



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

History

ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE WITH REFERENCE TO DELHI SULTANATE – A STUDY

KEY WORDS:

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Mohammedans had played a vital role in Indian History. From the period of Mohammedans, their social and political life made a great impact on Indian Culture. Mohammedan's Architecture is a main part of their culture and which spread throughout out India as Indo-Islamic Architecture.

James Farcuson said that because of the distinct art style of Islamic buildings they should be called as Islamic Architecture. Vayaor, Thamarro and Vernier also accepted his words. Indo-Islamic Architecture may be divided into two. They are,

- 1) Delhi Sultanate Architecture
- 2) Mughals Architecture
- Indo-Islamic Architecture in India between 800 AD and 1800 AD may be sub-divided as follows on the basis of its style, period and area.
- 1) Delhi or Imperial style
- 2) Provincial style
- 3) Shershah style
- 4) Mughal style

During the period of Khalifas in Arabia Mohammedans under the leadership of Mohamed-bin-Kasim, occupied shind, Multahn and Mansura in 712 AD. It was continued about 312 years. After them Mohamed (971 – 1030 AD). But in his City Ghazni, he had built a tower (Minar) and a mosque. He also formed fountains, gardens and auditorium in Ghazmi.

Muslims are against to the worship of images. Hence they did not make any sculpture to indicate prophet Mohamed and his life history. But Islamic Architecture have many beautiful carved ornaments with high technical skill.

Delhi Sultanate Architecture

Mohamed Ghore and his slave Qut-b-ud-din had ruled India, with Delhi as their capital. So, their reign was called as Delhi Sultanate. It had the following five dynasties.

- 1) Slave dynasty
- 2) Khilki dynasty
- 3) Tughlag dynasty
- 4) Syed dynasty
- 5) Lodi dynasty

Architecture of Slave Dynasty

Slave dynasty had ruled from 1206 AD to 1290 AD. It was known that the rulers of Slave dynasty as follows.

- 1) Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206 – 1210 AD)
- 2) Iltutmish (1211 – 1236 AD)
- 3) Raziya Begum (1236 – 1240 AD)
- 4) Ala-ud-din Majud (1241 – 1266 AD)
- 5) Balban (1266 – 1286 AD)
- 6) Khahubad (1287 – 1290 AD)

Qutb-ud-din Aibak

Under the rule of the founder of the Slave dynasty Qutb-ud-din Aibak, important building schemes were initiated in the sphere of Architecture design and in its method of construction. He had built mosques in Old Delhi and Ajmer. These the first Islamic Architecture in India. He had also built a mosque in KUlai-rai-Bithaura for monotheism.

Old Delhi Mosque

Mosque in old Delhi is known as Quwwat-ul-Islam. It is the first example for Islamic Architecture. It has a hemi-sphere done in upper part. Its ground floor has a Liwan (ie) place like Niche and Mimbar (ie) platform on which Holy Quran's preach has been conducted. These were built with Indian building materials and also Indian craftsmen were used to construct this mosque. The mosque has 212 feet length and 15 feet breadth arcade. Its Atrium has 141 feet length and 105 feet breadth. The entrance walls of the mosque were highly decorated with carved ornaments. These are called as screens. In these screens the words of Holy Quran have been carved.

Ajmer Mosque

One more important structure has been built by Qutb-ud-din at Ajmer in Raptana. It was the second mosque of slave dynasty. Though Aibak under took this work, the main mosque was built by Iltutmish. It was built with stones. The Central Hall and Atrium are used as place for prayer. The walls were very high and have carved ornaments. The entrances have beautiful natural scene carved bricks. The Walls were built with beautifully carved black stones. It seems to be a curtain.

The mosque is called by the name 'Adhai-din-ka-Jhompara'. It means 'hut of two and a half days'. The pillars are very tall and are carved beautifully.

Iltutmish

Discontinued construction of QutbMinar was continued and finished by Iltutmish. He built 'Sulthan Gori' at Malikafur village near Old Delhi, in 1231 – 32 AD. It was the burial place of Nazurdin Mohamed. He was the son the Iltutmish. He also had built Hauzi-Shamsi, Samsi-Ildgah and Jami Mazid. Among them, the Mosque (Mazid) is very famous.

Qtub-Minar

Construction of Qtubminar was started by Qub-ud-din, but finished by Iltutmish. Minars are common feature in Islamic Architecture. They are used to call Muslims for prayer. QtubMinar is the oldest as well as first minar of India. Its original height was 250 feet. But now it is 242 feet in height. The basic circumference of Qutubminar is 48 feet and 4 inches. The circumference decreases as goes towards the top.

- The height of ground floor - 97 feet
- First floor - 148 feet
- Second floor - 188 feet
- Third floor - 214 feet

The top most part of this minor was built with while marbles. The top most part was in conical shape.

Architecture of Khilji Dynasty

The rulers of Khilji dynasty ruled India from 1290 AD to 1320 AD. The important rulers were:
 Jalal-ud-din Khilji (1290 – 1296)
 Alaud-din Khilji (1296 – 1316)
 Qtub-ud-din Mubark (1316 – 1320)

Alai - Darwaza

Alaud-din decided to built a big mosque with minar near Qtubminar. But the construction was stoooped without finishing. A part of that discontinued building is Alai-Darwaza (1310 – 1311). It is in Select – Turkey style. It is the first original Islamic building. The entrances in the four sides were decorated with beautiful arches. This building was built with red sand stones and the floor has while

marble stones. It has many carved ornaments. The arches in east, west and south sides are in Horse-shoe shape. But northern side it is in different shape. Vayaor John Marcel says, "Alai-Darwaza is the best jem of all Islamic Architectures."

Siri City

Allauddin had founded a city of his own in 1303 AD near QtubMinar. It was called as Siri. It was the one of the seven cities of Delhi. It had a fortification built of stones and bricks. It had a Jami Mosque of its own and tomb of Allauddin's burial. But Siri has been completely destroyed.

Jamatkhana Masjid

Jamatkhana means shrine. This mosque was built by AllauddinKhalji. It is situated in the centre of the Dargah compound at Nizamuddin. The tomb of HazartNizamuddin Sultan Auliya is situated at the east side of the Jamatkhana Masjid. In this mosque there are three cells in the order of one into the another. The first cell is in square form and the next two are in rectangular form. The other parts are similar as in AllaiDarwaza. It is in good condition even now.

Allauddin College (Hauz-i-Khas)

Hauz means water tank. It was built by Allauddin. He built buildings around the tank for Madrasa (College). There was a hostel for students and teachers. Now there a tomb was placed for Allauddin. Now it is mostly in ruined stage.

Ukha Masjid

Another example of the Architecture of the time may be seen in the Ukha Masjid at Bayana in Bharacpur of Rajputana. This mosque was built by Quth-ud-din Mubarak (1316 – 20) the last of the Khalji dynasty. Its character implies that it was probably built by local workmen. There is a weakness in its contours.

Architecture of Tughlag dynasty

List of important rulers of Tughlag dynasty in as follows:

- Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlag (1320 – 1325)
- Mohamed-din Tughlag (1325 – 1351)
- Firoz Shah Tughlag (1351 – 1388)
- Other Sultans (1388 – 1412)

Tughlagabad

Tughlagabad was the one of the seven cities of Delhi. It was founded by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlag. It was situated in eastern side of Qtubminar. Situated on a living rock, it commanded an extremely strong position. It has 6600 square feet. Most of the parts are in ruined condition. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlag had built a fortress to protect it. With in the fortress he built his palace and other mansions for the use of his Government. It has 52 gateways. Historian Ibn Batuta who had saw the city says that the city was built of polished bricks.

Tomb of GhiyasuddinTughlag

Tomb of GhiyasuddinTughlag was built by his son Mohamed-din-Tughlag in 1325 AD. It is in good condition even now. This tomb is connected with guard room by 750 feet corridor. It is a red sandstone building with a hemispherical white marble dome resting on an octagonal drum crowned by a beautiful 'Amalaka' or 'Kalasa' finial. The dome has 55 feet height. Multan workmen were called for its construction.

Jahanpanch

Mohamed-din-Tughlag founded a new city near Siri. It was named 'Jahanpanali'. It means world's refugee. There runs a strong wall between two cities, built of stone and cement (lime). Though Jahanpanah has been destroyed, a part of the wall remains. This wall has 36 feet breadth. There is a bridge with two storeys. It has seven spans. Therefore it is called as 'SathPul Bund'.

Bijai Mandal

Bijai Mandal is a part of a "Palace of a Thousand Columns". The art of good building was being consistently maintained. It has horse-shoe pointed arches and imperfect reproductions of the 'keel'. These are the style of the Kholjis.

Bara Kumba

The secular Architecture of India is mainly represented by fortresses and palaces of the rulers but in this instance there has been preserved an example of the private residence of a noble man of the fifteenth century. Locally known as the 'Bara Kumba' or 'Twelve Pillars'. It is considerably damaged.

Firuzabad

The fifth city of Delhi, known as Firuzabad was founded by FiruzTughlag (1351 – 1388 AD). It has a palace which is known as KotalaFiruz Shah. Shams-i-Siraj says that there were nine mosques for public people and three places in Firuzabad.

FotlaFiruz Shah Palace - Fortress

KotlaFiruz Shah palace is on an extensive plain bordering the river Yamuna. It was surrounded by high battlement walls tall spreading bastions at frequent internals. The main entrance of this enclosure has a guard room. The Tughlag ruler raised one of Asoka's famous Pillars removed from its original site near Amballa Historians called Firuzshah as 'King of Architecture'. He built cities, forts, palaces, mosques and tombs in great numbers. He also built canals, bridges, schools and colleges, hospitals and other public works in abundance. Hence he was called as "Guard of Public Welfare" and "Father of Water Sanctuary."

Khani-i-Jahan Maqbul Senior, Tilangani - Tomb

Khani-i-Jahan belongs to Deacon. He was a Hindu convert from Tilangana. Then he was made the NaibVazir (Minister) with the title of Khani-i-Jahan by Firuz Shah. Tomb of Khani-i-Jahan was begun by FiruzShahi and completed by Tilangani'ssone who was also vazir and bore the same title. An octagonal tomb was built for the first time at Nizamuddin of Delhi for burial of the VazirMaqbulKhani-i-Jahan Tilangani. The tomb has three pointed arches on each of its octagonal sides, protected above by a chhajja which is supported on bracket stones. The interior consists of a single octagonal hall which has a rotating verandah about it.

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