

EFFECT OF WATER IN BUILDING PASSIVE COOLING
STRATEGIES: A CASE OF SHISH MAHAL COMPLEX
OF MUGHALS

BY

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the
degree of Master of Science (Built Environment)

Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design
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OCTOBER 2020

ABSTRACT

Water, in modern cities, is often seen as an infrastructural asset, rather than analyzed, appreciated, and inserted in urban context in its morphological, architectural, and environmental dimensions. This thesis studies the water elements of 16th-century Mughal building complexes, with a focus on the Shish Mahal Complex of Lahore Fort, which is argued as a kind of peak or apotheosis of Mughal architecture-based water systems. By looking at both urban-morphological and architectural-engineering dimension, it re-engages with the holistic nature of Mughal architecture in which water systems is seen in its spiritual, aesthetic, and environmental dimension. It then focuses on the environmental analysis of one feature- the coupling of water with thermal mass system of the basement of Shish Mahal, to study its modeling mechanisms and the potential passive impact of the coupling of thermal mass and water elements under such hot arid climate. This was done and further simulated and visualizes the actual indoor thermal condition of the basement of Shish Mahal if the water elements are not present. A fieldwork measurement of Shish Mahal Complex is conducted and acquired for Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) ANSYS Fluent simulation process. The thesis contributes to a narrative that investigates both the historical and analytical 'performance-based' perspective, in which the 'morphological' form and shape of the 2 and 3-dimensional shape are initially discussed, and then the impact of water in buildings are studied as a combination of vertical waterwalls and horizontal pools to verify its climatic performance. It is found that the coupling of waterwall with thermal mass will result 8°C to 18°C in reduction to the indoor temperature under hot arid climate conditions when the outdoor temperature rises to 40 °C without resorting to any mechanical cooling. The results also demonstrated that the exploitation of low mean airspeed of 0.5 m/s provides a significant contribution to decrease the indoor temperature. Low mean airspeed provides ample time for the evaporative cooling of the indoor environment to become more efficacious and cooled air to circulate within the premise boundary, this is however work if cross-ventilation strategy is adopted at the same time.

خلاصة البحث

غالبًا ما يُنظر إلى المياه ، في المدن الحديثة ، على أنها أحد أصول البنية التحتية ، بدلاً من تحليلها وتقديرها وإدراجها في السياق الحضري بعادها المورفولوجية والمعمارية والبيئية. تدرس هذه الأطروحة عناصر المياه في مجتمعات المباني المغولية في القرن السادس عشر ، مع التركيز على مجمع شيش محل في قلعة لاهور ، والذي يُقال إنه نوع من ذروة أو ليه أنظمة المياه القائمة على العمارة المغولية. من خلال النظر إلى كل من البعد الحضري المورفولوجي والهندسة المعمارية ، فإنه يعيد المشاركة مع الطبيعة الشاملة للعمارة المغولية التي تُرى فيها أنظمة المياه في أبعادها الروحية والجمالية والبيئية. ثم يركز على التحليل البيئي لميزة واحدة - اقتران الماء بنظام الكتلة الحرارية في الطابق السفلي لشيش محل ، من أجل دراسة آليات النمذجة والتأثير المحتمل لاقتران الكتلة الحرارية وعناصر الماء تحت مثل هذا الجفاف الحار. مناخ. تم القيام بذلك ومزيد من المحاكاة وتصوير الحالة الحرارية الداخلية الفعلية للطابق السفلي من شيش محل إذا لم تكن عناصر المياه موجودة. يتم إجراء القياس الميداني لمجمع شيش محل والحصول عليه من أجل عملية محاكاة ديناميكيات السوائل الحاسوبية ANSYS Fluent (CFD). تساهم الأطروحة في سرد يبحث في المنظور التاريخي والتحليلي "القائم على الأداء" ، حيث تتم مناقشة الشكل والشكل "المورفولوجي" للشكل ثنائي الأبعاد وثلاثي الأبعاد في البداية ، ومن ثم يتم مناقشة ثير الماء في المباني تمت دراستها كمزيج من المسطحات المائية العمودية والبرك الأفقية للتحقق من أدائها المناخي. لقد وجد أن اقتران الجدار المائي لكتلة الحرارية سينتج عنه 8 درجة مئوية إلى 18 درجة مئوية في تقليل درجة الحرارة الداخلية في ظل ظروف المناخ الجاف الحار عندما ترتفع درجة الحرارة الخارجية إلى 40 درجة مئوية دون اللجوء إلى أي تبريد ميكانيكي. أظهرت النتائج أيضًا أن استغلال متوسط سرعة هواء منخفض يبلغ 0.5 م / ث يوفر مساهمة كبيرة في خفض درجة الحرارة داخل المباني. يوفر متوسط سرعة الهواء المنخفضة وقتًا كافيًا للتبريد التبخيري للبيئة الداخلية ليصبح أكثر كفاءة وتبريد الهواء للدوران داخل حدود المبنى ، ومع ذلك فإن هذا العمل إذا تم اعتماد استراتيجيات التهوية المتقاطعة في نفس الوقت.

APPROVAL PAGE

I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion, it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science (Built Environment).

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Allah S.W.T, for bestowing on me with great perseverance, good health, strength and courage in completing the journey of my study and successful in completing this thesis.

I would like to express my highest gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Nurul Syala Abdul Latip whom without her insights, encouragement, guidance, and support from the beginning to the end, I would not have able to come this far. I am indebted to her for the patience and continuous support throughout the period of this study. This thesis would also not have been possible if not for the help from my co-supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Puteri Shireen Jahn Kassim who showered her strong commitment, continuous support, encouragement and wise thoughtful from the initial stage to the final stage of this study. Her deep knowledge and sharp insight on the research never fail to mesmerize me. Learning from both of my supervisors made my research journey more valuable and adding knowledge on the field of built environment even more broaden.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Shaukat Mahmood from the University of Punjab Lahore for assisting me in gathering all the required data and surveys of the case study and provides continuous supports throughout the research. Without his support and help, I would never have precise data to the study I conducted. I would also like to express my gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yousif Abdalla Abakr for his help in assisting the simulation works and his constant help especially regarding the fluid mechanic engineering.

With deep sense of affection, I would like to acknowledge my parents Mohd Fauzi Thayoob and Shaliha Mohamed for their encouragements, support, du'a and source of love. Also, thank you to my entire brothers, sister, family members and fellow friends. Last but not least, not forgetting to the love of my life, Norfaradila Jaafar for her never-ending support and encouraging me to earn a master's degree. Thank you for all the moral supports and may Allah the Almighty reward you all.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to those who the name did not appear, to provide their time, efforts and support for this research.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|---|
| GBI | Green Building Index |
| SRI | Solar Reflectance Index |
| UHI | Urban Heat Island Impact |
| CFD | Computational Fluid Dynamics |
| ASHRAE | American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning |
| PMV | Predicted Mean Vote |
| CAD | Computer Aided Design |
| PISO | Pressure-Implicit with Splitting of Operators |
| ISO | International Organization for Standardization |
| UDF | User Defined Functions |

LIST OF SYMBOLS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| $^{\circ}\text{C}$ | Degrees Celsius |
| K | Degrees Kelvin |
| Rh | Relative Humidity |
| m^2 | Meter square |
| m/s | Air velocity (meter per second) |
| T_{mrt} | Mean Radiant Temperature |
| TL | Time Lag |
| k- ϵ | K-epsilon Turbulence Model |
| g_s | Amount of Evaporated Water per second (kg/s) |
| ϕ | Evaporation coefficient |
| A | Water Surface Area (m^2) |
| X_s | Maximum Humidity Ratio of Saturated Air |
| X | Humidity Ratio Air |
| q | Heat loss (Kj/m^2) |
| h_{we} | Evaporation Heat of Water (Kj/kg) |

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

It is increasingly realized that sustainability particularly water includes both responses to the climatic and cultural context of a place. There has been a discussion on how these elements of sustainability must eventually imply 'back to basics' and relive lessons from the past approach in terms of environmental characteristics rather than employing 'high technology' add-on features. Hence, there has been a resurging interest in the role of water in urban design and its potential impact on the climatic situation of an area rather than exist only for aesthetic and recreational activities.

Apart from the sustainability agenda, water provides psychological, visual, auditory, and tactile effects, which are primarily perceived by the senses, and affects human psychologically rather than merely visually and physically (Booth, 1989). Hence in terms of aesthetic dimensions, water elements are primarily perceived by the senses as a 'visual element' in urban spaces. However, symbolizing the beginning and the continuity of life it affects human before psychologically rather than visually leading them to it. Except for the directive effect, water elements have also relaxing effects such as visual, acoustic, and provide concentration with tactile integration on the human (Booth, 1989).

Currently, in the arena of sustainable architecture, passive mechanisms are on the rise as it is seen as a cost-effective and value-engineering principles and contribution to sustainability. While passive cooling strategies such as shading, orientation, natural ventilation, and landscape have been researched in-depth, there is a lack of studies in water due to the difficulty of modeling and testing of this element

especially when the water bodies are placed inside a building. According to Yang & Zhao, (2015), previous studies on thermal effects of urban areas under different climatic conditions have tendencies to focus more on pavements and vegetation elements while waterbodies or urban water features are the elements that least studied on.

Passive cooling has been known to be the hallmark of Islamic architecture, particularly to its large building complexes, as many of them are located in hot climate regions. For example, Willmert (2010) usefully discusses and give insight to the environmental rationale and wisdom of typological elements in the Alhambra complex, Granada, Spain from the integral insertion of courtyards, extensions, and projections of patios, to infusion of the complex with optimum dimensions in fountains and pools. He highlights how the demands of the ruling elite had placed a high level of requirement on the environmental conditioning of such complexes, and the ability of the complex to provide this passive attribute to technology during the medieval era, which comfort conditions must be achieved to the highest expectations of the monarch with minimal use of energy.

Study on the environmental characteristics of Islamic heritage structures to gauge the climatic performance, architectural and ecological wisdom is frequently studied in the field of passive low energy architecture. There has been a wide range of studies focuses on a narrative approach to highlight the environmental and architectural ingenuity of Islamic complexes, including narrative socio-cultural studies, while other have utilized more empirical methods of site measurements and the use of computation simulation to analyze and verify the environmental performance of these heritage building complexes.

Previous Islamic civilization that grew under intensely hot regions, have evolved water-based features and achieved a high degree of comfort with minimum use

of renewable energy, as electricity was non-existent at the time. Islamic architectural monuments and complexes have water elements that have become both a spiritual and ecological landmark. Because in Islam, water symbolizes purity and purification, water is an element valued highly due to its purifying and soothing qualifications, and not merely a functional resource. In these complexes, there are endless variations of water elements which are defined as the elements of space different in terms of scale, location, architectural features, material, and design criteria and easily recognized or discernible from several directions (Lynch, 1960).

Islamic architecture, in the word of renowned Malaysian architect, Hijjas Kasturi, is centered on water. Traditionally, in Islamic civilization, water elements have essentially two main purposes; ‘aesthetic’ and ‘functional’, hence, the role of water systems may have developed from its essentially agricultural economic base, but it had evolved in complexity and during the height of the empire, it is seen as a form of integrated urban systems which have both socio-ecological and socio-cultural dimensions rather than merely engineered solutions. Water has been part of both outdoors and indoors environment of architecture, and the analysis of indoor and outdoor impact require different tools and computational resources that governed by different equations. Past large building complexes, including its urban and architecture design, constitute a treasure and resource that has yet to be analyzed to the fullest.

As the centuries passed by, modern Islamic states like Malaysia were perceived by the element of water not as the sole cooling medium but as part of aesthetic design intervention. This can be re-look at the design of a few prominent mosques in Malaysia such as Masjid Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, Putrajaya, and Masjid Negara in Kuala Lumpur. Both buildings implement the same scheme of designing the water element surrounding the main prayer area, but Masjid Negara exhibits better thermal