ABSTRACT

Religion and its cosmology have always played a very integral role in the history of making different cultures and lifestyles all around the world. Every civilization in past has its roots in some sort of a religious belief system by which it is identified. Part of that identity in civilization comes from its expression in arts and architecture.

My dissertation is about the metaphysical ideas of Islamic cosmology and its connection with the architecture of the Muslim civilization. The topic first aims to define the mystical aspect of Islamic cosmology and its defining parameters. Then it moves on to explain the inherent symbols central to any Islamic cosmological construct. Finally this dissertation relates the concerning cosmic symbols to its physical translation in architecture. The examples to explain this connection between the religion and the build form has been chosen very carefully, starting from some very important early architectural examples of the Islamic era, leading on to local case studies from Mughal period.

The intent behind all the studies above is to eventually investigate and find out, how the subject of Islamic cosmology translates itself physically in the local contemporary architecture of Pakistan, and how the approach to its design has evolved over the period of time since the Mughal era.