

**Lecture Abstract**  
**INDIAN ARCHITECTURE 1880 TO 1980: A SEARCH FOR  
IDENTITY**

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This comprehensive lecture will give a broad overview of a hundred years of the history of Indian architecture as it emerged from the British colonial expression to the democratic manifestation in an Independence India post 1947. It will examine Indian architecture in the context of the fight for and attainment of Independence. It will trace the patterns of architecture since the founding of the Indian National Congress in the 1880s while exploring the impact of political ideology on the built environment. It will analyze the various influences on architecture such as imperialism, nationalism and revivalism. It also looks at the impact of the international movements and the development of the modernist expression in the later half of the twentieth century

**Indian architecture:** Tradition v/s modernity, the iconography of the signs and symbols of a culture, symbolic meanings in architecture, the definitions of imperialism, nationalism and regionalism, the idea of revivalism, popular taste and the avant-garde.

**The antecedents and precedents,** an overview of classical architecture and urban developments in India, the traditional physical and socio-cultural context, the Hindu and Islamic heritage, the European interventions: French, Portuguese, Dutch and British, colonials as predominantly traders.

**The imperial heyday,** India as the brightest jewel in the crown, British institutions, neo-classical and the imperial expression, Gothic revival in Bombay, the architectural and urban design contributions of Princely States in India, the emergence of the Indo-Sarcenic style as a hybrid of the Indian and European architecture, increasing concern with nationalism and its manifestation in the arts, also influences of western styles such as Art Deco, the introduction of many new building types, new cities and urban design interventions, the making of New Delhi by Edwin Lutyens.

**Independence-1947,** the search for a suitable architecture, the choice between revivalism and modernism, the conflicting ideologies of Gandhi and Nehru, the leaning towards science and technology, the housing challenge, the coming of Le Corbusier and the making of Chandigarh, the arrival of Louis Kahn, western educated Indian architects: Kanvinde, Correa, Doshi and their creative force, the populist and the high architecture.

**Contemporary architecture** and the emerging search for identity, a new, mature generation of architects, searching for the essence of an Indian architecture, collective confidence of contemporary architects, looking forward to the creation of a new future.

