

Architectural Grammar of Laxmipur Palace: A Comparative Study with the Orchha Palaces using Yatin Pandya's Elements of Space Making

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Abstract - This study examines the spatial and architectural composition of Laxmipur Palace using Yatin Pandya's *Elements of Space Making*. It addresses the limited documentation of regional palaces by comparing Laxmipur with Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal in Orchha.

Using a qualitative and comparative approach, the research analyzes elements such as floors, walls, columns, doors, windows, stairs, and roofs to understand spatial hierarchy and movement.

The study finds shared spatial principles across the palaces, while noting that Orchha palaces are larger and more ceremonial, whereas Laxmipur Palace has a simpler spatial organization, contributing to the documentation of lesser-studied regional architecture.

Key Words: Laxmipur Palace, Yatin Pandya, *Elements of Space Making*, Orchha palaces, comparative analysis

1. INTRODUCTION

Although India is home to a rich legacy of palace architecture, academic research has largely focused on well-known and monumentally preserved examples. As a result, many smaller and regionally significant palaces remain overlooked. Panna's Laxmipur Palace is one such palace.

Laxmipur Palace takes its name from Laxmipur village and was constructed in 1880 by Lokpal Singh, the brother of Rudra Pratap Singh. Rudra Pratap Singh is a significant historical figure in the Panna region and is associated with prominent landmarks such as the Baldaoji Temple and Ajaygarh Ghat. The palace initially functioned as a royal and administrative structure, reflecting the political and social organization of the region during the late nineteenth century. Tax collection activities were carried out within the palace by the king's brother-in-law, indicating its role as an administrative center in addition to being a royal residence.

The Bundelkhand region of central India, shaped by a rugged terrain and harsh climate, developed a robust and defensive architectural language using local materials. Under the Bundela Rajputs, this was expressed through forts and palaces featuring stone walls, courtyards, jharokhas, and chhatris.

Panna, a historic princely state, exemplifies this character through its palace architecture, reflecting a regional synthesis of geography, culture, and power.



Fig -1: Laxmipur palace, Laxmipur village, Panna, Madhya Pradesh; *Source: Author*

Architecturally, Laxmipur Palace reflects an Indo-European style, blending regional traditions with external influences. Its entrance, marked by sphinx sculptures, highlights the incorporation of foreign elements. Mughal features appear in arch-shaped doorways, while Rajput influences are seen in small, strategically placed windows. Roman-style pillars further contribute to its layered architectural character.

The construction of Laxmipur Palace reflects traditional Central Indian techniques, using lime-based mortar made of chuna, jaggery, and lentils. This composition enhances strength, durability, and breathability, allowing natural moisture exchange and passive thermal regulation suited to Panna's climate.

Set within an open landscape, the palace benefits from ventilation, daylight, and strong visual prominence. Additionally, features such as secret tunnels indicate a response to security needs. Together, these aspects highlight a sustainable, climate-responsive, and strategically planned architectural approach.



Fig -2: Laxmipur palace site; Source: Google maps

2. NEED FOR THE RESEARCH

Much of architectural research in India focuses on well-known monuments, leaving many regional palaces under-documented. Laxmipur Palace is one such example that has received limited academic attention despite its historical value.

This study addresses this gap by comparing Laxmipur Palace with Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal in Orchha to understand how similar architectural traditions appear across different scales and contexts.

Using fundamental architectural elements—floors, walls, columns, doors, windows, stairs, and roofs, the research reveals spatial logic and relationships, contributing to a broader understanding of regional architecture.

3. AIM

The aim of this research is to critically analyze the spatial and architectural composition of Laxmipur palace using Yatin Pandya's *Elements of Space Making* framework to understand the significance of adaptive potential of Laxmipur Palace.

4. OBJECTIVES

- To explore and document the architectural significance and elements of Laxmipur Palace and identify shared principles and contextual variations in spatial grammar.
- To analyse Laxmipur Palace using Yatin Pandya's *Elements of Space Making* framework and conduct a comparative architectural analysis with Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal, Orchha.
- To understand how fundamental architectural elements contribute to spatial experience and architectural hierarchy and identify shared principles and contextual variations in spatial grammar.
- To explore the palace's potential for informed adaptive reuse.

5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on a comparative architectural reading of Laxmipur Palace in relation to Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal, Orchha. The scope is confined to understanding spatial organization and architectural character through the analysis of fundamental building elements. The research is limited to qualitative interpretation based on site observations and existing literature.

6. FRAMEWORK FOR THE STUDY

This study adopts Yatin Pandya's *Elements of Space Making* as its analytical framework, examining seven architectural elements—floor, wall, column, door, window, stair, and roof—to understand spatial hierarchy, circulation, enclosure, and experiential quality in Laxmipur Palace and the Orchha palaces.

Floor

- Definition: Horizontal plane forming the base for occupation, movement, and activity.
- Anatomy: Ground plane, plinths, terraces, courtyards, stepped platforms.
- Evolution: From natural ground to articulated plinths expressing hierarchy.
- Attributes: Continuity, level variation, texture, materiality.
- Spatial Roles: Organizes circulation, defines zones, establishes hierarchy.
- Design Considerations: Influences privacy, movement, and spatial order.

Wall

- Definition: Vertical enclosure defining boundaries and protection.
- Anatomy: Load-bearing walls, partitions, parapets, enclosure walls.
- Evolution: From defensive enclosures to spatial separators regulating climate and privacy.
- Attributes: Thickness, solidity, permeability, orientation.
- Spatial Roles: Provides enclosure, climatic control, and spatial division.
- Design Considerations: Determines inward vs. outward spatial character.

Column

- Definition: Vertical structural element supporting loads and organizing space.
- Anatomy: Stone columns, piers, colonnades.
- Evolution: From structural supports to rhythmic and expressive spatial elements.

- Attributes: Proportion, spacing, rhythm, ornamentation.
- Spatial Roles: Defines semi-open spaces, creates rhythm and visual order.
- Design Considerations: Reflects both functional and ceremonial roles.

Door

- Definition: Opening enabling controlled transition between spaces.
- Anatomy: Door leaf, frame, threshold, arch.
- Evolution: From basic apertures to articulated thresholds expressing hierarchy.
- Attributes: Size, position, orientation, articulation.
- Spatial Roles: Frames movement, establishes thresholds and hierarchy.
- Design Considerations: Influences movement and symbolic transitions.

Window

- Definition: Opening allowing light, air, and visual connection.
- Anatomy: Openings, jalis, shutters, frames.
- Evolution: From small ventilation openings to visual and environmental devices.
- Attributes: Size, placement, transparency, framing.
- Spatial Roles: Regulates light, ventilation, and visual engagement.
- Design Considerations: Balances privacy with openness.

Stair

- Definition: Element enabling vertical movement between levels.
- Anatomy: Steps, landings, railings, ramps.
- Evolution: From functional connectors to spatially expressive elements.
- Attributes: Direction, width, visibility, continuity.
- Spatial Roles: Establishes vertical hierarchy and sequencing.
- Design Considerations: Defines importance of vertical circulation.

Roof

- Definition: Upper enclosing element providing shelter and defining skyline.
- Anatomy: Flat roofs, domes, chhatris, pavilions.

- Evolution: From flat protective planes to symbolic and expressive forms.
- Attributes: Form, height, silhouette, materiality.
- Spatial Roles: Provides climatic protection and spatial closure.
- Design Considerations: Contributes to identity and symbolic expression.

7. RAJA MAHAL, ORCHHA

Raja Mahal, one of the earliest palaces in the Orchha fort complex, functioned as a royal residence and administrative center. Its inward-looking layout is organized around a sequence of courtyards that structure movement and create transitions from public to private spaces (Singh, 2024).

Architecturally, it is characterized by a restrained and functional use of elements. Thick masonry walls provide enclosure, security, and thermal comfort, while simple columns support semi-open courtyard spaces. Openings are minimal, with small, strategically placed windows ensuring privacy and climate responsiveness. Flat roofs emphasize horizontality and allow terrace use. Overall, its spatial richness emerges through sequencing and proportion rather than ornamentation.



Fig -3: Raja Mahal, Orchha; Source: vacationindia.com

8. JEHANGIR MAHAL, ORCHHA

Jehangir Mahal represents a later, more ceremonial phase of palace architecture in Orchha, built to commemorate Emperor Jehangir's visit and symbolize political alliance and prestige (Singh, 2024). Unlike Raja Mahal, it is outward-looking, vertically expressive, and visually dominant within the fort complex.

The palace is organized across multiple levels, creating a strong vertical hierarchy through terraces and raised platforms. Columns are more ornate, especially in ceremonial spaces, enhancing grandeur. Walls are punctuated with larger and more frequent openings, allowing visual connection with the surroundings. The roofscape, with domes, chhatris, and

pavilions, is highly expressive, contributing to both the skyline and the symbolic identity of the palace.



Fig -4: Jehangir Mahal, Orchha; Source: vacationindia.com

8. DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Data Collection Methods

a) Primary Data

- On-site observation and spatial walkthroughs to study hierarchy, circulation, and transitions (supported by sketches and field notes).
- Photographic documentation of architectural elements, materials, façades, openings, and courts.
- Informal discussions with local historians and experts for cultural and historical insights.

b) Secondary Data

- Academic papers and research articles on Central Indian palace architecture.
- Architectural texts, especially Yatin Pandya's *Elements of Space Making*.
- Archival drawings, historical records, and photographic documentation.
- Online repositories and heritage archives for comparative and theoretical reference.

Instruments and Tools

- Hand-drawn analytical diagrams to study spatial hierarchy, circulation, and volumetric relationships.
- Comparative frameworks for cross-analysis between case studies.
- Plan and section studies to analyse proportions, axes, and vertical layering.
- Diagrammatic overlays to map movement, zoning, and public-private gradients.
- Photographic documentation and field observations for material and contextual analysis.

9. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Floor



Fig -5: Floor in Laxmipur palace; Source: Author

The floor of Laxmipur Palace reflects a functional hierarchy, with linear halls for semi-public use and smaller rooms arranged across two levels, connected through both shared and private staircases. Locally sourced stone flooring remains largely intact, with visible wear indicating patterns of movement and later misuse. Level differences mark transitions between public and private zones, while verandas act as selective spatial buffers. The survival of the original flooring even during its use as a prison highlights its durability and climate-responsive material selection.

Attributes	Laxmipur palace	Bibi ka maqbara	Jehangir Mahal
Layout Organization	Linear halls + dispersed rooms over two floors	Centralized courtyard plan with axial galleries	Symmetrical, processional layout with defensive terraces
Floor Material	Local stone, unpolished; structurally enduring	Tiled and mosaic (now faded); symbolic in expression	Cut stone slabs; ceremonial and defensive in use
Level Articulation	Ground (semi-public) vs upper (private); stairs mark hierarchy	Platforms + axis-based transitions	Elevated terraces + battlements; visual dominance
Visual Language	Subdued and utilitarian; hierarchy via level and access	Symbolic floor elements align with courtly narrative	Monumental, martial, and designed for spectacle
Surface Evolution	Unchanged since construction; some slabs broken due to flooring	Patina visible; formal preservation in some areas	Structural resilience; minimal wear due to conservation
Edge Definition	Limited articulation; pilasters and thresholds in key rooms	Strong floor borders, inlay frames and axial ornamentation	Bold edge formations through terraces and parapets

Table -1: Comparative analysis of floor; Source for sketches: Author

Wall

The walls of Laxmipur Palace serve primarily structural and climatic roles. They are made of thick local stone, with a robust quality that provides insulation and load-bearing capacity. These walls typically have minimal surface modulation, mostly plain, though a few verandas and entrances feature minor detailing. There is no extensive use of jaalis or deep recesses. Their vertical scale is modest, serving two stories, and they visually demarcate different functions, administrative on the ground floor, residential above. Subdivisions within rooms are created by full walls, and staircases are either enclosed or tucked into corners. Some upper floor walls show deterioration due to treasure hunting.



Fig -6: Wall in Laxmipur palace; Source: Author

Parameters	Laxmipur palace	Raja mahal	Jehangir Mahal
Typology	Load-bearing, plain enclosing walls	Hierarchical enclosures separating zones	Structural + symbolic, ceremonial enclosure
Facade Modulator	Minimal articulation, few door frames	Flat facade with selected openings	Highly articulated with jaalis, arches, brackets
Verticality	Two stories, consistent massing	Layered vertical scale with visual grounding	Tower-like projections and stepped back facades
Movement Guide	Indirect circulation; stairs enclosed or peripheral	Direct transitions with thresholds and wall zoning	Processional path reinforced by wall recesses and symmetry
Wall Section	Thick stone with limited perforation	Stone and plaster with internal voids and ledges	Varied thickness; balconies, jaalis, deep overhangs for shading

Table -2: Comparative analysis of wall; Source for sketches: Author

Column

Columns in Laxmipur Palace follow an Indo-European style, constructed in stone and spaced symmetrically across verandas and entrance bays. There is a clear variation in type: entrance columns are stout with slight base and capital ornamentation, while interior veranda columns are slimmer and more restrained. Most columns are structural but show minor decorative intention, fluted bases, shallow circular capitals. Their rhythm supports the linear layout of the facade and open verandas. Though most columns remain intact, some damage is visible, especially on upper floors due to neglect and looting. Despite this, they effectively frame movement and views along corridors.



Fig -7: Columns in Laxmipur palace; Source: Author

Parameters	Laxmipur palace	Raja mahal	Jehangir Mahal
Typology	Indo-European, hybrid functional-decorative	Simple load-bearing stone or brick	Mughal-Bundeli blend, both support + ornamental
Form and order	Symmetrical; rounded and tapered with modest base/capital	Straight shafts, minimal articulation	Carved, sometimes octagonal, often supporting brackets
Spatial Rhythm	Evenly spaced; emphasizes linear veranda and entry bays	Regular placement within halls and courtyards	Used rhythmically in facade projections and balconies
Structural Function	Supports verandas, corridors, and entrance bays	Primarily load-bearing columns for halls and balconies	Structural + symbolic in balconies, gateways, terraces
Decorative Role	Minor decorative elements on base/capital	Very minimal	High ornamentation—brackets, carvings, motifs
Transition/Threshold Use	Framing verandas and leading into halls	Supporting internal divisions	Enhances thresholds at entrances, courtyards, and terraces

Table -3: Comparative analysis of Column; Source for sketches: Author

Window

The windows in Laxmipur Palace are modest in size and detailing, typically small, rectangular openings without frames or ornamentation. Most are located on the upper floors, suggesting their primary role was to provide views and daylight rather than ventilation or decorative expression. The limited number and placement of windows align with the building's defensive and private functions. Their recessed nature within thick walls offers a subtle spatial depth but minimal articulation, reflecting a pragmatic and subdued approach to window design.



Fig -8: Window in Laxmipur palace; Source: Author

Parameters	Laxmipur palace	Raja mahal	Wangsa mahal
Typology	Rectangular, squat, unornamented openings; mostly fixed.	Arched or cusped windows, jharokha-style, often deeply set.	Combination of jharokhas and arched windows with projecting balconies.
Proportion & Scale	Small, squat proportions; less height; wide apertures.	Tall vertical openings with ornamental framing.	Grand, wide, and often framed within decorative stonework.
Positioning & Repetition	Sparse, irregular, most concentrated on top floors for privacy and view.	Symmetrical placement; multiple openings per facade.	Symmetrical and layered in elevation; stacked across floors.
Light & Ventilation Strategy	Limited to light ingress on upper levels; no cross-ventilation strategy.	Used strategically for daylighting; some openings for ventilation.	Integrated with ventilation; high placement enhances airflow.
Wall Relationship	Deeply set within thick masonry walls, flush to surface, no cornices.	Strong articulation with wall planes; recessed and highlighted.	Project outward or recessed with emphasis; define facade modulation.
Visual Access & Framing	Focused on distant landscape view from upper floor; no decorative framing or framing of views.	Framed vistas through layered openings and jharokhas.	Framed axial and panoramic views; compositional significance in spatial hierarchy.

Table-4: Comparative analysis of Window; Source for sketches: Author

Door

Most doors in Laxmipur Palace are either arched in the Mughal mehrab style or simple rectangular openings. Some arched doors once featured colored/tinted glass inserts above the frame. On the ground floor, where spaces are arranged linearly, doors are uniformly placed and sized modestly, indicating a pragmatic spatial layout. In the larger halls, rectangular doors are broader, accommodating semi-public administrative uses. The upper levels have selectively placed doors based on room function. Visual or circulation alignments are limited, and many doors are now broken or damaged due to neglect and



looting.

Fig -9: Doors in Laxmipur palace; Source: Author

Architectural Typology	Laxmipur palace	Raja mahal	Wangsa mahal
Form	Mostly narrow and small; some large rectangular ones in halls.	Larger, formal dimensions for public/private transitions.	Very large doors, especially for ceremonial functions.
Material & Details	Plastered brick surrounds; some had tinted glass above.	Carved stone and timber detailing.	Stone and timber with decorative lattice or perforated panels.
Placement Logic	Linear ground floor alignment; upper floors based on functional need.	Axial placement reinforces spatial hierarchy.	Highly symmetrical and aligned with circulation pathways.
Symbolic Role	Functional with minimal ornamentation.	Strong ceremonial symbolism in sacred and administrative areas.	Emphasizes imperial scale and ceremonial grandeur.

Table -5: Comparative analysis of door; Source for sketches: Author

Stair

The staircases in Laxmipur Palace are modest in scale and functional in nature. Mostly constructed in dog-legged or L-shaped configurations, they are positioned between rooms or along the periphery, suggesting discreet vertical circulation. They are made of local stone, with no ornamental railings or finishes. Some stairs lead to hidden or private rooms, indicating their strategic role in defense and controlled access. Most are narrow with higher risers, further reinforcing vertical hierarchy. Some staircases have deteriorated due to looting and structural decay.



Fig -9: Doors in Laxmipur palace; Source: Author

Roof

In architectural composition, the roof is not merely a structural enclosure but a crucial spatial and symbolic element that defines the completion, articulation, and identity of a built form. As articulated by Yatin Pandya in Elements of Space making, roofs influence spatial hierarchy, control environmental responses, and serve as platforms of functional or symbolic significance. Their form, whether flat, sloped, domed, or terraced, interacts with light, climate, and visual experience, often denoting status, ceremonial intent, or defensive strategy. In palatial architecture, especially, the roof often becomes a dominant visual plane, acting as both a spatial terminus and an expressive architectural layer.



Fig -10: Doors in Laxmipur palace; Source: Author

Parameters	Laxmipur palace	Raja mahal	Jaliscoor mahal
Typology	Dog-legged and L-shaped, modest and concealed	Linear and processional, part of formal movement spine	Monumental, wide staircases for royal processions
Material	Stone and plaster	Stone and lime plaster	Stone with intricate detailing and finishes
Placement strategy	Peripheral, between rooms, sometimes hidden	Symmetrically aligned, axial connection	Grand central access and axial alignment
Access Function	Vertical segregation, semi-private and private circulation	Formal vertical transition, guides access to royal spaces	Royal approach and public-to-private zoning
Visual and Circulation Role	Concealed or discreet, not emphasized	Visible and hierarchical	Dominant visual anchors in spatial planning
Ornamentation	Minimal to none, purely structural	Moderate, integrated with architectural motifs	Rich ornamentation, sculptural detailing

Table -6: Comparative analysis of roof, Source for sketches: Author

Dimension	Laxmipur Palace	Raja Mahal	Jehangir Mahal
Typology	Flat terrace with parapets; serves defensive purpose	Domes and flat roof with corner chhatris	Domes and domed chhatris integrated with towers
Material	Stone slab roof supported by wooden beams; lime-based plaster	Stone and lime plaster roof, wooden supports with ornamentation	Stone domes with detailed plasterwork and finials
Nature of Access	Restricted access; accessible via secluded stairs for defense	Centrally located and accessible; meant for royal congregation	Accessible as part of the circulation spine and royal areas
Visual Character	Flat surface with minimal articulation; decorative parapet edge	Dominant domes, grand central profile with chhatris	Highly articulated roofscape with multiple domes and finials
Symbolic Role	Minimal visual emphasis; utility-focused and defensive	Marks royal presence; visually central and formal	Highly symbolic; accentuates power and authority
Articulation & Detailing	Decorative cornices and parapets with plaster detailing	Chhatris with finials and domical articulation	Fine ornamentation, finials, domes, and

Table -7: Comparative analysis of roof, Source of Sketches: Author

10. FINAL ANALYSIS

- Flooring in the three palaces reflects differences in spatial hierarchy and architectural intent. Laxmipur Palace uses simple stone floors with subtle level changes to support functional movement and zoning. In contrast, Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal in Orchha use larger, patterned floor surfaces and raised platforms to emphasize ceremonial circulation, symmetry, and spatial hierarchy.
- Walls in the three palaces shape spatial hierarchy and architectural expression. Laxmipur Palace uses thick, plain masonry walls emphasizing privacy, structural solidity, and functional performance. In contrast, Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal feature articulated walls with arches, jharokhas, and balconies, creating visual depth and ceremonial character.
- Columns across the palaces differ in expression and architectural role. In Laxmipur Palace, stone columns are simple and primarily structural, organizing verandas and transitional spaces with minimal ornamentation. In contrast, Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal feature elaborately carved columns that create rhythmic colonnades and emphasize ceremonial hierarchy and grandeur.

- Windows across the palaces reflect different spatial priorities and façade expression. In Laxmipur Palace, windows are small, high-set, and minimally articulated, focusing on privacy, controlled light, and ventilation. In contrast, Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal use larger, ornamented windows with jharokhas and balconies, contributing to façade rhythm, views, and ceremonial character.

- Doors across the palaces reflect different roles in spatial hierarchy and movement. In Laxmipur Palace, doors are simple, modestly ornamented, and functionally placed, mainly regulating access between spaces. In contrast, Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal use larger, aligned, and more decorative doorways that frame processional routes and emphasize ceremonial hierarchy.

- Staircases across the palaces reflect different circulation strategies and spatial intent. In Laxmipur Palace, stairs are narrow, discreet, and embedded within walls, supporting private and controlled movement. In contrast, Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal feature broader, ceremonial staircases aligned with axes, emphasizing hierarchy, movement, and architectural grandeur.

- Roofs across the palaces reflect different architectural priorities and visual expression. In Laxmipur Palace, roofs are flat, terraced, and functional, emphasizing climatic adaptability and structural efficiency. In contrast, Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal feature domes, chhatris, and pavilions, creating a dramatic skyline and reinforcing ceremonial grandeur.

11. CONCLUSION

Summary of Research

The study examines spatial articulation in Indian palace architecture using Yatin Pandya's Elements of Space Making, focusing on Laxmipur Palace and comparing it with Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal. By analysing seven elements-floor, wall, column, door, window, stair, and roof-the research highlights how spatial hierarchy, circulation, and experience are shaped. Combining primary site observations with secondary sources, the study adopts an element-based approach to reveal underlying architectural logic beyond style. It also emphasizes the value of lesser-known structures like Laxmipur Palace within the broader regional context.

Key Conclusions

- Floor: Laxmipur uses subtle level changes for hierarchy, while Orchha palaces employ grand courtyards and plinths for ceremonial movement.

- Wall: Laxmipur walls are plain and functional; Orchha walls are articulated and expressive.
- Column: Laxmipur columns are structural and minimal; Orchha columns are ornate and symbolic.
- Door: Laxmipur doors are utilitarian; Orchha doors act as ceremonial thresholds.
- Window: Laxmipur windows are small and functional; Orchha windows are expressive and visually engaging.
- Stair: Laxmipur stairs are discreet and functional; Orchha stairs are integrated into spatial drama and hierarchy.
- Roof: Laxmipur roofs are simple and flat; Orchha roofs are dynamic with domes and chhatris.

Overall, Laxmipur Palace demonstrates a coherent, functional architectural logic, while sharing core spatial principles with the Orchha palaces.

Recommendations

- Broaden heritage criteria to include lesser-known regional structures.
- Adopt spatial-analytical frameworks for documentation and study.
- Use context-sensitive conservation methods based on local materials.
- Include underrepresented case studies in architectural education.
- Encourage community participation in heritage preservation.

Limitations of the Study

- Lack of formal drawings required reliance on visual documentation.
- Partial inaccessibility due to the palace's abandoned condition.
- Orchha palaces studied through secondary sources only.
- Focus limited to spatial analysis, excluding socio-cultural aspects.

Scope for Future Research

Future research can explore adaptive reuse of Laxmipur Palace, study traditional materials like lime-based plaster, and expand comparative studies with other regional palaces. Interdisciplinary approaches involving history and anthropology, along with digital tools like 3D documentation, can further enhance understanding and conservation.

Concluding Remarks

The study demonstrates that architectural value extends beyond scale and monumentality. Laxmipur Palace, though modest, reveals strong spatial logic, contextual sensitivity, and material intelligence. Through comparative analysis, it is positioned within a broader regional tradition, highlighting the need for more inclusive architectural research and conservation.

12. KEY TAKEAWAYS

When placed alongside the more established Orchha palaces-Raja Mahal and Jehangir Mahal-the spatial logic of Laxmipur Palace emerges not as an outlier, but as part of a broader architectural tradition shaped by climate, cultural practices, and political function. While differences in scale and ornamentation reflect varying royal priorities, all three share common spatial strategies such as hierarchical zoning, controlled circulation, and articulated thresholds, indicating a continuity of architectural thinking across Central India.

This comparison highlights that architectural value extends beyond monumentality to include clarity, efficiency, and contextual responsiveness. Laxmipur Palace, though modest, demonstrates a refined spatial logic aligned with its regional context.

Importantly, the study emphasizes the need to broaden architectural inquiry beyond well-known monuments to include lesser-known structures that embody local ingenuity. Palaces like Laxmipur deserve both preservation and recognition, as they contribute meaningfully to India's architectural legacy through their contextual sensitivity and spatial intelligence.

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