

# Preserving the Kandyan Heritage



**KANDY:** Architecture in wood has played a considerable role both in the ancient and near ancient periods in Sri Lanka. A fair number of buildings of timber construction are still well preserved. Some of them are elaborate constructions displaying excellent carpentry work and carvings. Most of the Devalas of the Kandyan times display the important role played by the wood worker.

The skill in painting these fences with Red, Yellow or Black colours according to the 'Laksha Method' which is manually worked by the carpenters has been a tradition of the Kandyan period.

Carpenters are working on recreating the Wooden fence pillars at the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy with "Kumbuk" wood and for them to complete each wooden pillar manually takes one full day.

Text & Pictures  
by Sriyantha Walpola

