

RECREATING MUGHAL STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE INTERIORS OF A CAFE

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Abstract: Mughal architecture is known for its richness and lavish details of the both exterior and interior. The current study would discuss about recreating mughal style of architecture in context of a cafe, using the elements of Mughal architecture preferably modernizing them to use it in a contemporary style cafe. A literature study of different monuments from mughal architecture to see and identify the elements used in those and reviewing them and a case study of a cafe which is in contemporary mughal style of architecture will be included in this study. The use of all these elements in designing a cafe will conclude the study.

Index Terms - Mughal architecture, Interiors, Cafe.

I. INTRODUCTION

An architectural style comprising the characteristics styles of Indo-Islamic-Persian that flourished in Indian during Mughal's rule dated 1526-1857 is the Mughal style of Architecture. There were many monuments build in this style during their period including Qutub minar, Taj mahal, Humayun's tomb etc., Mughal monuments are mostly found in India and few parts of Pakistan which was former India.

The key elements of Mughal architecture includes Shell dome construction, Pointed arches, Use of geometry, proportion and scale, Bilateral symmetry, Geometric ornamentation, Extensive use of landscape, Carved stonework and intricate details for jaalis, Chajjas and jharokhas- Projecting balconies with pillars supporting them, Chatris on ornamented pillars, Building materials: Red sandstone and white marble, Marble inlay work and tile work.

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE

Different types of buildings: The mughal monuments includes tombs(Humayun tombs, Taj mahal), palaces, mosques(Badshahi Mosque , Lahore, Pakistan), public buildings, forts (Red fort) etc..

Blend of different styles: Mughal architecture is a perfect of Indo- Persian and Islamic styles. The specimens created show the clear depiction of all of these styles in the buildings.

Important characteristics: Few characteristics of the mughal buildings which stand out in most of the buildings are the domes, rich ornamentation of the pillars, broad gateways and the specific corner details.

Rich decor: The Mughal monuments are known for their rich ornamentation details, costly articles, paintings which make them outstanding compared to any of the other building.

Building material: Various materials were used in Mughal monuments, most of the buildings were made of red stone and white marble.

The main features include:

White marble surfaces, hemispherical domes and arches constructed with baked brick, fine cut and rubble masonry for walls, marble inlays, symmetrical plans and gardens around the building, ceramic tile decor, intricate jaalis.

III. CAFE

A cafe is a place like a restaurant where mostly tea/ coffee are served along with light refreshments and some baked food.

It is a social setting where people gather and meet, chat, read newspapers/magazines or play board games. A space to communicate and exchange of information with people.

How does architecture help in a cafe's performance?

So often, we see advertisements showing cafes newly opened in the town of this theme and so on, which is indeed talking about the design of the cafe influenced by the architecture of the space.

Architecture of the place creates a mood to the place which plays an important role in the performance of the cafe.

Why Mughal architecture theme?

Mughal style or any grandeur in that case is only experienced in huge resorts or hotels but not in a place like a cafe where socializing would happen more, this study would be an experiment on how to use these elements in case of cafe.

IV. LITERATURE STUDY:

This is a cafe in Jaipur designed based on the Jaipur rich heritage and architectural style, though the case study is not directly related to the topic of mughal style but seeks the essence of the space replicating architectural style in a contemporary fashion.

Case study: Farzi cafe, Jaipur

Building type: Cafe

Designers: Sushant Verma and Anchal Chaudhary

Area: 5000 sq.ft

Location: Jaipur, Rajasthan

The designers have designed the café fusing the Jaipur’s heritage and architectural elements to contextualize and have the spatial experience of Jaipur city. The whole design was carried out on computational and digital fabrication to bring out the experience. Design elements such as symmetry, proportion and hierarchy were carried out with the use of semicircular arches, hemispherical domes and hybrid vaults in the interiors.

The café accommodates 113 people inside and 28 in the patio. There are different types of seating all over like high seating in the bar, dining chairs, Banquet seating and sofas. Outdoor furniture in the patio is used to set up a perfect café look.

Perfect blend of colors, patterns and the materials significantly show the rich heritage of Jaipur.



Figure 1 Picture showing the entrance of the cafe

MATERIALS AND FEATURES

- Polished brass profiles of width 50mm and 2mm thick are on the café walls and columns in continuation with the arches and door design and brass polished railings compliments the arches.
- Different types of flooring are used to demarcate the hierarchy like handmade tiles, wooden flooring and Italian for fine dining and normal dining areas.
- Four feet wide double door for the entrance of the café and single leaf doors for all other areas.
- Hemispherical domes, jaali works and the chandeliers are used in the interiors.
- Parametric design includes the metal light pipe which form like an arch shaped curved vaults over the bar area and hanging crystal and bronze finished elements with operable LED lights



Figure 2 Picture showing the parametric design of the chandelier



Figure 3 Picture showing the parametric design of the vault in the bar

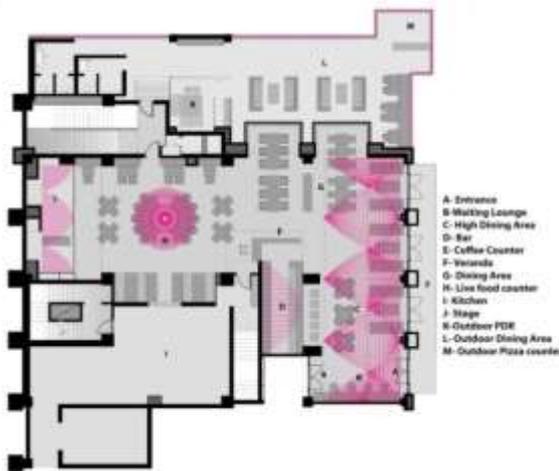


Figure 6 Plan of the Farzi cafe

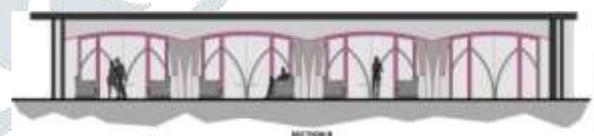


Figure 4 Section



V. CONCLUSION

V.I. Plan:

- Typical Mughal nine fold plan is used for developing the plan as a conceptual idea .
- Centralized planning with a central focal point, which can be used as the reception and billing area.

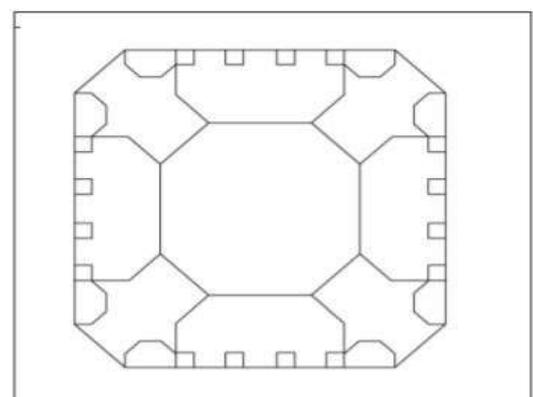
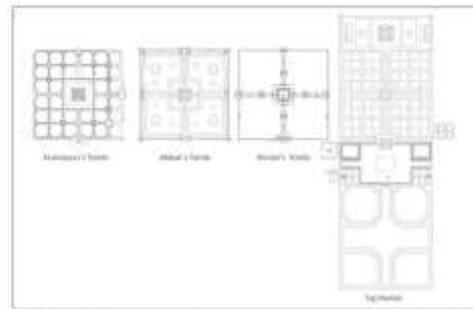
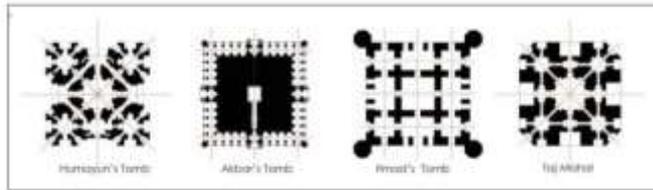


Figure 6: Typical Mughal Nine fold plan. (Source: Authors).

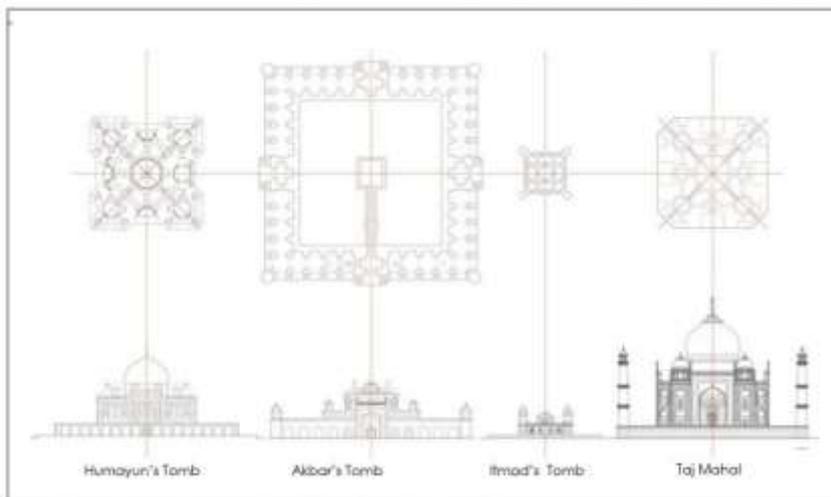
- The four wings away from the centre point can be used as lobby/ entrance area, fine dining, casual dining, bar areas respectively.



V.II. Outdoor area:

- Outdoor seating area/patio with symmetrical designed garden area like mughal gardens known for its elements and hard scape features.
- Outdoor furniture places in the patio in a perfect setting of a cafe.
- Fountains and outdoor lighting, benches and trees around would be included.

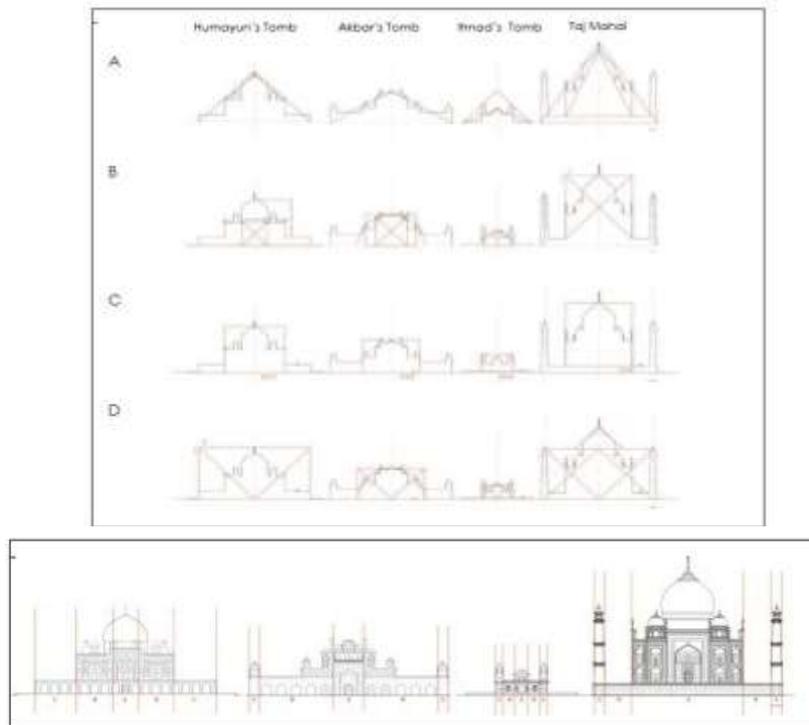
V.III.View:



- Framed view to the internal spaces through arcade and from corridor of the courtyard to the courtyard.
- Hierarchy of the seating like high seating chairs for the bar, low lying comfortable seats for the fine dining, and sofas for the casual dining.

V.IV. Rhythm:

- Ensuring the whole design of the cafe follows a rhythm in space making and follows the flow of the path, defining hierarchy of the spaces and ensuring a good experience.
- Rhythm in terms of colours, textures, height and geometry.
- Proportion in terms of heights and of the spaces to differentiate the spaces within the cafe.
- Overall composition to make it look as one unit



V.V. Materials:

- Building materials such as White marble and inlaid stonework for the flooring, gypsum carvings on the walls and ceiling.
- Ornamented columns decorated with gypsum, and intricate jaalis of marble as window screens
- Paintings on walls and heavy chandeliers in the spaces
- Use of arches and vaults to improve the aesthetic sense and make it look more rich



Picture one showing the typical mughal pillars ornamented and finished with gypsum on it, likewise the picture showing how to incorporate them in a contemporary with little details and though giving it a classy look.



Picture 1 showing Humayun tomb and the huge arch at the entrance, likewise depicting the similar arch though in a semicircular fashion used in the fine dining of a contemporary café.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

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