

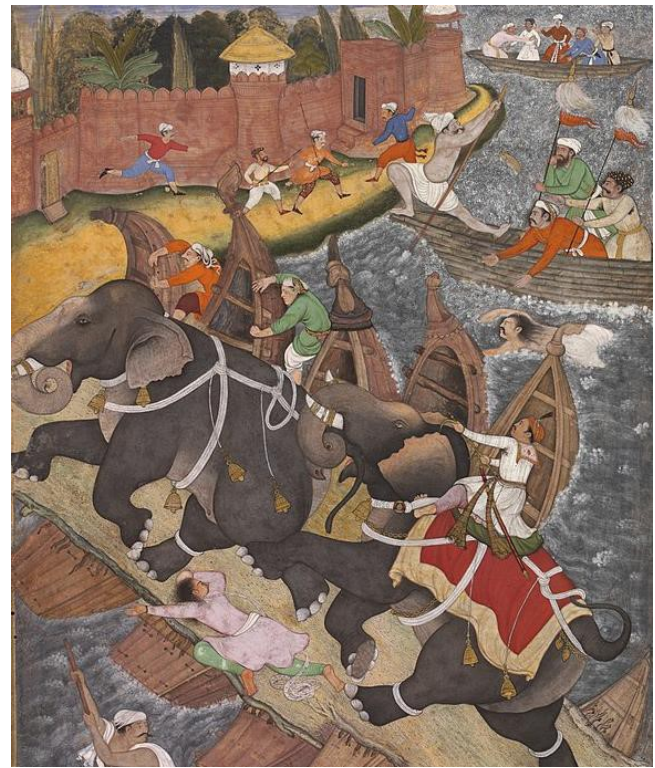
History of the Art of India, Part I: Origins to Mughals



OLLI
Spring 2024

Week 8

Extra slides



Islamic India: Early Mughal Architecture and Painting

Islamic India:

Early Mughal Architecture and Painting

- A. Pre-Mughal: History and Monuments
- B. Mughals: Emperor Akbar's Architecture
- C. Mughals: Emperor Akbar's Painting Workshop

A2a. Quwwat ul-Islam mosque, 1192-98

- Sultan Ala al-Din Khalji completed extension of Quwwat ul-Islam mosque complex with a ceremonial gateway in 1311
- True arch and true dome indicate local craftsmen quickly learned these new techniques

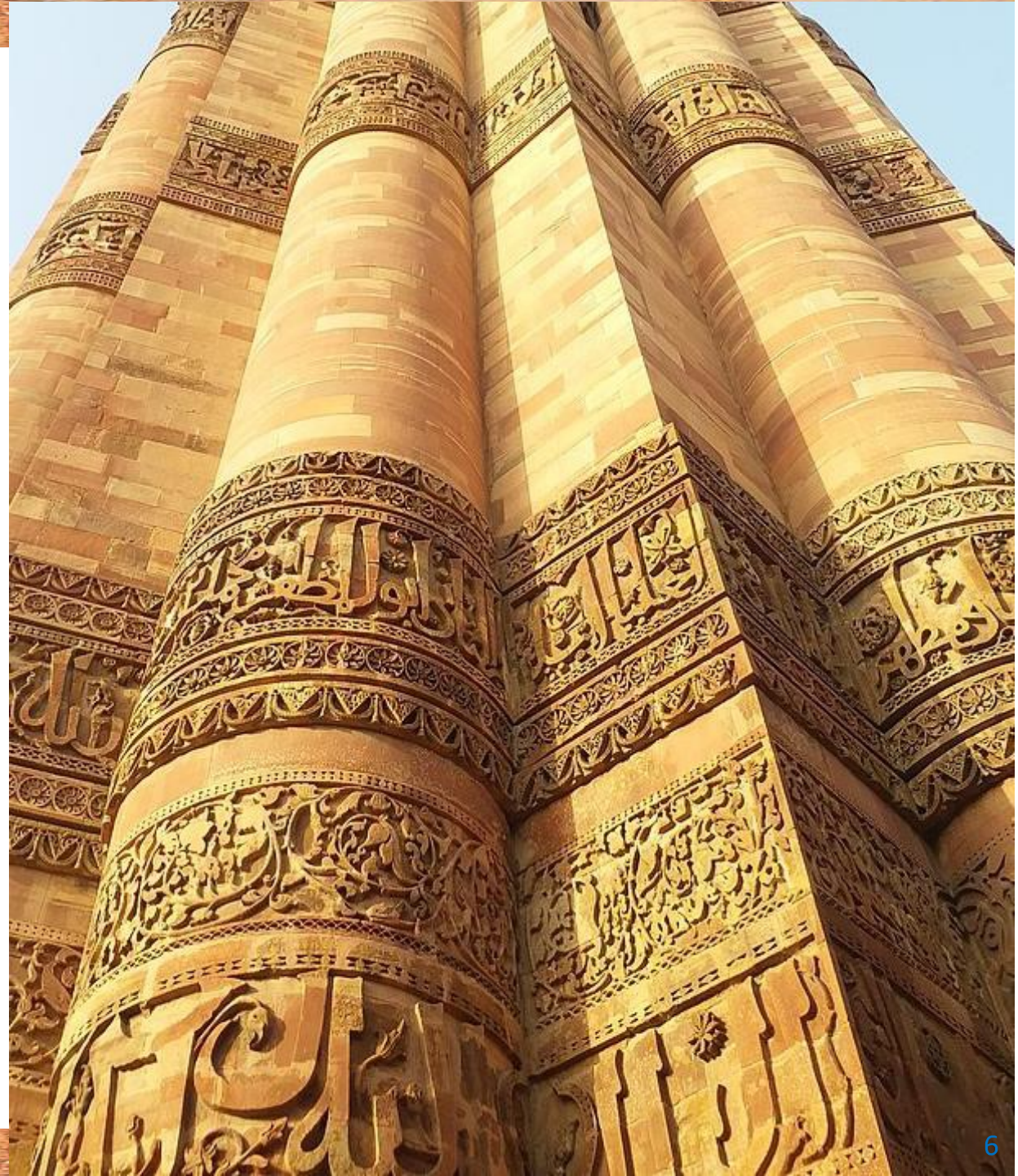


- Beginning of Islamic decorative tendency: red sandstone + white marble in geometric forms, repetition and symmetry
- Singleness of God and his presence everywhere



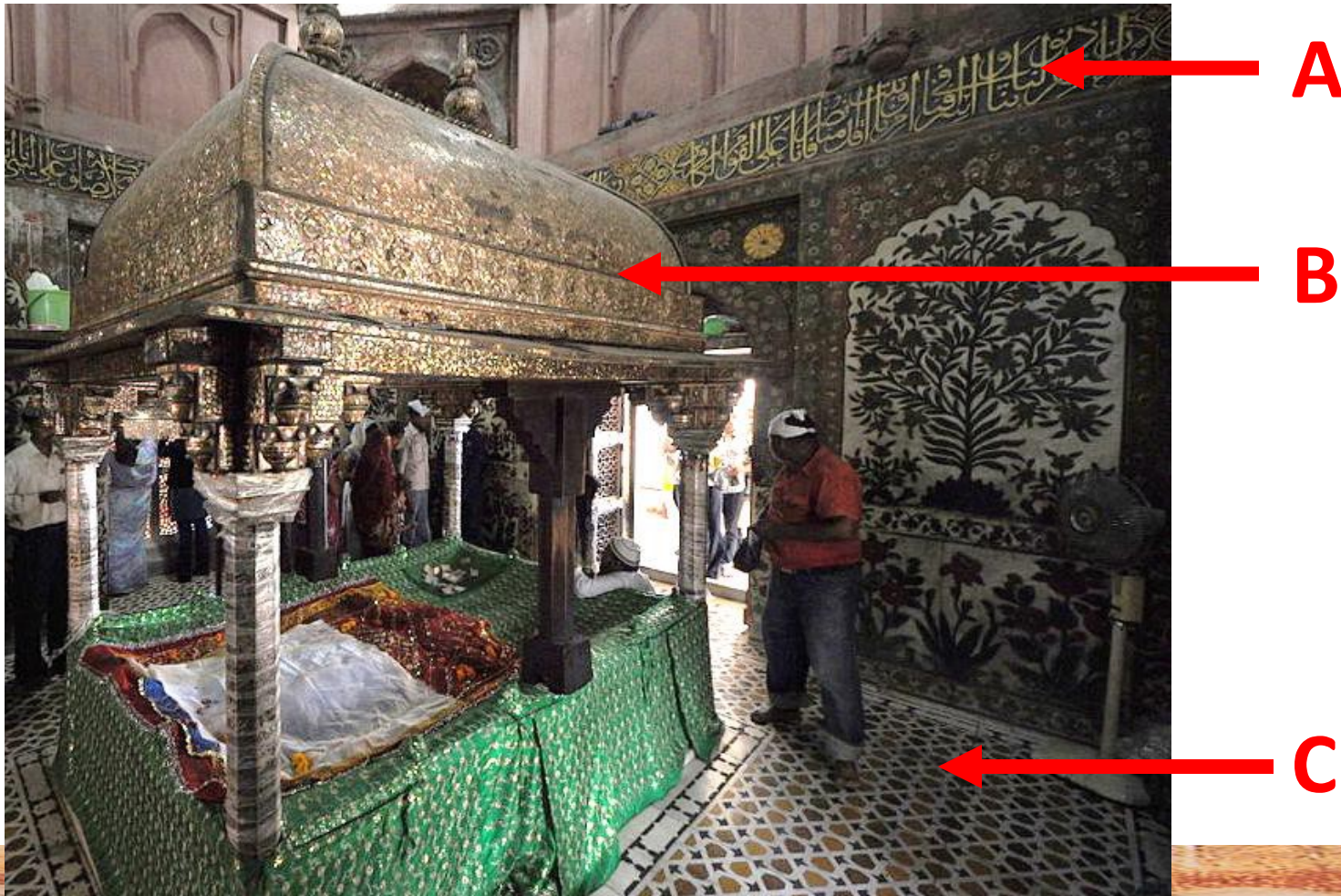
A2b. Qutb Minar

- Lower 3 stories:
Alternating
round columns
and square
pillars in red and
buff sandstone,
with bands of
carving in Islamic
calligraphy



B3c. Tomb of Shayk Salim Chishti, 1580-81

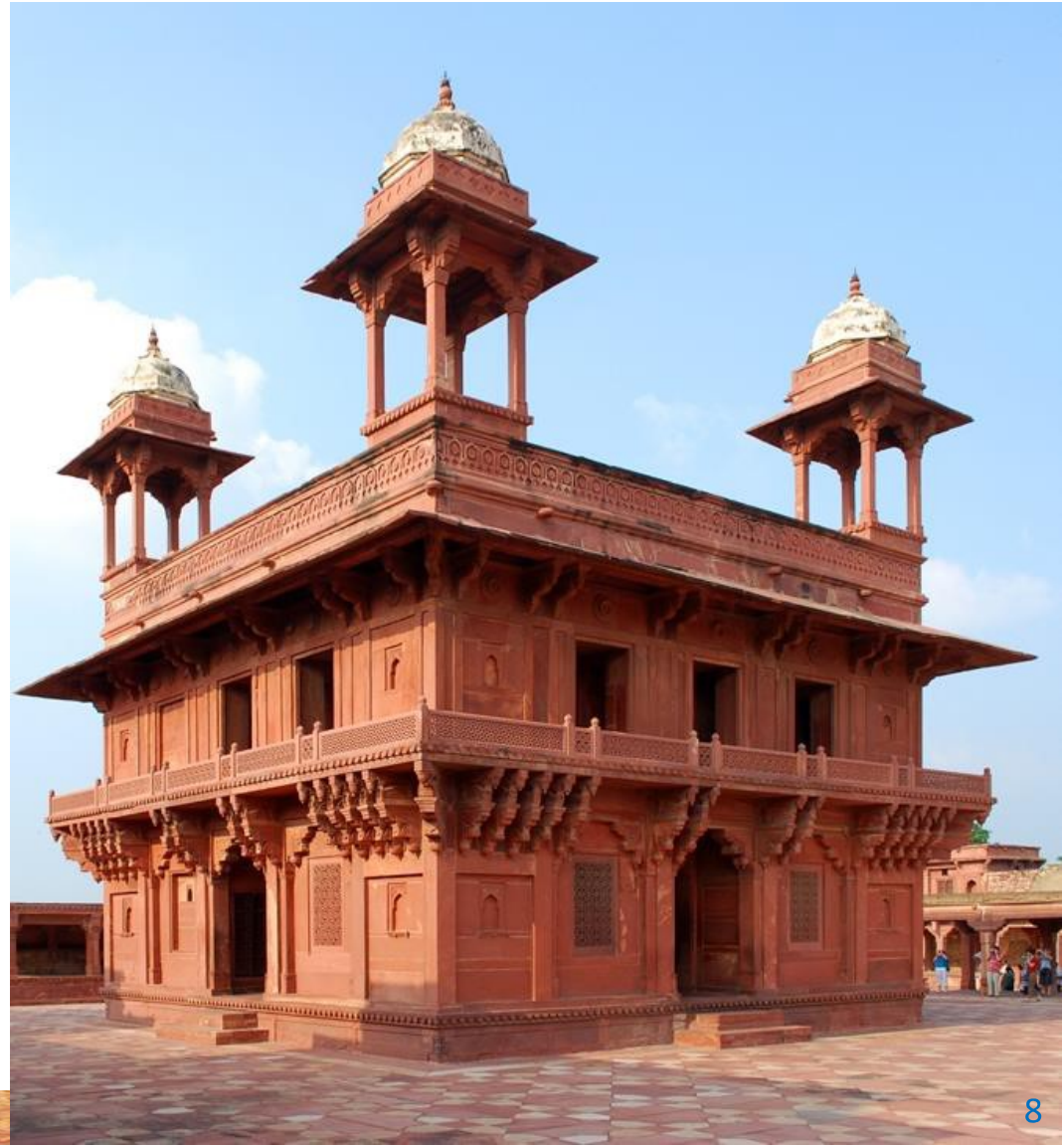
- Interior: Koranic inscriptions on walls (A)... tomb canopy covered with mother-of-pearl (B)... marble floor inlaid with precious stones (C)



B3. Fatehpur Sikri

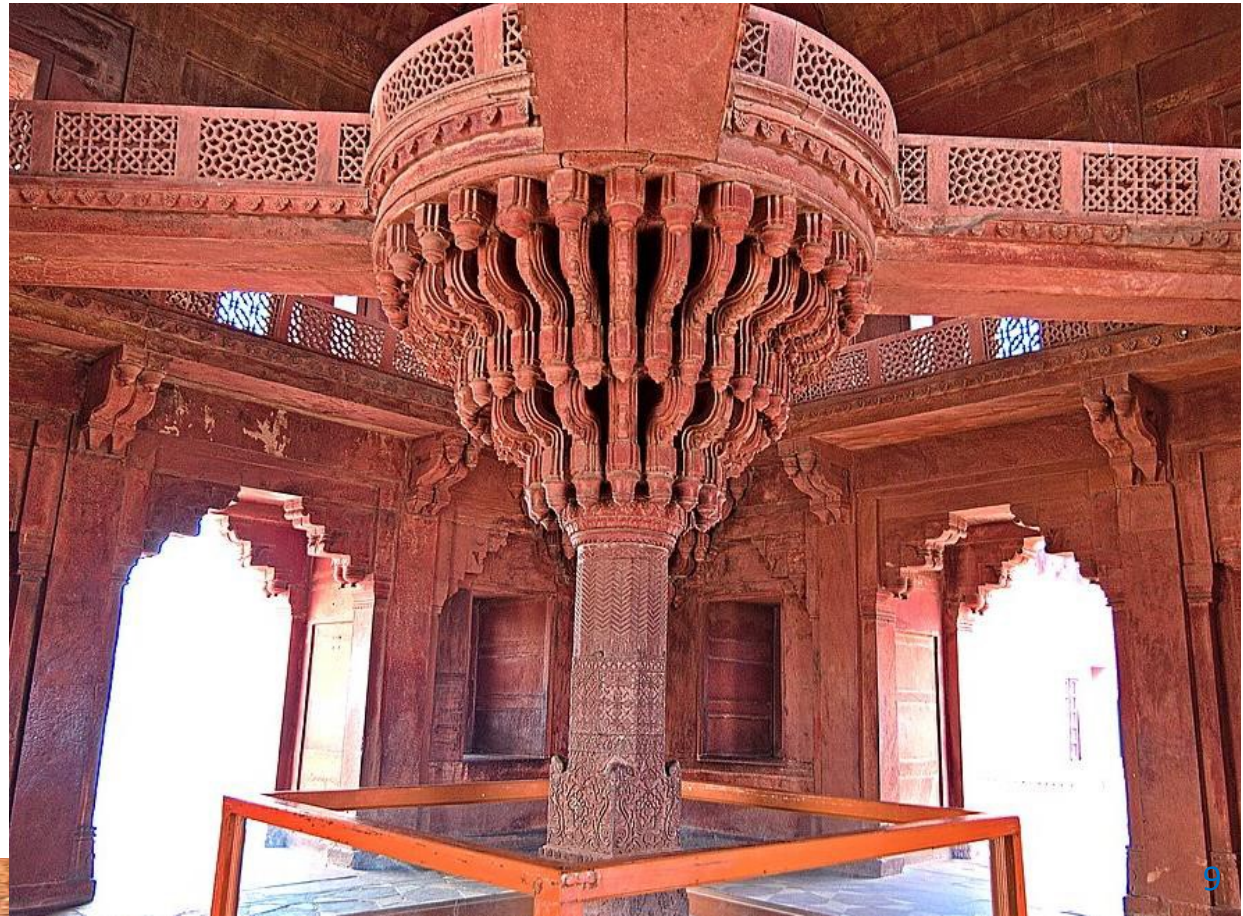
B3e. Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Public Audience) 1571-76

- Use is uncertain (despite the name)
- 2 stories topped by 4 corner kiosks
- 1585, Akbar leaves Sikri for Lahore, probably to be closer to troubled frontier regions of empire
- 1598 returns to Agra



B3e. Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Public Audience) 1571-76

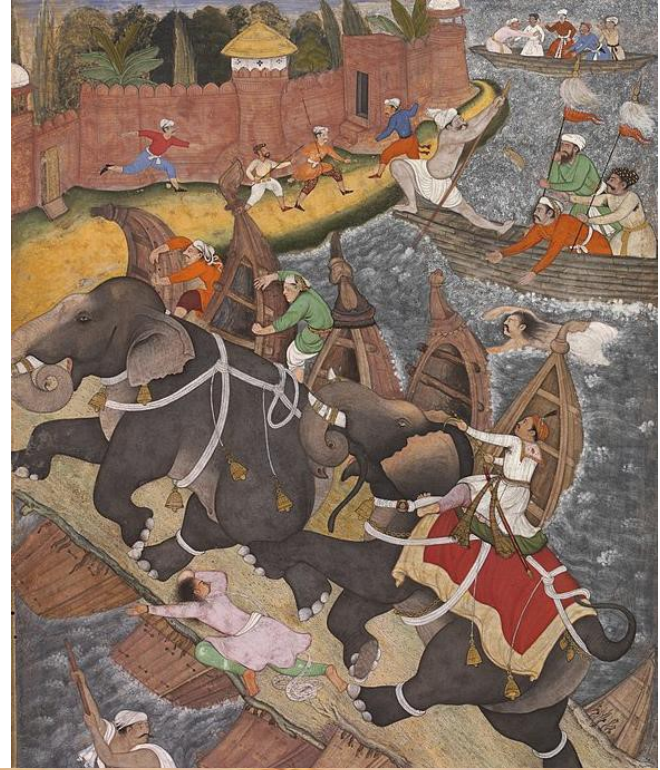
- Interior: central pillar with lavish capital
- Above the capital, a circular platform, connected by walkways to a gallery along the interior wall
- Akbar enthroned on this platform, holding audience
- **Dehejia:** Akbar proclaiming himself axis mundi and central pillar of the Mughal empire



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