

FAQs

1. What is provincial architecture and why did it originate?

Provincial architecture refers to the architectural style that evolved in the provinces. The reasons for the development of provincial style of architecture:

- power was concentrated in delhi, the muslim dynasty, their effect on architecture grew strong, while this influence is less noticeable in distant parts of the country
- nature of indigenous arts of the local artisans
- migration of experienced foreign craftsmen
- climatic conditions

2. Name any four provinces that witnessed provincial style of architecture

- Punjab (1150-1325)
- Bengal (1203-1573)
- Gujarat (1300-1572)
- Jaunpur (1376 – 1479)

3. Explain the architectural features of the Malwa province

Malwa Style 15th Century A.D.

- Main examples of the style are found in the cities of Dhar and Mandu.
- Malwa was influenced more by the early Tughlaq style from Delhi. This was due to the lack of significant local traditions in Malwa and hostile relations with neighbouring Gujarat.

The style can be divided into 3 phases:

- **First Phase:**

Dismantling of temples and converting them into mosque.

- **Second (Classical) Phase:**

Monuments of original character. Sober and elegant. More substantial and formal order.

- **Third Phase:**

Less austere and more fanciful structures, implying a life of ease and luxury. Main examples are pavilions, loggias, kiosks, terraces etc.

- The various architectural features of the Malwa style are:
 - Pointed Battered walls.
 - arches with spear head fringe.
 - Combination of Arch, Lintel and Bracket.
 - Boat keel domes.
 - Most artistic combination of arches with pillar and beam.
 - Buildings are raised on high plinths, accessed by long and stately flight of steps.
 - Prominent use of colour in decoration. Use of different coloured marble, semi-precious stones and glazed tiles. The artisans in Malwa possessed a secret formula for creating Turquoise blue colour.

4. Briefly explain the salient architectural features of the provincial style in the Deccan region with any example

- Unlike other Muslim rulers who made full use of indigenous art and architecture in their domains, rulers in the Deccan largely ignored the local art and produced an independent style of their own.
- Influences in this style come from two main sources:
 - **Delhi style** - Due to the forced migration of Muhammad Tughlaq from Delhi to Daulatabad, many influences of Tughlaqian Delhi were brought to the south.
 - **Persian Style** - Due to the migration of Persians to southern India via sea.
- Deccan style can be divided into 3 main phases:
 - **Gulbarga Phase (Bahmani Dynasty)**- Laying the foundations of the style.
 - **Bidar Phase (Bahmani & Barid Dynasties)**- After moving the capital of the Deccan sultanate from Gulbarga to Bidar, the style developed under the Bahmani and later the Barid dynasties.
 - **Golkonda Phase (Qutub Shahi Dynasty)**: The capital of the Deccan sultanate finally moved to the southern city of Golkonda, the stronghold of the ruling Qutub Shahi dynasty.

Jami Masjid at Gulbarga

- Built in A.D. 1367 under the architect Rafi from Kazwin in northern Persia.
- It is a rare example of an Indian mosque without a courtyard as the entire structure is covered with a roof.
- The style is neither Persian nor Indian, but both are amalgamated so as both can be unidentifiable.
- The structure measures 216' X 176', with cloisters on three sides and a spacious sanctuary with a dome on the western side.
- The central area is filled in with rows of aisles forming 68 bays, each roofed by a cupola.
- The external appearance of the central dome is made lofty and prominent by raising it on a square clerestory, its shape being repeated by the smaller cupolas.
- The dome is supported on the clerestory by means of squinches, some of the arches being gracefully foliated.
- The cloisters consist of a series of single archways of a very wide spans and low imposts.
- In the middle of the northern cloister is a large archway with the entrance which breaks the symmetry of the design.
- The interior is composed of a perspective of square bays with solid piers and vaulted ceilings in both directions.
- The interior is composed of a perspective of square bays with solid piers and vaulted ceilings in both directions.
- The building has very little in terms of ornamentation, but is more of an example of intellectual greatness and originality.
- The style of this mosque did not find favour in India, though it may have inspired in a limited way the design of the Kali Masjid and Khirki Masjid built in Delhi shortly afterwards.