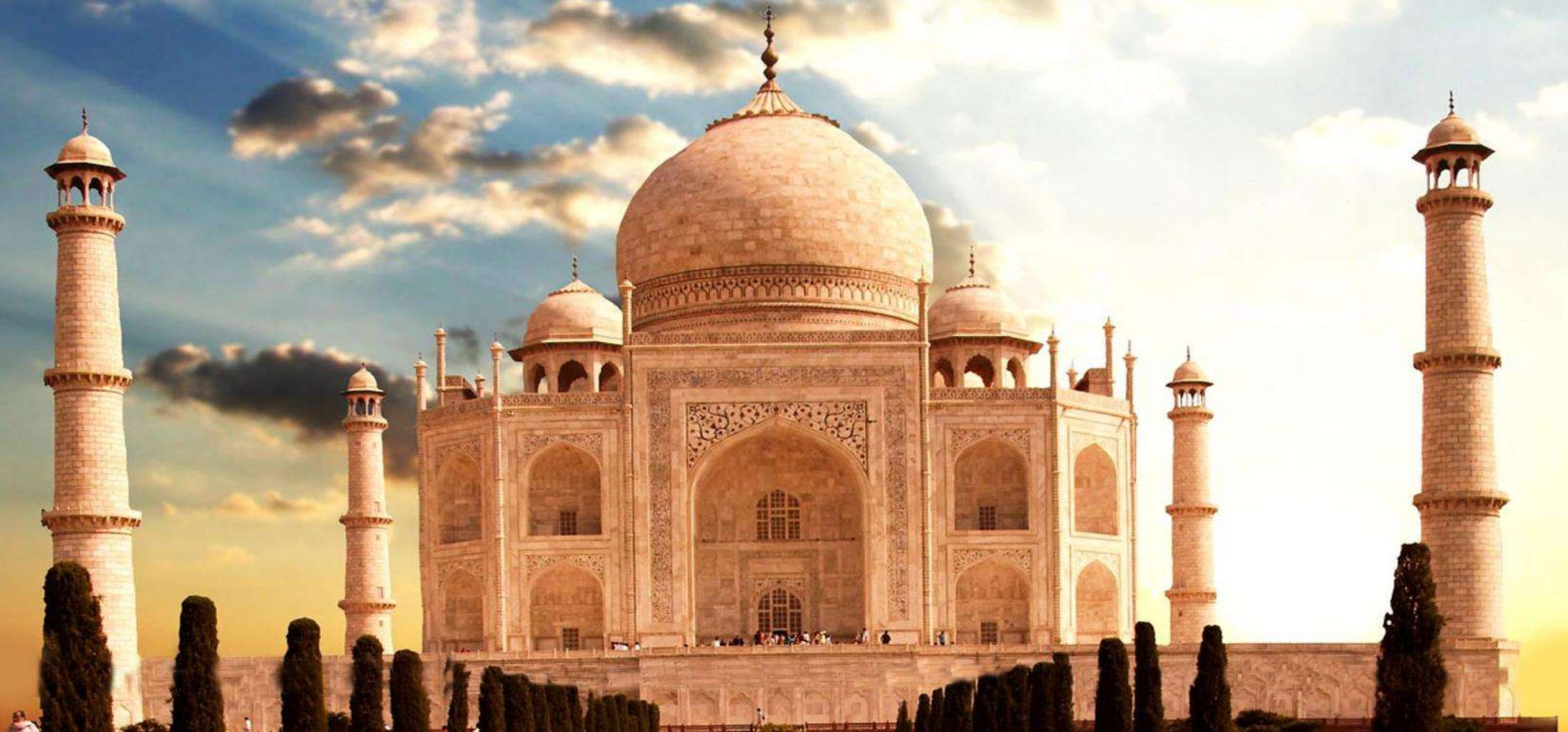


The Taj Mahal



The Taj Mahal

- enormous white marble mausoleum
- built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his lost wife between
- "the Jewel of islamic art and architecture in India"
- finest example of combinaton of Persian, Turkish and Indian architectural style
- 1983. ▫ UNESCO World Heritage Site

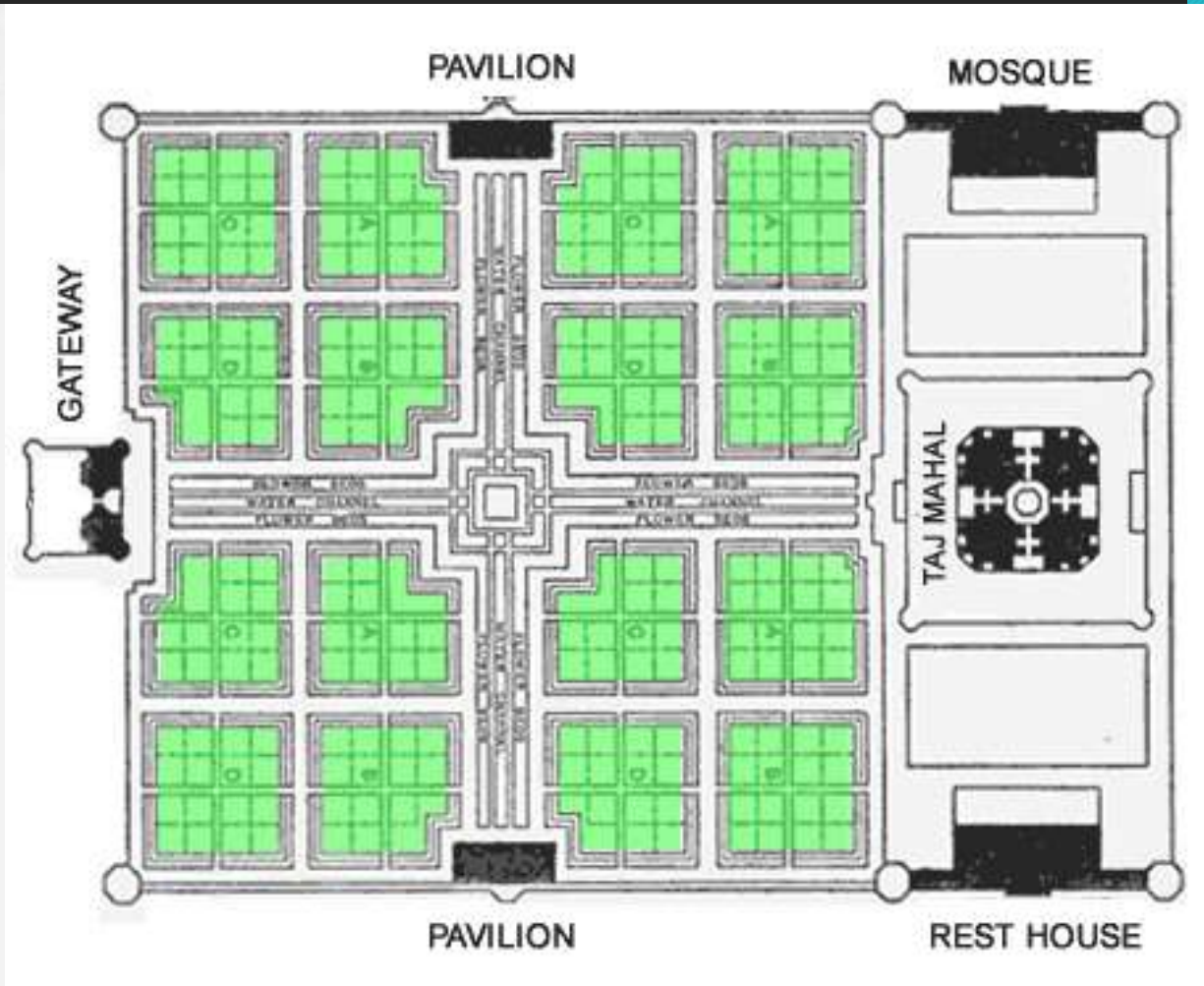
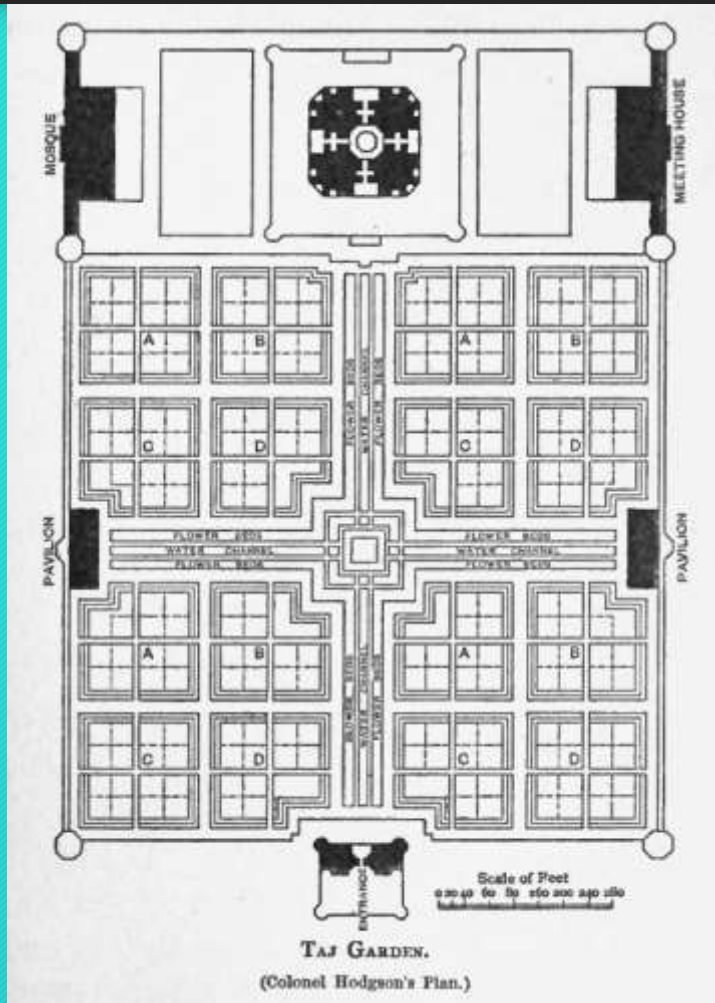


Basic information

- Location: Agra, India
- Dimensions: 57 x 57 meters, 171 meters high
- Base: 7 meters high
- Built: 1632-1653
- Architect: Ustad Ahmad Lahauri (?)
- Style: Mughal (Islamic)
- Cost: 32 crore rupees (320 000 000 rupees)

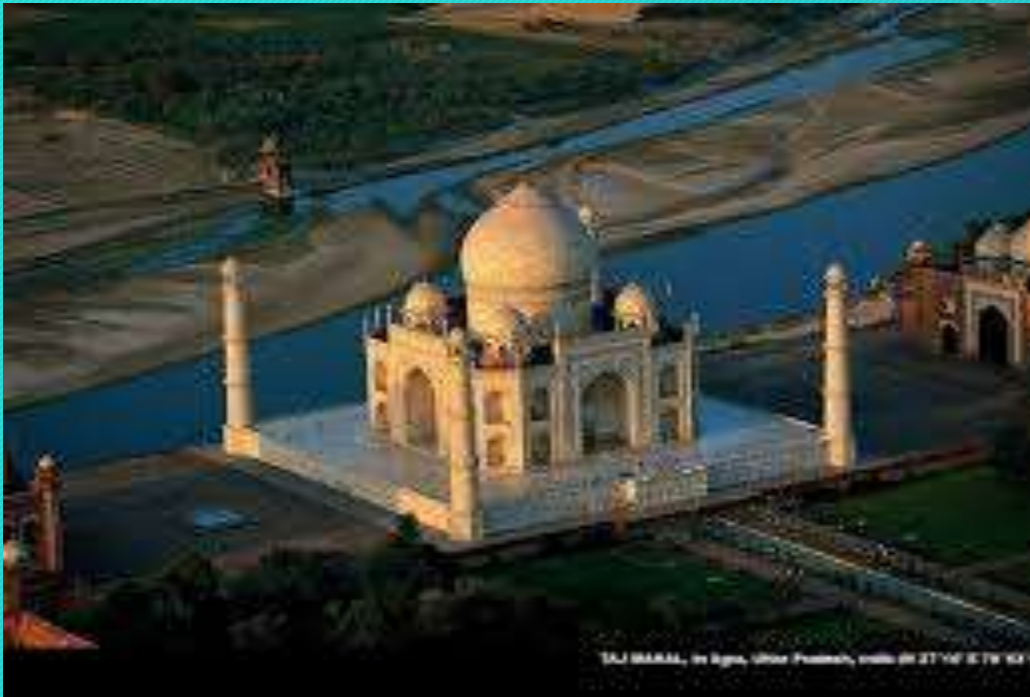


Ground layout



Construction

- Builders used materials from throughout India and Asia
- Over 1000 elephants transported material during construction



Materials

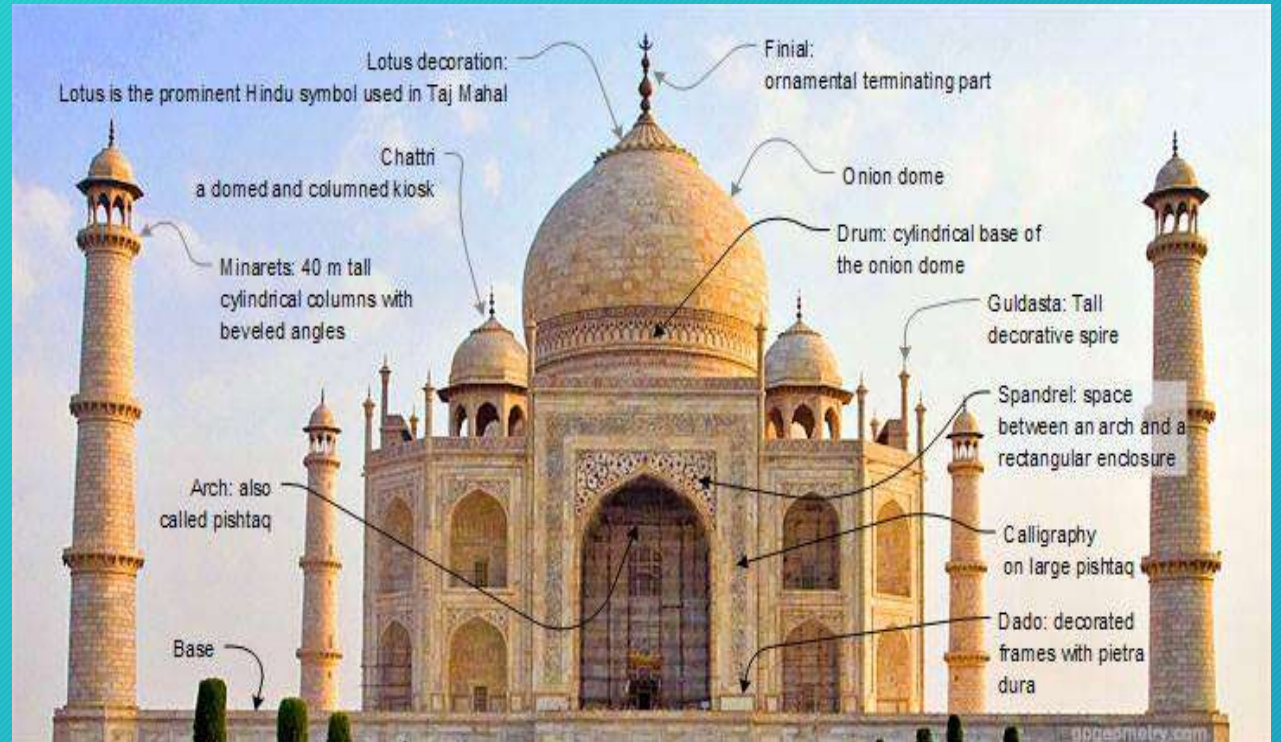
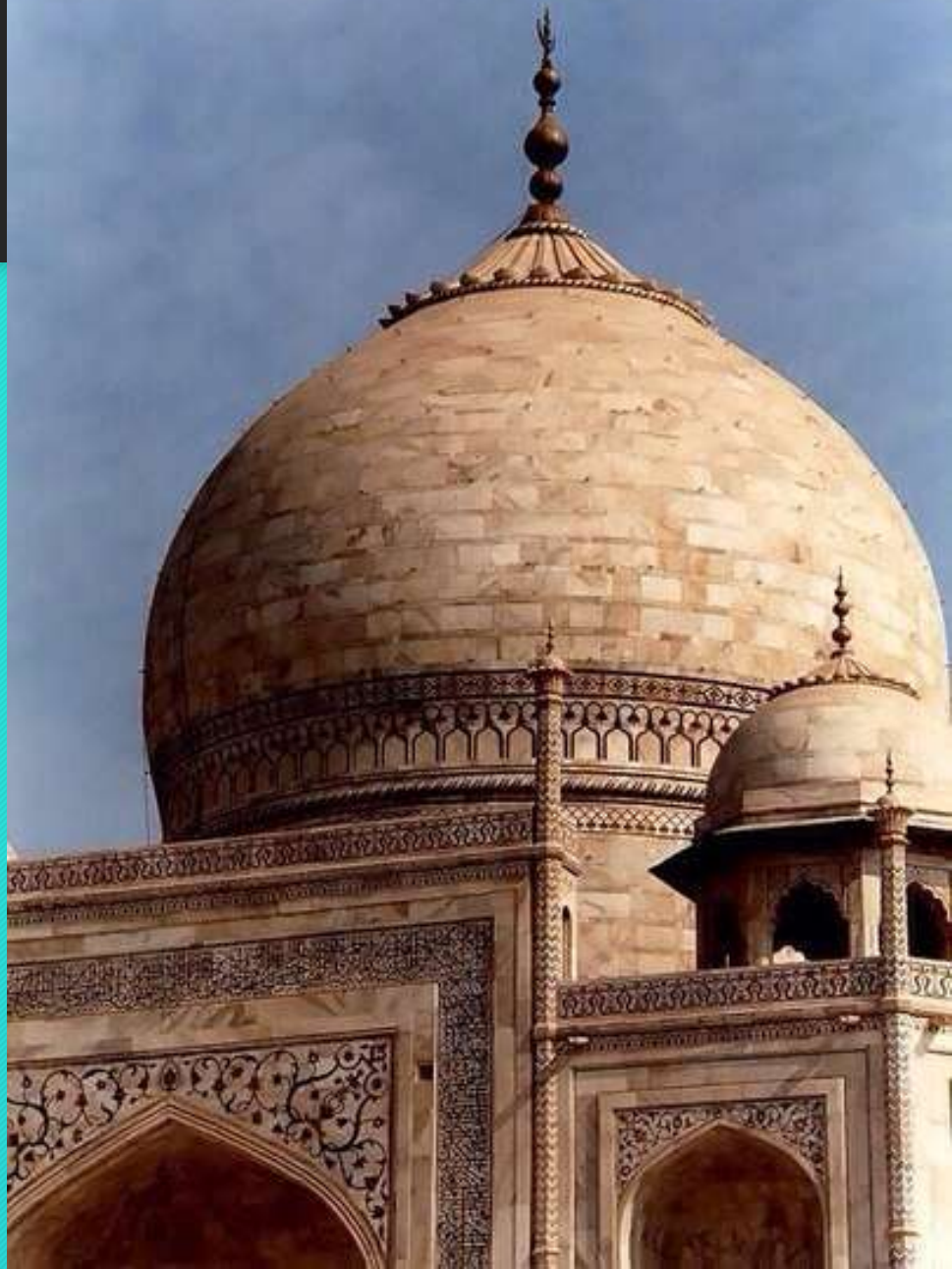
- White marble and red sandstone
- Jasper
- Jade
- Crystal
- Turquoise
- Lapis lazuli
- Sapphire
- Carnelian



About 20 000 workers engaged

- Builders, Sculptors
- Calligraphers and goldsmiths
- Stone-cutters
- specialists in building turrets
- specialists who carved only marble flowers, et





Design of a dome

- Inner chamber is of octagonal shape allowing entrance from each side
- 25 meter high walls, topped by interior dome decorated with a sun motif
- Light comes through balcony screens and roof openings
- 28 different precious stones used



- Queen and king were buried next to each other (contrary to the king's last wish)
- 99 names of Allah inscripted on sides



Cruelty

- *According to one story, Shah Jahan had his main builders, architects and masters blinded and hands cut off after the structure was completed, ensuring they would never build another such monument.*



Notes

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- Base: 7 meters high
- Built: 1632-1653
- Architect: Ustad Ahmad Lahauri
- Style: Mughal
- Cost: 32 crore rupees (320 000 000 rupees)



Literature:

- <http://www.history.com/topics/taj-mahal>

Thank you for watching ▯
Tvrtko Birčić