



A STUDY OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF HYDERABAD FROM THE PERIOD OF MIR OSMAN ALI KHAN

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ABSTRACT :

Hyderabad under the Nizam of Hyderabad was the largest princely state in India. It is a historic City noted for its many historical monuments a distinct in the Islamic architecture style with the local contribution is reflected in the historical buildings of Hyderabad, making it the first and 'Best Heritage city of India'. Mir Osman Ali Khan Nizam 7th was a progressive ruler and an enthusiastic patron of architecture. His reign ushered in a new era of construction of public buildings and he has adorned the city of Hyderabad with a large number of beautiful buildings as monuments of his wise administration.

KEY WORDS: Hyderabad, monuments, Mir Osman Ali Khan, architecture, Nizam, Indo Islamic, Indo Sarsonic, Rajasthani, Osmania.

INTRODUCTION:

Hyderabad city present all types of architecture specially QutubShahi and Nizam period. The architectures have some features of Hindu art, Tughlaq art and Mughal Art and their locally involved forms. There are several buildings which are good representatives of Western art some of the buildings process the features of Roman and Greek architectures. The buildings that represented the French style of architecture are fast disappearing. During the time of the Nizam of Hyderabad Mir Osman Ali Khan cubist style became popular it is also called as 'Osmania Architecture style'. With the ascendancy of Mir Osman Ali Khan Nizam VII the in 1911 AD. A new chapter has begun in the beautification of the Hyderabad city. If MohammadQuliQutub Shah was the founder of Hyderabad city, Mir Osman Ali Khan can be called the maker of modern Hyderabad. He adored the Hyderabad city with magnificent and palatial buildings reminiscent of him. The building can constructed during his reign are impressive and represent a rich variety of architecture. The Engineer's or the Architects and craftsman of the Nizam period have to congratulate for their talent. A brief account of some of the edifices built during his period will not be out of place here.

His first step was formation of the City Improvement Board .Then of prime importance which Nizam 7th initiated was to modernize the city by the several public buildings for different purposes and palaces etc. His reign ushered in a new era of construction of public buildings and he had adorned the city of Hyderabad with a large number of beautiful buildings as monuments of his administration. This

resulted in the evaluation of new architecture expression integrating the OutubShahi, Mughal and the local elements using granite as well as brick and Martiantime.

The characteristics features of the Osmania architectural style are:

- 1) Onion shaped for the dome, much heavier at the bottom and tappers upwards with a relatively large capital.
- 2) Pointed arches but generally without an Ogee Archie.
- 3) Large rectangular krosk with a domical cupola which decorated the corner of the ever projects out on all side to the krosk. In their style we find cupolas due to Mughal influence. Several other influences are also found in the buildings of the style. Thus new architecture style called 'Osmania architecture' emerged.

Mir Osman Ali Khan in the following year of accession 1911, embarked on a construction spree beginning with the rebuilding of Khilawat (1912-1916) which was the Darbar and houses the royal throne of the Nizams. This was followed by the chain of construction of numerous buildings in the city as follows, Kachiguda Railway Station, High Court followed by City College, Osmania General Hospital, Osmania University etc. Brief details of the new buildings built by Nizam 7th are enumerated here,



1. **Town Hall** - The building was constructed from funds raised by the citizens of Hyderabad .On the 40th birthday of Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan in 1905 AD and was completed in 1913A.D. This white gem of Hyderabad architectural Splendor was designed by specially commissioned architects, who travelled through Rajasthan after the Nizam returned. This blend of Rajasthani and Persian architecture. It's now the home of the 295 seat Andhra Pradesh Legislative.



2. **Kachiguda Railway Station**–the Commissioning of European Architects Vincent Each and Earnest jasper brought in the element of modern Planning and Architecture. Eachcredited with the design of Kachiguda Railway Station in 1914. It was headquarter of the Nizams State Railways.It was built

in precast and rain forced cement concrete. It is an example of latest technology innovation. It is a remarkable structure which brought in new concept of Gothic style at the same time retaining traditional style. This introduced new trend and identity of Hyderabad's distinct architectural style. It has Central domes with accompanying minarets.

3. **The Khilawat or The Diwan-I-Aam (Chow Mohalla Complex)**- The Khilawat built during the 18th century was a smaller dilapidated building and became out-dated. As such the Nizam VIIth in the following year of his accession ordered for the construction of a new Khilawat, which stands today. It took three years for construction. The Nizam VIIth inaugurated the Khilawat on 28th January 1916. Khilawat is huge double stored building almost a square and symmetrical with a grand Darbar Hall in the center with the columns supporting the arches and a marble throne (Takht-I-Nishan) or the royal seat with a masnad in Mughal style. Here the Nizam held their darbar, coronations and other ceremonies. The Khilawat is a monumental and magnificent building with open space on all four sides. The entrance is from all four sides with open verandah in the rear. The architecture is from Islamic, combining not only Mughal and QutubShahi features but as well as Turkish and Iranian. The beautiful stucco decorative work is on the ceiling, arches of the columns and windows and doors and its panels. The building is crowned with the large canopies on all sides and small domes of Mughal type and beautiful stucco work all around, Verandas are enriched with colonnades, both on the facade and the rear of the building. The arches are ornate on the soffit sides. Rosettes are typically Asafia. The arches on the two sides of the Darbar Hall are twin, being two similar arches within a larger one. The roof is coffered and is supported by steel beams from Glasgow. The inner gate is classical in style with Central Doric columns while the side ones are ionic. The cusped Arches are semi-circular with entrance defined by ornamental arches and relief and earthen pot railings. For elaborate details of the Khilawat with architectural plans and designs etc.
4. **Monuments within Chow Mohalla Palace Complex**—Simultaneously with the construction of the Khilawat from 1912. The Nizam 7th built several buildings around Khilawat. These are Roshan Bangla, Saman Bangla, Council Hall, Bara Imam series of buildings and ShisheAlat. The Chow Mohalla Palace consists of the four palaces MehtabMahal, AftabMahal, AfjalMahal, and TehniyatMahal. Which were built earlier. These were renovated by Nizam VIIth.



5. **High Court**— The High Court of Justice erected from the reclaimed land on the southern bank of river Musi in picturesque setting designed by Vincent Each in 1916. This is one of the finest buildings in the City, built in red and white stone is Seracenic style by Nizam VII. The plan of the High Court was drawn up by Shankarlal of Jaipur and the local engineer was executed the design was Maher Ali Fazil. It is in Mughal Sarsenic style and bold in conception. The convex shaped domes are tastefully finished in Lapis Lazuli blue glazed wares with gilded finials. It is one of the biggest Seracenic arches in the world. The interior decoration is done in plaster of various colors and designs. It is 154 feet in depth and 362 feet in length. The central feature of the building is the granite arch in the north is 58 feet high. In its design there is a harmony between the artifice and its

surrounding. It is an example of Indo-Muslim architecture exhibiting traditional organic Unity. The construction started on a 15th April 1915 and was completed on 31st March 1919. On 20th April 1920 the High Court was inaugurated by Nizam VII theit is interesting to note at while digging the foundation for the high court ruins of the OutubShahi palaces namely HeenaMahal and NadiMahal were and enearhed. The high Court looks beautiful and impressive from the NavyaPul Bridge at sunset. While digging In the main building there was provision for 6 ludges. Besides there was accommodation for office staff, record rooms and advocates hall etc. The High Court Building cost 21 Lakh. After its construction, a silver model of the High Court with a silver key was presented to the Nizam by the Judiciary during the Silver Jubilee celebration in 1936. The fasci mile of the building was perfectly carved in a thick sheet of silver weighing about 300 kgs. The model is now in the Purana Haveli Museum.



6. **City College**—On the Southern embankment of river Musi next to the High Court. City College was a designed in 1917 -1918 by Vincent Each. It is to imposing block of buildings. It is 260 feet square in what each terms perpendicular Mughal Saracenic architecture.



7. **Osmania University**— In the 1917 the Nizam 7th consented for the establishment of the Osmania University a royal Farman was issued in 1918 and confirm in 1919. It is started functioning in a building in 1919. For the construction of the University Campus a site of 1400 acres was selected at Adikamet. For the design of the university in 1930 two Hyderabad architect Zainyar Jung and Syed

Ali Raza were sent to foreign tour for selecting design of the new University building. In Egypt they happen to meet the famous Belgian architect Earnest Jasper who was designing a University there. He was engaged in 1933 to design Osmania University Arts college building. His design was approved and 1934 the Nizam 7th laid the foundation stone of the university on 5th July 1934. More than 35000 workers were employed to construct the building. On its completion, it was inaugurated by the Nizam 7th in 4th December 1939. Osmania University is an icon of Hyderabad. Its Arts college building represents one of the major achievements of this seventh Nizam or the Osmanian era.

8. **The Art's College:** This College is a two-storied building with the cellars bringing up to the level of the basement to the plinth of ground floor level of building. The exterior of the basement is covered with dressed granite and interior is of lime plaster. The main entrance is reached through a low walled granite stairways on the east and west side of the building. The main entrance itself is flanked by a grand portal standing out of from the facade and rising higher than the side walls and the wings of structure. It encloses the trefoil arch whose peak soars higher than the edifies wall on either sides of the portico and Muslim styles, and the art and culture of both of these races and reflected in the columns and treasuries and curving on the doors and walls. The Nizam said in his silver jubilee address in 1937, the building symbolizes the close contact between various classes of his subject who have lived in harmony with each other. The Nizam further said that the Osmania University should not only be the repository Hyderabad best traditions a model of its high culture, it should also aim to broad mindedness and mutual tolerance and unity. Deep interior arch makes andiwan which is covered by a semicircular vault. Medieval Persian schools of Iran are found in the portalthe interior of the building is almost square in plan. It covers an area of 250000 square feet comprising seven courtyards internally the central entrance is has lofty arched opening. An internal dome of diameter 50 feet sermounts the entrance. The north wall of the building has arched window of strain glass and jalis containing the monogram of the University in Arabic letters.The Art's College building is a Triumph of architecture, Crowning Glory of the AsafJahiperiod, ratherNizam VII era. In granite the buildings looks very imposing and it is the best example of Indo-Saracenic andOsmanian Architecture. At the time of construction, the Nizam 7th had ordained that the Hindu and Muslim motifs should blend in the decoration of the building. The architecture of the building represents a blending of Hindu and Islamic.
9. **State Archaeological Museum-** Another example of Osmanian Architecture is the State Archaeological Museum built by the Public Works Department. It was built by the Nizam 7th in 1920. It is located in the public garden. It is an example of Sober Architecture, with its wide chajjas cornice and arched entrance and typical chhajjabalconies the building acquires an attractive character.



- 10. Osmania General Hospital**–Osmania General Hospital is located on the bank of river Musi near AfzalGunj Bridge. It was designed by Vincent each and completed in 1925. Built in Indo - Saracenicstyle in stone and finished in Chunam Shell plaster. The building has domes chajjas and Mellon's. It is in Mughal style.
- 11. Jagirdar's College (Hyderabad Public School)** - Vincent each designer it in 1924. Originally it was meant for the children of Jagirdars.The building reflects the designer passion for Mughal Sarasanic architecture. It is located in Begumpet.



State Central Libraries Hyderabad

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- 12. Asafiya Library (State Central Library)**- This remarkable and monumental Library built by the Nizam 7th during 1929 - 34 designed by Vincent each is outstanding design of refined and a very cleverly restraint decoration. In the word of its architect. It is also example of Indo-Saracenic. A huge Arch of the entrance portal is dominating feature.
- 13. MoazzamJahi Market**– The City Improvement Board constructed it in full granite with a high doom.It has clock tower in front. It was completed in 1935. Nizam 7th inaugurated it and named it after it a second son of MoazzamJah.



Jubilee Hall and Pavilion

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- 14. Jubilee Hall**–One of the master pieces of Osmania architecture is the Jubilee Hall. It is within the public Gardens special building was built in 1935 - 36 known as Jubilee Hall. It is located in Public

Garden of Hyderabad. Following the OutubShahi style. ZainYar Jung designed it in modern International style. Jubilee Hall's architecture adopted may be termed 'Osman Shahi' or 'Osmanian' style modern in conception and planning, yet retaining traditional details based on the Islamic architecture of Hyderabad.

15. **Unani General Hospital**– The Unani General Hospital was built in 1938 in Indo-Saracenic style with domed vestibule flanked by a row of wards of patients.
16. **AzhaKhanaZehra**– The Nizam, Mir Osman Ali Khan built this house of mourning in 1941 to perpetuate the memory of his mother. AmrulZehra Begum and since then it has been an important places of Shia worshippers. One of the finest examples of Osmanian style of architecture.
17. **Tombs**–The AsafJahastombs are situated with in Mecca Masjid compound. They are built with in an arched gallery of stone at the Southern end of the mosque or on the left side before the main structure of the Mecca Masjid. The graves are built in Marble.

CONCLUSION:

NizamVIIth Mir Osman Ali Khan was a progressive ruler and an enthusiastic patron of architecture. He neither was simple of Habits nor cared for decorations and ostentations. However, he initiated measures for the civic beautification of Hyderabad. He adored the Hyderabad city with magnificent and palatial buildings reminiscent of him.

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