🏠 How Kutchi Bhungas Are Constructed

Traditional Architecture of Kutch, Gujarat

📖 Introduction

Bhunga is a traditional circular mud hut native to the Kutch region of Gujarat. Known for their earthquake-resistant design, climatic suitability, and aesthetic appeal, these structures are part of Kutch's living heritage.

🧱 1. Foundation and Base Construction

- The foundation is shallow and circular, built using stone or mud blocks.
- The area is leveled, and a mud-cement mixture is laid for a strong base.

- It is raised slightly above ground level to protect from flooding and insects.

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2. Wall Construction

- Bhunga walls are made of sun-dried clay bricks, mud blocks, or a mixture of clay, sand, cow dung, and straw.
- The circular shape provides better resistance to high wind speeds and seismic activity.
- The walls are thick, offering insulation from heat during the day and retaining warmth at night.

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3. Roof Framework

- The conical roof is built using locally available timber (usually bamboo or babool wood).
- Wooden beams are placed radially from a central point, tied securely with natural ropes or wires.

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4. Thatching the Roof

- The roof is thatched with dry grass, palm leaves, or jowar stalks.
- It is layered in a way to allow rainwater runoff while providing excellent insulation.
- Some modern bhungas now use tin or tiles on top of traditional thatch for added durability.

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5. Plastering and Finishing

- The inner and outer walls are plastered with mud mixed with cow dung, which acts as an insect repellent.
- A final layer of lime or white clay is applied for a clean finish and to reflect heat.
- Women in villages often paint intricate "Lippan Art" (mud mirror work) on the walls to beautify the structure.

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6. Interiors

- Interiors are minimal yet functional, often featuring built-in mud shelves, storage niches, and cool sitting areas.
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Natural ventilation is ensured through small openings or strategically placed windows.

□ Advantages of Kutchi Bhunga Architecture

- □ Earthquake-resistant (proved during the 2001 Bhuj earthquake)
- □ Eco-friendly & sustainable materials
- □ Natural temperature control
- □ Cultural & aesthetic appeal