

FAQs

1. Write a few lines on Rajasthani Architecture.

- Rajasthani architecture is an outstanding arrangement of colonial, Islamic and Hindu architecture. Jain and Muslim architecture had also influenced the architecture whereas later European influences are also visible.
- During the time of British , the Rajputs were inspired by them and effect was seen in their architecture especially in city of Jaipur
- Ornamented Havelis, elaborately carved temples and magnificent forts are important aspects of the Rajasthani heritage

2. What are the different features of Rajasthani Architecture?

The various features/elements of Rajasthani architecture include the follows

- Jharoka
- Chatthri
- Haveli
- Baoli/Bawdi or stepwells
- Johad
- Jaali

3. Discuss the spatial planning features of the Havelis.

- The heart of the haveli was a courtyard, **the centre point from where all spaces originated.**
- The courtyard provided the transition between the public and the private spaces of the haveli, while also functioning **as a micro-climate modifier and providing ample light and ventilation** to all the spaces wrapping it.
- Women and those serving the household performed everyday activities in the courtyard and the verandahs wrapping it, while on summer nights they would pull beds into the courtyard to sleep under the cool sky.

- The design of the courtyard was symbolic of the family's social status, lifestyle, wealth, art and cultural inclinations.
- The householders often invited reputed artists to paint scenes from religious scriptures, everyday life or their social beliefs on the courtyard walls. An example of this is the havelis in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan.

4. Discuss various design features/factors of the Havelis.

- Socio-Cultural Aspects: **The chowk or courtyard** served as the centre for various ceremonies and the rituals. The sacred tulsi plant was placed here and worshipped daily to bring prosperity to the house.
- Security and Privacy: The chowk, at times, separated areas for men and women, and **provided them with privacy.**
- Climate: Treating open space in building design to respond to the local climate. Air movement caused by temperature differences is utilized in the natural ventilation of building.
- Different Activities at different times of the day: The use of the court in the day time, mostly by women to carry out their work, interactions with other women in private open space. Mansions of merchant class had more than one courtyard.

5. List and discuss two design elements of Rajasthani architecture.

- Jharoka - Is a kind of suspended or overhanging enfolded balcony generally characteristic of Rajasthani architecture. The Jharoka balcony is basically **stone window** which projects from wall plane and are generally employed for **additional architecture beauty** to the mansions and also as a sightseeing platform. One of the most significant purposes it served was to permit women to witness events without being noticed themselves. They also carry chajjas or slabs which were used to place spies or archers
- **Stepwells** are wells or ponds in which the water may be reached by descending a set of steps. They may be covered and protected and are often of **architectural significance.** They also may be multi-storied having a

bullock which may turn the water wheel ("rehat") to raise the water in the well to the first or second floor.