



areas and thankfully, some stories of hope, resilience and sheer miracle have emerged to inspire them to keep moving forward.

At this time point in time, communication channels with Nepal are still strained and I am yet to find out if all my Nepalese interior design students are alive and well with their families. As members of the international community, we can only hope that the humble and hospitable people of Nepal find the strength and courage to recover from this loss and that their beautiful country is able to rebuild itself as soon as it is able.

After the earthquake many heritage sites, structures of architectural importance, sculptures, cultural institutes, temples, historical government buildings, residences, offices, schools and villages have suffered significant dam-

age. Examples include Durbar Square in Kathmandu where rescue workers are clearing the rubble brick by brick in the hope that they can one day be used to rebuild some of the sites.

I have wonderful memories at Lalitpur, Basantpur, Durbar Square, Bhaktapur and many other places, all of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites. When I was in Nepal, I remember being intrigued to learn that the Patan Museum, once a palace that housed members of the Pala dynasty, was heavily damaged in the 1934 earthquake. It took 15 years of financial and technical and financial support from the Austrian government to restore this wonderful museum. While it is hard to comment on it without having seen the original site, one can say with impunity that the remodelled 'new' premises are also exceptionally beautiful.

Set in the world's most beautiful squares, it was conceived not only to display a collection of artefacts as a showcase for the cultural legacy of Nepal but also to splendour of the Mala period itself.

As the world lends itself to the support of the Nepalese people in their time of calamity, we can but hope that difficult as the process may be, similar restoration efforts will be undertaken to reinstate other places of historical and cultural significance in and around Kathmandu.

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