

A Historic Journey of the Lahore City, to Attain Its Identity through Architecture

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Abstract

Lahore is a historical and the second largest city of Pakistan. It has a unique geographical location as it is located on the main trade and invasion routes to South Asia. Its history dates back to 1000BC, when its foundations were laid by the Hindu prince Loh, son of Rama Chandra. After the invasion of Mahmud of Ghazni in 1000AD, the city of Lahore has grown, flourished, suffered invasions and destruction, and yet survived through the Sultanate (1206-1524), the Mughal (1524-1712) and Sikh (1764-1849) periods with an uneven, yet unbroken, cultural evolution. This is evident in the form of monuments and artefacts that developed and evolved over time. The research paper discusses how architecture and contemporary arts in Lahore developed with time through the examples of representative buildings as case studies. It also discusses the impacts of cultural, religious and social factors on the art and architecture during different rules and how they are embodied in the city of Lahore to contribute towards its unique identity. The Mughals, who ruled for almost three centuries, were famous as great builders. They laid the infrastructure of Lahore and built finest architectural monuments. They were succeeded by the Sikh dynasty, but with minor architectural impacts. However on the palimpsest set by the Mughals, the British managed to transform the city of Lahore into modern lines. Hence, through the introduction of new building types, the British presented art and architectural style that was not known before to give Lahore a new identity.

Keywords: Lahore, Mughals, Ghazni, Sultanate, Loh

Introduction

Cities are an integral part of human history and most complex creation of mankind. They have existed in the past and shall continue to exist, define, script and showcase the unending story of human growth and development. The edifices of the city manifest their art and architecture in physical and tangible form. As the city develops, its unique and valuable identity, evolves over time. It reflects the rapid and constant changes to which it has been subjected to. Through its architecture and arts the city represents the cultural, historical, and economical characteristics embodied in it. In history, every great cultural movement is manifested in the physical form of buildings, so that the life style and aspirations of people of that particular area is revealed through them.

1.1 Lahore and its importance:

Lahore, being the second largest city of Pakistan, with a population around 9.25 million, has been the traditional capital of Punjab and cultural centre of northern India since thousand years. It extended till Peshawar in the North and Delhi in the South- East. The historic walled city of Lahore is situated one mile to the south of the River Ravi, and some 23 miles from the eastern border of the Punjab district. The temperature of Lahore is extreme reaching as high as 50° C in June and as low as 1° C in January (Thornton and Kipling, 1860).

1.2 Importance of Lahore's Geographical Location:

The Punjab is located at crossroads linking India and Central Asia on the East-West line, and the Arabian Sea in the South, and has thus seen an almost continuous flow of visitors, pilgrims and sadly invaders to the city. Nine different imperial Muslim dynasties have ruled in India. The invaders from Central Asia conquered this land one after the other and coming from northwest, heading towards Delhi. Lahore city was the first reward to be received by the invaders. It used to regain its status and prosperity as the rule of the intruders gained stability. Thus its prosperity ebbed and flowed as a result of the sovereign changes. Each conqueror initially brought death and destruction (Latif, 1892). The most important reason Lahore became prominent, however, was its role as an imperial capital within a regional urban network. From the period of the Ghaznavid dynasty circa 977-1186, for which, beginning in 1152, Lahore was the eastern capital, to the end of British rule on the Indian subcontinent in 1947 (Latif, 1892).

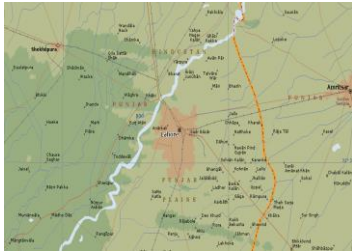


Figure 1. Location of Lahore in Punjab province



Figure 2. Guide Map of Lahore City

1.3 A brief History of Lahore:

Lahore is an historic city. It has a recorded history of about 1,000 years. Historically, the city dates back to the year 990 A.D. (Thornton, 1924). There are mentions about its existence in the documents of the second century A.D. and in Hindu legends of the pre-Christian era (Latif, 1892). Not only the Muslims, but people of different religions like the Hindus, Sikhs and the Christians have ruled in this area. Consequently, the evolution of Lahore city has arose with a specific culture and origin since antiquity (Thornton, 1924). But, it was the Turko Persian character that left durable and dominant effects on this city. It has been an important centre to control the surrounding territories and one way or the other, it has remained the centre of north western India, and now Pakistan.

2. Technique and Data Collection:

An area is identified through its culture, art and architectural style. Architecture of a city is the main tangible evidence and record of man's intellectual and cultural journey through the past. By the study of books and literature on Lahore, a historic review of the Lahore city through the timeline has been conducted to attain its unique identity through the architecture of buildings constructed during different dynasties ruling in Lahore. Hence, the conclusions have been drawn through the study of existing edifices in Lahore subsequent to their architectural analysis leading to the conclusive identity and uniqueness offered to the city. There were 283 historic building situated in city of Lahore. 186 of these historical building are still existing. The list of these buildings was prepared from two books, Lahore-Architectural Remains (Latif, 1892), and "Tarikh-e-Lahore" (Hindi, 1884).

Table 1. The Time Line of Lahore City:

Sr. No.	Date	Description
1	1000BC	Foundation of Lahore by Prince Loh, Son of Rama Chandra
2	630AD	A Great Brahman City according to Hieun Tsang
3	800-900AD	Under Brahman rule
4	975AD	Subuktagin, father of Mahmood Ghaznavid of Ghazni invades Lahore and defeats Raja Jaipal
5	1021AD	Mahmood Ghaznavid captures the city

6	1043AD	Hindu Rajas of Northern India lay siege to Lahore for seven months
7	1039~1099AD	Golden Rule of Ghaznavids under Zahir-ud-Din Ibrahim
8	1157~1186AD	Capital of Ghaznavids under twelfth Ghaznavid Emperor
9	1186~1206AD	Shahab-ud-Din Ghauri conquers Lahore
10	1241~1310AD	The Mongols ransack Lahore several times
11	1398AD	Timur Lenk "Temer Lane" plunders Lahore
12	1236~1526AD	The "Khilji, Tughlaq, Syed and Lodhi dynasties" succeed one another in Delhi till Babur captures
13	1524AD	Babur captures Lahore
14	1554AD	"Babar's son Humayun" returns in triumph after 14 years of exile
15	1556-1605	Akbar the Great ascends the throne and ruled till death
16	1606AD	Emperor Jahangir besieges Lahore
17	1622AD	Jahangir fixes his court in Lahore
18	1629AD	Shahjahan proclaimed emperor at Lahore
19	1629~1658AD	Lahore enjoys peace and prosperity under Ali Mardan and Wazir Khan, Governors of Emperor Shahjahan
20	1659AD	Emperor Aurangzeb enters Lahore
21	1712AD	Aurangzeb's dies at Lahore
22	1739AD	"Nadir Shah, the King of Persia" captures Lahore
23	1748-1767AD	Nadir's successor, Ahmad Shah Abdali invades Lahore eight times
24	1764-1794AD	Three Sikh Chiefs, "Lahna Singh, Sobha Singh and Gujjar Singh" occupy Lahore
25	1799-1839AD	Lahore under "Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Sikh ruler of the Punjab"
26	1839-1848AD	Successors of Ranjit Singh
27	1849AD	Annexation of the Punjab by the British brings Lahore under their control
28	1857-1947AD	East India Company transfers its powers to the British crown and Lahore becomes part of the British Empire
29	1947AD	Pakistan came into existence

2.1 Chronology of ruling dynasties in Lahore:

Lahore was ruled over by 58 kings and their 170 governors from the earliest times known (990 AD.) to 1947 AD. This period is classified into 13 historical ruling periods, with their religion (Awan, 1989).

Table 2. Geological table with Details of Historical Rulers in Lahore. (999AD-1947)

Sr. No.	Rules	Religion	Period AD	No. of Years
1	Haj Dynasty	Idolaters	unknown-999	Not known
2	Hindu Shahiya Dynasty	Hindu	1014-1186	172
3	Ghaznavids	Muslim	1039-1186	103

4	Ghauris& Slave Dynasty	Muslim	1289-1321	32
5	Khiljis	Muslim	1321-1413	92
6	Tughlaqs	Muslim	1414-1448	34
7	Sayyeds	Muslim	1448-1526	78
8	Lodhis	Muslim	1014-1526	172
9	Afghans	Muslim	1540-1554	14
10	Mughals	Muslim	1524-1712	188
11	Sikhs	Sikh	1764-1849	85
12	The British	Secular	1849-1947	98
13	Pakistanis	Muslims	1947-2017 to date	64+

Indian subcontinent has had the history of different religions that prevailed in this land for different periods. The people of these religions like Idolaters, Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs and the British produced the architecture which was representation of their religion, culture and economy. The legend narrates that Lahore was founded by Hindu Prince, Loh, son of Rama and the hero of the Hindu epic, the Ramayana (Peck, 2015). Its evidence is the subterranean Temple located in northern part of Lahore Fort, and memoir of its ancient past credited to Rama (figure 3). Followers of religions like Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam produced architecture which represented their religion besides secular buildings like palaces, bridges, forts, etc. It is mostly the religious consciousness that has been emphasized through the treatment of the wall surfaces by these religions (Brown, 1942). The quality of the architecture is its spiritual content evident through the buildings. It is represented in concrete form through the prevailing religious consciousness of the people.



Figure 3. Temple of Loh in the Lahore Fort



Figure 4. Tomb of Malik Ayaz built circa 1040 (Rang Mahal Lahore)



Figure 5. Tomb of Sultan Qutb-ud-Din Aibak, Anar kali Lahore

2.2 Hindu Architecture: (1000 BC-1186AD)

The architecture of Hindu Temples comprised of a single chamber with a small entrance way attached, which was supported by one or two pair of columns. The traditional temple had many columned halls, tanks and courtyards having gigantic gateway towers to display the wealth and the power of the temple and its servants. The openings of the Temple were square headed, modified by introducing corbelled brackets at the corners, which continued above in the shape of pyramidal type roof. An immense attention was given to the ornamentation of the supporting columns of the temples and skilled masons had applied a great deal of innovation in the multiplication and outlining of the outer walls. It is mostly the religious consciousness that has been emphasized through the treatment of the walls' surfaces. Despite the fact that the name of Lahore has originated from the Hindu God, it has never been a major Hindu pilgrimage centre. An evidence of the Hindu Temple, named Temple of Loh is located in Lahore Fort (figure 3). Latif, a historian mentions the ancient origins of two *dharamsalas* in Ichra and another just south of the fort in old city, approached through steps down the street (Latif, 1892).

2.3 Islamic Period: (1186-1707 AD)

In 11th century the city was captured by Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni. He burnt and ruined the city after a long siege. Then in 1021, he appointed his slave, named Malik Ayaz as the first Muslim governor of Lahore. Ayaz rebuilt and repopulated the city and afterwards developed it into the capital of the Ghaznavid Empire of India. Under his rule, the city emerged as a main cultural and academic hub of north western India. In 1037–1040, he constructed a fort and added city gates to the city of Lahore. The tomb of Malik Ayaz can still be seen in the Rang Mahal commercial area of walled city (figure 4). The tomb is octagonal shaped having an arched opening of multi-foil arch, and surmounted by a semi-circular dome. It is constructed of brick and lime mortar and decorated with brick mouldings.

2.4 The Sultanate Period:

The Ghaznavids had been popular and tolerant rulers for over 150 years. In 1186, the city was taken over by Shahab ud Din Muhammad of Ghor, who ruined and conquered Lahore and then went on to seize Delhi. On his return to Ghor, he left his slave, Qutb-ud-Din-Aibak as the governor of this region. Sultan Qutb ud Din Aibak became the first Muslim King of South Asian territory in 1206 (Latif, 1892). During his rule, Lahore was known as the 'Ghazni of India'. After the fall of the Ghaznavid Empire, Lahore was ruled by various Turk dynasties known as the "Delhi Sultanate, including the Khiljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyid, Lodhis and Suris," till Lahore became part of India's Mughal Empire in 1524 (Walker, 1894, & Hodges, 1793).

2.5 The Mughal Period: (1524 -1712AD)

Among all the rulers, the Mughals have left their indelible influence on the art and culture of Lahore. During their rule of almost two centuries (185 yrs) (Sanders, 1933), they made Lahore almost the second capital of India. A traveler from Europe in seventeenth century, described Lahore as extensive and populous city, with bazars full of valuable goods (Nilson, 1968). The first Mughal Emperor, Babur captured Lahore in 1526. Later on, Lahore remained as capital of India for 14 years from 1584 to 1598 during the reign of Akbar (1556-1605), the 3rd Mughal Emperor. He rebuilt the already existing Fort and enclosed the city with burnt brick wall having 12 prestigious gates. Among these gates, the famous *Masjidi* Gate was constructed in 1566 A.D just opposite the eastern gate of Lahore Fort (figure 6). His successor, Emperor Jahangir, was very fond of this city and used to hold courts here. He and his wife, Empress Noor Jahan have their tombs at the north-west periphery of Lahore city (figure 8).



Figure 6. Masjidi Gate Lahore Fort (1566 AD)



Figure 7. Hiran Minar, a hunting Ground at the outskirts of Lahore built by Jahangir.



Figure 8. Jahangir's Tomb, built by Shah Jahan (1627)

He is also famous for the construction of a hunting resort, Hiran Minar at the outskirts of Lahore (figure 7). The next heir was Shah Jahan, who was born in Lahore. The famous Shalimar Garden was built by him in 1642 (figure 9). Among all the Mughal Emperors, he was known as the "Great Builder". During these days, Lahore became a royal residence where Mughal emperors spend some time every year. As a result of these royal connections, Lahore has acquired many Mughal architectural valuables. Jahangir and Shah Jahan's architectural contributions included the extension of Lahore fort, construction of mosques, tombs, gardens, palaces, royal courts, *caravan-sarais*, *hammams*, city walls, *havelis* (royal residences) etc. (figures 10 & 11).



Figure 9. Shalimar Garden Lahore by Shah Jahan (1642).



Figure 10. Diwan e Khas Lahore fort by Shah Jahan (1640)



Figure 11. Sheesh Mahal, Lahore fort by Shah Jahan (1640)

These monuments exist even today and render distinction to Lahore as a “City of Gardens” (Husain et. al., 1984). During the Mughal rule (1524 to 1712) Lahore city had touched the peak of its grandeur. The architectural contribution of the last of the Great Mughals, Aurangzeb (1658-1707), was the most famous monument Badshahi Mosque (1673) and the Alamgiri Gateway to the west side of the fort. The Badshahi Mosque was Aurangzeb’s legacy to the city (figures 12 & 13).



Figure 12. Badshahi Mosque Lahore, by Aurangzeb Alamgir (1673)



Figure 13. Alamgiri Gate by Aurangzeb Alamgir(1673)

Mughal not only bestowed an enduring architectural heritage on the city, but also laid the bases for its social organization. Unfortunately, most of these Mughal wonders were plundered during the Sikh rule of Punjab (Naqvi, 1972). Mughals not only bestowed an enduring architectural heritage on the city, but also laid the bases for its social organization. Later developments followed by the Sikhs and the British followed the infrastructure laid down by the Mughals.

a). Main features of Mughal Architecture:

Mughal architectural monuments are a source of Lahore’s main distinction as a heritage city. Mughal buildings depict uniformity both in structure and character. They are characterized by their harmony, proportion, balance and symmetry. They used beautiful geometrical patterns in their buildings. The gardens were built on the *Chahar Bagh* concept. Mughal architectural elements include bulbous dome (single and double), slender minarets and cupolas at the four corners, large central hall, massive vaulted gateways, arched crenellation and kiosks with *chattris* (cupolas). In fact, the Mughal architecture was the result of an amalgamation of the indigenous and Persian Mughals, by utilizing the amazing skills of Indian craftsmen, who took their finished product in building to the highest degree of refinement, delicacy and perfection. The Mughal ornamentation included the inlay work, pietra dura, calligraphy, *kashi kari*, *jali* work and wood carving.

b). Construction Materials by the Mughals:

The materials used by Mughals were bricks laid with lime-mortar, red sandstone, different types of marble and wood. Large halls were spanned using the vaults and arches. But, the Mughal power declined in eighteenth century, because of repeated

invasions. At that time, Lahore was considered as a province and was ruled by provincial rulers with their own courts. Hence, the decade following 1740s were considered years of unrest, as there were nine changes of governors.

2.6 The Sikh Period City (1768 1849):

There is not much literature available about Sikh architecture in Lahore, probably due to biased opinions of both British and Muslim writers. During the 1740s, frequent invasions by Afghans led by Ahmed Shah Abdali and chaos in local government had made life very uncomfortable for the citizens of Lahore. With the dwindling Mughal power, Lahore too declined in both population and wealth. It was during the reign of Aurangzeb, when conflicts in the Deccan had turned the Mughal emperor's attention towards the south dominions, a fierce and energetic warrior Rangit Singh plundered the Mughal Lahore. After the occupation of Lahore, he united the various Sikh bands and became the Emperor of Punjab. He shifted his capital from Gujranwala to Lahore. For a brief period of 1799 to 1846, Lahore recovered under the patronage of Ranjit Singh and his successors, for almost fifty years.



Figure 14. Samadhi (tomb) of Ranjit Singh



Figure 15. Guru Ram Das Ka Gurdawara Chuna Mandi Lahore

The Sikh rulers started with the construction of religious buildings in the city, which included the *Gurdawaras* (Sikh religious building) of Sikh, Hindu temples, and mosques. By 1812, Ranjit Singh had mostly refurbished the city's defence by adding a second circuit of outer walls and *Dharamshalas* (Hindu religious rest house). His death in 1839 ended his reign, and his son Dulip Singh was nominated as his successor. He was buried in Lahore. The significant monument of Sikh architecture is the Samadhi (mausoleum) of Ranjit Singh. His son and grandson are also buried here (figure 14). The design of the building as usual is a combination of Hindu and Muslim style, but the effect at a distance is not unpleasant. A religious building of the Sikhs, still exist today at Chuna Mandi Lahore, named Guru Ram ka Gurdawara (figure 15). For the construction of Sikh monumental buildings, marble and semi precious gems were stripped off from the existing Mughal buildings from all over the empire. In general, instead of protecting the ancient buildings, the Sikhs misused, knocked about a bit, let a few survive and added a few new ones.

a). Main Characteristics of Sikh Architecture:

The main features in Sikh occupied Punjab, are mostly a combination of Hindu and Muslim styles. The architectural features of a Gurdawara, include a hemispherical dome (three-quarters of a sphere), which is the crowning feature, fluted or ribbed and sometimes plain. The Sikh Temple is a single room shrine consisting of flat roof, e.g., Gurdwara Guru-ka-Lahore near Anandpur, while at times covered by a *palkhi*, with cupolas at the four corners of the structure, parapet adorned with turrets, small domes, crenellation with *guldastas* for such decorations. The elevation was inspired by the Mughals, consisting of moldings around piers, pilasters and columns (Sanders, 1933). Sikh architecture also incorporated surface decorations, is in the form of bas relief. They also made the exterior attractive through sheathing of brass or copper gilt. Following the Mughals, they used pietra dura, mirror work, motifs of birds, animals, cornices, frescoes, design based on vine plants and moldings (Baqir, 1984).

b). Construction Materials:

Materials of construction in Sikh architecture included brick, lime-mortar with lime or gypsum plaster and lime-concrete and stone (red stone and white marble). Most of its elements were borrowed from Hindu and Muslim architectural styles (Goulding, 1924). Goulding, while explaining the dominant features of the Sikh architecture describes "substantially Hindu",

overlaid with Islamic Architectural details, blended without taste. Their palaces are further disfigured by small angular chambers hanging generally at the highest point of the building to catch the breeze in hot weather (Majeed, 1986).

2.7 The British Colonial Period (1849-1947):

After the death of Ranjit Singh, his successors were not able to compete the British army. So, almost after a century, the Punjab province was incorporated into British India in 1849. Once again Lahore housed the provincial and military headquarters of the province. Consequently, there was a period of western influences on this land. Just after the annexation, in order to establish their administrative hold over the city, the British built the railway station and the connecting buildings, law courts, town hall, museum, telegraph and post offices, banks, health and educational buildings. They also built a new town for themselves towards the south and south east of the walled city, called the "Donald Town." Later, this became to be known as Civil Lines as it was built around the core of British national administrators. There were the offices, home, clubs, and shops comprising the total living environment of the British officers. In time the Indian officials and professionals also started living in this area (Baqir, 1984).

2.7.1 Change of Urban Pattern of Lahore onto a Colonial City

The transformation of an Indian town, Lahore, into a Colonial city, particularly the evolutionary development of its architecture was prominent. The typology of buildings introduced by the British was not known in this land before (Thornton, 1924). By the end of the British rule, Lahore, the capital city of the Mughal emperor Akbar, the centre of the Sikh Kingdom, stood transformed with a dual-faced identity. On the one hand was the old city and on the other, were the colonial additions of the Cantonment and the Civil Lines. The contrast was blatant not only in the relative hygiene of the areas, but also regarding the urban pattern, house design, shopping habits, living styles and cultural ethos. The focal point of this colonial city became the precinct of Anarkali with the Mall as an arterial connection with the cantonment (Walker, 1894).



Figure 16 Lahore Railway Station (1861)



Figure 17 The Quaid e Azam Library (1864)



Figure 18 Govt. College Lahore (1877)

a). Main characteristics of British architecture:

The British, after their stronghold on this land, also made some efforts to preserve the ancient buildings. In fact they introduced buildings in "Indo-European" style in Lahore. Because of tree lined wide residential streets and elegant white bungalows within spacious shady gardens, the Lahore Cantonment is considered as one of the best Cantonments of Pakistan. However, since Independence in 1947, Lahore has expanded rapidly towards south and east as the capital of Pakistani Punjab (Qadeer, 1983). The British had replaced the Mughals as the main power of governance, so inspiration for Indian architecture also originated in the British Isles; and at the same time in India the architecture became closely related to what was happening in Britain, thus imitating the Neo-Romanesque (figure 16), Neoclassical and Neo-Gothic styles (figure 18) (Boloji, 2014). Most of these types of buildings that imitated famous architectural forms in Europe were redesigned completely from illustrations (Goldsmith, 2007). After the dissolution of East India Company in 1857 and declaration of Queen Victoria as the Empress of India in 1876, there were two main streams of architectural discourse. First one was pure western style, neglecting the native style, to reflect the British imperialism (Montgomery Hall, Lawrence Hall and Railway Station) inspired by the Greeks and the Romans. The second one was Indo European, in which the Indian elements were incorporated in the Western forms, to establish continuity and transition with the previous architecture of the region as seen in the buildings of High Court, Lahore Museum, Town Hall etc. (figures 19 & 20).



Figure 19. The high Court Lahore (1879)



Figure 20. Lahore Museum (1890)



Figure 21. Assembly Hall Building (1935)

The Mughal architectural elements used were domes, minarets, columns, cupolas, brackets, Moorish and multi foiled arches, piers, pilasters, crenellated parapet, pavilions, *chattris* incorporated with European elements, like pediments, dentils, cornices eaves, turrets, spires, Venetian and Florentine windows, truss roofs, stained glass, tracery etc. The architectural style debates were finally summed up by the architects of Public Works Department and Members of the Viceroy's Council whereby the buildings to be used by the British were to follow the European Architectural Style (figure 17) and those by the Indians were to follow the Indo European (hybrid) style (figure 20). The Industrial Revolution, and the advances in technology in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century also reflected their impact on the architecture of Lahore. Through the introduction of new materials, like iron, glass, concrete, pre-fabricated sections and their applications there emerged a change in architecture of the buildings, their styles and mode of construction. All these technological developments lead to the twentieth century, modern movements, like Art Nouveau, De Stijl, Bau Haus etc. Subsequently, debates were initiated to encourage the exploration of connections between nature, materials, construction, industry and society which can be depicted in Government Officers Residences (GOR) in Lahore in 1939, based on Garden City Movements and the theme based construction of Assembly Hall building in 1939 (figure 21).

b). Materials used:

Initially the British used the same material as was used by the Mughals. They used bricks, lime mortar, wood, iron and different types of stones. In later years, they started using English bricks with lime mortar and in early twentieth century, cement mortar and even concrete, reinforced concrete and steel for the structures. This was made possible because of industrial revolution and mass production.

c). The architectural and cultural influences:

Public buildings represents public values through architecture. If the typological and organizational structures are constructed keeping in view the specific societal needs, only then can they impart profound and meaningful architectural impact. The architecture that evolved through the interaction of the colonial and the colonized was manifested in the interior and exterior of then constructed buildings. For example in Indian palaces, old reception rooms were replaced by the durbar halls and new rooms spaces to entertain the European guests were designed. Drawing and dining rooms were introduced in the houses; fireplaces, marble fountains, oil paintings, statues, and stuffed animals began to be displayed in the halls and drawing rooms. Hence new architecture and building layout designs evolved as a result of culture, education and new engineering techniques (Vandal, 2006).

3. Modern Face of Lahore

Considering the importance of its geographic location, Lahore once called "the Paris of the east" still remains the centre of attraction for everyone especially since recent years. Presently, we can divide Lahore into three regions: the first one is the the old Walled City that existed since a thousand years and is surrounded by the Circular Road. The second region is that part of Lahore, which was built by the British, known as the Civil Lines, and the third region is the extended Lahore, which includes various new schemes such as "EME Colony, Bahria Town, Defence Housing Authorities, The Greens, Valancia Town" etc. along with several other areas which are developed after the partition of the subcontinent.

4. Conclusion

As is evident from table (2), out of thirteen, there were nine Muslim dynasties that had ruled in Lahore. It was a prosperous and lively city, depicting the influences of Persian style elements, used by the Muslim rulers in the construction of monument, but it is sad that very few have survived today. The Mughal buildings, present a great and magnificent architecture. The surviving buildings are constructed on a monumental scale, like Lahore Fort and Badshahi Mosque. The unique identity of Lahore city is reflected in the monuments, in the bazaars, in the old buildings along the Mall, and in the vast expanses of the sports grounds in the Cantonment. The city has known seamless cultural, intellectual, literary, musical, and humanistic development. Few cities around the world can lay claim to such a wonderful past or present. Moreover, the city's identity presents distinctive features that speaks eloquently of its uniqueness that distinguish it from any other city ever developed. The physical, social, and psychological aspirations of any historic area are expressed through its architecture. The British period architecture, with two cultures represents different levels of economic, social, technological and political organization and development: and the power structure consisting of dominance-dependence relationship in which the ultimate source of social, economic and political power resided with the metropolitan society. This is the reason why the Railway Station was constructed in the form of fortress and located at an appropriate distance from civil lines as well as the Walled City. The British colonial architecture was not a question of rule by the colonists, but in fact, at a deeper level, a constant remaking of the identity of the natives through the dominance of the military conquest. This is depicted in the architecture of Lahore. When the British came, in the early times they were only bothered about debit and credit, hence the buildings were the copies of the standard plans as provided to them through Public Works Department. When Queen Victoria was announced the Empress of India in 1876, the British architects wanted to express the imperialism through art and architecture of the buildings. But then the revivalist architects, like John Begg and Sir Samuel Swinton Jacob realized that India itself had a very rich architecture and to establish a continuity with the traditional architecture of India, they designed buildings that were amalgamation of the Indian and European architectural features. They gave a new style, called the Indo European style of architecture as depicted in the buildings of Lahore Museum, Lahore High Court (figures 19 and 20) and later on, in early twentieth century they used the neo classical style of architecture as it was already prevailing in England and other European countries. Hence the city of Lahore, named as "City of Gardens" is because of the Mughal contribution. The Mughal Gardens and monuments are protected and conserved. Although the British introduced a new typology of buildings and the number of existing structures are far more than the Mughals, the city of Lahore attains its identity through the Mughal and the Colonial architecture. Hence, Lahore is a city of culture, heritage, and unparalleled charisma that sets it unique from any other city globally.

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