

FAQs

1. Define and describe the Taaq technique of construction.

- In this system of construction 2-3 ft. thick brick masonry piers supporting wooden floor beams formed the basic structural system of the building.
- The distance between two brick piers used to be normally around 3-4 ft and was known as a TAQ.
- The gap in between each TAQ would be filled in with either a window opening or brick masonry.
- The roof comprised a layer of earth covering over birch bark and wooden planks resting on wooden rafters

2. Define and describe the Dhajji dewari technique of construction.

- The dhajji-dewari construction is based on a braced timber framed structural system, in which normally 4-9 inch thick brick or stone masonry is used to infill the gaps
- Normally this system is limited to upper floor levels or attics (kani) of the building

3. Discuss the spatial planning features of the Kashmir architecture.

- Most of the buildings constructed on the above mentioned structural systems show a common spatial arrangement and decorative elements.
- The buildings can thus be subdivided into two categories on the basis of plan form : **Square Plan Linear Plan**
- Many of the traditional buildings are based on a square plan with the main entrance opening into a centrally located staircase lobby.
- The lobby is flanked by one or two rooms on either side, in ground as well as first floor.
- The space above entrance in first floor in some cases also encloses a projecting wooden bay window (dub).
- The second floor (kani) normally comprises a single large hall which can be subdivided into three smaller rooms whenever required with the help of partition screens

4. Write a few notes on rural Kashmir architecture.

- The major factors that dictate the local architecture here are
 - (a) easy access to good **soil for brick-making** and to water and timber
 - (b) snow in winter
 - (c) possibility of **earthquakes**
- As a result, walls are made mainly out of timber and bricks, baked or unbaked.

The most common wall types are load bearing:-

- (a) Baked brick (external wall) masonry with mud or cement mortar
- (b) Unbaked brick (internal wall) with mud mortar and mud plaster
- (c) Unbaked brick with baked brick veneer (external wall) masonry with mud mortar
- (d) **Dhajji timber framed** constructions with infill of baked brick in cement mortar or unbaked brick masonry in mud mortar

5. Describe the features of the boat houses or Dhungas of Kashmir.

- Living on a lake is one of the **cheapest housing solutions** in India.
- Dhungas provides closeness to nature and is comfortable and pleasant even when the lake ices up in the winter.
- The houseboats in Kashmir are **usually stationary**
- These houseboats **are made of wood**, and usually have intricately carved wood paneling.
- The houseboats are of different sizes, some having up to three bedrooms apart from a living room and kitchen.
- The houseboats are provided with a balcony in the front, a lounge, dining room, pantry and 3 or more bedrooms with attached bathrooms.

- A portion of the roof can be propped open to **enhance the circulation of air**