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Talpur Tombs of Khudabad New Halla, District Matiari, Sindh, Pakistan: An-Analytical Study

Abstract:

Sindh territories have long history as mention in historical books by scholar and historians. The history of Sindh started from early Arab's period 8th century A.D to the arrival of Britishers in 1947 A.D. During that period, the Talpur dynasty ruled over Sindh with peace and Justice in the territory. They built palaces, mosques, shrines, forts and Tajar in their own form of art and designs, decorations and architectural style in various spots of Sindh as Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Khairpur. In this research, uses scientific equipment as compass, abney leveler, and dumpy level for recording with their relevant accessories latest scientific survey approaches which provides the actual recording methods and knowledge researcher and comparison with relevant architectural features of the local area. Present research emphasis the architectural analysis of the Tomb of Talpur dynasty Khudaabad near New Hala.

Key words: History, Geography, Archaeology, Architecture.

Introduction:

In early 8th century A.D Sindh was ruled by Rai and Brahman dynasty. The last ruler of Sindh was Raja Dahar. He stayed six months of winter in the city of Aror and six months of summer at Brahmanabad. During his period, coastal pirates looted ships of traders from Cylon to Basra with gifts for the king. Women cried *O Hajaj come to my help* than king replied *I am coming*. Hajaj deputed Young General Amaduddin Muhammad bin Qasim with two navel and infantry battalion move to Sindh (Pathan 1974: p.40). They came via Kirman, Makran to Bhanbhore and other towns of Sindh as Seesam jo daro, Nirun, Sehwan fort than, cross the River Indus from Thatta and he march to Aghamkot and Brahmanabad. He appointed Governor and move

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towards Qasim Keerio, Bhiro Bham and Aror {Laghari 2018}. Arab dynasties rule over Sindh from 711 A.D to 1010 A.D.

Then, Soomra known as indigenous tribe of Sindh got a chance to rule over Sindh. Soomra managed to maintain their autonomous position till 13th century. Soomras made first capital known as Tharri which is located 12 Kilometers east of Matli of district Badin. Soon after 1026 AD they shifted the capital from Tharri to Shah Kapoor or Muhammad Tur north of Jati is also called Mahatam Tur. (Panhwar 2003: p 51)

The decline of Soomra, left the political vacuum that filled by the Samma dynasty. During 1520 A.D, The Shah Beg Arghun attacked the territory of Jam Nizamudin and defeated them and all powers and strength came in the hands of Shah Beg Arghun and Samma rule came to an end in 1520 A.D. {Panhwar 2003} Sindh came under the sway of the Arghuns. Shah Beg Arghun the first ruler of Sindh died in 1522 A.D. He was succeeded by his son Shah Hassan Arghun. Shah Hassan Arghun had divided Sindh into two subordinate governments- northern Sindh, from Bhakar to Sehwan which was administered by Sultan Mahmud and Southern or lower Sindh kept in direct control of the ruler. Thatta remained to be the capital of Turkhan. They ruled over Sindh till 1590 A.D. When Mughal Emperor Akber conquered Sindh and annexed it to the Mughal Empire.

In the second half of 17th century, the Kalhora local tribe of Sindh claimed descent from house of Abbas, rose to prominence in upper Sindh. Emboldened with their large followings they seized their political power under the leadership of Mian Nasir Muhammad. Yar Muhammad Kalhora was appointed Governor of Derajat. The Kalhoras ruled over Sindh till 1783 A.D. His rule Sindh entered in an era of political stability, literary achievements and public welfare. To improve the economy of Sindh three canals were dug for irrigation purposes. Thatta, Shewan and Bhakar became great seats of learning and literary pursuits. There was good relation between Kalhoras and Talpurs. Mir Bahram Khan paid his value able and sincere services to Ghulam Shah Kalhoro but when his son Sarfraz Khan succeeded to the throne Mir Behram was getting old but his son Bajar filed his place. But the mind of Sarfraz Khan turned against the Mir, due to ill-defined reasons and he planned to kill Mir Behram. One day in 1774 A.D or 1775 A.D, he murdered the aged Bahram khan and his son Sobdar Khan in a disloyal and faithless manner. The elder son, Mir Bijar, was on a pilgrimage to Mecca and it was his good fortune that he escaped. But he had a cousin, Mir Fateh Ali Khan who controlled all the situations and took up the family quarrel to such good purpose that Sarfraz had to fly for his life (Aitken, 1907).

Mir Fateh Ali Khan Talpur established his rule after defeating Kalhora's last ruler Mian Abdul Nabi in 1783 A.D. They belonged to Balouch tribe and had migrated to Sindh sometimes in 17th century. The detailed history of rise of Talpur dynasty is discussed here.

"The origin of name "Talpur" is that word Talpur is consist of two words: "tal" means branches of trees and "pur" means to cut. Those, who cut the branches of trees for the herds grazing (Qudusi 2013 p.452)"

Fateh Ali Khan Talpur defeated the Kalhoras in 1783 A.D the battle which took place near Halani, Taulka Kandiaro and took over as the new ruler of Sindh. (Memon 1990). Khuda abad town was the capital of Sindh during the rule of Talpur. Mir Fateh Ali Khan divided Sindh into three distinct regions, each ruled by a separate branch of family at Hyderabad (or Shadadani family, ruling in lower Sindh; 2nd, Mirpur Khas or (Manakani house), descendent of Mir Tharo Khan, ruling Mipurkhas and 3rd, the Sohrabani Talpur govern at Khairpur by Mir Sohrab Khan. Fateh Ali Khan was the head of Hyderabad Talpur so, he associated his three younger brothers with him in the government, Ghulam Ali Khan, Murad Ali Khan and Karam Ali Khan. Hence they were dominated the "Char Yaar" or four friends. While, the government was known as Chauyari. Whenever any partner died, his next of kin was included in the Chauyari. They had got full autonomy in their respective regions. However, central authority rested in the Chauyari based at Hyderabad. The Talpurs of Khudabad are known as Shadadani Talpur (Hughes 1876). Mir Fateh Ali Talpur was a brave, courageous and a man of high moral. He was of 17 years when he conquered the Sindh and ruled over it with intellect and fearlessness. He was not in favor of fighting and discourages the battles. He was so pious that he left a heavy amount of rupees in the Government treasure. He died in 1802 A.D (Qudusi 2013).

Sindh is ruled by various dynasties and they built in a new style of Architecture is introduced on the land of Sindh. The Architecture of Khudabad is known as funerary memorial Architecture of Talpur. It includes the Tombs, Mosques, Tajar, Canopies and scattered unknown graves of locals are famous in a complex called Tombs of Khudabad the capital city of Shahdadani Talpur of lower Sindh. The details of each are given here.

During investigation researcher reports various types of buildings as tombs, Tajars, graves enclosure wall, mosques and canopies. The details of each are given here.

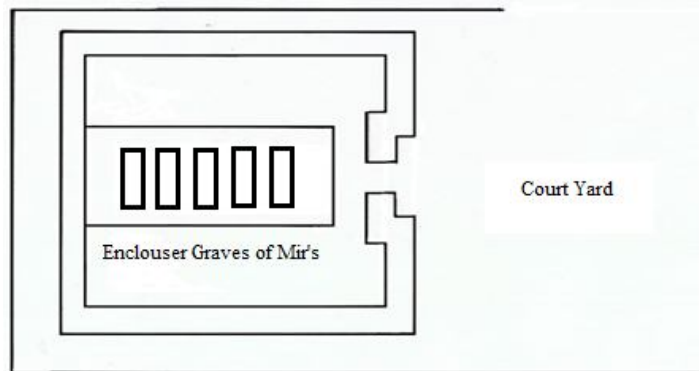
Tomb of Mir Fateh Ali Khan Talpur

At New Khudabad, the most significant tomb is that of Mir Fateh Ali Khan, the founder of Talpur dynasty. The tomb is in square shape (Plan#01). The external drum is situated on the octagonal Squanches and the drum is crowned

by the hemispherical dome (Fig # 01). Inverted lotus flower is supported honey combed quanches emerging on the top of the dome (Fig# 02). On the top of each corner, there is a solid kiosk, surmounted by a domed with a miniature painted. Each side of the kiosk contains an arched paneling. There are also small turrets with blue tiles decoration. The tomb has two minarets that are decorated with blue tile. The exterior of the tomb is decorated with panels having Kashi work, floral designs with different colors (white, blue, green, yellow). Wooden door opens from east as entrance. Other three sides of walls has arched niche. There is a rectangular frame having decorative whorl all around with floral pattern. Walls having rectangular panels with a floral and geometrical pattern and the small squares in which dots or circles are embossed. No painting is reported here. Internally, dome chamber is octagonal in plan. The square chamber has been converted into octagonal through honey comb Squinches in the four corners. Honey comb structure is the main characteristic of the Mir Fateh Ali tomb. The octagonal drum contains arched window in an alternating order that are covered with lattice work or simply its framework. Inside the tomb, there is a square platform that proves that building is more than single story. The platform is constructed of sand stone of Makli. The platform is supported by the small pillared at intervals that are 26 in numbers. The jalties (meshes) contain both floral as well as geometrical motifs. The stone railing around the edge of platform is also found in some of the Chaunkandi graveyard at District Malir, Karachi.

The graves are five in numbers the tomb from right to left is the grave of Mir Ghulam Ali Khan, Mir Fateh Ali Khan, Mir Sobdar Khan (son of Mir Fateh Ali Khan 1846 A.D), and the grave Muhammad Ali Khan.

These dates or inscription is written on the each grave. Persian and Quran inscriptions on each grave and are visible.



Plan # 01 Tomb of Mir Fateh Ali Khan Talpur



Fig # 01 External View of Tomb of Mir Fateh Ali Khan Talpur

Tomb B Mir Bahram Khan:

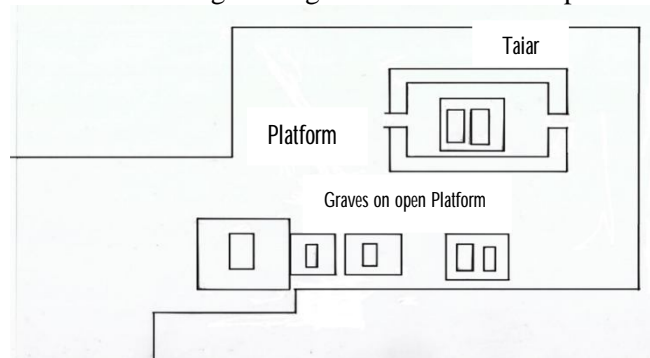
It is situated in the front of the tomb of Mir Fateh Ali Khan Talpur (Fig # 02). Exterior is decorated with floral designs on the basement and jallies in octagonal star shaped. The tomb has raised pillars with the floral designs having 8 petals. Incised curved in geometrical and floral pattern. In this enclosure, there is a raised platform on which single grave is laid that belongs to Mir Bahram. The tomb is consisting of the octagonal drum on which the hemispherical dome is place. Inverted lotus flower is also appeared on the top of the dome. The dome is white washed and it is plastered. The guard of this site Muhammad Paryal Chandio (working here since 1987) shared that this dome was abolished but department of Endowment Fund Trust (E.F.T) renovated it in a good condition.



Fig # 02 Tomb of Mir Bahram Khan Talpur

Tajar A

Tajar is the form of architecture and is a place where royal females' buried. It is located on the western side of the tomb of Mir Fateh Ali Khan Talpur (Plan # 02). It has two main entrances, one from the east and other from the west direction. Exterior is the plain except the fringes which is decorated with blue tile (Fig # 03). (Fringes are used as decoration purpose). The basement is constructed with yellow stone, having floral designs. Outside the panels are white washed. The dome of Tajar is in velvet form on which emerging the 2 inverted lotus flowers. Internally there are two graves on raised platform. These graves are of brick masonry and bearing the Arabic inscriptions. Researcher has not found the name of females because of not any name was mention on the graves. The whole Tajar was decorated with the panels having geometrical and floral designs on the walls. There are 2 niches on east and west side of the wall and having jalli style with floral motifs. The ceiling or roof is white washed. South of the Tajar, there are two graves of children. Right side grave has Arabic inscription.



Plan # 02 of Tajar and Canopies and Tomb of Mir Bahram Khan

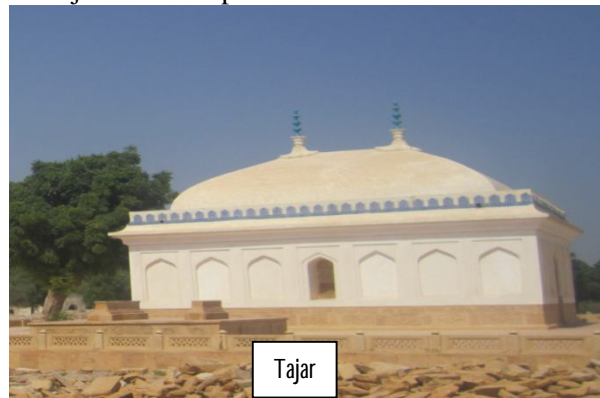


Fig # 03 Tajar and the graves at the South side

Canopies A (South of Tajar)

Canopy is raised pillar structure on which dome is fixed. A canopy is an overhead roof to provide shelter. There are two canopies having two graves on the south of Tajar (Fig # 04). Each grave is enclosed in separate canopy. Each canopy has 12 small pillars. The canopy has an octagonal drum which is crowned by hemispherical dome and emerging the inverted Lotus flower. All the domes of canopies have been repaired and white washed by EFT. Exterior, basement is of lime stone and is of decorative panels with geometrical designs.

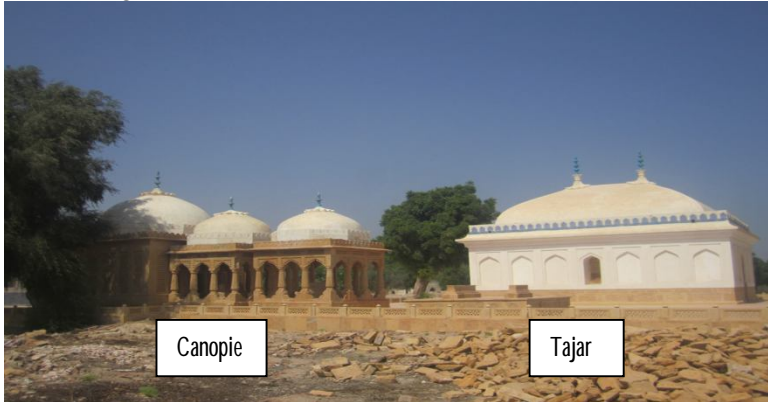
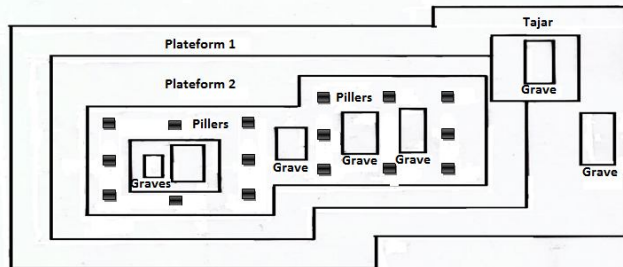


Fig # 04 Canopies A (South of Tajar)

Canopies B (North West of Tajar)

This canopy has 3 platforms. First is known as (plinth) that is on the ground. Second plinth is one and half feet above from the first plinth. Third platform on the second plinth is known as base erect pillars. These all constructed with sand stone. The platform of each canopy has decorated with floral and geometrical motifs. Each canopy has 8 pillars. Right side canopy has 2 graves. On one grave (right) it is depicted on the slab that it belongs to Mir Sobdar Khan Talpur 1119 A.H (Plan # 03) and on the other grave (that is on left side), according to inscription, it is observed that this grave belongs to Mir Bahram Khan Talpur (1189 A.H). On the second canopy, there are two graves. One is of Mir Bijar Khan Talpur (1194 A.H). On the right side there is a grave of baby with Kalma and Quranic Ayat is inscribed (Fig # 05). On the low pillars an octagonal drum is fixed on which hemispherical dome is placed. On the dome inverted lotus flowers are appeared. The domes are white washed. Ayat-ul-Kursi is written on the grave and some Quranic Ayat is also written on the slabs.

Masson marks are noticed by the Henery Cousen's book *Antiquities of Sindh*. Cousens reported inscribed twenty four symbols on the plate form of tomb of Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro and his brother Mian Abdul Nabi (Cousens 1929: p 107). The slab/panel of the grave of Mir Bahram Khan Talpur a Masson mark reveals the name of the stone block maker for constructing the building (Fig # 06). Same mark has also been observed at the southern wall. It showed the name "Ahmed" but recently it has been scratched by people so the name is not visible.



Plan # 03 Canopies of Mir Sobdar Khan Talpur and Mir Bahram Khan Talpur



Fig # 05 Canopies B (North West of Tajar)



Fig # 06 Inscribed Masson Mark

Mosque:

The Mosque is built on the center of complex and some South of the tomb of Mir Fateh Ali Talpur (Plan # 04). It is well preserved and continuously used by local. Inside and outside are beautifully decorated with colors and design. Mostly flowers are dominant in panels painted fringes seen in drum and inside, shams is beautifully painted (Fig # 07). The mosque has three domes central dome is large and has 3 pointed niches. At the arch of Mehrab is the Persian inscription which shows the name of the builder and year of the construction.

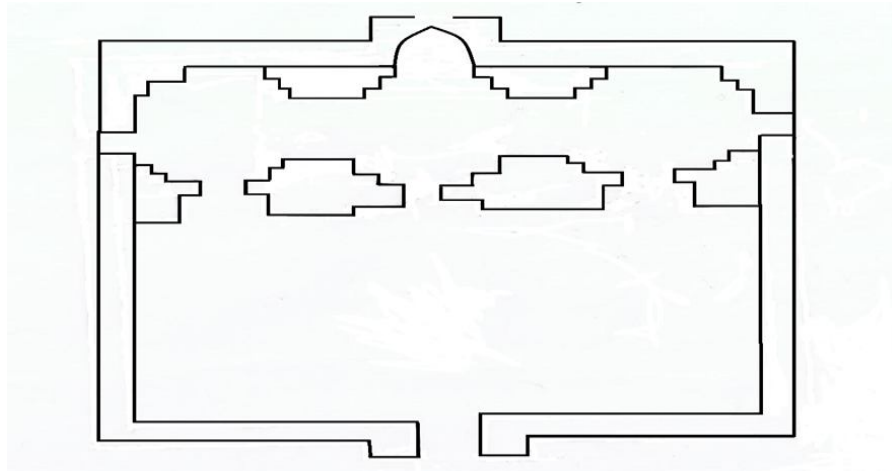


Fig # 04 Plan of Mosque

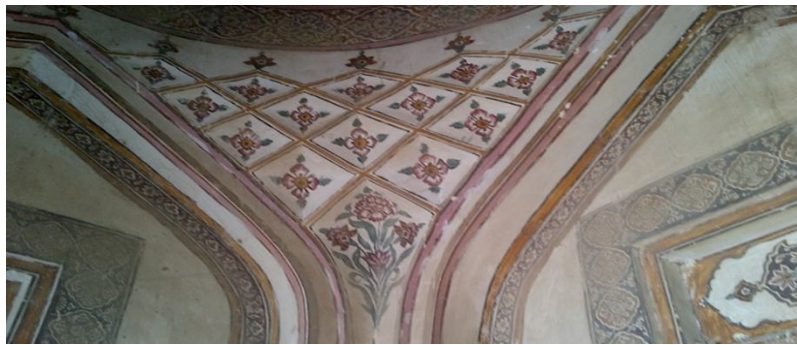


Fig # 07 inside paintings of the Mosque

Enclosure Graveyard:

There is a contemporary graveyard near the tomb of Mir Fateh Ali Talpur but mostly enclosure old graves are destroyed and not in good condition but some graves are repaired. Both male and females which are buried (Fig # 08). Historical evidences mentions some prominent persons, religious scholars elite class persons are also buried. The enclosure walls are built with same raw material which used in this complex.



Fig # 08 General View of enclosure graveyard

Conclusion:

The role of funerary architecture in our lives and in our society cannot be shun or ignore and deniable. It is the identity of each and every person. A state is also identified by its attractive architecture. The architecture also explains the history, economy, expertise and sometime authentic date of ruler / dynasty in what manner has ruled over a country or a province. It helps us to understand their understanding and individualist approach towards art and architecture. The Talpurs were ruling family. As they have political astuteness likewise their capabilities and skills they can also measure from their form and style of funerary architecture. Researcher has observed the beautiful and attractive architecture of Talpurs dynasty during field work. The architecture was skillfully developed and well-constructed. The stone carving on the graves shows capability of mind to make the architecture more attractive and to enhance its beauty. The architecture was affected by some climatic factors but it has been renovated by the Endowment Fund Trust (EFT) and it is in same condition as before.

Recommendations:

Architecture itself tells us about history; that how development occurred and how these buildings became the part of country's heritage. The government and people too take important notice and consideration to such worthy architectural rich building. Though, it is not only part of our heritage but it is a gift for our future generation too. So, it needs collaborative attention to maintaining the architecture. There should be proper sewerage system so that the rain water would not accumulate near the archeological sites. There should be security system that looks after the sites in a very fine way. Historical and Cultural heritage invigorate the interest of upcoming generation regard to study their history. If these sites would be perished, our identity would be perished and nothing will leave for our generation to feel proud for.

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