

# **The Indo-Sarcenic Architectural Aesthetics of the Nawab Architecture of Bahawalpur: A Comparative Analysis**

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## **Abstract**

The research leads to the study of architectural characteristics of inbuilt form and decorative elements on the surface of the Indo-Sarcenic architecture of Bahawalpur. As the Indo-Sarcenic architecture was evolved in the era of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV, developed in the reign of Nawab Bahawal Khan V and modernized in the period of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V. After reviewing the literature, it is apparent that scholars have generally discussed the architectural monuments built in the Colonial Period, but the aesthetics of decorative elements are ignored in constructive form and on surface decoration of the Indo-Sarcenic architecture and their influences along with comparative analysis of the buildings.

The present research deals with in-depth study of the elements like Mughals, colonial and Islamic influences intermingled to develop Indo-Sarcenic architecture and develop a comparative analysis of three structures of different eras. The structure of Daulat khana (1881) will be discussed in period of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV, Bahawal Victoria Hospital (1906) in the era of Nawab Bahawal Khan V and SD High School in (1911) from the era of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V. The aim of the research is to provide in-depth study of constructive forms like domical structures, bastions, arches, portico as well as building materials and surface decorations like floral patterns, geometrical designs will be segments of the research. Source of inspiration, regional influences will also be explored. Visuals and photographs will be attached for better understanding of the study.

**Key Words: Indo Sarcenic, Mughals, Colonial, Bahawalpur.**

## **Introduction**

The Princely State of Bahawalpur was founded by Nawab Bahawal Khan I in 1748 and later merged into Pakistan in 1949. This era extended over two centuries and was governed by twelve Nawabs, each contributing significantly to the rich tapestry of historical architecture. Their eras witnessed the emergence of a unique style of monuments, which harmoniously blended various cultural influences to create a distinctive Indo-Saracenic architectural style in the state. "Indo-Saracenic" term was used by the British architects in the Subcontinent for the Indo-Islamic architecture of the Mughals and their predecessors (Jayewardene-Pillai, 2007). The architectural style in question is recognized as a revivalist movement predominantly employed by British architects in India during the latter part of the 19th century. This style was particularly favored for the construction of public and governmental buildings within the British Raj, as well as the palaces of the rulers of the princely states. The architectural elements of this style, which were prevalent in the 19th century, often incorporated Indo-Islamic influences, representing stylistic and decorative motifs from native Indo-Islamic architecture, with a particular emphasis on Mughal architecture intermixed with British aesthetics.

Indo-saracenic architecture can be described as "part of a 19th-century movement to project themselves as the natural successors of the Mughals" (Das, 2014) The first Indo-Saracenic building is often said to be the Chhapra Palace, completed in 1768, in present-day Chennai (Madras), for the Nawab of Arcot. Evidently architecture of the University of The Punjab, Allama Iqbal Campus (1882) and Lahore Museum (1902) signified Indo -Saracenic features "the architect transmuted the architectural decoration, motives and concepts of Gothic, Hindu, Sultanate and Mughal in perfect manner to lionize the rich heritage." (Nasim, 2021). Its majority structures were erected during the tenure of the British Raj, which spanned from 1858 to 1947, with the period of peak construction occurring between 1880 and the early 20th century. These buildings partially mirrored the British aspiration for an "Imperial style" of architecture, characterized by its grandeur and scale. They were designed to reflect and promote the notion of an unassailable and invincible British Empire.

The Nawabs of Bahawalpur being loyal to British Empire, focused on construction of Indo-Saracenic architectural style in their region. This study will delve into the architectural legacy of three prominent Nawab dynasty rulers: Nawab Bahawal Khan IV, Nawab Bahawal Khan V, and

Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V. These rulers are celebrated for their modern and dynamic leadership, which played a fundamental role in the state's development. The research will explore three architectural marvels from their reigns, examining both the structural design and decorative elements, highlighting Indo-Saracenic architectural style.

### **Objectives of the study**

The objective of this research is to furnish insights into the evolution, significance, and impact of particular patrons on the advancement of Indo-Saracenic architecture within the Bahawalpur state. This study endeavors to address the historical progression of the monuments, their architectural components and the manner in which these specific monuments are connected to the aesthetics of Indo-Saracenic architecture.

### **Significance of the study**

The study underscores significant architectural characteristics and ornamental details observed during the examination, with a particular emphasis on the exploration of Indo-Saracenic aesthetics. Throughout the research process, a comparative analysis of three structures is conducted, aiming to elucidate a deeper comprehension of the influences affecting the monuments and their stylistic variations across different periods.

### **Brief overview of the paper structure**

The study is focused on the architectural design and ornamental features of Indo-Saracenic architecture within the city of Bahawalpur. Aiming comprehensive examination of the architectural edifices the influences on them from the Mughal, colonial, and Islamic traditions. Furthermore, the research will undertake a comparative analysis of three selected structures, underscoring their distinct attributes and their significant impact on the architectural panorama of Bahawalpur. The architectural marvels under consideration are the Daulat Khana, constructed in 1881 during the reign of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV, the Bahawal Victoria Hospital, erected in 1906 under the patronage of Nawab Bahawal Khan V, and the SD High School, established in 1911 during the tenure of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V. The objective is to conduct a thorough investigation into the structural forms, building materials, and decorative

motifs. To facilitate a deeper comprehension, visual aids and photographs will be incorporated into the study.

## **Literature review**

Going through literature of the architecture of Bahawalpur, writers mainly focused upon historical background of the rulers and their achievements, few discussed architectural monuments and their significance in the region. This research has been a door of access to these specific Indo-Sarcenic monuments and their inbuilt architectural forms with respect to their comparative analysis regarding decorative elements and influences.

Discussing about Daulat Khana the first monument, Saif Ur Rehman Dar explained the current map that “The structure is located on Darbar road, connecting Bahawalpur palaces on one side and the Old Islamia University campus on the other.”(Dar, 2011).

Shahid explain the older locality of Daulat Khana as: “There was a high wall around it. Its special royal gate is located in the north and the common gate is in the south direction (Rizvi, 2020).” It had a beautiful garden with fruit trees and ornamental plants. On its eastern side was the Shimla Kothi and the women's quarters building. It is still accessible but restricted to visitors.<sup>1</sup>

On its south-west side was a four hundred feet long and one hundred and fifty feet wide *Talab*<sup>2</sup>. While a magnificent mosque was built on the north-west side. After its completion, this palace continued to be used as a residence and secretariat of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV. Nazir Ali Shah confirmed that “Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V was also born in this palace in 1904 (Shah, 1959).” During 1901-02 more additional buildings were constructed and repaired in this palace. From March 1944, Daulat Khana was transferred to the custody of Public Works Department from the Department of Transfers and it was turned into a guest house of the state and was named "Dar-ul-Salaam" and "Dar-ul-Falah". (Tahir & Gillani, 2022). During the democratic period of Bahawalpur State (1953 to 1955), it was declared as the residence of the Chief Minister (Bahawalpur Review, 1995).

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<sup>1</sup> During documentation, these edifices were restricted for the author.

<sup>2</sup> Pond was functional till 1980's ,currently converted into ladies park ,

Exploring the literature of Bahawal Victoria Hospital constructed in 1904, Queen Victoria of Great Britain (1837-1901), who was also the Empress of India, died. So the British Government encouraged to build and establish welfare institutions in British India and its states as a memorial to her. Darbar-e-Bahawalpur, being a loyal and subordinate ally of Britain, was bound to spare no one in seeking its pleasure. This was the reason that on this occasion, in 1902, Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan V planned to build an Eid Gah in Bahawalpur as a memorial to the Queen of Great Britain and allocated an amount of thirty thousand rupees for this purpose. The map of Eid Gah was also prepared and informed in writing. Although the Lieutenant Governor welcomed the proposal in his reply letter dated 19th August 1905. But he also offered this opinion:

"Because only the sect of Islam will benefit from the construction of the Eidgah. While the late Queen Bilal was the queen of everyone, regardless of religion and caste. Therefore, a monument should be built from the Victoria Memorial Fund. It can be used by every citizen without distinction (Tahir and Gillani, 2022). "

Exploring about literature regarding Sadiq Dane High School, Shahid quoted it as Islamic architectural monument (Rizvi, 2020). The name has been mentioned in the biographical encyclopedia of Pakistan, Calcutta review as reputable personalities have studied in this prestigious school.

According to Indian states: a biographical historical and administrative, West Pakistan: Places, people and progress and Hand Book of Important Places in West Pakistan discussed about Sadiq Dane high school but the architectural significance has not been mentioned.

### **Daulat Khana**

The Nawab Sadiq Khan IV was predominantly interested in developing architectural structures that represented the taste of Islamic aesthetics and colonial inspiration combined on the identical platform. Due to good relations with the British Empire the Indo-sarsenic architecture has been introduced in his era. Daulat Khana palace was built between 1881 to 1886 (Loyd, 2020) (figure 01). Designed by Italian architect confirmed by George Birdwood<sup>3</sup> but the name of the architect

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<sup>3</sup> George Birdwood has been expert of Indian vernacular arts.

has not been found yet. Initially two lakhs of rupees were spent on it, but later other royal buildings were added with additional expenses (Rizvi, 2020).

The entrance of the palace is from a huge wooden gate house (figure 02) which has height of twenty two feet with twenty five feet width. The wooden gate constructed with planks has sixteen feet height and length of ten feet, adorned with nails embedded on the wood design in arch form. The huge door is fixed within multi-cusped arch adorned with stylized acanthus leaf and coupled columns positioned on either sides. The entablature of the columns showcases a frieze composed of dentils, accented by a band featuring stylized tri-petal motifs, each surmounted by floral goblets. Additionally, triangular motifs and pediments flank the gateway on both sides, serving as a testament to the opulence and grandeur of Sadiq Muhammad Khan V's reign. The spandrel of the arch is bedecked with State Insignia representing the crescent and the star along with two pelicans on the either sides. There is a band of Greek key motif<sup>4</sup> representing an ornament consisting of lines interlocking spirals at right angle to one another to form a spherical square (Crtichlow, 1976) which symbolizes the concept of infinity and unity considering the state of Bahawalpur as eternal state of unity for the rulers and people of Bahawalpur.

**Plan:**

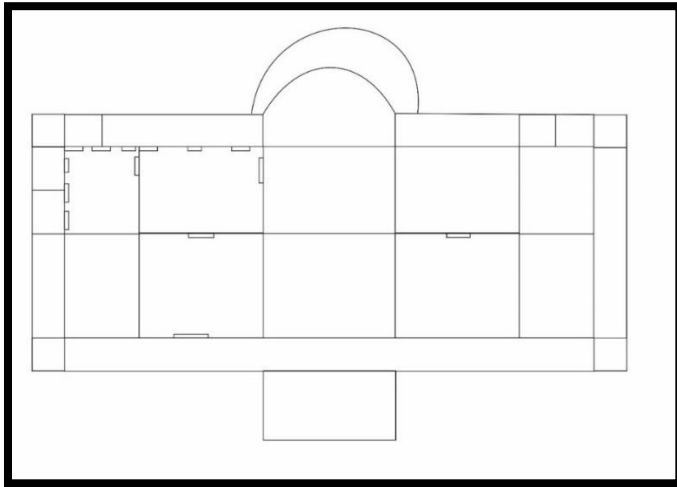


Plate No. 1: Plan of Daulat Khana.

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<sup>4</sup> Greek key motif

## **Exterior:**

Daulat Khana is symmetrically aligned with a rectangular plan (Dar, 2011). It was surrounded by *Bagh* around it, which exist no more and currently converted into residential colony, quoted by Sajida Haider Vandal confirmed the presence of garden around Daulat Khana as follow:

"The entire palace of Daulat Khana and the once well laid out green gardens, including a mosque, are enclosed within a thick and high fortification wall. The approach is from a multi-foiled arched gateway whose spandrels still proudly exhibit the coat of arms of the State of Bahawalpur (Vandal, 2011)."

The main door of the oval Arcadian hall has a single opening to the garden flanking on the podium of three steps and aligned door behind it giving straight entry to the Darbar Hall (figure 3). The main hall has seventeen arch in oval shape all around the room supporting by ionic columns following the Greek influence, crowned with seventeen *jhrokha* window above. There are two doors on the either sides connected with the main hall and the others two doors facing each other connecting the side room with the main hall. The ceiling of the hall is post lintel supported by the wooden planks. The wooden planks are painted with rectangular panel of lacquered ceiling in vermeil base with floral decoration representing cycle of life with fine mirror work (figure 4). The lintel of the rooms are decorated with lacquered painted six pointed star arabesque with mirror work in them (figure 5).

The double storey oval hall augmented with arcade of nine arches. An arcade is the series of arches carried on piers or columns. The central arch proceeds to the main hall and the blind arches on its either sides are the side allays with doors inside connected with the main Darbar Hall. The arch is surmounted with a keystone—typical colonial inspiration with a central wedge shape motif crowned on it. The impost is supported by cylindrical pilasters. The conch of the arch is adorned with a band composed of octagonal stars or octagrams, each succeeded by a mehrabi motif with no decorations in them, throughout breaking symmetry and order, representing the typical Islamic art influence on the edifice because the Nawabs followed the concept of aniconism the forbidden human imagery and floral decorations were seen inside the ceiling only.

The octagram is a significant symbol of Islamic geometrical ornamentation, as its characteristics are completely determined by circles the construction of star polygons, the significant feature in Islamic art design is circle as Keith Critchlow states that:

"The circle is the primary cosmological symbol, one of wholeness and unity. The unity is prevailed by the continuity in two different patterns adorned on one frame (Critchlow, 2011)."

There are neither any decorations on the spandrel of the arch nor on the pilaster placed on the either side of the arch except the traces of blue paint represent the previous decoration which exist no more. The gable wall of the Daulat Khana is augmented with a fret of vertical hexagon supported by bud shape goblets, placed with regular intervals. Moreover the ceiling of the main hall is augmented with six windows with a cap like *chajja* to avoid the heat, light and rain. Each recessed window on the arch augmented with balusters and *surahi* goblets placed in regular intervals, it is the innovative elements in the architecture of Nawab Sadiq Khan IV, representing characteristics of the Italian style, a notable feature indo-sarajenic architecture. Vandal elaborated in cultural expression that:

"The architectural plan of Daulat Khana is a blend of styles such as Mughal influence with the exterior double heighted corners room where the window of the lower level is decorated by multi-foil arch frame used commonly during the Sikh period. Whereas the window frame of the upper level is decorated by employing neo-classical double pediment composition which is inspired by the colonial style (Vandal, 2011)."

The structure supported by colonnades on either side of the main hall with a terabeated roof augmented with hexagon railing. The double storey square bastion adorned with *Jhrokha* and *Chajja* crowned with a band of acanthus leaf fixed within pilaster on either sides. The upper storey bastion has four opening on either side (figure 6). There are two recessed *Jhrokha* along with flamboyant adornment with acanthus leaf and a finial on either side. The upper storey arch is augmented with recessed a pediment decorated on each bastion. The significant part of the embellishment is the fully grown ribbed cupolas fixed on each bastion representing the process of growth from buds to fully grown flower representing the cycle of life.



The other side of the Daulat Khana has a substantial feature which has been considered as the significant feature of the later built architecture, is the portico, a roof supported by columns and usually attached to the front and sides of the building. The portico has three keystone arches at the front with two large arches on the either sides of coupled columns supporting terabeated roof. There is an equilateral arch fixed on the podium on either side of the portico adorned with geometrical pattern. There are five keystone arches with coupled column on either sides as, the colonnade is augmented by a *naulakha* pavilion representing Indo-Mughal influences augmented on the oblong colonnade with three arches and a ribbed roof and recessed column, crowned specific crescent and star motif inspired by State Insignia.

### **Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur (1906)**

On August 21, 1905, proposed the construction of a large hospital at Bahawalpur from the Victoria Memorial Fund. Which was approved by Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan V on 22 August 1905. Nawab Sadiq V in his order dated 2nd December 1905 was instructed to prepare the map and estimation of the hospital. It was completed on May 9, 1906 (Rizvi, 2020).

On the recommendations of the Council, the Nawab gave a definitive order on 26 May 1906 that the construction of the Victoria Memorial Hospital should be started immediately. The Construction Department prepared a map of the Bahawal Victoria Hospital and a suitable site on the Circular Road was selected for it. Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan V laid the foundation stone of the hospital on July 16, 1906 at seven o'clock in the morning (Tahir and Gillani, 2022) (figure 7).

The construction of the hospital continued for two years (1906 to 1908) under the supervision of Chaudhry Bahadur Ali, an officer of the construction department. It was completed in April 1908. The construction of the hospital cost more than eighty thousand rupees, while ten thousand was spent on the equipment of the hospital. Bahawal Victoria Hospital was inaugurated on November 3, 1908 at ten o'clock in the morning by Viscount Sir Walter Kitchener of Khartoum (1902-1909)<sup>5</sup>, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, by opening the door of its hall. He also inspected all the rooms of the hospital and appreciated the magnificent building.

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<sup>5</sup> The office of Commander-in-Chief, India, was given to General Lord Kitchener in late 1902; he arrived in India to assume it in November, in time to be in command during the Delhi Durbar in January 1903.

Bahawal Victoria Hospital also housed the head office of the State Meteorological Department. Where not only was the daily meteorological report compiled but it was regularly published in the Sadiq-ul-Akhbar gazetteer of the state (Tahir and Gillani, 2022).

### **Plan BVH Bahawalpur**

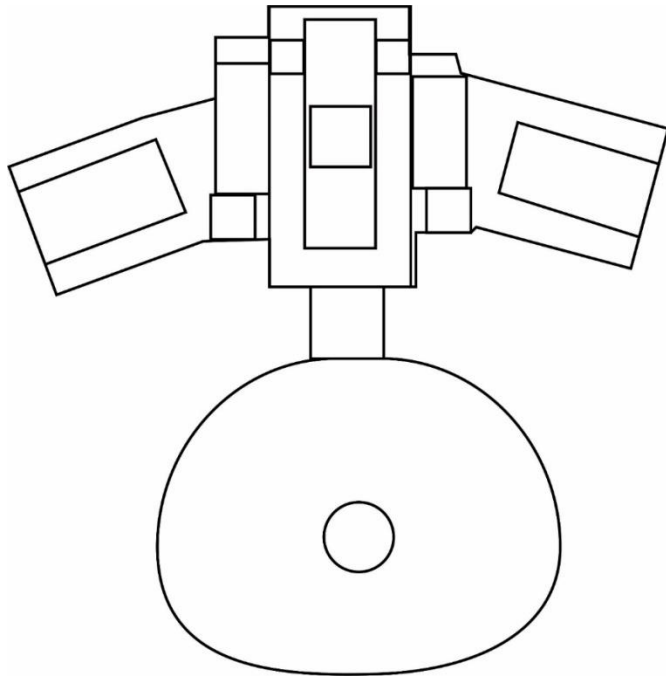


Plate no 02: Plan of Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur (1906)

### **Exterior**

The Bahawal Victoria hospital comprises symmetrical plan with a tri-arched portico and supported by square bastions on either sides and rectangular oblong rooms with verandah on either side (plate no 2). The portico comprises three arches on the front side with terabeated ceiling, supported by columns and key stone arches (figure 8). The columns are resting on two feet pedestals. The fluted Corinthian pilasters on either sides are augmented with pelmets festooned on them (figure 9). The pediment is painted in green base with white typography on it, representing arabesque pattern in the center along with state insignia and construction date 05 July, 1906 and has been named as Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur (figure 10).

The structure of the BVH resides on the podium of three steps with the height of 2.5 feet pedestals and the colonnade is augmented with five arches. The width of the colonnade is eight

feet proceeding directly to the current MS Office. The central entrance of the room has high roof with three ventilators on each side and terabeated roof with railing augmented on it. The Ventilators are bedecked with wooden *Chajja* on it. The stucco embellishments are observed on the lattice fret supported by the goblets. The interior of the hall has totally been changed due to renovation projects. The ceiling is shortened by the fall ceiling and the walls are covered by PVC paneling. The current MS Dr. Aziz ur Rehman supported the process of documentation.<sup>6</sup>

Moreover, the central hall comprises square bastion on either sides used as a record rooms for the MS Office (figure 11). The ground floor of the bastion has three doors connecting with the office and verandah along with a pointed arch window on the front façade. The base of the walls is bedecked with Brick masonry moreover the arch is crowned with brick decoration. Upper storey of the bastion is bedecked with arch window and supported by fluted Corinthian pilasters and square dome which is crowned with pedestals with four delicate finale in wrought iron and State insignia in the center representing star and crescent on it (figure 12).

### **Operation Theater**

The significant characteristic of the BVH construction plan is the historic operation theater, erected in the center devoid of a roof, designed for surgical procedures in the 20th century. This structure is distinguished by doors and arches that extend from all four sides. Regrettably, the current state of the operation theater is deplorable, as it is repurposed for air conditioning drain pipes and waste disposal. The drain pipes have caused damage to the floor, yet the architectural embellishments reflect the regal taste of the original patrons (figure 13).

The operation theater is distinguished by its four entrances, each enclosed within a triangular frame devoid of any decorative elements. These entrances are further distinguished by a recessed keystone arch, which is supported by pilasters on either side. The base and abacus of these pilasters also lack embellishment, save for the spandrel of the arch, which is adorned with six pointed stars. This symbol, the six-pointed star, holds a controversial significance within the realm of Islamic Art and Architecture (figure 14).

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<sup>6</sup> Dr. Aziz ur Rehman, was interviewed on September 2019.

Historically, the six-pointed star was initially employed as a form of harmonious decoration, characterized by two equilateral triangles overlapping one another, a motif recognized for its mathematical precision and aesthetic appeal, known as the hexagram.

In Hinduism, the hexagram symbolizes the state of nara-narayana, representing the balance between humanity and divinity. Within Tibetan Buddhism, it is associated with Vajrayogini and plays a pivotal role in her mandala. In Christianity, the hexagram was utilized as a decorative motif in medieval churches and continues to be a symbol of the Tribes of Israel, as well as a representation of the divine and human connection. In Judaism, it is recognized as the Star of David, while in Islamic Art, it is interpreted as the Khatim Sulayman (The Seal of Solomon) or Najmat Dawud (Star of David).

The six pointed star has been depicted as motif in Muslim Architecture in different region such as it has been notice on the Humayun's Tomb in India on the *iwān* gate (figure 15). It has also been notice as decoration of the pulpit of the grate Mosque (Ulu Cami) in Siirt of Turkey (Metin, 2021). The six pointed star is also used as decoration on the Tomb of Bibi Jawandi in Uch Sharif. Hence the hexagram was not always a Jewish symbol, a part from the last century and a half. It was used by many culture and significantly Islamic art decoration.

Each wall of the operation theater has six ventilators, three of which are bedecked with *Chajja* and the other three recessed in the wall (figure 16) there are 24 ventilators in Operation Theater. The *Chajja* of the ventilator is supported by decorated brackets (figure 17) presenting Mughal influence.

The ventilator on the west and eastern side are festooned with two different types of lattice fret (figure 18) in which octagrams are carved forming quatrefoil using brick material. Moreover the fret represents a combination of quatrefoil and octagram placed alternatively in the frame.

### **Sadiq Dane High School 1911**

The prestigious SD high school was established in 1911,<sup>7</sup> located on the main boulevard of Bahawalpur near Farid gate and being the only high school in the state until 1924 (figure 19). An Indo-Sarcenic, indo-islamic architectural structure and symmetrical plan facing the spherical

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<sup>7</sup> Apart from matriculation, middle and primary level education was also conducted here. This institution had the largest number of students than other high schools in the state

grassy plot with a boundary wall of vertical iron segments (Rizvi, 2020). The iron gate of the SD high school proceeds to the portico which is essential part of Indo-Sarcenic architecture.

The structure is residing on the pedestal of two feet. The portico of the SD high school pertains three pointed arches in the front, with brick masonry augmented with pediments crowned with globes, both are painted in white. There is no text or any stucco left on the pediments but represents that it was festooned with State Insignia in the center with title of the College and Date in English and left pediment represent Riyasat Bahawalpur in Urdu. It is evident from the pictorial reference (figure 20) which represents Nawab Bahawal khan V and different others personalities of Bahawalpur State residing in front of the SD high school portico. Apparently in the background, it is clear that SE College Bahawalpur (1907) which was converted into SD high school in 1911 (Tahir & Gillani, 2022).

### **Exterior**

The main structure is residing on the podium of six steps and flanking into the colonnades, which has three arches at the front and three pointed arches along with three pairs of arches on either side's collectively eighteen arches on the front façade of the colonnades (figure 21). The width of the colonnades, is eight feet segmented with arches and floor tiles festooned with stylize mehrabi motif (figure 22). The structure has terabeated roof crowned with fret penal and white globets.

The substantial feature is the central octagonal clock tower shown in (figure 23) and two octagonal bastions on either sides, another notable feature of Indo-sarcenic architecture observed in clock tower Multan 1884.the clock tower Faisalabad, 1905.

The octagonal clock tower of SD high school is residing on the pedestal of six feet with recessed arches on the base and four globes connected with the tower residing on the pedestal of one feet with two tier shafts of the tower. The first level has octagonal shape with the height of ten feet festooned with rectangular panels of stucco fret representing mehrabi motif Mughal decorative feature (figure 24). The significant feature of the clock tower is four clocks placed on either sides along with four state insignia arranged alternatively. The clock tower represents roman numbers- a true colonial inspiration. The next level of the octagonal tower is augmented with eight pointed arches of two different sizes composed alternatively. All constructed with brick masonry and crowned with bulbous dome representing Mughal influence.

The three tier bastion (figure 25) has octagonal shape, augmented with recessed arches on the base of the bastion. The second level is festooned with eight pointed arches with fret pattern representing mehrabi motif (figure 26). Moreover third level of the bastion is amplified with pointed arch and crowned with lattice fret representing lozenges. The bastion is crowned with bulbous dome and capped with inverted lotus and a double lob finial. The significant feature in the construction of bastion are flying buttresses,<sup>8</sup> (figure 27) purposely constructed to support the heavy wall up. It is a gothic feature but constructed in the form of staircase for beautification purpose. Moreover as the structure pertains terabeated roof (figure 28), with twelve arches on either side or double tier pilasters augmented with fret patterns. There are other flying buttresses residing on the side colonnades. Similarly the keystone arches are augmented on the side galleries with brick masonry representing the aesthetic element of the architecture (figure 29). Augmented with frieze of stucco lozenges fret on it.

The central hall, used as multi-purpose hall has double door entrance with pointed arch recessed in it (figure 30). The main wall of the hall comprise three doors, three windows and three ventilators placed one above another. Following the typical style of Nawab architecture with huge roof and ventilators on all four sides supporting the air ventilation system. Externally the hall comprises a frieze of dentils along with terabeated roof and a fret of lozenges supported by the pilaster on the exterior (figure 31).

### **Comparative Analysis**

The Daulat Khana, SD High School and Bahawal Victoria Hospital comprise symmetrical architectural plan with portico of three centered arches and double pilasters with colonnade on either side. The arches in the colonnade are different in each structure representing the innovation of time period and construction technique like keystone arch in Daulat Khana and BVH but pointed arch is observed in SD high school.

The double tier bastions are indo-sarcentic feature observed in the structure initiated in Daulat Khana as square bastion with no dome. The SD high school pertain octagonal kiln baked brick tile bastion with pointed arches and bulbous dome representing Mughal influence.

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<sup>8</sup> “An architectural structure built against or projecting from a wall with serves to support or reinforce the wall”

The BVH pertain square bastion with keystone arches and the goblets on the square based dome. The goblets are observed on the railing of Daulat Khana and bastions of the SD high school and BVH Bahawalpur. The crescent and star railing constructed on the *Naulakha* dome of the Daulat Khana and square bastion of the BVH. But it is not observed on the SD high school. The lacquered ceiling is observed in side room of the Daulat Khana with lintel ceilings but none such decoration are observed in SD high.

The significant feature of Daulat Khana is Arcadian hall representing colonial feature amalgamated with Naulakha dome representing Mughal influence with square bastion and colonnade of keystone arches representing Indo-sarcenic architecture in the period of Nawab Bahawal Khan IV.

The significant feature of BVH is portico with pediments, keystone arches, square bastions representing the colonial influences and the roofless operation theater with cut brick work embellishment and six pointed star and decorative brackets represent Mughal influence focusing Indo-sarcenic architecture in the period of Nawab Bahawal Khan V.

The significant feature of SD high school is portico with pediment, stucco decoration, double pilasters and clock tower representing colonial influences. The octagonal bastions with pointed arches, mehrabi fret patterns with bulbous dome and double lobe finial representing Mughal influences focusing Indo-sarcenic architecture in the period of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V.

## **Conclusion**

The Princely State of Bahawalpur was ruled by twelve monarchs, each contributing to a rich tapestry of historical architecture. This study will delve into the architectural legacy of three prominent Nawab dynasty rulers, examining both the structural design and decorative elements, with an emphasis on the Indo-Sarcenic architectural style. The study will provide a comprehensive analysis of the architectural influences that shaped these structures, including Mughal, colonial, and Islamic elements forming Indo-sarcenic architecture.

## List of figures



Figure No. 1: Daulat Khana front façade.



Figure No. 2: Front Entrance Gate of Daulat Khana.





Figure No. 3: Arcadian hall of the Daulat Khana.



Figure No. 4: Lacquered decorated ceiling of rooms of Daulat Khana.



Figure No. 5: Lacquered decorated lintel of rooms of Daulat Khana.



Figure No. 6: The Square bastion of Daulat Khana



Figure No. 7: Bahawal Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur.



Figure No. 8: Portico of BVH Bahawalpur.



Figure No. 9: Corinthian fluted pilaster.



Figure No. 10: State insignia BVH Bahawalpur



Figure No. 11: Square bastion.



Figure No. 12: Corinthian pilasters.



Figure No. 13: Operation Theater.



Figure No. 14: Six pointed star.

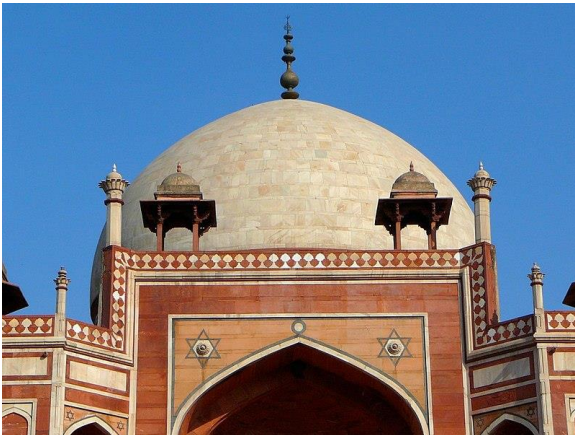


Figure No. 15: Humayun's Tomb in India



Figure No. 16: Six pointed star and the Chajja of ventilators.



Figure No. 17: Decorated Brackets.

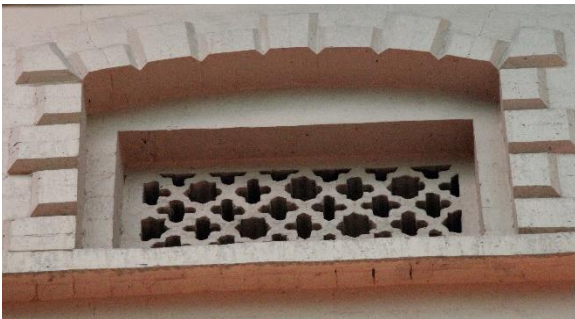


Figure No. 18: Carved lattice fret ventilator.



Figure No. 19: Front façade of the SD high school.



Figure No. 20: Old Picture of Sadiq Egerton College.



Figure No. 21: Portico of the SD High School.



Figure No. 22: Colonnade of SD High School.



Figure No. 23: Central Tower of SD High School.





Figure No. 24: Mehrabi motif of central clock tower of SD high school.

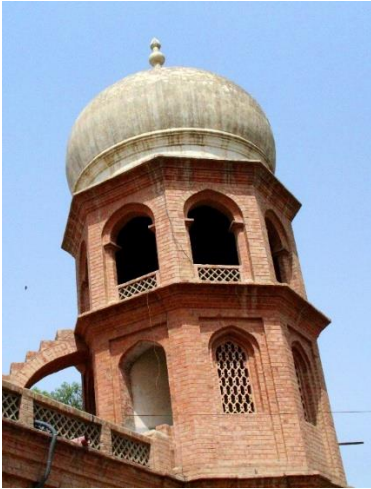


Figure No. 25: The octagonal bastion of SD High School.



Figure No. 26: Mehrabi motif of the octagonal bastion.



Figure No. 27: Flying buttress of the bastion.



Figure No. 28: The side view of SD high school.

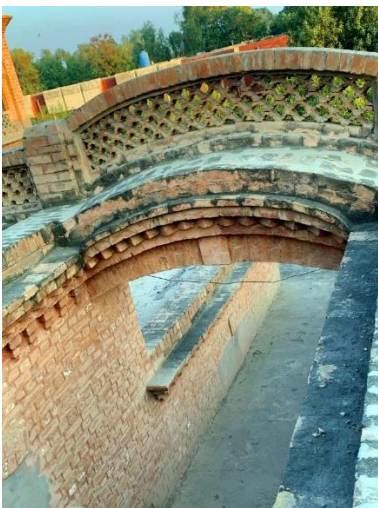


Figure No. 29: Different brick works in the structure.



Figure No. 30: Double door entrance of the hall.



Figure No. 31: Interior view of the central hall.

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