



Mosque Revolution and Architectural Timeline in Bangladesh: Sultanate Period (1204 AD) to Modern Era - Contemporary Trend (2020)

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ABSTRACT

The mosque is considered to be the house of God for the Spiritual activities of Muslims all over the world. Muslim rules were established in Bengal at the beginning of the thirteenth century. The journey of the architectural style of mosques in Bangladesh started during the independent sultanate period. Considering the order and time of the establishment of mosques in Bangladesh, the Sultanate period, Mughal period and Modern period mosques (contemporary trends) can be seen. At the beginning of the Mughal period, there was a transition period after the sultanate period. At the end of the Mughal period, the journey of the British Colonial period started and after 2000 AD can be considered as a completely Contemporary modern period. The scenario of mosque architecture in Bangladesh has been developed through a lot of evolution and transformation, from the Sultanate period, Mughal period, Transitional period, Colonial period to Modern Era (contemporary trends). The main purpose of this research paper is to discuss the overall and evolutionary concept of the history of mosques and creating a timeline for the construction in respect of Bangladesh. This timeline will include the name of different types of mosque architecture, period of construction, location, still image, distribution according to different times etc. On the basis of this information, a comprehensive idea of the architectural features of the mosque architecture can be found in the form of graphics that will enrich our timeline. A chronological method from the literature review is created to figure out each stage of culture, religion and evolution of the Mosque. The more versatile talents that will be revealed in the research paper will include the combination of time and transition. Comparisons between the previous mosque architecture and the subsequent or, next to mosque architecture, architectural comparisons and the effect of time change etc. can be seen. Through this paper, therefore, the mosque Architecture of Bangladesh has been divided into six times or periods. Here's an example of a mosque with the deployment of identity that has been drawn to include more over time the identity of mosque architecture, features and graphical analysis.

1. Introduction

A mosque (also called masjid), is a place of worship for Muslims. (Esposito, 2014) The mosque is termed as the house of Allah, the main centre of the Muslim Ummah. In the mosque, the worshipers perform their prayers five times a day. The mosque is the main means for Muslims to surrender themselves to Allah. A mosque is not only a place for prayers also a great social centre. Mosques commonly

serve as a centre for Ramadan activities (another Muslim ritual), funeral services, Sufi ceremonies, marriage and business agreements, grants collection and distribution, as well as homeless shelters.[02]

The mosque is the main building in Islamic art and architecture. A mosque is not just a building, it's an image of society, culture and a certain period of the country. At present, there are about 250,000 in Bangladesh (bdnews24.com, n.d.). The mosque used for the Friday

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communal prayer, is the main mosque of the city, literally meaning “Friday mosque,” It’s also called a congregational mosque in English. The style, layout, and decoration of a mosque can tell us a lot about Islam in general, but also about the period and region in which the mosque was constructed. The home of the Prophet Muhammad is considered the first mosque. His house, in Medina in modern-day Saudi Arabia, was a typical seventh-century Arabian style house, with a large courtyard surrounded by long rooms supported by columns. This style of the mosque came to be known as a hypostyle mosque, meaning “many columns.” Most mosques built in Arab lands utilized this style for centuries”.

The main purpose of this research paper is to create a specific architectural update so that a balanced timeline of the mosque from the previous period to the present will be maintained. A great context of the architectural style of the mosque has been working in this Bengal. It can be seen that many changes have taken place in the mosque over time as socio-cultural and political activities. Many features of the Sultanate in the Mughal period are similar. Again, the changes are a lot in detail features in terms of Architecture and there is a lot of differences are featured between the Mughal period to the Pakistan period. Whereas modern mosques are completely different in terms of architectural characteristics and details. To comprehend the architectural styles, it is important to return to time for a better understanding of the Islamic origin to the chronology and influences. A chronology method is adapted from a study that includes 150 iconic mosques in Bangladesh from Sultanate period to Modern era for over 800 years.

2. Problem Statement

Each mosque is as architecturally remarkable structure as it is one. Muslim conquests took place in Bengal in the early 13th century. The Muslim conquest added an important chapter to the history of Bengali architecture. There are many Islamic structures such as mosques, shrines, madrasas, khanqahs and darbar sharifs built by the Muslim rulers of Bengal. The first to achieve this feat was the victorious hero Ikhtiyar al-Din Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji (1204 AD). (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018)

The mosques from the sultanate period at the early 13th century are most notable mosques at Bengal. They carried an important characteristic of Islamic Architecture of Bengal. The mosques of the Mughal period were inspired by the Sultanate period. In the early phase of Mughal period were synthesized the Sultanate as well as the Mughal features (Mosque Architecture in Bangladesh). There exist a few examples of mosques belonging to the transitional phase or early phase, where few of the Pre-Mughal innovations were continued and developed to suit Mughal intensions. Again, the mosques of the later period were inspired by the mosques of the Mughal period. In the case of modern mosques, the issue of inspiration is deeply involved. The concept of a modern mosque is clear, inspired

by the Sultanate and Mughal periods. Moreover, the influence of foreign and contemporary architecture styles blend in with the old architectural style in modern mosques.

The Problem statements of this study are:

- The historical timeline, construction period and features of the mosque architecture from sultanate to the modern era (contemporary trends).
- The factors that influence the architectural features of mosque through these timelines.



Figure 01 - Corridor of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at Dhaka, Corridor of Sixty Dome Mosque at Bagerhat, Inside Pillar's of Baba Adam Mosque, Inside Pillar's of Sixty Dome Mosque at Bagerhat.

3. Research Method

This study is focused to document an updated mosque architectural timeline and development phases from Sultanate period to Modern era (contemporary trends) and to identify the influencing factors of mosque architecture throughout the eras.

Chronological Methodology

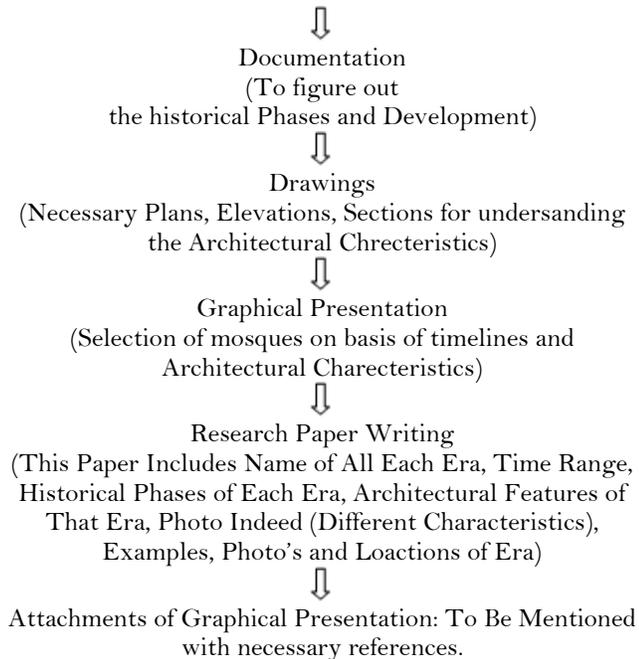
Literature Review and draw some research questions (Question Related to timeline and figure out when each stage of cultural, religion, and evolution took place)

↓

Site/Aerial/Google Survey

↓

Find out of different Categories of Mosques and Their Timeline through a comprehensive analysis of architecture history, typologies and influences



Therefore, this study concluded into six phases of mosque development I) Sultanate Period, II) The Transitional period of the Sultanate and Mughal period, III) Mughal period, IV) Colonial period, V) Pakistani Rule, VI) Modern Era (contemporary trends). A lot of literature review, site survey and perseverance are involved with this research paper. Through perseverance it is possible to compose a complete, informative and fruitful paper. All documentations are most informative and self-contained. This information is accompanied by a graphical presentation. This paper is covered - the duration, location, historical significance, architectural features, accurate photos, examples, etc. of each timeline and mosque.

4. Findings

The timeline of mosque architecture is divided into chronological order. Each time was controlled by a ruler or king. Such as Sufi saints during the Sultanate period, kings and subedars during the Mughal period, British influence and prestige during the Colonial period, rulers during the Pakistan period and patrons of modern meditation ideas and architectural style in the Modern era. The change in the style of mosque architecture in Bangladesh has been divided into six parts.

- A. Sultanate Period (1204 AD to 1575 AD)
- B. The Transitional Period of the Sultanate and Mughal Period (1500 AD)
- C. Mughal Period (1576 AD – 1757 AD)
- D. Colonial Period such as - Late Colonial and After Colonial Period (1757 AD - 1947 AD)
- E. Pakistani Rule (1947 AD-1971 AD)
- F. Modern Era - Contemporary Trends (2001-2020)

A. Sultanate Period (1204 AD to 1575 AD)

The Sultanate period started from the beginning of the 13th century. From the 13th century to the 16th century, many religious structures were built in this Bengal.

Architectural Features of the Sutanate Period

01. Building Material – The Bengal Sultanate normally used brick as the primary construction material of large buildings, as pre-Islamic buildings had done. The use of bricks in Bengal instead of stone was a sight to be hold. Because Soil, water and clay were readily available in this Bengal. Stones have been used in the construction of mosques and in some cases in the exterior and interior of the walls, columns and prominent details. For example– Galdi Mosque at Sonargaon, Baba Adam Mosque at Rampal etc.

02. Curved Cornish– One important feature of the Sultanate period was the use of curved cornices. The origin of this very small curved cornice is from the architectural features of Bengal itself. Such a feature can be called "Bamboo style". Many cottages and huts from the rural Bengal have these reflections of the curved bamboo. And this tradition is the origin of the curved cornice.

03. Sloping Roof - Another architectural characteristics was derived from nature is the sloping roof. Climate, humidity and rainfall increase the use of sloping roofs to drain rain water in rural Bengal. For example - Sixty domed mosque at Bagerhat.



Figure 02–Curved Cornice of Sultanate Mosque (Singar Mosque)

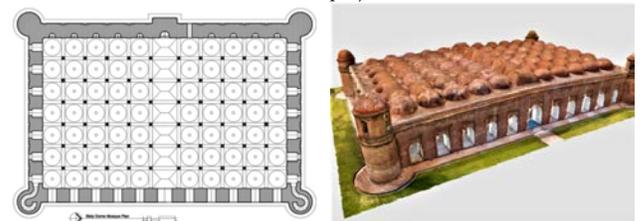


Figure 03- The slope roof and 3D View of the Sixty domed mosque at Bagerhat

04. Corner Torrents -The corner towers are another attributed to Bengal's own architectural features. The main structure of the dwelling house built in Bengal since ancient times is the poles built across the four corners. The modified form of this pole system is the corner tower as bamboo poles have knots. These corner towers were decorated with grooves and designed with an equal height of the roof.



Figure 04- Corner Torrents at Chunakhola Mosque. Chunakhola Mosque Corner Torrents

05. Dome -The main attraction of the architecture of the Sultanate period is the dome. These domes are quite large in size. The domes are low rounded. Slight parapets are seen around the dome. The domes of the Sultanate period look like cups or guava. There is no decoration on these domes. The exterior of the domes are lined with brick plaster. There are single dome, three domes, six domes, nine domes, sixty dome mosques were seen at Sultanate Period.

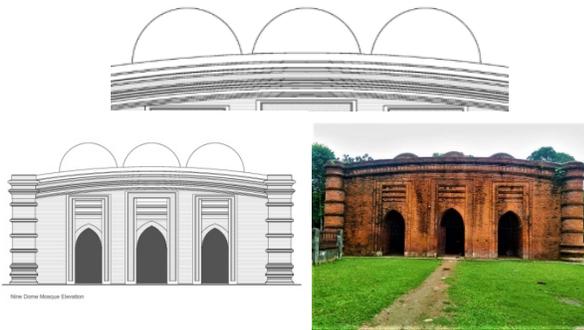


Figure 05- Dome at Nine Domed Mosque. Nine dome Mosque Dome

06. Pendentive Method- Pendentive method is one of the most used or applied style of architecture of Bengal during the Sultanate period. The application of this method are seen in almost all the mosque architectures of the Sultanate period. In architecture, a pendentive is a constructional device permitting the placing of a circular dome over a square room or of an elliptical dome over a rectangular room. (The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, n.d.) The pendentives, which are triangular segments of a sphere, taper to points at the bottom and spread at the top to establish the continuous circular or elliptical base needed for a dome (Encyclopedia, 2012). In masonry the pendentives thus receive the weight of the dome, concentrating it at the four corners where it can be received by the piers beneath.

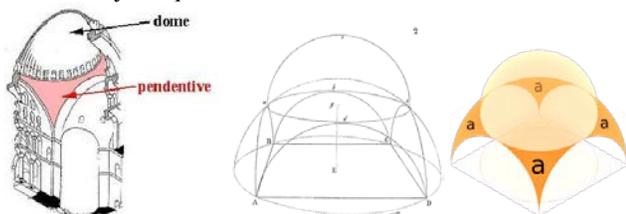


Figure 06- Formation of a pendentive. Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, 1856, Schematic representation of a dome on pendentives.

07. Squinch Method- In architecture, a squinch is a construction filling in (or rounding off) the upper angles of a square room as a base to receive an octagonal or spherical dome. Squinches may be formed by masonry built out from the angle in corbelled courses, by filling the corner with a vise placed diagonally, or by creating an arch or a number of corbelled arches diagonally across the corner.

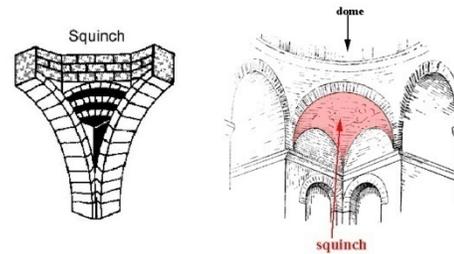


Figure 07- Squinch Methods of Sultanate Architecture.

08. Ornamentation Style - There were very few decorative styles in the Sultanate period. Religious installations have been influenced by creepers, shrubs and abstract geometric designs instead of plaques. In some cases, terracotta plaques and terracotta are found in mosques. These terracotta are decorated with elements derived from the nature of Bengal such as herbs, lotus flowers, roses, date palms etc. For example Sixty Dome Mosque in Bagerhat (1459 AD, 64 AH). Some terracotta and plastered are also Ornamented with geometric shapes, Arabic calligraphy, chain bells, shrubs, etc.

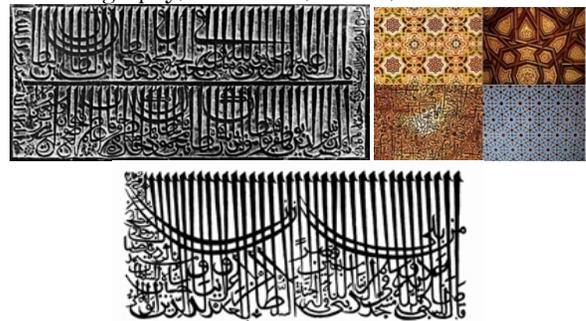


Figure 08- Bengali tughra style in a mosque inscription in Sultanganj, dated 1474. Islamic art in Bengal during the Sultanate period. Kusumba inscription, Sultan Alauddin Husain Shah, 1498.

Examples of the Sultanate Mosque (1204 AD to 1575 AD) –

Single-domed mosques: Chamakati Mosque (1475 AD), Gopalganj Mosque in Dinajpur (1480 AD), Goaldi Mosque in Sonargaon (15 AD), Nabgram Mosque of Pabna (1526 AD), Mosque adjacent to Khan Jahan's tomb in Bagerhat (15 AD), Chunakhola Mosque (15 AD), Yusufganj Mosque (15 AD) etc.

Three-domed mosques: Baba Adam Mosque (1483 AD) in Munshiganj.

Multi domed mosques: Sixty domed Mosque (15AD) at Bagerhat.



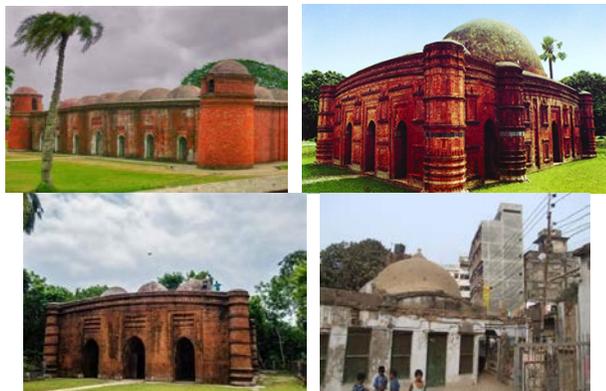


Figure 09- Goaldi Mosque in Sonargaon, Photo's of Baba Adam Mosque at Rampal, Munshiganj; Photos of Sixty Dome Mosque at Bagerhat, Khulna; Photo's of Khania Dighi Mosque at Nawabganj, Photos of Nine Dome Mosque at Bagerhat, Photos of Binat Bibi Mosque. (Dhakatribune.com, n.d.)

B. Transitional period of Sultanate to Mughal period (1500 AD)

The period between the end of the Sultanate period and the beginning of the Mughal period is called the transitional period of the Sultanate to the Mughal period. There exist a few examples of mosque belonging to the transitional phase, where few of the pre-Mughal innovations were continued and developed to suit Mughal intentions, for instance the curved cornice, terracotta ornamentation, corner turret, prayer hall with a frontal verandah of Sultanate Architecture. [36] This period spans around 1500 AD.

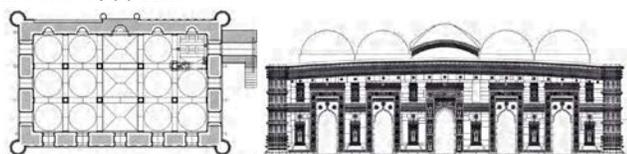


Figure 10- Plan and Front Elevation of Choto Sona Mosque at Chapai Nawabganj.

Architectural Features of the Transitional Period

01. Building Material - The main building materials of the mosques of the Transitional period are brick, stones and powdered brick (contains lime and surki). However, in the mosque architecture of this period, the use and application of stone is more than brick. Granite is the most used of stones among them. The use of granite stone is most common in Choto Sona mosques. The use of stone is also seen in the mihrab and other parts of this mosque. The exterior walls of the Kusumba Mosque, some interior walls, side screens and columns are made of stone.

02. Curved Cornice - Another important feature of the Transnistinal period was the use of curved cornices similar to those of the Sultanate period.

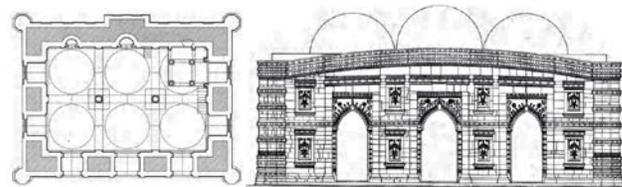


Figure 11- Plan of and Front Elevation of Kusumbe Mosque, Naogaon.

03. Chauchala Vaults- Chauchala vaults are also found in Transitional period mosques. For Example – Choto Sona Mosque has chauchala vaults.

04. Corner Torrents -Corner torrents can also be seen around mosques in the Transitinal period.

05. Dome - The domes are found in this period are as simple as the dome of the Sultanate period. Although the dome is placed in the pendantive and squinch method, it has no ornamentation.

06. Ornamentation – There are different types of ornamentations are seen at these mosques. Like Kusumba Mosque is also known as Kala Pahar, meaning black mountain, or Kala Rotno which means Black Gem. The reason can be the black plaster of stones at the outer wall. The mosque is an attraction that is marvelled at and studied, due its wonderful architectural style and elaborate decorations. In Bagha mosque has innumerable terracotta handicrafts which include mango, lily flowers, herbs and thousands of other handicrafts used in the Persian carving industry. Besides, there is a shrine of Shahdaula and his five companions on the north side of the mosque premises. The most important ornamentation of the Choto Sona mosque is recently excavated on the frontal courtyard of the mosque. The ornamentation consists of mosaic roundels in blue and white colours of variegated design.

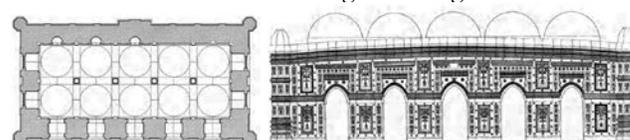
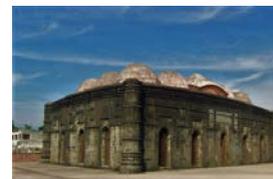


Figure 12- Show's Plan and Front Elevation of Bagha Mosque.

Example of the Transitional Period Mosque (1500 AD)

Examples include the Kusumba Mosque, Naogaon (1558 AD), Bagha Mosque, Rajshahi (1523 AD), Atiya Jame Mosque, Tangail (1609 AD), Choto Sona Mosque, Chapainawabganj (1519 AD), Kheruya Mosque, Sherpur, Kadam Mubarak Mosque, Chittagong etc.



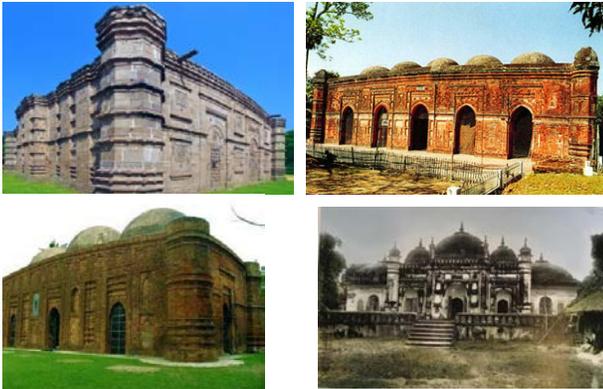


Figure 13- Atiya Mosque at Tangail, Choto Sona Mosque at Chapainawabganj, Kusumba Mosque at Nawgaon, Bagha Mosque at Rajshahi, Kherua Mosque at Sherpur, Bogura; Kadam Muabark Mosque at Chittagong.

C. Mughal Period (1576 AD - 1757AD)

The Mughal Architecture in Bengal were more modest in scale and less articulated in execution.” In 1576 AD, the Mughals conquered and began to rule Bengal. The centre of the Mughals was Delhi. The administration and Architecture was conducted and influenced directly from Delhi. This was a break with the continuity of the architectural tradition of the region. (Dr. Abu Sayeed M.Ahmed) Mughalarchitectures include mosques, Eidgahs, khanqahs, durbar sharifs, defence walls, mausoleums, ghats, dwellings etc.

A lot of architectures of the Sultanate period were changed during the Mughal period. The architectural style gained more perfection and development than Sultanate period. In this respect, there is a nexus between the Sultanate period and the Mughal period. For example, Haji Baba Saleh Mosque and Bandar Shahi Mosque in Bandar Thana of Narayanganj district were established during the Sultanate period but during the Mughal period these mosques were extensively changed and developed. (Dr. Abu Sayeed M.Ahmed)

Architectural features of Mughal Period Mosque -

The Mughal architectural style and features had a profound effect. This effect led to a radical change in the establishment of mosques in Bengal.

01. Building Materials–Brick is the general building material at Mughal Period. Surface of this brick mosque is covered with plaster. Somewhere there has been a deviation of the lining of the red.

02. Cornish Simplification - The cornice of the Mughal period is entirely simple in size. For example – Bandar Shahi Mosque at Narayanganj.

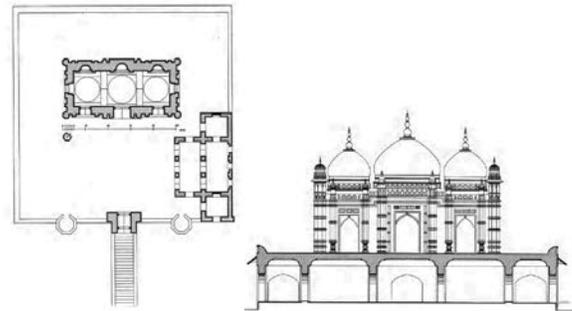


Figure 14- Plan and Front Elevation of Khan Muhammad Mridha Mosque, Dhaka

03. Dome - During the Mughal period, one-domed, three-domed mosques are commonly seen. However, the three-domed mosque is the most popular. Such as: Lalbagh Fort Mosque. The middle dome between the three domes is quite large in size.

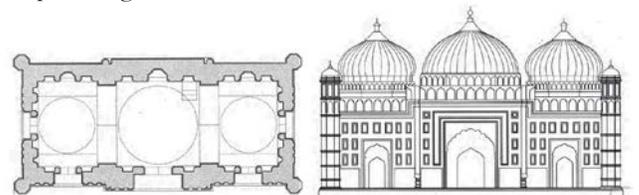


Figure 15- Plan and Front Elevation of Lalbagh Fort Mosque

04. Marlon -There are the marlon at Mughal Mosque are around the dome and roof. Marlon shots are all in the same size and painted it red like a brick. Sometimes Marlon is painted white with plaster

05. Use of Inverted Lotus - During the Mughal period, inverted lotus petals were used on the top of the dome of the mosque.

06. Ornamentation- There is a lot of ornaments are seen everywhere in mosques during the Mughal Period. The use of various geometric configurations, pannels, marlins, kalaschura, shrang, lotus flip, kopula etc. is more common in Mughal period. Although these influences were rarely seen in the colonial period, Pakistani period and rarely in modern mosques.

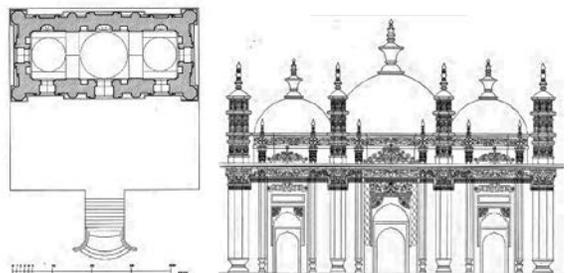


Figure 16- Plan and Front Elevation of Mia Bari Mosque

Examples of Mughal Period Mosque (1576 AD - 1757AD)

The mosques from the Mughal Period are included: Lalbagh Fort Mosque (17th century), Khan Muhammad Mridhar Mosque, Dhaka (1704 AD), Mia Bari Mosque, Barisal (18th century), Shah Niyamat Ullah Mosque (17th

century), Shah Muhammad Mosque (17th century). Seven Dome Mosque(17th century), Khwaja Shahbaz Mosque (17th century) etc.



Figure 17- Lalbag Fort Mosque at Lalbag,Old Dhaka,Khan Muhammad Mridha Mosque at Old Dhaka, Mia Bari Mosque at Barishal, Shah Niamatullah Mosque at Chapainawabganj-Gaur, Arifil Mosque at SarailUpazila at Brahmanbaria, Nayabad Mosque at Dinajpur. (wikipedia.org, n.d.)

D. Colonial Period (1757 AD - 1947 AD)

The last phase of the Mughal period came during the British rule. Imperialist cultural imposition, initiated mildly by the Mughals.The British cultural domination was so thorough and overwhelming that it completely severed the continuity of Bengali socio-cultural and economic life, including the development of regional Mosque Architecture.[04]Like the Sultanates and Mughals, many buildings were built in Bengal by the British.The British rule began during the Palashi War (1757 AD). Towards the end they built a very small number of religious buildings. Large numbers of mughal mosques were renovated and only a few were newly built under the direct patronage of those wealthy Muslim zaminders, marchents or, elites. Instead of developing a style, surface treatment was the main focus of the builders. [04]

Architectural Features of Colonial Period’s Mosque

01. Building Material - Instead of Bengali lime surki plaster, the British started using sugar cane. That is called “chini-tikri” work, a total surface plastering system. That is the combination of mosaic work of broken China porcelain pieces. This trend was very popluar at that Colonial Period.



Figure 18- Chini-Tikri Decoration at Bazra Mosque, Motif on the Kosaituly Mosque at Old Dhaka, Chini-Tikri Decoration at Tara Mosque, Figure Shows, Chini-Tikri Decoration at Bazra Mosque (contextbd, n.d.)

02. Impression of European Style and Mixture with Architecture of Bengal -

There was an impression of European style in the work of the British. Using this style, they built architecture in Bengal. Combinations of locally used architectural elements such as overhanging eaves, wooden lattice work, verandas, etc. began and new architectures were created in a strange blend of British, Islamic and regional elements. For example - Momin Mosque at Pirozpurwheres included wooden lattice work, Tara Mosque at Dhaka wheres included verandah’s etc.

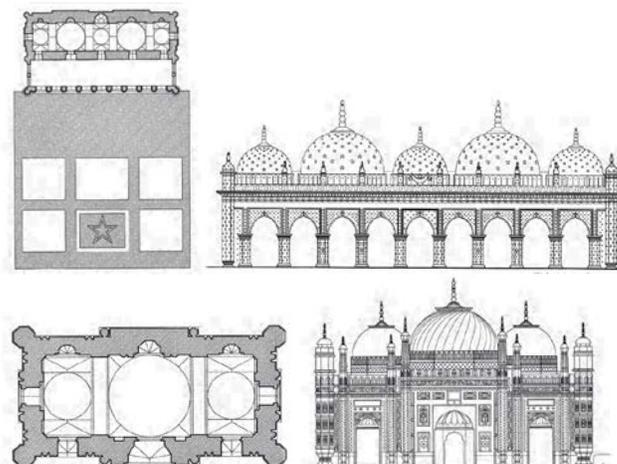


Figure 19- Plan of and Front Elevation of Tara Mosque at Old Dhaka, Plan and Front Elevation of Bazra Mosque at Noakhali.

03. Bungalow Type Houses and Mosques - Another important addition to the architecture of the Colonial period is the bungalow "house in the Bengal style"[07]. Such houses were traditionally small, only one storey and detached, and had a wide veranda were adapted by the British, who used them as houses for colonial administrators in summer retreats in Indian cities. Another

roofing material for Bungalow houses has been red clay tiles. For example- Momin Mosque at Pirozpur as a bungalow type mosque.

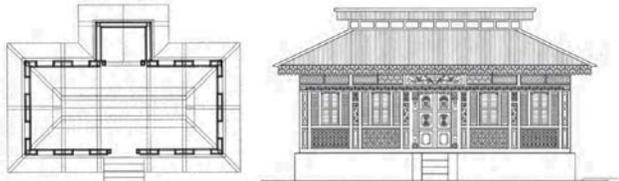


Figure 20- Plan and Front Elevation of Momin Mosque at Pirozpur[06]

Example of Colonial Period’s Mosque (1757 AD - 1947 AD)

Mosques built by the British include Tara Mosque, Dhaka (18th century), Bajra Mosque, Noakhali (1841A.D.), KortiaJame Mosque, Tangail (18th century), Dewan Bari Mosque, Armanitola, Dhaka (1880A.D.), Momin Mosque (1910). etc.



Figure 21- Tara Mosque at Old Dhaka, Bazra Shahi Mosque at Noakhali, Momin Mosque at Pirozpur , Dewanbari Mosque at Aminbazar , Koshaituli Mosque , KortiaJame Mosque. (dhakadailyphoto.blogspot., n.d.)

E. Pakistani rule (1947AD-1971AD)

The beginning of the Pakistani rule in this country took place before the end of the British rule. This period started from 1947 AD. As a result of the partition of country in 1947, it was divided into 02 parts, namely the establishment of two independent states of India and Pakistan. Pakistan's borders were marked on the basis of Muslim predominance, have two separate territories one is East Pakistan and other is West Pakistan. East Pakistan was formed mainly with East Bengal which is now Bangladesh. During the rule of Pakistan, several mosques were built in Bengal. These mosque buildings are very different from the other periods.

The influence of foreign architecture can be seen in these architectures. Much different from the native architecture, these mosques have a distinctive feature. There are some distinct aspects of Pakistan-era mosques. These aspects come from political, administrative and religious aspects.

Architectural Features of Pakistani Period’s Mosque

01. Determining the Complexity of Different Types of Functions - The combination of different functions is seen in the mosque architectures of the Pakistan period. The mosques of that time were one mosque complex include - shop, office house, motwali house, library, toilet, car parking space etc. For example – Baitul Mukarram Mosque at Dhaka.

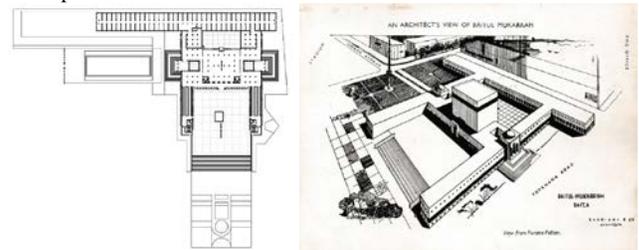


Figure 22- Plan and 3D View of Baitul Mukarram Mosque at Dhaka. (baitul-mukarram-mosque, n.d.)

02. Avoiding Domes –The tradition of using Domes above the main prayer is rarely seen in Pakistan-Era mosques at Bengal. A Mosque without a dome was a unique experiment of Pakistan Period. Example – Baitul Mukarram Mosque at Dhaka.

03. Advent of Multi-Storied Mosques - The first multi-storied mosque to appear in the country was during the Pakistan period. The journey of the trend of modern multistoried mosques were started during the Pakistan Era. For example, The Baitul Mukarram National Mosque of our country is eight storeyed high.

04. Geometric Configuration –The geometric configuration is seen on the walls of the mosques from Pakistan period. The moon and stars coming from religious matters are huge in size. There is a tendency at this time to take over from the British, which indicates a tendency to split in the future.



Figure 23- The geometric configuration of the Mosque at Baitul Mukarram Mosque, Dhaka, Bangladesh (pinterest, n.d.)

05. Lack of Ornamentation in Exterior and Interior Design- The style of ornamentation was avoided at this Era. In Baitul Mukarram Mosque “Excessive ornamentation is avoided throughout the mosque, since minimizing ornamentation is typical of modern architecture. According to Thariani's original plan, the

minar was a detached structure on the south side of the main building. However, two new minars had been constructed according to a new plan. The Baitul Mukarram mosque is modern in its architectural style and found its place in the hearts of the bangali Muslims because of the resemblance of its form to the famous Kaba at Mecca.”

Example of Pakistani Era Mosque’s (1947AD-1971AD)

Pakistani Era Mosques include Baitul Mukarram Mosque (1952 AD), Kakrail Mosque (1952 AD), Central University Mosque at Dhaka University (1966 AD) etc.



Figure 24- Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Central University Mosque and Kakrail Mosque at Dhaka

F. Modern-Era - Contemporary Trends (2000 to recent)

The fragmentary part of Modern Era for Mosque Architecture started at Pakistan period. But the contemporary trends extend from 20th century. During this period many modern mosques were built in this Bengal. Modern mosques are largely independent in terms of architecture. The combination of Indigenous and Foreign Architectural Styles are important features of these recent mosques. The mosque represents the Islamic social, cultural and spiritual level.

Architectural Features of Modern Mosques (Contemporary Trends)

01. Integrated Application of Philosophy and Thought - In the context of the present time, the main theme of modern mosque is entirely conceptual. From the form to building material of the mosque is transformed into a concept. An example of a modern mosque is the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque. Although the identity of modern architecture is evident in this mosque, it is inspired by the architectural style of the Sultanate and Mughal period. According to architect Rafiq Azam, "Located adjacent to the Azimpur graveyard in Lalbagh, the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jummah Mosque is a threshold space inspired by the Azam Shah Mosque built by the Mughals in the Lalbagh Fort. The new design is a departure from traditional mosques in both physical and philosophical designs, combining old and new ideas into a contemporary concept."

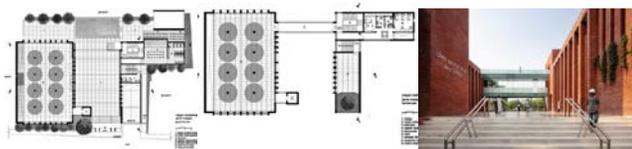


Figure 25- Ground Floor Plan , First Floor Plan of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque



Figure 26- Doleswar Hanafia Jame Mosque at Keraniganj, Dhaka; Nizam Hasina Foundation Mosque at Bhola

02. Illumination – The amount of light entering the mosque, the level of light and the presence of light exist. In modern mosques, the presence of light and air is considered with the utmost care, which is entirely applicable to these mosques.



Figure 27- Baitur Rouf Jame Mosque Interior Lighting View; Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque Internal Part ; Chadgaon Mosque Internal View

03. Decoration: Modern mosques are more focused on Conceptual Aesthetics- Conceptual and contemporary decorating features for lighting, building material, calligraphy are the only decoration to make the mosques more visually pleasing and attractive. No extra decorating materials are used at these mosques.

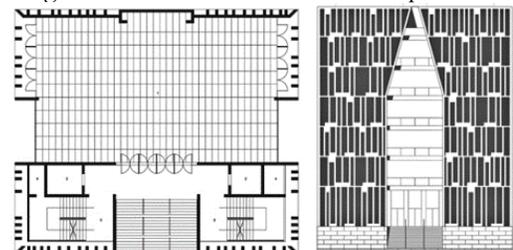


Figure 28- Typical Floor Plan, East Elevation of Gulshan Society Central Mosque

Examples of Modern Era Mosque’s – Contemporary Trends (2001-2020) –

There are a lot of Modern Era Mosque’s Such as Nizam –Chadgaon Mosque, Chittagong (2007), Baitur Rouf Jame Mosque, Dhaka (2012), Nizam Hasina Foundation Mosque, Bhola (2016), Gulshan Society Mosque, Dhaka (2017), HanafiaJameMosque, Dhaka (2017) and Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque, Old Dhaka (2018) etc.





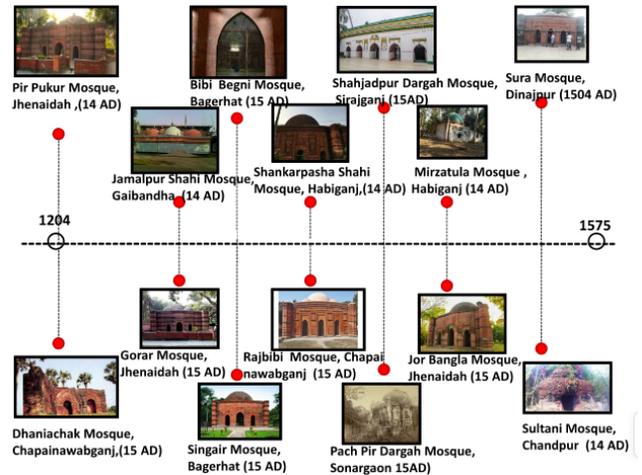
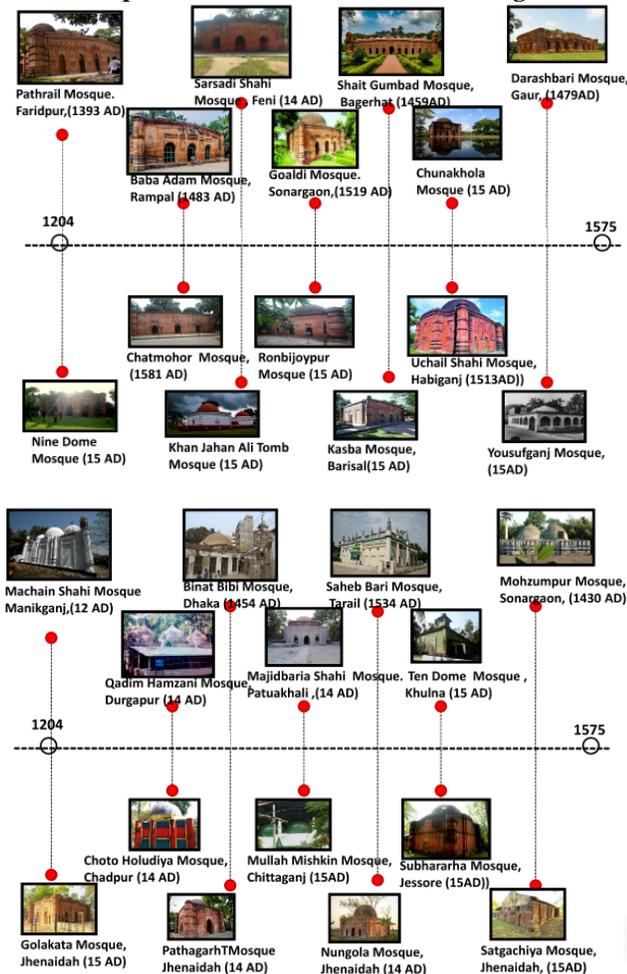
Figures 29 - Gulshan Society Jami Mosque, Dhaka.

Chandgaon Mosque at Chittaganj, Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jami Mosque at Old Dhaka, Doleshwar Hanafiyah Jame Masjid at Dhaka, of BaiturRouf Mosque at Dhaka (dezeen.com, n.d.) (archdaily, n.d.)

5. Mosque Architecture Timeline in Bangladesh

This paper and research are included with 155mosques in Bangladesh from Sultanate period (1200 AD) to Modern era (Contemporary Trends 2020). This Timeline is divided into six parts with build up time, exact location and photographs. This timeline will turn us around for a moment. The versatile features of these mosques have made the mosque setting lively and aesthetically pleasant. Photo's of all the historic mosques have been taken from different media. (List_of_mosques_in_Bangladesh, n.d.)

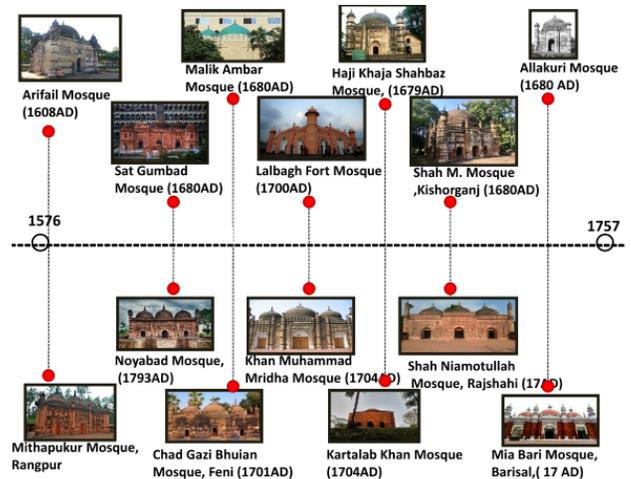
Mosque Architectural Timeline in Bangladesh

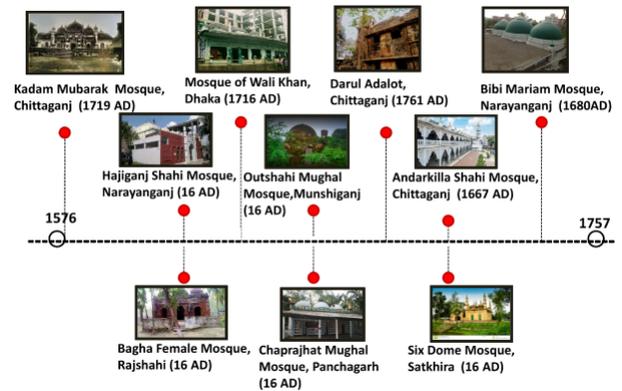
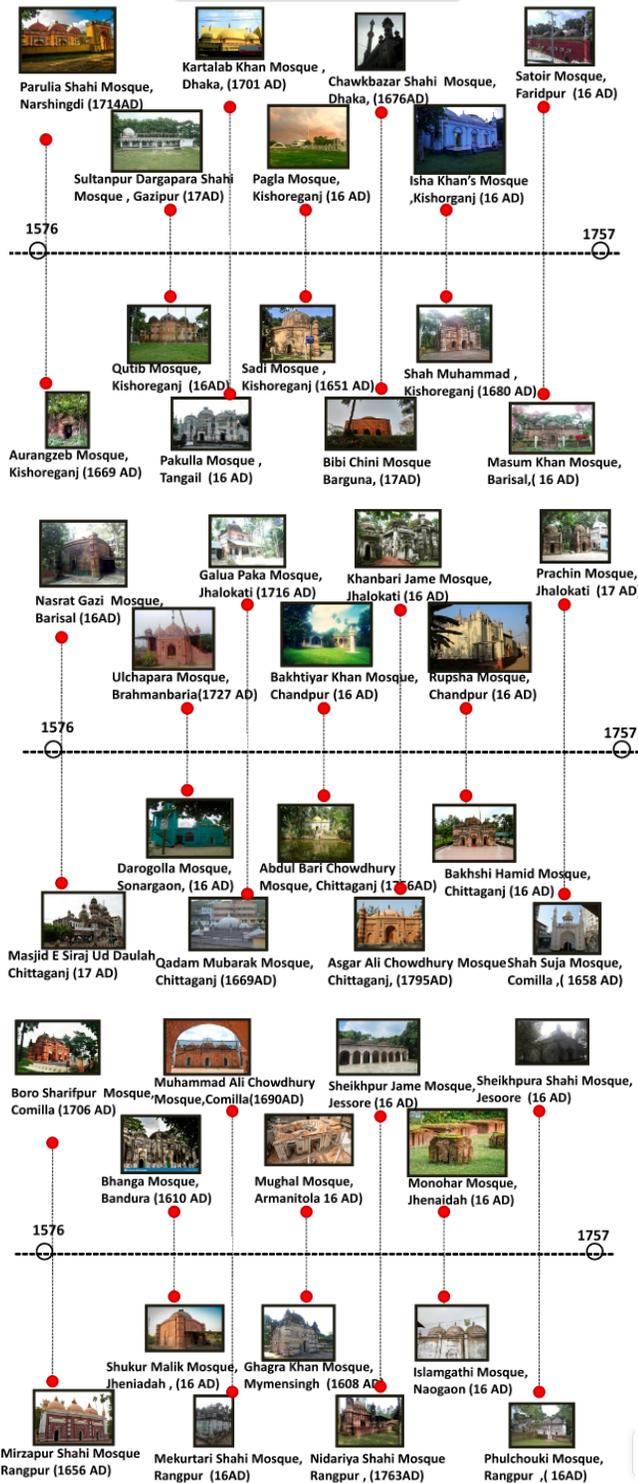


Mosques of the Sultanate Period (1204 AD to 1575 AD)

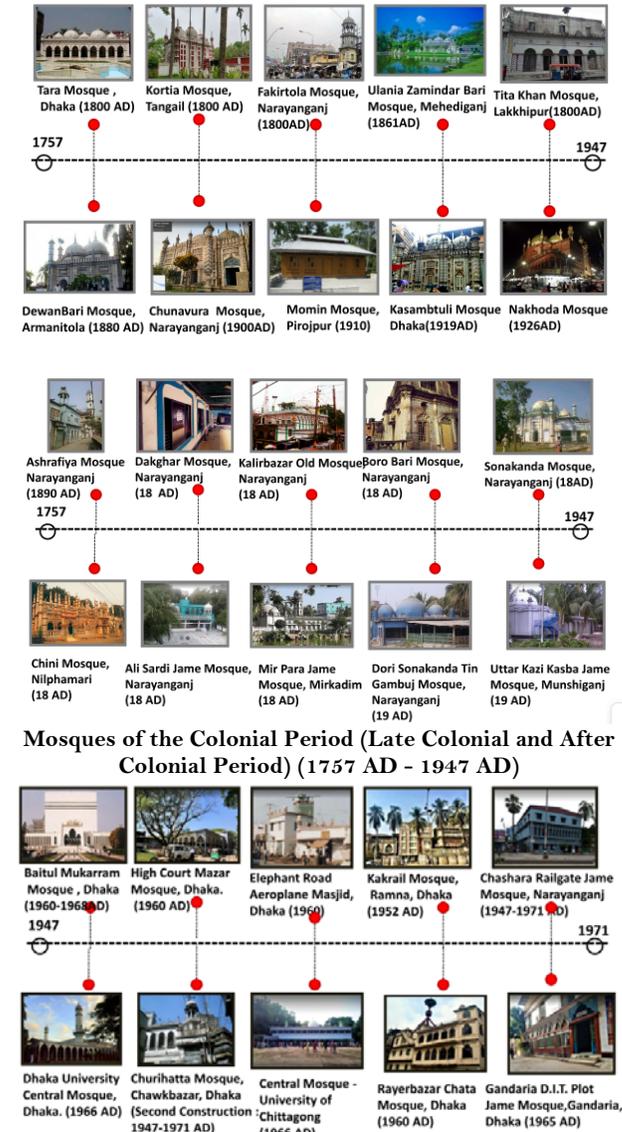


Mosques of The Transitional Period of the Sultanate and Mughal Period (1500 AD)

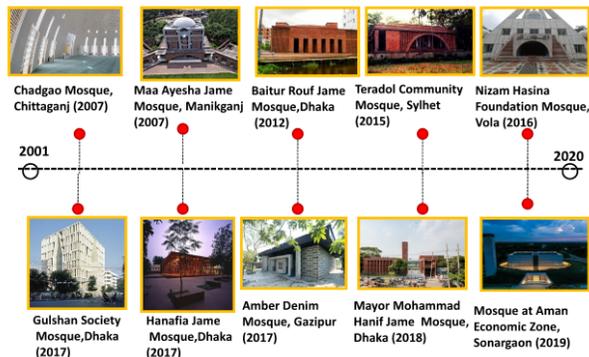




Mosques of the Mughal Period (1576 AD - 1757AD)



Mosques of the Pakistani Rule (1947AD-1971AD)

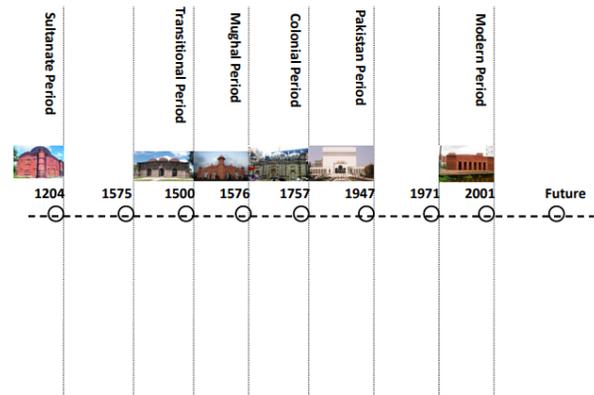


Mosques of the Modern Era (Contemporary Trends) (2001-2020)

6. Discussion

The mosque represents Islam. The architecture of the mosque has evolved from prehistoric time to the present. The establishment of mosques in this country started mainly during the Sultanate period. The establishment of mosque took another stagnant period on the eve of the Mughal period beyond the Sultanate period. Later during the Mughal period this installation got further development. At the end of the Mughal period, the colonial period began. During the colonial period the establishment of mosques gained more novelty which revealed a new dimension during the Pakistan period. Mosques of the Pakistan period follow other mosques in the East. Such as Baitul Mukarraam Mosque, Dhaka; National Parliament Building Mosque, Dhaka. At modern contemporary period the aesthetics and ornamentation of the mosque are enhanced in a more versatile way. Where a great combination of spirituality and the atmosphere make the mosque is an important structure which is a symbol of Islam. Compared to other architectures, mosque architecture has a different concept. A mosque is a public space that can accommodate many people in one place at the same time. Therefore, it can be said that it is difficult to go beyond the limits of mosque architecture. The quality of materials has changed more or less over time in mosque architecture. During the Sultanate period, mosques were seen decorated with red bricks. There was no plaster in the wall. Which is very visually pleasing and beautiful. At the end of the Sultanate period and at the beginning of the Mughal period, we get a lot of decoration with some exceptions to the function of the mosque. For example, Choto Sona Mosque at Gaur where's the Badshahi e Takht is located. Although red bricks are very tolerable in Mughal period installations, they are all plastered. It is difficult to think of a Mughal installation without plaster or covering. The use of chinnitikri can be seen in the mosques of the colonial period. The use of chinnitikri on the plaster creates a factional atmosphere. White plaster can be seen in Pakistan period mosques. The use of colour can be seen. The giant resemblance of form can be seen. The use of Chinni-tikri in Pakistan period is more or less seen. Modern day mosques

have been focusing on the amount of light in the mosque, the medium of ventilation, the aesthetics and the quality of the material. Architectural versatility can be seen in the pre-independence mosques and post-independence mosques as well as in the visual discrepancies. During the establishment of the mosque, many functions and changes have taken place from time to time. At the beginning of sultanate period the dome of the mosque was inevitably a function that is now largely obsolete. During the Sultanate, Mughal and colonial periods, the decoration style of the mosque was such that it could be seen in a very tolerable form. At present; the trend of this decoration has also changed. The journey of establishing this mosque started around 1200 century. The scope of which extends till the present 2020.



Scenario of mosque architecture from the Sultanate Mosque to the Future.

07. Conclusion

The timeline for the architecture of the mosque that has been published is not just a timeline. This timeline reveals the period and evolutionary period of mosque Architecture. On the other hand, the multifaceted history of mosque architecture has emerged through the timeline and the period of versatile architectural style and aesthetics has emerged. This timeline further reveals the identity of many known and unknown mosques, year of birth and location. Geographical, political, cultural and spiritual greatness has also come up through this timeline. The mosque is not just a prayer space its a place for social upliftment and reunion. It is not necessary to judge the mosque only a building with symbol of power or wealth. Primarily a mosque is served as a muslim community space. Moreover, the mosque should look like a mosque. So whatever architectural changes have been seen from the timeline, the main function is remained unchanged. Although there are many Architectural changes are seen from sultanate to contemporary time though the spiritual greatness, function, unity is remained main Architectural feature. Even though, it is important to have a timeline of the mosque Architecture for every country. This timeline of Bangladesh is created the outline of the history of mosque Architecture and figure out a metaphor of spiritual unity from sultanate times to the present.

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