

Influence of mughal architecture on clothing

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Abstract: Mughal Architecture was one of the most impressive architectural styles that flourished in northern and central India during 16th and 17th century. It was an amalgamation of influences of Indian, Persian and Islamic styles. The main characteristic features of Mughal Architecture are: Bulbous Dome, Slender Minarets, Vaulted Gateways, Delicate Ornamentation Geometrical Designs, Jali work and textures on the surface created by carvings. The preferred building material was white marble and textured sandstone. The study aimed to evaluate the acceptance of designs of gowns inspired by Mughal Architecture for children between 4 and 6 years. Prominent features of Mughal Architecture were considered as inspiration for designing gowns, these are Minarets, Domes, Pillars, Guldasta, and Pistaq. Motifs were developed based on these inspirations, silhouettes were designed based on their outer structure and textures of architecture were incorporated in the fabric selection to imitate the texture of the same. Gowns were created using fabrics like Satin, crepe, lace and net material in the colours of marble and sandstone with domes, minarets and guldasta as inspiration for silhouettes and surface ornamentation. These gowns were evaluated using questionnaires and it was found to have high acceptance by parents for innovative idea, colour combination, fabric selection and creativity.

Keywords: Architecture, Guldasta, Jaliworks, Lace, Minarets

Introduction

The Mughals have ruled the subcontinent for centuries. They were known for their unique and innovative pieces of art architecture. Historical motifs are always reinterpreted in modern and classical styles to revisit their cultural roots. This is done to introduce diversity and their own cultural identity to the world while remaining competitive.

Architecture and Fashion may seem far from each other but there is a similarity in process. Both are three dimensional containing space, structure and are related to visual and fine arts. Both Fashion and Architecture cater to our basic needs like shelter and protection. It is their natural way to express identity.

When a building is designed in collaboration with a client or an outfit designed in consultation with a client the finished form will often reveal a great deal about the people involved, their tastes, status and occupation.

The language of stone is difficult to depict but once understood, it may prove one of the most authentic sources of history. Historical designs and motifs provide a foundation for enabling a dialogue between past and present fashion. Reinventing the classical motifs may provide larger scope for their popularity. Infusing the motifs with new style and experimental colour palette will give these motifs a shift from ornamental décor to utilitarian use.

Abdullah H F (1980) states that one of the richest inspirational sources for designing from the past has been the Mughal Architecture. He describes the glory, living styles and beautiful architecture of Mughals with their unique decorative style reflecting their taste, interest, living standards and customs of Mughals.

Gumuser T (2001) states that the Mughal monumental designs in India have been the most persuasive in the fields of

art and architecture. Like other forms of arts, even textiles are highly influenced by these artistic and monumental works. The most popular are murals, inlay work, tile work, stucco and mosaic.

According to one of the blog posts (2006) geometrical designs inspired from various Turkish and Mughal monuments can be found on a number of dresses and famous Mughal jalis have found expression in many designers work.

Aim of this study is to design gowns for children by considering prominent features of Mughal architecture and to evaluate the acceptance of the designs of the garments.

The study 'Influence of Mughal Architecture on Clothing' was undertaken to evaluate the application and continuity of historical motifs and designs of Mughal Architecture for implementation and adaptation in contemporary design practices. This was to assess the interdependence between historical and contemporary design techniques.

Material and methods

Collection of data

Primary and secondary data was collected from literature, journals, books, internet, articles, and interviews with designers and customers. This was analyzed to achieve the first objective.

Experimental phase

Gowns were designed with the following steps in mind

- Selection of fabric based on surface and texture of Mughal Architecture like self-textured and self-designs, lace fabrics based on patterns, inlay work and jali work of these monuments, likesatin, silk, crepe etc.
- Designing of gowns : Silhouettes were inspired by domes, minarets, pillars and guldasta which are prominent features of Mughal Architecture)

- Embroidery motifs were created based on the carvings and inlay work.

Frills and drapes were inspired by the guldasta and minarets

Acceptance phase

- Assessment of gowns inspired by features of Mughal Architecture was done with parents of young girls and fashion design professionals with the help of questionnaires and interview schedule.
- Statistical analysis was carried out using Likert scale , standard deviation, mean and median.

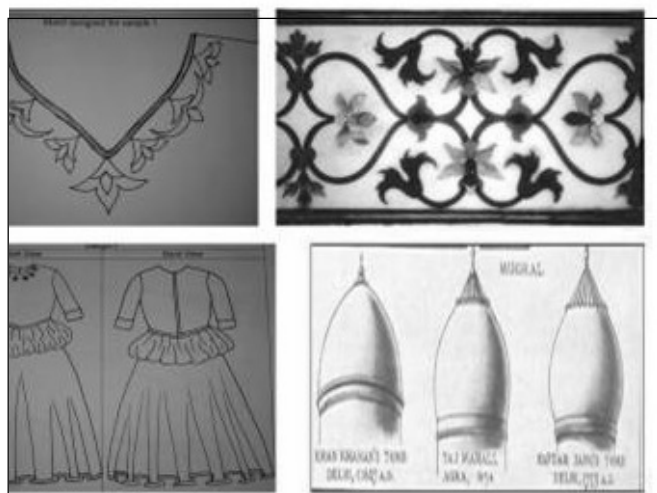


Plate 1. Design illustration of Sample A Gown with dome shaped component near to the waist. The fabric used are satin, lace fabric, net material, lace is at the waist. 3/4th sleeve is used depicting the pillar of the monument

Results and discussion

SAMPLE A.

It is clear from Fig. 1 that sample A and C were rated excellent for Silhouette and Overall appearance. Sample B was rated excellent for finishing. Overall Sample A and C were well accepted.

Innovation is the key to keep up with the ever changing world of fashion. Our history has many inspirations hidden in its path. It's the work of the designer to identify the same and to keep it alive by giving it a new shape and usage.

Conclusion

Mughal Architecture has unique features, in structure and ornamentation which were used as inspiration for designing gowns. Acceptance study shows that parents are willing to opt for dresses with cultural influence. Consumers appreciated the innovation and creativity.

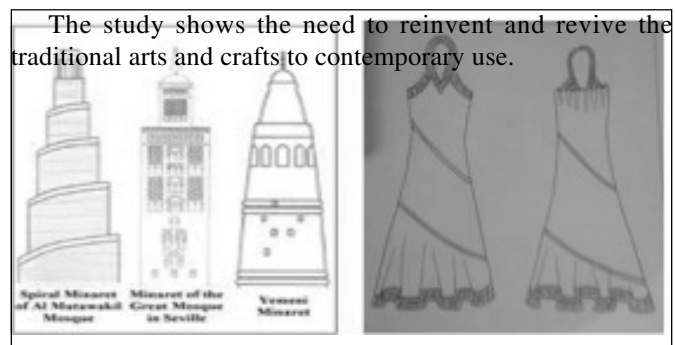


Plate 2. Design illustration of Sample B Gown depicting minaret with spirals around the garment. the materials used are gazo, satin and cut work depicting jaliwork. Halter neck with shirring at the back



Plate 3. Design illustration of Sample C Gown depicting guldasta. The curved lotus flowers petal used Mugal architecture. Velvet material is used to depict the same crap material is used to give th draped effect stating the faminine look of guldasta

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Plate 4. Design illustration of Sample D Gown depicting pillars of the Mughal architecture. The gowns has 6 panels depicting pillars and pishque. The fabric has been embroidered with Mugal motif.



	Sample A	Sample B	Sample C	Sample D
Silhouette & Fabric	Excellent 60%	Very good 54%	Excellent 54%	Very good 47%
Colour Combination	Excellent 47%	Very good 60%	Excellent 50%	Very good 44%
Finishing	Excellent 50%	Excellent 57%	Excellent 60%	Very good 44%
Overall Appearance	Excellent 64%	Excellent 57%	Excellent 50%	Very good 36%

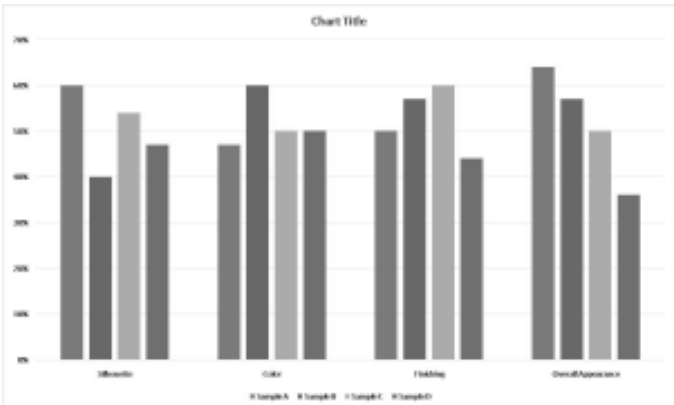


Fig. 1.

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