

AR 6402 HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE - IV

LECTURE -01, UNIT V

CROSS CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Cross-Cultural Influence

What is the meaning of cross-cultural? According to the dictionary it says “relating to or involving two or more different cultures or countries” if you look out the overall picture cross-cultural means the two countries or two different regions interact and exchange ideas so they have the link that forms between the two cultures. That is called as cross-cultural. How is it relevant in terms of architecture? And, how did this cross-cultural influence actually takes place? If you look out the overall world map image, you can see these various lines that pass through different countries so these were actually trade roots. Trade was one of the most important reasons for the development of cross-cultural influences. If you look at this blue line, that is actually the Silk root which passes through the china and all the way to Europe. If you see this dotted line that was actually the spice root which went passes through India and all the way to Europe. There were different trade links between different parts of the country. They were not just trade relations along with the trade routes went on exchange of ideas, cultures and lifestyle. Why it is relevant in architecture? If you look at when the people start trading and some people went on exploration and just to visit various part of the world. But major travel was happening due to trade purposes. When people started trading and interacting, there was lot of ideas that was being exchange between two countries. There was extremely contrasting cultural differences they realized. They were event merchants, who came, for example

from Persia and settled in south India so they were events trade links between India and Rome. Lot of contracting cultural interacts was happening. When different people and from different cultural and they visit the other part of the world and they settle down there. They have started to bring out the influence the particular cultural. Slowly this had an impact also in terms of architecture. Exchange of ideas and exchange of culture and exchange of lifestyle and automatically get influenced in the architectural style. If you look out India, it is the place were cross-cultural influences can be found in abundance. If you take and look out the northern India it had what we saw in this in the previous chapter.

How we had the Persian and Arabic influences is in Islamic architecture? It actually originated in Persia and then in slowly started spreading towards India, majority of buildings that we saw in the northern India and the north-west India mostly influence by the middle-east. If you look at the south Indian the temple architecture, we have seen in the previous chapters, if you look out them they have totally different concept and totally contracting style of architecture. During this medieval time period a lot of cross-cultural interaction was going on and there were rulers from the north wanted to capture the region of the south and they were rulers from the south started expanding towards north as well. During those times when a particular king captures region they try to establish the power by building their own monuments structures. When they try to enforce their particular style of architecture in that region the local people and local artisans, craftsmen are involved in bringing their own ideas to form the new kind of architecture. This brings about very diversified style of architecture

especially in a country like India where there were too many cultural differences.

Secular Architecture of Princely States

If you look at the map the regions in the map if you look out the map in the yellow map princely states and only in the grey are the British province. What is the meaning of princely states first of all they are all actually the regions in India which were not under the direct control of the British but they were continued to be rule by the traditional rulers. They were actually kings, but they were called as princely states because, according to the British their original king was only the one in London. These were called as princely states. Though the kings of India rule the princely states original control was actually with the British.

What was the unique thing about princely states in terms of architecture? When the British came to India they were the rulers who succeeded the Mughal emperors? Before the British came to India Mughal came into India, the Mughal emperor was the last powerful dynasty that existed. Obviously in terms of architecture it was the Mughal style of architecture that was more pre-dominant. When the British started coming in and these princely states were formed the British influences slowly started coming into the picture. A new kind of mixture started happening with the Mughal elements being in place and also influences of European style into architecture. What happened to the princely state? What the British did was they took the princesses who were ruling these states and they started educating them along the British lines? They took them on tours to Europe then introduced to western manners and norms. This automatically resulted in the change of lifestyles these kings and it began to reflect in the architecture. Later

on when they started building the palaces, the old reception rooms gave way to durbar halls and rooms for European guests were being built and ways to entertain guests were provided. Dining and drawing rooms were introduced; which was the new thing for Indians. This concept was not there before fireplaces, marble foundations and statues, oil paintings and stuffed animals began to be displayed in the halls and drawing rooms. It was a very confusing state for the prince, he was expected for both to be traditional and to be moderns and begin the phase of constructing new India. This was the kind of transition phase when the princely states were trying to adapt between the traditional architecture and also the new ideologies that British were trying to impose. As the result of this many new towns were formed in the princely states, as we mentioned the early British influences were not only found in palaces in terms of spatial arrangements, in terms of new rooms, fireplaces etc. It also reflected larger scales in terms of city planning because now the towns were modeled along the British examples. Since these kings were taken on tour to Europe they were made to look out European cities. How they were planned and built? Similarly when they came back to India, they wanted to create cities on India based on European pattern. What they created new towns similar to new European patterns with clock towers, railway stations, public offices, assembly halls, water systems, public hospitals were built and those buildings were constructed railway stations etc., they were all very European classical and during the later period. Indo-saracenic architecture came in to existing which will be seen in the later chapters. Some important princely towns were Jaipur, Bikaner and Mysore. They were very successful in negotiating this divide between the traditional architecture and the new European style. This was one

region called it out or it is also called as Avadh, after the decline of the Mughal Empire and before the strong establishment of the British Empire in-between this transmission time period there were smaller ruler who ruled different parts of the India they were called the Nizams or nawabs. These Nizams or nawabs they try to follow the Mughal architecture in certain time period, but slowly they also started evolving their own characteristics futures. After the time of point after various building constructions activities they evolved their own Nawaz style of architecture, one such example is seen in Avadh. This is the tomb called as the safdar Jung's tomb. If you notice deeply rooted in this Mughal tradition on the out sided look very similar to a typical Mughal building but at the same time these tomb are also revealed some original characteristics such as it had multiple entrances on the facade was not there in the Mughal style and elaborate parapets on the roof. You can see here which can unique of this future of this Avadh architecture. This became known as the Avadhi style of architecture. This what was happening in the beginning they were slowly trying to shred away from the Mughal impact they are trying to create their own identity. This was how it began? But slowly in the middle of the 19th century the British influences became inevitable. In the middle of the 19th century major general Claude Martin, he built a large building in Lucknow in Avadh called as "Constantia". This image that you see here if you see it is the typical European style building. This was the first large building of the European style built in the north India. It had very several Palladian elements and this mark the emergences of new hybrids style of architecture in Lucknow depicting the combination of both Mughal and Gothic style of architecture. Another building is what you see below is the chattr Manzils it has a underground rooms and a beautiful dome

with an umbrella like structure and they were other various pavilions like the Roshanwalla koti and the Begum koti even in these buildings you can see how would the traditional Mughal architecture with the domes, catteries, the arch ways and also it is combining with the European elements to form a new style. Another style of architecture which existed was the Rajput's style, this was the mostly around the region of Rajasthan. These Rajput kings were well known for their very good taste in architecture in art. They build very lavish palaces and forts. Some forts were Chittargarh, Gwalior, Jodhpur, Jaisaimer, Amber and Ranthambar etc., are examples fort architecture. The image you that see here is one of the excellences specimens is called the Jaya Sthamba or Victory tower in Chittoor. It is a 9 storied structure and it is richly carved with Hindu deities. It is squares in plan and all four sides it has balcony and mouldings. They not only build forts, but they elaborate architecture impressive mosaic works, carved balconies, jharokhas, inlaid mirror works, miniature paintings, these are some of the unique features Rajput's architecture. It was used by them to build palaces in Rajasthan. These royal abodes were often built by the lake side or gardens so that they can have a good view of it. The image shows one such palace in Jaipur, Rajasthan are the richly decorated in the carvings, jalis screens and the marble work.

Another kind of architecture that was evolving during this late medieval period was the Sikh architecture. Why it is important to understand the different style of architecture. India is a very multi-cultural country based on the cultural and religion of this various region different styles of architecture started evolving. Though it was very unique its own style, at one point the war borrowing elements from different styles but still they manage to who create a uniform and whole sum package of

architecture. One such example is Sikh architecture. It was based on the principles of the religion Sikhism, it is mostly distinguish by the styles of curves and straight lines, they not only built the buildings of religious order they also have the secular buildings type such as forts, palaces, bungas the residential places, colleges, etc., The religious buildings of the Sikh architecture were called as Guruthwara. The Sikh religion itself was kind of similar to Islam in terms of focusing on one God. In contrast to the Hinduism were it was concentrating on different god, so it borrowed that future of either focusing one or God from Islam, but in terms of playfulness of architecture and decorative elements it borrowed from styles in Hindu architecture. You can see actually a beautiful mix in terms of architecture, from the Islam and the Hindu religion. Islam focuses on one particular element richness and the decorative elements from the Hindu architecture. Though the ideologies were combined but they manage to create their own identity. Sikh architecture is the beautiful blend of Mughal and Rajput styles. You can see in the image how various elements of Rajput architecture and Mughal architecture can be seen. Like the onion shape domes, multi-foil arches, paired plasters, in-lay work frescoes, etc., Windows, bracket-supported eaves at the string-course, chhatris, richly ornamented frizzes, these can be seen in many palace in Jaipur, jodhpur etc., Again the Rajput architecture influence can be seen in this aspects and another important feature of Sikh architecture was no two shrines or Guruthwara look exactly alike, some of the Guruthwara look more like impact gateways. This actually tells us they had kind of the creative freedom in the expressing they did not have a very strange set of codes that a Gurudhwara particularly look like this. It shows that they had creative freedoms in terms of expressing their design

ideologies. Another style of architecture which was again culture and region based was the Vijayanagara style of architecture. The Vijayanagara Empire was one of the most dominant empire in the south. In fact they started conquering various parts of the country and reach almost the northern part. They borrowed rich traditions art and architecture from the south Indian kings like Cholas, Pandias and the Hoysalas. There was once the western traveler who visited the Vijayanagara Empire and he described that this city was as large as Rome and it was compared to various cities in the western world at that time. The city was actually a huge fortified city with seven fortifications. The space in between was used for various purposes like gardens, growing vegetables etc., most of it is currently in a ruing state. Now there were beautiful lake, open gardens, well laid roads and buildings. They even had proper irrigation systems, the river had a dame and there was an even a huge aqueduct that was present. There was also a palace with hall for public and private audiences and halls were beautifully decorated with painted pictures.

Another region which had again a unique style of architecture was Mysore which was also a princely state and one of the finest examples of this architecture was the palace that was build. So it again borrowed various elements from the Mughal Empire and the art and culture of the Muslims with the touch of south Indian pigment. So actually three-storied structures domes, turrets, arches and colonnades; and initially it was built-in wood which got burned down and again it was rebuilt. Then it was designed by Henry Irwin, a British architect. You can see the old image of the palace of the interior, with richly decorated archway columns. In order to understand the various styles that are culminated in this particular building we can just take a look this one tallest tower

of the palace. If you look out this it is actually five storage structures measuring of 145 feet at the center of the palace. This is very similar to the Gothic cathedral in which the one tower stands out very tall structure. However on top of the tall tower is the dome, very similar to the Islamic or to the Persian structure which is metal gilded. This is again the Persian influences, you have the Gothic kind of the tall structure with the Persian kind of dome. In top of the dome you have a domed chhatri which is the Rajasthani influence of Rajput style. With this one structure itself again you can see how various styles being the amalgated into beautifully unified structure. Hence we saw about a different region and their styles of architecture.