

HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE –IV

LECTURE 1 UNIT – III

ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE PROVINCES

Provincial Style 1

Let's see what are the main reasons for the development of provincial architecture, what is provincial style of architecture? In previous lecture we saw about how Indo Islamic architecture came into existence and mostly it was concentrated in the Delhi sultanate region. Delhi was the capital of India the main region of power and that controlled most parts of Northern India but slowly the power started shifting towards other regions of India, because of this people started traveling to various parts of India the ideas were starting to get exchanged and also because of this various regions and there local artisans their geographical conditions it all started to impact the style of architecture. The Indo Islamic architecture which began in Delhi when is diversified and travelled to different parts of India it form new styles and varied styles called the provincial style of architecture. The main reasons were like power was concentrated in Delhi and effect of architecture grew strong so in distances parts of the country it became less noticeable and then the nature of indigenous arts of the local artisans migration of experienced foreign craftsmen and climatic conditions.

The various provinces will be seeing in today's lecture will be Punjab, Bengal, Gujarat, Jaunpur, Malwa, Bijapur, Khandesh, Kashmir these were some of the provinces that existed in ancient India and each province were ruled by different dynasties so they had their own unique style of principles in terms of architecture and even in terms of art sculptures etc, so all this started reflecting in the Indo-Islamic style of architecture.

Let's start with Punjab this was the first province to experience Islamic architecture Indo Islamic architecture after Delhi, because location wise it is near where the first mosque was started in India, so in the map if you see there is this place called multan this was where the mainly the Indo Islamic architecture was established. If you take the style of provincial architecture in Punjab it was mostly brick works with very decorated building arts, they also had a wooden elements embedded in the brick work. Let's see an example in Punjab province this is the Shah Rukne Alam tomb it was built for the king Ghiyath-al-din-tughlaq, you can see in this image is very unique structure it is tomb and as we saw earlier tomb architecture started coming into existence during this time period. If you see the plan of the site that is actually a rectangular enclosure and tomb itself is an octagonal shaped structure and on all the 8 edges you have so circular bastion kind of structure, this is almost 90 Feet in diameter the octagonal base so you can imagine the scale of the structure and it is a double storey structure you can see which was very

unique and you can see the kind of treatment that you can see on the surface, to provide a very rich texture this brick structure was again inlaid with decorative tiles, glaze tiles which you will be seeing better picture in the next slide. This is the plan as we saw earlier again the dome is constructed based on the squinch system, this is the lowermost plan you can see the various grave been placed in the hall so slowly this octagonal base starts to form the Dome this is the upper level and again it goes up and finally this is the plan of the Dome. This is overall image of the building this is actually made of brick if you see a closer look these are brick structure, they have made bands with the glazed tiles blue and white alternatively. This is one of the finest examples of how the locally available materials and the work of the local artisans impact the style of Islamic architecture. In this image you can have a closer look at the tiles styles look very new and fresh without losing its colour. Now moving over to the next province called Jaunpur, Let us see how Islamic architecture transformed because of its local condition. This is one of the famous examples in provincial style of architecture in Jaunpur this is the Atala Masjid. This was actually built on the side of a temple so it was a Hindu temple for a goddess called Atala Devi. We already saw that how and when any Muslim ruler invades a particular place they read an existing Hindu temple they destroy the place and then they reuse the same materials to build a mosque on that particular site. Similar thing we saw in the mosque in New Delhi same thing happened in Jaunpur. You

can see the image; this is the typical mosque plan where you have Hypo style hall and cloisters on all three sides with the mirab in the Western side. The cloisters are very spacious, 42 feet in length and 5 feet deep. One interesting feature in the exterior part of this mosque is that they have these Two huge pylon like structures, like the Egyptian kind of influence we can see in this particular style and even the interior you can see how the columns in the temples has been reused and even the roofing system is very similar to a Hindu temple that we normally see. In terms of materials they have reused most of the materials that they found on the site, mostly grey sandstone and Granite that has been used for the temple. This is the huge pylon to highlight the entrance arch way so similar element is repeated on other sides but in a smaller scale, which is basically to maintain the balance a very unique kind of architectural features even though it is same Islamic architecture, when it goes to different regions you can find their own Trademark elements being embedded in the style of architecture. Inside the mosque if you see the sanctuary in the image if you see actually it has three mirabs and like the usual Mosque which has only one mirab, which is very huge Sanctuary with three mirab and even the wall has three levels of archways visible which the prices for the Dome itself is almost 57 feet in height. You can see here (when you join the octagon Olympus) has a clear story drum translating into the Sanctuary and about their prices. so this is the picture

of the dome. You see lighting here with the screen system channel the breakdown being constructed. This is an image of the courtyard.

Provincial Style 2

Now we look at the other province in Gujarat. You will see an example in Ahmedabad. So this is one of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in India.

This is Jami Masjid in Ahmedabad. So you can see that is one of the finest examples where the work of the architect and truly excelled in all levels in terms of proportion scales, in terms of treatment of the surfaces, how they treated the plains and everything and this is one of the finest examples for that. So this was built in the 1423. You can see this is the typical Mosque plan but just that in the Western side, Sanctuary but you are the Sanctuary itself is a very elaborate one with base of columns and domes above it. so how does architect as you know that there are since Ahmedabad to the place where you have a lot of thought sunlight they plan this building such that there is no direct light falling inside of building.

So whatever light comes to the building will either be filtered through an arch way or a pillared courtyard. So whatever light that get through is indirect lighting is actually diffuse of the lighting inside the building. If you look at the elevation you will see that the front of the building is

marked by arch ways. So they give kind of a solid appearance and behind the arch ways you have a Row of columns. So that acts like another screen behind the arch. They have combined two types of Sanctuary Facades. So it alternates between arches and pillared portico. So it actually creates a contrast between this gives volume and whom you so much light of into the building it's more like a contrast between solid and void. So in the large archway in the center it has to two heavy buttresses to highlight the entrance gateway. So inside the Sanctuary if you see this is the section of the sanctuary. This is actually there is gallery at two levels and you have balconies running here from which you can overlook this triple height space. This is covered by the dome. So this is actually a triple height space and even along this portion below the dome you have stone screen. So this is kind of Jali work because the light into the building. Again they have used the technique of letting in indirect lighting. So you can see the image here. These are the stone Jali works and this are the balconies from which overlook the space even from here.

Here you can see the scale of the human to the space for once. As soon as the people enter with space, he gets such as Grand feeling into the triple height space. so this open space create such as Grandeur as soon as a person enters the building. This is another interior views you can see again materials being used from Hindu temples. Here columns are placed on over the other to get the height and even the domes seem to be

have done by corbelling method. Another view of the sanctuary. Now let's have a look at the what was happening in the southern region during this period of time. so we saw that Islamic architecture started coming into India from the North Western part and then it started concentrating in Delhi and then after a period of time between the Punjab and started spreading to different parts of the country. So what happened in the southern region? In the southern region in the Deccan Plateau was an important place where Lord of Indo- Islamic architecture was coming about. So what was the important in the Deccan area? So let's see that. So the important feature of this architectural style in the Deccan region is that unlike other Muslim rulers who use the local art and architecture the Deccan largely ignored the local art. So they produced in independent style of their own. So in the other problems as we saw that they had an impact of the existing local architecture in it. But in the Deccan area, they created the totally new and Independence styles and this particular style had two major influences that is from the Delhi and Persian Style.

Why because the Mohammed Tuqlaq from Delhi. He migrated towards south. So there was some influence from the Delhi style and also Persians they were a lot of Persians who migrated to South India via sea. So this also gave an impact in Indian architectural style. If you see the map, this is the Blue area is actually the Deccan area and Bijapur,

Golconda are important places where the architectural activities are taking place. so the Deccan Style, they can be divided into three main phases, the Gulbarga Phase, Bidar Phase and Golconda Phase.

These three phases are nothing but they were actually the capital cities of the Deccan sultanates at that point of time. So based on the capital city and the ruler who rule the city. The kind of architecture changed. So it was divided into the three Phases. Let's see few examples from the Deccan Sultanate. This is Jami Masjid in Gulbarga. If you see the plan you can immediately find that there is very striking difference from all the mosque plans that we saw. This is a very unique mosque without a Courtyard. So you see that this is a very rare kind of Mosque that existed in India without a mosque instead in the central part without the Courtyard. They had just rows of columns with domes above it. This entire Mosque measures 216 feet by 176 feet and on the Western side, you had the Sanctuary with the Dome on top. If you see the external appearance of the mosque. The central dome they have raised by adding of clear story below it. So this gives a much massive appearance. You can have a closer look of the mosque. You can see this smaller cupola's here partly.

So in the interior, halls are with rows of arches and the post seems the vertical posts seem very small when compared to the usual arch and the vertical post system. in the interior you have then series of Arches. In terms of ornamentation if you see in this building there's nothing much left mostly playing. So this one of the very unique kind of mosque. The Kirkid masjid that we saw in Delhi might have been inspired from this mosque because that is also another mosque which doesn't have a large Courtyard in the centre. But that has four smaller Courtyards. Next we will see another example in the Deccan area that is the city of Bijapur and is currently located in Karnataka. So this was actually an ancient city like a Citadel it was a huge city with lots of Tomes, mosques and other important buildings within it. So one such important building in this particular citadel. Is the GolGumbaz. So GolGumbaz is one of a very distinct structures because of sheer scale on of the building. It is a very massive and that time nothing of scale was ever constructed in India. So it is very much known for its Dome. GolGumbaz itself means round dome and that time this was the largest dome that was ever constructed. So how geometrically and structurally plan to construct this dome is very interesting. so it is nothing but a square is structure. you can see the plan 136 feet each side and on all the four corners you have the octagonal tower like structures that rise up all the way and even the walls themselves you can see the thickness there almost 3 metres thick. So it just very well known for the proportion especially the measurement

to the vertical and the size because this scale of the Dome was very unusual such a used dome was not built before. So the scale of the dome and the vertical portion was very well maintained and below the Dome they had this floral pattern. All along the edge of the dome. So how where the interior you have only one chamber but the scale of the building is almost similar to the Roman Pantheon buildings. This is the view from the exterior. You can see the scale and proportion how it is being maintained. Again for supporting such a huge dome what they did was the created the system was intersecting the arches. So that the weight of the Dome was transferred to the intersecting arches and then it was transferred to walls. So that portion was formed in-between was called the pendantive. You can see in the interior. How this intersecting arches become load barring structures.

so this towers, octagonal towers of 7 storeys in height. They have a staircase within them and in the upper floor of the dome. There is a gallery that runs all around the Dome. You can see here. It is well known for its acoustical characters. it is actually called as the whispering gallery. So it is assumed that if a person speaks from one corner of this gallery it can be heard very well on the other side of the dome. So this gallery actually runs all along the interior of the Dome. These are the floral motives which can be seeing repeated even in smaller elements. You can see here. This is another interior picture of the dome. Another example of the Deccan style of architecture is charminar in Hyderabad.

So if you see the structure. This is probably one of the iconic buildings in Hyderabad. This was actually constructed to act as the centre of the city of Hyderabad. So this was the point from which the city actually originated and started to develop. So during those days it was constructed with an idea that it is actually square in plans with four archways on all four sides. So if you look from one archway. You can actually have a glimpse of the entire City through the other side. But architecturally if you see the structure, it is again you have four towers on all the 4 edges with the square plan. It is a Hundred feet from each side the square plan and this is just one floor where you have archways on all four sides and the upper floor has galleries that overlooks into the space. You can see this is the top view and the top most floor that you see the terrace here is actually a Mosque that is located on top of the Charminar. In terms of material again, in this particular place they had abundance of granite lime stone and marble. So this was constructed using those materials. So this is the gallery from which people can overlook within the mosque we can see here. From the interior you have a feeling that the roof of the charminar is actually a Dome structure. It looks like a dome structure but actually on top it is a flat terrace. You can see here. This is the mosque area above the Charminar which is the topmost floor. Again you can see these kinds of patterns that are being repeated here. Though each region had different elements. You can see that Deccan architecture had some repeating pattern. The Indo

Islamic architecture also was prevalent in other areas like Bengal, Kashmir and Malwa areas. So even in those areas. For example in the Bengal area, if you see the Bengal province. Now Bangladesh also the part of it. So here it originated because of the Arab invasion in the 13th century. So they started constructing many palaces, victory Towers, citadels and they not only started building new structures but also to existing structures they started adding domes structures and Minarets. you can see one such example in this image. Where they have started constructing arches and domes. It is a ruin building. But you can see the squin system here. If you take a look at the Indo Islamic architecture in Kashmir. the map you can see the old Kashmir province is marked in the pink line. You can see here. If you take the look at the architectural style. Again the most locally available material in Kashmir was wood. So lot of timber works for being incorporated into the mosques and shrines and they had a lot of the deordered trees. So they construct a lot of wooden structures out of them and local artisans also added their own interesting elements into the Islamic architecture.

When comes the Malwa style. This is where the Malwa provinces are located. So importantly two cities Darr and Mandu. so this was the places where the provincial architecture was very predominant. it can be divided into three phases. in the first phase, they started dismantling the temples and converting them to mosque and in the second phase they started constructing new structures completely and in the third phase

they started constructing very and very fancy structure. so slowly they started getting old of the Indo- Islamic architecture and hiding their own flavour to it. If you take a look at the some of the salient features of the malwa style of architecture. So you can see battered walls, pointed arches. They also had combination of arches and lintels and brackets. You can see in this image. Boat Keel domes and combination of arches, pillars and beams and usually these buildings were raised on very high plinths and they used a lot of colour in their decoration. Mostly they used the semi glazed tiles, precious stones, coloured marbles etc. so these were some of the important features that existed in the Malwa style of architecture.