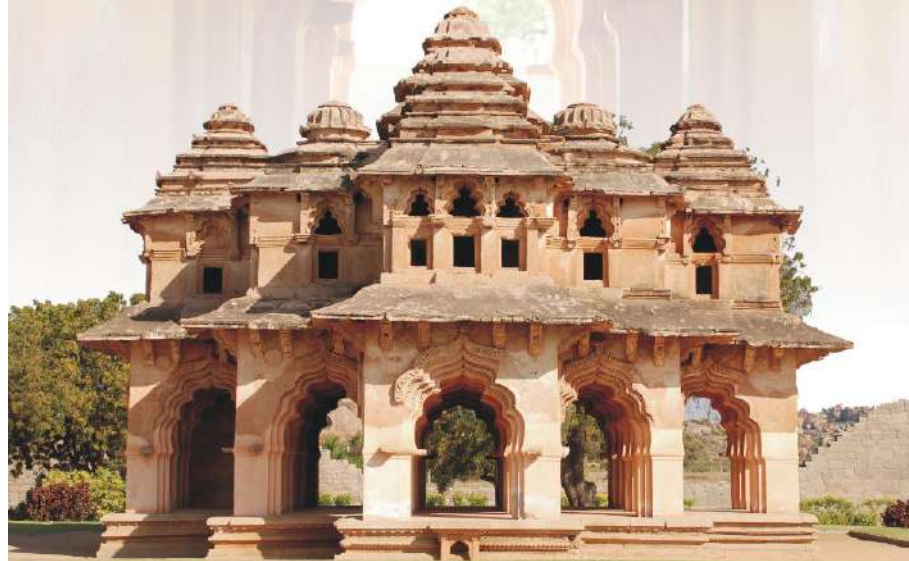




ZENANA ENCLOSURE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
HAMPI CIRCLE



Aerial view of Zenana Enclosure

Zenana Enclosure, a structural complex with tall enclosure walls, is located in the northeast part of the Royal Centre. It is accessed through small doorways one each in the east and west walls and three in the north wall. The openings are much rebuilt and at present a doorway at the north and south serves as the entrance. Though popularly known as Zenana (Women) Enclosure, no historical evidence links this enclosure with the women of the Court. This enclosure has structures identified as Treasury Building, Basement of a Palace, Jal Mahal, Water Tank, Lotus Mahal and three Watch Towers. Structures also exist outside the enclosure wall

especially to the north and northeast. The buildings in this complex are mostly in Indo-Islamic style and are exemplary manifestation of Vijayanagara secular architecture.

TREASURY BUILDING

This structure variously identified as Hall of Exercise or Guards' House, is located in the northwest corner of the Zenana Enclosure. However, its strong masonry construction as well as lack of openings other than a small doorway and a series of ventilation holes, suggest it to be storeroom or treasury. The structure is entered



Treasury Building



Basement of Queens Palace

from the east through a pointed arched doorway set within a rectangular recess. It consists of a large rectangular space at the center and raised pillared corridor on its four sides. The central rectangle has a vaulted ceiling formed of foliated arches springing from the top of the pillars of the corridor. Twenty-four columns divide the corridor into several sections and its ceilings have plain vaulted and octagonal domes. The exterior walls of the structure are plain and the eaves are supported by corbels, horizontal beams and rafters decorated with plaster snakehoods. Above the eaves is a brick and plaster parapet with interlocked pointed arch and petal patterns.

BASEMENT OF QUEENS PALACE

The remains of this Palace is popularly known as Queens Palace, however there are no archaeological and historical evidence to corroborate it. It faces north and is entered through a flight of steps with elephant balustrades. The Palace structure is built with projections and recessions on all sides. It has three ascending levels, defined by a series of ornamented basement mouldings. The first two

levels are accessed by flights of steps in the center of the north side. These levels run continuously around the building as a walkway. The access to the third level is by two flights of steps on the sides. The outlines of four-square chambers are observed at this level.

JAL MAHAL

This structure known variously as Jal Mahal and Water Pavilion consists of a central structure set within a rectangular tank. The east facing central structure is reached by a bridge at the

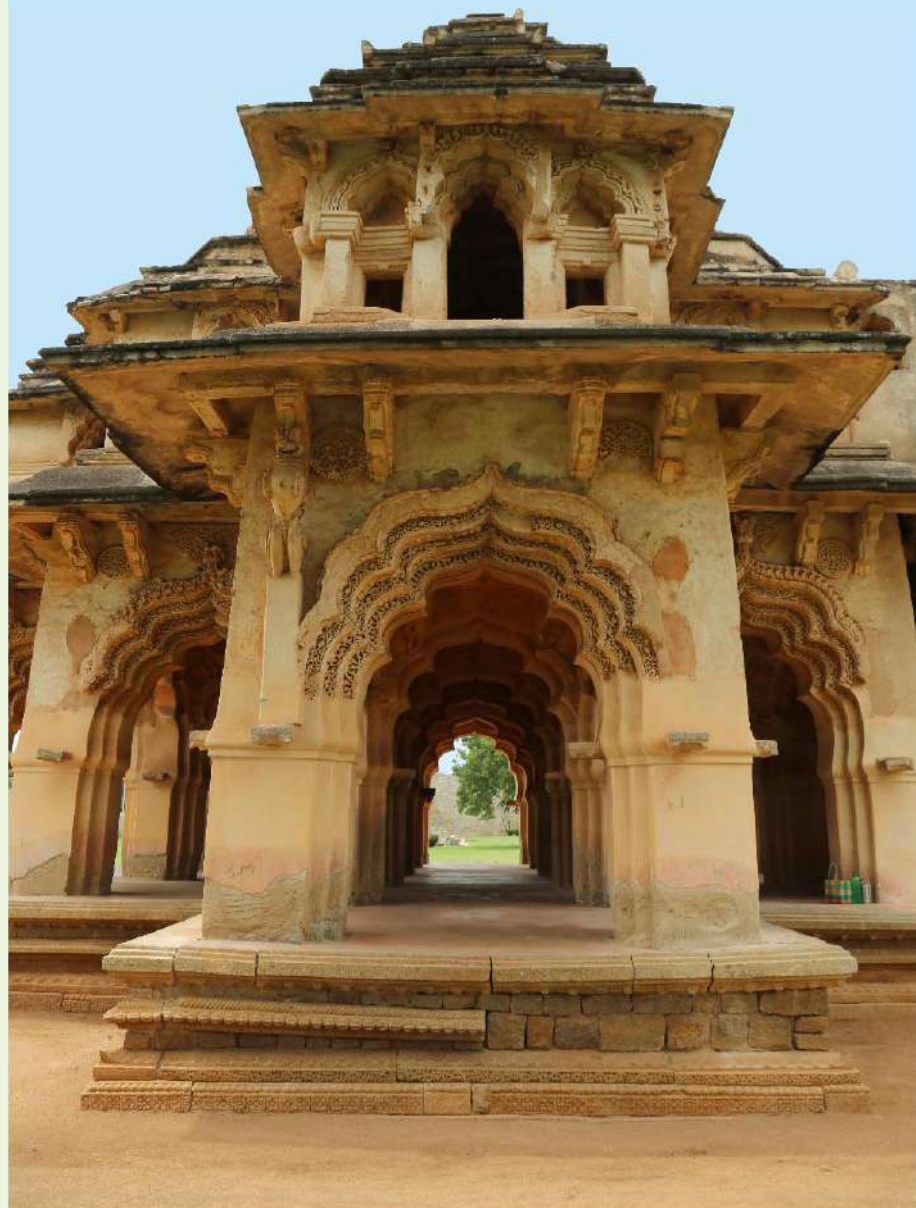


south. It is built with projections and recessions and has two levels. The steps on the east side leads to water. The second level is defined by a series of mouldings and traces of plaster flooring can be seen here. On the basement of the central structure are found carvings of fish and boats. The tank is entered through flight of steps at the east and south. It also had pavilions at its corners. The remnants of the bridge and pavilions can be still seen. This structure might have been used as a summer residence of the royals.

LOTUS MAHAL

The Lotus Mahal also known as Chitrangi Mahal is a two storeyed structure in Islamic style of architecture. It stands on an ornate stone *adhithana* and square in plan with projections and recessions in the cardinal directions. The first storey is an open pavilion and has twenty-four square pillars carrying recessed and foliated arches. It has a vaulted ceiling and at the centre is a plain flat coffered section with a lotus-bud in the middle. A staircase on the north side leads to the upper storey which has a number of balconies with windows having recessed and foliated

Lotus Mahal



arches. The ceiling of the upper storey consists of vaulted as well as flat-roofed sections.

The central part features a deep clerestory elaborately ornamented with stucco arches, friezes and ledges, *pushpa-podigai* corbels and large niches with remnants of seated figures. It culminates in a small ornate ribbed inverted lotus dome. The superstructure consists of nine



Ceiling: Lotus Mahal

pyramidal towers of varying sizes. The exterior of the first storey is more decorated than the upper one featuring plaster and stucco ornamentation consisting of medallions, scroll work and *simhamukha* decorations. The cornice of the first storey is supported by ornate curved brackets. The brackets at the outer corners are originally supported by large rampant *yalis*, of which a mutilated one is now extant on the east side. In its original state, fully ornamented with plaster work and painted the Lotus-mahal must have been a very imposing structure.



Interior: Lotus Mahal

WATCH TOWERS

Three Watchtowers in Indo-Islamic architectural style are found within the Zenana Enclosure. They are found abutting the enclosure walls that are built with irregular, tightly fitted blocks which taper in thickness as the walls rise.

Square Tower

This square tower is located in the northwest of the Enclosure, the north and east sides are abutting the enclosure wall. This tower is entered



Square Tower

by an arched entrance at the west. The tower has a hollow square tapering shaft at its center around which a staircase proceeds upwards. At the top is a square chamber with four balconies. Each balcony has three arched openings at the front and one at either side. The square chamber also has a small recess with two arched openings at each of its four corners.

The balconies have pyramidal vaults and the corner recesses has irregular hexagonal vaults. The balconies are seen as supported on four multi curved brackets decorated with foliate ornamentation. The arches of the balconies are also provided with plaster bands and roundels as decorative elements. An angled eave supported on a beam and multi curved brackets supports the superstructure, which is now in ruins.

Octagonal Tower

The Octagonal tower is located in the southeast corner of the enclosure and overlooks the approaches to the Royal Centre. The entrance to the tower is on the northeast and leads to the circular staircase. At the first level the circular staircase is surrounded by an octagonal corridor divided by transverse arches into eight bays. Each bay is lit by a small window on the north and west, the other sides being partly blocked by the enclosure walls. The second level also has a corridor divided by transverse arches into 8 bays and has filled in arches with three small openings, which is now visible only at the southwest. The top level has a corridor with eight raised areas. It also has alternating 8 full-height arched windows and 8 smaller projecting windows. From the exterior, the small projecting windows looks like balconies supported on curved brackets. The superstructure consists of a central dome and eight miniature towers surrounding it.



Octagonal Tower

proceeds upwards. The first upper level has a small corridor at the rear and two bays on both the south and west. The same scheme seems to be repeated at the second upper level, now ruined. The ceiling has square and octagonal vaults. On the exterior, the ground level represents pointed arches and the upper levels has filled in arches with an opening. The decorated overhanging eaves that once adorned the structure is now lost.



Square Tower

To the northeast of the Zenana Enclosure is another enclosure consisting of an open space or Court at the center and two structures in Indo-Islamic style. The open space was possibly reserved for military displays. The two structures, Elephant Stable and Guards House, are on the east and north respectively. Both these structures face on to the Court. A gateway, now in ruins, demarcate the west side of the enclosure. The south side of the court is open, except for a large mound with abundant traces of architectural members of structures that once formed part of the Vijayanagara Empire.

ELEPHANT'S STABLE

This magnificent 15th century structure, built in the Indo-Islamic style of architecture, is considered to be the stable for the state elephants. However, it is also argued to be a palace secretariat. Abdu'r Razzaq describes the Elephant



Ceiling: Elephant's Stable

Stable as: Each elephant has a separate compartment, the walls of which are extremely solid and the roof composed of strong pieces of wood and it had arrangement for fastening the chain from the neck and back of the animals. Contrary to this description, it can be observed that the roof of this structure is dome shaped and has no arrangement for fastening the chain.

This long rectangular structure is 85 x 10 m in dimension. It faces west and has eleven large domed chambers that are identical, with recessed niches on three sides and an arched entrance on the west. Out of the eleven chambers, 8 have arched small opening on the east wall. Another three arched small openings are found on the north and south walls connecting four chambers.

Between the entrance arches, the exterior represents small arches topped by three smaller arched niches and miniature recesses with angled tops. Plaster decoration are seen in the bands around the arches, in the roundels over the arches

and in the spandrels. The deep recess above the brackets indicates that angled eaves once existed. The parapet visible now is a modern reconstruction.

From exterior, the chambers have domes of three varying designs, symmetrically arranged: hemispherical with rows of merlons on the circular drums (end domes on each side),

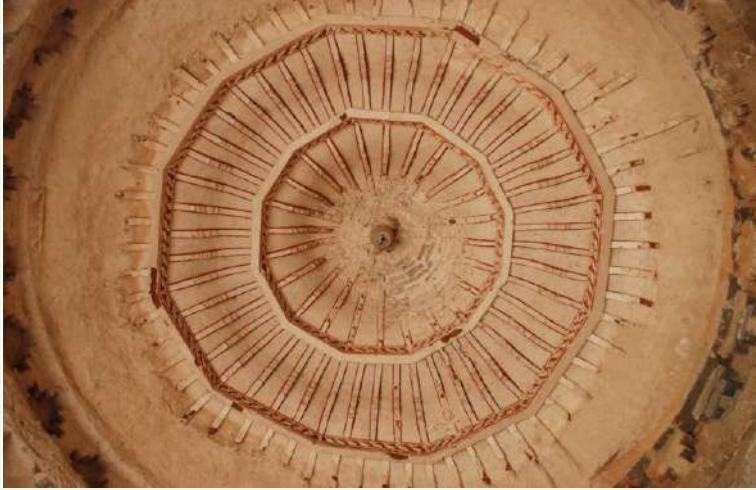


Ceiling: Elephant's Stable

hemispherical with convex flutings that diminish as they ascend (central domes on each side), and twelve-sided vaults rising in three tiers with curved profiles (intermediate domes). At the inside, the roof consists of domes with ornate plaster and stucco decorations. Merlons, friezes of palmettes and medallions, arabesque, ribs and straps etc. form part of the decoration.

Elephant's Stable





Ceiling: Elephant's Stable

Above the central chamber is a ruined two-storeyed structure that is reached by two staircases. One is from an arched opening in the interior of the fifth chamber from the south (north wall). Other is from an arched opening on the exterior west wall in between the sixth and seventh chambers. The circular staircase and approach corridors are roofed by arched vaults.

The lower storey is an open pavilion consisting of a square central chamber and a narrow passageway on four sides. The upper storey is enclosed by four walls with pointed arched windows in the middle of each side. The corbels that once supported an overhanging eave can be seen. It seems that a parapet of miniature roof was present in the past.

GUARDS' HOUSE

This massive structure is located close to the Elephant Stable. Though popularly known as Guards' House, it has also been referred as a Concert Hall and a Treasury.

This rectangular structure measuring 42x12 m faces south. In the front, it has a high verandah with high arched entrance flanked by five arches on either side. It also encloses a rectangular open courtyard with raised covered corridor all around. The stone piers supporting the arches have brackets with simple roll mouldings, that once supported stone frames. The corbels seen above the arches, indicate the presence of an eave, now vanished. The ceilings are mostly plain, except for the coffered ones in the verandah.

To the southwest of the Guards' House can be seen the ruins of a massive entrance gateway.

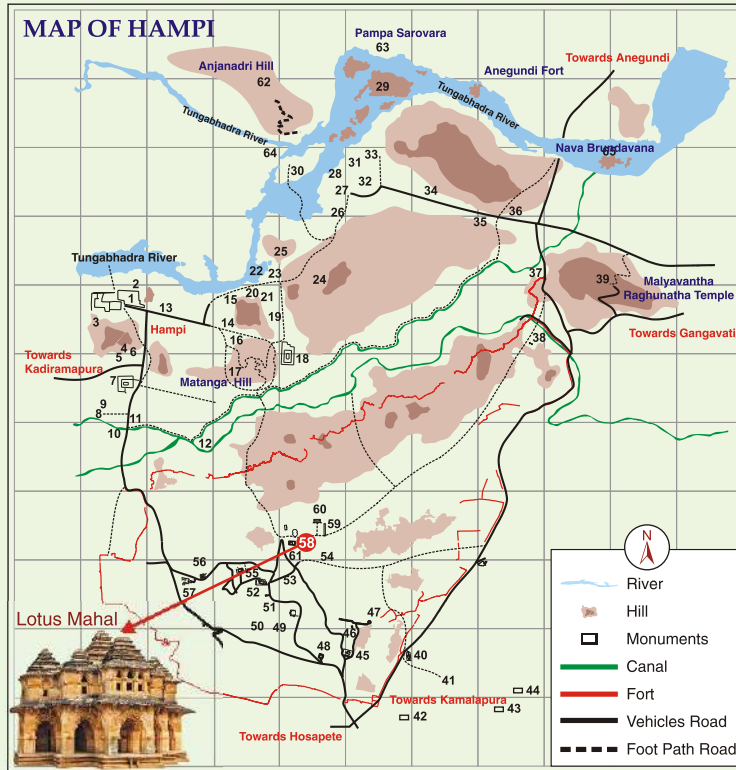


Guard's House



Interior Guard's House

MAP OF HAMPI



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|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Virupaksha Temple | 33. Brahma Vitthala Temple |
| 2. Manmatha Honda | 34. Pushkarni |
| 3. Group of monuments at Hemakuta Hill | 35. Kuduregombe Mandapa |
| 4. Two Storeyed Mandapa | 36. Gejjala Mandapa |
| 5. Sasivekalu Ganesha | 37. Talarigatta Gate |
| 6. Kadalekalu Ganesha Temple | 38. Ahmed Khan's Mosque |
| 7. Krishna Temple | 39. Malyavanta Raghunatha Temple |
| 8. Lakshmi Narasimha Temple (Narasimha Statue) | 40. Ganagitti Jaina Temple |
| 9. Badavilinga Temple | 41. Bhima's Gateway |
| 10. Chandikeswara Temple | 42. ASI Museum |
| 11. Uddhana Virabhadra Temple | 43. Pattabhirama Temple |
| 12. Thurtu Kaluve (Canal) | 44. Domed Gate |
| 13. Hampi Bazaar | 45. Chandrasekhara Temple |
| 14. Greenlaw's Photo Gallery | 46. Saraswati Temple |
| 15. Kampa Bhupa Marga | 47. Octagonal Water Pavilion |
| 16. Yeduru Basavanna (Monolithic Bull) | 48. Queen's Bath |
| 17. Matanga Hill | 49. Mahanavami Dibba |
| 18. Achyutaraya (Tiruvengalanatha) Temple | 50. Stepped Tank |
| 19. Soolai Bazaar (Achyutapete) | 51. King's Audience Hall |
| 20. Yantroddharak Anjaneya Temple | 52. Hazara Ramachandra Temple |
| 21. Kodanda Rama Temple | 53. Pan Supari Bazaar |
| 22. Chakratirtha | 54. Pattana Yellamma Temple |
| 23. Varaha Temple | 55. Palace of Vira Harihara |
| 24. Narasimha Temple | 56. Noblemen's Quarter |
| 25. Sri Raghunandanatirtha Brundavana | 57. Prasanna Virupaksha (Underground Shiva) Temple |
| 26. Gateway | 58. Lotus Mahal |
| 27. King's Balance | 59. Elephant's Stable |
| 28. Purandara Mandapa | 60. Guards' House |
| 29. Sri Naraharitirtha Brundavan | 61. Ranga Temple |
| 30. Stone Bridge | 62. Anjanadri Hill |
| 31. Inscribed Vishnu Temple | 63. Pampa Sarovara |
| 32. Vitthala Temple | 64. Chandramouleshwara Temple |
| | 65. Nava Vrindavana |

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