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# WHERE BIRDS, BUILDINGS AND HUMANS MEET

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## ABSTRACT

Biodiversity is a critical consideration to be made when it comes to sustainable development as it directly contributes to human wellbeing. Since it is too complex a field to be quantified within the realm of architecture, this research focuses on birds in urban areas as an indicator of healthy biodiversity.<sup>1</sup> This research begins with a fundamental understanding of the relationship between birds and buildings. Birds have always been integral part to human life and influenced different cultures in varying capacities. With the advancement in urbanisation, there is an evident decline in the health of birds, which in turn impacts human cultures across various landscapes. It is imperative to study the consequences of urbanism on birds. While it is essential to design a city and provide the infrastructure that meets the requirements of the people, it is equally important to ensure that local biodiversity is not hampered.

The city of Ahmedabad, India has always had a very cherished relationship with birds. This research aims to find out the current scenario of architecture practice in the Ahmedabad city and the cohabitation between birds and humans through buildings. It aims to analyze the degree of invitation of birds in buildings. The methodology is to study the interrelation between birds, buildings and humans from three perspectives: (1) the design philosophy of the architects, (2) the building regulations and policies and (3) construction materials. It will be insightful to map the relationship between construction materials and birds.

It further entails examining the cultural context influenced by human-bird interaction. Interviews are essential to understand the current architectural scenario of the city and the limits of the design philosophy of architects. It provides insights into identifying the specific problems that birds cause within urban spaces. Since the decision making of architectural projects is primarily dependent on construction materials, the help of planning policies and regulations highlights the deeply rooted cultural framing that goes into urban architecture. This helps to investigate how humans and birds cohabit in a given space.

**Keywords:** Bird-friendly architecture, Local biodiversity, Cohabitation, Cultural significance, Biophilia, sustainable living

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<sup>1</sup> Surya, S. "Biodiversity and Bird Friendly Design in Urban Areas for Sustainable Living." Indian Journal of Science and Technology 9, no. 5 (February 9, 2016). <https://doi.org/10.17485/ijst/2016/v9i5/87224>.