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Deterioration Morphologies of Historic Brick Imitation Ornamented facades of Mughal Architecture

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The brick imitation ornamentation was initiated in the Jahangir period of Mughal architecture. It was more appreciated during the Shah Jahan period due to its aesthetically appealing craftsmanship and skilled labor. The ornamentation of large geometric surfaces characteristic of Mughal architecture with brick imitation amalgamates these surfaces in a rich cultural harmonious flow with the other ornamentation styles. The brick imitation style of ornamentation vanished with the decline of the Mughal rule and the use of fare face bricks during the colonial period. This paper is focused on the documentation of brick imitation style of the Mughal architecture along with the study of deterioration processes responsible for their weathering in the selected heritage sites of Mughal architecture. This diagnostic study and identification of the deterioration morphologies suggested the preliminary strategy for the conservation of these facades with further scientific analysis for their restoration.

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