

Rulers and Buildings

Q1. How is the “trabeate” principle of architecture different from the “arcuate”?

Answer: The "trabeate" principle of architecture differs from "arcuate", because, in the trabeate theory of Architecture Roofs, doors and windows were made by placing a horizontal beam in two vertical columns. But, in the arcuate theory of architecture, the superstructure above the doors and windows was weighed by arches.

Q2. What is a shikhara?

Answer: The highest terrace of the Hindu temple is called Shikhar. At Rajarajeshwara Temple Thanjavur had the tallest peak among the temples of its time. It was not easy to build as there were no cranes in those days and the 90-ton stone for the top of the shikhara was too heavy to lift manually.

Q3. What is pietra-dura?

Answer: Pietra-dura is an architectural style in which coloured, hard stones were placed in depressions carved into marble or sandstone creating beautiful, ornate patterns. For example, behind the Emperor Shah Jahan's throne, were a series of pietra dura inlays that depicted the legendary Greek god Orpheus playing the lute.

Q4. What are the elements of a Mughal chahar bagh garden?

Answer: The elements of Mughal Chahar Bagh are rectangular walled enclosures, which are divided. Four quarters by artificial channels. Chahar Bagh garden also differed from what historians describe as a "riverfront garden" in which housing was not located Central to the Chahar Bagh but on its banks, near the banks of the river.

Q5. How did a temple communicate the importance of a king?

Answer: Temples were built as places of worship and were meant to demonstrate the power, wealth, and devotion of the patron. The temples were miniature models of the world ruled by the king and his associates. For example, the Rajarajeshwara Temple was built by King Rajarajadeva to worship his deity Rajarajeswaram. Generally, the names of the ruler and the deity were very similar. The king took the name of the Lord because it was auspicious and wanted to appear like a god and through rituals of worship in the temple, one lord (Rajarajadeva) honored the other (Rajarajeswaram).

Q6. An inscription in Shah Jahan's diwan-i khas in Delhi stated: “If there is Paradise on Earth, it is here, it is here, it is here.” How was this image created?

Answer:

1. During Shah Jahan's reign, the different elements of Mughal architecture were fused together in a grand harmonious synthesis. His reign witnessed a huge amount of construction activity especially in Agra and Delhi. The ceremonial halls of public and private audience (diwan-i khas o am) were carefully planned. These courts were placed within a large courtyard and were described as chihil sutun or forty-pillared halls.
2. The audience halls were specially constructed to resemble a mosque.
3. And the pedestal on which Shah Jahan's throne was placed was frequently described as the qibla, i.e., the direction faced by Muslims at prayer.
4. The idea of the king as a representative of God on earth was suggested by these architectural features.

Therefore, by the means of architecture style, this image was created.

Q7. How did the Mughal court suggest that everyone – the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak – received justice equally from the emperor?

Answer: The Mughal court suggest that everyone – the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak received justice equally from the emperor in the following ways:

- a.** The architectural features highlighted the idea of the king as a representative of God on earth. So, people could identify with the king as a just God.
- b.** The connection between royal justice and the imperial court was emphasised by Shah Jahan in his newly constructed court in the Red Fort in Delhi.
- c.** Behind the emperor, Shah Jahan's throne were a series of pietra dura inlays that depicted the legendary Greek god Orpheus playing the lute. It was believed that Orpheus's music could calm ferocious beasts until they coexisted together peaceably.
- d.** The construction of Shah Jahan's audience hall aimed to communicate that the king's justice would treat the high and the low as equals creating a world where all could live together in harmony.

Q8. What role did the Yamuna play in the layout of the new Mughal city at Shahjahanabad?

Answer: The role of the Yamuna in the layout of the new Mughal city at Shahjahanabad was:

- The imperial palace commanded the front of river Yamuna in the new city of Shahjahanabad in Delhi.
- Only specially favoured nobles, like Shah Jahan's eldest son Dara Shukoh were given access to the river.
- All others had to construct their homes in the city away from the River Yamuna.
- Access to the Yamuna River for the nobles was controlled by developing an architectural form in which a white marble mausoleum was placed on a terrace along the river and the garden was to the south of it.