Heritage and Design

Ten Portraits from Goa (India)

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Pamila Gupta
University of the Witwatersrand

Author for correspondence: Pamila Gupta, pamila.gupta@wits.ac.za

Abstract: This Element looks at the relationship between heritage and design by way of a case-study approach. It offers up ten distinct portraits of a range of heritage makers located in Goa, a place that has been predicated on its difference, both historical and cultural, from the rest of India. The author attempts to read the heritage of Goa – a former Portuguese colonial enclave (1510–1961) surrounded by what was previously British India (1776–1947) – as a form of place-ness, a source of inspiration for further design work that taps into the Goa of the twenty-first century. The series of portraits is visual, literary, and sensorial and takes the reader on a heritage tour through a design landscape of villages, markets, photography festivals, tailors and clothing, books, architecture, painting, and decorative museums. It does so in order to explore heritage futures as increasingly dependent on innovation, design, and the role of the individual.

Keywords: heritage, design, Goa, hinterland, village

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To my worldly parents: Indra Narayan Gupta (1935–2020)
and Sukarma Gupta (1937–2022)
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