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A Study of Architectural Innovations and Landmark Constructions in Mughal Culture

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ABSTRACT

Architectural innovations and landmark constructions formed one of the most remarkable aspects of Mughal culture in India. The Mughal emperors introduced a distinctive architectural style that combined Persian, Central Asian, and Indian elements, creating monuments that reflected both artistic beauty and imperial power. Early Mughal architecture began under Babur and developed further during the reign of Akbar, who encouraged large-scale constructions and introduced a blend of Islamic and indigenous Indian architectural features. One of the most significant architectural achievements of Akbar's reign was the construction of Fatehpur Sikri, which showcased grand palaces, mosques, and courtyards built with red sandstone. During the reign of Jahangir, architecture became more refined and decorative, emphasizing gardens and symmetrical designs inspired by Persian traditions. The Mughal garden concept, known as the *charbagh* style, symbolized paradise and harmony in design. Architectural innovation reached its peak under Shah Jahan, who is best known for constructing the magnificent Taj Mahal, an enduring symbol of love and one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture. Other notable constructions include the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid, which demonstrate the grandeur, symmetry, and intricate craftsmanship of Mughal builders. These architectural achievements highlight the Mughal rulers' commitment to art, aesthetics, and urban planning. Their constructions not only served political and religious purposes but also expressed cultural sophistication and technological advancement. Even today, Mughal architectural monuments remain important symbols of India's rich historical and cultural heritage.