

Rulers And Buildings

1. How is the 'trabeate' principle of architecture different from the arcuate?

Answer:

Trabeate principle of architecture is different from the arcuate principle in the following way:

1. In the trabeate principle, a horizontal beam is placed across two vertical columns and roofs, doors and windows are made.
2. In the arcuate principle, the bricks are joined in an arch shape on a wooden plank, put on two vertical columns, doors, windows, and roofs, and are made arch-shaped. The weight of the doors and windows is carried by arches.

2. What is a shikhara?

Answer: A shikhara is the topmost pointed portion of a temple.

3. What is pietra dura?

Answer: Pietra-dura is the inlays (a series of pictures) that depicted the legendary Greek god Orpheus playing the flute.

4. What are the elements of a Mughal Chahar bagh garden?

Answer: Mughal Chahar bagh consists of four gardens. These gardens are placed within rectangular walled enclosures and divided into four quarters by artificial channels.

5. How did a temple communicate the importance of a king?

Answer:

The temples communicated the importance of a king in the following manner:

1. Name of the temples and the king were almost similar

- **Examples: King:** Rajarajadeva.
- **Temple:** Rajarajeshvara.
- **God:** Rajarajeshvaram

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2. The main Gods were identical in name with the kings.

3. Lesser deities were gods and goddesses of the allies and subordinates of the ruler.

4. Temple was the miniature model of the world ruled by the king and his allies.

6. An inscription in Shah Johan's diwan-i khas in Delhi stated, "If there is Paradise on Earth it is here, it is here, it is here". How was this image created?

Answer: Shah Jahan's diwan-i khas was designed in such a way that it fused together in a grand harmonious synthesis. It was carefully planned. It was placed within a large courtyard. Behind the emperor's throne there were a series of pietra-dura inlays. It depicted the legendary god Orpheus playing the lute. The diwan-e khas was aimed to communicate that the king's justice would treat the high and the low as equals, creating a world where all could live together in harmony. The diwan-i khas reflected the image of a paradise in itself.

7. How did the Mughal court suggest that everyone—the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak—received justice equally from the emperor?

Answer: The Diwan-i am of the Mughal court suggested that justice was made for all in an equal way. The construction of Shah Jahan's audience hall was designed to communicate that the king's justice was equal for the high and the low. Its aim was to create a world where all could live together in harmony. There was no difference between the rich and poor in the emperor's court.

8. What role did the Yamuna play in the layout of the new Mughal city at Shahjahanabad?

Answer:

The Yamuna played the following role in the layout of the new Mughal city at Shahjahanabad.

1. The palace was commanded by the riverfront.
2. Only the specially favoured nobles like Dara Shukoh were given access to the river.
3. All others had to construct their houses far away from the river Yamuna.

9. The rich and powerful construct large houses today. In what ways were the constructions of kings and their courtiers different in the past?

Answer:

The constructions of kings and their courtiers were different in the past in the following ways:

1. Safety and security was a major consideration.
2. Diwan-i am was constructed for the general public.
3. The constructions were carried out on uplands and surrounded by water bodies.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was limestone cement used in the construction of large structures? [V. Imp.]

Answer: Limestone cement was very high-quality cement, which, when mixed with stone chips hardened into concrete. This made the construction of large structures easier and faster.

2. How did the Persian court chronicles describe the Sultan?

Answer: Persian court chronicles described the Sultan as the 'Shadow of God'.

3. Name the ruler who won universal respect for constructing a large reservoir just – outside Delhi-i kuhna?

Answer: Sultan Iltutmish.

4. What are the special features of Humayun's tomb?

Answer: (a) It has a central towering dome.
(b) It has a tall gateway (pishtaq).

5. What was maha mandapa?

Answer: It was the main hall in the temple where dances were performed.

6. Name the temple built by king Rajarajadeva.

Answer: Rajarajeshvara temple.

7. When was the tomb of Hanuman built?

Answer: It was built between 1562 and 1571.

8. Who constructed the Kandariya Mahadeva temple?

Answer: King Dhangadeva of the Chandela dynasty constructed the Kandariya Mahadeva temple.