

2020-10-14 - Lecture 22

12.1 Islamic Realms in Central Asia :: Domes of Power & Gardens of Paradise

- 1) **Genghis Khan** (1162-1227)
 - Violent, brutal conquerer of most of Asia from China to Persia in the late 12th century.
 - **Did not establish permanent settlements but was nomadic**
 - **Did not convert to Islam**
 - Sought strategic control of the many Silk Roads across Asia
- 2) Dynasties
 - **Timurid Dynasty** (modern-day Uzbekistan) - capital city Samarkand
 - **Safavid Dynasty** (modern-day Iran) - capital city Isfahan
 - **Mughal Dynasty** (modern-day northern India) - focus city Agra
- 3) **Timur** a.k.a. **Tamerlane** a.k.a. **Timur the Lame - Timurid Dynasty**
 - Ruled **1370-1405**
 - Ruthless, violent, intimidating
 - Borrowed architectural ideas from Persia
 - Capital city **Samarkand**
 - **Registan** in Samarkand - Registan means *desert or sandy place*
A forum consisting of three typical mosques all the typical mosque-like architectural features (began **1420**)
 - **Tomb of Timur** in Samarkand called **Gur-e-Amir (1404)**
- 4) Architectural elements of Islamic architecture and Hindu architecture
 - **Muqarna** - Islamic vaulting sometimes used in the iwan arch that is a complex division of geometry which is projected in such a way as to suggest a honeycomb-like surface
 - **Pishtaq** - Islamic arch as defined by the (sometimes) slender masonry thickness that is passed through to come to the interior arch called the iwan
 - **Iwan** - deep volumetric entry arch - like a vaulted open room
 - **Hasht Bihisht** - nine square grid - central space surrounded by symbolic representation of eight heavens per Islam
 - **Chahar Bagh** - Means: "four gardens." A quadrilateral symmetrical garden symbolizing the four gardens of paradise
 - **Qibla** - The direction toward Mecca
 - **Mihrab** - A niche in the wall indicating *qibla*
 - **Persian Arch** - A wide, four-centered arch that distributes forces more laterally
 - **Chhatris** - domed kiosks, sometimes w a bell-shaped roof
 - **Zenana** - the women's palace or compound
 - **Khanqah** - a religious memorial
 - **Jali** - intricate carved wooden screen that allows women to see out
- 5) **Shah Abbas - Safavid Dynasty**
 - Ruled **1587-1629**
 - Capital city **Isfahan** (ESS-fa-han)
 - **Masjid-e-Jami** or **Great Friday Mosque** finished about 1100 (Old City)
 - **Quaisariya** - covered bazaar in the (Old City) two miles long
 - New Palace of Shah Abbas called **Naqsh-i Jahan**
 - **New Maydan** connected to quaisariya built **1598** by Abbas
 - **Shaykh Lutfallah Mosque (1603)** in Maydan directly across from **Ali Qapu Gate** which was the six-story gateway into Abbas's new palace
 - **Caravanserais** were connected to New Maydan - stopping place or hostel along the Silk Road
 - **Masjid-i-Shah** Mosque of the Shah (the public mosque) in New Maydan (**1611**)

- **Chahar Bagh** - (see definition above) - *Specific to Isfahan*, it's the main boulevard landscaped with plane trees and water features with Abbas's palace on the north and his country palace on the south end
- **Chahar Bagh Avenue** on axis and crossed **Si-o-e-Pol Bridge** built in **1602**

6) **Akbar the Great - Mughal Dynasty**

- Ruled **1556-1605** - descended from Timur
- Grandfather was Babur the Lion (1526-1530)
- **Tomb of Humanyun** (father of Akbar) **1562** includes a Chahar Bagh garden
- **Red Fort in Agra** begun **1566**
- **Fatehpur Sikri** (meaning City of Victory) built about **1571** by Akbar - included: **Buland Darwaza** - main gate
- **Jama Mosque**
- **Tomb of Shaykh Chishti Salim** also called the **khanqah of Shaykh Salim** (pre-existed at this site)
- **Panch Mahal** - hypostyle tower structure so that women could look out onto the main court through jali screens without being seen
- **Diwan-i-Khas** - Hall of private audience - has chhatris (bell-shaped domes)
- **Diwan-i-Aam** - Hall of public audience (political space)
- **Anup Talao** - central pool with viewing platform
- **Itimar-ud-Daulah Tomb** in **Agra** - **1628** built by Nur Jahan (daughter-in-law of Akbar) and **Empress 1611-1627**, a very politically powerful person
- **Taj Mahal** in **Agra** - (**1632**) built by **Shah Jahan** grandson of Akbar and stepson of Nur Jahan. Shah Jahan ruled **1628-1658**. Taj Mahal built as a tomb for his favorite wife **Mumtaz Mahal**. Brick faced with white marble. Taj Mahal properly called **Rauz-i Munavvara** meaning *illuminated tomb*. Includes a Chahar Bagh.

A brutal time. Shah Jahan's son became entangled in a power struggle w his three brothers. He emerged victorious and threw his father in prison in the Red Fort for the last eight years of his life. Buried in the Taj Mahal.