

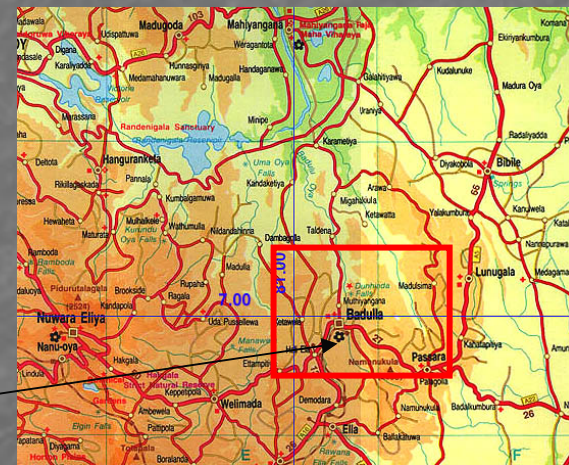


CONSERVATION PLAN

PUBLIC BUILDING AT BADULLA
SRI LANKA

LOCATION

- BADULLA IS THE CAPITAL TOWN IN PROVINCE OF UVA AND GOVERNED BY A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.
- THE TOWN IS LOCATED IN A RIVER BASIN, SURROUNDED BY A RANGE OF MOUNTAINS



HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

- Built by British government in 1889
- To create a gathering space and a town square
- Designed and built by Public Works Department (PWD)
- PWD built, Hospitals, Schools, Offices, Bridges roads until 1970's



BACKGROUND

- "The Public Building" in Badulla, can be considered as a unique architectural master piece in Sri Lankan architecture. It is the first ever public building built by British rulers within their 133 years colonial government. Most of the people think that it was a fortress by Dutch. Some people called it as a market.
- But according to the history although the Dutch were able to conquer coastal areas, they could not come in to this hill area. And on the other hand, there was a huge market building for Badulla, built By British, used as a hospital building at present.



THE CONCEPT

- Although the British wanted to create a Town square as it was new to Sri Lankan people and also they were not much urbanized at that time they thought to go for a concept which was familiar to our people.
- THAT WAS "AMBALAMA"

AMBALAMA

- In Sri Lankan context open colonnaded buildings are common when creating gathering spaces. (Way side resting places) “AMBALAMA” is the basic building type that creates a gathering space for various activities simply by four columns and a roof.



AMBALAMA

- A developed Ambalama with a walled room for ladies, cooking and protect from weather

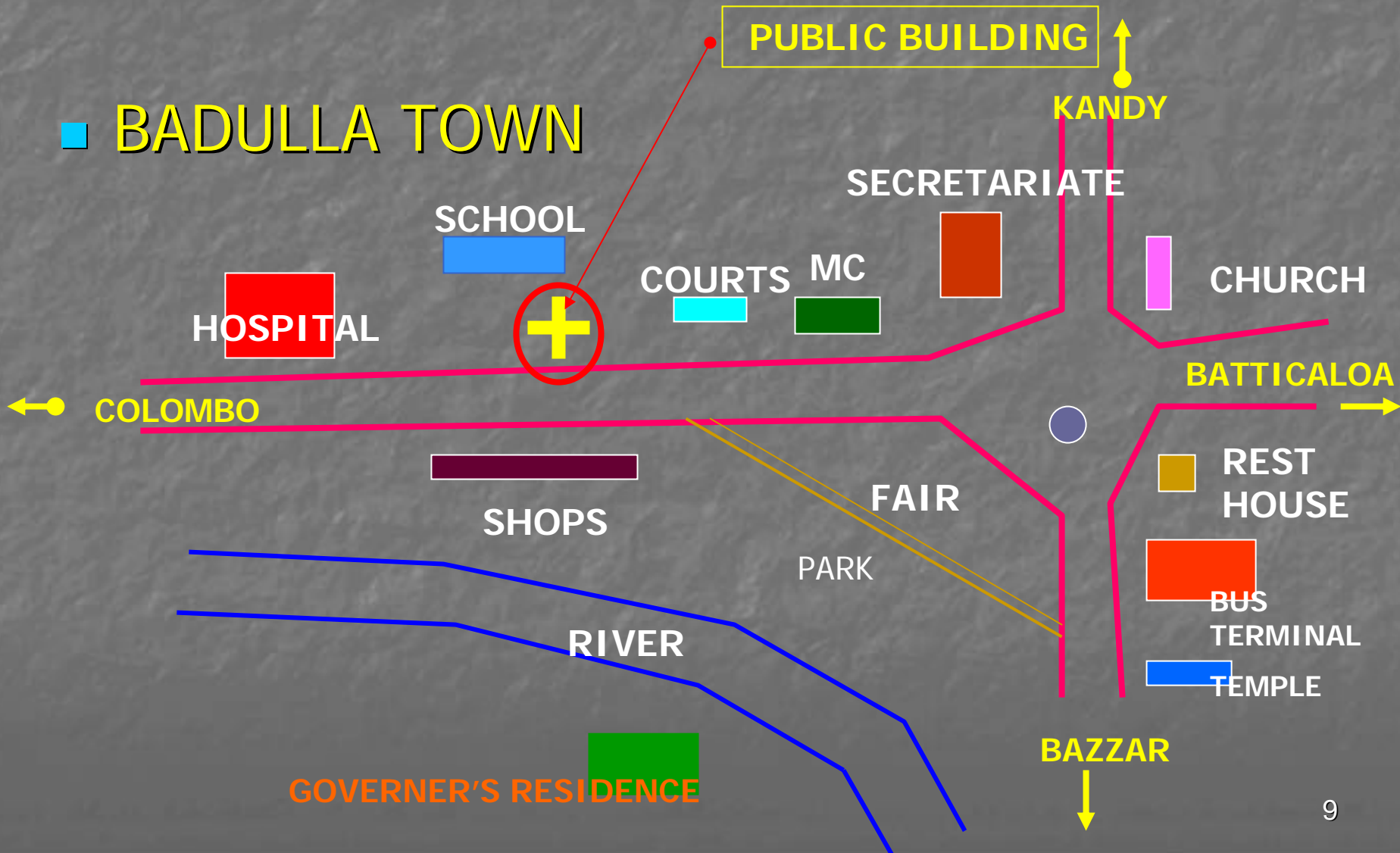


AMBALAMA

- In Sri Lankan context open colonnaded buildings are common when creating gathering spaces. Way side resting places “AMBALAMA” is the basic building type that creates a gathering space for various activities simply by four columns and a roof.
 - Walking passengers – spent the night, had meals,
 - Vendors – sold goods
 - Monks – preach Dhamma
 - Headmen – Held meetings
 - Farmers – had meals, rest
 - Villagers – for chatting, play games

LOCATION OF THE MONUMENT

■ BADULLA TOWN



THE FUNCTION

- As a

- RESTING PLACE
- GATHERING PLACE
- MARKET PLACE
- ROAMING AREA

- BUT WITH THE CHANGE OF SOCIETY

- IT WAS UNSAFE TO STAY IN AN OPEN BUILDING
- PEOPLE PREFER TO STAY IN HOTELS ETC.
- PROBLEMS WERE CREATED BY ROAMING PEOPLE, BEGGERS, PICK POCKETS, THIEVES, WALKING VENDERS

**FINALLY IT BECAME A PLACE OF BUSINESSMEN AND
TOTALLY ENCHROACHED BY THEM**

DAMAGE TO THE MONUMENT

- The vendors had put up partitions and extension roofs
- No body was responsible for repair as it was owned by several people



PROTECTION

- **IN 1998 DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY CONDUCTED AN EXPLORATION ON ANCIENT BUILDINGS IN BADULLA AND GAZZETED SOME AS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROTECTED MONUMETS.**

- **AMONG THEM**
 - PUBLIC BUILDING
 - COURT HOUSE
 - SECRETARIATE
 - AMBALAMA
 - ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
 - OLD MARKET USED AS A HOSPITAL BUILDING
 - TEMPLE COMPLEX
 - HEADMEN'S LODGE
 - REST HOUSE
 - HEALTH SECRETEARIATE
 - KAPPETIPOLA WALAWWA
 - GOVERNERS RESIDENCE
 - MUNICIPAL BUILDING

CONSERVATION

■ SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD AMONG

- District Secretary (DS)
- Mayor (BMC)
- Urban Development Authority (UDA)
- Department of Archaeology

■ MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Non availability of suitable place for relocation of vendors
- Vendors did not agree to move to a far away place
- Non availability of Funds for a new building
- Non availability of a proper maintenance plan to use the building after conservation

The decision

- UDA and ADB agreed to provide funds for a new shopping building
- Mayor and Department of Archaeology agreed to utilize the remaining portion of the same land for new building
- Divisional secretary and the Political leaders were able to convince the vendors and they agreed to move to the new building
- Finally in 2002 the new building has completed and the shops were moved in to it and the monument was handed over to the Department of Archaeology for conservation

VALUES TO BE CONSIDERED

The architectural value due to its special architectural details that relevant to the period of constructions.

Functional value as a public Building that provides a free space for citizen's day to day activities.



CONSERVATION PROCEDURE

- Protecting the building from further decaying
- Research on original form
- Preparation of proposals
- Removal of additions and preparation for conservation
- Commencement of Conservation procedure

Conceptual proposal

- Rehabilitate the building as a public building
- Understanding the present day society and needs
- Implementing an economically viable scheme
- Enhance the lifestyle of the citizens



How to use the conserved building?

■ Major Activities

- Create a gathering area for citizens
 - Establish a 24 hr open public place
 - Provide reading area to educate people
 - Start an Internet café to connect with the world
 - Open up a better quality restaurant for people
 - Providing the best public lavatory facility in the town
-
- Therefore the conserved building should not be partitioned other than making reversible partitions for toilets.
 - Entire building should be kept open even without a boundary wall/fence to blend with people's activities

Technical Aspects

- Re use of materials
- Re manufacturing components
- How to use modern materials
- How to supply modern needs
- Supply of timber
- Re plastering methods
- Compatibility of adaptive re use



Technical decisions

- Use much as possible existing timber as per the conservation principles and also it is very difficult to find larger timber to cut arches



Technical decisions

- The Architects had to prepare further details, specially on timber joints and portions



Technical decisions

- Decided to re manufacture the special ridge tile as per the measurements of remaining tiles. It was very expensive but successfully manufactured by the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation.



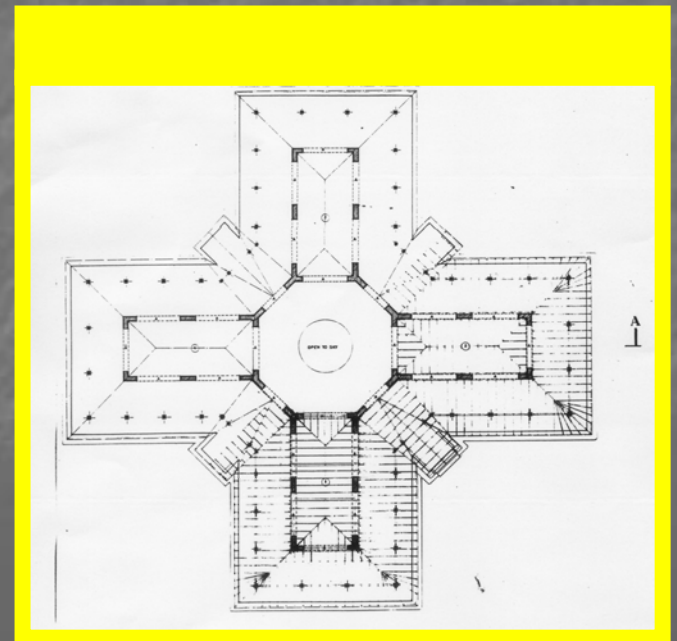
Technical decisions

- As all walls were re touched by vendors and also some portions were tiled with ceramic tiles to put up Fish stalls, entire wall has to be de plastered and re plastered with lime mortar to compatible with the original design.

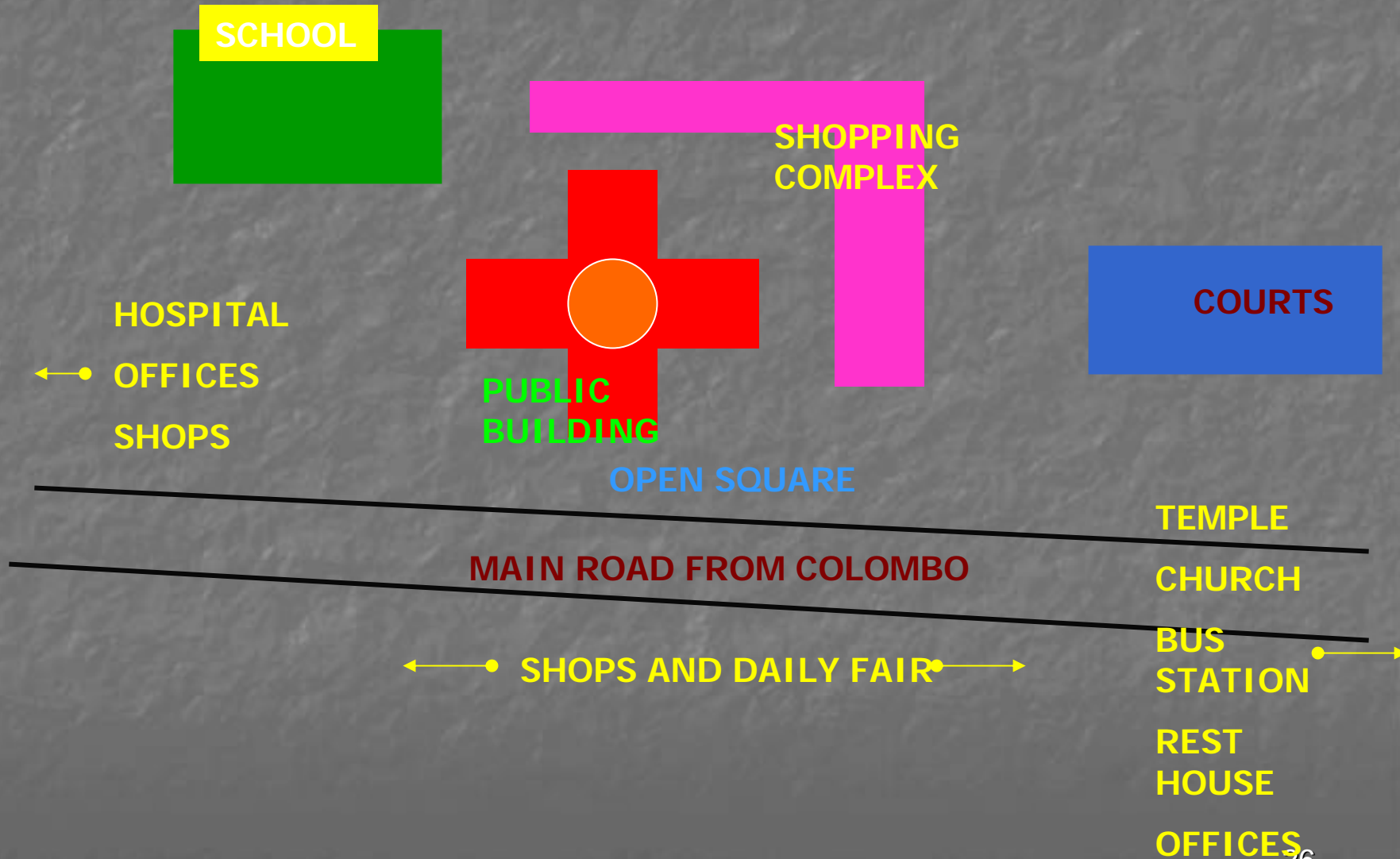


Design Decision

- It was decided to establish,
 - Road wing – sitting area the Tea Boutique/ Snacks shop
 - School Wing – Reading Area
 - Shopping mall wing – Cyber café
 - Rear wing – Toilets and maintenance unit
- **Central Octagonal Hub –
Art Gallery and Exhibition area**

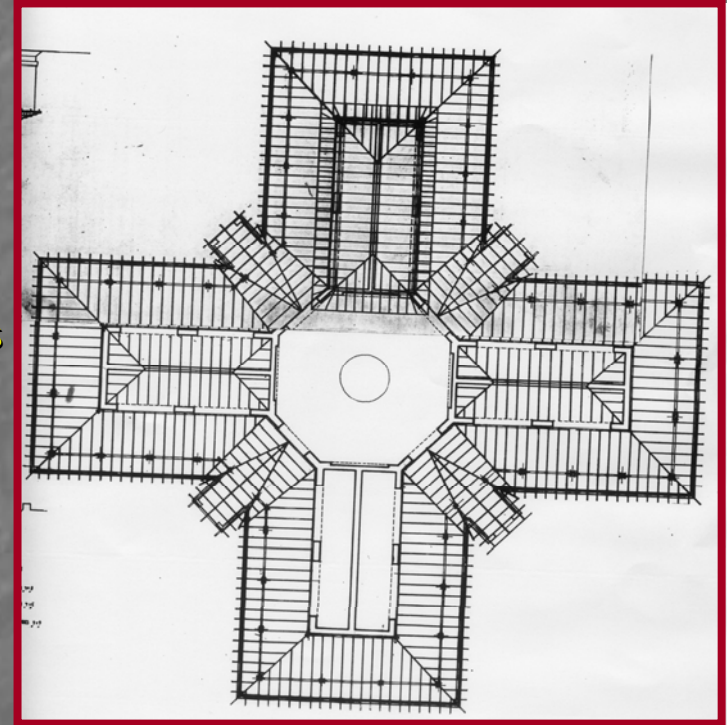


Relation with the Town



Supply of Timber

- As it is very difficult to find timber for conservation in Sri Lanka there were several meetings with The District Secretary and The State Timber Corporation (STC).
- As the DS holds the power of authority on lay down trees he agreed to issue permits to cut down old trees in crown lands.
- Also the STC agreed to issue all local timber (Indigenous Species) only to the Department of Archaeology.
- The roof needed much timber for replacing as the vendors have destroyed entire roof structure



Chemical conservation

- Some portions of the building was grown with plants and the chemical conservators removed them safely and treated chemically to stop re planting



Future interventions

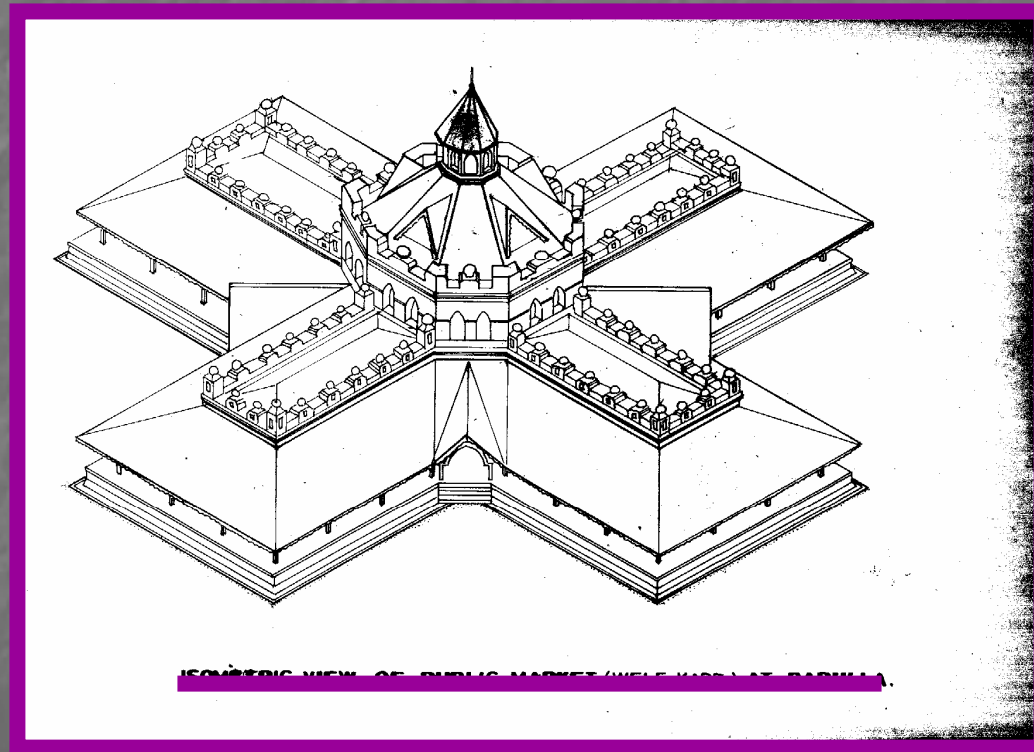
- In stage 2 of the Conservators wish to re do the decorative roof and the pinnacle. It has to be done more carefully as there are no any physical remains of that roof other than a photograph.



- Also there had been canopies for Arch ways that can be conjectured by using remaining coble stones.

Completion

- The completely conserved building will be a major attraction in Badulla town.



Maintenance Programme

- The entire conservation will be done by the Department of Archaeology
- The maintenance and activities to be managed by an organization which should be responsible for
 - Department of Archaeology
 - Municipal council of Badulla
 - Urban Development Authority
 - Provincial Council of Uva
- The project has to be supported by
 - Citizen's Association
 - Lions Club & Rotary club
 - Businessmen's Association
 - Bus Operators Society
 - Passengers Association
 - Voluntary Archaeology Association
 - Three wheeler and Taxi operator's Associations



Thank you

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