

An Archaeological Study of Medieval Tomb Building: Daulat Khan at Badaun

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Abstract

Present paper encompasses an archaeological study of tomb building of Daulat Khan existing at Badaun. It is situated between 28.044485 north of latitude and 79.111859 east of longitude in the locality of Hakim Ganj Gontia at Badaun. This tomb building is one of the largest tomb building of Badaun. The building is existed on the high rise platform. The tomb building of Daulat Khan was built on a square plan interiorly and exteriorly as well. All the facades of the tomb building are similar to each other and has given double storey effects. Squinch arches have been used in the both stages of the phase of transition. The walls of the tomb building of Daulat Khan has inclined rather sloping in nature. The tomb building is surmounted by a huge dome based on octagonal drum. The structure has been built with brick and lime mortar. Different type of beautiful designs used in ornamentation and decoration of tomb building. This tomb building can be considered as a best example of bricks masonry and provides a deep insight in the development of architectural style and building technology. But now the tomb building is in dilapidated condition and desperately needs repair.

Key Words: *Minar, Cornice, Niches, Toothed designs, Parapet designs, Arch, Alcove, Corbelling, Phase of Transition, Squinches, Brick masonry.*

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Badaun is one of the most important district situated in the western Uttar Pradesh. It is situated between 27°40' and 28°29' north of latitude and between 78°16' and 79°31' east of longitude.¹ In Protohistoric period Badaun was a habitation site.² Badaun was the part of the dynastical rulers of Panchalas, Haihyas, Mitras, Guptas, Harsha, GurjaraPartiharas, Rashtrakutas of Vodamayuta, etc in ancient period.³ Under Sultans of Delhi Sultanate Badaun became very significant. It was continuously remain under the possessions of Sultans of slave, Khalji, Tughluq, Sayyid and Lodi dynasties.⁴ Under the Mughals Badaun was remained as the headquarters of Sarkar.

A large number of religious and non-religious structures such as mosque, palaces, Havelies, *Makbaras*, Tomb, etc. have been built during medieval period. These structures were the best example of contemporary architecture and building technology. The present work is a part of my study which I am carrying UGC funded Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Present paper includes the study of medieval tomb building known as tomb of Daulat Khan with the help of the archaeological tools.

Tomb of Daulat Khan is situated between 28.044485 north of latitude and 79.111859 east of longitude in the locality of Hakim Gang Gontia in the western part of the city of Badaun.⁵ Fuhrer and A. Cunningham both mentioned the tomb of Daulat Khan with details.⁶ They considered this tomb building as one of the largest structure of tomb building at Badaun. They have also given the dimension of the structure. But they have failed to identify the Daulat Khan.

The tomb building of Daulat Khan was built on a square plan interiorly and exteriorly as well.⁷ The structure of the building of Daulat Khan contain entrance gate at the cardinal point on all side except western side.⁸ All the facades of the structure are similar to each other.⁹ Each façade is composed of arched entrance in the central with arched niche of bigger dimension on the flanking wings.¹⁰ Both the corners of the each façade have conceived as a *minar*. Each façade has given double storey effect with the help of the cornice.¹¹ Lower storey contents the entrance in the central portion and flanking niches.¹² Central entrance is composed of a double recessed arch fixed in a recessed oblong frame.¹³ Above the arch or in the upper portion of the frame corbelling was provided with toothed design.¹⁴ The central portion of the lower storey of the façade which contains the central arched entrance with oblong frame has been projected outside.¹⁵ The flanking niches in the flanking wings have resembled the central arched opening in composition and orientation. The corner *minar* of the lower storey of each façade is three storey with the help of cornice.¹⁶

The upper storey of each façade have simple brick masonry contains five panels, which are oblong in shape and placed vertically with a gap of equal distance.¹⁷

The upper part of each façade is composed of cornice with a toothed design below, while the lower part of the upper storey of the each façade above the cornice of lower storey of façade parapet designs with smaller dimension has been built.¹⁸ Both the corners of the upper storey of each façade contain circular minar.¹⁹ The wall of the tomb building of Daulat Khan has inclined rather sloping in nature. Above the each facade railing with parapet have been provided to the structure.²⁰

The tomb building of Daulat Khan surmounted by a huge dome based on octagonal drum, which inturn enhance the elevation.²¹ The dome is crowned with an inverted lotus and finial, which has been destroyed in course of time leaving some fragments. The condition of the dome is ruinous and its exterior has been peeled off.

Interiorly the structure is built on square plan with three arched entrance on north, south and east, while in the centre of the western side there is a beautiful *mehrab* is built.²² The *mehrab* is built with three recessed big arch, whereas in the centre an arch was built. The smaller central arch contain a small niche in the upper part.²³

The wall of the structure interiorly has also inclined towards inside with elevation. The phase of transition has been used to base the circular dome on a square structure.²⁴ Both three stages in the phase of transition has been attend. The first stage of the phase of transition i.e. converting square into a octagon has been achieved through the squinches.²⁵ Squinches forms four alcoves at the corner which contains fluting and looks like half domed structure.²⁶ While cardinal squinches simply contain arches. The cardinal squinches in the centre accommodate arched niches. In the squinches a recessed arched has been used. In the corner below the alcove corbelling has been used from below to provide base to the alcove. The second stage of phase of transition has been achieved through corbelling to provide the circular base or drum to the circular dome.²⁷ In corbelling both below the first stage of transition and second stage of transition toothed design has been used.²⁸ Above the second stage circular rim consist of two lines of designs.²⁹ The first design consist of arcade of small arches. Second design i.e. toothed design form a ring in the drum.³⁰ Above the circular drum the dome of brick masonry was built.³¹ The ceiling of the dome consists of vertical fluting which converse into the circle of the ceiling of the dome. Interior of the tomb building has been devoid of plaster as it was built with brick masonry. In the brick masonry beautiful designs have been invented in the bricks.³² Flutings in the half dome of the corner alcoves and in the ceiling of the dome have created a beautiful and ornamented effect.³³ In the niches and in the arch entrance arches made projected towards inside from the spring of the arches.³⁴ Though the exterior of the dome which surmounted the structure has already been

peeled off. It would have embellished with flutings similar to that of inner side. The shape of the arches and shape of the dome indicate that the construction of the tomb building can be scribed to the Sayyid - Lodi period. Aesthetically this building can be considered as a best example of brick masonry which was decorated and ornamented with different designs achieved in bricks. This tomb building like any other Sayyid-Lodi buildings provides the good synthesis of Tughlaq architecture with Indian style along with the introduction of some new features which are typical of Sayyid-Lodi period. The structure has been built with brick and lime mortar.³⁵ For the ornamentation and decoration, brick of different shape and size have been used. For example for the corner *minars* circular brick has been used while in other decorative motifs brick of different designs have been used.

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5. Geo Coordinates are based on Google Earth.
6. See Figure- I
7. See Figure -I and plates 1, 2 & 12.
8. See Figure - I and Plates 1, 2 & 12.
9. See Plates 1, 2 & 12.
10. See Plates 1, 2 & 3.
11. See Plates 1, 2, 3, 11 & 12.
12. See Plates 1, 2, 3, 11 & 12.
13. See Plates 1, 2, 3, 11 & 12.
14. See Plates 1, 2, 3, 11 & 12.
15. See Plates 1, 2, 3, 11 & 12.
16. See Plates 1, 2 & 12.
17. See Plates 1, 2, 3, 11 & 12.

18. See Plates 1, 2, 3, 11 & 12.
19. See Plates 1, 2 & 12.
20. See Plates 1, 2, 11 & 12.
21. See Plates 1, 2, 11 & 12.
22. See Figure – I and Plates 1, 2, 3 & 5.
23. See Plates 4, 5 & 7.
24. See Plates 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
25. See Plates 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
26. See Plates 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9.
27. See Plates 4, 5, 7, 9 & 10.
28. See Plates 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.
29. See Plates 4, 5, 7, 9 & 10.
30. See Plates 4, 5, 7, 9 & 10.
31. See Plates 1, 2, 10, 11 & 12.
32. See All Plates
33. See 9 & 10.
34. See 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8.
35. See All Plates.

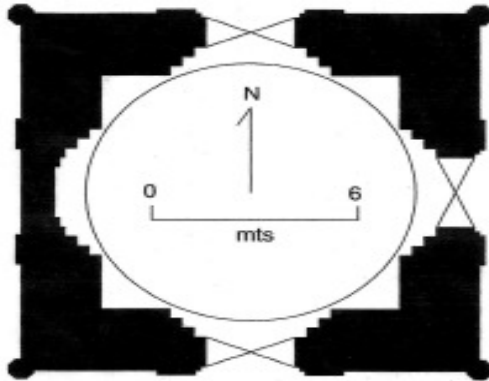


Figure 1 : Ground Plan,
Tomb of Daulat Khan



Plate 1: A General View,
Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 2: A Closer View,
Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 3: A View of an Arched
Entrance, Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 4: A View of an Inner Arched
Entrance, Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 5: An inner View of the Corner,
Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 6: A View of Qibla,
Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 7: A View of the Phase of Transition,
Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 8: Another View of the Phase of
Transition, Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 9: A Closer View of Phase of Transition and
Ceiling of the Dome, Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 10: A View of the Ceiling of the
Dome, Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 11: A View of the Dome,
Tomb of Daulat Khan.



Plate 12: A Rear View,
Tomb of Daulat Khan.