

By the start of the 19th century, India came under British Colonial rule. With this came the influence of architectural styles favoured by the Victorian rulers (Gothic revival and Neo-Classical styles) and brought rise to a further development of the Indo-Islamic style, widely known as the Indo-Saracenic style. Buildings in this style can be seen as an attempt by the British Raj to connect with the existing culture and to legitimize the British crown's rule over India.

Mysore Palace

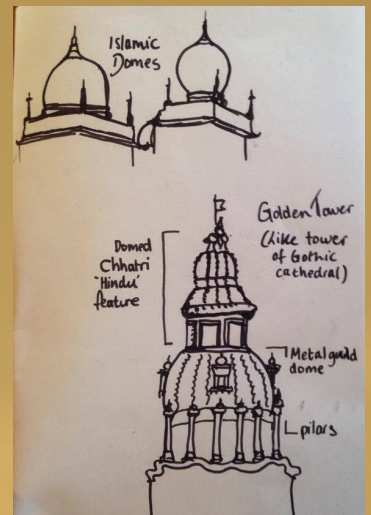


Figure 2. Illustration of architectural features of Mysore Palace.

Commissioned in 1897, Mysore Palace was designed in the later hybrid style incorporating Islamic, Hindu and Gothic elements.

Hybridity in South Indian Architecture: Islamic, Hindu and British Colonial Influences.

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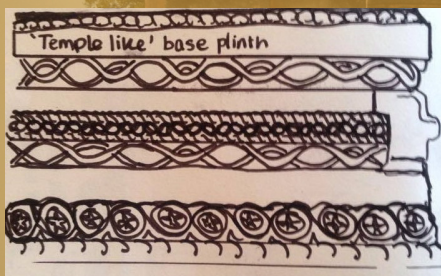


Figure 2. Illustration of architectural features on the Lotus Mahal.

The Lotus Mahal is built with this cosmopolitan attitude in mind. The two storey building has Islamic style Islamic pointed arches, vaults and domes which blend with temple-like features.

Lotus Mahal, Hampi

The Indo-Islamic style illustrates the close association between Hindu and Muslim cultures a prime example is the Lotus Mahal pavilion in the Royal Centre at the national heritage site, Hampi. The ancient city, known originally as Vijayanagara, was the capital of the largest southern India kingdom in the 14th century. It attracted visitors from across India, the Middle East and Europe and although under Hindu rule the courtly life of the city was richly cosmopolitan. The rulers integrated warfare, etiquette, costume and architecture from the Islamic Deccan Sultanates.