

A Geomatic Approach to Artistic Cenotaphs

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Abstract:

Cenotaph - A monuments honouring a dead person and person buried elsewhere. A word derived from Greek Knotaphion (Kenos emty + tapos - tomb) in French it is called Cenotaph, in Latin it is cenotaphium.

Hindi *Chhataree*, is a old tradition of 5000 years which have aesthetics as well as human emotions through there monumental buildings. A place is dedicated to some person who could have some special contribution in society or in his own family. The family person or society payes a tribute to the glorious person and heritage in the form of artistic construction. Cenotaph is a building which have had some artistic features with **geometric elements** through **design, wall painting** and **stucco works** through a style. Such artistic cenotaphs are absolutely fascinating of its ornamental designs and wall paintings with social, religious and cultural subjects.

In Haryana it was noticed and observed that a great tradition have been evolved of making cenotaphs in the memory of a person which could provide a shelter, water for human, bird, animal and insects within the natural environments. These types of artistic buildings have had created the ambience of aesthetics through geometrical designs, stucco-lines, ornamental relief art forms. It was observed that Bhiwani district in Haryana have number of cenotaphs could be seen with some attractive and fascinating design. Nand Ram a local trader from Bhiwani contributed a huge and artistic cenotaph to the society on the east bank of the *Kilsar Surover*. The dome, pillars, walls, plinth, minars, wells and artistic features of the *Chhataree* or Cenotaph have been ornamented which provide the cultural elements and rich value of the heritage to the country where person could spend time in the building premises and inhales the soul of the valuable heritages of the Haryana. This research paper would

provide the combination of Geometry and Art & Architecture through the heritage of cenotaphs.

Key Words: Cenotaph, Chattered, Arch, Design Painting, Geometry, Aesthetics, Lime Mortar Cultural Value

A Geomatic Approach To Artistic Cenotaph

Cenotaph is a symbolic tomb or a monument honouring to the dead person's whom body crimated, buried elsewhere. In every country and every religion there have been a traditions to construct a artistic small building which indicates the sepulchre or funerary. The main purposes to construct a architectural in a artistic way which are to be disposed and adorned the edifices raised by man accordingly his thought and ideas contributes to his mental health as well as to fulfil his desires, power and pleasure, which proposes aesthetic value. Besides the architectural structure the cenotaph have spiritual aspects rather than a utilitarian for himself or functional agenda. In developing and making artistic cenotaph should be confined to that art which admitted the necessities and common uses of a building which give a impression to the society on its forms certain characters venerable or beautiful which represents the multi-dimensions purposes. It is a mathematical and geometrical creations of order out of Chaos, in respect of organization with elements and principles. The manipulation of geometry and the creation of a work in which aesthetics plays a far greater role than anything likely to be found in a humdrum building.

Marcus Vitruvius Ist Cen. Architect said that architecture drives from order, arrangement, with harmony of proportion, symmetry, propriety and economy.

In the state of Haryana there have been interest rather than tradition among rich persons to construct cenotaph which have the qualities of art and architecture and also comprises all above qualities as per the virtervius said. To built cenotaphs is the part of the cultural of Haryana since Mahabharat era. The land of sagas and saints have the impression of Samtty devotion, endowment, faith in humanity, Philanthropy or charity. It was observed that traders and wealthy family in Haryana had such types of qualities that they have feelings of Philanthropy in honouring to their respected ancestors who have had done memorable works in the family or in society, in respect of that the family use to built such types of

architectural structure which have the artistic features in geometrical forms like dome, canopy, projection wells, pillars, arch etc.

Chhatree is just as impressive on the inside as it is on the outside. When viewer go inside the *chhatree* it forces the person to become physically involved in looking the designs and painting composition. The painting can not be examined from one spot because of round shape of the dome of the *chhatree*. The viewer must move from one position to another to gain a painting composition of the whole. When the walk through such *chhatree* the eyes are constantly moving all direction with reseing neck. Beautifully tempera painting faithful subjects and designs captures your attention for a movement. The interior of the *chhatree* always striking, they are even more so at sunrise and sunset. At time of the sunrise and sunset says of the sun strike low and filter through the golden colours of the pointed arch, the effect is breath taking.

Chhatree were usually built in rural setting and were produced also some cities. They were meant to serve the faithful and harmonious life of the people. Not only were they an expression of religious devotion but they were product of civic pride as well. Owner of the *chhatree* claim that their *chhatree* was the biggest and the most beautiful. The wealthy family might contribute the many needed to the materials of construction and it decoration with the will of mansions and they were free to offered their knowledge and skills.

The structure of the *chhatree* were observed very solid and strong. The construction was made in the airy and natural environmental which reflect that people of Haryana keeping faith, loving of nature and God. The building of *chhatrees* had been placed great importance on piety and encouraged peopled to have tradition in to holy places as common shelter and were a visible sign of religious devotion to pay homage to their ancestors. Most of the octagonal structure with round dome rises from the centre of one end of top with its arches and decorated with full of fona, and flora and beautiful painting of Radha Krishana, Ramayana and Mahabharta. Inside the *Chhatree* is spacious, gloomy and full of natural light. Due to highly raised passage and platform of the *chhatree* the structure appears from the long distance and the sound of birds could be hear in the structure of the building.

In addition to the super structure of the *chhatri* the adjoining pavilion and decorated domes enhanced the grace and magnificence to a *chhatri*. In fact wholesome character of a magnificent masonry *chhatris* was just imposing and majestic indisposition. After laying the foundation of the super structure of a *chhatri* configuration of designs for certain features such as a raised platform, stairs and pillars with pulleys were essentially added while a few others such as storage tanks trays, porch and pavilions were kept optional. However, it would be appropriate that *chhatris* having most of the above indicated features be described separately so that the characteristic portrayal of various designs and forms can become a major thrust of discussion before embarking on the discussion referred above, the locally prevalent words of the parts of the super structure need be understood. A raised platform is called *chabootra* i.e. platform with a square or a rectangular plan of at least four feet in height from the earth. A *chabootra* could have many features incorporated in its body but the prominent one was or a storage tank that could hold 20 to 50 thousand litres of drinking water for animals and birds.

In the later case, the pavilion was kept open on the northern side so that it could provide adequate protection from *chhatri* i.e., domed shelters were erected on the corner turrets of the platform. In order to reduce the weight of a unit on the rim in respect of the composite architecture of a masonry *chhatri* recesses or niches were provided within the bracket folds and the outer walls of the platform. Niches of smaller sizes were integral to the outer faces of the pillar. The extent to the which decorative elements could be used depended chiefly on two factors - the dexterity of the chief mason and the architectural scale or plan of the super structure given the available material and financial resources of the patrons. The intensity of artistic features that could be added on several units further determined the disposition and the grandeur of the structure. The number of pillar posts that could be erected on the rim of the masonry shaft was four or eight and kept in proportion of form with respect to its diameter four tale and four short pillars were constructed on the rim of the *Dada Basukichhatriat* Bond village on which it was feasible to install twelve pullers.

The turrets shaped in square, pentagonal and octagonal design were added as an architectural element to reinforce the corners of the *Chhatri*. These turrets beautifully erected or ornamented with stucco designs. In Bhiwani city the masons designed *chhatris* built by Nandram. The domed structures were designed in Indo-Islamic architecture.

Cenotapt - History Operation

	Description	Analysis	Interpretation	Judgement
External Cues	When where, and by whom the work was done.	Unique features of the work of art, compared to features found in other works, to determine its artistic style.	How artists are influenced by the world around them, especially by time and place.	Facts relevant to making a decision about the work's importance in the history of art.
	(1) Time (2) Bhiwani (3) Owner – Nand Ram Artisans Local	Comparison – Bond Dome (1) Masoned (2) Stone Carving Big Dome Cenotapt Small - Painting Design (i) Geometric (ii) Freehanded	Dome – Would age Middle age	

Theory of Cenotaph (Aesthetics)

	Imitation or Geometric Approach	Formalism Value Qualities	Emotionalism Expressive Qualities
Aesthetics	The Cenotaph is not realistic it is a thought of Abstraction which is executed with the approach of arthmatical and geometrical covered by Artistic elements	The cenotaph is a work of architecture with highly organisational of the artistic elements, principles within the thought process.	The cenotaph work of Art & Architecture work is the vivid communication of faith, mood, feeling and ideas of the owner, artist and viewers

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