THE IDC
The Documentation Centre, constituted in 2003, houses
• Listings of Heritage Buildings and Sites in Indian districts,
cities and towns
• Project proposals and reports on architectural and natural
heritage, dating from the 1980s
• Conference Proceedings
• A small collection of theses on architecture and planning
• Institutional papers on environment, forestry, water
issues etc.
• Heritage Acts of States, material on Heritage Legislation
and charters from other countries
• Newspaper clippings
• Brochures and leaflets on tourism, museums, education,
environment etc.
If required, readers may be directed to specialists of different
Divisions of INTACH for help with locating research material.
• The Library receives 13 newspapers daily and the IDC has a
regular clippings service from national and regional
newspapers. These are stored in files and a catalogue of
these is available on the INTACH website.
• IDC is in the process of scanning and cataloguing its large
collection of maps and plans.
• IDC’s updates are posted on the INTACH website each
month.

The B.K. Thapar AVC was inaugurated in March 2009. It is well-
equipped with audio & visual aids and has a collection of
documentary films produced in-house or purchased from
agencies like PSBT, CCRT, Syncline film store, Magic Lantern etc, recorded
interviews and lectures, slides and photographs from various
Divisions and Chapters. It also has a selection of audio material
from the Akashvani Archives. Visitors are welcome to view or
listen to material in the Audio-Visual Centre.

INTACH is proud of the fact that it welcomes everyone who
wishes to read in the Library or the Documentation Centre,
unlike many libraries in Delhi which have a restricted
membership.
The INTACH Library and Documentation Centre is the only one
of its kind in India which is exclusively dedicated to help
scholars and researchers in the fields of architectural, intangible
and natural heritage, and heritage conservation.

THE LIBRARY
At present the Library’s collection is small, and the IDC’s
somewhat miscellaneous, but both are growing steadily.
The Library, set up in 1988, has built up a collection of books on
architecture, art, conservation, crafts, archaeology, intangible
heritage, history, museums, indigenous people, heritage
conservation and tourism.
The Library subscribes to 17 Journals on Architecture, Design,
Conservation and Environment.
There is a special collection of books and other documents on
tourism, built up with the help of a grant from the Ministry of
Tourism and Culture in 2004. The documents and books in the
Library are classified according to the Dewey Decimal
Classification scheme (DDC). The documents are catalogued in
machine-readable form using Tech Lib7 software. The database
contains over 19,560 entries. The Library is a member of
DELNET, which means it can access information on the holdings
in other libraries in Delhi. The Library welcomes suggestions for
books to be purchased.
There is an oasis of beauty in the centre of Delhi called the Lodi Garden, an oasis of flowering trees, gentle slopes and a waterway, and magnificent monuments of the fifteenth century. Near the Lodi Garden are beautifully-landscaped public buildings, many designed by the inspired American architect Joseph Stein. Some others are the work of Indian architects, but they all conform to the subtle colour-coding which creates a sense of harmony.

71 Lodi Estate used to be a small bungalow, and was redesigned as the headquarters of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, founded in 1984. Its large grey mass is softened by its gentle approach, low-rise steps curving round to the entrance.

The interior is refreshingly free of monotonous corridors, and of any sense of hierarchy, though there are light-hearted references to the tai-khana at basement-level, rising to the diwan-e-aam and then to the diwan-e-khaas.

It is symptomatic of the ad hoc fashion in which INTACH expanded that the Library and the Documentation Centre are separated by two flights of stairs. After you cross the threshold, go straight ahead and go up a flight of stairs to the elegant Library, and before you settle down to reading, spare a glance for the squirrels peacefully having their breakfast on the little balcony.

If it is the Documentation Centre you need, turn right after the front door and go down the grand staircase, ignoring the left lane which will lead you to the Architecture Division, and go on to the Audio-Visual Centre and the cheerful sun-lit Documentation Centre.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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