

History of the Art of India, Part I: Origins to Mughals

Week 8. Islamic India: Early Mughal Architecture and Painting

Important points covered:

- Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate by the Mamluk dynasty
- Architectural characteristics of monuments of the Mamluk dynasty, e.g., the late 12th-century Quwwat ul-Islam mosque (e.g., re-use of Hindu pillars, corbeled arches, contrast of different colored building materials) and the early 13th-century Qutb Minar (e.g., Arabic calligraphy, carved balconies)
- Conquest of the Delhi Sultanate by Babur, 1526, and establishment of the Mughal dynasty
- Eclectic attitude toward religion by emperor Akbar
- Characteristics of tomb of Akbar's father Humayun (e.g., division into squares, water channels, garden as paradise)
- Akbar's building of a new capital at Fatehpur Sikri, and some of its monuments (holy man's tomb, Panch Mahal, hall of audience); and later abandonment of the city
- Artists and technical processes used in Akbar's painting workshop
- Some styles and characteristics of illustrated books produced in Akbar's workshop, including works that are traditional Islamic, Mughal imperial, Hindu, and Christian

A. Pre-Mughal: History and Monuments

A1. Early history of invasion and conquest

MAP: Delhi Sultanate under Mamluk dynasty, ca.1250

A2. Quwwat ul-Islam mosque and Qutb Minar

A2a. Quwwat ul-Islam mosque, 1192-98

IMAGE: Quwwat ul-Islam mosque, 1192-1198, north view of mosque courtyard

IMAGE: Quwwat ul-Islam mosque, 1192-1198, double-stacked columns

TERM: tribhanga

IMAGE: Quwwat ul-Islam mosque, 1192-1198, screen wall with arches and iron Vishnu pillar

IMAGE: Quwwat ul-Islam mosque, 1192-1198, screen wall with arches, detail of carved leaf decorations and Koranic calligraphy

A2b. Qutb Minar

IMAGE: Qutb Minar, 1199-1220

IMAGE: Qutb Minar, 1199-1220, detail of carvings near base

A3. Later history of pre-Mughal dynasties

MAP: Delhi Sultanate at greatest extent under Tughlaq dynasty, 1330-1335

IMAGE: Firuz Shah Fort with Ashoka pillar, 1351-88

IMAGE: Tomb of Mohammed Shah Lodi, 1434-44, Lodi Gardens, Delhi

B. Mughals: Emperor Akbar's Architecture

B1. Introduction and History

MAP: Mughal empire under Akbar (showing Lahore, Delhi, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri)

B2. Humayun's Tomb

IMAGE: Humayun's tomb, front view

IMAGE: Humayun's tomb, plan

TERM: char-bagh

IMAGE: Humayun's tomb, interior

TERM: cenotaph

IMAGE: Humayun's tomb, angled view from above

B3. Fatehpur Sikri

B3a. Introduction

B3b. Buland Darwaza (high gate), 1575

IMAGE: Fatehpur Sikri, Buland Darwaza (high gate)

B3c. Tomb of Shaykh Salim Chishti, 1580-81

IMAGE: Fatehpur Sikri, tomb of shaykh Salim Chishti

IMAGE: Fatehpur Sikri, tomb of shaykh Salim Chishti, detail of serpentine bracket

IMAGE: Fatehpur Sikri, tomb of shaykh Salim Chishti, detail of hall with jali

IMAGE: Fatehpur Sikri, tomb of shaykh Salim Chishti, detail of jali

TERM: jali

B3d. Panch Mahal (5-story palace), 1571-76

IMAGE: Fatehpur Sikri, Panch Mahal (5-story palace)

TERM Panch Mahal

B4. Red Fort at Agra, 1565-1570s

IMAGE: Red Fort at Agra, 1564-1570s and 1628-37, view from land toward West gate

C. Mughals: Emperor Akbar's Painting Workshop

C1. Workshop, style, process, artists

IMAGE: Portrait of Abu al-Hasan Painting, by Daulat, from Gulshan Album, ca.1610, Golestan Palace

TERM: Miniature

C2. Pre-Mughal Hindu and Persian painting

IMAGE: *The Gopis Plead with Krishna to Return Their Clothing*, Folio from dispersed "Isarda" *Bhagavata Purana*, unknown artist, 1560-65, Delhi-Agra area, watercolor and ink on paper, 7 3/8" x 10 1/8", Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

IMAGE: *King Khusrow Discovers Shirin Bathing in a Pool*; Safavid dynasty, 1548; Shiraz, Persia; 12.2 x 7.7"; watercolor, silver, and gold on paper; Freer Gallery, Washington

C3. Islamic books & painting: *Hamza Nama*, 1562-77

IMAGE: (*Led by Songhur Balkhi and Lulu the Spy*), *the Ayyars Slit the Throats of Prison Guards and Free Sa'id Farrukh-Nizhad*, artist unknown, image from the *Hamzanama*, ca.1562-1577, watercolor and gold on cotton cloth, ca.27" x 21", Brooklyn Museum

C4. Mughal books & painting: *Akbar Nama*, 1590-95

IMAGES: Left and right sides of page of: *Akbar on Elephant Havai Chases Elephant Ran Bagha across a Pontoon Bridge over the Jamuna River*, from *Akbar Nama* by Abu Fazl, ca.1590-95, ca.14" x 9", water-based paint on paper, outline by Basawan, painting by Chatai, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

C5. Hindu books & painting: *Harivamsa*, ca.1585

IMAGE: *Krishna Enthroned in the Golden City of Dwaraka*, from *Harivamsa*, ca.1585, watercolor on paper, 9 x 6 3/4", Freer Gallery, Washington

C6. European Christian books & painting

IMAGE: *St. Jerome*, by Kesu Das, ca.1580-85, watercolor on paper, 17x10", Musee Guimet, Paris

IMAGE: *The Drunkenness of Noah*, by Michelangelo Buonarroti, Sistine Chapel ceiling, fresco, 1508-1510

IMAGE: Polyglot Bible, *Pietas Regia*, from second title page, 1568-1573

IMAGE: Female allegorical figure, Nar Singh in style of Basawan, ca.1585-90, 8.8 x 5.6", Freer Gallery, Washington

IMAGE: *Crucifixion*, Albrecht Durer, 1511, from series *The Passion*

IMAGE: *Saint John the Evangelist*, by Abu al-Hasan, 1600-01, based on St. John from Durer's *Crucifixion* engraving of 1511, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

C7. After Akbar: Jahangir

IMAGE: *Celebrations at the Accession of Jahangir*, from *Jahangir Nama*, Abu al-Hasan, ca.1615-18 [St. Petersburg Album], Institute of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg, Russia

End of week 8