

4.623

MUGHAL LANDSCAPES: HISTORY, HERITAGE & DESIGN

Visual Translations, Landscape Transformations



Whether through posters advertising holiday tours, Bollywood movies or the recent presidential visit to India, chances are you came across some of South Asia's Islamic architecture before. This seminar explores the encounters between South Asia and Islam that produced the Taj Mahal, the Mughal gardens of Kashmir, the palace-forts of Lahore, Delhi and Agra, the cityscapes of Bijapur and Hyderabad in the Deccan, and more.

These encounters were numerous and varied, and made a lasting impression on South Asia's landscape. Concepts of water-management and urban planning originating in the arid climates of Iran and Central Asia were translated

Spring 2011

DAY:	Monday
TIME:	9:00 -12:00
ROOM:	5-216
PROFS:	Laura Parodi James Wescoat
UNITS/LEVEL:	3-0-9 H
REQUISITE:	Permission of Instructor

– rather than simply transplanted – by Muslim settlers, in a continuing exchange with local practices. Gardens in particular became a flexible tool in a new natural and cultural environment

and took on unprecedented forms, while retaining some of their traditional functions.

The seminar will encourage students to reflect on the processes and practices underlying these momentous transformations. It will focus on the premodern era (16th - 17th c.), when European expansion connected South Asia with the Americas for the first time. It will also address the problems involved in the conservation of an immense architectural heritage and traditional practices in the face of South Asia's explosive mixture of rapid economic development, increasing social inequity and a range of natural threats.