INDO-ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

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WHAT IS ISLAM

- Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam who belonged to the Quraish family of Mecca. He was born in 570 AD and was the only son of Abdullah and Aminah. His father died when he was due to come to this world and he was six when his mother died. He was looked after by his grandfather and Abu Talib, his own uncle.

- One day Prophet Muhammad was meditating at the mount ‘Hira’ in the year of 610 AD and received a revelation by Archangel Gabriel.

- Prophet Muhammad tried his best to conveyance the people to follow him to believe in one God ‘Allah’ but failed and ultimately because of some political disturbance.

- He had to flee from Mecca to Madina on the night of 15th July and reach there on 16th July 622 AD and the same year is considered the birth of Islam (Hisra Era).

- Prophet Muhammad died on Monday 8th June 632 AD because of illness.

- Within a few years of his death, the Arab’s made themselves master of a vast empire comprising, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and Persia. The fabulous wealth of India and the genuine religious enthusiasm to spread Islam in India attacked the Arab’s.
Muhammad-Bin Qasim

- He was the first Arabian invader who conquered Sindh in 712AD and defeated the Dahir, then the Brahman King of Sindh and his queen and other ladies committed the first ever Jauhar( The collective burning) in Indian history.

Muhammad Ghaznavi

- He is the ruler of Ghazni, occupy the throne in 998AD and began his attack towards India in 1000AD.
- He attacks on India 17 times and plundered it ruthlessly and got hold of spoils beyond all bounds of calculation.
- In January 1026 AD his 17th most famous attack was on a temple at Somnath, a famous antique shrine in Gujrat. The temple was looted and badly destroyed.

Muhammad Ghauri

- He was the ruler of Gaur, a place between and Haret in Afghanistan. He occupied the throne in 1173AD and invaded India several times. And the most significant were the two battles fought at Tarain. In 1191 & 1192AD against Prithviraj Chauhan a power full Rajput ruler of Ajmer and Delhi.
- In the first battle in 1991AD, Muhammad ghauri was defeated very badly who run away to Lahore and again in 1192 he tried his fate and this time he got victory and arrested the Rajput ruler who was blinded and then killed. He was assassinated by someone. People of khokhar clan on 15 March 1206AD at Damayak a place near lahor when he performing namaz.
Delhi Sultanate Period 1206-1526AD
SLAVE DYNASTY

- After his victory over Rajput ruler in India, mohammad Ghauri deputed Qutub-ud-din Aibak as his governor to look after the affairs of Hindustan. After his masters death, declared himself as Sultan of Delhi at Lahor in 24th July, 1206AD and laid a foundation of slave dynasty, the first dynasty of Delhi Sultanate but kept his headquarters at Lahore.

- Aibak was the slave of Ghouri who expanded the Turkish empire in India, he capture Meerut in 1192AD, Delhi in 1193AD, Gwalior in 1195AD and Ajmer in 1196AD and became a very powerful. Still he claimed himself to be slave of Ghouri.

- During his brief rule of 4 ½ year he got built the first mosque named ‘Quwwatul-Islam’ in the area of Lal Kot a part of Qila of Rai Pithora and also started the construction of Qutub Minar in 1199AD which was later on completed by Iltumish who was very generous and called as lakh – Baksh.

- Aibak died in November 1210AD after falling down from his horse when he playing Chaugan(POLO) at Lahore.

- Aibak was succeeded by his son Aram Shah who ruled some time but ultimately his slave and son in law Shams-ud-din Iltumish captured the throne with the support. He ruled from 1211 to 1236AD. He made Delhi as his Capital. He completed the construction of Qutub Minar in 1220AD.

- Iltumish died of high fever in April in 1236AD. Before his death he nominated his daughter Raziyya as his successor superseding the claims of his in competent sons. Raziyya ascended the throne in 1236AD. But was confronted with a very difficult task. She was the ablest ruler, her only fault was that she was a woman ruler. Despite all her best acts, she was beheaded in 1240AD at Kithal (Haryana). From 1240AD to 1265 AD the son and the grand son of Iltumish ruled the Sultanate period.

- Ghiyas-ud-din Balban was the ruler from 1265AD to 1287 AD he exalted the kingly office by introducing the persian ceremonials in his court he made it clear that the king was no body equal.
Jalal-ul-din Khilji caused Qaikubad to be murdered and ascended the throne in March 1290AD. The slave dynasty came to an end and the passed from the Turk for ever.

Jalal-ul-din occupied the throne by an act of naked violance. He was very old and very weak to control the throne of Delhi. He relied more of his nephew Ala-ud-din Khilji and deputed him to bring fourth the fabulous wealth of Devgiri. Ala-ud-din at Kara near Allahabad who beheaded the old sultan and proclaimed himself sultan on 19th July 1296AD.

Ala-ud-din Khilji ruler consolidated his authority in Delhi. His first victim was the reach state of Gujrat which being by Chalukya king Karna.

At the end of his life, Alaud-din was also the master of south but was a puppet in hand of general Malik Kafur. Malik Kafur poisoned the sultan who died on 2nd Jan 1316AD. Ghazi Malik Kafur killed the last ruler Khusrau and founded new dynasty.
Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq (Earlier Ghazi Malik) founded Tughlaq dynasty in 1320AD and ruled till 1325AD. It believed that he was assassinated by his own son Juna khan (Lateral Muhmmad Shah Tughlaq) at Kilokhri (Delhi).

Muhammad shah Tughlaq (1325-1351AD) succeeded his father in 1325AD who is known as ‘Wisest fool’. His contradictory qualities made him a strange man. First in 1326AD he increased 20 times the taxation in Doab which reduced the farmer of that area due to poverty and ruin. They revolted. The sultan adopted the ruthless measures but later abolished the enhanced taxation. In 1326AD he ordered the transferred of his capital to Delhi to Daultabad for better control and security from foreign invasions but the way it was implemented, it exposed the sultan. All men, women and children were ordered to go to Daultabad but when he realized his mistake he again ordered to live Daultabad for Delhi, which resulted a great loss of lives and money.

In 1329AD sultan introduced token currency. He ordered that the copper and brass token issued by the state should be treated just like gold and silver coins, but there was no way to prevent the circulation of counterfeit coin. Barni says that every house turn into a mine. Gold and silver coins were hoarded and taxes were payed in forged coins. When the confusion reached at climax, the sultan withdraw the token currency and ordered people to exchange their copper and brass coins with those of gold and silver.

People brought bullock-cart loaded of copper coins for exchange.

On 20th march 1351AD, Muhammad Tughlaq expire and was succeeded by his cousin Firuz Tughlaq who was son of younger brother of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.

Firuz shah tughlaq (1351-1388) was crowned as sultan of Delhi in 1351AD but lacked ambition, courage and ruthless zeal for war- the necessary qualifications for kingship at that time. Sultan conquered Bendal, Orissa and sindh but none of his conquest could be permanent. At the age of 83, Sultan died in September, 1388AD. He was the first sultan who imposed the ‘jaziya’ on Hindus. He was the zealous buider of towns and mosques, madarsa, inns, gardens, several canals, etc.

Nasir-ud-din Mehmood Shah was the last ruler of Tughlaq dynasty who ruled till 1413 (died in feb).
**SAYYID**

- In 1414AD, Khizr Khan, a general, secured the throne of Delhi but did not assume the royal titular and professed to rule as the viceroy of Shah Rukh, son and successor of Timur, of Samarqand. His dynasty was called ‘Sayyid’ and after his death it was ruled by mubarak shah, Muhammad Shah and Alauddin Alam Shah, for 37 years i.e. till 1451AD.

**LODHI**

- In 1451AD, Bahlol Lodhi overthrew the tottering Sayyid dynasty and founded a new dynasty named ‘Lodhi Dynasty’. His son Sikander shah Lodhi (1489-1517AD) Subjugated jaunpur and conquered Bihar. He followed the policy of religious persecution, alienated the hindus tample at Mathura were destroyed. He was a poet and wrote verses in Persian. During this period some beautiful building were created in Lodhi garden and other places in Delhi.
- In 1504AD he laid the foundation of Agra. During the last year of his life Sikander Lodhi made Agra his capital where he died in November in 1517AD
- He was succeeded by his son Ibrahim Lodhi(1517-1526AD). There was a bitter struggle between Ibrahim lodhi and his nobles, culminating in the destruction of Afghan power in the field of Panipat. Ibrahim Lodhi was defeated by Zahir-ud-din Muhammad babur on Sunday,20th April 1526AD at Panipat, which resulted the end of lodhi dynasty as well as Delhi Sultanate Period.
Diorama of the first battle of Panipat
(1526 C.E.)
between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi.
Zahir-ud-din Mugammad Babur
was the son of Umer Sheikh Mirza and Kutlugnigir Khanum, who became a King of Fargana at the age of 11 years when his father died of falling down from the terrace. He tried several times to capture the then beautiful city Samarqand from the clutches of his own uncles but failed and ultimately he had to flee to Kabul in 1504 AD. At Kabul, he was blessed with a son Humayun on 7th March, 1508 AD. And from that day he declared himself as BADSHAH instead of MIRZA. Babur attacked Hindustan five times and only fifth time he could capture Delhi by defeating the then Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodi in April, 1526 at Panipat. From 1526 to 1530 he consolidated his power but died on 26th December, 1530 at Agra and later on as per his desire his body was shifted to Kabul and buried there Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Humayun, the eldest son of Babur and Maham Begum (Humayun, Kamaran, Askari and Hindal) and got the thron at Agra on 29th December, 1530. First time he was married to Begu Behum at Kabul and then to Hamida Baanu Begum I 1541 AD. From 1530 to 1540 he was busy in fighting to consolidate his power with Pathan King Farid Khan (Sher Shah Sur) and was forced to leave Hindustan Persia along with his wives and General Bairam Khan. He spent fifteen years in Persia (Iran) and Kabul and ultimately defeated the last ruler of Sur dynasty at Machhiwara, captured the throne and entered Delhi on 23rd July, 15556. But Humayun (by nomenclature who was lucky) was unlucky to see the happy days of his life after getting back the throne of Delhi. On 20th January, 1556 he fell down from the stairs of Sher Mandal in his life after getting back the throne of Delhi. On 20th January, 1556 he fell down from the stairs of Sher Mandal in his Deenpanah fort (Sixth city of Delhi) and died 24th day.
**Sher Shah Sur** (1540-1555 AD) was born at Bajwara (near present Hoshiarpur in Punjab). His original name was Farid. His father Hassan was an Afghan of the tribe of Sur. His grandfather Ibrahim Khan had come to Hindustan (India) and entered in the service of Sultan Behlol Lodi. Hassan received the destricts of Sahsaram and Tanda as Jagir for the maintenance of 500 horses. Hassan had eight sons and he could not look-after them well so his eldest son Farid enrolled himself as common soldier in the army of governor of Jaunpur. Farid, for some time was also enrolled in the service of king of Behar (Bihar) and on killing a tiger with one stroke of sword, received the title of “Sher Khan” Later he joined the service of Ibrahim Lodi at Agra. Here he excelled himself and gained his master’s esteem. He won the forts of Chittor, Tanthambor and Tohtas. He defeted Emperor Humayun on two occasions, once at Behar on 26th June, 1539 and the second tie on 17th May, 1540 at Kannauj. Sher Khan was 54 yar old when he ascended at Agra throne in 1540 AD and assumed the title of Sher Shah. He sat on Delhi throne on 25th January. 1542 Sher Shah expired on 24yth May 1545 His body was taken to Sahsaram and was buried in his own built
Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Akbar was the son Humayun and Hamida Banu Begum who was on 15th October 1542 at Amarkot and looked after by his wet nurses namely Maham Anga and Ji Ji Anga and his uncle when his parents were exile. After the death of his father he was crowned at the age of 14 year by his faithful general Bairam Khan at Kalanaur (Punjab) after defeating the Hindu King Hemu at Panipat on 5th November, 1556 AD. In 1562 AD. He married the daughter of Bhrmal, the Faja of Amber (near Jaipur) and gave her the name Mariamaz-zamani (Mary of the age) with the blessings of Sufi Saint Sheikh Salim Chisti. He go a some used called by Akbar as Salim and Shekhu Baba who became his successor later. Because of high fever, Akbar died at Agra on 24th 1605 and buried at Sikandra. His tomb was started during his life time only but completed later on by his son Salim (Jahangir).
Nuru-ud-din Jehangir (Salim) was born at Agra on 30\textsuperscript{th} August 1569 who was the eldest son Akbar, In February. 1585 he was married to Rajput Princes Man Bai of Amber, also known as Jagat Gosain. In 1611 AD he again married to Megrun-Nisa 9widow of Sher Khan, daughter of Asmat Begum and Ghiyas Beg –Itmad-ud-daulah) who was naed as Nurjahan. On his coming back to Delhi from Kashmir, he died on 29\textsuperscript{th} October, 1627 AD at Rajauri (Jammu) and his body was taken to Shadara (Lahore) by Nurjahan and buried there in garden.

Shahb-ud-din Shahjahan (Khurram) was born at Lahore on 5\textsuperscript{th} January, 1592 and was the son of Jehangir and Man Bai, a Hindu lady also known as Jagat Gosain. He extended his serviced to his father in consolidating and extending the empire. Khurram got married to Arjumand Bano Begum on 30\textsuperscript{th} April 1612 and she was given a title of ‘Mumtaz Mahal’. This was Khurram’s second marriage. Shahjahan ascended the throne at Agra on 4\textsuperscript{th} February, 1628 after the muder of Dawar Baksh (son Khusrau, elder son Jehangir).
Abul Muzzafar Mohi-ud-din Aurangzeb, the third son of shahajan. Was born on 24\textsuperscript{th} october, 1618 at dohad in Gujarat. After arresting his father and murdering his own brothers, he finally celebrated his coronation on 5\textsuperscript{th} june. He was very religious and was against the music and architecture. During his regime, the masters of paintings shifted to Himachal and Rajasthan regions to do their work. He forced Hindu’s to adopt Islam. Aurangzeb died on 3\textsuperscript{rd} March 1707 and after his death the disintegration of Mughal dynasty was started and Mughal dynasty was ended with arrest of its last Mughal emperor Bahadurshah Zafar in 1857 AD.
INDOSLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

After the advent of Islam in India, some Islamic architecture elements reached here and by incorporating them on the buildings with the prevailing Indian architecture element, a new style came out which is known as Indo-Islamic architecture as well as decorative elements which developed in India during different stages of time.

Indian architecture element

Lintel, pillars and conical corbelled dome.

Muslim architecture element

Islamic architecture is the combination of Persian and Central Asian architecture elements consisting of bulbous dome, high drum/neck, high iwan, high platform, thick walls containing passages and staircase in some cases, chahar-bagh pattern, water channels etc.
INDOSLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Means the islamic architecture which is erected with both Indian and Islamic architectural elements. The use of lime was very limited in India before. For brickwork, mud was used and stone block were laid dry and secured with each other with iron clamps. But on the arrival of Muslims in India, the use of lime was very extensive and was used not only for binding purposes but also as plaster for making the surface for incised decoration and encaustic enamel work. The lime mortar, an adhesive medium, was prepared by mixing, gaj-i-sharin (gyypsum, sweet limestone), shurki, shirish (reed glue), urad dal, san (hemp—a plant whose fibers are used for making ropes). The mixture of the lime mortar gets ready for its use after twenty one days only and takes longer period to set but once its is dried it becomes harder than a stone and perhaps
ARCHITECTURE ELEMENTS

Main gateway (iwan): In India, it is on the eastern side of the mosque and is decorated beautifully with mosaic, glazed tiles, calligraphy, etc. and contains an arched entrance. It is also believed that because of mosque or madrasa is concealed.
Courtyard (sahn) :- This is a central space of the mosque which is open to sky and surrounded by cloisters/alcoves on north and south side and it has prayer/sanctuary hall on western side. This area is used by the worshippers during the congregational prayer when large space is required.
omb of Salim Chishti (left) tomb in Jama Masjid courtyard, Fatehpur Sikri
Water pound for vazu :- In the center of the courtyard there is a water pound in very mosque for vazu (washing face, hands and foot before performing prayer). In some case, water tank have been erected having 4/6 tabs around. It is so important in islam that it is considered as a key to the doors for heaven or house of Allah.
Cloisters or pillard vrandah liwan:— These cloisters/alcoves or small rooms are used as madrasas. In case cloisters are not there, then there will be pillared varandas for taking shelter by the worshippers during rain.

village with medieval history traced to the thirteenth century of Delhi Sultanate reign. It was part of Siri, the second medieval city of India of the Delhi Sultanate of Allauddin Khilji Dynasty (1296–1316).
Sanctuary hall aiywan :- on the western side of the mosque, square or rectangular prayer hall is built which may be having three or five arched openings (trimukhi or punchmukhi).
Jami Masjid At Champanir
Recessed niche on gibla wall (mihrab) :- Prayer is performed facing this niche (mihrab) erected in the center of qibla wall towards mecca direction. Mehrab is decorated beautifully with quranic verses, inlay work, geometrical designe, etc.

Pulpit (mimber) :- Mimber is an Arabic work which means an elevated stand on the left side of mihrab. This is used by the imam to announce the namz.. It may be having two or six steps. Thw mimber at medina mosque used by prophet muhammad was having two steps in wood.
Squinches :- This is an architecture device and is created by eliminating the upper corners of a room for the transitional phase of making dome on the terrace. The erection of squinches serves two purposes, firstly it converts the upper portion of a square room into an octagonal and secondly it gives a beautiful look at the corners gradually reducing downward from the spherical soffit. This is a typical persian element.
VARIEITY OF SQUINCH

1. TOMB OF ILTUTMISH
   DELHI, DEC. 1230

2. ALAI DARWAZA
   DELHI, 1311

3. NIZAMUDDIN'S JAMAAT KHANA
   DELHI, C. 1320

4. TUGHLUQ'S TOMB
   DELHI, 1320-24

5. SHER SHAH'S MOSQUE
   DELHI 1540-45

6. ATALA MUJID
   JAIPUR, 1408
Dome or Gumbad:- in indicates the supremacy of almighty. Mostly in the case of Mosques, domes are single but in tombs there will be double dome. The first dome was raised on the ‘the dome of rock’, Jerusalem, completed in 691 AD and after that it did not see behind and during different times it got different style and design. The purpose of making the double dome is firstly to decorate the interior ceiling which should be visible properly to the visitor and secondly just to safeguard the main central
Arch:- is an important element of the building because the whole structure stands or survives on this element. There are different shapes of the arches adopted during different times, semi-circular, horse shoe, ogee, engrailed, etc. for the arches, key stone is very important which transfers the weight of upper portion downward (lateral thrust) on the pillars of the gateway.
Spandrel:- This is upper cornered triangular space on the both sides of an arch of the iwan which is decorative with geometrical designs, inverted lotus, arabesque designs or with calligraphy. During the Sultanate period in India, this space was plain.
Minar (Minaret):- In arabic it is a place of fire and also a place from where muazzin give azan to the faithful for the prayer.
Stalactite or Muqarana design: In Arabic and Persian, stalactite is known as muqarnas a honeycomb motif constituting a group of small arched cells one on the other reducing its position downward and in Greek statactite means ‘a deposit of calcium carbonate’. This design is adopted to fill up the space at squinches to give more support to the upper portion. As per historical evidences, first time in India this designed was created below the balconies of the Qutab Minar Delhi.
Geometrical designs:- The monuments especially of Mughal period have been decorated with geometrical designs (square, circle, stars, etc) on the drum of dome, façade, spandrels as well as on the flooring of the main chamber. Different types of medallions e.g. inverted lotus, star of David, circle, arabesque design, etc.
Arabesque:- Is known as ‘tauriq’ in arab which means foliage. This is a purely islamic from of decoration which means interlacing stems, lines. The lines are flat or curved, pointed and smooth but never isolated. The first attempt in india was executed at the main screen of Qqwwat-ut-Islam Mosque.
Calligraphy:- Calligraphy in inlay work as well as low relief has been inscribed on the monuments and during Mughal period it got great attention. The inscriptions are written in Arabic and Persian language by using different script. It is created on the monuments by this way that the size of the words of the lowest band and highest band look alike because the size in increasing upward.
Finials :- The domes of the buildings have been crowned with beautiful finials either in rubble masonry, marble or metal showing purna-kalasha, lotus, etc. one on the other. Purna-kalasha is a symbol of plenty and creativity. At Mathura, Sarnath, Sanchi, Barhut sculptures, this symbol can be seen in one pot, two pots or even in three pots reducing the size on upper side.
Purna-kalasha:- It is a symbol of plenty and creativity. In India Art, it can be observed at different places like Mathura, Sanchi, Sarnath, Amaravati, Barhut, etc. Mughals adopted this Indian element and placed it on top of their buildings. This is also found on the base and top of the columns/nook shafts erected in mughal buildings.
Star of David :- Six-Pointed star created by a combination of two triangles, is an ancient Indian tantric symbol which represented power and is very bimportant fotr performing all religious rituals. It has been decorated at spandrels of the atrches most of the Islamic buildings e.g. at delhi old gfort, Humayun’s tomb, Fatehpur Sikri, etc.
Inverted lotus :- Lotus represents the ‘principal of growth’ and is an ancient Hindu and Buddhist symbol. It also represented a seat of god because Gods do not rest on the earth”. During the Mughal period in India, it was used on the building profusely in inverted as well as blooming from. The blooming form at lotus is found as the mihrab of Illtumish Tomb and its inverted form was erected first time in India probably at jamali kamali Mosque and after that it was used at humayun’s tomb, delhi old fort, Fatehpur sikri, etc. in red sandstone as well as in white marble.
Chevran (zigzag pattern) :- This is a persian architecture ornamentation and adopted by the Mughals in India. This design has been created on the nook-shaft/ cloumns at Humayun’s Tomb, Akbar’s tomb, Taj, etc.
Glazed Tiles :- Glazing means to cover the surface of a tile, before cutting the tiles into desired size/design, with the mixture of copper carbonate and silica and it is kept on high continuous heat till a soft crystalline porous friable cake of colour is produced. Glazy surface has decorative and functional importance. Unglazed tiles will allow liquid contents to seep out but on glazed tile, the liquid could not survive and the life of the building increases.

A mosaic composition of glazed tiles on the wall mosque at Atgah Khan's Tomb.
Stucco: It is a lime-plaster which contains lime-stone powder and the used very thickly on the wall or soffits (ceilings) for makings incised, low relief of paintings work. The main purpose of stucco work is to make the surface plain and smooth for good result. In most of cases, stucco work has been done the monuments at intrados, spandrels, pillars of the arches and ceilings. In India this art of stucco was also adopted at Ajanta.
Tomb of Mohammad Quli Khan, brother of Adham Khan, a general of Mughal Emperor, Akbar,
Mosaic :- Mosiac or in lay work is a specialized art of decoration where the pieces of different material such as glass, glazed tiles, semi-precious stone, etc, in different colours are fitted in block or stab of stone/marble on the sketched design with their face downwards and then so that it could fill all empty places/gapes. This work can be seen at the monuments i.e. Humayun’s Tomb, Atgah khan’s Tomb, Tom of Akbar at Sikandra, and the Taj Mahal. Buildings were started subble masonry/mortar plaster covered with the slabs of red sandstone but later on during the period of Jehangir, The buildings were started to be decorated with the strips of white marble and the culmination of using white marble is found in Shahjahan’s period.
Taj mahal; wall decoration; geometrical design for this colored marble mosaic on the taj walls
Red Fort, Delhi

In 1638 Shahjahan transferred his capital from Agra to Delhi and laid the foundations of Shahjahanabad, the seventh city of Delhi. It is enclosed by a rubble stone wall, with bastions, gates and wickets at intervals. Of its fourteen gates, the important ones are the Mori, Lahori, Ajmeri, Turkman, Kashmiri and Delhi gates, some of which have already been demolished. His famous citadel, the Lal-Qila, or the Red Fort, lying at the town's northern end on the right bank or the Yamuna and south of Salimgarh, was begun in 1639.
Audio Tour Stop List. Highlights in red—things you should not miss:

1. Welcome
2. Lahori Gate
3. Barbican Wall
4. Meena Bazaar
5. Naubhat Khana
6. Diwan-i-Am
7. Diwan-i-Am - Throne
8. Diwan-i-Am - Pillars & Arches
9. Hayat Baksh Bagh
10. Sawan & Bhadon Pavilions
11. The Mughal Dynasty
12. The Last Emperor
13. Moti Mahal
14. Aurangzeb
15. Hammam
16. Diwan-i-Khas
17. The Persian Invasion
18. Diwan-i-Khas - Pillar Details
19. The Peacock Throne
20. Khas Mahal
21. Khori Gate
22. Momin Gate
23. Wazir Muslin Gate
24. Wazir Muslin & Entrance

154 Layout of Diwan-i-Am
11. Zafar Mahal
Taj Mahal
The Taj Mahal is the epitome of Mughal art and one of the most famous buildings in the world. Yet there have been few serious studies of it and no full analysis of its architecture and meaning. Ebba Koch, an important scholar, has been permitted to take measurements of the complex and has been working on the palaces and gardens of Shah Jahan for thirty years and on the Taj Mahal itself—the tomb of the emperor's wife, Mumtaz Mahal—for a decade. Taj Mahal was built in 22 years (1631-1653) with the orders of Shah Jahan and it was dedicated to Mumtaz Mahal (Arjumand Bano Begum), the wife of Shah. 20,000 workers labored and 32 crore rupees were spent during the construction of the monument and it was built according to Islamic architecture. It is one of the Unesco world heritage site.