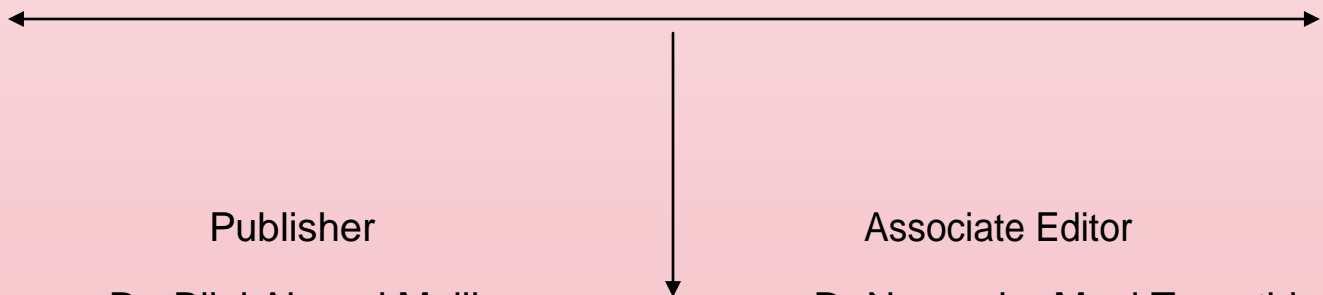


North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

*North Asian International Research Journal
Of
Multidisciplinary*

Chief Editor

Dr. Nisar Hussain Malik



Publisher

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malik

Associate Editor

Dr. Nagendra Mani Trpathi

Honorary

Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik

NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian
International
Research Journal Consortium



Welcome to NAIRJC

ISSN NO: 2454 - 2326

North Asian International Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

Editorial Board

J.Anil Kumar Head Geography University of Thirvanathpuram	Sanjuket Das Head Economics Samplpur University	Adgaonkar Ganesh Dept. of Commerce, B.S.A.U Aruganbad
Kiran Mishra Dept. of English,Ranchi University, Jharkhand	Somanath Reddy Dept. of Social Work, Gulbarga University.	Rajpal Choudhary Dept. Govt. Engg. College Bikaner Rajasthan
R.D. Sharma Head Commerce & Management Jammu University	R.P. Pandday Head Education Dr. C.V.Raman University	Moinuddin Khan Dept. of Botany SinghaniyaUniversity Rajasthan.
Manish Mishra Dept. of Engg, United College Ald.UPTU Lucknow	K.M Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	Ravi Kumar Pandey Director, H.I.M.T, Allahabad
Tihar Pandit Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir.	Simnani Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Degree College Pulwama, University of Kashmir.	Ashok D. Wagh Head PG. Dept. of Accountancy, B.N.N.College, Bhiwandi, Thane, Maharashtra.
Neelam Yaday Head Exam. Mat.K..M .Patel College Thakurli (E), Thane, Maharashtra	Nisar Hussain Dept. of Medicine A.I. Medical College (U.P) Kanpur University	M.C.P. Singh Head Information Technology Dr C.V. Rama University
Ashak Hussain Head Pol-Science G.B, PG College Ald. Kanpur University	Khagendra Nath Sethi Head Dept. of History Sambalpur University.	Rama Singh Dept. of Political Science A.K.D College, Ald.University of Allahabad

Address: - Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No. 221 Gangoo, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India - 192301, Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570, Ph. No: 01933-212815,

Email: nairjc5@gmail.com, info@nairjc.com Website: www.nairjc.com



ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF RANI MANGAMMAL PALACE IN MADURAI

N.PERUMAL*

*M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Research Scholar, PG and Research Department of History,
V.O. Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi-628008.

INTRODUCTION:

India is a secular country. Tamil Nadu an integral part of it inherits its rich tradition and culture. Some important cities like Madurai Conjeevaram, Thanjavur etc bear testimony to that Temples and other public utility buildings in those cities built in ancient, medieval and colonial times are the living monuments of different religious and secular architecture.

Madurai which happens to be one of the oldest cities of Tamil Nadu has been endowed with such structures, both of religious and secular nature. Of a few secular buildings of the city Rani Mangammal Palace is one which possesses all the characteristics features of secular architecture.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SECULAR AND NON- SECULAR ARCHITECTURE:

Here a distinct idea about the difference between the secular architecture and the religious architecture becomes necessary. Any construction for the dwelling of men or Emperors, as well as construction for the purposes of trade or military (Castles or forts) can be called secular architecture. On the other hand construction for housing the icon of deity or for the dwelling of sages, monks saints or nuns can be called religious architecture. In this regard the Hindu temples, the Buddhist stupas and viharas are religious architecture.

HISTORICAL BACK GROUND:

The Medieval period is the most important in the history of Madurai City. The last great dynasty that ruled over Madurai was that of the Nayaks. Under the Nayaks, the fortunes of Madurai received again and for nearly two centuries peace and prosperity existed under their administration.ⁱ The Nayak rulers received the grant architecture of the Pandyas. Thirumalai Nayak (1625-1689 A.D.) and Rani Mangammal (1689-1706A.D.) were the master builders of that age and they made significant contribution to art and architecture.ⁱⁱ They built many



palaces and forts, established towns, constructed houses, carried on many irrigation works and laid roads. These are the secular buildings of the Nayaks.ⁱⁱⁱ Some of the buildings modelled on the Pandian or Tamil tradition^{iv} and some others carried European and Muslim architectural traditions.

RANI MANGAMMAL (1689-1706 A.D.):

Rani Mangammal was a great ruler of the Nayak dynasty. She was the wife of Chokkanatha who ruled the Nayak kingdom. Rani Mangammal was a remarkable ruler in many ways.^v She built many choultries and palaces in and around Madurai. She was a real guardian of her subjects.^{vi} Her charity and good works are remembered and quoted to this day.

RANI MANGAMMAL PALACE:

Structural evidences prove that Rani Mangammal had built a number of secular buildings. Of all, the Rani Mangammal in its rudiments is seen situated very near the central market of Madurai City. I tie the Junction where North Chitrai and East Chitrai streets meet. Unfortunately, the palaces today have only three halls.^{vii} It is surmised with the help of secondary sources that it would have been may times bigger than the present one.

THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE PALACE:

The front ortion of the palace is adorned with a stupid. The height of the stupid is 17 metres. It is provided with a flight of steps constructed skillfully with stones. These steps lead to its top. From the top of the palace one can see the grandeur of Meenakashi Temple. It is believed that Rani Mangammal used to have daily aerial view of the temple from the top of the building. The stupid structure of the palace bears ample testimony to the Nayak ruler's combinig Muhammadan architectural designs with their Hindu models.

The footsteps in the front of the palace and a few parts were rebuilt by the British. In this construction, granite, bricks, wood and beams have been used by the architects. the foot-steps and a few portions of this palace are of the western styles of architecture.

The hall of the front portion of the palace is sustained by eight strong black polished pillars of 1.5 meters height each. The illars have been painted with chemicals and hence one cannot see the original beauty of them. The hall with the pillars of the palace is of the Nayak style of architecture.



Between 1559 and 1736 A.D., the Nayaka evolved a distinct style of architecture characterized by the pillared halls.^{viii} The pillars in the hall are not embellished with Adhistana and Upapeeta. But some of the pillars in the hall have palagat and padmam.

NUINED PORTION:

Some portion of this palace is in a ruined state. There is a small dilapidated portion lying in the eastern side of the palace. It is said that in this portion there lay the pool of water which was used by Rani Mangammal to bathe. It is reported that the palace where she used to bathe was converted later into the place of execution by the British Government in Madras. The contractor of this ruined palace tells that the bathing tank with a flight of steps lies buried under the debris of the place of execution.^{ix} The nature of the brick works attracts the admiration of any visitor. The bricks are very small in size and are laid and cemented with the mixture of shell and lime. The plaster in ruins must have been smooth and glazing.

CENTRE PORTION OF THE PALACE:

At the centre of the palace lay a small rectangular cell with a plain ceiling and colourful frescoes must have adorned the ceiling as the white washed patches reveal today. A small bar-like space, earmarked for sending food inside the cell, carried the essential features of a goal. The entrance door seen at the southern and northern side of the cell is made of teak wood with wooden engravings bearing a creeper and flora designs.

NORTHERN SIDE OF THE PALACE:

Besides the aforesaid portions of the palace of Rani Mangammal, is seen a strong hall in North Avani Moola Street, just behind the central big and short but steady and black polished pillars which are seventeen in number. Height of each of pillars is 1.5 metres. It is a beautiful hall of the palace. The pillars are plain and are decorated with Saracenic arches one each to a pillar. The Saracenic arches, ceilings and ventilators were built in such a way that the palace hall obtained necessary air from outside, besides cooling the interior.

In the next hall, the pillars are made up of granite and there is no palagot or padmam. The ceiling must have been decorated with lotus flowers painted beautifully. But their beauty is lost forever as the ceiling has been white washed of late. The walls of the hall and other parts of the palace were constructed with stone, bricks, and



shell-line. According to predated visual structures, the magnificent hall of the palace had extended from fourth Chitrai street to North Avani Moola Street.

The portion of the palace that is seen in the northern side is wider in extension than those in the southern side. It seems to have been constructed in the Gothic style of architecture. There is only one big and block polished pillar in the wall very near to the ruined portions. There is padmam on the top of the pillar.

PAINTINGS:

Paintings in all the places have been scraped and all walls have been white washed.

TOP PORTION OF THE PALACE:

The short and pail like elevated structures, built with spaces left for ventilation of this palace were constructed with brick and lime. Later on, the top portion of the palace was remodeled by the British and by the corporation of Madurai. The hall at the back of the palace looks like dungeons without ventilation. One of the domes in the palace has been thatched with tin sheets and devices have been made for proper ventilation.

On the surface are seen the pieces of square shaped glasses set. They act as centilators to let in fresh air and light into the hall. These devices were added in later periods.

There was a small room-like structure which looks like a hiding place, utilized by the Nayak rulers to watch the movements of enemies at distance. It is believed that during the period of Rani Mangammal's rule, a soldier with a gun used to stand inside the room.

CONCLUSION:

The characteristic features of these old palace structures are polished black stone pillars and foliated saramic arches with vaulted or circular done. As rightly pointed out by Philip Bamborough in his work, Treasures of Islam Heritage. The architectural style that was adopted by the Nayaks in building the palace had the mixture of Hindu, Mohammadan and the British style which speak of the inevitability of their influence on the Nayaks. The Palace had spacious pillared halls and well decorated rooms with all necessary facilities of a residential palace. A battlement room on the top of the palace was meant for the purpose of protecting the inmates against enemy attack. Thus the architectural styles that one witnesses in these structures are mostly utilitarian.



REFERENCES

-
- ⁱ . J.P. Lasrado Shenoy Madura The emple City, Madura, 1937, p., 3.
- ⁱⁱ . R.Sathiyath Aiyar, History of Nayaks of Madurai, Madras, 1924, p. 180.
- ⁱⁱⁱ . J.H.Nelson, Madura Country Mannual Part III, a 1968, p. 136.
- ^{iv} . Ibid., p. 146.
- ^v . n.(i), p.15.
- ^{vi} . T.Murugasundram, The Great Women, Salem, 1965, p. 46.
- ^{vii} . V.Kandasamy, Madurai Varalarum Panpadum, Madurai, 1981, p.218.
- ^{viii} . n.(3), p.143.
- ^{ix} . Information given by Mallaiya S. Contractor on the ruined palace.

