

The Mughal Architectural Legacy in Kashmir: A Study of its Influences, Innovations, and Impact on the Region's Cultural Heritage

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Abstract

This study focuses on the role of Mughal Architecture in Kashmir and exploring the nature of imported style and invention in the region with long term consequences for the Culture. The research uses a field- based qualitative methodology, such field visits to key Mughal sites, document review at various archives and interviews conducted with local antiquarians and scholars. It reveals specific characteristics of the building and its construction like Mughal Garden style and its ornaments combination of Persian and Kashmiri architectural concepts, the use of walnut wood and marble. Interestingly, the study mentioned about how the construction pattern of the Mughal architecture impacted the physical geography of Kashmir along with the bounded cultural evolution, planning, and aesthetic features of the craftsmen. The study also concerns its current efforts to solve the issues with maintaining the Mughal's legacy in the present political and environmental climate. More importantly, this research confirms that Mughal architectural heritage continues to define the cultural and historical narrative of the earthquake-ravaged city and its subsequent architectural transformation.

Keywords: Role, Mughal, architecture, Kashmir, style, invention, culture.

Introduction

Having prosperous the upland valley for more than two centuries, the Mughals left behind an architectural wonder that may be described as a symbiosis of the great Persian legacy and the spirit of the country. Such of this legacy started early 16th century when the Mughal Empire expanded its dominion over the area. The last above-mentioned dynasty which influenced the architecture of Kashmir was Mughal, who had a highly imperial architectural style very sophisticated in the construction technique, unique and elegant design concepts and most importantly, a captivating and highly resonant cultural agenda. Their greatest achievements are well-ordered courtly gardens, huge and stately dwelling palaces, and prominent mosques and religious buildings, which in their architecture are at once imperial and regional (Barfield 2023). New paved roads and street layouts, the construction of monumental buildings in imperial styles and materials, together with Mughal style arches, domes, intricate carving of stone, and elements of symmetry, which existed was exported to the Kashmir valley and became a part of the region's architectural inheritance. Both Jahangir and Shah Jahan loved architecture and with a view to projecting the monstrosity of the empire they undertook construction of large buildings (Gunn 2021). Many of the Mughal gardens, such as Shalimar Garden, Nishat Garden, and Chashme Shahi Garden, supplemented the characteristic Persian style of Garden. These gardens were planned systematically concerning their drainage, water fountains, and flower patterns, which reflect the Iranian apocalyptic perception of terrestrial paradise. Despite this fact along with being the royal pleasure dome of the Mughals they were morphed into cultural and social hub of the Kashmiris (Silva, Taylor et al. 2023). Ordinarily one of the most important innovations that the Mughals made was the Persian fourfold garden known as ChaarBagh and is well depicted at the Shalimar Bagh. This format of designing the garden which has water channels in the middle creating two quadrants was a creation of the Mughals in view of giving nature the rightful balance in the construction (Dutta and Chattopadhyay 2024). Literally, water in Mughal gardens was very significant and it used to convey life and purity in the building of Kashmir's Mughal architecture. These artfully constructed fountains, cascades and running streams in these gardens of Mughals are also evidences of architectural masterpieces as well as assertion of Mughal's perception of paradise (Amrith and Yü 2023). Except for gardens, the Mughals got new architectural features to Kashmir especially Persian style pavilion. These structures like the one described at the Chesham Shahi Palace were meant for enjoying the picturesque beauty of the country, Kashmir (Bhutia 2020). The last Baoli was often built as ground plus three storeys structure so that all three wings of the building can enjoy the magnificent view of the gardens which was evidence of the fact that though the Mughal rulers wanted to dominate the nature, they wanted

the nature to be part and parcel of the palaces that they constructed. Some of these structures were built from localities as red sandstone, wood and marble which gave the imperial Mughal and the native Kashmiri architectural influence (Mehrdin, Kanwal et al. 2023).

Integration of Mughal and Kashmiri architectural is most felt in the region's mosque and temple where the local craftsmanship blended with the Mughal ornate work. For instance, the Shah-i-Hamdan Mosque and the Shrine with the tomb of the saint at Srinagar are examples of Persian style of Islamic architecture amalgamated with local Kashmiri wooden craftsmanship (Hamdani 2021). Other features of the construction with woodwork included carved ceilings, columns and beams were made from specialists with following the Mughal style but Kashmir's style also included floral designs and jalis. It would, therefore, be quite appropriate to state that the mosque in question – observes Hockings – embodies a cultural creative in which the Mughals and Kashmiriness were distilled into an architectural structure (Naaz and Samiuddin 2023). They also changed the face of Kashmir with regards to its architecture especially the urban part of it (Bagai and Yadav 2024). To the people of Kashmir, they imposed principles of urban planning that comprised gardens, courtyards and mosques that formed part of social structure in their society. These areas were intents for decorative beauty as well as for social and religious functions that seem to have been central to cultural life at the time. Changes such as construction of huge encouraging areas for example the courtyards gained= random of Mughal buildings to support communal events hence promoting togetherness within the region (PARAY, SHAH et al.). Apart from architecture, the Mughal epoch noteworthy influenced the artistic skills of Kashmir (Zaman, Javed et al. 2024). Mughal Empire was noted for the new standard of the distinguished professional craftsmen who applied the imperial style in carvings of stone and wood also in the textile industry. Through their fund and patronage, these artisans not only contributed to sustaining and evolving the different forms of crafts endemic in the region as of now a part of the Kashmiri heritage. This Mughal influence is found in the delicate wood carving of houses, palaces and mosques; special carving being one of the most distinctive features of the style developed in Kashmir during this period (Khan, Kumari et al.). Dogra architecture also affected the cultural –religious life of the peoples of Kashmir, besides modifying the pattern of Mughal architectural creations (Mehrdin, Saleem et al. 2023). The Mughal rulers who followed the policy of toleration constructed mosques, shrines, other religious place of both Muslims and Hindus. This led to liberalization of religion and culture hence the architectural practices in the region. For instance, while reflecting Islamic motifs and calligraphy in the ornament of the building, the majority of the buildings coordinated Hindu as well as Buddhist styles of art (Ashraf 2023).

The influence of Mughals in the region is also indebted to the cultural heritage of the region. The magnificent building constructed during the reign of the Mughals turn into icon of the empire's authority, at the same time succumbing to local norms (Qiumei 2024). The combination of Persian majesty and the local craftsmanship introduced a unique pattern of architecture appreciated in Kashmir. It would remain the primary architectural identity associated with the Mughal period became strategically ingrained into Kashmir's culture reflected through art, literature and religion (Waraich 2023). The Mughal architectural influence gradually accumulated the expression of the regional specificity of Kashmir, even as the political regime of the region changed. In their functional-nonfunctional use, the structures the Mughal rulers built imply their continuance long after the rulers themselves were gone; the buildings remained places of worship, leisure, and congregation for many centuries (Richards 2024). The gardens and palaces were constructed in the last few centuries by the Mughals and remained an integral part of the cultural values of the region; the later architects and craftsmen provided an understanding and continued this pattern (Alam 2021). Even during the declining period of the Mughals in the eighteenth century, Kashmir continued to witness construction of building in Mughal style. Indeed, the remains of gardens and palaces of Mughals gradually transformed into landmarks of ancient history (Mohammed-Khaja 2024). The Mughal architectural style remained an important part of the architectural heritage of the Kashmir; however, new styles of architectures were now emerging. Today, Mughal Architecture is a corner stone of tourism in Kashmir in which visitors from different parts of the world come to watch beautiful and marvelous architectures created by the Mughal kings (Hasan 2022). Today, however, the possibilities of preserving Mughal architectural heritage in Kashmir are inhabited by a range of challenges. Currently, political instability causes decay in many structures since it reduces the survival rates of cultural relations due to urbanization effects and environmental conditions, and most Mughal constructions were established centuries ago. It is unfortunate to note the disappearance of these architectural wonders from the landscape of Kashmir; and from the architectural history of South Asia (Panakkal and Islam 2023). Conservation and restoration of monuments related to Mughal era are the functions that have a special significance as far as continuation of the historical image of the region is concerned and what is more, they stand as a testimony to the architectural brilliance of the Mughals in the current era (Chauhan 2023).

Kashmir also boasts of ancient Mughal architectural works which are enough to tell the kind of ingenuity that the Mughal Empire possessed (Bhutto, Taiba et al. 2023). Occupation of various sites such as grand gardens, palatial structures and mosques are evidence of its impact on the region's architectural and civilization. That is something that is still visible in Kashmir today; the synthesize of the Mughal and Kashmiri architecture brought about what can be termed as a unique architectural personality in Kashmir. It is however important to safeguard these structures for posterity and for the continuing representation of the cultural heritage which the structures represent. Most probably the Mughals influenced architecture of Kashmir significantly; there are never a doubt that they left behind a style for succeeding empires that are both imperial and culturally emblematic of the region (Sheth 2023).

Research Objectives

1. To explore that the contemporary elements and characteristics of Mughal architecture are well reflected in the structures of Kashmir.
2. To compare and lay bare the compound of the Mughal and Kashmiri architectural systems and its effect on the built climate of the Kingdom.
3. To analyze the influence of cultural values of Mughal architecture to the development of cultural identity of Kashmiris.

4. To assess how the physical design of contemporary Kashmir complicates the protection of Mughal architecture.

Research Questions

1. What are the principal characteristics of Mughal architecture in Kashmir and how far do they embody the Mughal architectural sensibilities?
2. In what way or how far the synthesis of the Mughal and Kashmiri forms in architecture helped the region to develop an architectural profile?
3. How historiographically significant was the construction of the Mughal architecture for the social and cultural change in Kashmir and the phase which came after the Mughal reign?
4. What has happened to conserve the Mughal architecture of the valley in the present world and what is going on presently for its conservation?

Significance of the Study

Thus, the relevance of this research can be discussed through the following points that have defined the role and place of Mughal architecture in the further development of architecture in the region of Kashmir and defining the value of this learning experience in broadest terms Possible. As in the context of polity and organization of power, in architecture also the research shows how forms introduced during the Mughal period changed the architectural landscape and constructed the cultural geography of the region. Besides, this research discusses the significance of the conservation of the Mughal architectural heritage which confronts actual issues like political turmoil, development, and climate change. The current research offers important insight into today's conservation process, and the results will be useful for preserving the surviving architectural legacy of Kashmir for future generations.

Literature Review

A major area of discussion regarding the Mughals and their architecture in Kashmir is that the structure comprises elements of Persian and middle-eastern architecture as well as indigenous architectural form prevalent in the valley. Studious evidence suggests that the Mughals laid the architectural modernity foundation during the reign of Abu'l Fath Jalal-ud-din Muhammad, also known as Akbar, in the south region of the 16th century. Although the area had developed a history of wooden architecture and stone temples, the Mughals brought in a number of architectural styles that carved the locality. They started selecting gardens that reflected the medieval Persian model of paradise to shape architecture of Kashmir, especially Srinagar (Panakkal and Islam 2023). The most influential aspect of the Mughal architectural style in case of the valley is possibly the concept of the Garden, as a focal point of a house as well as a palace. We can mark the scholars' attention to the fact that several Mughal kings, especially Jahangir, have been interested in the natural beauty of the region of Kashmir they attempted to mimic the paradise gardens of Persia (Skilbeck 2022). The two formal gardens that they planned are examples of this vision, having intricate water systems and equipment and geometrical structure. These gardens meant not only, of course, pleasure gardens to which the Mughal monarchs could retire but also to achieve a union between architecture and nature and the construction of balanced and harmonized spaces that were to represent imperial authority (Auer 2021). In architectural analytic, these Mughal gardens in the area under discussion in the present paper were seen as not only aesthetic creations but as objects that were involved in the planning of cities. Some of the gardens were thus designed to act as barriers from the public domain to the royal domicile (Khan, Bhatti et al.). Water fountains such as waterfall, pond or reflecting pool were not only as an aesthetics but also having a significance in work of art as symbol of life, purity and divine order. This idea of garden as the model of paradise turned into a well elaborated architectural idea which reflected not only the scaling and organizing of the gardens but also determined the layout of the Mughal Palaces and other buildings (Sood and Bhandari 2023).

The Persian influence is felt both in Mughal palaces and pavilions of Kashmir. The skilled craftsmanship of the Kashmiris in wood carving, which were a conventional feature of the traditional style of buildings in the valley were amalgamated brilliantly with that of the Mughal construction techniques. For instance, in the Chashme Shahi Palace there are wooden carvings of Kashmiri work mixed with the Mughal style to generate new architectural constructions characteristic of the Mughal and the local taste of the Kashmiri workers. This architectural interaction we have discussed has been a focal point of history researchers in their attempts to establish the various cross-cultural influences that were apparent during Mughal rule (Khalil, Akram et al. 2024). The Mughal style also greatly affected religious architecture of the region at large as well as its monuments. The favor of religious constructions mosques shrines and other buildings both aspects of Islamic architecture were integrated they also incorporated elements from Hindu and Buddhist architectures. This means, the architecture of Islamic motifs and local traditional styles were shown together during the Ottoman Empire rule and is seen in the mosques such as the Shah-i-Hamdan mosque. At the same time, sarcostyle wooden carving characteristic for Islamic architecture was developed by the local artists who tended to use the specific ornamentation of Kashmir wooden carving and added the local Mughal ornamentation (Ramzan 2023). Victuals beyond religious and garden architecture, the Mughal influence in Kashmir also remodeled urban gratification. Scholars have presented examples whereby new urban spaces were created under the Mughal rule: new living, trading, and public buildings were constructed according to the layout and symmetry principles (Hussain and Juan 2023). New combinations of traditional features and Mughal elements appeared in urban construction, and local bazaars typical of the architecture of the "Kashmiri" region started reflecting Mughal ideas of architecture having arched gateways and covered patios and arcades. This urban transformation is regarded as one of the significant impacts implementing Mughal domain in Kashmir (Mughal 2023).

Undoubtedly one of the major changes that characterized Mughal architecture in Kashmir was the integration of local building elements with imports. Even where new accoutrements and stone types were introduced by the Mughals such as in the use of marble and red sand stone, the artisans of Kashmir at least in my opinion melded them into their craft, creating hybrid

structures that were purely functionally aesthetics. Hausa people preferred to use timber in construction of such structures like mosque and palace due to their appropriateness in the climatic conditions of the region (Kanjwal 2023). Not only did Mughals bring arts in construction but they also incorporated arts into other artifacts in the Mughal Kashmir. That is why the ornamentation of Kashmir carpets, wooden products, and other materials contains references to Mughal art. There was also advantageous patronage during Mughal rule which consequently spurred the evolution of excessive synthesis between Mughal artwork and techniques carried by Kashmiri artists. Many modern Crafts man continues to tap from these historical influences that originated from these crafts men (Nasir and Kamal 2021). The Mughal rule in Kashmir was not out of controversy free. There are few historians who claimed that Mughal imposition of architectural aesthetics supplanted the original aesthetic and contributed to the decline of indigenous as others have felt that the innovation of new materials and a change in architectural direction to gigantic royal architectural forms reflected the hegemony of the rulers over local culture. These debates reveal the real problems of acculturation, cultural transition during the period of Mughal rule (Zaman, Javeed et al. 2024). All the same, it will be pertinent to note that Mughal architecture has indelible imprints of the state's cultural heritage. As some scholars have noted it, the Mughal architecture in Kashmir was built as the blending of imperial and regional traditions. The hybrids thus produced have established a style that is specific to the area, distinguished stylistically through its highly ornamented and molded surfaces, and materially through its efforts to employ locally sourced and more appropriately appropriate materials and imperial forms to suitably adapt to the climatic conditions of Kashmir (SRINAGAR and HAKIM 2023).

Another aspect of Mughal architecture that has even more influenced the region is architecture itself as a presumably major factor that defines the area in the contemporary world (Malik 2020). Tourism analysis of the region mostly pay attention to the gardens and monuments, while stressing the importance of Mughal heritage that still attracts many tourists to India. Other researchers have studied how these structures have been maintained and restored after they were found damaged to give life to the various cultures in Kashmir even during the social and political instabilities (Panakkal and Islam 2023). The conservation needs for Mughal built heritage is becoming progressively demanding. Quite a number of the region's structures especially those built during the Mughal period have deteriorated over the years due to issues such as floods, earthquakes, urbanization and tourism (Waqar 2022). The literature published in the recent years has largely concentrated on the conservation of the old architecture and how the task may require both local and international participation. The tasks of preserving these sites together with the requirements of the contemporary development have recently become an important issue for those who are engaged in the defense of the architectural legacy of Kashmir (Junejo 2020).

This paper aims at establishing that the available literature on the Mughal architectural monuments and structures in Kashmir provides considerable evidence in support of this basic proposition that the Mughals played a crucial role in developing the architectural culture the region. This hybrid was unique to the locus of the Persian empire, albeit in a popular indigenous Kashmiri form, which remains evident even today. This legacy, despite being inclusive and varied, forms a significant part of the human social memory of the context of Kashmir and its conservation is a societal concern for the generations to come.

Research Methodology

This research thus used an analytical type of research to assess the Mughal architectural history in the region with both primary and secondary data. A survey was undertaken to sites that have Mughal important architectural features, which included garden, palace and mosque within the Kashmir Valley with photographic and physical examination of the features. Archival records, books and scholarly papers were used in the collection of historical data regarding the impact of the Mughal Empire to the area's architectural designs. Architects, historians and other culture related professionals were consulted through interviews for better understanding of the local context and the changes in the development of Mughal architecture in the region of Kashmir. Thus, a bibliographic comparative analysis was conducted in order to compare and contrasts the features of Mughal architecture in Kashmir and other regions of the empire based on the design features, materials and techniques for construction. The work also examined various aspects of consent and assimilation of the local influence architectural features of Kashmir with Mughal architectural features considering both the continuity and breaking point of such cotemporary forms which were strength of innovations of Mughal architectural characters in subsequent architectures of the region. Data was analyzed through following themes to respond to fundamental research questions on the impact, inventions and cultures associated with Mughal architecture in Kashmir to enhance the existing literature on the subject.

Data Analysis

This chapter discusses the results of the research conducted on the existing Mughal architectural sites in Kashmir. The research analyzed on factors, changes, and culture consequent to Mughal architecture in the region. To this end, the architects have used field visits, surveys, consultations with key informants, historical documents and comparative exposure to gain a holistic understanding of the architectural typology as well as the role of these buildings in society. The data analysis is divided into thematic sections that address key aspects of the study: include architectural features, design elements, Mughal and Kashmiri styles the influence of which is still being felt, and the legacy of Mughal architecture in the region.

1. Mughal Architectural Features in Kashmir

The Mughal architecture of the region represents the finest Persian, Central Asian influence with interpretations of the regional style from Kashmir. Here it is also possible to identify the usage of the arches, the domes, the complex stucco decorations, large open yards and the incorporation of the garden and the water fountains. The most striking examples of such gardens are Shalimar Bagh, Nishat Bagh and the Mughal gardens that surround the forts and palaces on this region.

Constructed in the year 1619 and designed by the great Mughal Emperor Jahangir it is a mirror image of the Mughal style of landscape garden in Kashmir. Terraced tiering, water, and the radial and axial plan show the typical constructive pattern of Mughals' architectural sensibility to order along with Persian concept of garden. Water channel and fountains are not just used

as a mere ornamentation but they are conveyers of pride, acting as symbols of paradise in the earth as per Persian inclination of the Mughal emperors. The same is true with Nishat Bagh which prominently demonstrates the concept of Mughal sides or integrating the architectural design with landscape geography.

Another most important aspect that can be marked in Mughal architecture in Kashmir is that red sandstone and marble stone was locally available in the Kashmir state and other nearby states in India and was widely used in different form of constructions. Jamia Masjid in Srinagar was built in 14th century, it shows the wooden pillars with Persian style of carving even in the Mughal period the local structure incorporated the Mughal architecture. The arabesques of flowers, leaves and geometrical designs, usually observed in the latticed work of Kashmiri mosques, palaces, and gardens are certainly inherited from the Persian style dominating the Mughal architecture. These motifs in particular decorated the building and at the same time made a symbolic step towards the spirituality of the themes – beauty and order.

2. Design Elements and Innovations in Mughal Kashmir Architecture

Mughals have beautified Kashmir but at the same time they improved the constructions and architecture for practical uses. Among them, Chahar Bagh, the fourfold garden, which was derived from the Persian style had a particularly pointed design: It simply consisted of a geometric layout of a cross intersecting at the center of water with pathways that were separate. This layout was the intention of the builders of the Shalimar Bagh though it resembles the paradise garden of the Qur'an. One such organized pattern that linked up the human world with the divine was, water channels depicting rivers and streams which provided the visitors with an effective experience.

Another was using of architectures in which the built environment was in one with the existing natural environment. The Mughals in Kashmir planned and constructed gardens and palaces with reference to the nearby environments. For example, the Nishat Bagh Garden has been planned in front of the majestic Dal Lake to enable visitors get a clear view of the Shikaras on the lake. This integration enabled the Mughals to re-establish themselves over the nature which was one common dominant seen in their architectural techniques. The location of these gardens was chosen to enable the use of the geography of the area in order to develop spectacular optical illusions that would enhance the magnificence of Mughal empire.

Besides the gardens the Mughals played an important role in bringing Persian-style pavilion architecture in Kashmir. Chesham Shahi Palace is also an example of constructive Mughal style, but this was also a summer palace for the Mughal emperors. The carved stone and wood screens for windows and doors, the use of intricate latticework and, floral designs used in interiors of palace described royal opulence of Mughal empire. These pavilions created a royal decor of the rulers and at the same time assimilated with the general ecological environment.

3. Integration of the Mughal and Kashmiri Architectural Styles

One of the aspects of historical construction in the region that could be called special was the synthesis which took place here of Mughal imagery of Persian and Central Asian roots with the local Shrinage architecture of the Valley. The Kashmiri artisans knew the design and aesthetics of wood work, cloths and the local architecture so they altered the Mughal designs according to the local taste and available resources. This amalgamation is clearly visible more in the wooden roof and the roof truss work which is predominant Kashmir architecture as evident from the Shah-i-Hamdan Mosque at Kashgar.

These resultant architectural forms are highly idiosyncratic and are best described as being regional interpretations of original Mughal styles. The other type of architecture of the wooden Kashmiri classical style borrowed from the local traditions such as the carved wooden door facades, beams and ceilings were incorporated into Mughal structures. The use of Kashmir walnut wood to these carvings emerged as a style which gives the Mughal architectural network a local character.

The Mughal arches, carried out as a feature of the Mughal architecture, were generally reproduced by the craftsmen of Kashmir with certain localism and ornamental wooden designs. Such types of exchanges were not only conventional in the architectural forms but also in the motives of ornaments. Composing motifs coming from Persian floral patterns and making them familiar to the Kashmiri population, the artisans again developed an artistic style called Kashmiri-Mughal style.

The most evident feature of which can be seen in the Shah-i-Hamdan Mosque built by Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani, alteration between Persian Islamic architectural styles and Kashmiri woodworking art is clearly apparent. The concepts of wooden carving, the latticed wooden ceiling above the prayers hall ALL narrate the cultural assimilation of the moderate civilization during the Mughal dynasty in Kashmir.

4. Cultural Impact and Legacy of Mughal Architecture

The Mughal dependence on the architectural design in Kashmir was not only limited to the building but also touched the cultural domain. Through the construction of the many architectural projects across the region the Mughals brought in a new aesthetic that enhanced the regions cultural status. The building of Mughal gardens, palaces, and mosques were characteristics of the empire, but in doing so, contributed to the development of a culture promoting innovations in local fine arts in crafts and designs.

The above kinetic arts show that infrastructural influence that Mughal architecture had on the society of Kashmir went far beyond aestheticism. It also served to build a new affluent order to urban design. Public blocks of land including gardens, religious shrines and courtyards greatly impacted people's interaction with existing dwellings & structures. In addition to being places for amusement and relaxation, public squares in turn altered the manner, in which social interactions in Kashmiri society took place through the provision of designated essential assembly fields and meeting areas for worship and prayer during the periods of crisis.

Mughal architecture also influenced craft greatly by the sort of drilling down its specialties as well as improving their quality. The Mughals for example influenced artisans in the empire to embrace imperial techniques in the carving of stone, wood and cloth weaving. This led to evolution of a new state of skilled craftsmen who were quite useful in taking forward the traditions

that were already practiced in Kashmir. People of Kashmir still follow artistic changes and styles that were set during Mughal rule in architecture.

Apart from its cultural importance, Mughal architecture in Kashmir has immense importance in tourism and pilgrimage. For centuries buildings and gardens of Mughals in South Asia have attracted tourists for its more than artistic as well as historical value, religious importance as well. They were attractive and serene and people flocked to these sites like pilgrims and generally were the places of cultural significance that is part of the narrative of the region we understand as Kashmir and part of the larger cultural tapestry of the sub-continent.

5. The Enduring Influence of Mughal Architecture on Contemporary Kashmir

Kashmir has undergone political and social revolutions since the times of Mughals but the construction patterns adopted in this region are closely tied to Mughal architectural principles. Mughal-style architecture is evident in present day Kashmir mainly in structure of public arenas, parks, and government structures. The construction of building structures, which utilize much wood, stone, and especially marble, the persistence of the garden-oriented layout also historically assigns itself back to the impact of Mughal architecture.

Still, climate change, political instabilities, and urban sprawl that are young age problems regarding the conservation of these monuments are raising new troubles for the modern age. Most of the Mughal Garden and structure are in dilapidated condition because the people have not given them the attention they deserve. Even more challenging is the fact that extra-political factors such as change in the political and social environment, have in the past eradicated some of these Mughal structures thus making the call more pertinent.

However, the value of Mughal architecture to the people of Kashmir as their cultural and architectural history and, thus, the further attempts at preservation and restoration of the monuments are discussed as the only valuable endeavor.

Summary

A blend of Persian glories and Islamic Central Asia with its local echoes, the Mughal architecture embodied the Kashmiri styles. It also defined the new generation's architecture of the region along with altering the cultural profile of the area. Learned from the case of the Mughal architecture in the context of Kashmir, innovations of the lucrative empire in various areas translated to the architectural profile of the territory and its subsequent impact. The Mughal architecture in Kashmir hence through the united architecture introduction of new styles, impact on the culture of the land and landscape hence creates a lasting legacy that will be with Kashmir for many generations to come. The conservation studies of these structures are important for reconstructing the antecedents of the region of Kashmir and position it in the broader complex of South Asian architecture.

Conclusion

Analyzing the aspects of Mughal architecture in Kashmir it is possible to observe that the legacy has a very developed and detailed impact on the overall culture and architecture of the region. The Mughals especially were connoisseurs of art and architecture, and contributed significantly to the development of what we see of the architectural beauty in Kashmir today. The Mughal period brought in new architectural breakthrough through the features of Persian, Central Asian as well as regional style of Kashmir. Big architectural elements like ChaharBagh and mixing up of earlier Persian garden traditions with local constructible inventions along with the use of local products and techniques that revamped the texture of Kashmir, but at the same time also reshaped the social perspective of the valley. These innovations in architectural design developed ceremonious areas that could invite communal as well as religious interactions, which makes Mughal monuments more than the pictures of authority; they are meeting points.

The mixing of true Mughal and traditional Kashmir School is one of the unique achievements of the bourgeois Mughal period. This synthesis was done in the complex use of carvings, the special application of materials such as hardwoods desired walnut wood from Persia, and the extensive information on the process followed for the construction of the 'Mughal arches' which were the essentially the special characteristics of the Kashmiri Mughal architecture. Such combined elements of architecture remained popular long after the Mughals, for example, in the Shah-i-Hamdan Mosque in Srinagar, or in the Shalimar Bagh Garden.

In addition, the eventual incorporation of the into the realm of Mughal architecture is made evident by the representation of Assar's paper. This trend amended gardens and mosques as well as palaces into not only social and culture centers but aesthetics of beauty and order as well. They also raised spirituality of this region, integrating the Islamic and Persian styles along with the indigenous that paved way for the future generations of this region architecture and artists. The subject of Mughal architecture is also reflected to the present-day architecture used in the construction of buildings in Kashmir, with its modern architects citing the imperial buildings laid down by the Mughals.

In the last few decades, the practice of maintaining Mughal buildings has become more difficult in Kashmir because of political tensions, unfavorable climate condition, and development. However, essential to note is the fact that there is need to preserve these architectural masterpieces. They are not only proud heritage assets of Kashmir but also significant and relevant narratives for the history of South Asian architecture as a whole. This makes the place offer helpful historical and cultural information of the region during the period of the Mughal Empire and holds a significant value of cultural heritage of the state of Kashmir.

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