

FAQs

Explain the Indo saracenic style with examples

The British Raj made an effort to display their strength, but keep the traditional image of India, through an architectural style termed IndoSaracenic, sometimes referred to as Moorish or Hindoo.

Represents a synthesis of Muslim designs and Indian materials developed by British architects in India during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Architectural elements of Hindu and Mughal with Gothic cusped arches, domes, spires, tracery, minarets and stained glass.

- Indo-saracenic architecture found its way into public buildings of all sorts such as railway stations, banks and insurance buildings, educational institutions, clubs and museums.
- Chepauk Palace in Madras designed by Paul Benfield is said to be the first Indo-Saracenic building in India.

Elements "Stylistic Hybrid" (Michell) architecture - The Gateway of India is located on the waterfront in South Bombay, the Gateway is a basalt arch 26 metres high

What are the elements of indo saracenic style? How did they originate?

It is fundamentally British with Indian characteristics including

- onion (bulbous) domes
- overhanging eaves
- pointed arches, cusped arches, or scalloped arches
- vaulted roof
- domed kiosks

- many miniature domes
- domed chhatris
- pinnacles
- towers or minarets
- harem windows
- open pavilions or pavilions with Bangala roof
- pierced open arcading

The chief proponents of this style of architecture were Robert Fellowes Chisholm, Charles Mant, Henry Irwin, William Emerson, George Wittet and Frederick Stevens.

Buildings built in this style were usually grand public buildings such as clock towers, courthouses, civic and municipal buildings, government colleges, town halls, railway stations, museums and art galleries.

Explain the formation of Delhi as a capital city of the British Government in India.

The street pattern of Old Delhi reflects the older requirements of defense, with a few transverse streets leading from one major gate to another.

The pattern as a whole consists of a confusing mixture of narrow and winding streets, alleys, and by lanes leading to residences and commercial areas.

George V used the occasion of his second visit to India, and the great Coronation Durbar that followed, to announce the shifting of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi.

Largely designed by Lutyens over 20 years, New Delhi was chosen to replace Calcutta as the seat of the British Indian government in 1912 for strategic and political significance. Delhi was not only more central to the Empire's increasing influence over the

subcontinent, but it was also the symbolic head of government for centuries.

To shift into an existing city, however, was out of the question – the new power demanded a new city.

Planning for the new capital had begun well before the actual shift, and addressed questions of urban planning and an appropriate architectural style. Together with his friend Herbert Baker, Lutyens appropriated to him the task of creating an architecture fitted for the Raj. Planning inspiration came from other imperial models and new capital cities: the Paris and Champs-Élysées of Baron Haussmann.

Wren's unbuilt plan for London, as well as L'Enfant's plan for Washington DC.

Other planning ideas came from contemporary British experiments in urbanism: the Circus at Bath for Connaught Place, and Hampstead Garden City for the residential suburbs of New Delhi. Design intended to be a symbol of British power and supremacy.

It was this framework that dictated the choice and application of symbolism and influences from both Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim architecture.

2800 acres of land was carved outside the old city, away from the hustle and bustle of Chandni Chowk and the ramparts of the Red Fort.

With a free hand to draw as he pleased, Lutyen sketched out the flowing lines of New Delhi – the Viceroy's house (now Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's House), the Parliament, the magnificent drive or Raj Path from the President's house to the India Gate and the Canopy beyond for the statue of King George.