

long-term consequences are not taken into consideration, the results can be catastrophic, turning a natural disaster into a cultural one.

The cultural heritage of Marathwada

The cultural heritage of Marathwada is predominantly rural and is characterized by traditional settlements with local or indigenous housing as an important component. Village structure is organic, punctuated by public and semi-public open spaces used for collective activities. The village entrance is marked by a temple and a gateway. Some of the villages also had fortified walls, many of which have disappeared.

Local housing has traditionally been built using the most easily available local materials, including stone and wood. Typically, the walls are made of stone masonry, sometimes more than 600 mm thick with mud or lime mortar (Figure 1). In villages where there are large deposits of white clay soil nearby, walls are predominantly made of adobe bricks produced from that soil. The most commonly found type of roof construction consists of timber with a thick heavy layer of soil to provide waterproofing and insulation. There is a distinct typology of housing based on the economic and social status of the household. Houses of wealthy people are characterized by a courtyard surrounded by a colonnaded veranda off which the rooms are arranged. A front wall with dressed stone cladding and a massive doorway are also characteristic features of these houses. Other important elements of the built heritage are stone temples with typical pyramidal roofs (Figures 2 and 3), cave temples, fortresses, and wells and water tanks representing a well-developed traditional water system. The region also abounds in

Figure 1. Traditional houses in the region are characterized by massive stone masonry walls, punctuated by large gateways.

