

Chapter 5 Rulers And Buildings

1. How is the 'trabeate' principle of architecture different from the arcuate?

Answer:

Trabeate principle of architecture is different from the arcuate principle in the following way:

1. In the trabeate principle, a horizontal beam is placed across two vertical columns and roofs, doors and windows are made.
2. In the arcuate principle, the bricks are joined in an arch shape on a wooden plank, put on two vertical columns, doors, windows, and roofs, and are made arch-shaped. The weight of the doors and windows is carried by arches. The keystone of the arch transfers the weight on the bases of the arch.

2. What is a shikhara?

Answer: A shikhara is the topmost pointed portion of a temple.

3. What is pietra dura?

Answer: Pietra-dura is the inlays (a series of pictures) that depicted the legendary Greek god Orpheus playing the flute.

4. What are the elements of a Mughal Chahar bagh garden?

Answer: Mughal Chahar bagh consists of four gardens. These gardens are placed within rectangular walled enclosures and divided into four quarters by artificial channels.

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

Answer:

The temples communicated the importance of a king in the following manner:

1. Name of the temples and the king were almost similar
 - **Examples: King:** Rajarajadeva.
 - **Temple:** Rajarajeshvara.
 - **God:** Rajarajeshvaram
2. The main Gods were identical in name with the kings.
3. Lesser deities were gods and goddesses of the allies and subordinates of the ruler.
4. Temple was the miniature model of the world ruled by the king and his allies.

6. An inscription in Shah Johan'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: Shah Jahan's diwan-i khas was designed in such a way that it fused together in a grand harmonious synthesis. It was carefully planned. It was placed within a large courtyard. Behind the emperor's throne there were a series of pietra-dura inlays. It depicted the legendary god Orpheus playing the lute. The diwan-e khas was 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. The diwan-i khas reflected the image of a paradise in itself.

7. 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 Diwan-i am of the Mughal court suggested that justice was made for all in an equal way. The construction of Shah Jahan's audience hall was designed to communicate that the king's justice was equal for the high and the low. Its aim was to create a world where all could live together in harmony. There was no difference between the rich and poor in the emperor's court.

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

Answer:

The Yamuna played the following role in the layout of the new Mughal city at Shahjahanabad.

1. The palace was commanded by the riverfront.
2. Only the specially favoured nobles like Dara Shukoh were given access to the river.
3. All others had to construct their houses far away from the river Yamuna.

9. The rich and powerful construct large houses today. In what ways were the constructions of kings and their courtiers different in the past?

Answer:

The constructions of kings and their courtiers were different in the past in the following ways:

1. Safety and security was a major consideration.
2. Diwan-i am was constructed for the general public.
3. The constructions were carried out on uplands and surrounded by water bodies.

10. Look at Figure 4. How could that building be constructed faster today?

Answer: Such buildings were usually constructed as a matter of pride in old days. It was very difficult to construct them but they were made possible with the help of skilled masons and labourers. Such buildings took a very long time and a number of labourers to be constructed. But now as technologies have advanced, we have many facilities, equipment, tools which can construct huge buildings very easily and in less time.

11. Find out whether there is a statue of or a memorial to a great person in your village or town. Why was it placed there? What purpose does it serve?

Answer: There is a very busy chowk in my village. We find there a statue of Subhash Chandra Bose and hence this chowk is known as Subhash Chowk. Subhash Chandra Bose was such a great person that he dared to challenge the British empire by forming his own army. He is now no more but his statue is there to inspire us. Its purpose is to encourage the youth to do something different and challenging.

12. Visit and describe any park or garden in your neighbourhood. In what ways is it similar to or different from the gardens of the Mughals?

Answer: The gardens of Mughals gardens were spread over a very large area. There was a large variety of flowers. They were well-decorated and protected. But the garden in my neighbourhood is not so large. Everyone has easy access to this garden. So the flowers are not safe. Thus, we don't find any similarities.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was limestone cement used in the construction of large structures? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Limestone cement was very high-quality cement, which, when mixed with stone chips hardened into concrete. This made the construction of large structures easier and faster.

2. How did the Persian court chronicles describe the Sultan?

Answer: Persian court chronicles described the Sultan as the 'Shadow of God'.

3. Name the ruler who won universal respect for constructing a large reservoir just - outside Delhi-i kuhna?

Answer: Sultan Iltutmish.

4. What are the special features of Humayun's tomb?

Answer: (a) It has a central towering dome.

(b) It has a tall gateway (pishtaq).

5. What was maha mandapa?

Answer: It was the main hall in the temple where dances were performed.

6. Name the temple built by king Rajarajadeva.

Answer: Rajarajeshvara temple.

7. When was the tomb of Hanuman built?

Answer: It was built between 1562 and 1571.

8. Who constructed the Kandariya Mahadeva temple?

Answer: King Dhangadeva of the Chandela dynasty constructed the Kandariya Mahadeva temple.

9. Where was Shah Jahan's capital in the early years of his reign?

Answer: It was at Agra

10. What is the special feature of Fatehpur Sikri, Akbar's capital?

Answer: Many of the buildings show the influence of the architectural styles of Gujarat and Malwa.

11. Name the king who invaded Sri Lanka? Whom did he defeat?

Answer: King Shrimara Shrivallabha. He defeated the king, Sena I.

12. What was havellis?

Answer: They were large mansions of the merchants.

13. How did kings win the praise of their subjects? [V. Imp.]

Answer: They won the praise of their subjects by buildings structures meant for a public activity such as temples, mosques, tanks, wells, caravanserais, and bazaars.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What type of structures were built by kings and their officers between the eighth and the eighteenth centuries?

Answer: During this period kings and their officers built two kinds of structure

(A) Forts, palaces, garden residences and tombs

(B) Structures meant for public activity including temples, mosques, tanks, wells, caravanserais and bazaars.

2. Write a short note on the Kandariya Mahadeva temple.

Answer: The Kandariya Mahadeva temple dedicated to Shiva was constructed in 999 by the king Dhangadeva of the Chandela dynasty. The temple had an ornamented gateway that led to an entrance. It had the main hall known as maha mandapa where dances were performed. The image of the chief deity was kept in the main Shrine known as garbhagriha. This was the place for ritual worship where only the king and his kith and kin gathered.

3. Throw light on how the construction of the Rajarajeshvara temple was a very difficult task. [V. Imp.]

Answer: The Raj raj Ishvara temple was built in the early 11th century. It had the tallest shikhara amongst temples of its time. Its construction was a very difficult task. There were no cranes in those days. The 90 tonne stone for the top of the shikhara was too heavy to lift manually. Hence, the architects built an inclined path to the top of the temple, placed the boulder on rollers and rolled it all the way to the top. The path started more than 4 km away so that it would not be too steep. This was dismantled after the temple was built.

4. In what ways do you think the policies of Rajendra I and Mahmud of Ghazni were a product of their time? How were the actions of the two rulers different? [Imp.]

Answer: King Rajendra I looted the temples of the defeated rulers and seized prized statues from them. He used these statues in the decoration of the Shiva temple, that he built in his capital in the early 11th century.

Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni was a contemporary of Rajendra I. He destroyed and looted the temples of defeated kings in order to win credit as a great hero of Islam. Thus, King Rajendra, I constructed a temple while Mahmud of Ghazni destroyed it. In this way, their actions were very much different.

5. Write a brief note on the Chahar bagh built by the Mughal rulers.

Answer: The Mughal emperors were very much interested in literature, art, and architecture. Babur, in his autobiography, described his interest in planning and laying out formal gardens, placed within rectangular walled enclosures, and divided into four quarters by artificial channels. These gardens were called Chahar bagh, four gardens, because of their symmetrical division into quarters. Beginning with Akbar, some of the most beautiful Chahar baghs were constructed by Jahangir and Shah Jahan in Kashmir, Agra and Delhi.

6. When was Humayun's tomb built? What are its special features?

Answer: Humayun's tomb was, built between 1562 and 1571. Its main features are:

- The central towering dome and the tall gateway known as pishtaq became important aspects of Mughal architecture. This tomb architecture was first visible in Humayun's tomb.
- The tomb was placed in the centre of a huge formal Chahar bagh and built in the tradition known as 'eight paradises' or hasht bihisht—a central hall surrounded by eight rooms.
- The building was constructed with red sandstone, edge with white marble.

7. Give an account of Shah Jahan's audience halls. [Imp.]

Answer: Shah Jahan's audience halls were specially constructed to resemble a mosque. The pedestal on which his throne was placed was frequently described as the qibla, the direction faced by Muslims at prayer, since everybody faced that direction when court was in session. The idea of the king as a representative of God on earth was suggested by these architectural features.

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.

8. Who were involved in the building of the Qutb Minor?

Answer: The Qutb Minar is five storeys high. The first floor was constructed by Qutbuddin Aybak and the rest by Iltutmish around 1229. Over the years it was damaged by lightning and earthquakes and repaired by Alauddin Khalji, Muhammad Tughluq, Firuz Shah Tughluq, and Ibrahim Lodi.

9. How can you say that Mughal rulers adapted regional architectural styles in the construction of their buildings? Explain with examples.

Answer: Mughal rulers were skilled in adapting regional architectural styles in the construction of their buildings.

For example:

In Bengal, the local rulers had developed a roof that was designed to resemble a thatched hut. The Mughals liked this 'Bangla dome' and used it their architecture.

In Akbar's capital at Fatehpur Sikri, many of the buildings show the influence of the architectural styles of Gujarat and Malwa.

10. Describe how Shah Jahan adapted the riverfront garden in the layout of the Taj Mahal.

Answer: The Taj Mahal is the grandest architectural accomplishment of Shah Jahan's reign. He adapted the river-front garden in its layout. Here, the white marble mausoleum was placed on a

terrace by the edge of the river and the garden was to its south. Shah Jahan developed this architectural form as a means to control the access that nobles had to the river.

11. What is the main feature of Shah Jahan's new city of Shahjahanabad? [Imp.]

Answer: Shah Jahan constructed a new city namely Shahjahanabad in Delhi. In this city, the imperial palace commanded the river-front. Only especially favoured nobles like his oldest son Dara Shukoh were given access to the river. All others had to construct their homes in the city away from the River Yamuna.