade. In this attempt they came across varied interests of the English and the French.
- For the next hundred years, Kochi became the centre of political and commercial battles.
- In 1795 the British took over Kochi from the Dutch. Fort Kochi thus became British Kochi. It became a Municipality in 1866.

**DEVELOPMENT OF ERNAKULAM**
- By 1840, Mattancherry was so much crowded that the activities spread to the eastern side of the backwaters to the Ernakulam side.
- Public buildings and educational institutions were setup in Ernakulam befitting the splendor of the Maharajas. Roads were laid out, markets were established and temples were renovated.
- Regional connectivity was improved with the commissioning of the railways in 1905.
- Ernakulam thus gradually started developing as an administrative town.
- Mattancherry rose to the status of Municipality in 1912 and was followed by Ernakulam in 1913.
- However it was to a large extent the Port that catapulted the importance of Kochi.

**DEVELOPMENT OF COCHIN PORT**
In the early nineties the existence of a sand bar in the sea mouth prevented large ships from entering safely into the backwaters of Kochi. Western industrialisation brought in revolutions in overseas trade with the wrought iron ships of greater draught and the consequent need for deeper and safer harbours and stronger moorings. The opening of Suez Canal in 1869 further emphasized the importance of the Port at Kochi as a coaling station for this route. The idea of making it a great harbour, out of the unique lagoons in Kochi was mooted as early as in 1870. Though Kochi had proposed for a dredged channel leading to the inland harbour, due to the non-availability of adequate technology for dredging at that time, it was only in 1920 that the port works were initiated. Under the direction of Sir Robert Bristow, the sand bar at sea mouth was cut open and a deep shipping channel was dredged to the backwaters. The spoils of the dredging were used to reclaim Wellington Island from the backwaters. Road and rail connectivity to the west Kochi and the island from the main land on the east were completed in 1940 when Government of India declared Kochi as a Major Port. Wellington Island developed with its wharfs, quays and other infrastructure as a transport terminal complex.

Cochin port gradually became the focus of the city. Centered on the port facility grew a large number of business and commercial establishments providing the economic base to the city and the environs. The development of the port also coincided with the commissioning of the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project supplying ample power, heralding a new era of industrial growth in the region. In this wake a number of major propulsive industries were established in the region.