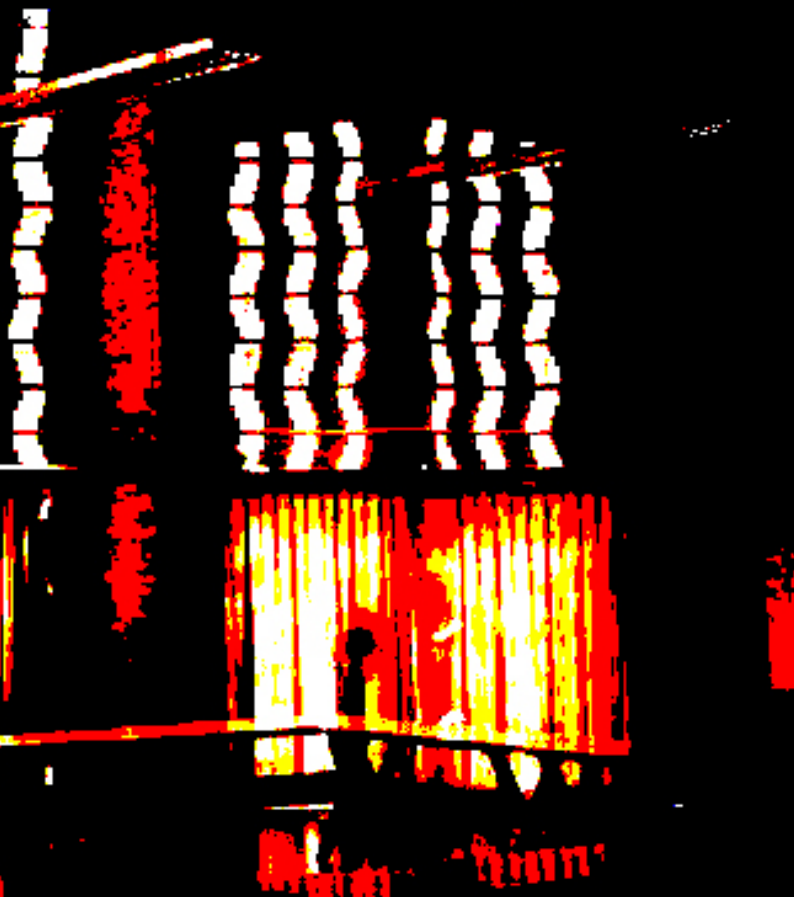


Laurie says,

Revisiting Laurie Baker







This book is about the most relevant Architect worked in India, **Laurie Baker**. Born in Birmingham, England. Educated at King Edwards Grammar School & The Birmingham School of Architecture, he came to India as the Chief Architect of the Mission to Lepers. From there on, he served mankind.

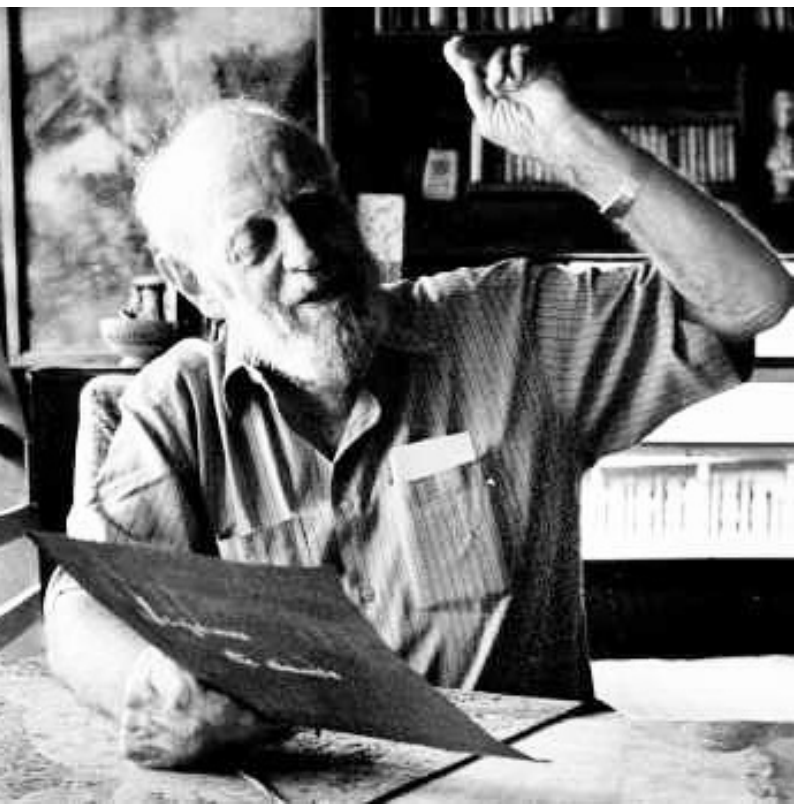
Source: <http://www.lauriebaker.net>

Original Photographs: Bruno Vellut

Compiled by
Saurabh Tewari
VC Junior, IDC,
IIT-B, Mumbai

as an exercise for Advanced Typography
Elective.

to Him,
from Him,
for Him.



Laurie says,



Laurie says,

“What is all this
nonsense about prayers?

Prayers are a
communication of faith
between
a person and his creator,
God.”



Laurie says,

“I believe that
Gandhiji
is the only leader
in our country
who has talk
consistently
with common-sense
about the building needs
of our country.
What he said many years ago
is even more
pertinent now.”



Laurie says,

“I never build for
classes of people,

HIG,

MIG,

LIG, tribals, fishermen and so on.

But I will build only for

a Matthew,

a Bhaskaran,

a Muneer, or

a Sankaran.”



Laurie says,

“My feeling as an architect is
that you’re not
after all trying to put up
a monument
which will be remembered as
a ‘Laurie Baker Building’
but
Mohan Singh’s house
where he can
live **happily**
with his family.”



Laurie says,

“If it is to design a house,
I want to know the client’s
eating habits.

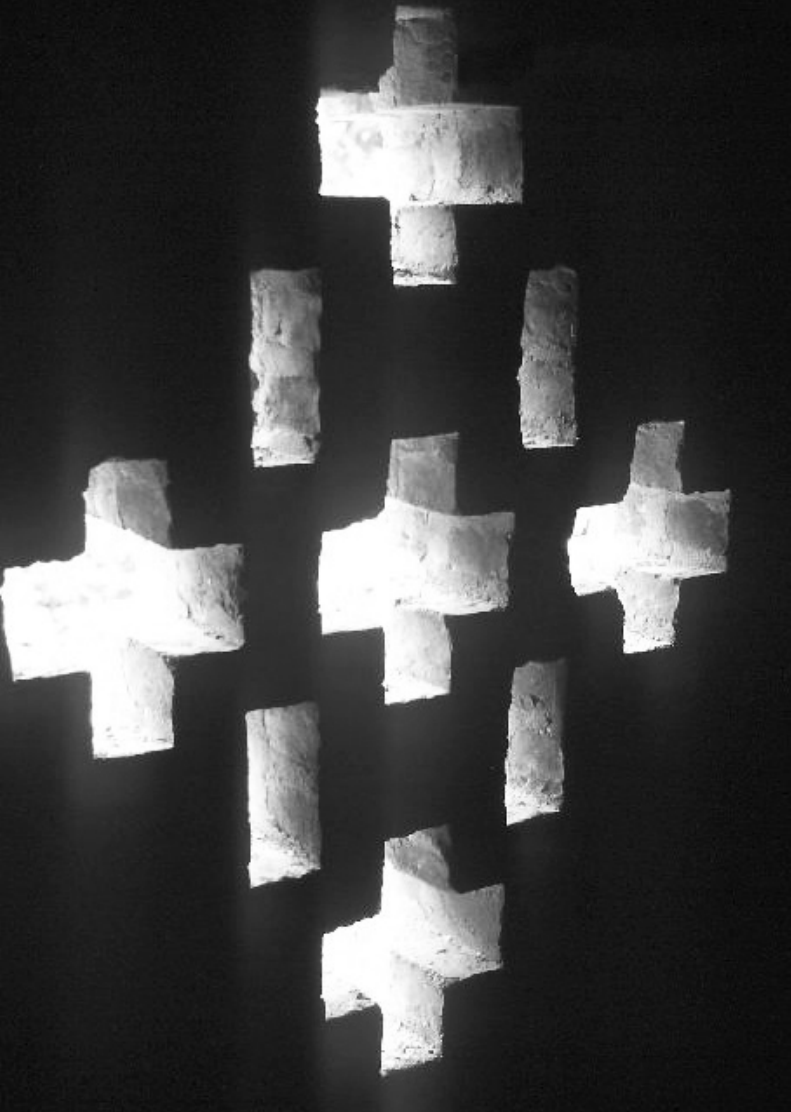
Do they all eat together at
regular times?

Or is it a smash-and-grab affair?

I also want to know about the
bedroom.

Do they merely use it to sleep in?

Or does he do his writing in one
corner (like me) and his wife
do her sewing or embroidery in
another corner?”



Laurie says,

“Bricks
to me are like
f a c e s .
All of them are made of
burnt mud,
but they vary slightly
in
shape and colour.”



COSTFORD

Laurie says,

“The equation that
a cost-effective house is
a house for the poor,
implying a bad looking house,
can definitely be proved wrong.
Isn't it the responsibility
of the upper and middle classes to
stop indulging in
extravagance
and make
better looking houses
instead?”



മലബാറിലെ

ഉറവിടം കേ

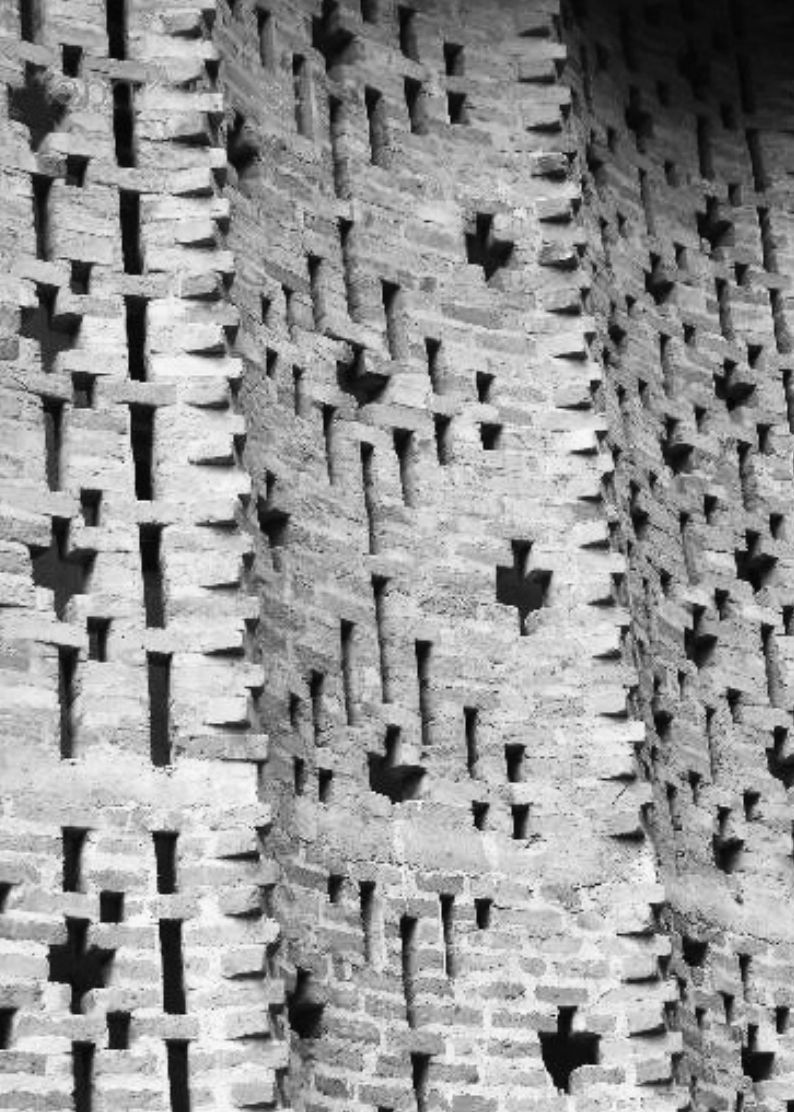
Laurie says,

“I have
never doubted
that in a country like ours
any of us has
any right to squander or
waste,
or use unnecessarily
money, materials or energy.”



Laurie says,

“The use of local materials is
an example of economy
because
there are
no transport costs.
These styles show that people
have discovered
that there is
a right way and
a wrong way
of putting materials together so
that they are
strong and durable.”



Laurie says,

I think I'm subconsciously often strongly is influenced by nature, and much of nature's 'structural work' is not straight or square.

A tall reed of grass in a windy, wild terrain long cylinder or a hollow tube; tree trunks and stems of plants that carry fruit and leaves are usually cylindrical and not square.

Curves are there to take stresses and strains and to stand up to all sorts of external forces.

On top if it all, they look good and beautiful and are infinitely more elegant than straight lines of steel and concrete.



Laurie says,

“Let a brick wall
look like a brick wall

and a stone wall
look like a stone wall.

Concrete
should look like concrete

and
not be plastered or painted
to look like marble.”



Laurie says,

“I just think
it is plain stupidity
to build a brick wall,
plaster it all over
and then paint lines on it
to make it look like
a brick wall.

I think it is
equally untruthful
to cover it all over with tiles
shaped to look like bricks.”



Laurie says,

“Our modern,
advanced scientific minds
should know
how to assess
the merits and demerits of
historical and factual evidence of
the way
people who have lived in
a particular setting and climate,
have coped with
the problems
which are
still inevitably ours today.”



Laurie says,

“My observation is that
vernacular architecture
almost always has
good answers
to all **our problems**.
In every district,
wherever you go, the people
themselves take
an active part
in making their houses.
Now, for whatever reasons,
they have lost their skills, and
need to look outside for help.”



Laurie says,

“I want
young architects & masons
to understand
why this so-called
Baker style has come about
– so that
ordinary people can
afford to build houses
for themselves.”

