



Medieval Architecture

Indian sculpture-art forms have a unique and long heritage. India is world famous for its rich cultural heritage of art and architecture. Since ancient times, in different periods, a lot of development has been there in architecture like Stupas and stone inscriptions built in different provinces during Mauryan age, Gandhar and Mathura style of stupas during post Mauryan era, palaces, stupas, pillars, monasteries, mansions and temples during Gupta period were constructed. In the middle ages the Pala, Pratihar, Rashtrakuta, Rajput, Delhi Sultanate and Mughal rulers did a lot of work in the field of architecture, which includes step-wells, lakes, temples and mosques. Different provinces of India have developed architectural heritage in their own ways.

Sculpture : The art of a sculptor's imagination is the form of decorating rock, wood or metal with the help of chisel and hammer.

Architecture : The word 'Shilpshastra' is also used for architecture. Architecture basically means construction. Architecture is the construction of houses, towns, wells, forts, minarets, tombs etc. A person who is proficient in architecture is called an 'architect'.



Vijayastambh

Architecture of India

The period between 700 A.D to 1200 A.D was the Rajput era. In Rajput era Nagar styles of the temple were prevalent in India. These include the temples of Khajuraho, Lingraj temple of Puri and Gop temple of Saurashtra. During the time of Delhi Sultanate a new style of architecture developed, which was associated with Islam. In which Arab style is predominant in the beginning. The three main structures in this architecture are the mosque, the tomb and the roja. Among the main architectural structures of Delhi Jama Masjid, Qutubminar, Hoz-e-Khas, Alai Darwaza and Siri fort are there. The mosques and canals built by Feroz Shah are unique. The muslim rulers of Gujarat, Bengal and Malwa built many structures during this time. The Bhadra Fort and Jama Masjid of Ahmedabad, Sona mosque of Bengal are important. The fort of Kumbhalgarh built by Rana Kumbha and Kirtistambh or Vijayastambh of Chittod are important pieces of Hindu architecture built during that time.

Sun temple of Konark and Haushaleshwar temple of Karnataka are some of the most special types of architecture of the 13th century.

The Konark Sun temple is located near the Bay of Bengal in Puri district of Odisha. This temple was built in the 13th century during the reign of King Narsimhavarman-I of Gang dynasty. This Chariot temple was built like the chariot of the sun pulled by seven horses. It has 12 wide wheels. This temple is also known as 'Black Pagoda' because it is built of black stone.



Konark Sun Temple



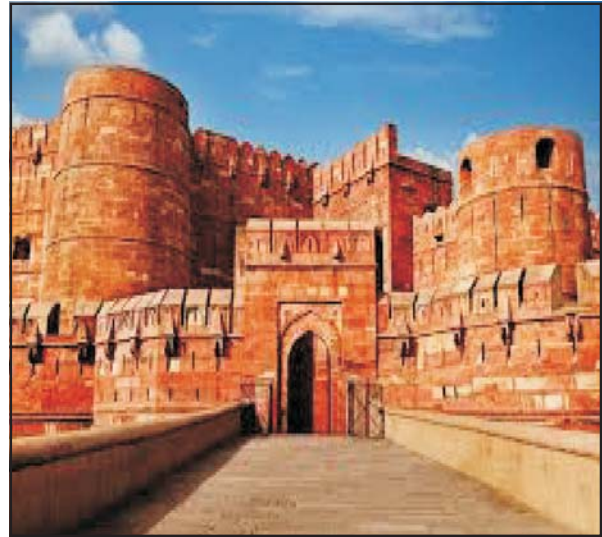
Temples in North India are characterized by their rounded pinnacles and columnless compartments (Mandaps). Temples in South India were built with conical spires (peaks). Gopuram (temple entrance tower) is the speciality of the temples in South India.

Temples are characterized by sanctum, sanctorum, Antral, Mandap, Shringar-Choki or Mukhmandap. Even Pradakshina path is also there.

Some of the important temples of this period include chariot temples built during Pallav period and Rajrajeshwar temple at Tanjore, which was considered to be the tallest temple of that time.

The Mughal architecture was unique. A special example of architecture can be seen in Humayun's tomb.

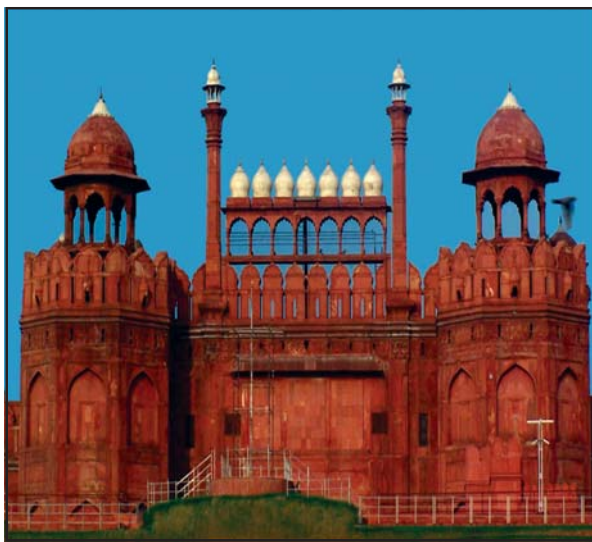
The Mughal emperor Akbar, built the fort of Agra and the fort of Fatehpur Sikri. The tomb of Sasaram of Sher Shah Suri is an important architecture of this time. The Mughals started the tradition of developing gardens. These include the Nishatbagh in Kashmir, the Shalimar bagh of Lahore and the Arambagh of Agra.



Fort of Agra

The best specimen of Mughal architecture is the Taj Mahal built by Shah Jahan. Taj Mahal constructed on the banks of river Yamuna, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh is one of the seven wonders of the world. It was built by Shah Jahan to commemorate his begum Mumtaz Mahal. Taj Mahal glorifies the architectural heritage of India and is becoming a center of attraction for tourists all round the world.

In addition to this, Red Fort of Delhi was built by Shah Jahan. Beautiful buildings like Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Rangmahal were built in this fort which is made of red stone. It's decoration is a wonderful combination of gold, silver and precious stones. It was in this fort that Shah Jahan got built the artistic Mayurasana.



Red Fort



Golden temple, Amritsar

During this time, the best architectural piece - The Golden Temple of the Sikh sect was built in Amritsar.

Architecture of Gujarat

During the Solanki rule and Sultanate period in Gujarat a very high standard architecture was constructed. Solanki architecture includes the renovation of the temple of Somnath by Bhimdev in 11th century and the Sun Temple at Modhera.



Somnath Temple



Uparkot, Junagadh

The Somnath Temple is located in Prabhaspatan near Veraval. Somnath is a very ancient, rich and important centre of Shaivism. Today, only the location of the old temple can be seen. The new temple was built in 1951. Somnath is one of the 12 most sacred Jyotirlingas in India.

The Uparkot fort is in Junagadh city. The original name of Uparkot was 'Giridurg'. Ra-Khengar provided water facility by constructing Adi-Kadi step-well and Navghan well. A saying is there, 'If you have not seen Adi Kadi Step Well and Navghan Well your life is worthless.'

The Sun Temple at Modhera in Mehsana district of Gujarat was built during the reign of King Bhimdev-I of the Solanki era. The East entrance of the temple was designed in such a way that the first rays of the sun radiated to sanctum sanctorum at the far end of the temple and fell on the gem in the center of crown of Sun God's idol. As a result the whole atmosphere seems to be filled with divinity. Twelve different idols of the sun can be seen in this temple even today. There is a total of 108 small temples around the water tank outside the temple which creates a beautiful view when the lamps are lit at dawn and dusk.





Modhera Sun Temple



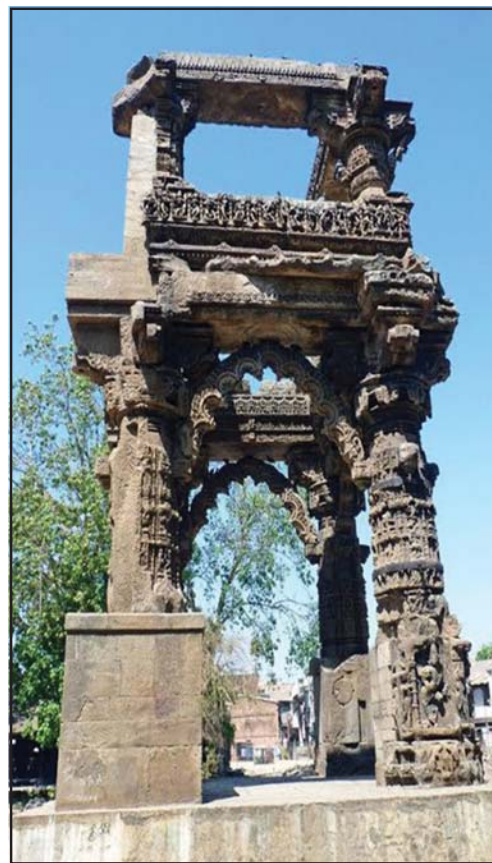
Rani-ni-Vav

'Rani ni Vav' built by Udaymati, the queen of king Bhimdev is a specimen of the world famous step well. 'Rani ni Vav' a unique example of sculpture and a marvel of architecture of a seven storied step well. It is existing in Patan, the old capital of Gujarat. It was built by King Bhimdev's wife queen Udaymati after his death. UNESCO has designated this site as the World Heritage site.

The Rudra Mahalaya of Siddhpur built by Siddhraj Jaisingh, is considered to be a unique architecture of Gujarat. Being a Shaivite, Siddhraj associated the name of Mahalaya with Rudra. According to some historians, it must have been a seven storeyed palace with Jharokhas, although presently only one storey exists. It includes architecture of columns and torans.

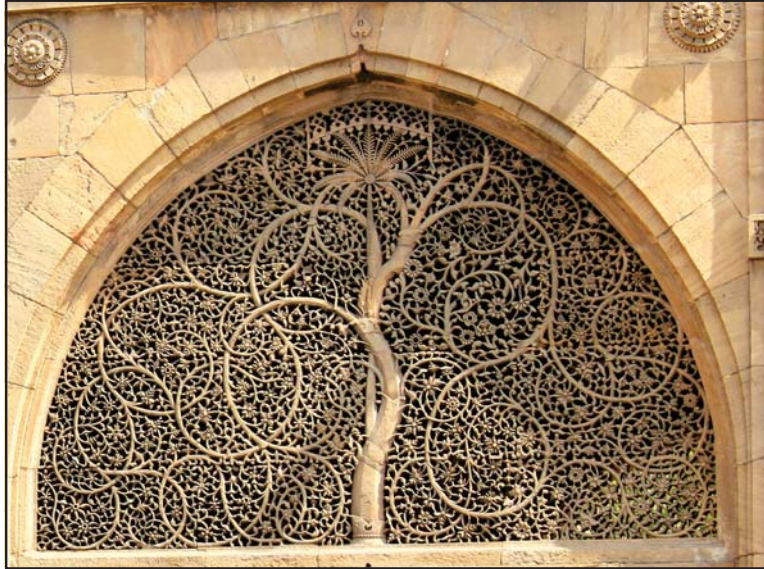
Malav lake in Dholka and Munsar lake in Viramgam were built on the order of Siddharaj's mother, Minaldevi. Sahastraling lake was built in Patan during the reign of Siddharaj Jai Sinh. Apart from this the Kirti Toran and the Sharmishtha lake are the places of interest in Vadnagar.

The city of Ahmedabad was established by Ahmed Shah in 1411 A.D. During the Sultanate period the capital was shifted to Ahmedabad, from Patan. The special architectures of Ahmedabad include fort of Ahmedabad, fort of Bhadra Kali and Jama-Masjid. Fort is included in the World Heritage Site. The Jama Masjid of Champaner, the fort of Champaner and the

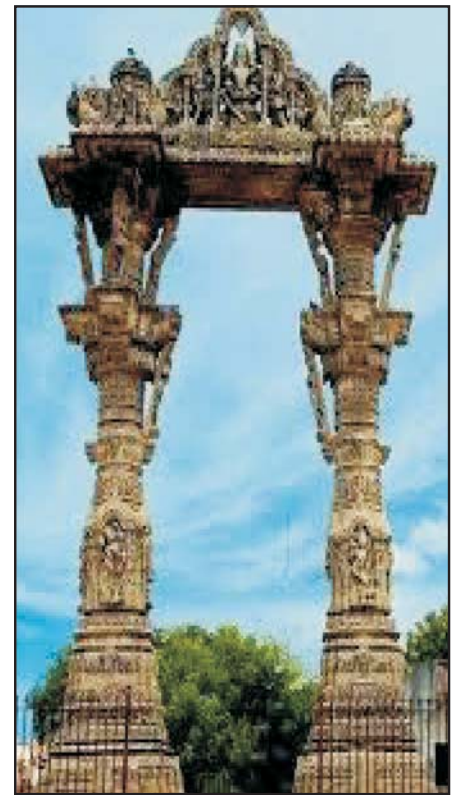


Rudramahalaya

step-well of Rani Rudadevi of Adalaj are famous architecture. Among other architectures of Gujarat, Hauz-e-Qutub i.e. Kankaria lake and Naginawadi, Dabhoi's fort, Khambhat and Dholka's mosques can be considered as major architectures.



Siddi Syed Jali



Kirti Toran of Vadnagar

The 'Siddi Syed Jali' is world famous among special architectures of Ahmedabad. Window of Siddi Syed Jali has special type of lattice work. It is extremely fine carving in stone. It is considered as one of the finest architectural specimens in the world.

Know This

Sultan Qutub Shah of Ahmedabad built a lake called 'Hauz-e-Qutub', which later on came to be known as 'Kankaria Lake'. He also developed a garden in the middle of the lake which is known as 'Naginawadi'.

A Jain sage named Padaliptasuri built Jain temples on Shatrunjay hill in Palitana. Pavapuri and Palitana are the places with maximum temples on the hill in one place in the world. All the twenty-four tirthankars are seated here. Like Pavapuri and Samet Shikhar, Palitana is also a great pilgrimage site for the Jains.



Paliya

'Paliya' is one of the unique architectures in Gujarat. Some stories of valour are connected with 'Paliyas'. Mostly 'Paliyas' of such warriors are built on the battlefield or at the place of their death. These 'Paliyas' were worshipped once in a year as per the date of their death. The best examples of Paliya in Gujarat include Suraj Kunwarbano Paliyo in Bhuchar Mori near Jamnagar and Hamirji Gohil 'Paliya' near Somnath temple.

Activity

Get information about the places of Paliya and Pir in your area.

Painting :

The progress in the art of painting dates back to the time of Babar. There were special texts on painting like 'Gulshan Chitravali', 'Hamznama'. A gallery was set up in Agra under the leadership of a great painter named Akariza. Painters of this period have specially painted pictures of animals, birds and flowers. Making of portraits dates back to the time of Akbar, while special festivals and occasions were also painted during the time of Jahangir.

Like the Mughal painting, Mewar, Jaipur, Marwar and Kota styles are famous in Rajasthan. The Gujarati style was eloquent, simple depicting story element. It was vivid and had a touch of folk element in it.

Music :

Indian Sufi music as well as Islamic Sufi music began during the Sultanate. In this field Amir Khushro created Qawali and introduced Khayal padhhati instead of Drupad. Sarangdev of Devgiri wrote a book called 'Sangeet Ratanakar' and Haripal Dev of Gujarat wrote a book called 'Sangeet Sudhakar'. Tansen was a great artist associated with classical singing in Akbar's time.

Literature :

In the middle ages, many writers have created significant texts by understanding different subjects. The information of some of the texts is as follows.

Text	Composer	Know This	
Siddhahemashabdanushasan	Hemchandracharya	Bhasya	Ramanujacharya
Geetgovindam	Jaidev	Kavyaprakash	Mammat
Hitopadesh	Narayan	Manasollasa	Someshwar-III
Siddhanta Shiromani and Lilavati	Bhaskaracharya	Kitab-ul-Hind	Al-Baruni
Prithvirajraso	Chandabardai		
Tughlaqnama and Tarikh-e-Delhi	Amir Khusroo		
Kitab-ul-Rihla	Ibn Battuta		
Kanhadade Prabandh	Padmnabh		
Padmavat	Mohammad Jayasi		

Folk Dances and Handicrafts

Gujarat has become famous all over the world for its folk culture, folk dances, handicraft and embroidery. It also includes drama like 'Bhavai'. The credit for writing and enacting goes to Asait Thakar.

In the Jhalawar area pastoralists (cattle rearers) play a special type of raas called 'Hudo'. People from various parts of country and abroad come to see 'Hudo' in Gujarat at the time of Tarnetar fair.

Navratri Garba festival is important in Gujarat. The pride of Gujarat 'Garba' is associated with the worship and praise of Goddess Shakti. From the time of Dayaram, Garbi progressed a lot. Both men and women celebrate this festival in Navratri playing Garba, Garbi and Raas.



Patola of Patan

the same way, Patola of Patan associated with special weaving has become world famous from eleventh to twelfth centuries.

Urbanization

It was the time of the renaissance and development of cities. New cities emerged in place of the cities of the Gupta period. The capitals of the Rajput era mostly turned into cities. In Gujarat special development of Anhilwad, Patan, Champaner, Ahmedabad, Surat, Khambhat took place.

The extremity of urbanization is seen in Delhi. It developed from the Rajput period to the Mughal period. During the time of Jahangir and Shah Jahan, Delhi was the capital and a major center of trade and commerce. Shah Jahan built the Red Fort and expanded Delhi.

Lahore, Jaunpur and Dhaka developed as cities during this period as they came on the way of trade route. Amritsar was also an important urban center due to Sikhism. In South India Devgiri (Daultabad) was a prosperous urban centre connecting North and South. Cities like Pune, Satara, Gwalior and Vadodara developed during the Maratha empire. While Diu, Daman, Goa, Mumbai, Chennai, Puducherry, Kochi, Chandranagar and Surat developed specially as urban centre with the arrival of European companies.

The capital of Vijaynagar was Hampi. Foreign travellers who came to Hampi have briefed about Hampi's unique craft industries. Goods including cotton cloth, Silk cloth and spices were sent from Vijaynagar to Europe. Three types of gold coins have been found in Hampi, indicating that Hampi was a major center of trade and commerce.

After the ports of Bharuch and Khambhat in Gujarat, Surat was an important trading centre of India especially in the sixteenth century. World famous merchants like Virji Vora and Gopi Malik lived in Surat. Muslin, cotton textile and Shipbuilding industries flourished in Surat in the seventeenth century. World's largest trade of Jari embroidery textile took place from Surat only. Surat was an international port so many



Raas

Gujarat has a variety of costumes. In which embroidery of Kutch, bead work, Patola of Patan, Bandhni of Jamnagar and Jetpur have become world famous. Embroidery work done by ladies of Bunny and Khadir areas of Kutch is in great demand, all over the world. In

trade associations of India and European were found here. Surat also had large godowns of spices, cotton and silk fabric and Indigo. Due to the industries operating in Surat foreign trade ancillary skill industries such as warehouses, packing, shipbuilding industries, housing arrangements, weaving, printing, metallurgy were extensively developed.

Exercise

1. Find the correct option from the following options and write the correct answer :

- (1) During Delhi Sultanate the style of mosque, mausoleum (tomb) and roja was predominant.
(A) Islam (B) Nagar
(C) Sultanate (D) Arab
- (2) Agra : Bagh, Kashmir : Bagh
(A) Lal, Shalimar (B) Nishat, Shalimar
(C) Aaram, Nishat (D) Shalimar, Lal
- (3) Mumbai, Tanjore
(A) Rajrajeshwar temple, Chariot temple (B) Elephanta Caves, Rajrajeshwar temple
(C) Chariot temple, Golden temple (D) Golden temple, Elephanta Caves
- (4) Architecture which has achieved the status of World Heritage Site.
(A) Adi-Kadi Vav (B) Rani ni Vav
(C) Kankaria Lake (D) Rudadevi's Vav
- (5) Architectural piece carved with special type of lattice work in windows.
(A) Sidi Syed's lattice (Jali) (B) Jama Masjid
(C) Dabhoi's Fort (D) Masjid of Dholka

2. Answer the following questions briefly :

- (1) What is architecture ?
- (2) Which painting styles of Rajasthan were famous ?
- (3) In which sense Hampi may be considered as the center of trade and commerce ?
- (4) Write the names of the Mughal architecture.

3. State whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False' :

- (1) 'Rani ni Vav' was built during the Solanki era.
- (2) Rajrajeshwar temple is the finest architecture of Sikh sect.
- (3) The original name of the Uperkot was Ilvdurg.
- (4) Pavapuri is the only place in the world where there are many temples on one hill.
- (5) The tradition of Paliyas is still alive in Kutch and Kathiawad of Gujarat, even today.

4. Write short-note on :

- (1) Paliya (2) Modhera Sun temple (3) Rani ni-Vav (4) Mughal architecture

