

Mughal Architecture Period

BABUR

- Babur undertook the construction of a mosque in Panipat and Rohilkhand in 1526 A.D.
- His reign was too small for any new style and design but he was fond of formal gardens.

HUMAYUN

- He succeeded Babur but the reign was filled with constant struggle and war with Sher Shah Suri.
- He led the foundation of a city named **Dinpanah** but he couldn't finish it.
- The first proper Mughal architecture was **Humayun's Tomb** in Delhi, built by his widow Hamida Bhanu Begum. Also known as a precursor of Taj Mahal in Agra and provided the prototype for Mausoleum of Jahangir at Shahdara, Lahore.
- Persian style was prominent during this period.
- Sikandar Lodhi's Tomb was the first garden-tomb built in India but it was the Humayun's Tomb which gave new vision to art.
- Some of the designing features were:
 - The tomb stands on a raised vast platform in the centre of a square garden.
 - Garden is divided into 4 parts by Charbagh (causeways), in the centre of which run shallow water-channels.
 - For the first time, red sandstone was used along with white (the white is used cleverly to emphasize, surround & underline doors and windows, strengthening the design).
 - On similar lines, square, red, sandstone; the double storeyed structure of the mausoleum rises over a high square terrace; raised over a series of cells; etc. were also introduced.
- **Note:** The mausoleum is a synthesis of Indian traditions and Persian architecture, in the arched alcoves, corridors and a high double dome as well as the kiosks (*chhatris*) which gave a pyramidal shape from a distance.

SHER SHAH SURI (SUR DYNASTY)

- His period is the transition from Lodhi style to the Mughal style of architecture.
- He built the **Quila-e-Quanah** (Mosque of the Old Fort) in Delhi.
- He built the famous **Rohtas Fort** in Pakistan.
- Constructed the **Sher Shah Suri Masjid** in Patna in Afghan style.

- He undertook the reconstruction and extension of an old Mauryan route and renamed it as Sadak-e-Azam which was later called as **Grand Trunk Road**. He ensured sarais and trees for travellers.
- His tomb was built at his birthplace Sasaram, Bihar, made up of red sandstone and situated inside a lake. Each side pierced by arches and halls mounted by a large dome.
- They made use of red and grey sandstone latticed screens, painted ceilings and coloured tiles.

AKBAR

- He occupied the throne of Delhi in 1556, the golden period of Mughal art and architecture.
- Use of red sandstone was principle feature and he introduced the use of **Tudor arch** (four-centred arches).
- Some of the prominent construction under his reign are:
- **Agra Fort-**
 - One of the first constructions during Akbar's reign.
 - Made of red stone on the bank of river Yamuna.
 - Some buildings inside are-
 - **Moti Masjid**, made by Shah Jahan
 - **Diwan-i-aam** (hall of public audience) by Shah Jahan
 - **Diwan-i-Khas** (hall of private audience) by Shah Jahan
 - **Jahangiri Mahal**
 - **Sheesh Mahal** (Turkish Bath)

Note: Charbagh style- the gardens inside the fort were built according to this style.

- **Fatehpur Sikri-**
 - This was the new capital city made by Akbar and was a new era of Indo-Islamic architecture.
 - Described as 'frozen moment in history' as the buildings represented a unique combination of Hindu and Persian style.
 - Some of the monuments here are:
 - **Buland Darwaza** (1576 A.D.)-built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujrat. It is a 40 meters red sandstone structure and largest gateway of the world.
 - **Salim Chisti's tomb** (1581 A.D.)-jaali work in white marble and inscription of Quranic verses on the walls.
 - **Panch Mahal**-five storied structure inspired by Persian badger (wind-catcher)
 - Jodha Bai's palace or **Mariam-uz-Zamani's palace**

- **Ibadat Khana**-meeting with leaders of different religion for discussions.
- **Pachisi Court**- courtyard where Akbar is said to have played chess.
- **Hiran Minar**- built in the memory of Akbar's favorite elephant. Served as lighthouse for travelers.
- He built **Temple of Govind dev** in Vrindavan.

JAHANGIR

- He focused more on paintings and other art forms.
- Some of his noteworthy monuments were-
- **Akbar's tomb** in Sikandra
- His own tomb at Lahore
- **Shalimar Bagh** in Kashmir
- **Moti Masjid** at Lahore
- **Tomb of Itmad-Ud-daulah**, father of Nur Jahan is an excellent example- it was first work during Mughal period which was made completely of white marble. Also with world's finest **Pietra -dura works**.

SHAH JAHAN

- During his reign, architecture reached its height and some of the principle works were:
- **Taj Mahal**-
 - The finest example of architecture and mark of Love.
 - Constructed in the memory of his beloved wife Arzuman Bano Begum or Mumtaz Mahal.
 - The features include calligraphy, pietra dura works (beautiful inlay work with precious multicolour stones), Charbagh style gardens, use of water in premises for decoration and foresighting technique.
 - Jaali work is lace-like and carvings on marble were finely done.
- **Red Fort** in Delhi-
 - He shifted his capital city from Agra to Delhi.
 - He laid the foundation of **seventh city Shahjahanabad**, which had its famous citadel Red fort (begun in 1639 A.D.).
 - Red Fort is an irregular octagon with its walls, gates, and a few other structures constructed in red sandstone, and marble used for the palaces.
 - It consisted of Diwan-i-aam and Diwan-i-khas.
- **Jama Masjid** in Delhi
- **Shalimar bagh** at Lahore-also on the UNESCO world heritage list.

- **Peacock throne** is one of the finest examples of metal work.

AURANGZEB

- Mughal architecture started declining during his period.
- He didn't take any active interest in the pursuit of art and architecture.
- Some of his works were:
 - **Alamgiri gate** in Lahore fort, Lahore
 - **Badshahi Masjid**, Lahore- 3rd largest in Pakistan and 7th largest in the world. Architecture plan is similar to Jama Masjid at Delhi.

MUHAMMAD AZAM SHAH

- Last Mughal to undertake architectural constructions
- **Biwi-ka-Maqbara**-poor imitation of Taj Mahal in memory of his mother Begum Rabia Durani wife of Aurangzeb situated in Aurangabad.
- **Zinat Mahal**, Delhi- in memory of his wife.

Other two prominent styles during this period were:

Sikh style:

- Developed in Punjab and influenced by the Mughal architecture.
- Use of multiple Chhatris on the top of the construction.
- Use of shallow cornices.
- Fluted domes covered with brass and copper guilds and arches were decorated.
- **Golden temple** initiated in 1585 and completed by Arjan Dev in 1604.

Rajput style:

- Influenced by Mughals but unique in size and scope of construction.
- It includes the building of palaces and forts.
- Some of the unique features are:
 - Concept of **hanging balcony** with all shapes and sizes.
 - Cornices were built in the shape of an arch such that shadow took shape of a bow.