The development of Indo-Islamic architecture began in earnest with the establishment of [Delhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi) as the capital of the [Ghurid dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghurid_dynasty" \o "Ghurid dynasty) in 1193.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Islamic_architecture#cite_note-1) Succeeding the Ghurids was the [Delhi Sultanate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi_Sultanate), a series of Central Asian dynasties that consolidated much of North India, and later the [Mughal Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_dynasty) by the 15th century. Both of these dynasties introduced [Persianate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persianate_society), Turkic and Islamicate architecture and art styles from Western Eurasia into the Indian subcontinent

The Indo-Islamic style was neither strictly Islamic nor strictly Hindu. It was, in fact, a combination of Islamic architecture elements to those of the Indian architecture. The architecture of the medieval period can be divided into two main categories - **Architecture of the Delhi Sultanate** or the Imperial Style and the **Mughal Architecture**

The exteriors of Islamic buildings were very often topped by large [domes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dome), and made extensive use of [arches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arch). Both of these features were hardly used in [Hindu temple architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu_temple_architecture) and other indigenous Indian styles. Both types of building essentially consist of a single large space under a high dome, and completely avoid the figurative sculpture so important to [Hindu temple architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu_temple_architecture).

 Teachings from the Holy Quran and various floral patterns are visible in the arches while swastika, lotus, bells and other Hindu motifs used widely by the sultans form parts of other embellishments of the palaces thus giving them a grand and exquisite appearance.

Unlike most of the [Islamic world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_world), where [brick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brick) tended to predominate, India had highly skilled builders well used to producing stone [masonry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonry) of extremely high quality

By the Mughal period, generally agreed to represent the peak of the style, aspects of Islamic style began to influence architecture made for Hindus, with even temples using scalloped arches, and later domes.

The start of the [Delhi Sultanate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi_Sultanate) in 1206 under [Qutb al-Din Aibak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qutb_al-Din_Aibak" \o "Qutb al-Din Aibak) introduced a large Islamic state to India, using Central Asian styles.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Islamic_architecture#cite_note-6) The important [Qutb Complex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qutb_Complex" \o "Qutb Complex) in Delhi was begun under Muhammad of Ghor, by 1199, and continued under Qutb al-Din Aibak and later sultans. The [Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qutb_complex" \l "Quwwat-ul-Islam_Mosque" \o "Qutb complex), now a ruin, was the first structure. Like other early Islamic buildings it re-used elements such as columns from destroyed Hindu and [Jain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jain) temples, including one on the same site whose platform was reused. The style was Iranian, but the arches were still [corbelled](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corbel_arch) in the traditional Indian way

[Qutb Minar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qutb_Minar" \o "Qutb Minar), a [minaret](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minaret) or victory column, whose original four stages reach 73 meters (with a final stage added later). Its closest comparator is the 62-metre all-brick [Minaret of Jam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minaret_of_Jam) in Afghanistan, of c.1190, a decade or so before the probable start of the Delhi tower.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Islamic_architecture#cite_note-8) The surfaces of both are elaborately decorated with inscriptions and geometric patterns; in Delhi the shaft is [fluted](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluting_(architecture)) with "superb [stalactite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalactite) bracketing under the balconies" at the top of each stage.

Indo-Islamic architecture has left a large impact on modern [Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_architecture), [Pakistani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistani_architecture) and [Bangladeshi architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architecture_of_Bangladesh), as in the case of its influence on the [Indo-Saracenic Revivalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Saracenic_Revival_architecture) of the late [British Raj](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj). Both secular and religious buildings are influenced by Indo-Islamic architecture.

Some of the most popular features of this Indo- Islamicarchitecture include high domes with pillars around it, large open courtyards, and high minarets. Red sandstone was a preferred material to build these structures.

EXAMPLES IN INDIA - Mecca masjid, Jamma masjid, Malik deenar, Tipu Sultan shahi mosque, Bara imambara and Taj mahal etc.

EXAMPLES OUT OF INDIA – Alhambra, The Friday mosque, Dome of rock, Great mosque of samarra, The citadel of Aleppo, Great mosque of Cordoba, Salemaniye mosque complex etc.