

Power, authority and legitimacy through art

An Islamic or a
Mughal aesthetic?

The Mughal empire: 1526-1858

* The "Greater" Mughals

- * Zahir-ud-din Babur, founder, 1526-30, defeats the Afghan Lodi ruler of Delhi, Ibrahim Lodi
 - * Descended from Timur (Tamerlane) and Chengiz Khan (Genghis Khan)
- * Humayun, 1530-1556 (with 15 year exile to the Persian court, 1540-1556)
- * The Sur interregnum, 1540-1555
 - * Sher Shah Sur
- * Akbar, 1556-1605
- * Jehangir, 1605-1627
- * Shah Jahan, 1628-1658
- * Aurangzeb, 1658-1707

The Sultans of Delhi, 1206-1526

- * Muhammad of Ghur
- * His general Qutb-ud-din Aibak founds the Delhi Sultanate
- * The dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate
 - * The slave dynasty, 1206-90
 - * The Khaljis, 1290-1320
 - * The Tughlaqs, 1320-1415
 - * The Saiyyids, 1415-1450
 - * The Lodis, 1451-1526

Remains of earlier structures at Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque

* Remains of earlier Jain and Hindu temples

* 5 arched-screen



Iron pillar at the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque

The pillar bears an inscription stating that it had been erected as a flagstaff in honor of the Hindu god, Vishnu, and in the memory of the Gupta King Chandragupta II (375–413).

The iron structure has attracted the attention of archaeologists and metallurgists for its ability to withstand corrosion for the last 1600 years, despite harsh weather.

Vishnupadagiri (the original site) sits on the Tropic of Cancer and, therefore, a center of astronomical studies during the Gupta period. The Iron Pillar served an important astronomical function; its early morning shadow fell in the direction of the foot of Anantasayain Vishnu (in one of the panels at Udayagiri) only in the time around summer solstice (June 21)



Remains of the 5 arched screen at the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque



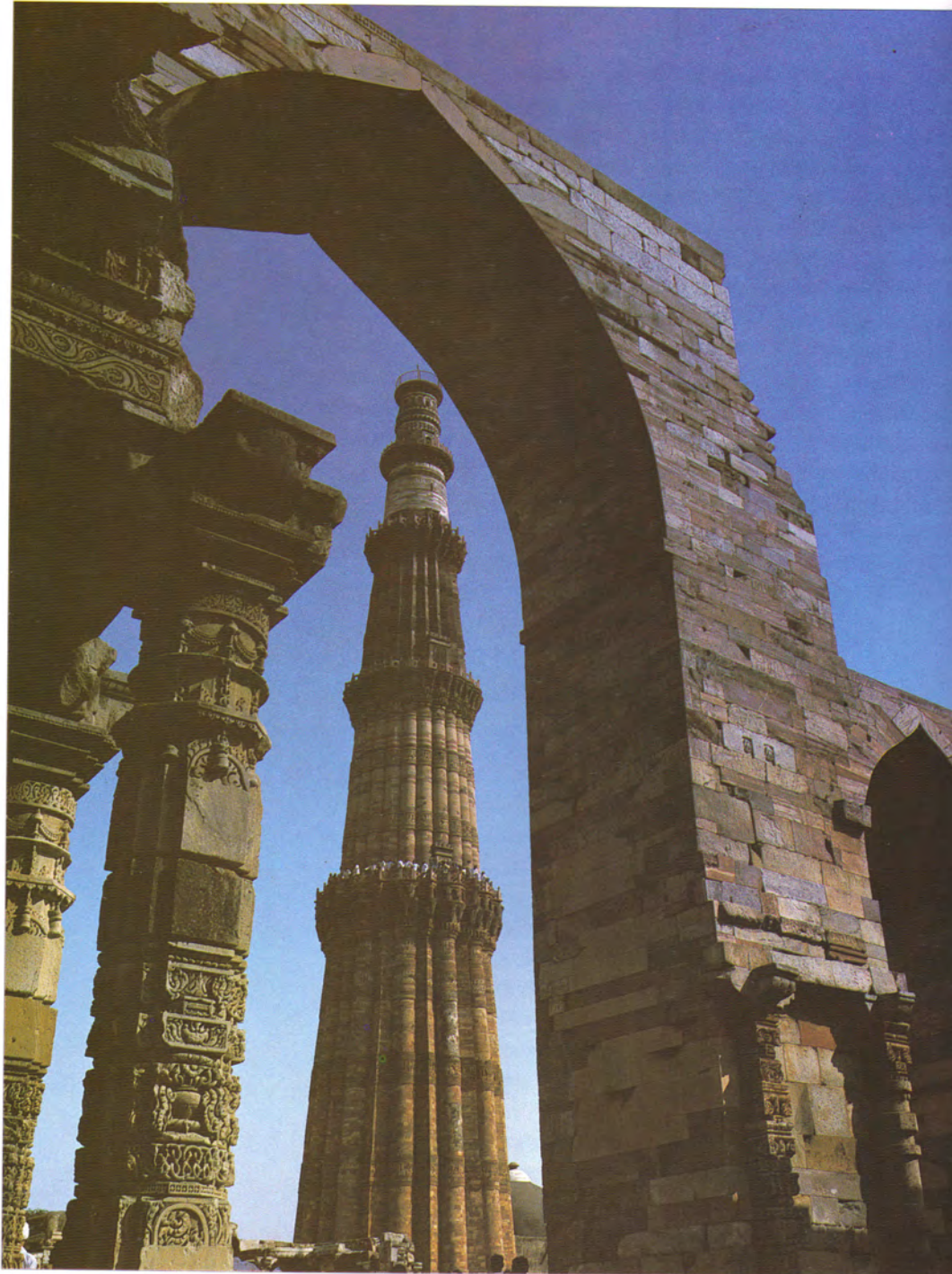
Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque

Detail of carvings
on the screen



The Qutb Minar
in
Delhi.

Construction
begun by Sultan
Qutub ud din
Aibak and
completed by
Sultan
Iltutmish by the
early
13th century CE



Qutb Minar, Delhi

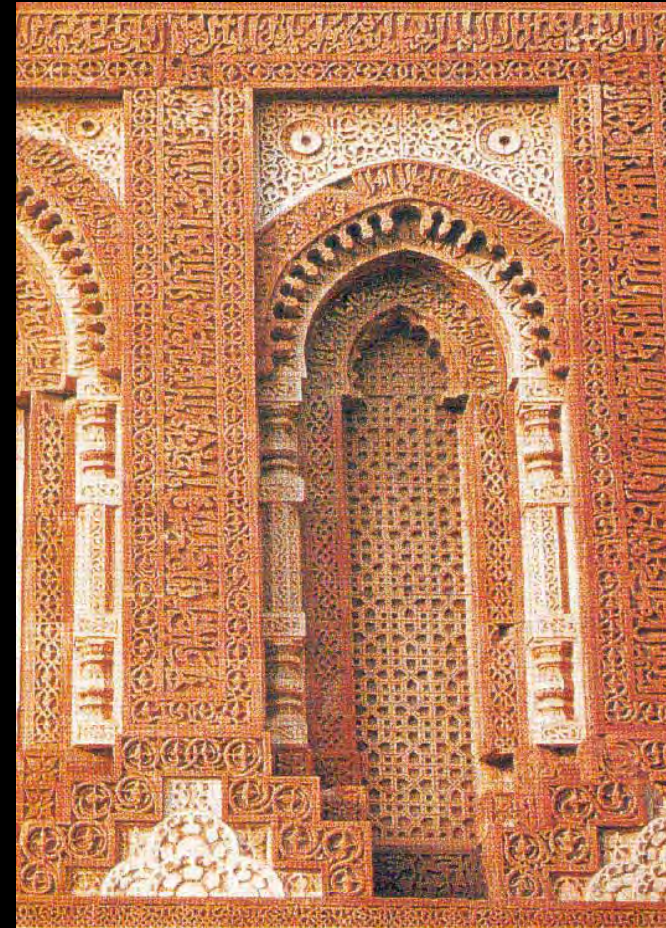
Built adjacent to
the Quwwat-ul-
Islam mosque



Qutb Minar, detail of inscriptional bands



The Alai' Darwaza (Alauddin's Gate)



Man Mandir Palace, Gwalior Fort



Bibi Khanum mosque, Samarkand



Kalan mosque, Bukhara

