



## MUGHAL ART AND ARCHITECTURE

**Dr. Bibhas Kanti Mandal**

*Asst. Professor, Yogoda Satsanga, Palpara Mahavidyalaya.*

### **Abstract**

*The art and architecture, designed by Mughal emperors in sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth Century was the Landmark of Indian culture and heritage. As an Islamic dynasty Mughal emperors decorated Indian subcontinent with showy splendor adapting Indo-Persian and Indo-Islamic pattern.*

*The northern India and the areas of present Pakistan were established the palaces and Mughal building by the ruler of fugal one by one. The finest creating building is known as Agra Fort e.i. Red fort at Delhi and the surprised "Taj Mahal".*

### **Objectives**

1. Imparting to a comprehensive vision of art on Mughal age.
2. Making the appreciative of the ideas of balanced development of this art.
3. To compare other art and design in respect of Mughal art.
4. To appreciate the glorious cultural heritage of that age.

### **Sources of Architecture**

Mughal architecture is a combination of Islamic, Persian and Indian architecture. The major sources of Mughal architecture was as following-

- Native Indian Islamic architecture.
- Persian central Asian architecture.
- Local Hindu architecture.

The native Islamic architecture before Mughal dynasty was to be considered the sultanate architecture and it was the another feature of cusped arch of Delhi of pre-Mughal sultanate empire.

The Persian style was mainly done construction and designing. Besides this the tiles work the garden design, Charbagh, form and flourished motifs, the town central point archetype. There influences derived by Persian masters of architecture.

The Hindu and local Hindu influences were mainly related to dome structure on the top of the mosques, palaces and the tombs from the 'Hindu cheaters.'

### **Materials used and decorations of buildings**

The well-known and precious material and building materials were used as stone with vindicating, baked brick for construction of dome and arches, white marble, deep red sandstones etc. these constructional materials and the construction covered with facing stone and plaster, Pietra dura work with a finishing touch.

The building decoration and the forms of buildings were carried out using a variety of techniques, both of local and Indian native culture and foreign design like pietra dura.

- Pietra-dura inlay with colored stones designed at the time of Shah Jahan by the Italian masters.
- The other intumesce was ceramic fleawort including colored glazes and the mosaic tile.
- The series of pavilion and courtyard of both building and gardens.
- Marble Tiles with flowers.
- Stone work in a curve patterns.
- Wall images of the emperors who wanted to reflect themselves as glorious rulers projecting their heavenly thoughts.
- These decorative ideas developed to convey heavenly impression and paradisiacal thought on reflection.

### **Evolution of Mughal Architecture**

From the first Mughal ruler Babar to Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb adopted different types of building materials to supervising their wasters and architect. Babar interested in creating building irrespective to materials of building decorations. In the period of Humayuns there were a Limited number of buildings. In the period of Akbar, two son Humayon, built widely sanitized style mainly Red Sandstone for example Red fort, Jodha places of red sandstone, creating a combination of local



Hindu architecture and Islamic architecture. But at the time of Jahangir, the Hindu features vanished and marble was widely used. Next to him Shah Jahan had a keen interest in establishing monuments, palaces, peacocks throne with Finest work, white marble, richly used with pietra dura work of Italian style. The ruler, Aurangzeb wished to replace the square stone by brick and rubble with ornaments.

### Forms of the building and its surroundings

1. **Dome:** It resembles the hollow upper half of a sphere. Mughal domes were constructed on the upper top of mosques, tombs and places built by mughal emperors.
2. From Neolithic period, domes are constructed on dwelling using local available materials. It is an important part of buildings from prehistoric to modern era. The 'igloo', a house that is seasonally constructed by Eskimos, and another type of domes shaped construction.
3. Mughal emperors influenced by middle and central east of Asian culture for what domesticated, upper most construction became possible. The scientific cause is the regulation of temperature and humidity of the domes behind its construction.
4. **Arch:** It was window like shape that is related around its couter vertical axis. The actual cause behind these constructional shapes is that It have a great structural strength.
5. **Tambour:** Tough it was bound in the sultanate period, this pre-mughal architecture was also used in mughal period.

The form is cylindrical wall supported a dome containing a window shape wall.

### Tombs

- Adam khan tomb is the first mughal tomb and it has octagonal chamber including a central dome.
- Tomb of Isa-khan in Delhi is also a type of mughal tomb.
- Humayuns tomb the first mughal Imperial tomb constructed in memory of Humayun, the 2<sup>nd</sup> mughal ruler. The tomb consists of four squares Octagonal shape.
- Akbar's tomb is situated in Sekandara. The central portion of Akbar's tomb is seamed to be different from the other earlier tombs.
- Bibi ka Megabar tomb is constructed by Shah Jahan.
- Taj Mahal is tomb completed by Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mumtaz named as Mumtaz Mahal which symbolized two true love and dedication of Shah Jahan for his beloved even today. The Taj Mahal is considered as one of the seven wonder of the world including the heritage side. The finest art and white marble used in architecture made it as surprises over the earth.

### Mosques

- Mahdi masjid is the earliest mughal mosque which was a rectangular courtyard.
- Jamali Kamli Masjid is constructed with Red sandstone.
- Qala-i-Kuhna Masjid is known as purana-sila and it survived as first Imperial mughal mosque.
- Fatehpur sikari mosque is built by Akbar. It was constructed by Red sandstone, locally available materials adapting Hindustyle of architecture.
- Jami Masjid located in Shahjahanabad named after Shah Jahan.
- Moti masjid established during the reign of Aurangzeb in Red fort of Agra and another mosque of his construction is Badshahi Masjid present in Lahore.

### Gateways and Gardens Architecture

The Gateway of Mughal buildings were magnificently decorated. For examples Nurmahal after Nurjahan and Alamgiri gate built by Aurangzeb considering main entrance of Lahore.

The Islamic style of architecture is influenced by Persian style. Two Gardens were the layouts of rectangular shape with rectangular wall. Akbar initiated wells, reservoirs milestone near mouthier and Chhapanghat designing rectangular enclosed wall near the garden. But the earliest garden is designed by Babar Known as Arambagh in Agra. Jahangir Constituted and planed Shalimar Buru in Kashmir consisting three parts the lower part denied for public, middle one for ruler and their close friends and last one highest par for zenana means women private zone. Aurangzeb also interested in deigning gardens that was derived from Persian Charbagh means town walled garden in a square shape.

### Miniature Paintings

Miniature painting means etymologically a painting on a very small scale. Mughal miniature painting is the culture of land mark in Indian history under the Persian masters. According to the Ain-i-Akbari an example of painting on cloth that is Hamza-nama. Mughal art was influenced after indo-Persian style containing three parts



- Portraits art related to emperors like pendant the portraits of Jahangir with Jesus, Lady with Hookah.
- Mughal love art is mughal miniature; Tales of love, related to mughal harem or, game of wide and seek etc.
- Mughal nature of art miniature paintings of animals, trees, etc.

#### **Influence of mughal architecture even in present**

- Mughal architecture mainly done shaped construction is now considered as a major influence on lated Indian mosques throughout all the places of India, reflecting heavenly feeling and close to Islamic faith.
- Mughal gardens were constructed for relaxation of that period, but since now it exists as relaxation of people and tourist.
- The Indian parliament and its front of garden designing is seemed to be design after Mughal waster and architect.

Some Mughal Art on Next Page-



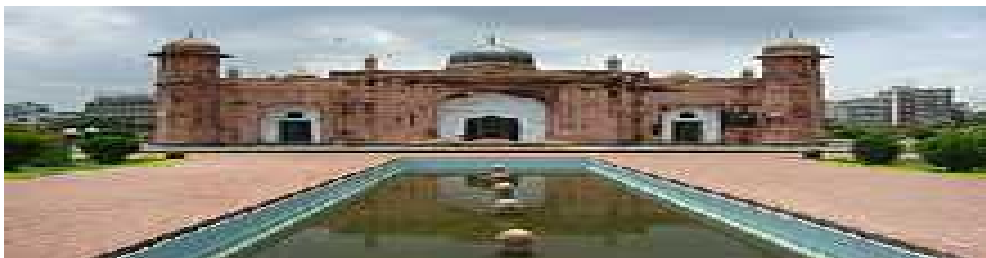
Buland Darwaza in Fatehpur Sikri



Humayun's Tomb



Bibika Maqbara in Maharashtra.



Lalbagh Fort in Dhaka.

Badshahi Msjid in Lahore and Tomb of Jahangir (below)

