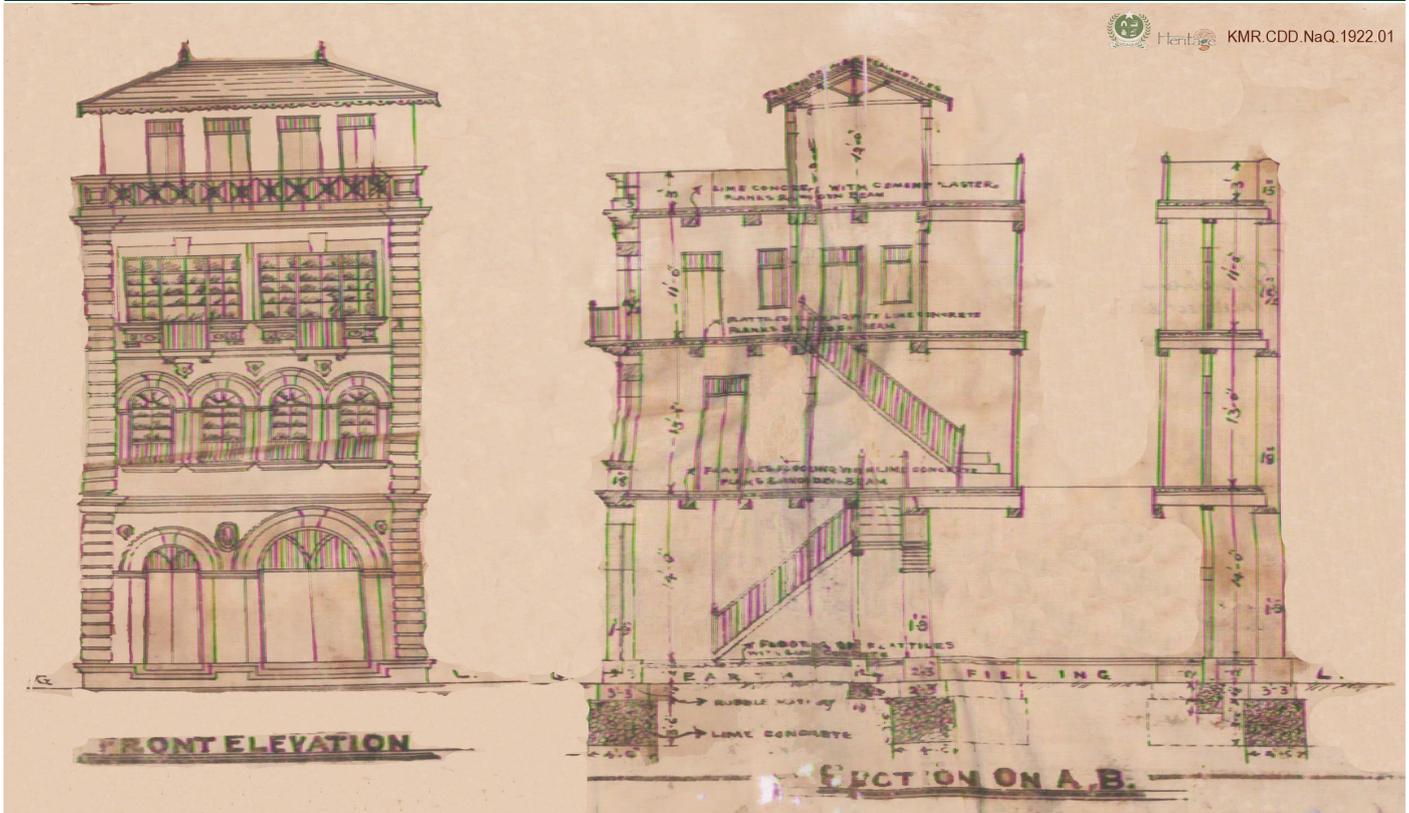


J.A.Shiveshankar Modeliar, Architect and Surveyor, Karachi



Front Elevation and Section of Building on Plot no. 43, Napier Quarter, 1922.

Introduction

Architect and Surveyor, J. A. Shiveshankar kept office at the historically significant Bunder Road in the Sudder Quarter. The projects he completed have mainly been small scaled, consisting primarily of residences and a few mixed-use buildings. His designs are located in the Lyaree, Jail, Market, Napier, Old Town and Runchore Quarters across colonial Karachi.

The works so far discovered date from 1920 to 1932. Since a majority of drawings found bear the name and/ or stamp of Devkishandas & Co., Architects & Surveyors, it is concluded that through his initial period as an architect, he collaborated with them.

His projects include:

- 1- Bungalow on Plot no. 1/16, Sheet no. I-2, Garden Quarter, 1920-1921.
- 2- House on Plot no. 272, Sheet no. K-6, Lyaree Quarter, 1920-1921.
- 3- Building on Plot no. 119, Sheet no. C-1, Macchi Miani Quarter, 1920-1921.
- 4- Building on Plot No.52 & 49, Sheet A-1, Old Town Quarter, 1920-1921.
- 5- Building on Plot No. 54, Sheet C-1, Macchi Miani Quarter, 1921.
- 6- Motor Houses on Plot no. 69, Sheet no. K-4, Lyaree Quarter, 1921.
- 7- Building on Plot No.43, Sheet A-28, Napier Quarter, 1922.

1- Bungalow on Plot no. 1/16, Sheet no. I-2 Garden Quarter 1920-1921

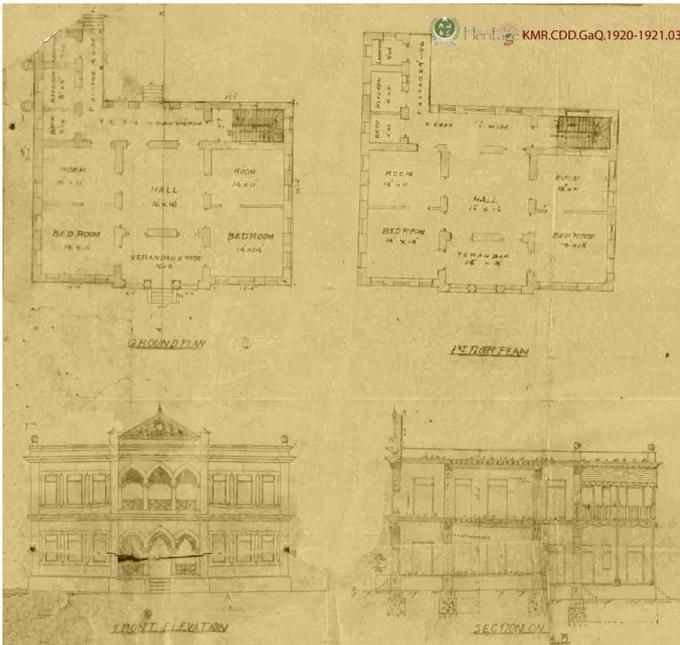
Reference No. KMR.CDD.GaQ.1920-1921.03

The bungalow, designed in 1920 for Mr. Sabazali Ramzanali in the Garden Quarter, is one of Shiveshankar's earliest projects.

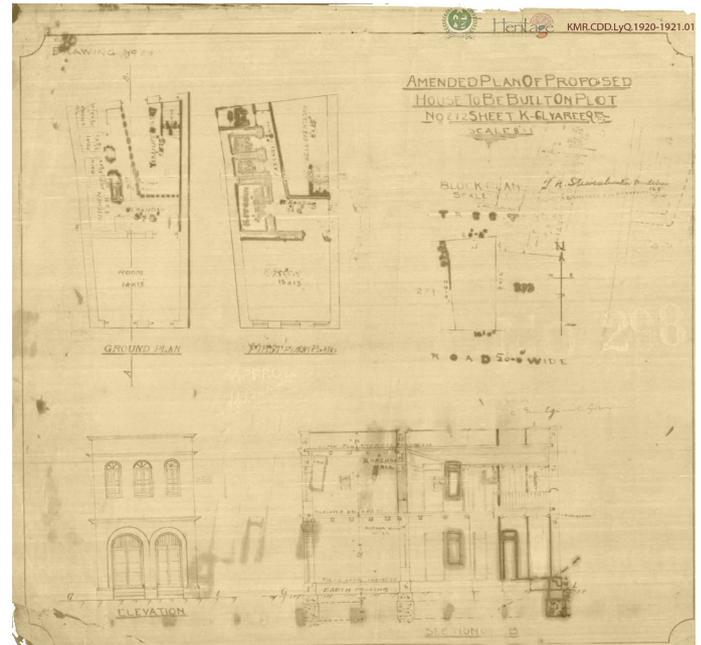
The building completion document of the bungalow and a document granting permission to build outhouses for it have been found. Above the name of Devkishandas & Co, Architects and Surveyors, J.A. Shiveshankar Modeliar signed the drawings on 18th May 1920,; stamp of the former is also visible.

The house is entered by means of a rectangular verandah leading to a main hall at the centre of the house; a total of 4 rooms open on either side of the verandah and the hall. A 6' wide verandah runs along the rear of the house with a staircase at one end and a connecting passage, with services stretching out in an L-shape, at the other end. The plan of the first floor is the same as the one below it.

The elevation of the house reflects the plan in its three segments, each with three openings: the central portion is the most elaborate, boasting a decorated pediment and gothic arches along the verandahs. Here, filigree, probably of woodwork, runs in between all the capitals. The remaining segments on either side are identical, having three rectangular windows, each with a keystone. Mouldings are located along the ceiling level at each floor.



A portion of the submission drawing for house on Plot no. 1/16, Garden Quarter 1920-1921.



Submission Drawing for Plot no. 272, Lyari Quarter, showing plans, section and elevation.

The outhouse, built 10' from the bungalow, is a double-storied, gabled structure having two rooms on each floor. The ground floor has rooms for a carriage and horse, the first a room and a kitchen for the staff. Bath and privy for the same are at ground level. The windows are arched and a staircase along the short side culminates in a passage along the rooms on the first floor.

Signatures of Tulsidas Tejjammul, presumably a representative for Mr. Ramzanali and J.A. Shiveshankar, are visible on the drawing.

2- House on Plot no. 272, Sheet no. K-6 Lyaree Quarter 1920-1921

Reference No. KMR.CDD.LyQ.1920-1921.01

The house on Plot no. 272 of Sheet K-6, Lyaree Quarter was designed for Mr. Masljimal Gangaram. The plot is a narrow irregular quadrilateral: 40' in length and 16'-20' in width. The south facing entrance opens into a room, which by means of a verandah further leads to an air well, a staircase and ultimately a back entrance. Across the air well are the linearly laid services: kitchen, bath and privy. The first floor the plan replicates the one below. The fact that services have been provided on both floors seems to indicate that the house was designed for more than one family.

The elevation is simple; the ground floor comprises of two arched double doorways and the first floor of three smaller arched windows, mouldings run along both levels at ceiling height.

A document granting permission to build dated 7th October 1920 and a building completion report issued on 15th February 1921, addressed to the Engineer, Karachi Municipality by the Building Surveyor have both been found.

3- Building on Plot no. 119, Sheet no. C-1, Macchi Miani Quarter 1920-1921

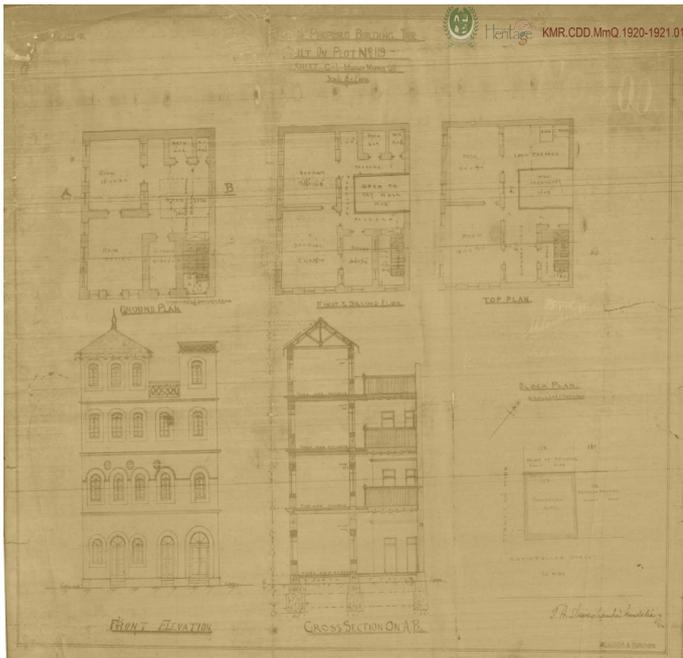
Reference No. KMR.CDD.MmQ. 1920-1921.01

Plot no. 119, Macchi Mianee Quarter is a corner plot with 30' wide streets on either side; the four-storey structure faces Rahimtullah Street to the front. Roughly square in outline, the plan is bisected with adjacent rooms to one side and services, including kitchen, toilet, an air well and a staircase, at the other. Apart from the use of the kitchen area as storage space, the first and second level layouts have the same configuration as the ground floor plan. The third level floor plan is also similar sans services - facilitated only with a sink next to the water tank - the sections used for services are converted into a U-shaped terrace around the air well, the central location of which ensures light and ventilation throughout the building.

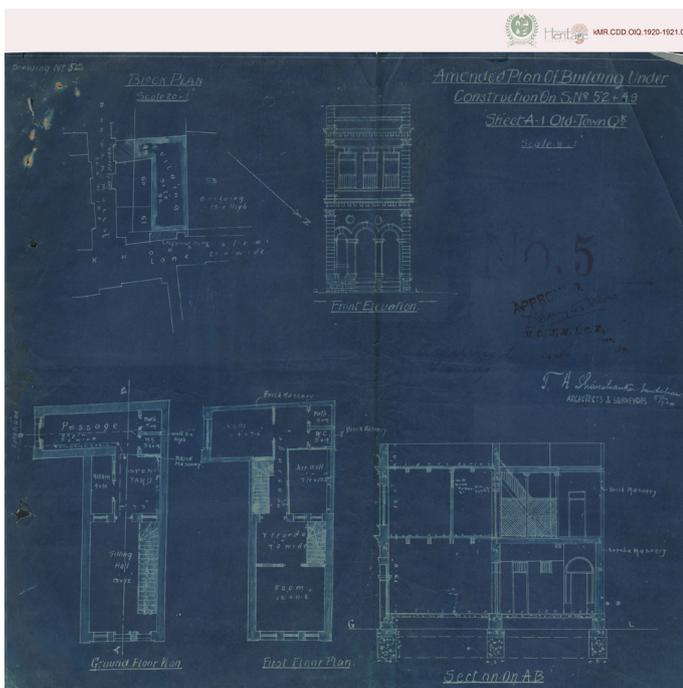
The repetitive use of arches, an essential element of the Shiveshankar elevation, has been employed for the facade: on the ground and first level are roman arches in the form of doors and windows respectively, and on the second and third are segmented arches over windows. A pitched roof covers roughly half of the top floor; the remaining portion being partially covered by a flat roof and the rest used as a terrace with an elaborate balustrade.

The drawing shows the signature of the owner, Mr. Vali Mohammed Saloo, the approval stamp and signature of relevant KM authority and that of J.A. Shiveshankar Modeliar dated 6th July 1920 above the stamp of Messrs. Devkishandas & Co. Architects and Engineers.

Documents granting permission to build and Building Completion report are attached.



Proposed building on Plot No. 119, Macchi Miani Quarter, 1920-1921.



Blue print copy of submission drawing for Plot No. 52 & 49, Sheet A-1, Old Town Quarter, 1920-1921.

4- Building on Plot No.52 & 49, Sheet A-1, Old Town Quarter 1920-1921

Reference No. KMR.CDD.OIQ.1920-1921.01

Correspondence between D. Barrington Brow, Chief Engineer, Karachi Municipality and Mr. Assamal Hemraj, landowner, highlights a dispute over the layout of sewerage on a small two-storey building designed along Khoosholrai Lane and Doodarmull Street on plot No. 52 & 49, Survey Sheet A-1.

The ground floor of this L-shaped building in Old Town Quarter, consists of a sitting hall and an open yard leading to a 5' wide passage and services at the rear. The first floor has been designed with a room at either end of the L-shape and a central verandah and air well that ventilate services across from it.

The section details thicknesses of the largely internally used brick masonry and 18" thick external 'Kuptcha' masonry walls.

The elevation has quoins, another of Shiveshankar's staple elements of design, building up to ornate capitals and a level roof. The doorway at ground plane has steps leading to roman arches and there are rectangular windows at the first floor.

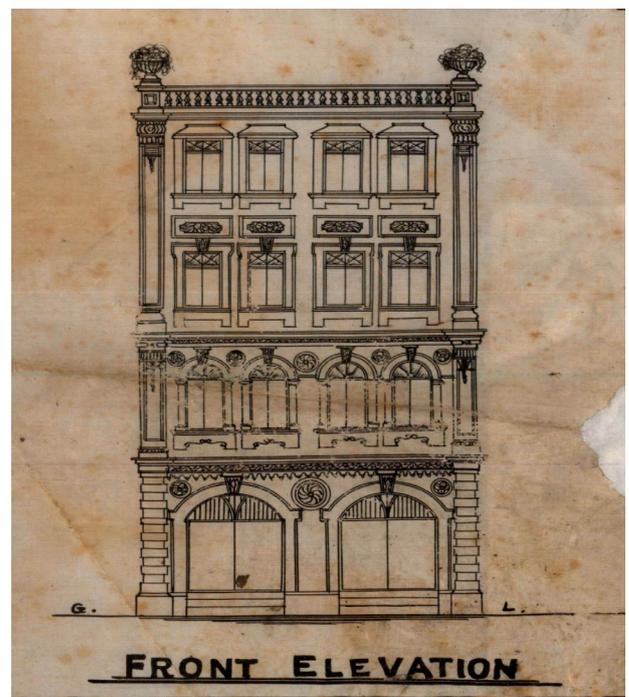
The architect on 8th November 1920, the owner and the Chief Engineer, Karachi Municipality, have signed the drawing.

5- Building on Plot No. 54, Sheet C-1, Macchi Miani Quarter 1921

Reference No. KMR.CDD.MmQ.1920-1921.01

The location is an irregular, oblong corner plot with the 28' wide Macchi Miani Road to one side and a 20' wide lane along the other. According to the architect's signature, this mixed-use building was designed for Mr. Tikiomul Jiwandas in April 1921.

The plan is symmetrical in layout with an air well, staircase and washing facilities at the centre and on the ground floor, four shops on either side: two large and two small. On the first and second floors the larger shops are laid out as connecting rooms and the smaller ones converted to a single verandah leading to the medial air well. These seem to be separate lodgings as there are two sets of services on each



Detail of submission drawing showing elevation for building on Plot No. 54, Sheet C-1, Macchi Miani Quarter, 1921.

level. The third storey has only one set of lodging at the front, the rear has been left open as a terrace. An independent passage, near the staircase, leading to these apartments, is accessed from the lane side at ground level.

The elevation is one of Shiveshankar's finest, roman arches interposed with circular vents on the two lower floors and adorned rectangular windows for the second and third floors. There is a pleasant, gradual integration of curves and straight lines well contained within quoins and pilasters and on the roof level there is an imperial balustrade as parapet with large planters at either end.

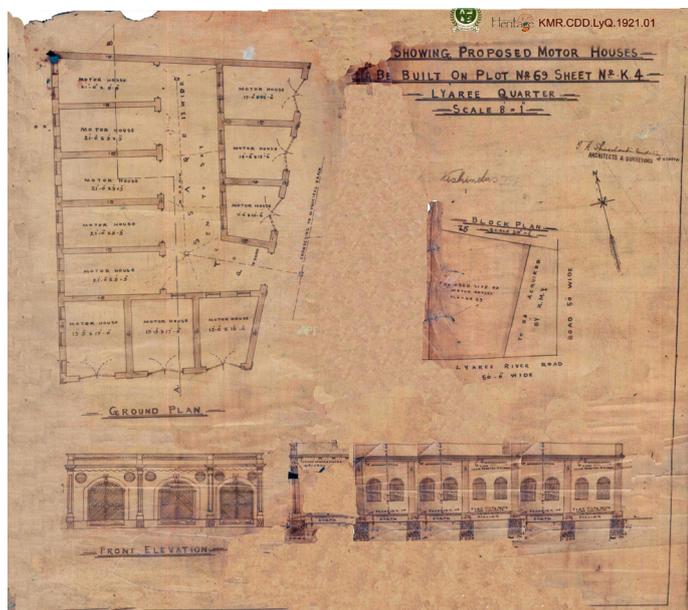
6- Motor Houses on Plot no. 69, Sheet no. K-4, Lyaree Quarter 1921

Reference No. KMR.CDD.LyQ.1921.01

Eleven rooms of varying sizes called 'motor houses' were constructed on Plot no. 69, with additional land to the west to be acquired from the Karachi Municipality, along the 50' wide Lyaree River Road.

The drawing of this single storey structure for Mr. Vishandas Tikamdas illustrates the arrangement of the eleven rooms; five of which are accessed by way of wide gates leading through a passage open to sky, three having individual openings to the south and the remaining three independent to the east.

The elevation is somewhat puzzling, as there are steps leading to the raised doors of the garages on the south side, it may be considered that the cars drove over the steps shown. The south and west façades



Submission drawing for Motor Houses on Plot No. 69, Sheet K-4, Lyari Quarter, 1921.

are divided into three sections by four pilasters that each frame a roman arch and two circular ventilating shafts. The western elevation is lined with small windows and the northern is windowless.

The design proposal was approved D. Barrington Brow, while he served as Chief Engineer at the Karachi Municipality. Documents granting permission to build as well as building completion report are attached with the drawing.

7- Building on Plot No.43, Sheet A-28, Napier Quarter 1922

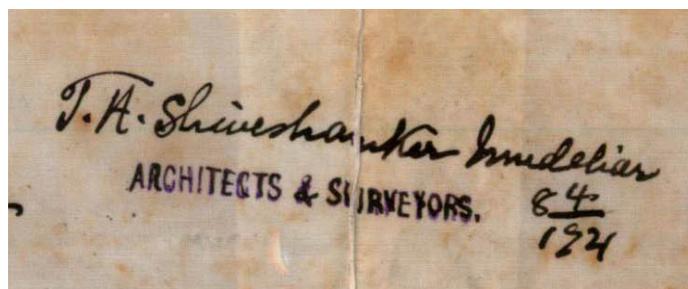
Reference No. KMR.CDD.NaQ.1922.01

Plot no.43 of Sheet A-28, Napier Quarter on the Syai Ellapa Road, illustrates a 20' wide, four-storied mixed-use building designed for Mr. Janardhandas Lokumal in February 1922. On the ground floor this building has a large shop at the front and a connecting passage leading to the services at the back. On the first and second floors the shop is replaced with two rooms, whilst the rest of the layout remains the same. The third floor is utilized mainly as an open terrace, with a cabin located near the centre. Storage space has been abundantly provided for on all floors, always over the piece of land jutting out at the back of the plot, an additional storeroom has been allotted on the second floor. This arrangement seems to point towards a business that may have involved larger sized stock.

Two almost adjacent air wells provide ample ventilation and lighting, which has furthermore been appreciated by the City Land Surveyor in documents found.

The elevation has quoins on the three lower floors where columns frame arched windows on the two lower levels and rectangular, balconied ones at the second and third. The cabin has a pitched roof. All this adds to the height and width of the building; whilst the mix of roman and flat arches, the framed windows and gable roof give it an eclectic air.

Mr. Barrington Brow and Mr. Mesham Lea, Chief Engineer and Chief Officer respectively at the Karachi Municipality approved the project.



Signature of J.A. Shivashankar Modeliar, as seen on drawings.

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