

**Subject: History of Architecture– III**

**Topic: Colonial Architecture**

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## COLONIAL INDIA

~colonial architecture consists of two words- one being colonial which refers to colonial INDIA and other being architecture which means the way something is designed.

Firstly, it is important for us to understand the context or meaning of colonial India.

Colonial India is the part of the Indian subcontinent which was under the control of European colonial powers, through trade and conquest.

British India contained the most populous and valuable provinces of the British Empire and built many masterpieces

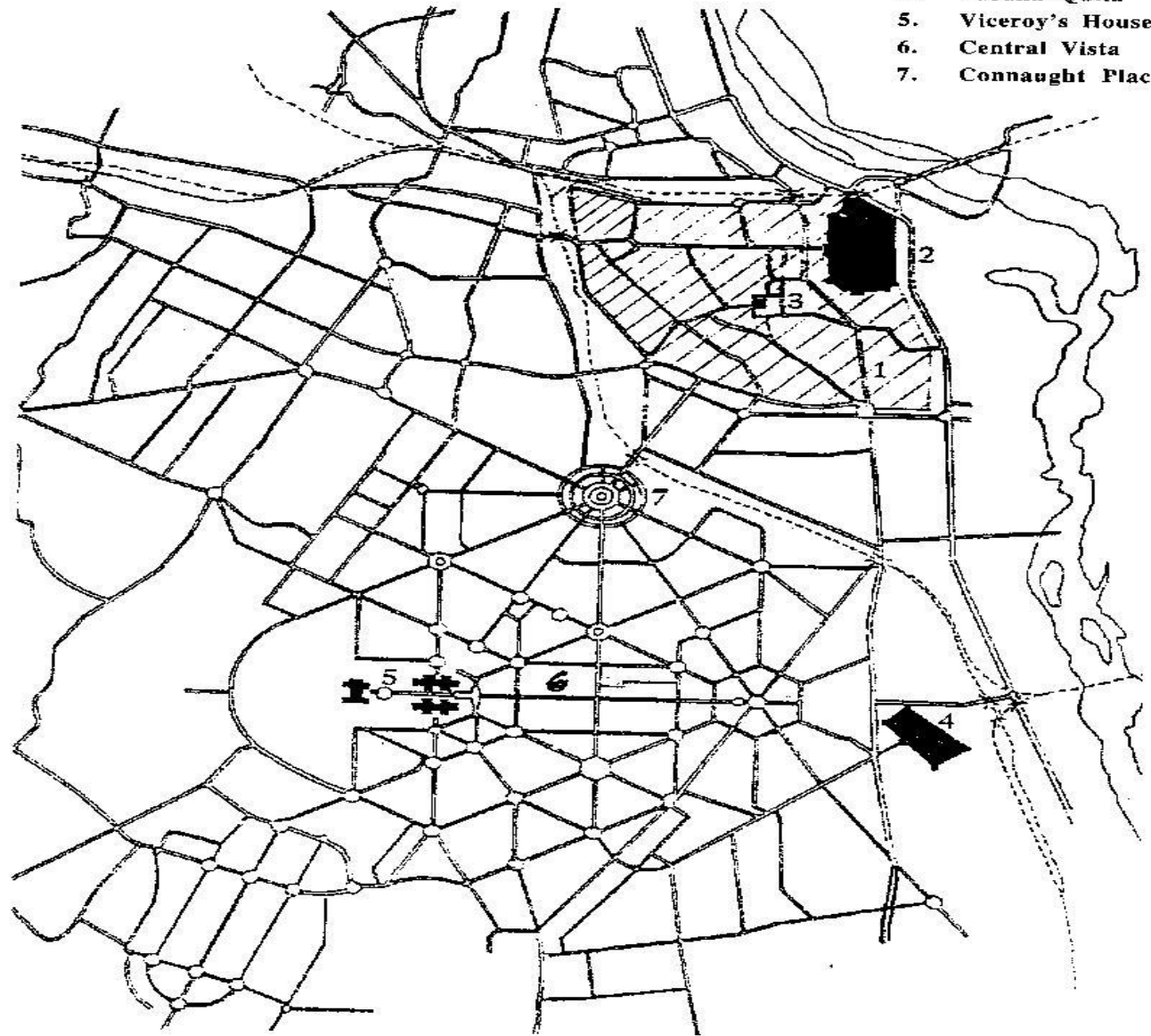
## **Prominent colonial architectural style of DELHI:**

The architectural style of the British period is very prominent in Delhi and is represented by the Central Secretariat, Parliament House or the ' Sansad Bhavan ' and the President's House or Rashtrapati Bhavan , formerly the British viceroy's house, the splendid Rajpath , India gate . The best features of the modern English school of architecture with traditional Indian forms. The British followed various architectural styles - Gothic, Imperial, Christian, English Renaissance and Victorian being the essentials. In 1911 King George V passed an order declaring that the capital would be moved from Calcutta to Delhi . The city was planned systematically, combining 20th century architecture. Sir Edwin Lutyens was responsible for the overall plan of Delhi.

Sir Edwin Lutyens (29 March 1869 - 1 January 1944) : Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens was a British architect who is known for imaginatively adapting traditional architectural styles to the requirements of his era. He designed many English country houses . He has been referred to as "the greatest British architect "and is known best for having an instrumental role in designing and building a section of the metropolis of Delhi , known as New Delhi , which would later on serve as the seat of the Government of India .

In recognition of his contribution, New Delhi is also known as " Lutyens ' Delhi ". In collaboration with Herbert Baker , he was also the main architect of several monuments in New Delhi such as the India Gate ; he also designed the Viceroy's House.

**Lutyens DELHI :-** The new city was planned adjacent to Shahjahanabad , yet separated from it by an open space buffer and railway embankment . New delhi was laid in a Geometric Pattern over a triangular based formed by Connaught Place , Goverment complex and The India Gate . The residential areas are laid with lower and Middle income employees to the north of the vista senior British officials to the South. To the north the fashionable shopping centre of Connaught place and the New delhi Railway Station were Laid.

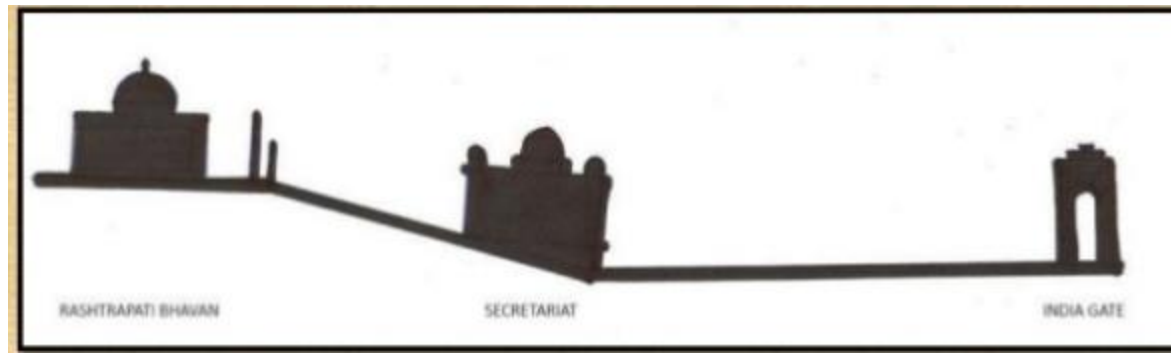


**Legend**

1. Shahjahanabad
2. Red Fort (Lal Quila)
3. Juma Masjid
4. Purana Quila
5. Viceroy's House
6. Central Vista
7. Connaught Place

**LUTYENS' DELHI**

- The design of the new delhi was conceived as a combination of two separate and Distinct geometric systems .
- The monumental grid is comprised of the central Vista with – the India gate as a symbolic entry on riverside , while the capital complex and Viceroy’s Palace on the raisina Hill .
- The geometric system comprised of a hexagonal pattern which linked the governmental , commercial and Recreational activities with the residential areas.
- The hexagonal grid provided a visual continuity of the new city with the monuments of ancient capital like Purana Quila, Jama Masjid , lodi Tomb , Ferozshah Tomb.
- The whole city covering about 7000 acres between two ecological features River Yamuna on the East and Aravali ridges on the west.
- He conceived a Garden city with buildings below Tree height , except Government complex, India Gate and Ancient Monuments .
- Outside monumental grid the city was conceived as a vast park , with buildings hidden by Trees.
- The viceroy palace and secretariat complex were planned to dominate the skyline of New Delhi which occupied the highest land on Raisina hill.
- All the buildings in between the government complex and Jama masjid which include connaught Place were kept below 48’ i.e. Tree height.





Delhi: original layout

Baker designed the two Secretariat buildings flanking the great axis leading to what was then the Viceroy of India 's Palace.

**The Capital Complex:-** The governor's Palace with the two Secretariat buildings on either occupies a very prominent position on an elevated platform .

Stretching from the ridge on one side to the River on the other , the landscape Flows in to the heart of the city.

When Lutyen's Planned the central vista he saw on both sides gardens and water channels , beyond which he placed single storey buildings , planned with trees.

Connaught place in the north and safdarjung's Tomb in the south .

Roads cross the main avenue in delhi, provides direct movement for vehicular traffic.

Rashtrapati bhavan - the official residence of the president of india on the magnificent Raisina Hill .

The first palatial building with 340 rooms . The garden is terraced and resembles the mughal garden is srinagar .

Covering an area of 380 acres , the complex with its magnificent dome stands majestically like a fortress on raisina Hill . It was completed in 1929 at the cost of Rs 12,53,000 .

Mr. Herbert Baker designed most of the structures that form the present capital of New Delhi. The major focus was to be the long axis along the Raisina Hill known as the King's Way, presently called Rajpath, with the India Gate on one side and the magnificent Viceroy's house on the other end. The Viceroy's house has been converted into the Presidential palace or the Rashtrapathi Bhavan in post-independence India.



Today, the Rajpath has become the symbol of the modern India, with the yearly Republic day parade through this stretch highlighting some of the progress made in various fields and also the military strength.

Along with this is the Janpath, which crosses the Rajpath at a rightangle, connecting Rajesh Pilot Marg with the Connaught Place.

The other important focus of the plan of New Delhi was a hexagonal pattern which linked governmental, commercial & recreational activities with the residential areas.



# COMMON FEATURES

THICK BAND



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<http://www.hindustantimes.com/The-Budget-s-journey-through-Parliament/Article1-1056413.aspx>

BUDDHIST DOME

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<http://monuments-in-india.blogspot.in/2009/12/rashttrapati-bhavan.html>

BUDDHIST DOME

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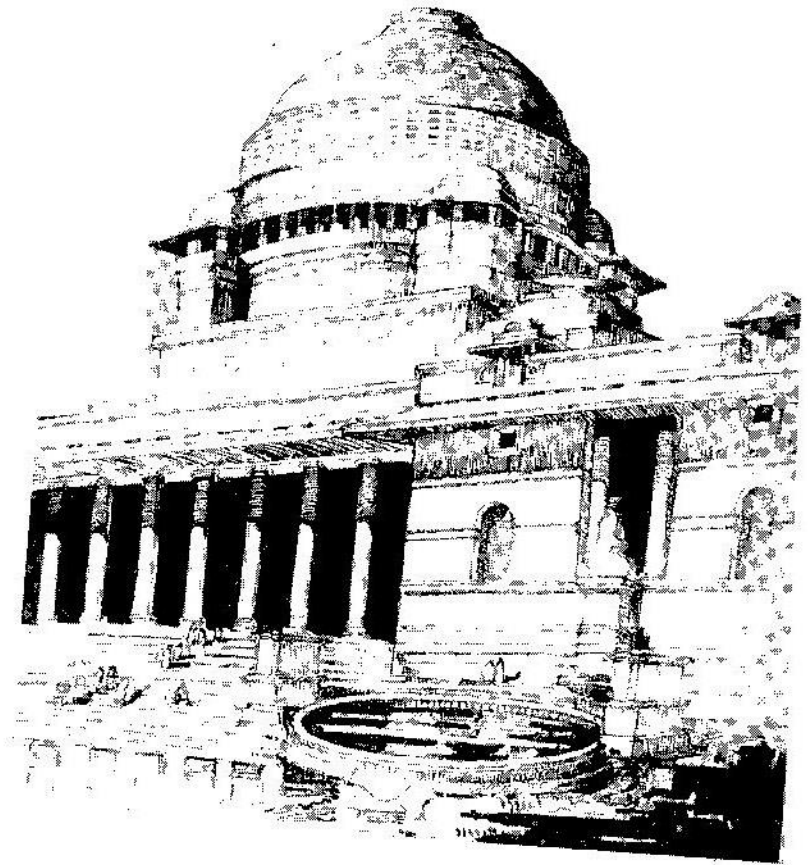
Some of the important Rooms in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**The Darbar Hall** :- The darbar Hall in British India was known as the Throne Room , where the government of a free india was declared onthe 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**Ashoka Hall** ;- It was formely the state Ballroom designed by lutens with vaulted ceilings , chandiliers and persian carpets.

**Cabinet Room** :- The president hold his meeting in cabinet Room, lined with book shelves .

**The president's Bodyguard** :- Bodyguard change their duties at every Saturday. It is the oldest snd seniormost



The Viceroy House (now the Rashtrapati Bhavan)

Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, India

## Mughal Garden:-

Sir Edwin Lutyens was the architect of Mughal Gardens, who made this Garden for Lady Harding.

Mughal Gardens are the unique gardens in the sense that these are a combination of Mughal and British Architecture

The splendid Mughal Garden of the Rashtrapati Bhavan Stretches across 15 Acres . It is open to the public in the month of February – March.

It is a geometrically laid out garden based on the Char bagh with water channels flowing out in the four cardinal directions from a central point .

The complex consists of 12 gardens and a circular Pool .

Lutyen,s places fountains with a hexagonal plan at the intersection of the central path of the Garden.

600 varieties of Trees were selected for the Garden such as mango, neem, Jamun, peepal And Banyan . Recently a herbal garden has also been developed in the Mughl garden.



## Jaipur Column:-

In 1915 Maharaja Sawaj Madho Singh of Jaipur Donated the sum of about 14,000 pounds to the British Government to build a column to commemorate the building of a new capital.

The maharaja of jaipur were loyal to the crown in order to protect their property from British occupation .

The Column was to be placed in a prominent location and lutyens decided that the most suitable spot would be the forecourt of the Viceroy's House .

The Jaipur column is made of White sand Stone that stands on a double base.

The flower balances a 6 pointed star of glass that was put in position in 1930. The plinth of the column has inscribed upon it the plan of Imperial Delhi.

