

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Kumbapur: Kumbapur is an opening usually found in the ceiling of Jestak Han (Kalasha temples) and few Dur (Kalasha Houses). It acts as a skylight and ventilator for the space.

Kumba – (chimney) and pur– (layers)

Brief Description: : Kumbapur is an opening which acts as skylight or ventilator and is found in the ceiling of Kalasha temple and houses. The basic purpose of the element, as evident from its name, is to act as ventilator and source of light for the space it is located in.

In case of traditional Dur (Kalasha House) the scale of the opening is relatively small and it is located either at the center or corner of the ceiling. It is built right at the top of the hearth to eliminate the smoke in Kalasha traditional and old houses. In case of Kalasha temples the element is usually located at the center of the ceiling and the scale of the opening is relatively large in all the newly built and renovated Jestak Han (Kalasha temples).

The presence of Kumbapur signifies purity of the place thus awarding the status of Onjesta (pure) to the place it is located in/at , making it an integral part of Jestak Han (Kalasha temple). A number of rituals and festivals therefore are associated with Kumbapur e.g. during Madhaik (festive of the dead) in Chawmos offering in shape of food items are placed near Kumbapur and the souls of the dead ones are invited to enjoy the feast. Likewise the rituals/ ceremonies of Sarazari (in Chawmos) and Gulparik (in Zhohi) are also held near Kumbapur.

The element had also been used to study the movement of stars and ascertain the time .The concentrated light penetrating through Kumbapur into the interior of the temple at specific angle and time helped people to study / predict the seasons and forecast the weather conditions as it (light) precisely hit the demarking (marked on the basis on calculations) engraved on the pillars of the temple.

Kumbapur is constructed using wood usually cedar. Supported by wooden columns and beams, multiple layers of wooden planks are arranged next to and at the top of each other to achieve the opening (square or circle) of Kumbapur. Due to the presence of Kumbapur a gentle slope is maintained in the apparently flat traditional Kalasha roofs. The slope is created due to the slight difference of levels between the center and periphery of the roof and it (slope) assists and facilitates the snow and rainwater to slide down and drain off automatically from the roof.