

Subject: History of Architecture– III

Topic: Colonial Architecture

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The secretariats :-

The Rajpath is a 2.5km stretch which forms a strong linear axis with strong focuses on either end. One either side of the Rashtrapathi Bhavan are the two Secretariat buildings- the North & the South block, which houses government offices at present.

The Rashtrapathi Bhavan along with the North & the South blocks are one of Lutyen's & Baker's memorable achievements, in terms of architectural design and scale.



The Front Facade of the South Block

The architecture is a synthesis of British Imperialism & Indian elements, with Lutyens & Baker drawing inspiration from Buddhist religious complexes on one hand, and Mughal architecture on the other.

There are traces of classical style, with columns and colonnaded verandahs. These are interspersed with chatris, jaalis and chajjas borrowed from the traditional Indian architecture.

The composition is symmetrical and formal with a strong central axis and the Rashtrapathi Bhavan as the focus, on top of the Raisina Hill. There is an interesting story regarding the positioning of the Rashtrapathi Bhavan on top of the Raisina Hill.

The **Secretariat Building** or **Central Secretariat** is where the Cabinet Secretariat is housed, which administers the Government of India. Built in the 1910s, it is home to some of the most important ministries of the Cabinet of India. Situated on Raisina Hill, New Delhi, the Secretariat buildings are two blocks of symmetrical buildings (North Block and South Block) on opposite sides of the great axis of Rajpath, and flanking the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's House).

Central secretariat:

The Secretariat Building was designed by the prominent British architect Herbert Baker in Indo- Saracenic Revival architecture .

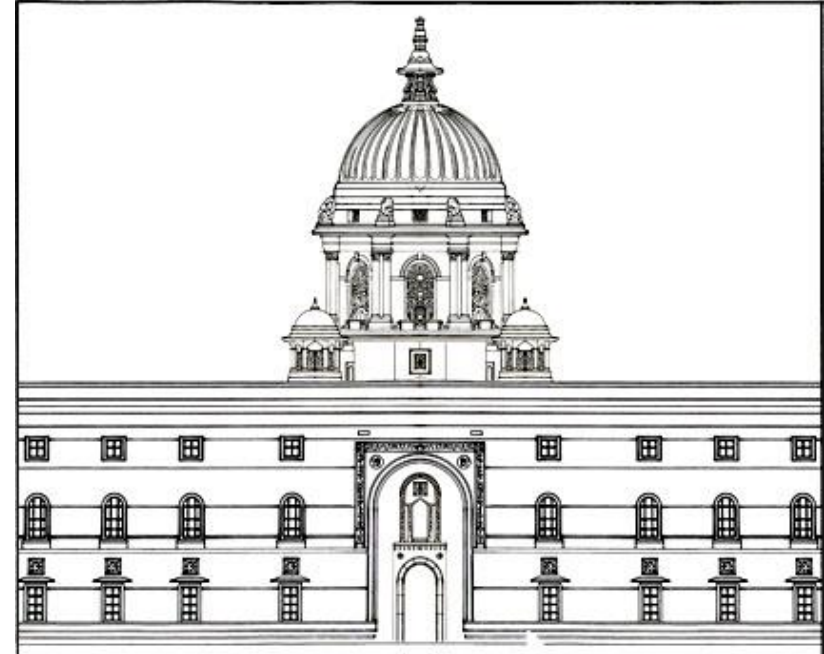
Both the identical building have four levels, each with about 1,000 rooms, in the inner courtyards to make space for future expansions

Together the buildings the designed to form two squares. They have broad corridors between different wings and wide stairways to the four floors and each building is topped by a giant dome, while each wings end with colonnaded balcony.

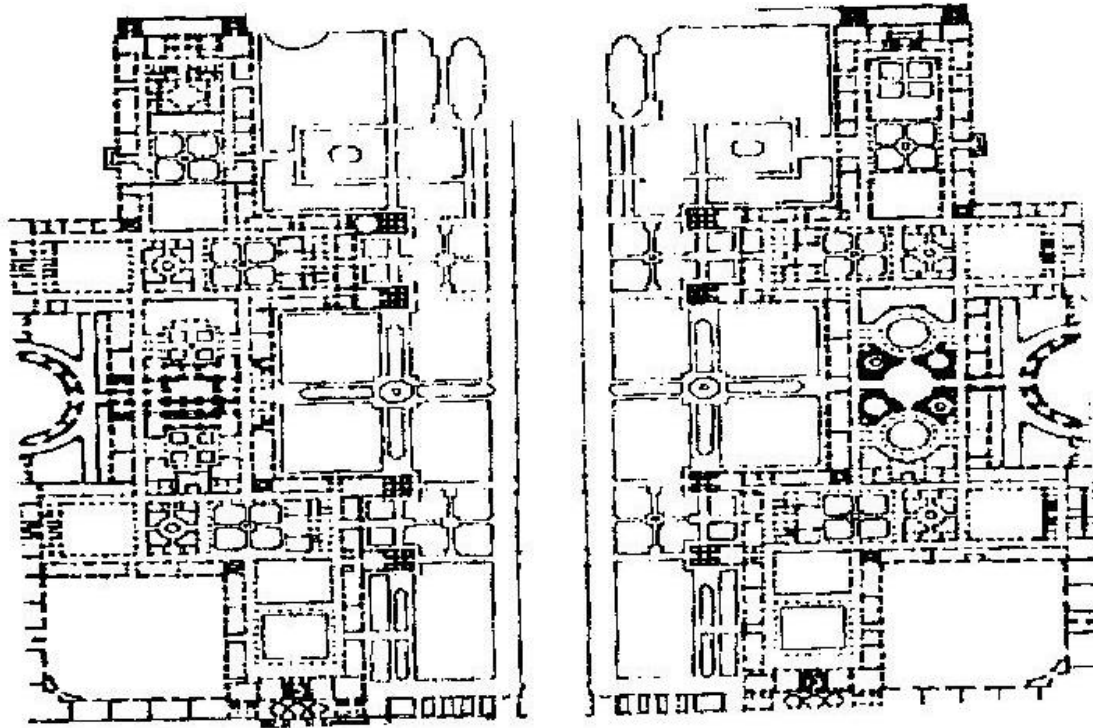
Much of the building is in classical architectural style, yet it incorporated from Mughal and Rajasthan architecture style and motifs in its architecture.

These are visible in the use of Jali , perforated screens, to protect from scorching sun and monsoon rains of India

. Another feature of the building is a dome-like structure known as the Chatri , a design unique to India, used in ancient times to give relief to travelers by providing shade from the hot Indian sun.



The North & the South blocks are mirror images of each other, designed by Baker. These linear buildings have a large central recessed space which leads one inside the central entrance into the space below the massive dome. The facade is plain, composed of sandstone clad walls with red sandstone being used on the ground floor walls and yellow sandstone on the upper floors. The red sandstone portion tends to anchor the whole building on a solid base. There are protruding arms on either sides with massive colonnaded porticos to create a very formal composition.

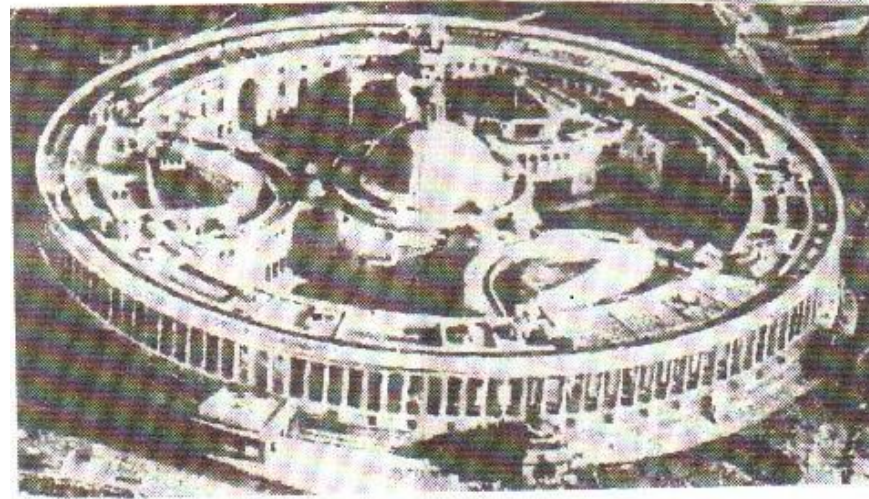


The Secretariats, New Delhi, Architect: Herbert Baker

Parliament House:

It was designed by Herbert Baker as the council House. The Central Hall of the Parliament has been designed to be circular in shape.

The Central Hall is a place of historical importance in India for two reasons: -The transfer of colonial power to the Provisional Government under Nehru In 1947 and the framing of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly took place in this very hall. Originally, the Central Hall was used as the Library of the erstwhile Central Legislative Assembly Assembly Hall.



The Parliament House

- It is also known as Sansad Bhavan , the seat parliament is a circular structure .
- 171 m in dia and about one third of a mile in circumference.
- It is raised on a red sand stone plinth that has Niches .
- Two semicircular huge chamber flank a central dome with a prominent dome
- The dome is 98 ft. (29.87 metres) in diameter and is believed that it is one of the most magnificent domes in the world.
- The building has a continuous Open Corridor on the First Floor with a colonnade of sand stone pillars.
- It consists Three halls – the Loksabha , the rajya Sabha and the central Hall .
- The Indian parliament is divided in to 2 houses – the upper house and the Lower house .

The **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on the end of the axis is the undoubted focus of the composition, with the large black stone clad dome above the front entrance portico creating a strong visual composition.

➤ The whole composition is designed around a massive square with many open areas and courtyards within, with separate wings for the Viceroy and Guests.

➤ It is massive in size, with 340 rooms, 227 columns & 2.4 kilometres of corridors, set in a 330 acre estate.



A major portion of the construction of the buildings was done by the contractor Mr. Shoba Singh, who is the father of author Khushwant Singh

The Rashtrapati Bhavan is a large and vast mansion with four floors and a floor area of 200,000 square feet (19,000 m²).

The ancillary dome-like structure on top of the building is known as a Chattri, an integral part of Indian architectural design

India gate: The Gate is built as a special memorandum for all the soldiers who belongs to Indian Army and to all those who have given their lives fighting for the protection of their country.

- It is considered that approximately 90,000 and more soldiers , names have been encrypted over the walls of India gate which is a special thing in itself.
- .The designing of India Gate was done by famous architect Sir Edwin Lutyen .
- Standing behind the gate is an empty canopy made out of sandstone, also designed by Lutyens , and inspired by a sixth-century pavilion from Mahabalipuram
- The India Gate hexagon complex, with a diameter of about 625 metres, covers approximately 306,000m² in area.
- The entire arch stands on a low base of red Bharatpur stone and rises in stages to a huge moulding.
- The cornice is inscribed with the Imperial suns while both sides of the arch have INDIA, flanked by the dates MCMXIV (1914 left) and MCMXIX (1919 right).
- The shallow domed bowl at the top was intended to be filled with burning oil on anniversaries but this is rarely done.



Supreme Court of INDIA: The main block of the Supreme Court building was built on a square plot of 22 acres and the building was designed by chief architect Ganesh Bhikaji Deolalikar who was the first Indian to head CPWD and designed the Supreme Court Building in an Indo British architectural style. The Court moved into the present building in 1958.

The building is shaped to project the image of scales of justice with the Central Wing of the building corresponding to the centre beam of the Scales.

In 1979, two new wings , the East Wing and the West Wing were added to the complex.

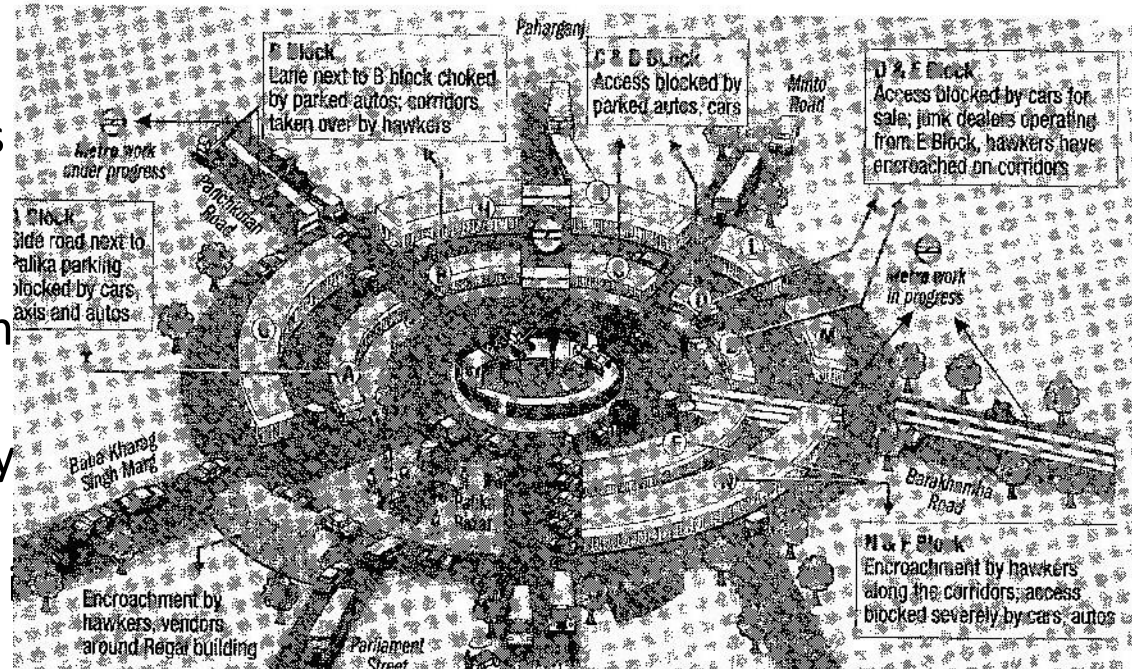
In all there are 15 court rooms in the various wings of the building.

The Chief Justice's Court is the largest of the courtroom located in the centre of the Central Wing.

It has a large dome with a high ceiling.



Connaught Place : , officially **Rajiv Chowk**) is one of the largest financial, commercial and business centres in Delhi, India. It is often abbreviated as **CP** and houses the headquarters of several Indian firm. It was earlier the headquarters for the British. Its surroundings occupy pride of place in the city, counted among the top heritage structures New Delhi. It was developed as a showpiece of Lutyens' Delhi



the construction work was started in 1929 and completed in 1933.

The Inner Circle of Connaught Place was renamed Rajiv Chowk (after the late Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi) and the Outer Circle was renamed Indra Chowk by Union Home Minister S.B. Chavan

It is the fourth most expensive office destination in the world, according to global property consultant CBRE Group and fifth high priced market in the world according 2013

R.T. Rusell, chief architect of CPWD , designed the **Connaught Place**.

- He dressed 1100 feet dia circus with pure white colonnades , Palladian archways rounded pillars and symmetrical two storied buildings.
- Wide veranda were provided for shoppers to stare as show window .
- A park was laid out in the centre to absorb dust and to provide a place to the shoppers to recover from the shock of high price.
- The pure white buildings punctuated by Palladian archways present a picture of elegant classicism .

The designer had intended the effect of urban enclosure and circular continuity.

- Originally it had six blocks with 585 pillars in the Inner circle and six corresponding blocks with 1021 double – columned pillars in the outer circle.
- In the beginning the main circle became the main market .
- The outer circle took some time to develop.
- The underground Palika Bazar was constructed , followed by Palika parking with provisions of Shops.
- The Connaught place was planned to have an area of 270 Acres including the extended partition of 74 Acres.
- Buildings in the Middle circle will be constructed on stilts keeping the ground floor completely for parking.



The recommendations made by the design group of the NDRAC for Connaught place in regard to traffic and parking had been followed.

- The inner circle was proposed to be widened 120 ' for channelization of traffic and to meet additional parking needs.
- Middle circle which has 15.85 m Right to way to have one way Anti clock wise Vehicular Movement.
- The inner circle to be pedestrianised with provisions for parking lots.
- Connaught circus will also have one directional movement
- No through traffic is permitted in the inner and middle circle.
- All the radial Roads except no.-1 be made for two directional traffic.
- Pool parking shall be provided along the radial Roads.

Lutyens Bungalow Zone - 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.

lutyens Bungalow Zone (LBZ) is the area spread over 2,800-hectare area with bungalows (houses) for government officials and their administrative offices, during the British Raj. The zone stretches up to Lodhi Road in the south.

In order to create development control norms, the Ministry of Urban Development constituted the 'New Delhi Redevelopment Advisory Committee' (NDRAC) in 1972, when the redevelopment of the areas around the walled city, , north of Connaught Place and on Prithviraj Road was taken up. Thus the Lutyens Bungalow Zone (LBZ) was first notified in 1988 and later modified in 2003.





About 23.78 and 25 % of the Bungalow area on the North and the South rajpath respectively belonged to private parties on lease from the government and the rest was held by the Government.

The main residential area of Imperial Delhi consisted of 3000 single story bungalows . The average bungalow size varied between one and Three acres .

In the north west corner of the city , the areas for indian assitants were planned . Adjoining this towards the south were quarters for clerks while peons sweepers were located along the boundary of old and new cities.