

History of Architecture and Culture – 5

Lecture 31

Colonialism and Its Impact

The England east India Company

- Colonialism it started at the beginning of 17th century. A group of British traders called themselves the English East India Company first came to India.
- When they came, India was ruled by Muslim Mughal Empire from Delhi, that time Portugal established colonialism in Goa and Bombay. India was also already doing trader or rather put it as European countries were already doing with India some of them were France, the Dutch, the Swedish they were already doing trade in India
- By the Mid-17th century, the authority of the Mughal leaders had weakened and therefore they could be easily manipulated, the fall of Mughals and the rise of British control had been seen hand in hand.
- At the end of 17th century, British had effective authority over the three principal parts in India. Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. The power of the British Empire had spread across India; they spread first to the parts to the entire subcontinent on the coastal areas. So they capture all the ports there were control the economy channels between India and Europe.
- By the mid of 19th century, by the 1850's the entire country was under British control. So with headquarters in Madras the British governor general pulled over the courts.

So now let's look at

Cantonments, Mutiny and the end of Mughal Dynasty

- There was a point of time where, because there was a Sepoy Mutiny, the Sepoy rebellion started and the one side there was rebellion and the other side the new official rule of British government had been established in India. So the attitude of the British shifted to safety the fear their own safety
- So they by all the British citizens in India became little more detached from the mainland. Indian population and they became a little exclusive
- Their families lived in Cantonments. Cantonments basically small size fort which is away from the Indian settlement. So after the revolt of 1857.
- By the end of 1859, the last Mughal empire was exiled to Burma, bringing an end to the Mughal dynasty. So that was the definitive start of the British empire in India.

The new Regime demanded new towns and new District Headquarters Established

- A number of new towns and new suburbs were built to house the British and the pattern of new town planning changed a lot over the advent of British town planning enter India
- India was still divided into administrative districts as they were under the Mughals and the towns which functioned as district headquarters were the ones that was most built and they were the ones that had all the architecture of British India

Now let's take a look at the urban planning initiatives which the British undertook. They had certain ideologies which had been following for the urban planning, First thing is

- Their perception of the nature of the Indian city to the implied in all the city.
- They had the huge fear of further revolts along the lines of the great revolt of 1857. So which meant they have to be in Cantonments.
- So the Haussmann's plan for Paris, which became really popular in Europe that advocated cutting through and demolishing old city center's to make space for new construction and boulevards
- Planning techniques already in use of Britain's industrial cities. They are all had huge impact in Urban planning in India. All these things happening parallel in Europe. So the learning's which can be happened in Europe can be translated literally in to India

Community Planning in Cantonments

- The Cantonments and civil lines both were generally laid out as grid iron pattern with control through fares which the called famous mall roads. The Mall is generally an avenue like road which is line by trees on both sides regularly dividing by plots and bungalows as the main house in type.
- The Cantonments also had channels, cymtrips, clubs, race courses, golf courses and other trappings of an easy civil life were seen to follow inside the cantonments, all the British needed to take an as a regular life they had all brought in to the cantonment.
- The Cantonment was a British Military settlement that was spread all over India wherever the British in present in sizable numbers, because when they were present in Sizable numbers they were all fearing of revolution
- Originally conceived only as a Military have for the troops, it also behinds house civilians who were associated the sweicing mini city of its own. So which means the cantonment is actually a city with in a city, white city and Black city that was completely divided.

- For example the Bangalore cantonment had population of 1,00,000 Britishers at the earliest 20th century and it consists large number of public officers, churches, parks, shops, malls and schools
- The Cantonment area was completely different from the old city, because the traffic from the old city in to the cantonment city stopped at the tollgate and people have to pay entry tax get in to the cantonment area.
- So the cantonment thus developed in to a small British town in India which the Main house in type was pretty much in Bungalow
- Bungalow designed evolves as a type over a period of 100 years but the actual the model of bungalow still remains the mystery. It appears to have two origins first origin means it is detached rural Bengal house from the root word bungalow. Bungalow came from Bangla which from Bengal and the other origin being British suburban villa is called the bungalow that is what they say two claims to actual model for a Bungalow
- But what is a Bungalow? , It is actually the form of the two types. The British rich way of Palatial living and the country house of India which had courtyards and Veranda's they had fuse this both forms wielding forms which later become the in during symbol of British raj
- There were lot of Bungalows in almost all the cities. Most of the cities, towns and the district headquarters had bungalows for British people to live.
- The first Bungalows inhabited by the East India Company agents and were initially the same as the Kutcha local areas, but gradually outstripped their origins to become an accurate construction and they actually started reflecting the actual hierarchy which is followed by the English community, the typical residential bungalow for the wealthy. For example were sit back from the road by vault compound. So there is a road, there is a wall and there is a big land and the house comes. For example a senior officer would have a ratio of 15:1, 15 parts of open space of garden space with 1 part of building space right in to the middle that was appropriate for senior ranking officer but for the beginners rank the ratio would be like something 1:1, 1 percent of garden and 1 percent of built of space. So in the sense the British also showed deep hierarchical system which was no less developed on the complex caste system they described as to India. It was pretty much as same thing
- The early bungalows had long low classical lines and detailing
- At the same time, there was a gothical revival happening in England, when that came to bungalow design – pitched roofs and richly carpentered details come in to picture, the interesting features of the Monkey tops of Bangalore were created particular time period.

- The classical Bungalow with its Doric and later in New Delhi for instance, Tuscan orders became a symbol not only as European heritage but also showed the Military and Political might of the British Empire.

ARCHITECTURE IN THE PRINCELY STATES

- The term “Princely States” was applied to those regions not under direct control of the British government but they actually continued to rule by the traditional rulers, Kings and vessels of British government by they were all British controlled indirectly but
- When the British replaced the Mughals as the controlling group the inspiration of a lot of architecture became English. So it was closely tied with what was happening in Britain and the British people kept close watch on the princess, they were educated along the British clients they were taken on tour of Europe’s, they were all British controlled indirectly but
- When the British replaced the Mughals as the controlling group, the inspiration of a lot of architecture became English. So it was closely tied with what was happening in Britain and the British people kept close watch on the princess, they were educated along the British clients they were taken on tour of Europe’s they were introduced to manners, eating norms, dressing norms, tickets and a lot of things were British for the princess.
- Even their Palaces, old reception rooms gave way to durbar halls, rooms for European guests were built and ways to entertain guests were provided in a lavish manner.
- The regular rooms started to disappear and dining and drawing rooms were introduced. Fine places were brought even though better climate in regions didn’t require fire place, but a fireplace was still built to make the English people comfortable on an interior setting marble mountains on the exterior, statues, oil paintings and stuffed animals began to be displayed in the halls and drawing rooms.
- So these new education and new social functions, the people, the princess and the new engineering techniques that the British had all came and culminated to the British. The British army engineers, architects after the principle themselves designing the houses
- The new princely towns of Jaipur, Bikaner and Mysore showed themselves among the most successful in negotiating this divide
- Their towns were modified along all the British examples they had clock towers, railway systems and public offices, assembly halls, water systems and public hospitals, government hospitals, government schools. So they were all based on model British towns and British buildings were European classical as which leader constructor they called the saracenic style or again an eclectic mix of styles

Indo-Saracenic Architecture

What is Indo-saracenic architecture in many places mixed styles and mixture of two or three styles culminated the form an Indo-saracenic style. So we this styles in variety of places.

1. The Kohlapur palace at mint
2. Laxmi Vilas palace at Baroda
3. Durgabadh Waghaji palace at Baroda

Let as other examples can be brought and we will leak in to Indo-saracenic architecture in detail in next episode here and few other examples

1. Laxmi Vilas palace in Baroda
2. Amba Vilas palace in Mysore
3. Jai Vilas palace in Gwalior
4. Jagatjit palace in Kaporthala

That is interesting to note that in English designers like Henry Irwin and Sir Michael Filose to design their buildings. The Military boards that were set up by the British contributed to the majority of architecture for example like barracks, forts, housing for soldiers and other assorted buildings, but the purposes of government and the church. The Boards also set up other secular structure.

- Government Houses and town halls from where the business of governance and justice was dispersed out follow closely changing trends in Britain to a great extent because these are two supposed to be the face of the government. The Government house and the town hall where people meet and take decisions and the Banks, Halls of justice this were the governing bodies; these were the things controlling the social and economical life for the people. So these buildings had to very close watch over night what is happening in mainland Britain. So they copied exactly what they did and they were following changing the trends very very closely.

Let's take a quick look at all the architecture of different cities which grew according to that British. Let's take a look at kutchra

ARCHITECTURE OF CALCUTTA

- Calcutta was stamped by the hallmark authority of classic European architecture. You can compare Calcutta to the lightness of Saint Petersburg in Europe.
- Calcutta had two main axis. One axis connects the civil and military range. Civilians from the writers building to the military and other side of Mythan of Fort William. The other axis connects the council house course and town hall. So these two axis created what is

Calcutta according to the British and the picture here you can see the victoria memorial building or cross the mythan

ARCHITECTURE OF MADRAS

- However we look at madras much lighter colonnaded verandahs were introduced because of the weather elegant it not following the same set of rules and spacing erected in madras and the verandahs were all around as much of an the side and as well as the front.
- The whole complex is dominated by the Doric banqueting hall, even its original form they had the two kinds of arcading even though it was as remote from astonishble model, the Parthenon as the main house is from the classical academic principle of designing Greek orders. So that was the governing principle for designing all kinds of public buildings cities especially in Madras.

ARCHITECTURE OF BOMBAY

Let's take the case of Bombay were

- The Greek Doric order was desired from the powerful fonts undoubtedly they came from the principal source of the English Greek revival. The work of Stuart and Reveth they brought were revivalist architecture of Bombay, so here you can see the famous GPO building the British architecture in India was an architecture of Power. The increase in British influence led to traditional architecture becoming more electric choice of sources.
- A projection of British architecture as such which associated with power and influence was a first and essential step for its elements to be associated with the architecture of Indian patrons both Muslim and Hindu
- The Building needed to show power, were the building shows power themselves. Even if they are very few Britishers over there, they whole might of the buildings, architecture and majesty can simply throughout any sort of rebliies ideas of people that is why the people build massive forts and huge buildings that to make sure. Indians are always looking up to the building not looking them as a easy to get. So whenever look at the fort on huge government building they should always feel that okay, so this is something which they cannot attack, there is something that we does far beyond or contemplations even trying to attack this building we cannot strive the British. The British are someone who are invincible industrable, powerful source from foreign domestical land. They are our masters, so they got this kind of feeling going on in the

Indians head. So even if you take lot of public buildings, there was a huge ground in front of the public building in front of Fort. For example every small town which has a fort as ground in front of the fort or of the main government building which is called a parade ground. Most cities have parade ground in India, Most town have parade ground. So over exactly was the function of parade ground that is the place were all the army people were invented in the morning, there was a parade happening in the morning for period of seranour, there was a parade important that time imagine that the Indian troops, armies of princely status, armies of kings and princess those armies did not have very very original format. So they just stand in a line and when they are called to attack they just run and attack but they did not have the kind of co-ordination which the British had so just to show how coordinated in how meticulous in British were powerful that the British were they conducted the parades every day in the morning just show the power and might. When the Indians saw the co-ordinals movement when everybody. When the quadrant leader cried attention, everybody lifted the right leg at the same time on put with the great tramp of their books; they created the same one single noise when they were hundreds of soldiers that created a moral defeat in the minds of the Indians. Some case even sound that even the numbers were much far less than compare to the number of Indians revolvers or numbers of people who thought the thy could be over throne still they were not able to do it because they exhibited amazing amount of coordination and hierarchal exhibitionism. So that is something which the British consciously created to India. They wanted to create public spaces that showed power that is why they created sense of symmetry balance and huge amount of you know center architecture and at then some time what they also wanted to do was of people because India consisted of variety of types of people they were finding they were Muslims, they were Sikhs, they were Buddhist they were all kinds of people in India. People who spoke to different languages, they have to come up wide some kind of architecture which actually appeals all the people and everybody could feel okay this is why architecture and make my peace with that is why they introduced the Indo-sarenism architecture which included Indian.