

FATEHPUR SIKIRI



11-04-2016

FATEHPUR SIKRI

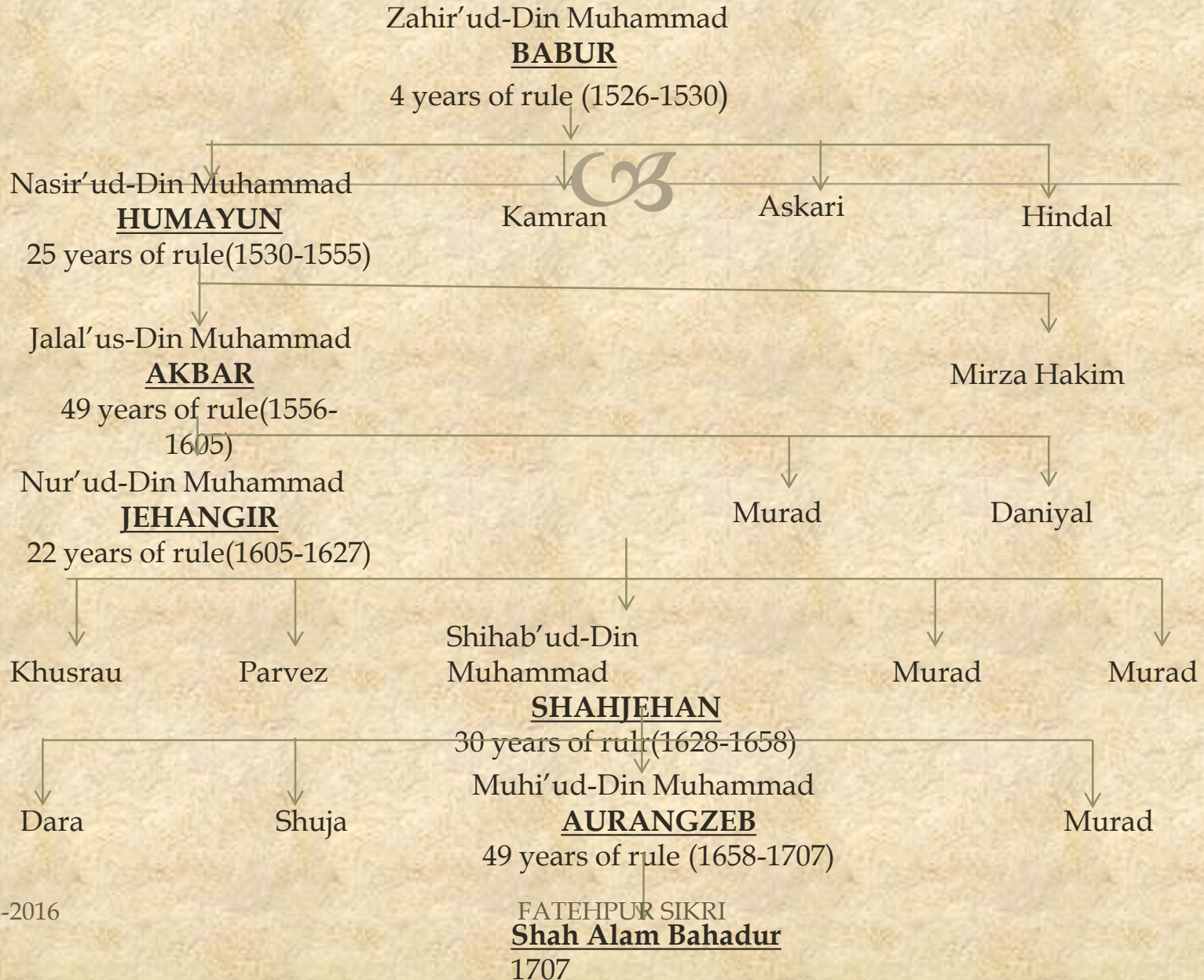
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Mughal Rule in India



History

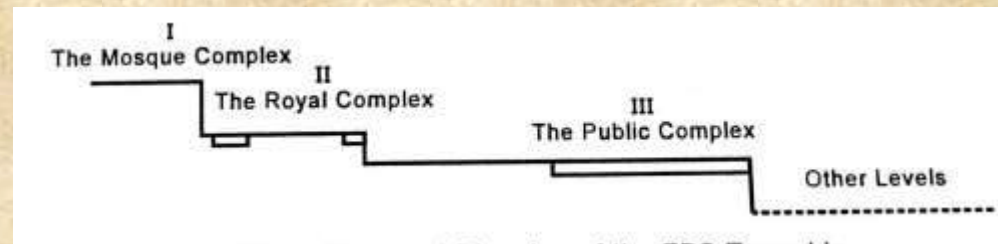


- Akbar, the great, who ruled from 1556-1605. he was a rare genius the like of whom appear only once in a millennium.
- Without disturbing the capital status of Agra, he shifted his residence and court to Fatehpur sikri, situated some 40kms west of Agra.
- just on the outskirts of Rajasthan and resided there for nearly 13 years from 1572-1585.
- It was the most formative period of his reign.
- The buildings of fatepur sikiri particularly of three main complexes were not built in 1 phase but in 2 or 3 phases and the constructions began from 1565 when building of agra fort were also commissioned
- All these buildings are made from red sandstone.in which white marble and glazed tiles have been used for ornamentation
- Guilds of stone workers from malwa, rajashthan and gujrat also contributed to this grand project and lest there mark on the architecture of fatepur sikiri.

TOWN PLANNING

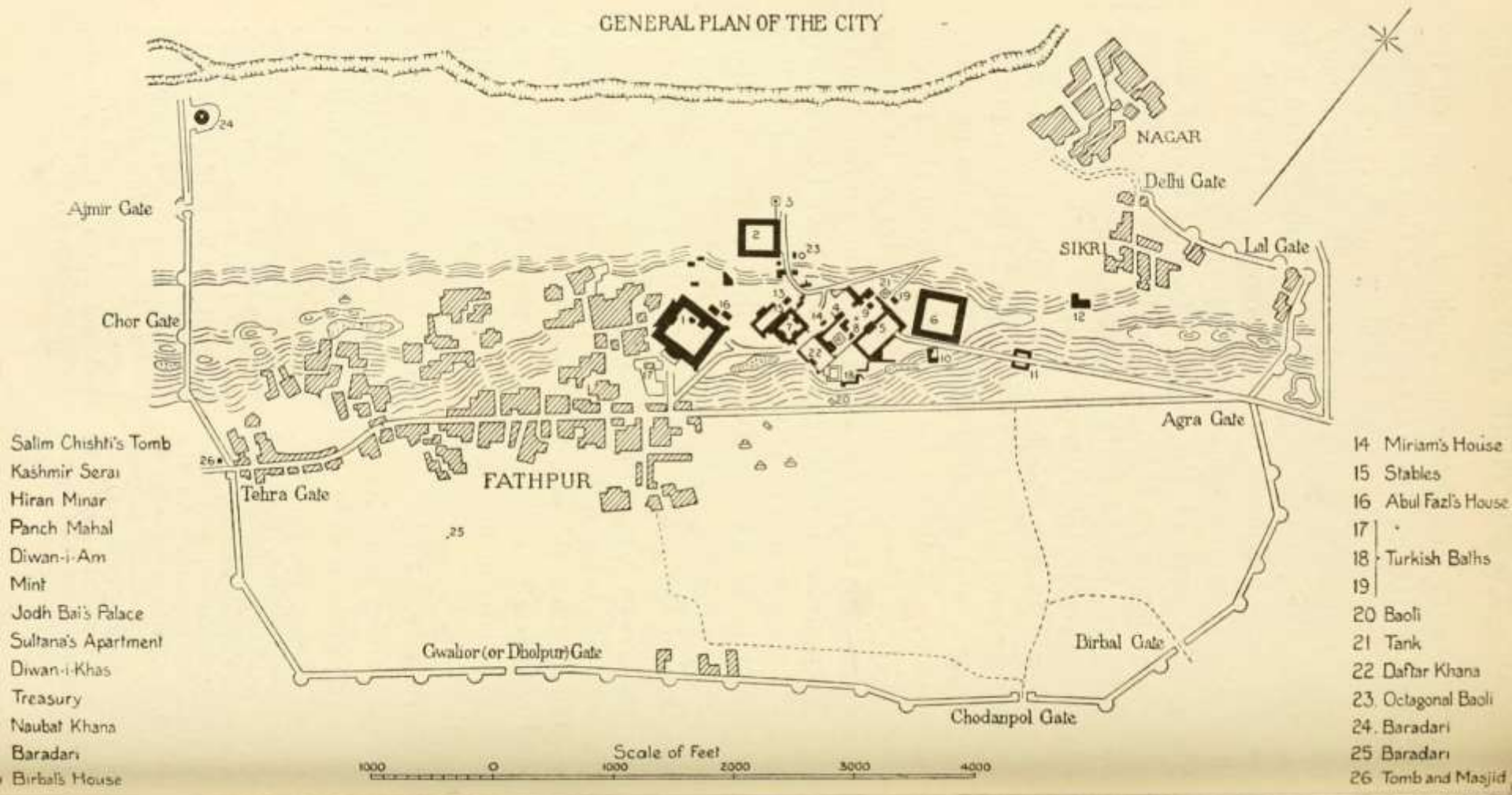
- Skillful organization of the terrain (the ridge and slopes).
- Easily available building material (red sandstone).
- In accordance with climatic conditions (air and light).
- Open spaces to ensure maximum sanitation.
- Perfect system of drainage and water-supply.
- In accordance with social needs as Purdah and political compulsions as Security.
- The ridge did not have an even level, hence terraces on the receding levels were made one for each of the three main complexes, namely
 - The Mosque Complex
 - The Royal Complex
 - The Public Complex

- The orientation of the buildings on all three terraces is on N-S axis of the ridge, facilitating them to either face east or north.
- There is virtual separation by means of high enclosing walls.
- The city wasn't haphazardly done, instead, a lot of planning went into its making in accordance with the dictates of terrain, geology and climatic conditions.



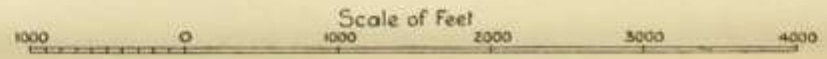
FATHPUR-SIKRI

GENERAL PLAN OF THE CITY



- Salim Chishti's Tomb
- Kashmir Serai
- Hiran Minar
- Panch Mahal
- Diwan-i-Am
- Mint
- Jodh Bai's Palace
- Sultana's Apartment
- Diwan-i-Khas
- Treasury
- Naubat Khana
- Baradari
- Birbal's House

- 14 Miriam's House
- 15 Stables
- 16 Abul Fazl's House
- 17
- 18 Turkish Baths
- 19
- 20 Baoli
- 21 Tank
- 22 Daftar Khana
- 23 Octagonal Baoli
- 24 Baradari
- 25 Baradari
- 26 Tomb and Masjid



TOWN PLANNING

- Perfect system of medieval town-planning.
- Small-scale.

ARTIFICIAL LAKE

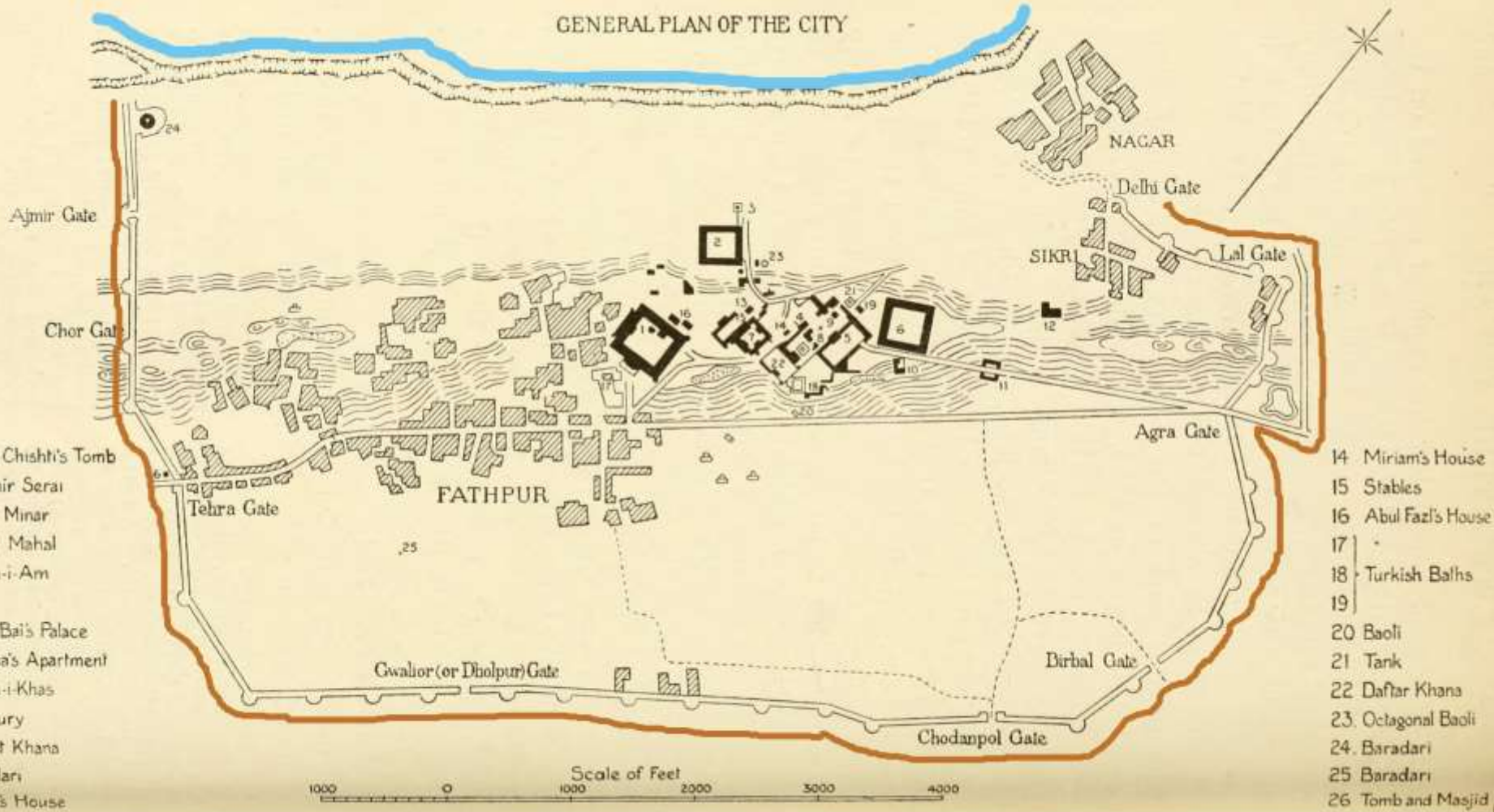
- Khari Nadi was a seasonal river which contained water for only 6 months.
- A huge lake called Terah Mori was built to contain water for use throughout the year and more.
- According to Abu'l Fazl, the lake was 40kms in circumference.
- The lake provided a water front, breezes from which, in scorching summers, cooled down the atmosphere.
- The lake was used for architectural landscaping and tempering the climatic rigours, as much for supply of water.

THE ENCLOSURE

- One side of the city did not have any defensive wall, because of the artificial lake.
- The whole area of Fatehpur Sikri, the ridge and the plains were enclosed with a masonry parkota containing bastions and gateways.
- The wall was strong defensive battlemented of rubble, duly plastered over, connected internally by a series of stairways at regular intervals.
- There were two gates namely ; Delhi-Darwazah and Lal-Darwazah.
- Other gates were Agra-Darwazah, Gwalior-Darwazah, Ajmeri-Darwazah, Hathi-Pol and Teda-Darwazah.
- Some gates were double-storied buildings, each containing a suite of a hall and adjoining chambers and chatris on the roof.
- Gateways were stone-cased and impressively finished.

FATHPUR-SIKRI

GENERAL PLAN OF THE CITY



TOWN PLANNING

BAZARS

- Bazar consisted of stone shops on either side.
- The shops existed from Agra-Darwazah to Teda-Darwazah.
- They were connected by cross-roads to other gateways.
- It was paved with *khandas* (the locally made red stone cubes, smoothed on one side, other five uneven sides being sunk in masonry).
- Another bazar, an aristocratic type, was laid out on the ridge, from the Diwan-i-Am to the Agra Gate.

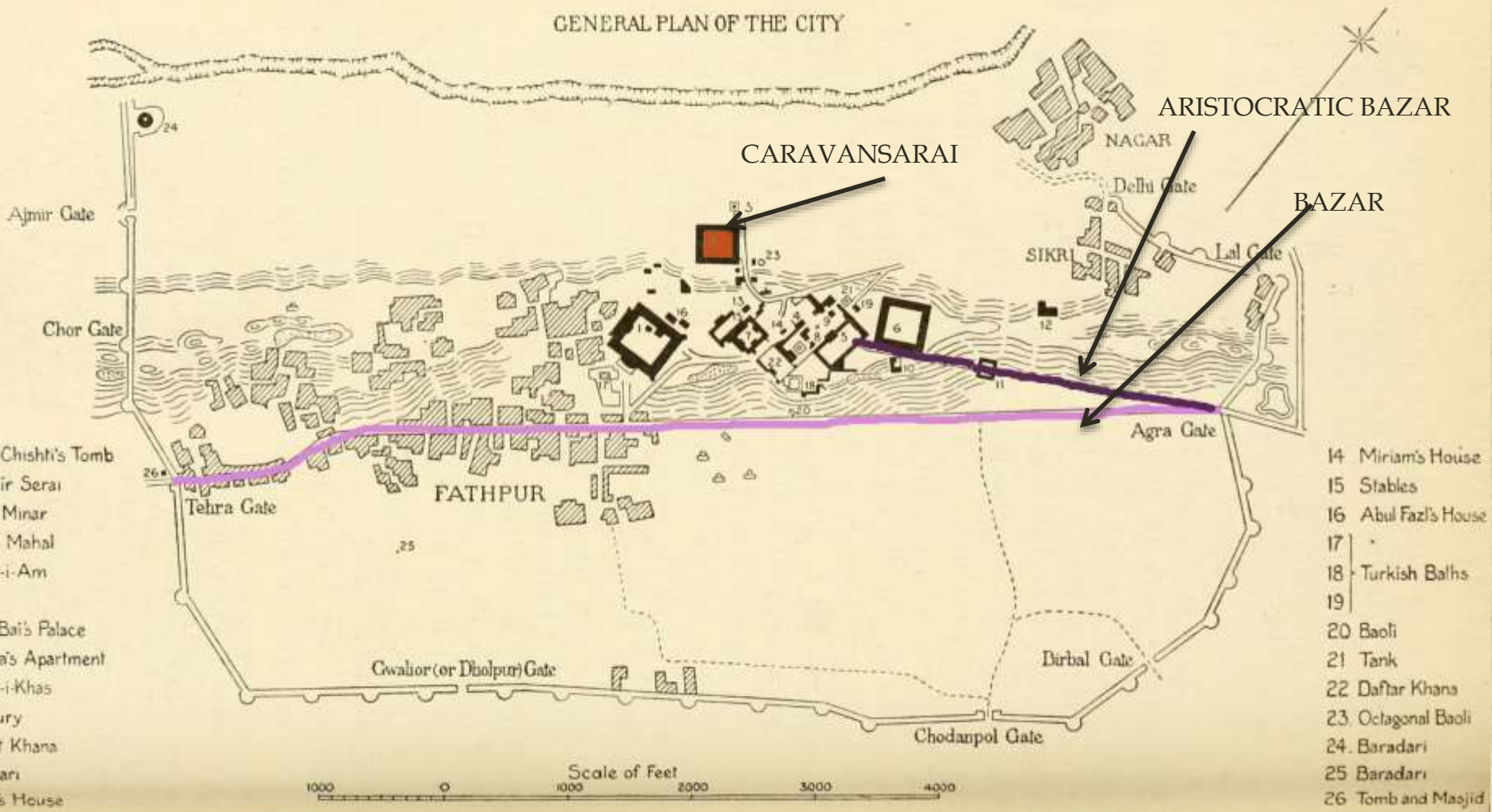
CARAVANSARAIS

- There were two Caravansarais in Fatehpur Sikri.
- One was located in the neighborhood of the aristocratic bazar for the convenience of the foreign traders.
- The other one which was larger was built near the Hathi-Pol (Elephant Gate) adjacent to Hiran Minar.



FATHPUR-SIKRI

GENERAL PLAN OF THE CITY



TOWN PLANNING

CARAVANSARAI



ALLOCATION OF SITES

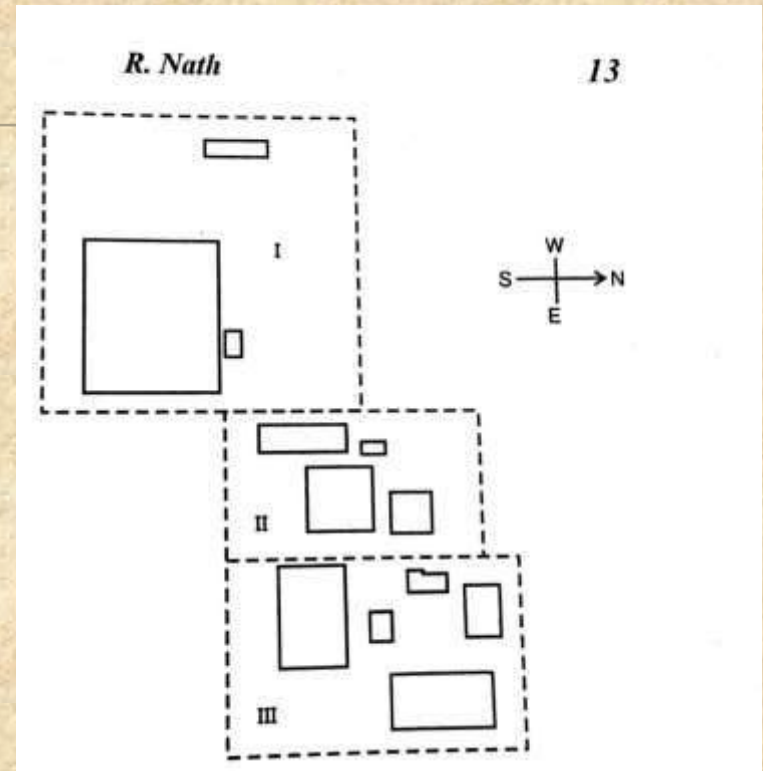
- The quarters on the ridge were reserved for royal palaces and mansions of the nobles.
- The land lying S-E and S-W of the ridge, on both sides of the bazar upto the parkota was allotted to the people to enable them to build their houses and settle against a simple fee.

GARDENS

- Gardens were freely laid out even outside the perimeter of Fatehpur Sikri.
- Some nobles preferred to build their houses amidst gardens.

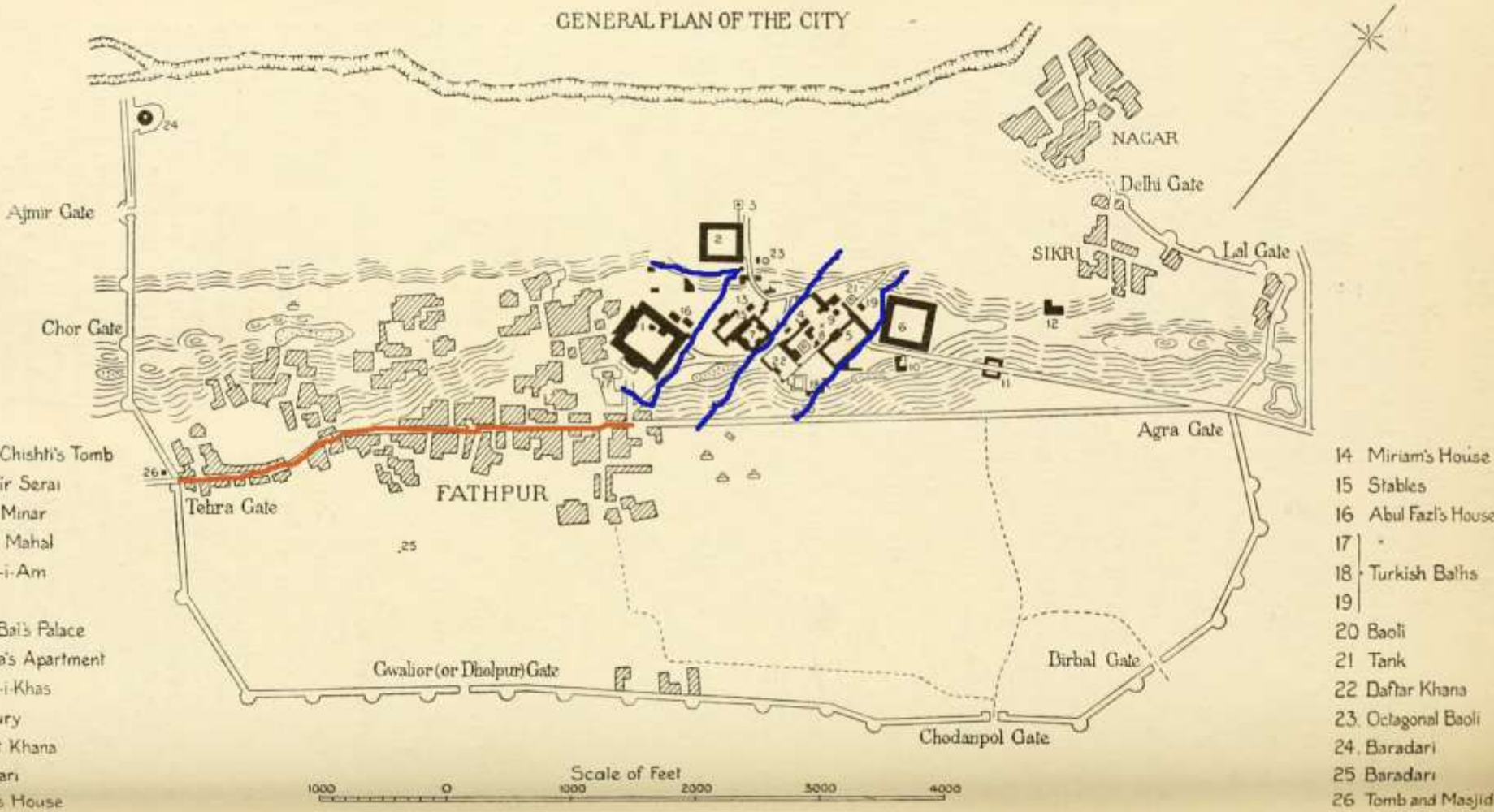
OTHER AMENITIES

- Stables for elephants, camels and horses were mostly built on the N-W side of the ridge on account of the proximity of the lake.



FATHPUR-SIKRI

GENERAL PLAN OF THE CITY



TOWN PLANNING THE MOSQUE COMPLEX

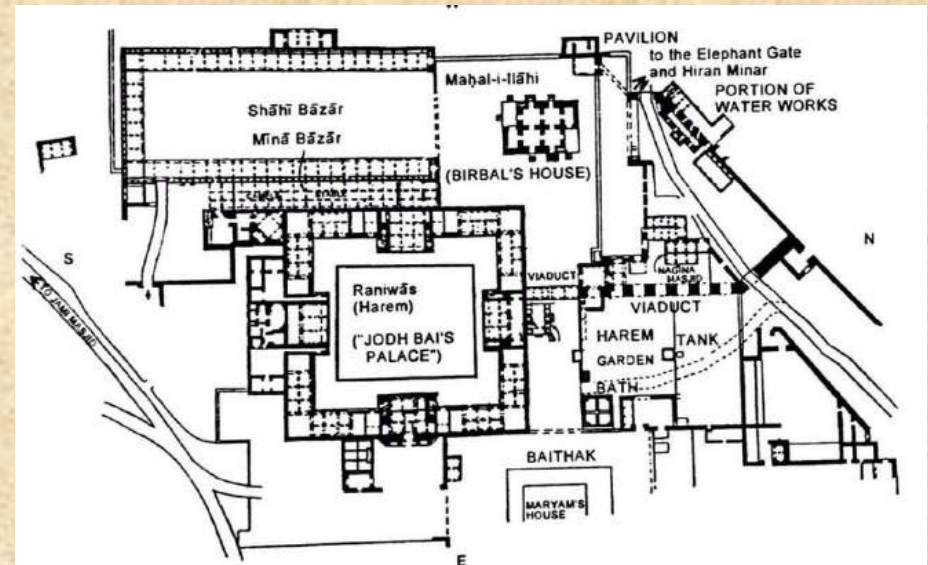
- It was situated at the highest level.
- The orientation of the buildings in this complex was not determined by climatic conditions but by religious compulsions, though the two coincided.
- Masjid Sangatarashan was the first building of Akbar's reign on this ridge.
- Jami Masjid was built a little later.
- Both the mosques face east so that the Qibla could be provided in the west towards the direction of Ka'bah.
- The sheikh's tomb situated in the courtyard of the Jami Masjid faces south.
- Buland Darwazah was added on the southern entrance of the mosque in 1601 to commemorate the conquest of the Deccan, otherwise its main gate was the Badshahi Darwazah on the eastern side.

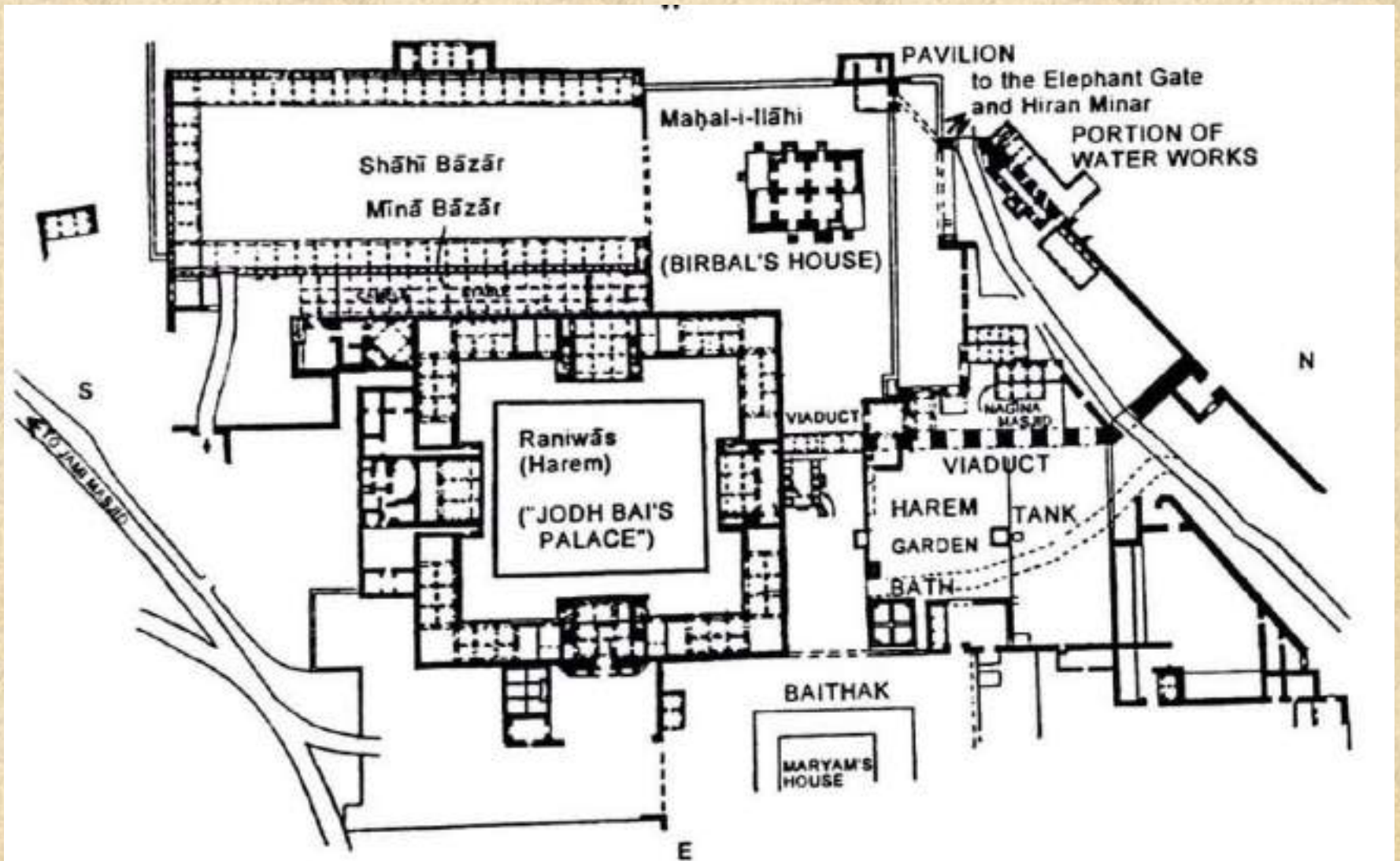


TOWN PLANNING THE ROYAL COMPLEX

- It was planned on a much lower and second terrace.
- The buildings in this complex were
 - Raniwas (Zenani-Dyodhi)
 - Mahal-i-Ilahi (Birbal palace)
 - Shahi Bazar
 - Mina Bazar
 - Baithak (Mariam's house)
- It was mainly designed to be the residential complex.
- The orientation of the buildings was after careful consideration of the requirements of the royalty.
- The Raniwas and Mahal-i-Ilahi face east and other three face north, which are the two most suitable directions for orientation in Indian climate.

- Shahi Bazar was situated at a little lower level and the garden was at still lower level, but all these buildings were planned on the same terrace.
- The whole area was properly enclosed and secured.





TOWN PLANNING THE PUBLIC COMPLEX

- The buildings in this complex are:
 - Panch Mahal
 - Khwabgah
 - Shahi Kutub Khanah
 - Char-Chamand
 - Ekastambha-Prasada
 - Daftar-Khanah
- The Diwan-i-Am with its throne chamber and colonnades also belongs to this terrace.
- Most of the buildings face east.
- The Khwabgah faces north.
- The whole complex was enclosed and secured.

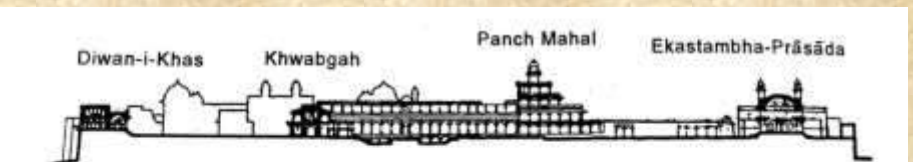
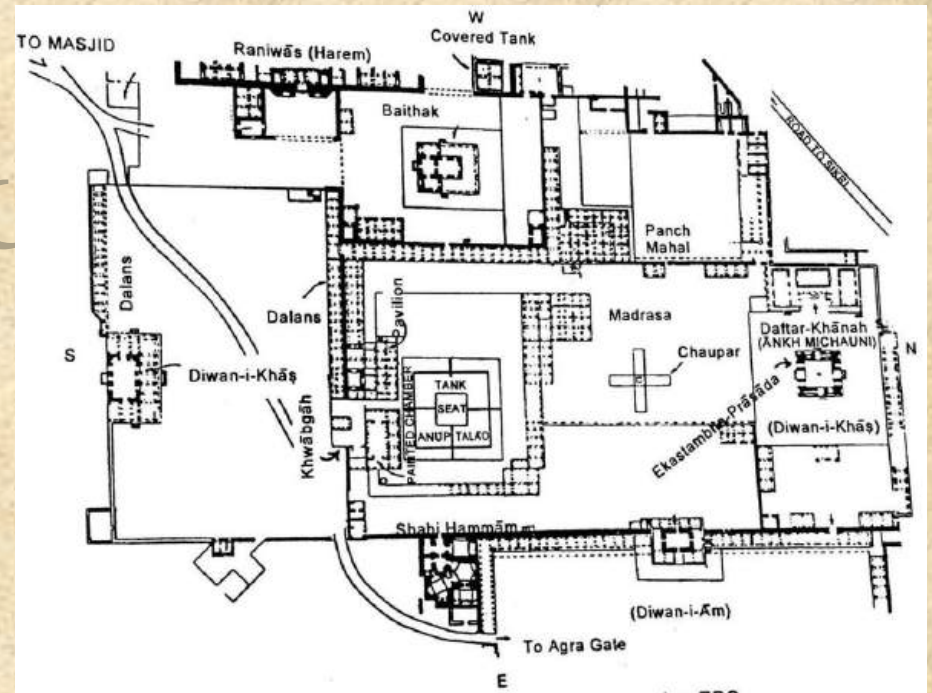


Fig.6 : N-S Elevation of the Public Complex FPS

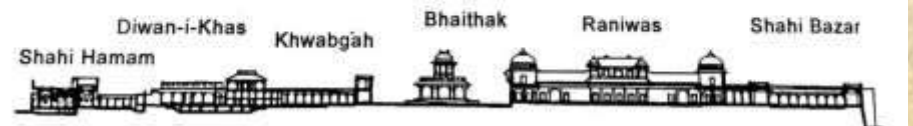
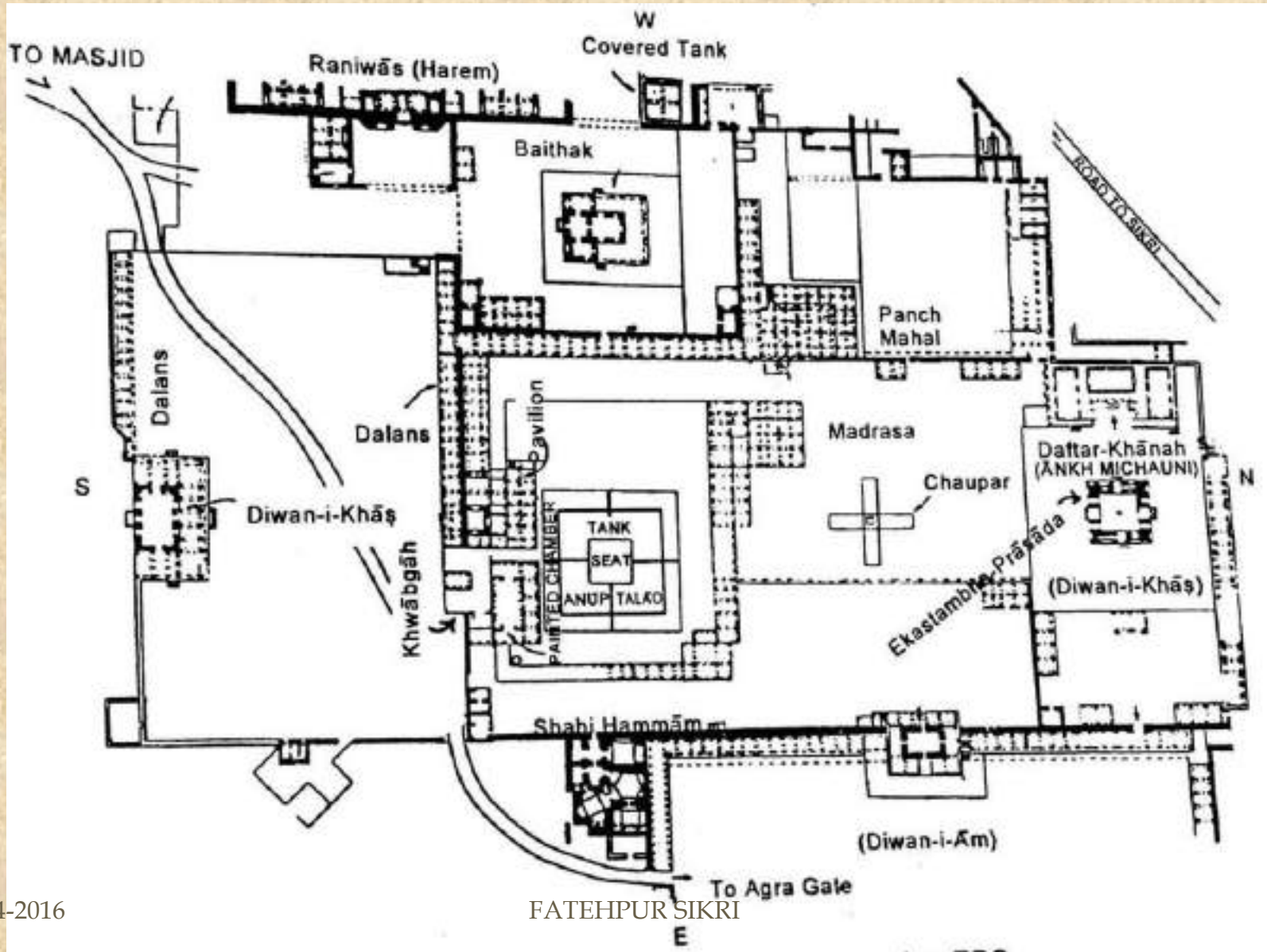


Fig.7 : E-W Elevation of Royal and Public Complex FPS



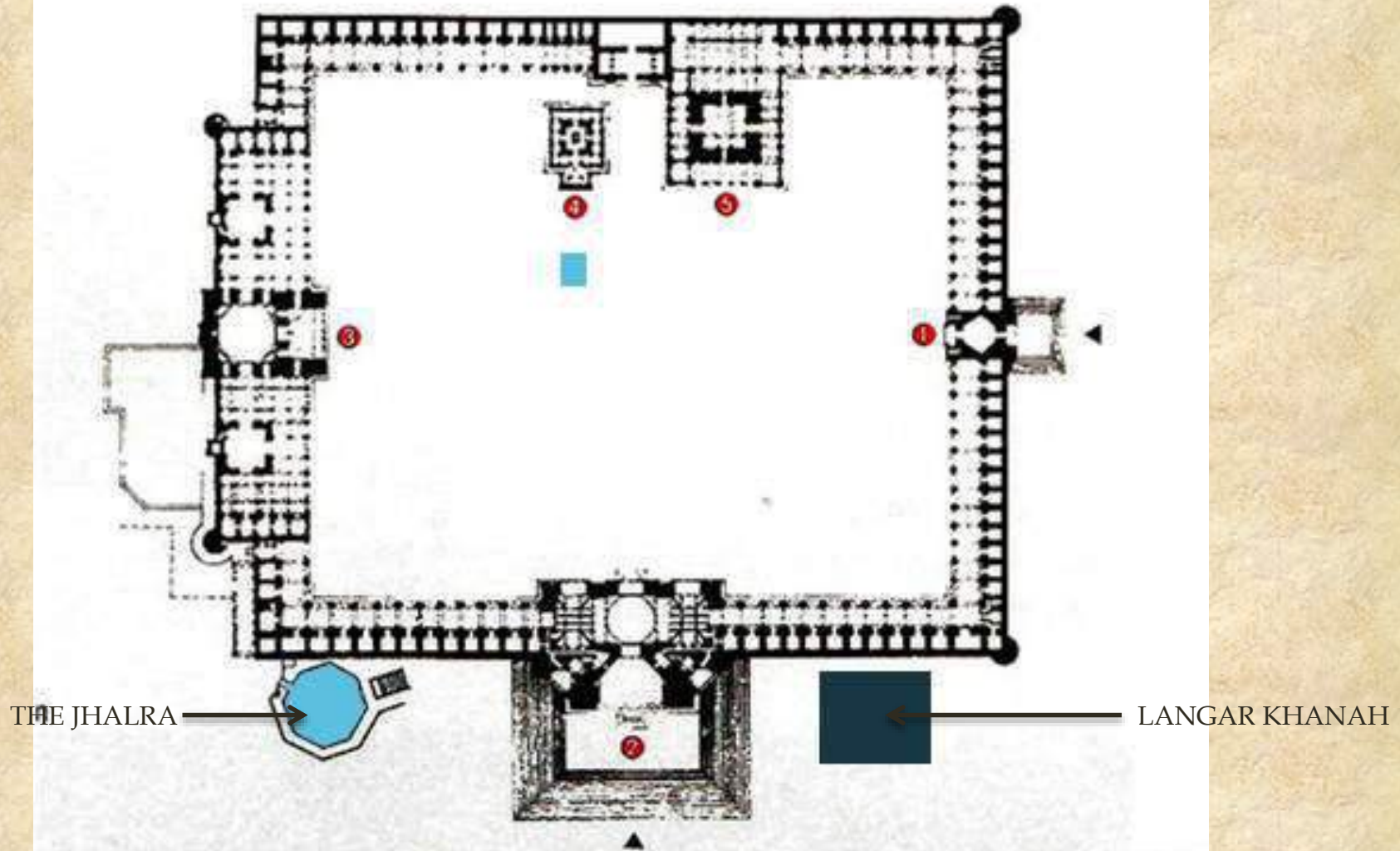
DRAINAGE AND WATER RESERVOIRS

- Provision of sufficient water for drinking and other purposes was a basic need.
- Subterranean water was both brackish and scarce, and this too was not available on the ridge.
- The planner had to take recourse to the traditional source of rain water which, as at Gwalior, Ranthambhor and Chittorgadh could be skillfully collected and preserved.
- Division of the ridge area into several receding terraces much facilitated the work.
 - Drainage thus meant collection of rain water for use the year round.

DRAINAGE AND WATER RESERVOIRS

THE MOSQUE COMPLEX

- The rain water of the mosque complex was drained into several tanks and reservoirs.
- The central, square tank in front of the tomb of Sheikh Salim Chisthi is situated on the highest level. It was also used for ablution.
- Rain water from the N-W quarter of the Jami Masjid and the area around the tomb was drained into it.
- A stone masonry tank, measuring 8.68 m square side and 1.22 m in depth, it was originally more than 6.10 m deep to contain water for the whole year.
- Lotus and fish kept it clean and suitable for ablution.
- A Birkha or underground vaulted reservoir of stone masonry was also made in the S-E quarter of the courtyard of this masjid and rain water from this area was drained into it through underground drains or channels.
- It was also a large reservoir capable of containing the water for the year.
- Water was drawn up by a rope and bucket working on a wheel, as in a well.
- It must be carefully noted that all these drains and reservoirs were planned in advance before the actual construction of the building could take place.
- There is another Birkha outside the mosque, on the left side of Buland Darwazah situated in the building known as Langar-Khanah.
- Jhalra is the most important storage tank.
- Entirely built of red sandstone, with arches and pillars, it is octagonal in plan.
- A broad flight of stairs descends below to the water level, giving it the form and utility of a step-well.
- Originally, it was more than 12.19 m deep, which shows that a natural crevice or opening in the rock was utilized to build it.



- ① Badshahi Darwaza
- ② Buland Darwaza
- ③ Prayer room of the Friday Mosque
- ④ The tomb of Salim Chishti
- ⑤ Islam Khan Mausoleum

FATEHPUR SIKRI



1. The Jhalra (Storage Tank) FPS

DRAINAGE AND WATER

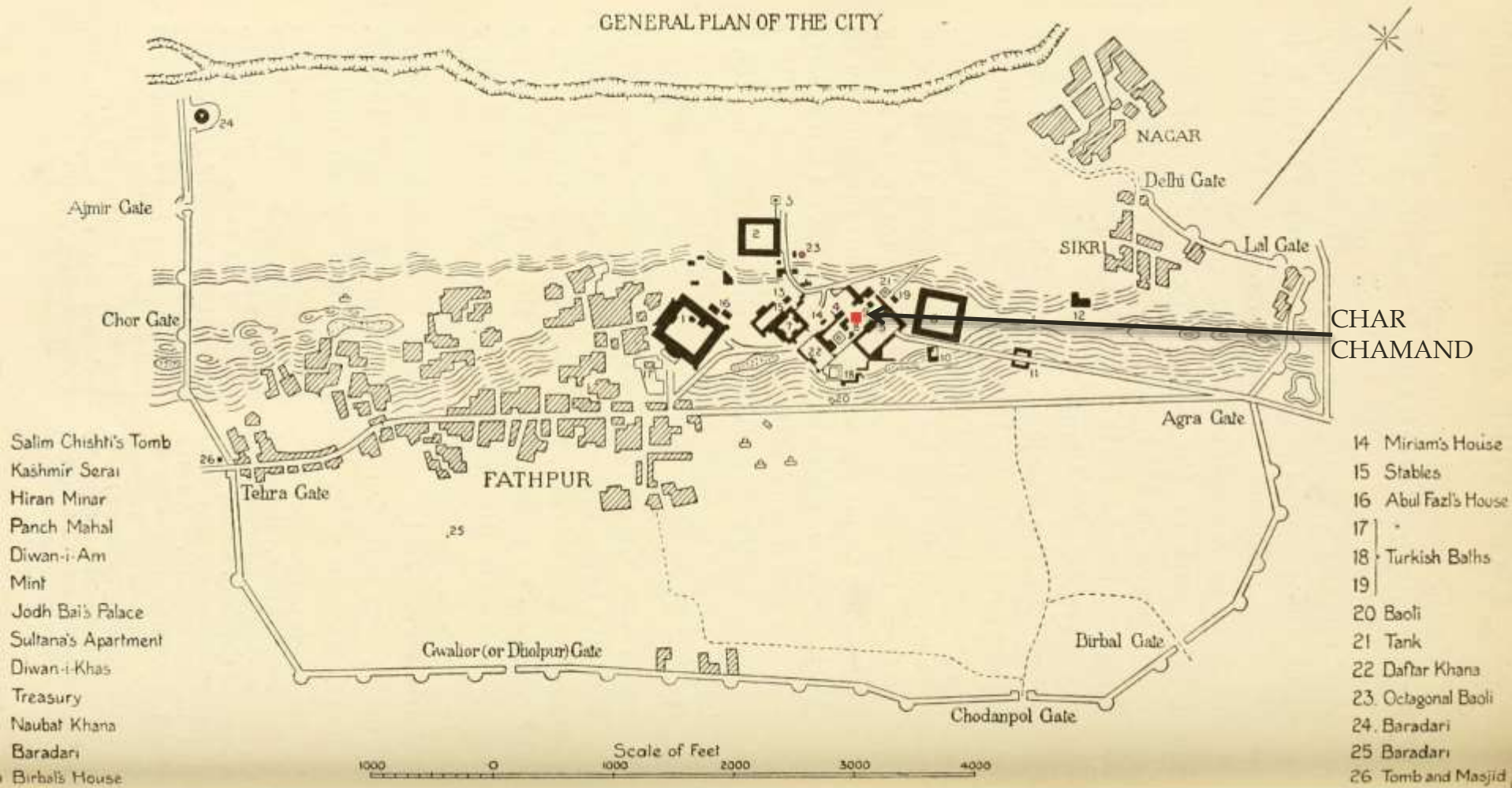
RESERVOIRS

THE ROYAL COMPLEX

- The Royal Complex has a drainage system, beginning from the roof gargoyles to underground drains, but it does not have a reservoir.
- All its rain water was diverted to the Public Complex, first into the Char-Chamand tank and then to the tank situated to the north of Ekastambha-Prasada (so called Diwan-i-Khas).
- An elaborate system of water supply was laid to provide ample water to the Royal Complex from the Sangin Baoli, situated near the Hiran Minar below the Hathiya Paur.
- Surplus water from this water works was also diverted, through open drains to the Char-Chamand tank.
- The red sandstone Char Chamand tank also called Anup Talao is square in plan, 29.26 m side.
- In its middle is a beautiful island platform 9.14 m square with jali balustrade and a raised seat 3.96 m square.
- It is connected with the mainland on each of the 4 sides by 0.61 m wide bridge of 10.06 m span, supported on stone piers.
- The idea of the island platform connected to the mainland with bridges seems to have come from the central tank of the Bagh-i-Gul-Afshan of Babur at Agra.
- Very comfortable steps lead down to the water.
- Only 6 steps are there at present.
- Another series of 5 steps and a spacious underground vaulted reservoir were also there originally.
- Drainage water from the Khwabgah palace and the Royal complex as well as the surplus water from the water works of the latter was collected in the Char-Chamand tank and it was, thus, a great reservoir which contained water year round.
- When it overflowed, water was diverted to the tank situated to the north of the Ekastambha-Prasada just outside the Public Complex.

FATHPUR-SIKRI

GENERAL PLAN OF THE CITY





3. The Sangin-Baoli near Hiran-Minar



4. Overhead Channel near Sangin-Baoli

DRAINAGE AND WATER RESERVOIRS

THE PUBLIC COMPLEX

- Drainage water from the Public court and also the surplus water of the Char-Chamand tank was further diverted to the tank situated just to the north of the Ekastambha-Prasada outside enclosure, through a cascade (fish scale or water-chute) and a miniature pond.
- Though the drains have been much disturbed, the position of the cascade shows, without the least doubt, that all surplus water of the complex was flown into the Kunda situated at a much lower level.
- It was a deep tank with capacity to supply water the year round.

- The drainage water from other lower levels of the ridge was flown into the Sukh-Tal situated near the so called Hakim's House.
- It is an extremely deep storage tank with a comfortable flight of steps and a big underground drain, serving as inlet, on one side.
- It is a rubble construction which should have been originally plastered over.



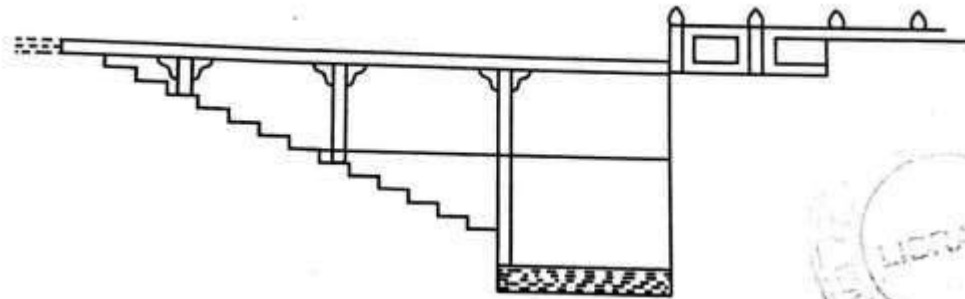
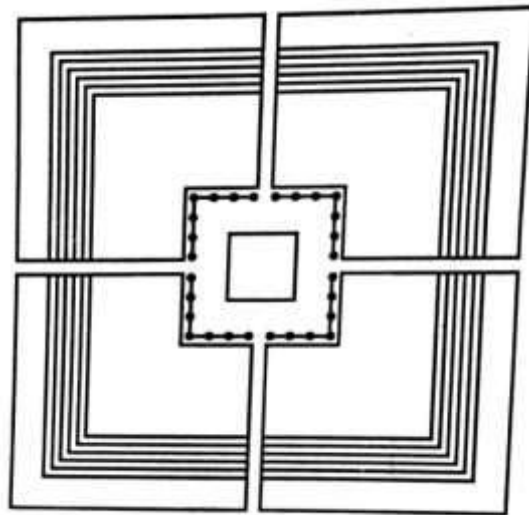


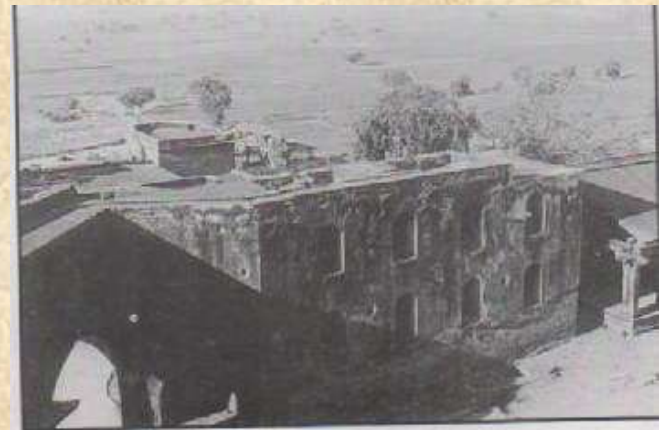
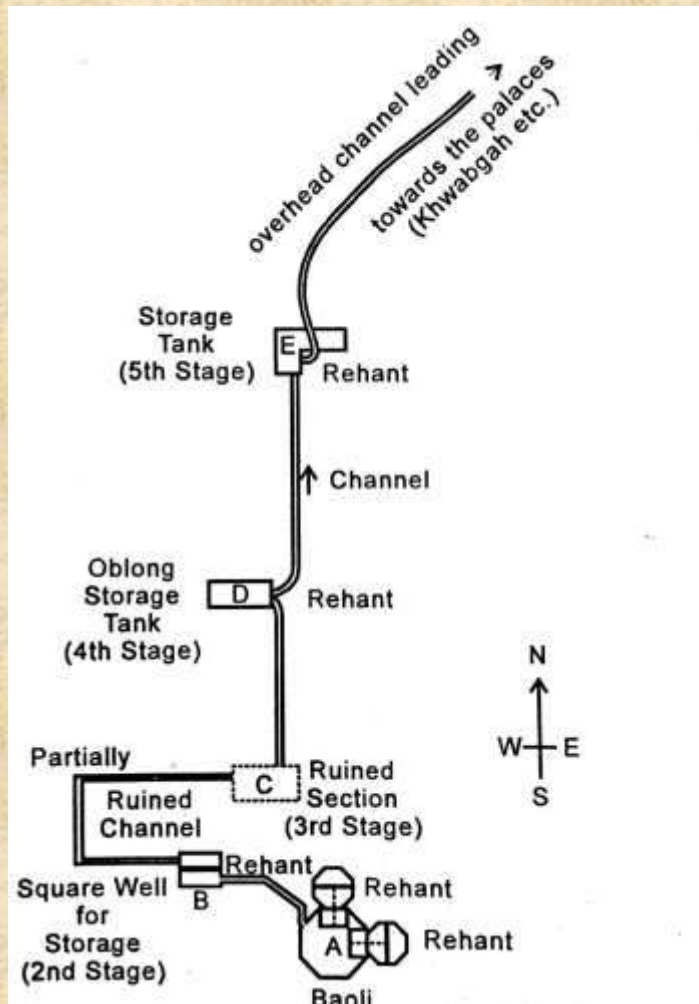
Fig.10 : Section : Char Chamand Tank FPS



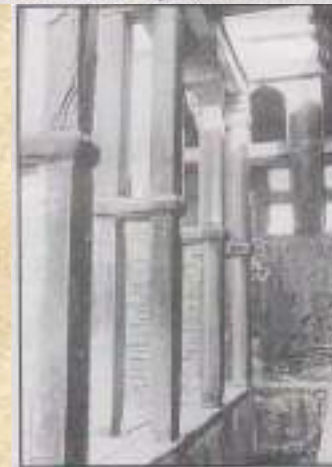
WATER SUPPLY

- The water work on the Elephant Gate has survived intact.
- The original source of perennial water was the Sangin Baoli (stone masonry step-well) situated near the Hiran Minar, in the plain.
- It is a massive structure of red sandstone, octagonal in plan being 21.64 m in diameter and 3.53 m high ; the shaft of the well is also octagonal measuring 7.01 m in diameter.
- It has 4 chambers and 4 staircases 1.91 m wide, arranged symmetrically, leading down to the water level.
- Cool, fresh and clean water was adequately supplied to all palatial mansions on the ridge.
- An efficient system of rehauts, channels, storage well and tanks, conduits and aqueducts was evolved to carry water from one place to another, from the lowest level to the highest and a constant supply of water was maintained in the palaces and hammams throughout the year.
- A rock-well, also with natural perennial source of water supplied water to Khass-Hammam and other adjoining palaces on this side of the ridge, this was worked out in a much smaller scale.

WATER SUPPLY



7. Overhead Aqueduct, Elephant-Gate

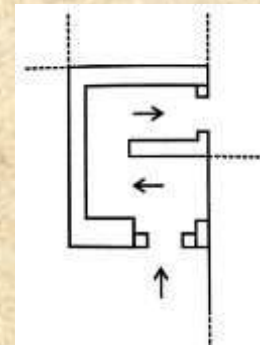


5. Storage Tank near Elephant-Gate

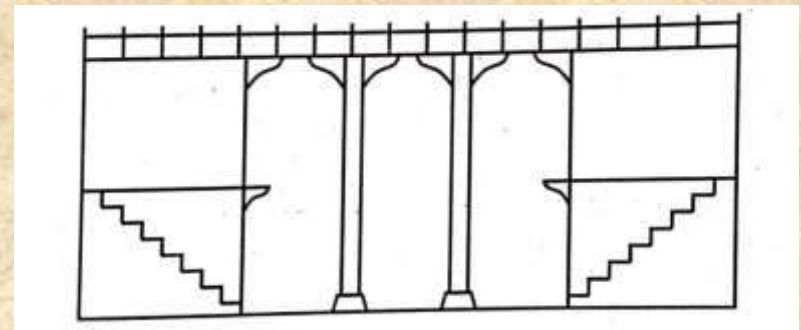
PLAN AND DESIGN OF BUILDINGS

- The residential palaces of Fatehpur sikri have some distinctive characteristics from the standpoint of the disposal of space on the ground plan and the elevation, as a unit and also in relation to each other.
- The living apartments, like Raniwas and Rang Mahal are, almost as a rule, disposed around an inner court (chowk) in a Catuhsala (four-sided) arrangement, providing a vast open space in the interior.
- The gate is composed of an arched portal with 2 chowkis (pedestals) on the sides, a bracket and lintel doorway and a poli (porch), giving entrance in the court on a crooked plan to ensure purdah and security.
- Ground floors invariably have tibara and duchhatti compositions (with a central dalan of 3 openings and double floor apartments on the sides, opening on it).

- All suites are architecturally separated, yet interconnected, on a single plan.
- Spacious inner courts and open dalans afforded adequate light and air to the inmates of the Harem who lived in strict purdah and seclusion.



CROOKED PLAN



TIBARA AND DUCHHATTI

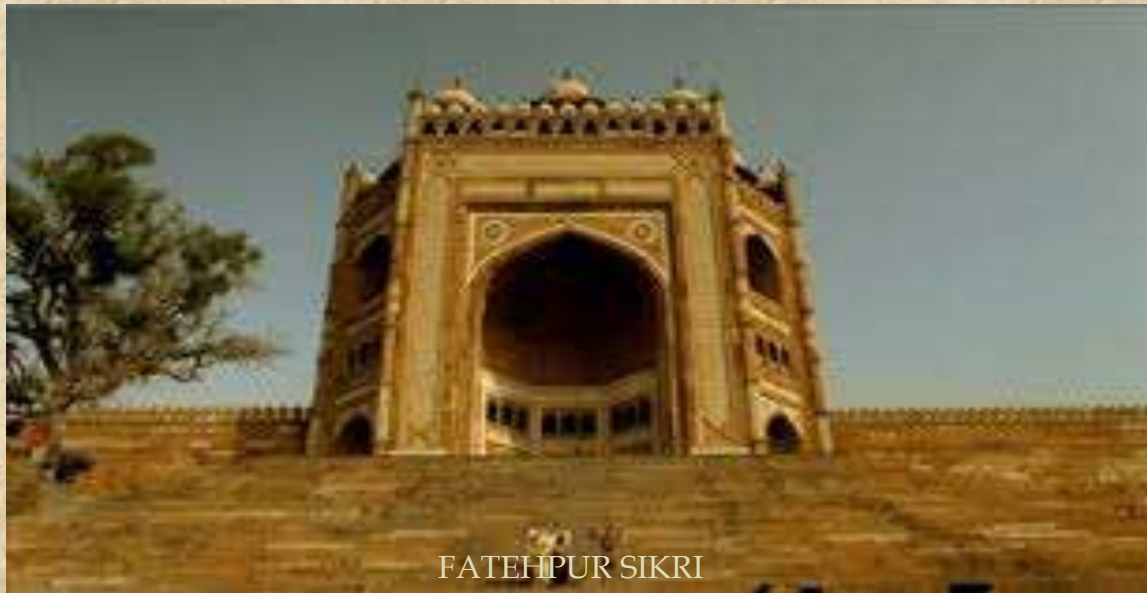
PLAN AND DESIGN OF BUILDINGS

- Open terraces along with first floor living rooms, like in Raniwas, have also been provided.
- Each complex was furnished with a set of hammam for toilet, water supply system and other paraphernalia of a residential palace.
- It was planned and designed so as to ensure a comfortable living in accordance with the status of the inmates and medieval social customs, in the climatic conditions of Fatehpur Sikri.
- Though duchhattis have been provided on the sides of the liwan of the Jami Masjid, in the Baithak and also in the Khwabgah overlooking the Char-Chamand tank, it is generally, and most effectively, used with tibara. Like in Abu'l Fazl's house, Rang Mahal and Raniwas.
- Earlier examples are available in the Bengali Mahal of Akbar in Agra fort and the Man-Mandir Gwalior.
- Catuhsala was an ancient plan.
- Poli, Tibara and Duchhatti were medieval innovations in the Indian house.
- A living quarter, disposed around an inner court and accessible by a crooked entrance with provision of hammam and other accessories, was generally closed on 2 sides by a kotha at either end.
- Stone buildings, which were open on all sides, with colonnaded dalans, or wholesale mural paintings, with no kothas, were not suitable for living and were reserved for formal use.



BULAND DARWAZA

Multi storied and containing large halls, small chambers, passages and stairways on the two sides of the *iwan*. The ***Buland darwaza*** is an complete monument in itself.



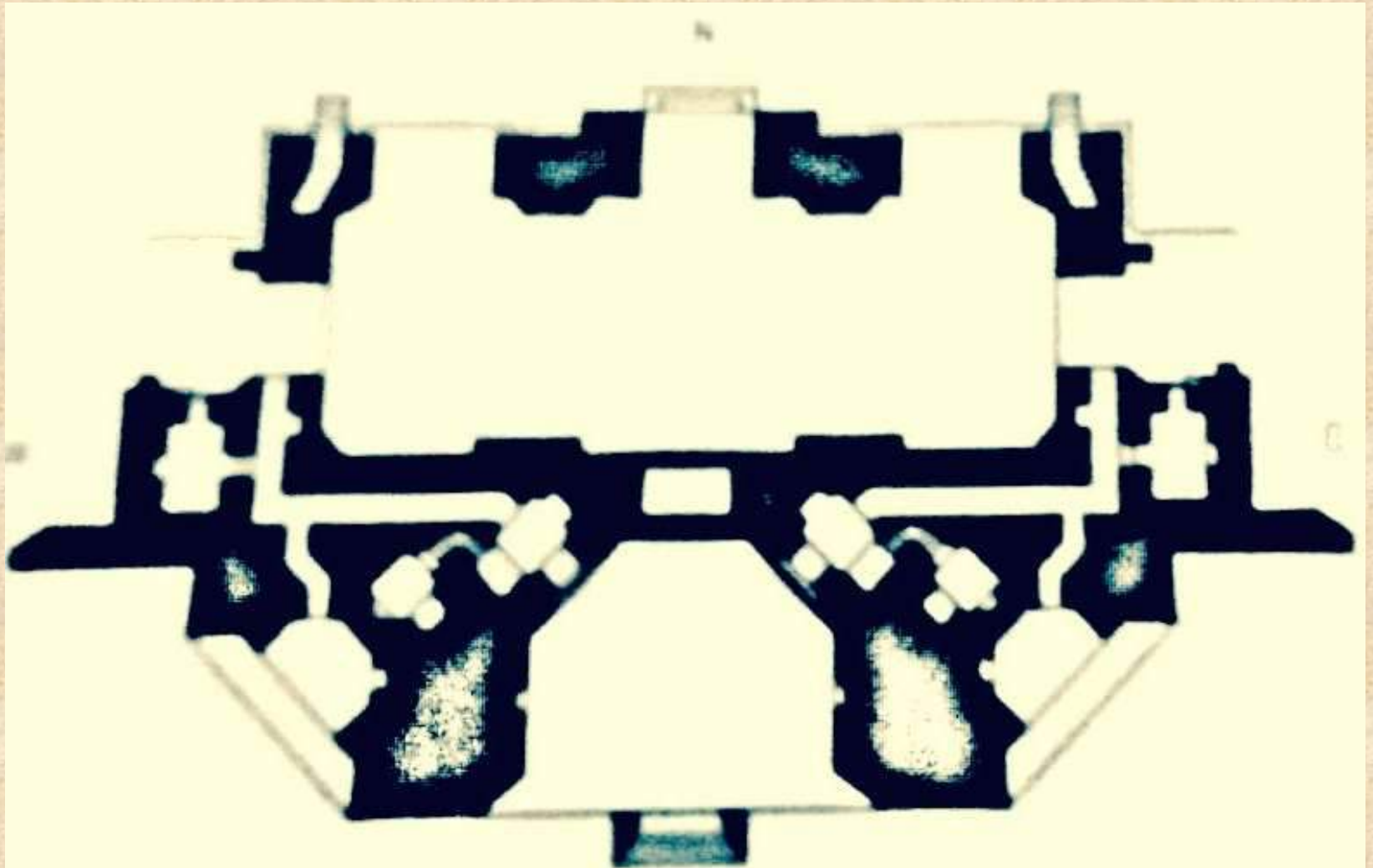
BULAND DARWAZA



- ☞ It is symmetrical, and is topped with 3 large *chhatris* on the superstructure.
- ☞ The planes on the side are smaller and recede at a suitable 135 angle. These have multi-storeyed arrangement. Both the quoins have attached turrets surmounted by pinnacles.
- ☞ The solids and voids have been most splendidly organized.
- ☞ The approach to the gate consists of 42 steps
- ☞ *Buland Darwaza* was not a part of the original design of the Jami Masjid, it was erected by Akbar to celebrate his conquest of Gujrat in 1573.



PLAN



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FATEHPUR SIKRI

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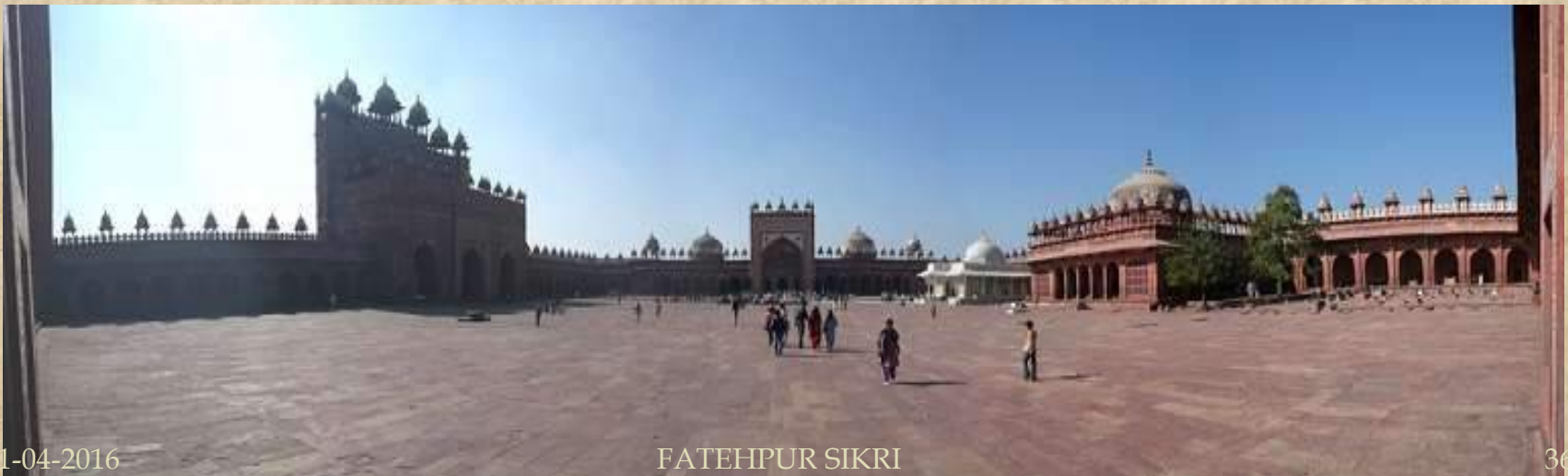
BULAND DARWAZA



- It is semi octagonal in plan and two smaller triple-storeyed wings on either side
- The structure is 54 m in height from the ground level. Across the front it measures 39.62m
- It has three kiosks on its top surrounded by thirteen smaller domed kiosks.
- There are smaller turrets surrounding the gateway. The expanse is broken by arched niches, small chhatris and marble highlights.
- It highlights the courtyard of the Jami Masjid. The principal arch stands in the centre of three projecting sides and topped by a dome.
- The central arch is broken into three tiers with rows of smaller arches and flat brackets.
- The Buland Darwaza is made of red and buff sandstone, decorated by white and black marble and is higher than the courtyard of the mosque.

JAMI MASJID

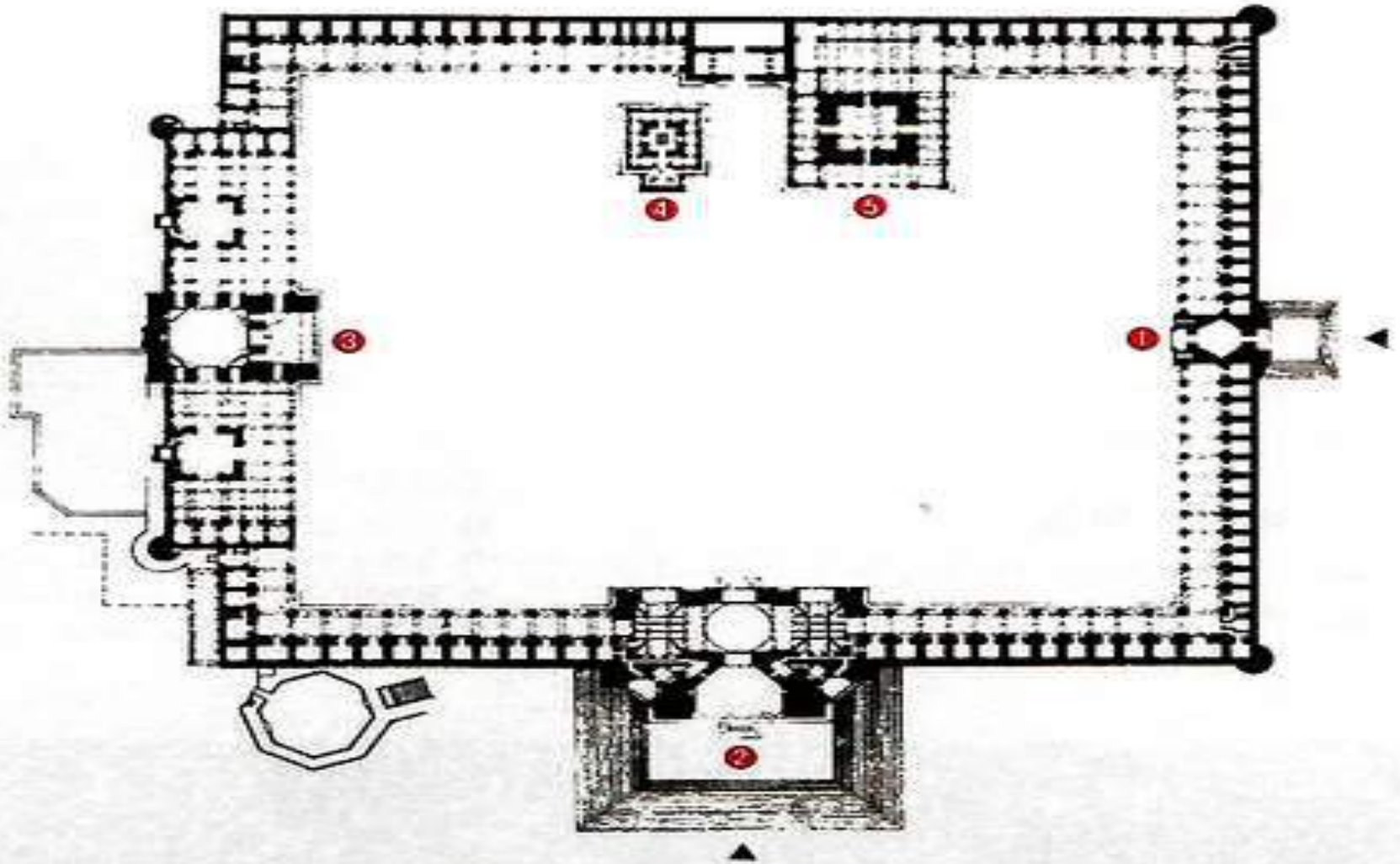
The *Jama Masjid* (Friday Mosque) in Fatehpur Sikri is a mosque in Agra Uttar Pradesh, India completed in 1571-75 by Sheikh Salim Chishti..



JAMI MASJID



- ❧ The *Jami Masjid* at *Fatehpur Sikri* was built by Akbar in A.D. 1571.
- ❧ It is one of the largest mosques in the country.
- ❧ The sanctuary façade consists of a large rectangular fronton in the center containing a spacious alcove, with a pillared arcade on each side to form the wings.
- ❧ Above and behind this central feature rises a large dome over the central nave and smaller domes over the wings.
- ❧ A range of pillared kiosks all along the entire parapet breaks the skyline.



❶ Badshahi Darwaza ❷ Buland Darwaza ❸ Prayer room of the Friday Mosque ❹ The tomb of Salim Chishti ❺ Islam Khan Mausoleum

JAMI MASJID



- It covers a rectangular area measuring 542' X 438', with a large courtyard, originally entered by gateways on the north, south and east. Of these, only the eastern or King's Gateway has remained unaltered by subsequent additions.
- The mosque follows the conventional plan form with a central courtyard surrounded by cloisters on 3 sides and the sanctuary on the western side.
- The nave is a square hall entered through three doorways in the alcoved fronton which contains the principal *mihrab* on its western wall and is covered by the main dome.
- The aisles are accessed through archways from the nave and correspond to the arcaded wings of the façade. In the centre of each of the aisles is a small chapel, covered by one of the two smaller domes.
- There is an admirable combination of beams and arches, the two structural systems in a well maintained balance.

DIWAN I AAM



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FATEHPUR SIKRI

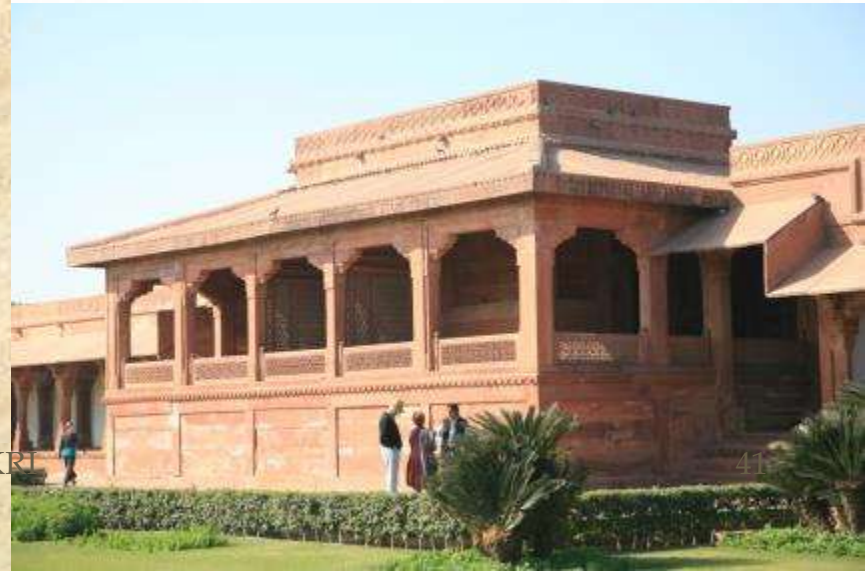
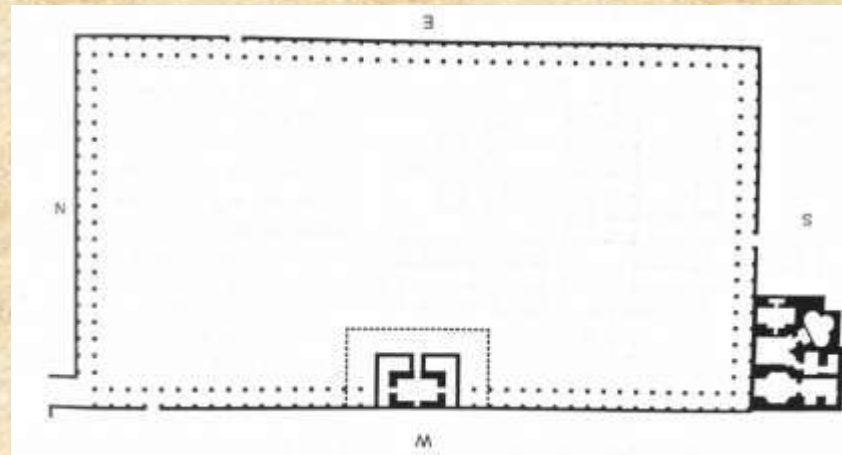


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DIWAN I AAM



- It is a spacious oblong complex with a grand court and pillar **dalans** on all its sides, formal entrance which is no longer extant in their original form, have been given in east and south direction.
- Dalans have decently raised plinth and are made up of square pillars, simple brackets and continuous broad projecting chhajja.
- In the middle of western side has been provided the throne pavilion which is the only part of attraction in this simple building.
- It has a jali balustrades and jali curtains separating the compartments.

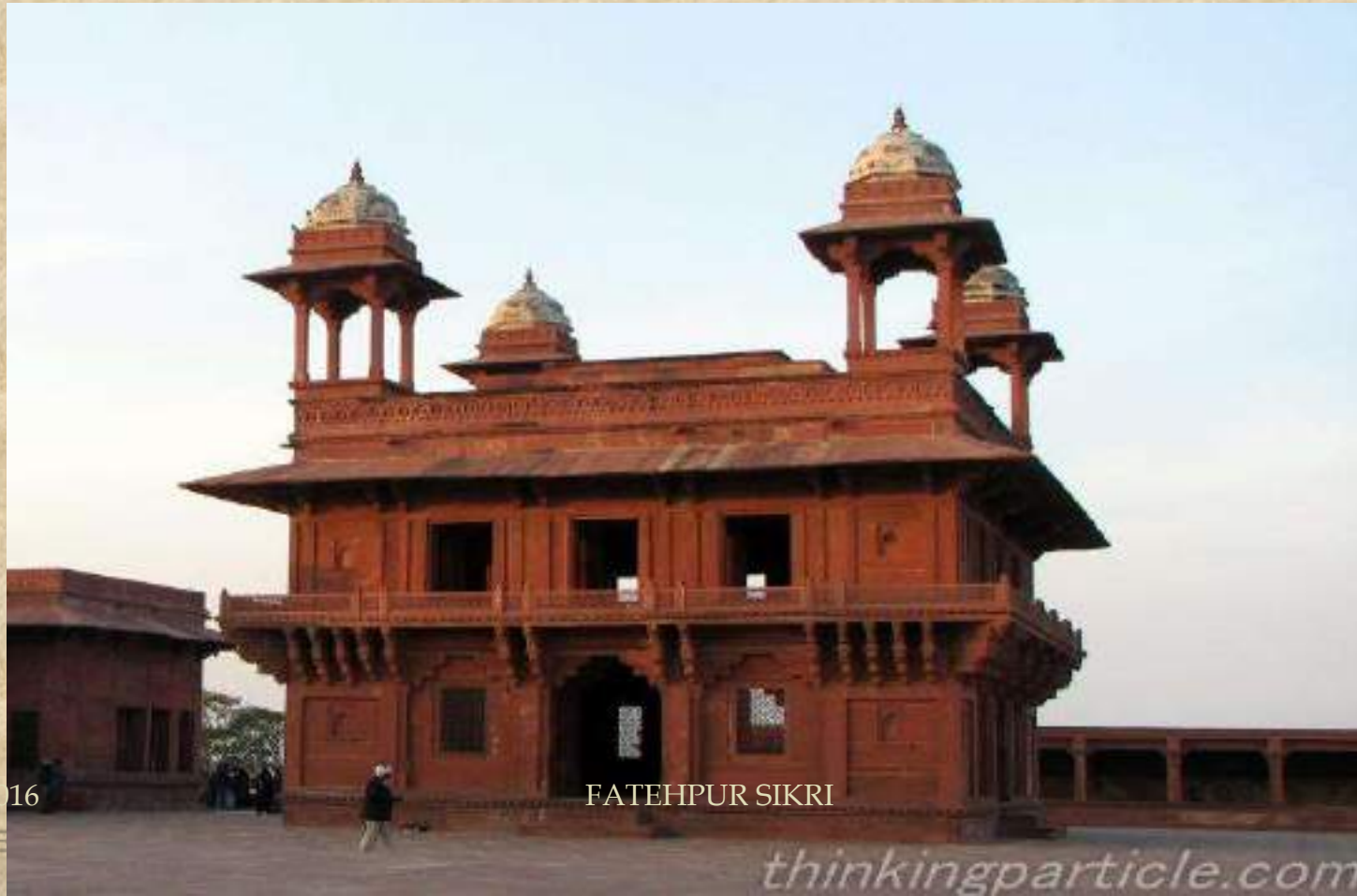


DIWAN I AAM



- ❧ The most important feature of the central pavilion is **Khaprel** (stone tiled) over the verandah. It is in this element that façade and superstructure have been combined impressively.
- ❧ .It is note worthy that some of these do not have arch and dome or any other typical Muslim feature.
- ❧ The throne faces east, the direction of rising sun in accordance with the belief of Akbar.
- ❧ Dalans were provided for the architectural feature of the Mughal style and were not always functional.

DIWAN I KHAS



11-04-2016

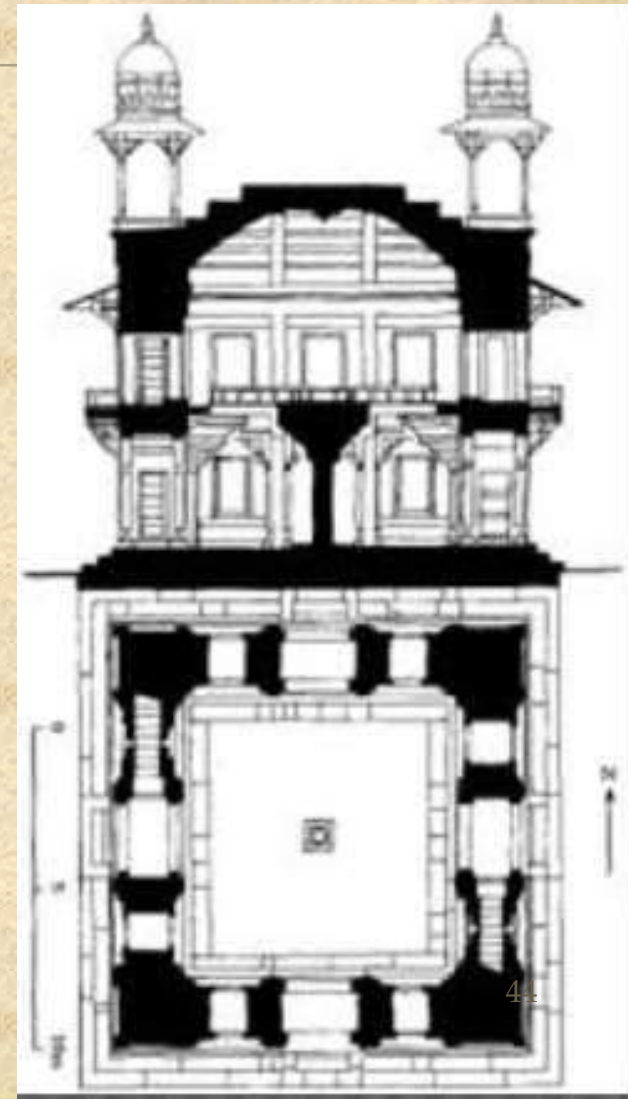
FATEHPUR SIKRI

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DIWAN I KHAS



- It is the grand spacious building which is situated to the south of the Khwabgah palace is Daftar Khanah. (the royal office/ diwan I khas)
- It is a square building made of red sandstone, measures 43'-3" (13.18m) and interior measuring 28'-8" (8.74m)
- It is set on a plinth of adequate height, it is composed of an oblong hall and a wide and extremely spacious Dalan on its three sides, east, north and west.
- The southern side being in alignment with the lay-out of the court. The central opening on the southern side has wide projecting Jharokha overlooking the ridges.
- Each opening occupies the whole thickness of the wall and has a sill and double grooves on either sides which gives the impression that double doors were used on each side.



DIWAN I KHAS



❧ The ingenuity of Mughal *karigars* knew no bounds and many a Mughal design is a mystery to us today. This is because of the fine workmanship as well as strength and stability of the structures and quality of their production.

❧ The oblong entrance are superimposed by arched opening which were originally closed by jalis, admitting subdued light and air.

❧ Due to some evidence, archeologists have confirmed that interiors and ceiling was originally painted, the sunk niches were used to relieve the mural monotony. These were finished with figurative subjects, depicting contemporary life.



DIWAN I KHAS



- ❧ Dalans were made up of high pillars, brackets and lintels, supporting flat ceiling. Tapered square bases have used to give extra height to the pillars.
- ❧ Pillars have square base bearing the kirttimukha motif on all sides, a 12-sided shaft and stalactite capital all carved in single piece, in each case.
- ❧ There are four beautiful imposing chhatris surmounting the building, one on each corner. It is about 1/3 of the total height of the building.

JODHABAI PALACE

It is a building built by Akbar with Red sandstone, a central courtyard & a mix of Hindu & Mughal styles.



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LATELIPUR SIKRI



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JODHBAI PALACE

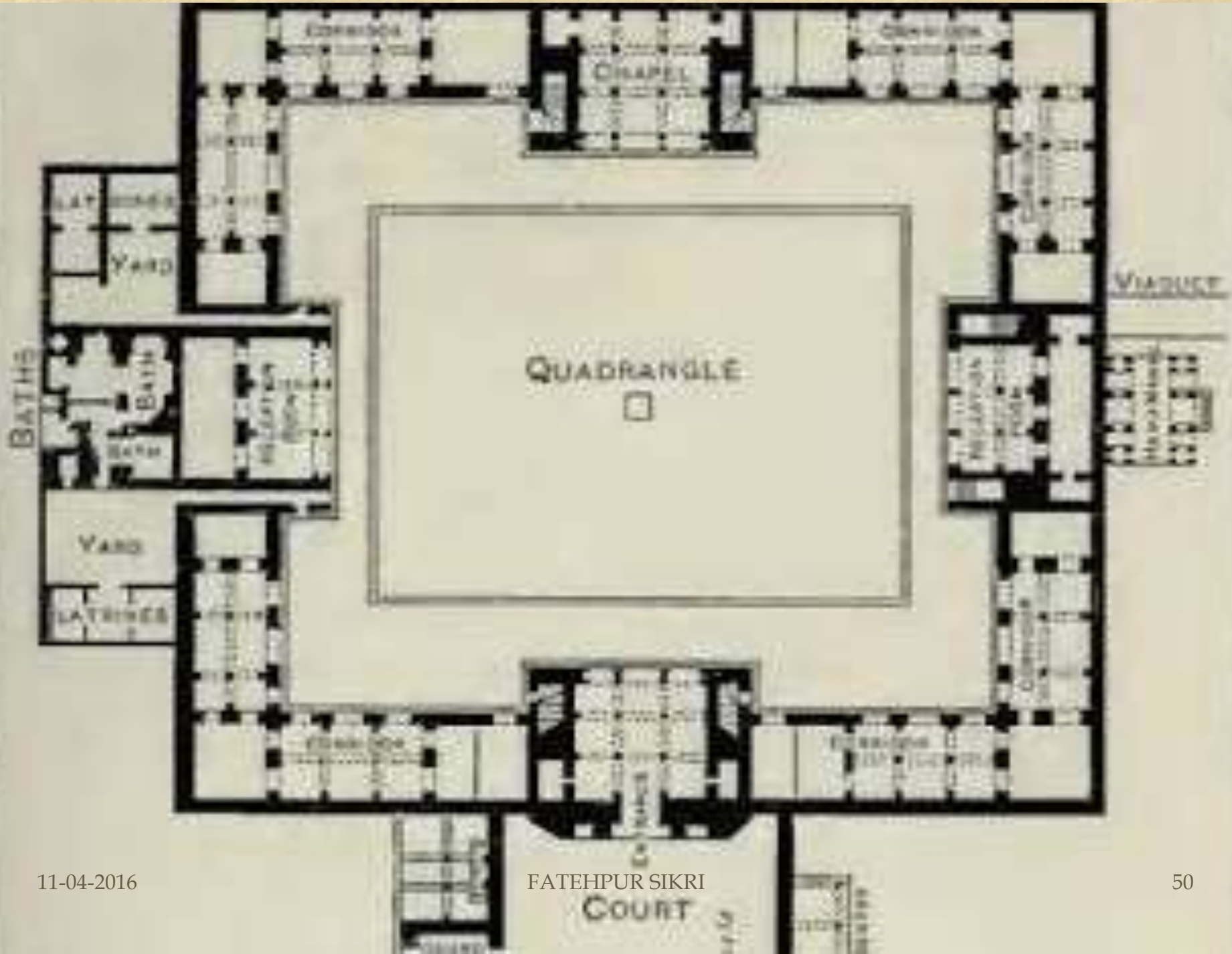


- ❧ Jodh Bai's Palace is a structure built as the house of the principal queen and discloses some of the conditions of living in the Mughal household.
- ❧ The palace in plan measures 320' X 215', consisting of a large central courtyard with buildings arranged around its periphery. The only entrance is through a guarded gatehouse with staggered doorways to provide seclusion.
- ❧ The external wall is 32' high, plain and forbidding on the exterior, the buildings attached to its inner side all facing the central courtyard.
- ❧ The outer façade of the wall is only interrupted thrice, once by the gatehouse on the east, the hanging pavilion of *Hawa Mahal* on the north and service and bathing apartments on the south.
- ❧ Most of the buildings, placed symmetrically around the square courtyard are two storeyed, with open terraced roofs at regular intervals.

JODHABAI PALACE



- ❧ In many of its elements and carved decoration, especially in the design of the niches and brackets with their volute forms and the shapes of the pillars, an influence of Hindu temple architecture can be seen, showing that artisans from Gujarat were assigned with the construction of the palace.
- ❧ In the middle of each side and at each corner the structures rise up into separate blocks. Each of these blocks is a self-contained suite of living rooms, with corridors and passages communicating with each block on the ground floor. Each group of apartments could be divided off from the others, while the chambers below could be heated in cold weather; the one's above always remaining airy and cool.
- ❧ Other interesting details include the application blue glaze tiles to some of the roofs and cupolas and the use of wagon-vault ceiling with groins in one of the upper rooms.



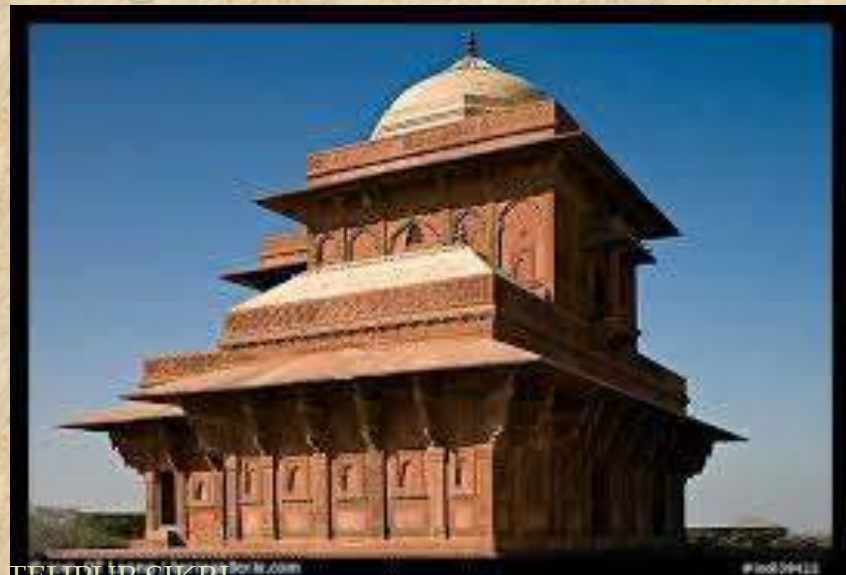
CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES



- ☞ Adequately enclosed on all four sides it is a single quadruple (*ekangana*) palace with double storeyed suits planned on all four sides of the court.
- ☞ It has a crooked entrance to ensure purdah and security
- ☞ All suits are architecturally separated yet interconnected on a single plan.
- ☞ Spacious inner courts provides adequate light and air for the inmates of harem who lived in strict purdah.
- ☞ Its architecture is mainly composed of curvilinear square pillar, graceful brackets and toran niches

BIRLBAL BHAVAN

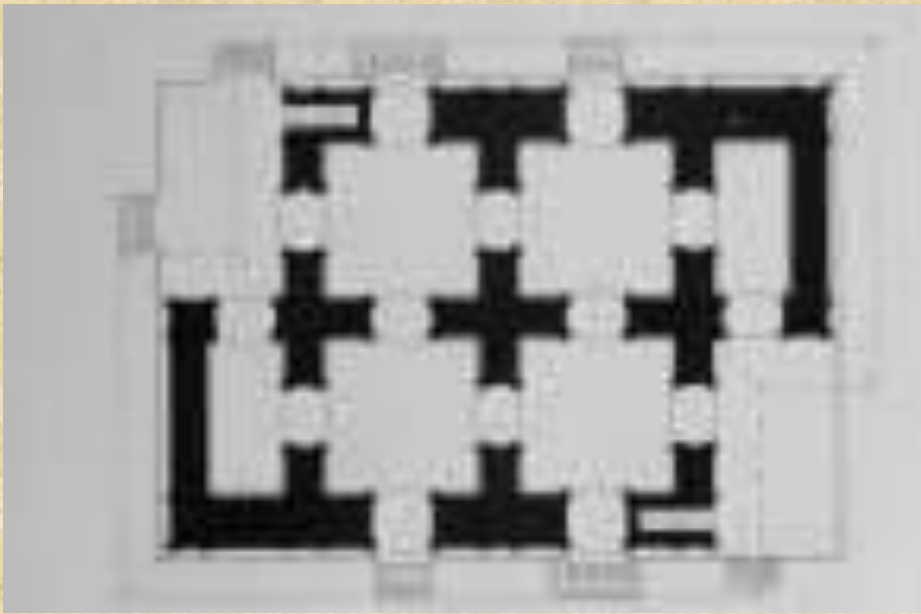
A simple two storied building which is rich in islamic architectural



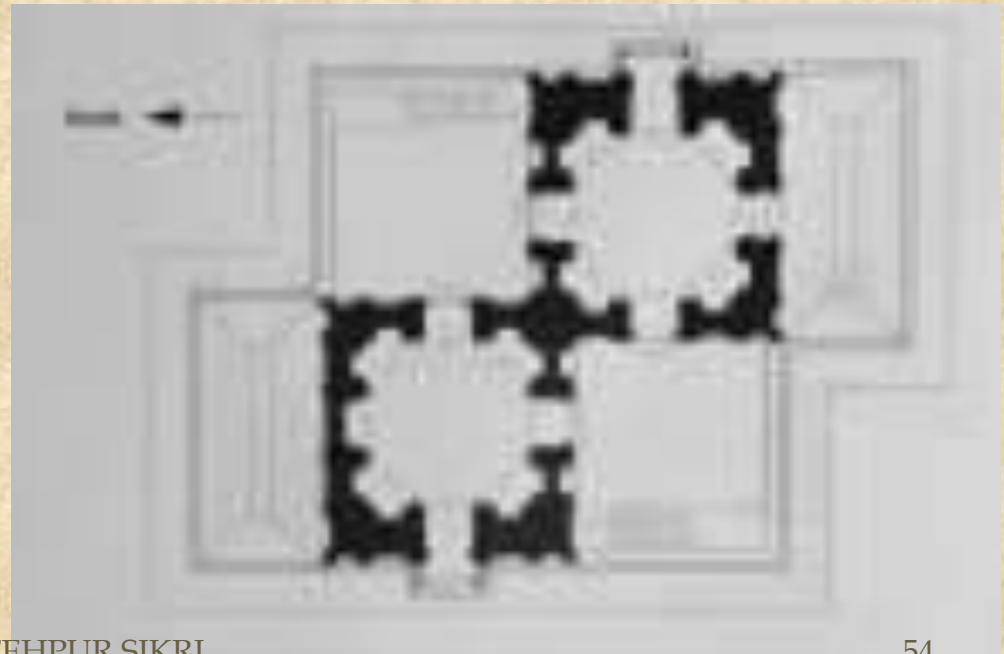
BIRBAL BHAVAN



- ❧ The building known as Birbal's house is a two storeyed structure, complex in its arrangements and elaborate in its architectural ornamentation.
- ❧ The ground storey is made up of four rooms and two porches, while the upper storey is made up of two rooms and open terraces enclosed by screens.
- ❧ The upper rooms are roofed by cupolas while the porches have pyramidal roofs, all of which are constructed on a modified form of the double dome in order to keep the interior cool.
- ❧ The chief attraction is the treatment of the exterior, particularly the rich character of the eave brackets.
- ❧ Such bracket supports are common in most of the secular structures in Fatehpur Sikri, but they have employed most liberally and designed and executed most elaborately in Birbal's House.



B



Other monuments in mosque complex

☞ Masjid Sangtarashan (the stone-cutter's mosque):

- It is adjacent to the Rang Mahal, to the west of the Jami Masjid, outside its compound. It was constructed on a portion of the rock, where the pious Sheikh Salim Chishti originally dwelt in semi-natural cavern which now makes up its hujra.



- Tomb of Sheikh Salim Chishti:
- it is situated in the quadrangle of the Jami Masjid, adjacent to the Zenana Rauza on the northern side, facing the Buland Darwazah. It is small but extremely beautiful white marble building.
- Till many years historians could not confirm the construction of tomb by Akbar; this was because white marble was never used in such a huge scale. Marble was part of ornamentation scheme.
- The building was almost entirely finished in marble. It was inconceivable in 1581. so, it appears be to a later addition

Other monuments in Royal complex

☞ Rang-Mahal:

- It is situated to the west of Jami masjid.
- Orientation of the three complexes, i.e. mosque complex, royal complex, and public complex is erected either eastwards or northwards.
- But Rang mahal is built on north-east and south-west axis which shows that it was raised before town-planning of Fatehpur sikri.

☞ The Shahi bazar and Mina-bazar:

- It is just attached to the western wall of raniwas. On the 3rd feast-day of every month, Akbar holds a large assembly for the purpose of inquiring into the many wonderful things found in the world. Many countries merchants enthusiastically attend this fest and and lay out their articles.
- Emprior used such days to acquire more knowledge about world across which adds to his kingdom of wisdom.

☞ The Baithak (Khass-mahal):

- It is situated in north-east of Raniwas. Unlike the Ranh mahal and Khwabgah palaces, it is not attached to any other palaces by a curtained passages, and it stands out independently, majestically, in a small courtyard of its own, facing north.



Other monuments of public complex

☞ The Khwabgah palace; Kutub-khanah; and Madrasah:

- Court is a complex of several buildings: halls, dalans, terraces, pavilion and curtained passages, all built tastefully in the local red sandstone.
- It is surmised that Akbar used to sleep on the platform of Khwabgah. Though the idea seems to be unacceptable, the norms of the medieval ways of life do not help us to accept this view.
- The whole complex is made of his literary and culture pursuits as paintings and music, and the raised platform could be more connected to Akbar's intellectual rather than a personal need as sleep.



☞ The Panch-Mahal:

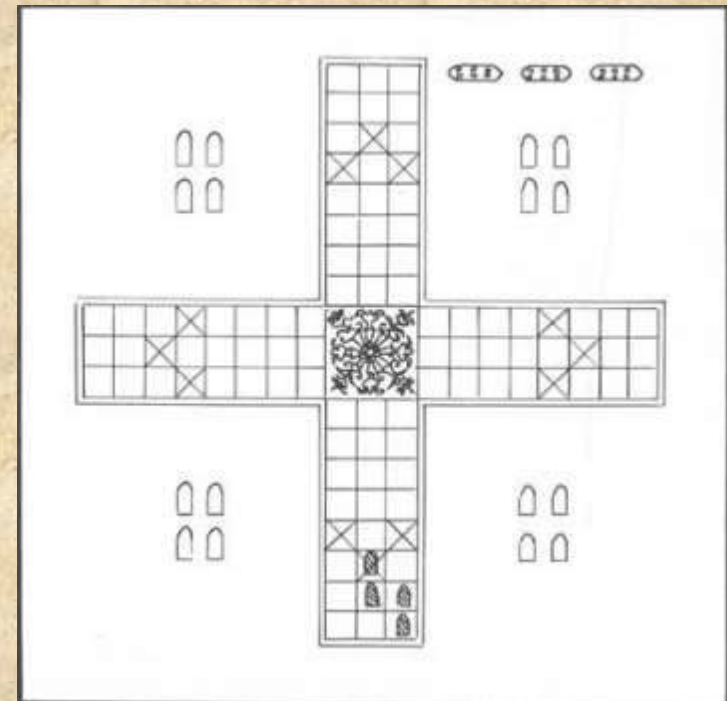
- It has five storeys with pillared building and grand open pavilion made of local red sandstone. It was mostly used by Akbar as a proof that it is connected to Khwabgah and initially with Raniwas through a curtained passage.
- The Panch mahal is composed of pillars, brackets, flat ceiling, jailed balustrades, chajjas, carved frieze, stairways and a chhatri.
- The interconnection with the main residential palaces suggests that the Panch Mahal was used for *Jharokha Darsana*.



Other monuments in public complex

❧ The Chaupar court:

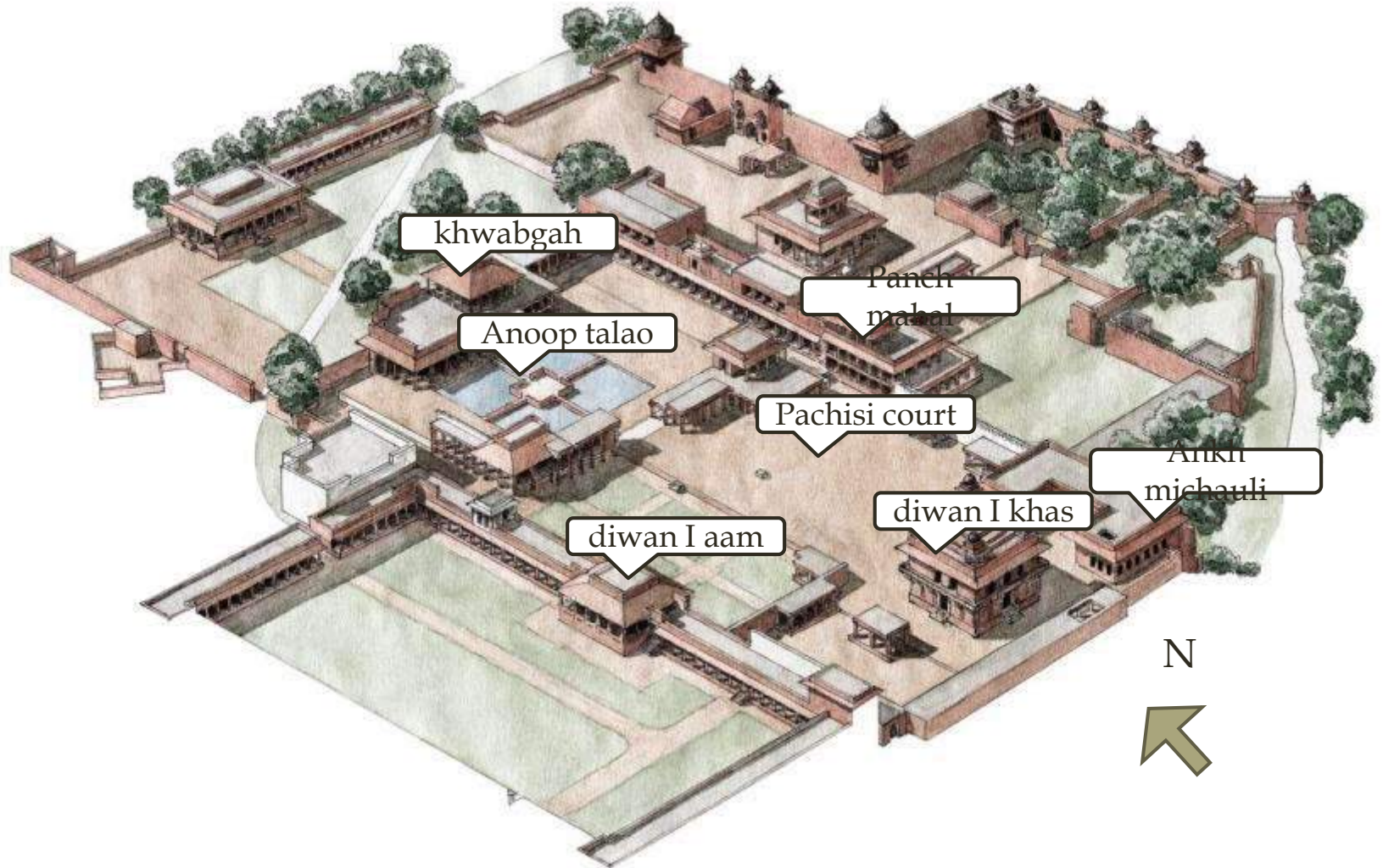
- ❧ The chaupar court in front of the Panch Mahal is paved with a *Chaupar*, famous Indian indoor game, with a stone *chowki* in the center.
- ❧ It is known as the *Pachisi* and the popular legend claims that Akbar played the game with slave-girls dressed in different colours as living pieces.
- ❧ The chaupar is, so large that it cannot be played with the usual(wooden) pieces and this has given weight to the popular misnomer.



CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

- ☞ It had its own toilet at the corner of the court in which it is situated and its own water supply system. A guard room was also built in the court for security.
- ☞ It is entirely built of red sandstone of the finest quality, which could be amendable to carving in various relief techniques.
- ☞ It has the most exquisite surface decoration by carving in incised low and medium relief which has been judiciously spread on all mural area including pillars and brackets in the interior as well as exterior

PUBLIC COMPLEX



MAKING OF FAÇADE



- ❧ The mughal builders had a wide variety of elements with which to create some of the most beautiful façades in the medieval art.
- ❧ They did not much depend on the plinth-and-stairs formula which played such a dominant role in the art of Mandu. They relied more on the use of pillars, arch-forms, brackets-and-chhajja compositions, jharokha-windows and khaprel for this purpose.
- ❧ The **Misraka** type, with a square base, assuming an octagonal form above it and then 16-sided or circular form with stalactite capital, which has been most popularly used here and it is the typical pillar of Fatehpur Sikri.
- ❧ **Bhadraka** pillars with ghanta-mala and srivatsa motifs on the shaft has come from the temple art of Malwa-Gujarat-rajasthan region. The **Misraka** form has, however, been evolved by Akbar's builders themselves
- ❧ The **Bhadraka** could be used suitably with bracket-and lintel, **Misraka** could be used as effectively with arches as with brackets and lintels.

MAKING OF FAÇADE



- Arches have been confined to mosque complex and cannot be seen in Royal complex and Public courts. It is mostly an ornamental arch without voussoirs. Arches in Jami masjid e.g. on the *Qiblah* wall, also do not have voussoirs and are not true arches.
- Jhalar** or fringe of stylized trident floral motif or lotus-buds, has been generally used along with their intrados. Like a garland on a fair bosom, this jhalar adds enormously to the aesthetic impression of the respective arch.
- The arches in *Fatehpur sikri* are not structural expedient but mostly **ornamental**.
- Arch-and lintel-entrance** formula was a popular device of facade composition during the Sultanate period and both the main palaces of *Fatehpur sikri* “*the Rang Mahal*” and the “*Raniwas*” had this entrance.
- With the harmonious admixture of the horizontal lines of *chhajjas* and the vertical line of pillar-and *chhatri*, mysterious play of light and shadow and an impressive skyline can be seen in complex.

ORGANIZATION OF SUPERSTRUCTURE



- ☞ Sloping Khaprel roof is a distinctive characteristic of the Architecture of Fatehpur sikri. It is made of series of corrugated stone slab, shaped as Khaprel, sloping from frieze to the lintel, supported on brackets and pillars.
- ☞ It is been used to roof the verandahs of the building as on the pavilions. The triangular roofs of the north and south upper pavilion of the Raniwas too have the Khaprel design. These have been blue glazed tiled. Its use on such a large scale to cover the entire roof was an innovation at Fatehpur Sikri.
- ☞ This roof is a translation in stone of the khaprel roofs of village huts made of bamboo. Thatch and baked-clay khaprel pieces.

ORGANIZATION OF SUPERSTRUCTURE



- ❧ *Hammams of fatepur sikiri* are roofed by hemispherical cupolas without such crowning features as *mahapadma* and *kalasa* finial there four pillared chattris which had ornamentation on the side have either pyramidical or hemispherical roofs with mahapadma and kalasa as the integral part.
- ❧ *Fatepur sikiri* is an extremely simple dome of hemispherical conformation.
- ❧ Two phenomena were primarily responsible for its unique making firstly the work of the anonymous artisans who were requisitioned from different regions which had been annexed to the Mughal emperor.
- ❧ secondly decisive factor was enlightened patronage to the native arts music painting and architecture.
- ❧ The main consonants with the *mizaj and tehzeb* of his **all embracing and all absorbing personality** .
- ❧ **It is this way back this art is reflection of Akbar personality, as much as symbolic of the florescence of Indian art during the medieval period**

THANK YOU



Source: FATEHPUR SIKRI AND
ITS MONUMENTS
By: R. Nath

❧ AISHWARYA A
❧ MADHU SAGAR
❧ SHREYA WADEKAR