

Source : http://www.dellatecnica.com/rustom_farma_agiary.htm

SETH R.N.RUSTOM FARAMNA AGIARY



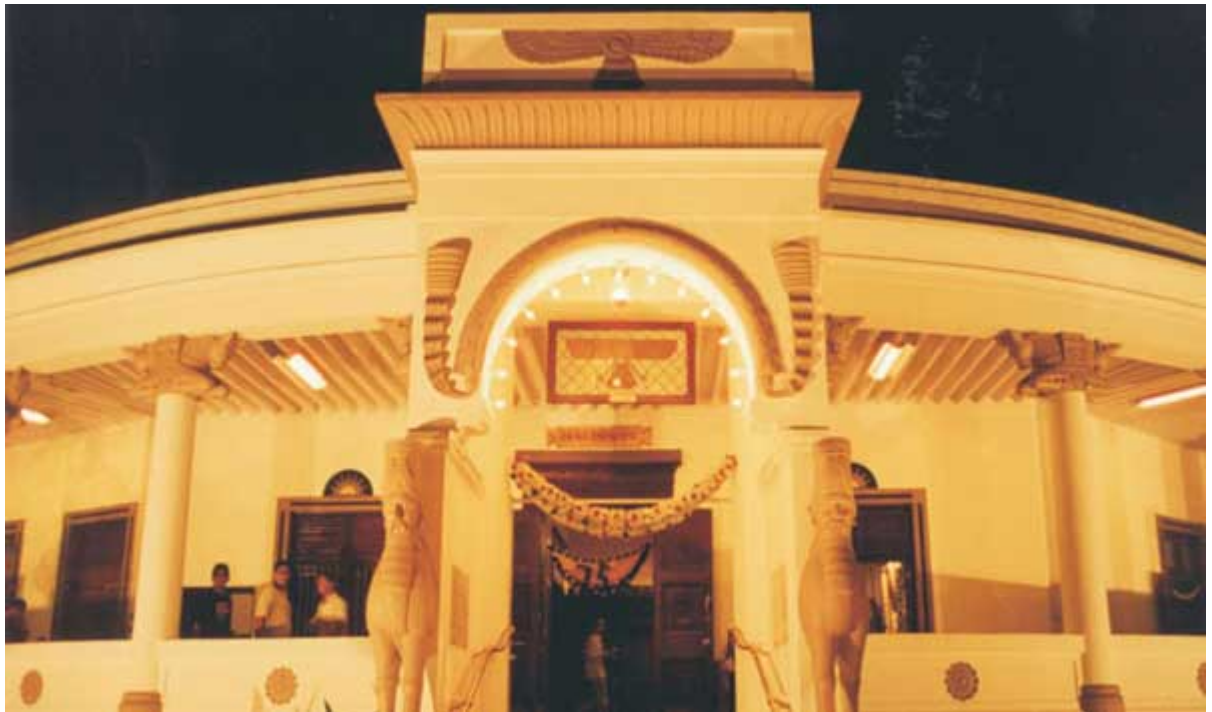
RUSTOM FARAMNA AGIARY

Client: Rustom Faramna
Agiary

Scope of Work: Restoration
& Heritage Architecture

Location: Mumbai

The decision to take up this project stems from the MD and Principal Architect Jimmy Mistry's passion to contribute to the community. Given the dilapidating state of Parsi temples (agiary), Rustom Faramna Agiary, built in 1928, was no different. Della Tecnica took up the project of restoration of the agiary as a challenge. Extensive research on heritage architecture made up for experience in the field. The project, which started as a CSR activity, became one of our most prestigious and memorable projects, and eventually won us the Urban Heritage Award in 2003 by the Indian Heritage Society.



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Source : <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/msid-609127,prtpage-1.cms>

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Heritage awards for cathedral, agiary

TNN 10 April 2004, 12:35am IST

MUMBAI: It's time once more to celebrate the city's built heritage. **The Rustom Faramna Agiary (1928) in Dadar Parsi Colony**, the St Thomas Cathedral (1718) in the Fort area, Forbes Building (1900) on Charanjit Rai Marg, Fort, and the Keramos Showroom in Sergeant House on Colaba's J A Allana Marg have won the Indian Heritage Society's urban heritage awards for 2003. The Citizen's Award has gone to the Guzdar Scheme Residents' Trust in Santa Cruz.

The awards were distributed on Friday at a simple ceremony at the Bombay University's neo-Gothic Convocation Hall. The adjudicators, a panel of three judges including historian Mariam Dossal, architect Ved Sagan and former bureaucrat S S Tinaikar, said that they had chosen the buildings because their owners/occupants had been most sensitive in maintaining and/or restoring them.

The Cathedral had skillfully restored the original pitched roof over the apse, included unobtrusive external protection to the stained glass windows and reorganised its lovely little garden into a haven of peace. **The agiary had done an excellent job of restoring both its interior and garden.**

The Keramos tile and stone showroom was a lovely example of adaptive re-use of a vintage building, they noted, while the Forbes Building had sensitively integrated the facades of its additional floors with the stone effect of the original structure.

The Citizen's Award had gone to the Guzdar Scheme Residents' Trust because it had, in the face of physical threats, financial limitations and initial disinterest by the community, gone ahead with its aim of building civic awareness in the neighbourhood.

Today, with a membership of 15,000, the Trust regularly interacts with the BMC, the police, NGOs and local schools and has made a qualitative difference to the area, showing that citizens govern best when they get together to better their bit of earth.

The IHS, now spearheaded by Anita Garware, Nirmala Phatarphekar and Harshad Bhatia, instituted these awards in 1988 to create greater public and institutional awareness for the need to preserve and protect public and private buildings, open spaces and gardens in the metropolis as a proud expression of the city's unique heritage.

It included a Citizen's Award in order to focus attention on an individual or organisation that has, in the face of high odds and challenges, fought battles to preserve and protect the city's heritage and open spaces.

Source : <http://kzamembers.wetpaint.com/page/Photo+Gallery>

Rustom Faramna Agiary, Dadar, Mumbai - India



Source : <http://www.mid-day.com/news/2003/mar/47018.htm>

Sacred fire at Dadar Parsi temple shifted

By: Date: 2003-3-11

Giving the Rustom Faramna Agiary in Dadar Parsi Colony a facelift for its 75th anniversary on March 27 was more complicated than one might suppose.

Apart from the fact that the fire temple is one of the busiest in the world, non-believers are not allowed into the sanctum sanctorum, where the sacred fire is housed. And finding a crew of Parsi masons to repair the inner sanctum was next to impossible.

Certainly, about 150 years ago, there were Parsi masons and carpenters who could have repaired the sanctum sanctorum of a fire temple. That was not the case for this renovation, says Zoroastrian scholar Khojeste Mistree.

The solution lay in an elaborate set of rituals to move the sacred fire to another room and allow a group of non-Zoroastrian masons and carpenters to spruce up the sanctum sanctorum (Gumbaj).

Ervad Faredon Kutar, a priest at the Dadar temple, said: It was decided to shift the sacred fire to a ritual room while the sanctum sanctorum was being renovated.

The shifting of the sacred fire and objects of worship was done at midnight, when there are few people around.

The ritual room, where the sacred fire was moved to, was cordoned off. The sanctum sanctorum was de-consecrated before repairs began.

The sacred fire was returned to its sanctum after repairs ended.

The elaborate process for the repairs ended on Saturday, when the sacred fire once more burned in the sanctum sanctorum.

Nearly 800 worshippers visit the temple on an average every day. Around Rs 35 lakh was spent renovating the temples exteriors, changing its electrical wiring and changing the marble in the inner sanctum.

Most of the funds came from a young businessman, Jimmy Mistry.

The Dadar temple was built by philanthropist Rustom Faramna, a hotelier from Agra. When he moved to Mumbai, he found that the largest housing colony for his community did not have a place of worship. So he purchased land to build a fire temple.

After his death, the management of the temple passed to his brother-in-law, whose descendant, Rusi Jussawalla, is now the managing trustee.

Jussawalla said, With the community getting smaller, we want youngsters to be acquainted with their history.

The fire temple also maintains an exhaustive record of community members who have lived in Parsi Colony since its establishment in the 1920s. It is like the records maintained by a Christian church."

All births and deaths are recorded here. So worshippers can come and trace their ancestors, who first lived here, says M Fitter, whose great grandfather moved into the colony in 1949.