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THERE AND BACK AGAIN (Identifying the unidentified)

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All fine Architectural styles are adaptive in nature from Egyptian to Islamic Architecture; in spirit of their notable elements and identifiable vocabulary, these architectural styles have contributed towards major physical landmarks leading them to gain a unique historic reputation worldwide. When it comes to identifying Sikh Architecture, a perception of the majority assumes that Sikh Architecture does not exist. The purpose of this research paper is to question and compare within a chronology, the features and structural elements which have been classified as noteworthy for various architectural styles and are regionally acclaimed; but not recognized as being inherited or structurally modified during the great legacy of Sikh rule in the Indian Subcontinent.

Communities across the globe desire to create a belonging, a sense of place, one that resembles the native land and also reflects its culture. A city is a vital organism that thrives when a society is formed and along with it culture, language, religion, and an overall belief system flourishes. Therefore, implementing development plans that would provide a sense of unity and integration in relation to the city as a whole is necessary. The aims of this research is to shed light upon the architectural developments that took place during the Sikh Empire to strengthen the community catering to their religious and social needs. It mostly takes into consideration the cities which now lie within the borders of Pakistan and explores the fundamental elements of Sikh Architecture, elements which were present to glorify a young religion in its birth cradle and those which highlight the power of an Emperor, under his leadership the Sikh Empire become the last major region to be conquered by the British.

KEYWORDS: Sikh Architecture, Building Elements, Architectural style, Cultural restoration.

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