

Preface

Mosques of Gujarat have attracted the attention of scholars, some of them are the best presented monuments. These monuments have provided ample opportunities not only ^{to} architects' skill and technical intelligence to create a new trend in the diffusion of Hindu temple architecture and Muslim mosque but ^{have} also created wide scope for the decorative sculptors. The minars, mehrabs, windows, balconies, ceilings, pillars were ideal architectural components which could be decorated. In this work many basic motifs from temple architecture were adopted and transformed to suit the need of Islamic architecture. Due to these reasons, the decorations on the mosques of Gujarat were thought to have rich potentialities for their detailed study. In addition to this, during the field training at Champaner Excavation, I had ample opportunities to have a close look at mosque decoration of ^{the} Champaner mosques, which fascinated me. Hence when Prof. R. N. Mehta suggested the present topic; it was a welcome suggestion and I took it as a challenge.

No doubt scholars like Percy Brown, Fergusson, Marshall, Havell, Shri Dhanki have published architectural studies regarding the mosques of Gujarat, ^{but} the decorations are not treated in their details. Hence the justification of this thesis ^{lies} in the detailed classification, interpretation and critical study of the motifs employed in the decorations on these mosques.

During the course of whole study the expert guidance and encouragement from my guide Prof. R. N. Mehta was the main source of inspiration. I am indebted to him for his kindness. Similarly Dr. S. N. Chowdhary, Dr. K. M. Momin had helped me at various stages of my research for which I am grateful to them.

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Lastly I would like to express my sincere satisfaction if this humble work will turn out to be of some value to the scholars and students of medieval architecture.

Rajani Jadhav.

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