

FAQs

1. Write a short note on a typical Mughal Gardens.

A typical Mughal garden can be envisioned in plan as an enclosed space divided into quarters (Char bagh), with a central water axis, a water surrounded platform for one or more structures (palaces or pavilions) located in the center, and a mixture of vineyard, orchard and flowers.

The Char bagh design consists of a cross, symbolizing the division of the world into 4 sections with the pool of life at its center .

The water courses are raised above the level of the surrounding ground, as they have to serve the purpose of the garden irrigation

On each side of the channels and irrigated by their water, are straight lines of trees, while the quarters may also be filled with trees and flowering plants

The whole is surrounded by a wall to keep out the surrounding desert with its dust laden winds and to give privacy and protection

2. Explain the following:

- **Chadar**
- **Chini-kanas**

Chadar: Sloped surface with interesting patterns for water to flow in. An artificial cascade of masonry with ramp like surfaces carved in a faceted pattern in order to animate better the movement of water and reflective light.

Chadar or shawl- called so because the water flowing over the fine carving of marble resembles a finely woven kashmiri shawl.

Chinikanas: Illuminated niches. Series of small recesses cut in the face of a terrace retaining wall to hold small oil lamps and flower is known as Chinikanas.

3. Describe the salient features of Mughal Tomb garden with a suitable example.

The tomb garden was a distinctive combination of landscape and architecture that joined aspects of the Islamic paradise garden with the Central Asian tradition of garden burial.

Construction of a tomb garden began during an emperor's lifetime; it was used as a park before his death and as a temple ground after.

Features:

Char bagh paradise garden form.

The tomb is placed in the center of the garden, where the chabutra is customarily placed.

Example: Humayun's Tomb Garden

Based on 9 square concept

Each of the 9 squares form "Char Bagh"

The center square is occupied by tomb

4. Explain with sketches any one pleasure garden of Mughals in India.

Mughal Pleasure gardens are located in the foothills of the mountain overlooking the dal

lake. Shalimar Garden is the most celebrated Dal lake gardens. It is near the dal lake with the snow covered Mahadev Mountains at the background. In this locations there is an abundance of water. This garden is the work of both Jahangir and Shah Jahan .

Lay out: (refer to the slides for plan and sketches)

It consists of three square. The plan consisted originally of 3 fourfold gardens (Public audience, private garden and Harem) threaded on a canal linked with Lake dal. Each garden was levelled to fit the sloping site and each of the fourfold part modelled for irrigation.

Lowest terrace is a public space dominated the Diwan-i-am or hall of public audience where the emperor received the petitioner

Above it stands the emperor's garden. It's central pavilion was the Diwan-i- khas or hall of private audience (now only the low black marble throne remains) where the members of the court were admitted

3. Above this is the harem garden. Its entrance is guarded by two small symmetrical pavilions. It is deeply shaded by two rows of plane trees. Where the harem garden meets the emperor's garden, Horizontal slits in the stonework allow the water to flow into side pools

In the center of the large square pool with fountain sprays stands the open-sided black pavilion , believed to have been used as a banqueting hall. It is accessible only by two causeways. Here the whole effect culminates with the beautiful black marble pavilion built by Shah Jahan, which still stands in the midst of its fountain spray This unique pavilion is surrounded on every side by a series of cascades, and at night when the lamps are lighted in the little arched recesses behind the shining waterfalls.

Water Features: A stream was diverted and directed into broad central canal running the entire length of the garden. The canal widens to form a square pool and it forms a series of cascades as well. A line of water jets reinforces the principle axis of the canal. In each pool jets animate the surface.

Planting: The permanent plantings are arranged formally. They reinforce the axes established by the channels and the quadrant boundaries formed by the change in elevation of the terraces. The oriental plane tree was the primary tree lining the central access. Off of the main access orchards occupied the terraces.

5. What are the different types of Mughal gardens? Give Examples.

The Mughal empire at its height stretched from the base of the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal, covering territories in present day Afghanistan and northwest India. The landscape differs widely in these regions, from dry desert plains to lush river valleys. Garden forms were adapted to changes in climate and terrain. Based on context and function, Mughal gardens can be divided into three types:

Pleasure gardens (In the hills of Kashmir) –
Shalimar Bagh, Nishat bagh.

Tomb gardens (In the plains by the side of Jamuna in Agra and Delhi) Humayun's Tomb Garden, Tajmahal Gardens.

Courtyard gardens within Forts and Palaces (In the forts of Agra and Delhi) Red Fort, Delhi