

Various Dimensions of Architecture and Crafts

In the history of human culture, architecture holds an important place. Architecture is a thread that combines the scattered links of centuries to present a real cultural picture of a nation and society. Architecture plays an important role as source for the reconstruction history of pre and proto historical periods as well.

If we take the case of Rajasthan, its geographical location has influenced its architecture. Cities, palaces, ramparts, forts, lakes and cisterns were constructed keeping in view the strength of the buildings along with utility.

Town-Planning and Architecture

There is plenty of evidence that came to light from the excavations at Kalibangan and Saunthi, in Hanumangarh district, that many centuries before the Rigvedic period, planning and architecture of the cities established on the banks of river Saraswati and Drishdwati was of high standards. The houses, roads, drains, round wells, altars etc. made of bricks stand testimony to this fact.

In south-west Rajasthan, Ahar and Gilund were the centers of culture. Windows, doors, verandahs, and open squares gave completeness to the residential buildings and are indicative of a prosperous society. Grindstone, sheets of copper etc. point towards an agrarian-industrial (metallurgy) civilisation at Ahar. During the proto-historical period there existed many cultural centers in Rajasthan – Pushkar, Marudhanva, Jangal, Matsya, Salva, Marukantar etc.

In the Mahabharata we come across descriptions of the places like Pushkar, Virat Nagar (Bairath) etc. which tell the story of an evolved state of city planning and architecture. From the Mauryan period to the post Gupta period, a distinct style of architecture developed in Rajasthan on the lines of the Indian architecture. The art of this period not only flourished under the royal patronage, but also flourished under the social patronage. Virat Nagar (Jaipur) is a fine example of the art of Ashokan

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period. A rock edict and the remains of a Buddhist monastery are among the important finds from Bairath. The remains of the city of Madhyamika (near Chittor, now known as Nagri) on the banks of Berach river indicate that there was a magnificent city that flourished from 3rd century BCE to 6th century AD.

Mainal, Amjhera, Dabok and the area around Bharatpur are witness to the urban splendor of Gupta and Post Gupta period. The archaeological remains of step wells, water tanks, temples, roads, drains and residential buildings point to an evolved state of architecture.

The period between seventh century and thirteenth century is very important in Rajasthan from the point of view of architecture. With the rise of the Rajput culture, forts, the symbol of valour and defence and temples, symbolizing religious trends were constructed.

In the Rajput period, every capital city had a distinctive planning. To build a city, the site was chosen while keeping in mind the protection and availability of resources to survive. With this view, places like Bhinmal, Chittor, Mandore, Osian, Ranthambore, Jhalrapatan, Rajogarh, and Amer were selected to be built as capital cities. Later on, native kings founded cities like Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Udaipur, Bundi, Kota, and Jaipur to make them their capitals and further developed them as ideal cities.

For example, if we look at the construction of Jaipur city, we find that famous architect Vidhyadhar designed it on a grid of nine blocks. In the well-planned city of Jaipur, construction of broad and straight roads and pathways was an important aspect. At both the ends of the city, there are two chaupads (Choti and Badi Chaupad), in the middle of which there are fountains and shops on both sides of the roads. For the exit from city, Surajpole, Chandpole, Ghatgate, Sanganeri Gate, Ajmeri Gate, Jorawarsingh Gate, etc. are the important exit points.

To realize Sawai Jaisingh's dream, the foundation of the Jaipur city was laid in November 1727 by Rajguru Pandit Jagannath Samrat. In the times to come, the town-planning and architecture of Jaipur influenced the city planning of whole of Rajasthan.

Jaisalmer was founded in 12th century, keeping in view the proximity of the jungle and availability of water. The whole plan was in the interest of the people and promotion of trade. During the times of the Chauhans, Ajmer was counted amongst the rich cities. In the text Prithviraj Vijay, Ajmer has been compared to Indrapuri.

Availability of sufficient water has played a vital role in the architecture and establishment of Bundi. Settlement of the cities of Jodhpur and Bikaner – the construction of forts, walled cities and houses was impacted by geographical

conditions. Bikaner city was built on plain ground. The city was divided on the basis of professions. The haats and markets were built to facilitate economic activity. Udaipur, founded in a valley and surrounded by seven lakes, was also divided into localities based on various professions.

The architecture of the villages was different from the architecture of cities. The villages in the hilly terrains were settled on the hilly slopes, for eg. Kelwara, Sarada etc. We find tribal settlements in the form of two or more huts on the hummock in the mountains and in the dense forests. Villages in the desert region were settled keeping in view the availability of water. Therefore 'sar' or (reservoir) is used as suffix in the names of villages of Bikaner and Jaisalmer, for eg. Bidasar, Jetsar, Udasar.

Fort Architecture

There is hardly any district or region in Rajasthan where we do not find a small or a big fort or fortress. The tradition of constructing forts is very old. According to Shukraniti, there are seven 'angas' or parts of a State, and fort is one of them. In our country, after Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan is the State where we find maximum number of forts and citadels. Here the kings and the feudal lords constructed the forts for their residence, safety, storage of goods, to protect the people at the time of attack, to secure livestock, and to conceal their wealth.

In Rajasthan, the first example of fort architecture has been found in the excavations from Kalibangan. In the course of time, in the Mauryan and Gupta periods and later, the tradition of constructing forts continued. During this period, priority was given to temples and reservoirs in the construction of the forts. Among the forts built in Rajasthan during the Rajput period, Bhatiyon Ka Sonargarh, Garhbeethli Taragarh of Ajayraj Chauhan in Ajmer, Kumbhalgarh of Kumbha are worth mentioning.

After the defeat of Prithvi Raj Chauhan in the second battle of Tarain, Turk-Afghan rule was established in Delhi which impacted the fort architecture of Rajasthan. After 13th century a change is perceptible in the tradition of fort construction. During this period, special attention was given to protection and defence. Therefore, the forts began to be constructed on hills with flat surfaces. Here, proper arrangements were made for cultivable land and means of irrigation. During this period many forts of ancient times, which got destroyed or were in ruins, were reconstructed for example, Achalgarh fort in Abu was transformed it into a new fort by Maharana Kumbha. Kumbha also got Chittorgarh fort reconstructed as per his requirements.

When cordial relations of Rajputs were established with the Mughals, a change can be seen in the fort architecture. Now the Rajput rulers started constructing city

forts on plains in place of hills, for example, Jaipur, Bikaner, Bharatpur etc. as this was a period of peace and stability for Rajput rulers in Rajasthan.

Do You Know ?

6 important forts of Rajasthan- Amer Palace, Gagron, Kumbhalgarh, Jaisalmer, Ranthambhore and Chittorgarh have been included in the list of world heritage site of UNESCO in 2013 at the meeting of World Heritage Committee held in Phnom Penh.

All the specific features of forts cited in the ancient texts can be seen in the forts of Rajasthan. We generally find strong ramparts, impregnable bastions, deep trenches (parikha) around the fort, secret entrances and tunnel, armory inside the fort (silakhana), cisterns or water tanks, palaces and residential areas for soldiers in the forts of Rajasthan.

Types of Forts

On the basis of location, architecture and utility, forts can be classified into various categories. Some important types of forts are as follows :

1. **Auduk Durg** or water fort are the forts which are surrounded by water, eg. Gagron Fort.
2. **Giri Durg** or hill fort is situated on high mountain. Most of the forts of Rajasthan fall under this category.
3. **Dhanvan Durg** is the fort constructed in the desert, eg. Jaisalmer Fort.
4. **Van Durg** is the fort built in the dense rugged forest, eg. Siwana Fort.
5. **Airan Fort** is the fort which is inaccessible due to ditches, thorns and stones, eg. Chittor Fort and Jalore Fort
6. **Parikh Durg** is the fort which has large ditch around it, for example, Fort of Bharatpur, Junagarh of Bikaner.
7. **Paaridh Durg** are the forts which are fortified with big walls, like Chittor, Jaisalmer.
8. **Sainya Durg** is the fort where soldiers who are intelligent in planning and strategy of war live in.
9. **Sahay Durg** is the fort, where brave and mutually cordial bandhav people reside.

There are few forts which fall under two or more categories of forts, like Chittor fort has features of Giri Fort, Paarikh Fort and Airan Fort. Among all the categories of forts, military forts are considered to be the best.

Many forts of Rajasthan along with Chittor fort can be placed in the category of 'military fort'.

Important Forts of Rajasthan

Chittorgarh

Chittor fort, the pride of Rajasthan, is the most ancient and preeminent fort among the hill forts. Located on the route from Delhi to Malwa and Gujarat, this fort had its strategic importance in the ancient and medieval period.

According to Veer Vinod, a historical text of Mewar, this fort was constructed by Maurya king Chitranga (Chitrangad), who named it Chitrakot which was later changed to Chittor. Bappa Rawal, the founder of Guhil dynasty in Mewar, defeated the last Maurya ruler (Manmori) and captured Chittor around 8th century. Allauddin Khilji captured Chittor and renamed it 'Khijrabad'.



Chittorgarh

The fort is situated on a plateau which is famous as the Plateau of Mesa. It is considered to be the crown of all forts. Thus goes an old adage underlining the preeminence of Chittorgarh- Garh Toh Chittorgarh, baaki sab garhaiya.

Chittor has witnessed three famous sakas of history. The first happened in 1303 when Allauddin Khilji attacked Chittor, second in 1535 at the time of Gujarat ruler Bahadurshah's attack, and the third at the time of attack of Akbar in 1568.

Chittor Fort, that has witnessed Rani Padmini's Jauhar, heroism and sacrifice of Veer Jaimal Rathore and Patta Sisodia, stands unparalleled in the history of forts.

Strong and curved ramparts, lofty and large bastions, seven impenetrable entrances, and a serpentine spiral path to reach the fort, all these features make it a formidable fort. Among the buildings in the fort, Tuljamata Temple, Navlakha Bhandar, Bhamashah Ki Haveli, Sringer Chanvri Palace, Tripolia Gate, Kumbha Shyam Temple, Somdev Temple, Vijay Stambh erected by Kumbha, palace of queen Padmini, palace of Gora Badal, Chitranga Mori Pond, and Jain Kirti Stambh are worth mentioning.

Kumbhalgarh (Rajsamand)

Built by Maharana Kumbha, in accordance with the prescriptions laid down by the canons, the Kumbhalgarh Fort is an excellent example of Giri Durg. Situated on

the borders of Mewar and Marwar near village Sadadi, Kumbhal Garh served as a safe haven in the times of crisis.

The chief architect of this fort was Mandan. Kumbhalgarh is surrounded by a 36 km-s. rampart. Its defence wall is so broad that as many as eight horsemen can move side by side on it. With its strong ramparts, watch towers, crenelles, Kumbhalgarh has been compared with Etruscan architecture by Col. Tod.

The fort boasts of Jhalibav Baori, Kumbhswami Vishnu Temple, Jhalirani's Malia, Mamadeo Pond, Cenotaph (Chhatari) of Udana Rajkumar (Prithviraj Rathod) and some other monuments. The fort was witness to two very important events: Uday Singh's coronation and Rana Pratap's birth. At the upper end of the fort is situated Kumbha's residence, which is called Katargarh. About the height of this fort, Abul Fazl wrote that it is built at such a height that when one looks up to see it, the turban falls off from one's head.

Ranthambhor Fort (Sawai Madhopur)

This fort was built by the Chauhan rulers in the eighth century. According to one belief this fort was built by Ranthan Dev Chauhan. The Ranthambhor fort is mute witness to the courage and valour of Hammir Dev Chauhan who died fighting Alauddin's forces in 1301 AD for the sake of keeping his vow to save the asylee. What is special about its architecture is that it combines the characteristics of both Giri Durg and Van Durg. Impressed by its natural protective cover Abu'l Fazl called it an 'armoured fort' (bakhtarband durg). There are the following important monuments within the precincts of the fort: Hammir Mahal, Rani Mahal, Hammir's Court, Supari Mahal, Battis Khamba Chhatari, Jogi Mahal, Pir Sadruddin's Dargah and Ganesh Mandir.

Siwana Fort (Barmer)

Situated atop the Chhappan ka pahad, Siwana fort is a famous fort. It is also called 'Ankhalon Siwanon' fort. It was constructed by Virnarayan of the Parmar dynasty in 954 AD. During Allauddin Khilji's reign in Delhi, Siwana fort was in the charge of Kanhadade's nephew Sitaldev. Khilji attacked the fort circa 1310 AD. Sitaldev died defending and the fort went into the possession of Alauddin.

Siwana fort was the place where Marwar rulers took refuge during the periods of crisis. Rao Maldeo took refuge here after the battle of Giri-Sumel when he was pursued by Alauddin's forces. Chandrasen made Siwana fort his base in his struggle against the Mughals.

Taragarh Fort (Bundi)

An excellent Giri Durg, being situated on the peak of a mountain, Taragarh fort

looks like a star from the ground. Therefore, it came to be called Taragarh. It was built by Rao Bar Singh in the fourteenth century to safeguard Bundi from potential attacks of Mewar, Malwa and Gujarat.

According to Veer Vinod, Maharana Kshetra Singh died attempting to conquer Bundi. When his son Maharana Lakha also failed despite his utmost exertions to fulfil his oath to destroy the fort of Bundi, he got a clay replica of the fort made and destroyed it. But interestingly, Kumbha Hada put his life at stake to save the fort made of clay.

The palaces inside the Taragarh are excellent pieces of architecture. A special feature of these palaces is a priceless treasure of rare and lively murals. Especially the Chitrashala, created during the reign of Maharao Ummed Singh is a splendid example of the Bundi School of painting. Chaurasi Khambon ki Chhatari, Shikar Burj, Phool Sagar, Nawalsagar Sarovar and Garbh-Gunjjan Top (cannon) stand testimony to the grandeur of the Bundi fort.

Nahargarh Fort (Jaipur)

Situated on the top of a hill of Aravalli range in Jaipur, the Nahargarh fort was built by Sawai Jai Singh to safeguard Jaipur from the Maratha incursions. This fort is also called Sudarshangarh. It is named Nahargarh after Nahar Singh Bhomia. There is a popular folklore that when the fort was under construction, the spirit of Jujhar Singh began to obstruct the work as it was his abode. The occultist (Tantrik) Ratnkar Paundrik was called, who persuaded Nahar Singh Baba to shift to some other place and a shrine was constructed near Ambagarh for the spirit of the Baba, where he is worshipped as a local god (lokdevata). Sawai Madho Singh constructed nine suites for his nine wives in the fort.

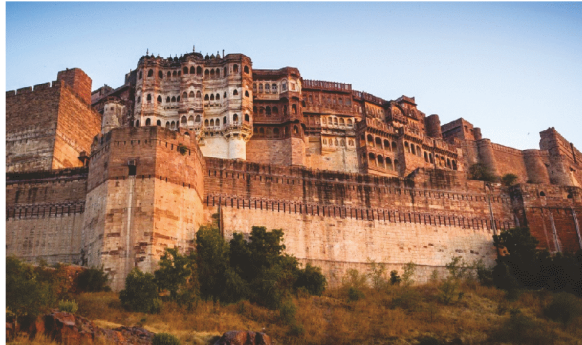
Taragarh (Ajmer)

Situated on the Aravalli hills in Ajmer, Taragarh is in ruins. It is also called Garh Bithali and Ajaymeru. During the reign of Shah Jahan Vitthaldas Gaur was the custodian of the fort. There is a possibility that the fort came to be called Gadh Bithali after the name of this valiant warrior. According to Col. Tod, this fort was built by the Chauhan ruler Ajay Pal. The ramparts of the fort are studded with 14 big watch towers. Among them the major towers are: Ghunghat, Gugadi and Footi burj, Bandara burj, Bondara burj, Imali burj, Khidaki burj and Fateh burj. In 1823 AD, when William Bentick, Governor General of India, visited the monument, he exclaimed in wonder, Oh! The second Gibraltar of the world.

Mehrangarh (Jodhpur)

Mehrangarh was founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 AD. It is situated atop the

norther hillock called Chidiatunk, in the Jodhpur city. It has other names as well – Mayurdhvaj and Garhchintamani. Built of red sandstone, the palaces of the Mehrangarh are grand specimen of the Rajput architecture. It was due to its vastness that it got the name Mehrangarh – ‘Garh banyo Mehran’.



Mehrangarh (Jodhpur)

The fort houses beautiful Moti Mahal, Fateh Mahal, Phool Mahal and Singar Mahal. The Pustak Prakash library established by Maharaja Man Singh is still functioning. There are many long-range cannons in the fort: Kilkila, shambhuban, Ghazanikhan, jamjama, Kadak Bijali, Nusrat, Gubbar, Bichhoo Ban, Mir Bakhsh, Rahasya Kala and Gajak. Within the precincts of the fort there are ancient temples of Chamunda Mata, Murali Manohar and Anandghan. Moreover, other buildings such as Takht Vilas, Chokhelav Mahal, Bichala Mahal, Singar Chauki also adorn the fort.

Churu Fort

The Churu Fort was built by Thakur Kushal Singh in 1739 AD. In 1814, the army of Bikaner State laid siege to the Churu fort and bombarded it with cannon fire. In retaliation, fire was returned from the fort. Soon lead required to make cannon-balls was exhausted. The wealthy and the common people came forward, brought whatever silver they had and laid it before the Thakur. When the silver ball fell on the enemy, they were aghast to see the balls of silver falling on them. Impressed by the sacrifice of the people of Churu, they lifted the siege.

Akbar's Fort (Ajmer)

Akbar built a fort in the middle of Ajmer city during 1571-1572. This fort is also called Akbar ka Daulatkhana and Akbar's Magazine. This is the only fort in Rajasthan, which was constructed in accordance with the Muslim fort architectural system. The plan for the battle of Haldighati against Maharana Pratap was finalized here in 1576 AD. When Thomas Roe, the ambassador of King James of England came to India, he presented his credentials to Emperor Jahangir in this fort in 1801 AD the English took possession of the fort and made it their armoury (magazine).

Junagarh Fort (Bikaner)

The foundation of this fort was laid by Maharaja Rai Singh in 1589 AD. The ramparts and the rest of the fort is mostly built of red stone, therefore, it is called Lalgah. A panegyric (prashasti) of the founder of the fort Raja Rai Singh is inscribed

on the inner entrance, Surajpole gate. On both sides of the Surajpole are installed the statues of celebrated warriors Jaimal Medatiya and Fatta Sisodiya seated on elephants. Some major buildings in the fort are the following: Ratan Niwas, Rang Mahal, Karna Mahal, Anup Mahal, Chhatra Niwas, Lal Niwas, Sardar Niwas, Chini Burj, Vikram Vilas.

Bhainsrogarh Fort (Chittorgarh)

Situated at the confluence of the Chambal and Bamani rivers, Bhainsrogarh is surrounded by water on three sides. Therefore, this is a jaladurg. According to Col. Tod it was built by traders Bhainsa Shah and Roda Charan to protect their caravan from the mountain bandits. It was passed on from the Paramaras of the Dod branch to the Rathods, the Shaktawats and the Chundawats and finally to the Hadas of the Bhainsrogarh, but mostly it remained in the possession of Mewar. It is also called the Vellore of Rajasthan.

Gagron Fort (Jhalawar)

Situated on the confluence of the Kalisindh and Ahu rivers, Gagron fort is a Giri and Jalagurg. It was built in the 11th century AD by the Dod Paramars. It was called Dodgarh or Dhulargarh after the name of its rulers. Afterwards it came in the possession of the Khinchi Chauhans. This fort reminds of Achaldas Khinchi's valour, who died in the battle against Hoshang Shah, Sultan of Mandu in 1423 AD. There are Pipa ki Chhatari, Sufi Saint Mitthe Sahab (Saint Hamiduddin Chisti) ki Dargah on the sides of the fort and the Buland Darwaza built by Aurangzeb are a few monuments that adorn the Gagron fort.



Gagron Fort (Jhalawar)

Jaigarh (Amer)

Among the prominent military buildings Jaigarh is the only fort which had a Cannon manufacturing factory. The Jaibana cannon placed in the fort is the biggest cannon in Asia. Jaigarh Fort is also famous for large water reservoirs. Various Kachchhawa rulers contributed in the construction and extension of the fort. It was Sawai Jai Singh who gave this fort its present form. Jaigarh is also called a mysterious fort, as there are many secret tunnels running out of the fort.

Jalore Fort

Jalore fort is built on the Songiri hill on the banks of Sukadi river. In the inscriptions Jalore is referred to as Jabalipur and the fort as Suvarnagiri. It was built by the Pratihara rulers in the eighth century. The Topkhana Mosque, which was constructed over a Sanskrit school built by Bhoj Parmar, is an attractive monument. Kanhadade Chauhan was the most famous ruler of Jalore, who died defending the fort against Alauddin in 1311 AD.

Jaisalmer Fort

Jaisalmer fort, built on the Trikuta hillock of yellow sandstone, is also called Sonar Qila or Golden fort. It was built by the Bhati ruler, Rao Jaisal in 1155 AD. The fort stands in the middle of a sandy desert. There is a proverb about the fort: One can access the fort only if one has feet of stone, body of iron and is riding on a wooden horse.

From a distance the fort on the hill-top appears like an anchored ship. Masons did not use mortar or cement to join the stones in its construction. The ancient and magnificent temples of Rishabh Dev and Parshvanath rival the temples of Dilwara in respect of their carvings and beauty. Among the palaces inside the fort, Rang Mahal, Moti Mahal, Gaj Vilas and Jawahar Vilas are the main attractions. The fort also houses an archive of ancient and rare manuscripts.

Lohagarh

Lohagarh of Bharatpur, symbolising the valour and courage of the Jat rulers of Bharatpur is famous for its invincibility and solidity. It was built by Maharaja Surajmal in 1733 AD when he was the crown prince. Surajmal built it over a small preexisting mud fortress and gave it the present form. There are two gates in the fort – one in the north and the other in the south. The northern gate is made of ashtadhatu. The ashtadhatu gate was brought from Delhi in 1756 AD by Maharaja Jawahar Singh. The broad walls of the fort make it impregnable. The outer walls of the fort are mud walls and the whole structure is surrounded by a moat which was filled with water from Moti Jheel and Sujana Ganga. The English General Lord Lake, with a large army and artillery, attacked the fort five times in 1805 AD but failed in every attempt to breach its defences.

Important monuments in the fort are Kishori Mahal, Mahal Khas, Kothi Khas, Jawahar Burj and Fateh Burj (erected to commemorate the victory over the Mughals and the British Army).

Apart from the afore described forts, some other notable forts are: forts of Bayana (Bharatpur), Timargarh (Karauli), Sojat and Kuchaman (Marwar), Shivad,

Kalakh, Kakod and Khandar (erstwhile Jaipur State), Shergarh (Hadoti), Basantgarh (Sirohi) and Lakshmangarh (Sikar).

Temple Architecture

Temple architecture is the main form of architecture of the Hindus. In Rajasthan we begin to find temples from the seventh century AD onwards, although construction of temples began well before the seventh century. Unfortunately, only scanty remains of the temples of the earlier period have been found – of a circular Buddhist temple from Bairath and a Vaishnava temple from Nagari (Chittorgarh). The period of development of temple architecture in Rajasthan is between the seventh and the tenth century AD. From circa eighth century a new style of architecture evolved in Rajasthan – Gurjar-Pratihara or Mahamara. The temple of the Pratiharas of Mandor, Chauhanas of Sambhar and Mauryas of Chittor are the early examples of this style.

The most important temples of the early phase (from 8th to the early 9th century) are situated in Osian, Chittorgarh and Abhaneri. Among the temples built in Osian between the 8th and the 12th century, the most notable temples are the Surya Temple on the hillock near Sachchiya Mata Temple and Harihar and Mahavir Temples on the ground below.

The most notable temples – Kameshwar and Ranchhod ji – of Gurjar-Pratihara style that developed in the 9th century are located at Khed, near Aowva and Balotara in the Pali district. Around the 10th and the beginning of the 11th century, the Gurjar-Pratihara style reached its zenith and a new style – Solanki style – began to emerge. The first temple of this period is the Nilkantheshwar Temple of Kikindh or Jasnagar to the south of Merta. The Harshnath temple near Sikar is also of this period. To the south west of Sariska, in Paranagar, there is a trikutakar (having three peaks) Nilkantheshwar Temple. The pillars of the last two temples are round, which later became a common feature. The grandest and the last temple of the Gurjar-Pratihara style is the Someshwar Temple (circa 1016 AD) of Kiradu. This temple is counted among the best of Indian temples.

The tradition of architecture was carried forward by the Gurjar-Pratiharas of Jalor, after them by the Chauhanas, Parmaras and the Guhilas. But there are quite a few temples built in a style different from the Gurjar-Pratihara style. Such temples are: temples at Badoli, Saas-Bahu Temple at Nagada and Jagat Ambika Temple, Udaipur.

The period between the 11th and the 12th centuries may be said to be the high point in the history of architecture of Rajasthan. During this period, a large number of magnificent temples, embellished with exquisite sculpture were made in both

Solanki and Maru Gurjar style. Some important temples of this style are Sachiya Mata Temple at Osian, Samidheshwar Temple in Chittor fort etc. The pillars of this style of temples are ornate, slender, long and rounded. These temples were built on a raised platform.

During this period one more style arose – Bhumij. The oldest temples of this style (1010-1020 AD) is a Jain Temple Sewadi in Pali district. Mahanaleshwar Temple in Menal (circa 1075 AD), Bhanddevara Temple of Ramgarh in Baran district and Undeshwar Temple at Bijolia are some other examples.

The period following the 13th century is not remarkable as far as architecture is concerned. Thanks to the Rajput rulers, apart from the lower Himalayan ranges, Rajasthan was the only region in India, where the construction of large temples continued. Among the temples of the post 13th century period, Jagdishji Temple of Udaipur, temples at Eklingji, Keshoraipatan Temple and Jagatshiromani Temple at Amer are some important examples. These temples were magnificent structures and required large sums of money and time. Later on, due to the atmosphere of religious intolerance and destruction of temples, temple building suffered a setback. This led to the development of Haveli Temple architecture after the 16th century.

The Jain temples have an important place in the history of architecture of Rajasthan. Their lay-out, composition of various parts and their form, all were in harmony with their worship and ritualism and belief system. The Dilwara temples are the most famous Jain temples. Jain temples of Ranakpur, Osian, Jaisalmer etc. are also acclaimed for their grandeur and beauty.

Eklingji Temple, Udaipur

The Lakulisha Temple at Eklingji is situated at Kailashpuri village near Udaipur on the Nathdwara highway. It was constructed in the 8th century by the Guhil ruler Bappa Rawal and was given its present form by Maharana Raimal. A tetra-headed idol made of black marble of Lord Lakulisha is placed in the sanctum sanctorum. Eklingji is the tutelary deity of the Mewar Royal family though the rulers of Mewar regard themselves as the diwan of the deity. Within the compound of the temple is also situated a Vishnu Temple built by Kumbha.

Temples of Kiradu, Barmer

The ancient name of Kiradu was ‘Kirat Koop’, which is situated on top



Temples of Kiradu, Barmer

of a hill near Hathama village, which in turn is five kms away from Khadeen Railway station. The temples of Kiradu were built in 11th-12th century. This is a cluster of five Vaishnava and Shaiva temples. The Someshwar temple is the most beautiful among these temples. With its exquisite carvings, it exhibits a beautiful synthesis of the Gupta and regional Parmar and Solanki styles. Kiradu is also famously called the Khajuraho of Rajasthan.

Jagat Shiromani Temple, Amber

The Jagat Shiromani temple was built by the Kachchhawa ruler Man Singh's wife Kankawati in memory of her son Jagat Singh. According to the tradition, the black marble idol of Krishna is the same that Mira used to worship in Chittor. Man Singh brought the idol from Chittor.

Jain Temples, Dilwara

The Dilwara temples represent the pinnacle of the Late-Medieval temple architecture. They may be said to be the outstanding specimen of Rajasthan-Gujarat Solanki style of architecture.

Of the five temples, two stand apart. The first is devoted to the first Jain Tirthankar, Rishabh Dev. It was built by a minister Vimal Shah of Chalukyan ruler of Gujrat, Bhimdeva in 1031 AD. This temple is also known by the name Vimalvasahi. The second temple is devoted to the 22nd Tirthankar Neminath. It was built by Vastupal and Tejpal in 1230 AD. This temple is also known as Luna Vasahi. All the parts of this temple – mandap, pillars, canopies and platforms – are made of white finely carved marble. Artistically, Rang-Mandap and Navachauki are the exquisite pieces of artistry.



Jain Temples, Delwara

Harshadmata Temple, Abhaneri

Abhaneri, a village in Dausa district, is famous for an eighth century Harshadmata temple. The temple is built in the Gurjar-Pratihara style. The temple is completely in ruins; originally it was a temple of Vishnu.

Shiva Temple, Badoli

The Shiva Temple at Badoli, a village in Chittor district, is built in panchayatana style. This temple is believed to be built by Mihirkula, the son of Huna king Toramana. The temple houses the sculpture of Shiv-Parvati and their retinue.

Shiva Temple, Bhandadevara

Situated in Ramgarh in Baran district, the Shiva Temple of Bhandadevara is famous as the Khajuraho of Hadoti. It was built by Malaya Varma of the Med Dynasty in the 10th century. the temple is built in panchayatana style.

Jain Temple, Ranakpur

Situated in Pali district, the Jain temple of Ranakpur is renowned for its marvelous sculptures and magnificence. Devoted to the first Tirthankar Adinath, it was built during the reign of Maharana Kumbha by Dharani Shah, a Jain trader. The temple rests on 1444 pillars, therefore it is also called khambon ka ajayabghar (a marvel on pillars). A tetra-headed idol of Adinath is enshrined in the sanctum sanctorum.

Sachchiya Mata Temple, Osian

Osian is located 57 kms south west of Jodhpur. The groups of the 8th century Hindu and Jain temples at Osian were prominent centers of Gurjar-Pratihara architecture. Among the Hindu temples the Harihar temple and Surya temples still stand out in all glory.

Established on a hillock, this is an age-old shrine that dates back to the 8th-century which was built by Upmendra, a Parmara ruler. The entrance of the temple is formed of ornately carved arches. A long flight of stairs leads to the fore-chamber where Sachchiya Mata idol is enshrined.

Saas-Bahu Temple, Nagada

Nagada is situated about 27 kms. from Udaipur. In 1026 AD, some temples were constructed by Guhil ruler Sridhar. Two temples out of these are famous as Saas-Bahu temple. Both of these temples differ only in size, as they are similarly decorated. This temple is dedicated to Vishnu (Sahasrabahu).

Palace Architecture

With the establishment of the Rajput states in Rajasthan began the construction of palaces. From Menal, Nagada, Amer etc. the ruins of early medieval palaces have been found. Small rooms, small doors, absence of windows and two cornered rooms joined with a verandah are some of the features of these buildings.

During the medieval period, as the economic prosperity rose, larger, grander and well-furnished palaces came to be built. In the beginning the palaces were simple in design and mostly without ornamentation. The palaces of Kumbha period typify these early palaces. After the 15th century, as the Rajput-Mughal relations began to grow, the influence of the Mughal architecture began to be felt on the

Rajput buildings. Fountains, small gardens, floral designs, the use of marble, vaults and arches, domes etc. became part of the Rajput palaces. All these features can be seen in the palaces of Amar Singh in Udaipur, Jagmandir of Karn Singh, Pritam Niwas of Jagat Singh II's period, Jagniwas palace, Dewan-e-Khas and Diwan-e-Aam of Amber Palace, Karn Mahal of Bikaner, Shish Mahal, Anup Mahal, Rang Mahal, Jodhpur's Phool Mahal etc.

From 17th century onwards, in the palaces of Kota, Bundi, Jaipur etc. the fusion of the Mughal and Rajput styles is all too evident. Now, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Chitrashalas (painting galleries), Baradaris (pavilions), Gavaksh-Jharokhas (balconies) etc. became, common features of the Rajput palaces. The City Palace of Jaipur, the City Palace of Udaipur and the palaces of Deeg are outstanding examples of the fusion of Rajput-Mughal elements.

Haveli Architecture

The Haveli (mansions) architecture flourished in the 18th and the 19th centuries in Rajasthan. The Havelis were usually built by feudal lords and the merchants. The tradition of Haveli architecture first flourished in Jaipur and then it took roots in smaller places like Ramgarh, Nawalgarh, Fatehpur, Mukundgarh, Mandawa, Pilani, Sardar Shahar, Ratangarh, Lakshargarh etc.



Mandawa Haveli

Haveli of Salim Singh in Jaisalmer, Nathmal's Haveli and Patwon ki Haveli are world famous for their stone jalis, ornate wall paintings, intricate yellow sandstone-carved jharokhas (balconies), gateways and archways. Similarly, the Havelis of Karauli, Bharatpur and Kota built with Banshi stone are also known for their stone-cutting and artistic stone-carvings. Apart from these private Havelis (mansions), later Vaishnava temples were also built on the Haveli style.

Among the Havelis of Bikaner, the Haveli of the Bachhawats, built in the second half of the 16th century by Karna Singh Bachhawat and the Havelis of Mohta, Mundara, Rampuria etc. are renowned for their architectural grandeur. The Havelis at Bikaner are constructed of red stone. Paintings decorating the walls exhibit a fusion of Mughal, Kishangarh and European painting styles.

The Havelis of Shekhawati are renowned for their colourful and vibrant paintings. More famous among the Nawalgarh Havelis are Roop Niwas Palace, Bhagat, Jalan, Poddar and Bhagerian. Similarly, some other famous Havelis are:- the

Havelis of Nathuram Poddar, Seth Jaidayal Kedia and Sitaram Singtia's Havelis in Bisau (Jhunjhunu); Seth Lalchand Goenka's Haveli in Dundlod (Jhunjhunu); Seth Radhakrishna and Kesardev Kanedia's Havelis in Mukundgarh (Jhunjhunu); Bagadian's Haveli, Chirawa (Jhunjhunu), Sone-Chandi ki Haveli in Mahansar (Jhunjhunu); Pansari ki Haveli in Shrimadhampur (Sikar); Char Chauk Haveli and Chetram's Haveli in Lakshmangarh (Sikar).

Gaurilal Biyani ki Haveli in Sikar, Tarachand Ruiya ki Haveli in Ramgarh (Sikar); Nandalal Devara ki Haveli in Fatehpur (Sikar) are famous for the murals adorning their walls. Among the Havelis in Churu, Malji ka Kamara, Ramniwas Goenka ki Haveli, Mantrion ki Haveli are some outstanding Havelis.

Bade Miyan ki Haveli, Pokharan ki Haveli, Rakhi ki Haveli in Jodhpur; Sunehari Kothi in Tonk; Baghor ki Haveli in Udaipur; Nataniyon ki Haveli, Ratnakar Pundrik ki Haveli, Purohit Pratapnarayan ji ki Haveli in Jaipur are excellent examples of Haveli architecture.

Memorials (Chhatris and Dewals), Mausoleums and Dargah

To erect memorials after the death of the men of eminence is an age-old tradition. In Rajasthan we come across the Chhatris and Dewals constructed in the memory of the ruling families and rich merchants at various places. They are an invaluable treasure of our architectural heritage. Gator in Jaipur, Jaswant Thada in Jodhpur, Chhatravilas Bagh in Kota are some important places from this point of view.

The Chhatris are beautiful fusion of Mughal and Rajput art. The Chhatri of Musi Rani and Fateh Gumbad in Alwar, Gopal Singh's Chhatri in Karauli, Chaurasi Khambon ki Chhatri in Bundi, Sethon ki Chhatri in Ramgarh, Rao Kalyanmal's Chhatri, Sawai Jai Singh's Chhatri at Gatore, Jaswant Singh's Thada in Jodhpur, Chhatris of rulers and Paliwals in Jaisalmer are remarkable pieces of architecture.

The Dargah of the Sufi Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, Hamiddudin Nagori in Nagaur are matchless specimen of architecture. Some other important Dargahs are : Dargah of Diwan Shah (Kapasan), Dargah of Mitthe Shah (Gagron), Dargah of Shakkar Pir Baba (Narhad), Mazar of Abdul Pir (Bhawanpura), Mir Sahab's Dargah (Bundi), Khwaja Fakhruddin's Dargah (Sarwar), Mausoleum of Abdullah Khan (Ajmer) etc. are symbols of the synthesis of Hindu-Muslim architecture.

Architecture for Water Conservation

A large part of Rajasthan is sandy. Therefore, it was natural that the people devised techniques and methods of water conservation. This led to the development of a new genre of architecture – wells, pools, step-wells (baoris) and (tankas). Well is

a very easy and useful source of water in Rajasthan. The marble-well dug with modern technique at village Batadu in Barmer is worth visiting.

Tankas are foremost examples of water conservation architecture. Rain water was collected in the Tankas for future use. The better Tankas are found in the forts. Some of the best water reservoirs can be seen in the Jaigarh Fort of Jaipur. These Tankas are fine examples of medieval civil engineering.

Baoris were very important for the people of Rajasthan. Utility was the main reason for the construction of the Baoris, though artistic embellishments added to their beauty. These were usually constructed by the queens, queen mothers and rich merchants. Mostly the information regarding the patron, builder and the artisans was carved on the inscription related to the Baori.

The Chand Baori of Abhaneri near Bandikui is perhaps the most artistic of all the Baoris. It is believed to be built by some ruler named Chand. The queen Ramarasade of Maharana Raj Singh of Mewar built a trimukhi (tri-faced) Baori in Udaipur. Naulakha Baori near Dungarpur was built by Preimal Devi, the queen of Maharawal Askaran. Raniji ki Baori, situated in Bundi, was built by Nathavati, the queen of ruler of Bundi, Aniruddh Singh in 1699.

Lakes (Taalabs) formed the largest manmade reservoirs, which made maximum conservation of water possible in the dry and arid regions. Such lakes were generally built in the hilly areas. Usually a dam was made to block and divert the stream flowing through the passage between two hills to the lake. Some famous lakes built with this technique are the following: Pichhola (Udaipur), Gebsagar (Dungarpur), Rajsamand and Jaisamand (Dhebar). This technique was continued to be used from the 11th to 17th century. Among these lakes, Rajsamand lake has special significance. It was built to provide relief to the people in times of severe adversity. On the embankment of the lake are built three Chhatris, each having three parts. The whole structure is called Nau Chowki. These are matchless pieces of the art of carving.

Exercise

Multiple Choice Questions

1. About which fort has it been said that 'It is an armoured (Bakhtarband) fort'?
(a) Ranthambhore (b) Nahargarh
(c) Siwana (d) Taragarh
2. In which fort do we find nine identical suites ?
(a) Nahargarh (b) Taragarh
(c) Chittorgarh (d) Gagron
3. Where is the Akbar's Fort situated ?
(a) Ajmer (b) Jaipur
(c) Bikaner (d) Chittorgarh
4. Where is the Harshadmata temple situated ?
(a) Abhaneri (b) Pushkar
(c) Salasar (d) Mount Abu

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name the forts which have been included in the list of 'World Heritage Sites'.
2. On which plateau is the Chittorgarh Fort situated?
3. Who was the chief architect of Kumbhalgarh?
4. Which fort is also called Sudarshangarh?
5. Which fort is also called Vellore of Rajasthan?
6. Where is the Saas-Bahu temple situated?
7. In which city is the Haveli of the Bachchhawats situated?
8. Match the following pairs:

Chhatri	Place
1. Chhatri of Gopal Singh	Jodhpur
2. Chhatri of Musi Rani	Gatore
3. Chhatri of Sawai Jai Singh	Alwar
4. Jaswant Thada	Karauli

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Write a brief note on any two Baoris of Rajasthan.
2. Write the names of five major Dargah of Rajasthan.
3. Explain briefly the main features of the Lohagarh fort.

Essay Type Questions

1. Write a detailed note on Haveli architecture of Rajasthan
2. Discuss the main characteristics of the temple architecture of Rajasthan
3. Discuss the types of forts with examples.

Project Work :

1. Visit a nearby temple and prepare a chart of its characteristics.

Imagine :

1. A foreigner friend of your wants to visit the main Havelis of Rajasthan, which Havelis would you take him to visit?