

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF MUGHAL MONUMENTS AT SHAHDARA “WAY OF KINGS”

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ABSTRACT

This article is descriptive and comprehensive research work of architectural development in Mughal Kingdom in Shahdara, Nur Jahan tomb, Asif Khan tomb, Kamran baradari and Jahangir's tomb will be focus of the study. In the history of Punjab these Mughal Monuments are considered most attracted and creative. Salient features of the structural elements and architectural ornament will be highlighted which basically replicate that how this signature Mughal designs existed even after their kingdom. This study in addition not only discovers the early stages, indispensable for architectural development but very use full and detailed version of these Mughal monuments for forthcoming analytical studies. In present times unfortunately, owing to negligence of preservation these indicators are enduring towards unembellished deterioration. Thus, all these historical monuments have significant place in history of Lahore especially. There is very much need of maintenance and proper rehabilitation of these monuments so that national heritage can be restored.

Key words: Monuments, Architecture, Development, Tomb, Serai, Mughals

Mughal emperor Baber in 1526 established a great empire in 1526 in sub-continent, in Asian continent it emerged as Islamic power, challenging to the powers of that times Safavid and Ottomans. Mughal empire existence and achievements in the Islamic civilization, were observed as a jewel, equivalent to Islamic civilization during the Abbasids in Baghdad, Umayyads in Al-Andalus, and Ottomans in Turkey. Mughal architecture assembled and join in both environment's and natural finest landscapes with cultures of local and regional countryside trends.¹ For worldly and spiritual order human aspiration order were drawn by assimilation composed the figurative illustrations of the heaven and potential of the world.

One of the important and significant capital of Mughal empire was Lahore.² It was second capital and remained capital almost for 185 years (two centuries) of rule. It was the center of administration of Mughal kings from where they could easily keep their

eye on Kabul where they had threat from Uzbiks, continuously challenge for the Mughal empire. From the first Mughal ruler Baber to last one Shah Jahan every ruler tried his best to style Mughal architecture with stunning expression of architecture and marvelous gardens in Indian Sub-Continent. There is no doubt that this architectural design remained dominant in architecture of sub-continent and left long lasting impacts on history which is eminent with ideals, art and culture of Islam.

Geographically Shahdara is situated on the Ravi. Actually, it was stopping point for the Mughal rulers in 16th century. Lahore fort was the center of Mughal administration in 16th century when they have become more secure and Shahdara was considered pleasure departure on urban fringe. The word Shahdara is translated as Kings gateway or King's area. The initial Shahdara garden were part of a distinctively Mughal pattern of landscape development, built immediately after the conquest of the city. Shahdara was relished in by two Mughal brothers Humayun and his brother Kamran and then the great Akbar and his son Jahangir. Two purposes were served mainly in initial years of the Mughal empire one was by Grand Trunk road to Sheikhpura after crossing Ravi and second was road towards Kashmir from Lahore. GT Road extends from Kabul to Bengal. From the Lahore fort there was another crossway restoration zone at Ravi. Though, it set up and position from ancient did not change.³ Another Afghan Ruler who was influential he was Sher Shah Suri had definite the decisive shape to it. through Jalalabad it reaches Khyber Passes and Peshawar from Kabul. After crossing the river Jhelum it crossed river Indus after moving towards South. The river Ravi has been shifting West and Northwest at las since the time of Aurangzeb. Sheikhpura and Grand Trunk road defined the Northern and Southern limits of Shahdara area. They have situated Shahdara within a highly ordered settlement system of Towns, gardens, Serais and roads. Mughals did not have technology to bridge major rivers like Ravi, they were capable of bridging Degh and Nalas with structures so solid that they endured long after the roadway alignment was abandoned. Shahdara experienced unusual transformation from 1526 to 1645. Mughal had especially aesthetic sense of beauty, art, dresses and architectural. There is no doubt that they not only handed over rich architectural culture to the Lahore and other cities but to all the sub-continent. Mughal combined Persian and Asian designs of architecture with beautiful environmental Indian design. Tomb of Jahangir fourth Mughal emperor buried in cantonment of Dilkhusha in 1627 at Rajauri, Asif Khan who was brother in law of his beloved Nur Jahan buried in 1641 and then Nur Jahan's tomb 1645.construted close to each other are exemplary architecture. Relationship of tombs and Serais give unique outlook. Shahdara town lies northern of Jahangir's tomb which suggest additional gardens may have lien east of the surviving monuments but it is not conformed due to the extensive encroachments. ⁴ However, in the period of Jahangir this style of construction got popularity and deployed in majority of the buildings.⁵ But usage of these ornamentation in construction and style gripped to their exactness and perfection in period of Shah Jahan.⁶Red stone was basically used in the

construction by them. These rich Monuments full of aesthetic sense constricted in Shahdara are discussed in following lines.

THE AKBER SARAI

Akbari Serai considered core of Shahdara rectangle in shape left majestic sight. Basically, there are three dimensions of this serai which reveals entire plan laid out on a 5 guzz grid it is as similar to depicted in Babernama. There are six Serai rooms 20 to 30 guzz, inside the serai there is open area 200 to 270 guzz and it was surrounded by walkways 5 guzz with serai rooms. Its outer wall is 10 guzz deep. These dimensions apparent use of this 32 guzz grid suggest that Serai and Mosque were probably not built by Salim Shah Sur as has been suggested. Although Sultan of the Suri`s dynasty were responsible for many highway improvements, they presumably used 30.36 long Guzz-i-Sikandri. The walls between Serai rooms have width 32 so in all aspects the 32 module appears to have been employed This supports the idea that serai and mosque were Mughal building. Qureshi has noted however that Akbar only standardized the 32 guzz length at a time when a variety of lengths were being used in practice, so these findings do not conclusively proved that Akber Serai was build after 1586-7. The gate way of Jahangir tomb awkwardly blocks the serai walkway and outer Eastern Serai wall was thinly clad with a decorative veneer to serve as the interior wall for Jahangir`s tomb garden.⁷

KAMRAN'S BARADARI:

Baradari was considered very important traditional construction style in Mughal empire in summer it was as summer “cupola” in English it was translated as twelve doors.

Kamran`s baradari built by Prince Kamran lies two kilometer south of the royal tomb gardens on an island in the river Ravi. It is the oldest Mughal garden in Lahore. It is the only surviving pleasure garden of the Shahdara area that was not converted in to a funerary monument. Until recently it lay on Shahdara side of the river and was integral part of that area. As the river encroached westward traffic from the Grand Trunk road and Akber serai was diverted South to Kamran`s baradari`s where the Sheikhpura road also crossed the river. The river has severely reduced what was once a very large gardenit was constructed on West bank of River Ravi and Middle of the Garden. He was son of Emperor Baber and brother of Hamayun. It was considered one of the earliest gardens built in c.1527. Continuing the spatial line analysis pursued Baradari was originally 30by 30 guzz wide or one quarter bigha in area.⁸ Many English Historians and travelers explained the glory of these gardens especially William Barr and Colonel Wade while visiting there depicts marvelous beauty of them as these gardens were used as meeting points of Princes.

This garden shows that as it was Inspired by Persian architecture where concept of four garden was assumed from the four gardens of Heaven. There were basically three levels Baradari is on highest level the on lower levels there are gardens. In Summer wind blows West to East and in winter West to East.⁹ Due to heat capacity water remains cooler in seasons of summer and warmer in winter. The broad five guzz water channels were also more characteristic of mid-17th than mid-16th century garden design. Thus, portions of garden may date to the early or mid-16th century as it is generally supposed but it is increasingly likely that the complex was rebuilt in the late 16th or early 17th century at the very earliest. Mud bricks and plaster is used throughout its structure.¹⁰ Thicker walls were used to lighten sunlight plaster and bricks used in it is good thermal form captivate heat very efficiently.

EMPEROR JAHANGIR'S TOMB:

Another one of the marvelous monuments of Shahdara area was built by son of Jahangir who was his successor “Shahjahan” in year of 1630. Jahangir was died while he was coming back to Lahore from Kashmir. The length of the tomb is double as the length of the Serai. The interior of the garden is so attractive and beautiful decorated with marble bricks and arches. The garden has four parts and sixteen section equally divided by pavement and beautiful thing is that every section has fountain and pool of itself.¹¹ This Monument has very unique style of architecture of Mughal time period as it has rectangle structure with flat roof without dome. Its four corners there are four glorious minarets standing with elegant four terraces covered by marble dome. There is a corridor in center which is connected to the row of rooms actually constructed outside of the building. There are series of the compartments constructed where cenotaph of Jahangir is located, ninety-nine names of Allah are carved here beautifully with Farsi calligraphic designs with the name of Jahangir on the cenotaph. Water system of the tomb is also marvelous as eight large wells were used for this. Water of these eight wells is further provided to small channels. Water of these wells was used for fountains and pools as well.¹² This place was favorite place of Jahangir and his wife Nur Jahan where they use to spend their time together so his son decided to save remains of his father here in his favorite place. It is said that its construction was basically the idea of Nur Jahan complete in ten years in 10 lakh.¹³ Tombs’ gardens are surrounded by Persian type of paradise garden. The most important feature of the Tomb is central veranda which connected to the burial chamber. White, black and yellow marble was used in it. External side of the tomb is decorated with floral design in red panels mostly.

Unfortunately, tomb had faced great destruction in period of Ranjit Singh when ornaments were transferred to Amritsar by his order so that Sikh temples could be decorated. Sikh army also used roughly as residence of army officials. After the death of Jahangir Nur Jahan separated herself from the empire matters and used to spend her

maximum time here in the tomb of Jahangir, recite Quran and tried to clean the tomb by herself.

ASAF KHAN'S TOMB:

Asif Khan who was died in 1641 he was brother-in-law of Jahangir buried here in his own garden in Western part of the Akbar serai. Two things distinguished the pattern of Asif Khan's tomb from those described thus far the tomb and its platform are octagonal in plan, the dimensions of the walks pools and channels do not conform with those of Jahangir's tomb or the Akbar's serai. This tomb platform is 60 guzz wide, however which follows the overall system. The octagonal platform was thus circumscribed within bigha square is a 60 guzz square. An octagon approximately 83% of the area of a square which means that area of Asif Khan's octagonal tomb platform is about $1/36^{\text{th}}$ the area of the garden. Which is exactly the same proportion as that of Jahangir's tomb platform and garden. The inner chamber of the tomb is 40 or 15 guzz wide but the overall diameter is 85 a dimension which requires further geometrical analysis.

Domed octagonal tombs were not uncommon in Mughal Lahore. They were generally built for close associates of the royal family such as Ali Mardan Khan Prince Pervez and so called Anarkali.¹⁴ Asif's Khan tomb had an octagonal base with each side measuring 35 feet in length. A slightly reduced and variable 34 feet length module was projected out into the garden to establish a metric for walks, walls and waterworks. Axial walks and water channels are 34 feet wide. Pools, walls and paved areas follow a common system of proportions. Whereas the mosque platform is 30 guzz wide in the Akbari serai it is 85 feet in Asaf Khan's tomb garden. Water system of the tomb is as water system of the Jahangir's tomb.¹⁵ The Southern well probably predated the garden as was mentioned earlier. The anomaly becomes more interesting when we observed that well to the south of Nur Jahan's tomb lies at the same distance from the center of the tomb 200 guzz. Therefore, we hypothesis that an earlier garden 400*400 guzz perhaps contemporary with the Akbari Serai predated the construction of Asif Khan, tomb.

TOMB OF NUR JAHAN:

Nur Jahan, Jahangir's widow, died in 1645.¹⁶ Widow of Jahangir, Nur Jahan died in 1645 buried in the tomb of his brother Asif Khan. Nur Jahan spent very influential life as she remained always very close to the Emperor and one of the important figures of his times. She not only remained busy in promoting traditional and cultural activities but influential in financial matters. As her name meaning was "light of the World" she was Persian origin from, Mirza Ghiyas Baig her father was migrated from Iran to India along with his family was nobleman Later he was appointed advisor of the Jahangir. Her tomb was decorated with stones and red marble beautifully. Beauty of the tomb is that it stands isolated in center of the garden, its walls, gates did not show any connection with other

monuments located in surroundings. The principle points of physical evidence are first that Nur Jahan's tomb platform dimensions are 60 by 60 guzz exactly that of the Asif Khan's octagonal plinth. Nur Jahan's building is 50 to 50 guzz which is one quarter of the size of Jahangir's plinth. Given these relations between plinth sizes. Nur Jahan garden had same size and shape as Asif Khan's tomb garden. 300 by 300 guzz garden for Nur Jahan's tomb. This theoretical plan makes sense in functional terms. Not only does it provide a 20 guzz passageway between the walls of Nur Jahan and Asif Khan's tomb but it also suggests convenient relationship between the entrance to Nur Jahan's tomb and those of Asaf Khan and Jahangir. The spatial logic of the whole Shahdara complex is also maintained in this hypnotical plan. But we can say that her tomb is small as compare to her role in history.¹⁷

SHRINES NEAR THE TOMBS.

The Baradari road was flanked by several small but interesting fragments of Mughal period. Mughal wells survive near turgor, Kot Abdulmalik and Beghumkot. Village Behumkot is sometimes popularly associated with Jahangir's mother but the only pre-colonial site there is naugazah (nine yards) shrine named baba sabz Pir. As it is common for naugaza shrine in Punjab there is no date of his death mentioned only in folklore about his deeds in religious matters and deeds in battles. Near the royal tomb there were four shrines. Abdul Shah Mansouri's Mazar and well is situated in South of tomb of Asif Khan. Near the well outside of the garden. Another saint Baba Nim Pir named Sayyid Hussain Shah is buried here. Sayyid Baba Ali's shrine is third shrine of this place. He was buried in the Northern part of the tomb of Nur Jahan in 1592AD. Another saint is lying in the garden of tomb of Jahangir he was Hazrat Hamu Shah we can see his unnamed grave in the tomb of Asif Khan's tomb. Another axis of possible significant is the path running through Government collage which is roughly on alignment was Asaf Khan's East West axis.¹⁸

MODULE OF JANGIR TOMB AND AKBER SERAI

Modules No	Length	Application
1	2,8	Marble channels in Jahangir's tomb, wall thickness in Akbar serai
5	13,4	Akbari serai walkway and cell Module, Kamran's Baradari water Channels, Jahangir tomb walks
10	26.6	Akbar's serai room depth, Jahangir's tomb planting strip and pools walkways around.
20	53,0	Akbar's serai entrance gates, Jahangir's tomb axes marble roof platform
100	268,0	Jahangir tomb plinth width Kamran Baradari tank.
600	1,600,0	Jahangir's tomb garden width
300	800'0	Asaf Khan, Nur Jahan garden width, 1/4 of Jahangir's garden Akbar serai length ¹⁹

CONCLUSION

It is useful to be able to conclude that the Shahdara garden were laid out, with common measurements units of the late 16th and early, with a simple grid drawing system that could be replicated with simple equipment in the field, with systematic spatial relationship among the garden and within a larger and equally systematic settlement system of roads, serais, and waterworks. These buildings are example of harmony, balance, and symmetry. Finally, the Shahdra area hold the last examples of early Mughal tomb garden design a traditional characterized by square enclosures with narrow water channels and centra building complex. Thereafter royal garden whether for pleasure like Shalimar or entombment like Taj Mahel, would have rectilinear terraced forms with their major building at the termini of the garden and extravagant networks throughout. The manufacturing and art of cutting bricks was splendid. with white marble, art of mirrors and decoration of bricks demonstrations the glorious sense of taste of Mughals. through this marvelous architecture Mughals established a standard of their images that how their subject views them. This is the fact that not only for the unitarian purpose Mughals constructed these striking structures but also to influence their subjects with their effect, power and inspiration. As Mughals well-thought-out that infrastructure was vital to keep the control and projection of supremacy. Unfortunately, around these Monuments speedy urbanization, fast expansion, or illegitimate of misbehaviors and negligent employing of new societies, these monuments were neglected. There is certainly need appropriate maintenance and rehabilitation to restore this worth preserved national heritage.

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- ¹⁵ James, L, Wescoat Jr. *The Shahdra Gardens of Lahore*, Site documentation and spatial analysis. Pakistan Archaeology.p.356
- ¹⁶ Nur Jahan in Farsi and Urdu means ‘Light of the World.’ Nur Jahan was of Persian origin. Her father, Mirza Ghiyas Baig, was a Persian nobleman who migrated to India along with his family, and later served as Jahangir’s main advisor. Nur Jahan’s niece Arjumand Banu later known by her title, Mumtaz Mahal (‘Ornament of the Palace’ in Farsi and Urdu) married the future Shah Jahan. She is the lady who is buried in Taj Mahal. Nur Jahan’s own daughter by a previous marriage was married to Jahangir’s other son, Shahryar. Nur Jahan supported her son-in-law Shahryar’s claim to the throne after Jahangir’s death.
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