

HAA 183 Lecture: Syllabus and Readings
Fall 2008: M, W 11 -12am, Sackler 318

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Office hours: Monday 3:00–5:00



MUGHAL IMPERIAL ARCHITECTURE (1526-1858 A.D.) AND ITS LINKS TO CENTRAL ASIA, IRAN AND THE WEST

From the 16th to the 18th centuries India was synonymous with the "Empire of the Great Moghul". The Mughal dynasty, so called, because descendants of Chingiz Khan and Tamerlane (Timur), ruled from 1526 to 1858 over the larger part of South Asia and represented with the Safavids in Iran and the Ottomans in Asia Minor, the Balkans and the Near East, one of the three Muslim superpowers of the modern period. As a new dynasty which felt a strong need to assert its status and as an elitarian minority ruling over a vast territory of peoples of different creeds and cultures the Mughals grounded their claim to universal rule in a multi-cultural perspective. They were highly aware of the potential of architecture as a means of self representation. To express their 'multiple identity' architecturally, they drew from many divers supra regional and regional traditions which they synthesised and 'imperialised' so successfully that they created with the Taj Mahal the universally most widely accepted building.

This course provides a view of key themes of Mughal architecture within a loose chronological frame work. Buildings, architectural complexes and also formal gardens are studied through a range of methodologies: architectural surveying, formal analysis and comparison, and an examination in light of their cultural, political and socio-economic context. Themes include patronage (which involves also issue of gender), the question of the architects, landownership of the nobility, urban planning and the relationship between form, function and symbolic meaning. Mughal court culture is addressed as well as the artistic interactions with other Islamic courts and Europe.

COURSE WEBSITE

<http://webdocs.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/courses/HistoryofArtandArchitecture.html>

Click on course link highlighted in blue

READINGS

The basic reference works for the course is Ebba Koch, *Mughal Architecture: An Outline of Its History and Development (1526-1858)*, (Munich: Prestel, 1991, 2nd ed. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2002) as well as C. B. Asher, *Architecture of Mughal India*, *The New Cambridge History of India*, 1,4, (Cambridge, New York, Oakleigh: Cambridge University Press, 1992). The specific readings are indicated below for each lecture.

All required readings from books (in italics) are on reserve at the Fine Arts Library. Articles are arranged in a binder by the author's last name. Ask for the binder at Fine Arts Library circulation desk.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and the completion of readings before the class meeting for which they are assigned. There will be a midterm examination (20% of final grade) and a final examination (35% of final grade) based on the readings, lectures, and a

selection of slides from the lectures. Three written assignments, with the due dates listed below, comprise: 1. an analysis of a Mughal building or a work of art (Company drawing of a Mughal monument) in the Sackler Museum, Harvard University Art Museums; and 2. and 3., short papers that respond to specific thematic and/or methodological questions framed through selected readings (each paper should be no more than 5 pp. max. and carries 15% each of the final grade).

LECTURES AND READINGS

September 15 Introduction: " Why are the Mughals so Important for
the Study of Islamic Architecture?"

DRAMMATIC PERSONAE

September 17 THE MUGHAL DYNASTY (1526- 1858)
READINGS:
Annemarie Schimmel, *The Empire of the Great Mughals*, pp.
21-63; Ebba Koch, *The Complete Taj Mahal*, pp. 9—15.

September 22 PATRONS AND ARCHITECTS
READINGS
Ebba Koch, *Mughal Architecture*, pp. 13-14; Ebba Koch, *The Complete Taj Mahal*, pp. 83-84. W. M. Thackston, *The Jahangirnama*, pp. 98-99; W. E. Begley and Z. A. Desai, *Taj Mahal*, pp. xli- xlix.

SOURCES AND RESEARCH

September 24

SOURCES AND RESEARCH

READINGS

Ebba Koch, *Mughal Architecture*, pp. 143-46; Ebba Koch, "Reflections on Mughal Buildings in the Punjab in the Context of an Austrian Project on Islamic Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent", pp. 97-104; browse Mughal monuments in James Fergusson, *History of Indian and Eastern Architecture*; E. B. Havell, *Indian Architecture*, Percy Brown, *Indian Architecture (Islamic Period)*; browse C. B. Asher, *The Architecture of Mughal India*, pp. 335- 56.

THE MUGHAL GARDEN

September 29

BABUR AND THE MUGHAL GARDEN

READINGS:

W. M. Thackston, *The Baburnama*, pp. 359-60, J. L. Wescoat, "Picturing and Early Mughal Garden"; Ebba Koch, "The Mughal Waterfront Garden".

October 1

PALACE GARDENS

READINGS:

Ebba Koch, "Mughal Palace Gardens".

October 6

MUGHAL APPROACHES TO LANDSCAPE AND NATURE

READINGS:

Ebba Koch "My Garden is Hindustan" ; Maria Subtelny, *Le Monde est un Jardin*, pp. 103-06. C. B. Asher, "Babur and the Timurid Char Bagh".

THE MUGHAL CITY

October 8

AGRA – A RIVERFRONT GARDEN CITY

READINGS:

J. L. Wescoat, "Garden versus Citadels: The Territorial Context of Early Mughal Gardens"; Ebba Koch, *The Complete Taj Mahal*, chapter 1.

First paper due in class

MOSQUE AND MADRASA

November 5 MOSQUE AND MADRASA

READINGS:

Ebba Koch, *Mughal Architecture*, pp. 63-66, 83, 117-123, 129-31.

Ebba Koch, "The Madrasa of Ghaziu'd-Din Khan at Delhi".

November 10 PRINCESS JAHANARA'S DUAL PATRONAGE: JAMI`MASJID
VERSUS SUFI MOSQUE
presented with Afshan Bokhari

READINGS:

Ebba Koch, *Mughal Architecture*, pp. 96, 117; *The Complete Taj Mahal*, p. 41; Afshan Bokhari, "The `Light' of the Timuria: Jahan Ara Begum's Patronage, Piety, and Poetry in 17th Century Mughal India", *Marg* 2008 (forthcoming, typescript available)

THE MUGHAL PALACE

November 12 THE GREAT AKBARI SYNTHESIS: FATEHPUR SIKRI

READINGS:

Michael Brand and G. D Lowry, eds. *Fatehpur Sikri*, pp. 121-48; C. B. Asher, *Architecture of Mughal India*, pp. 51-67; Ebba Koch, "The Intellectual and Artistic Climate at Akbar's Court"; browse E. W Smith, *The Moghul Architecture of Fatehpur- Sikri*.

November 17 PALACES AND CEREMONIES

READINGS:

C. B. Asher, *Architecture of Mughal India*, pp. 182-200; Gülru Necipoglu, "Framing the Gaze", pp. 312-318; Annemarie Schimmel, *The Empire of the Great Mughals*, pp. 65-71.

Second paper due in class

ARCHITECTURE AND ALLEGORY

- November 19 MOSQUE AND AUDIENCE HALL
- READINGS:
Ebba Koch, "Diwan-i `Amm and Chihil Sutun"; Jean Sauvaget, "The Mosque and the Palace".
- November 24 THE SOLOMONIC VAULTS OF JAHANGIR
- READINGS:
Ebba Koch, "Jahangir and the Angels"; Priscilla Soucek, "Solomon's Throne/Solomon's Bath".
- November 26 THE NEW ORGANIC STYLE AND THE BALUSTER COLUMN
- READINGS:
Ebba Koch, "The Baluster Column".

Monday 1 December **Thanksgiving Break**

- December 3 SHAH JAHAN'S SOLOMONIC THRONE AT DELHI
- READINGS:
Ebba Koch, *Shah Jahan and Orpheus*.

LATER MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE AND ITS RECEPTION

- December 8 THE DISCOVERY BY THE WEST: EARLY VIEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS
- READINGS:
Mildred Archer, Company paintings, pp. 11-19, 129-32 and browse following illustrations; Mildred Archer, *Early Views of India*, pp. 27-43; John Falconer, "A Passion for Documentation: Architecture and Ethnography", pp. 69-79, 86-93; Maria Antonella Pelizzari, "From Stone to Paper: Photographs of Architecture and the Traces of History", pp. 22-31.

December 10

LATER MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE, AND THE RECEPTION TO
THE PRESENT DAY

READINGS:

Ebba Koch, *Mughal Architecture*, pp. 125-33;

Thomas Metcalfe, *An Imperial Vision*, pp. 66-77

Patrick Conner, *Oriental Architecture in the West*, chaps. 9, 10,
p. 179; Raymond Head, *The Indian Style*, pp. 101-110;

Renata Holod and Hasan-ud Khan, *The Contemporary Mosque*,
pp. 92-94, 148-49.

Third paper due in class

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Asher, C. B., *Architecture of Mughal India, The New Cambridge History of India, 1,4*, (Cambridge, New York, Oakleigh 1992)
- “Babur and the Timurid Char Bagh: Use and Meaning.” In *Mughal Architecture: Pomp and Ceremonies, Environmental Design* (1991, no. 1-2): 46-55
- Archer M., *Early Views of India: The Picturesque Journeys of Thomas and William Daniell 1786–1794* (London 1980)
- *Company Paintings: Indian paintings of the British Period* (London and Ahmedabad, 1992)
- Begley, W. E. and Z. A. Desai *Taj Mahal: The Illumined Tomb: An Anthology of Seventeenth-Century Mughal and European Documentary Sources* (Cambridge 1989)
- Bokhari, A. "The 'Light' of the Timuria: Jahan Ara Begum's Patronage, Piety, and Poetry in 17th Century Mughal India", *Marg* 2008 (forthcoming, typescript available)
- Brand, M., "Orthodoxy, Innovation, and Revival: Considerations of the Past in Imperial Mughal Tomb Architecture", *Muqarnas* 10 (1993), pp.323-34
- Brand, M. and G. D. Lowry eds, *Fatehpur Sikri*, Selected papers from the International Symposium on Fatehpur-Sikri held on October 17-19, at Harvard University, Cambridge MA and Sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Department of Fine Arts at Harvard University (Bombay 1987)
- Brown, P. *Indian Architecture (Islamic Period)*, 6th reprint of the 1956 edition, (Bombay 1975)
- Conner, P. *Oriental Architecture in the West* (London 1979)

- Falconer, J. "A Passion for Documentation: Architecture and Ethnography", in *India through the Lens, Photography 1840–1911* edited by V. Dehejia, (Washington, D.C. 2000), pp. 69-118
- Fergusson, J. *History of Indian and Eastern Architecture*, 1876; revised and edited with additions by James Burgess and R. Phene Spiers, 1910; reprinted London and (New Delhi 1972)
- Havell, E. B. *Indian Architecture: Its Psychology, Structure, and History from the First Muhammadan Invasion to the Present Day*, 1913; 2nd edition (London1927).
- Head, R. *The Indian Style* (London 1986)
- Holod, R. and H. Khan, *The Contemporary Mosque* (New York 1997)
- Jairazbhoy, R. A. "The Taj Mahal in the Context of East and West: A Study in the Comparative Method", *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, 24, 1961, pp. 59-88
- Koch, E. , "The Baluster Column – a European Motif in Mughal Architecture and its Meaning", *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, 45 (1982): 251–62 (repr. in Koch 2001, pp. 38–60)
- "Jahangir and the Angels: Recently Discovered Wall Paintings under European Influence in the Fort of Lahore", in *India and the West*, ed. by J. Deppert (New Delhi 1983), pp. 173–95 (repr. in Koch 2001, pp. 12–37)
- „*Shah Jahan and Orpheus: The Pietre Dure Decoration and the Programme of the Throne in the Hall of Public Audiences at the Red Fort of Delhi* (Graz 1988) (repr. without intro. in Koch 2001, pp.38–129)
- "The Copies of the Qutb Minar", *Iran*, 29, 1991b, pp. 95-107 (repr. in Koch 2001, pp. 269-87)
- "The Delhi of the Mughals prior to Shahjahanabad as Reflected in the Patterns of Imperial Visits", in *Art and Culture: Felicitation Volume in Honour of Professor S. Nurul Hasan*, ed. by A. J. Qaisar and S. P. Verma (Jaipur 1993), pp. 2–20 (repr. with tables of imperial visits in Koch 2001, pp. 163–82)
- "Diwan-i 'Amm and Chihil Sutun: The Audience Halls of Shah Jahan", *Muqarnas* 11 (1994): 143–65 (repr. in Koch 2001, pp. 229–54)

- "The Mughal Waterfront Garden", in Petruccioli 1997, pp. 140–60 (repr. in Koch 2001, pp. 183–202)
 - "Mughal Palace Gardens from Babur to Shah Jahan (1526–1648)", *Muqarnas* 14 (1997): 143–65 (repr. in Koch 2001, pp. 203–28)
 - *Mughal Art and Imperial Ideology: Collected Studies* (New Delhi 2001)
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 - 'The Intellectual and Artistic Climate at Akbar's Court', in J. Seyller, *The Adventures of Hamza: Painting and Storytelling in Mughal India*, exh. cat. (Washington, D.C./London 2002)
 - "The Taj Mahal: Architecture, Symbolism, and Urban Significance", *Muqarnas* 23 (2005): 128–49
 - "Reflections on Mughal Buildings in the Punjab in the Context of an Austrian Project on Islamic Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent". In *Austrian Scholarship in Pakistan: A Symposium Dedicated to the Memory of Aloys Sprenger*. (Islamabad: Austrian Embassy, 1997), pp. 97-143
 - *The Complete Taj Mahal and the Riverfront Gardens of Agra* (London 2006)
 - "The Madrasa of Ghaziu'd-Din Khan at Delh"i, in *The Delhi College*, edited by M. Pernau (New Delhi 2006), pp. 35-58
 - "My Garden is Hindustan: The Mughal Padshah's Realization of a Political Metaphor". in *Middle East Garden Traditions: Unity and Diversity: Questions, Methods and Resources in a Multicultural Perspective*, ed. Michel Conan, papers presented at the 31st Dumbarton Oaks Colloquium on the History of Landscape Architecture, held at Dumbarton Oaks, 2007 (Washington 2007), pp. 158-75.
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