

# Beautiful Gardens Under The Mughals

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## *Abstract*

*Mughal garden were square or rectangular called Chaharbagh pattern. In Mughal gardens the spaces were available for entertainment too. The main elements of the Mughal gardens includes running water and a pool to reflect the beauties of the sky.*

**Keywords :** *Chaharbagh, Quranic paradise, Baradari, Bagh-i-kila, Bagh-i-vafa, Shalmar bagh, Nishat bagh, Nasim bagh*

Gardens doubtless existed in India before the advent of the Mughals. Firuz Shah, indeed, is said to have planted twelve hundred gardens near Delhi at the end of the fourteenth century.<sup>1</sup> But these were probably in the old Hindu style, and bore little resemblance to the irrigated pleasantries associated with the name of the Timurids. Babur, with vivid recollections of his motherland, Farghana, and its 'beautiful gardens of Ush, gay with violates, tulips, and roses in their seasons', laments in his *Memoirs* the lack of fair gardens in Hindustan; and Abu'l Fazl in a passage of his *Ain Akbari* explains that prior to Babur's arrival the Indian garden was planned on no method and possessed no pavilions nor murmuring fountains. The art of garden-building which Babur brought with him to India and bequeathed to his successors, had been fully developed in Persia and Turkestan: its main characteristic was artificial irrigation in the form of channels, basins or tanks, and dwarf waterfalls, so built that the water brimmed to the level of the paths on either side, and the plan involved a series of terraces on sloping ground, usually numbering eight to correspond with the eight divisions of the Quranic Paradise, but sometimes seven, to symbolize the seven planets.<sup>2</sup> The main pavilion, which has been described as the climax of the garden, usually occupied the topmost terrace, giving wide views on all sides, but was sometimes built on the lowest terrace of all, in order to offer the occupant an uninterrupted vista of the fountains and waterfalls, ranging upwards through the garden. The ground-plan of the Persian and Mughal garden was a square or rectangle, divided into a series of smaller squares or parterres, the whole being encircled by a high wall with serrated battlements, pierced by a lofty gateway. The larger gardens were usually provided with four gateways, and small octagonal buildings marked the

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