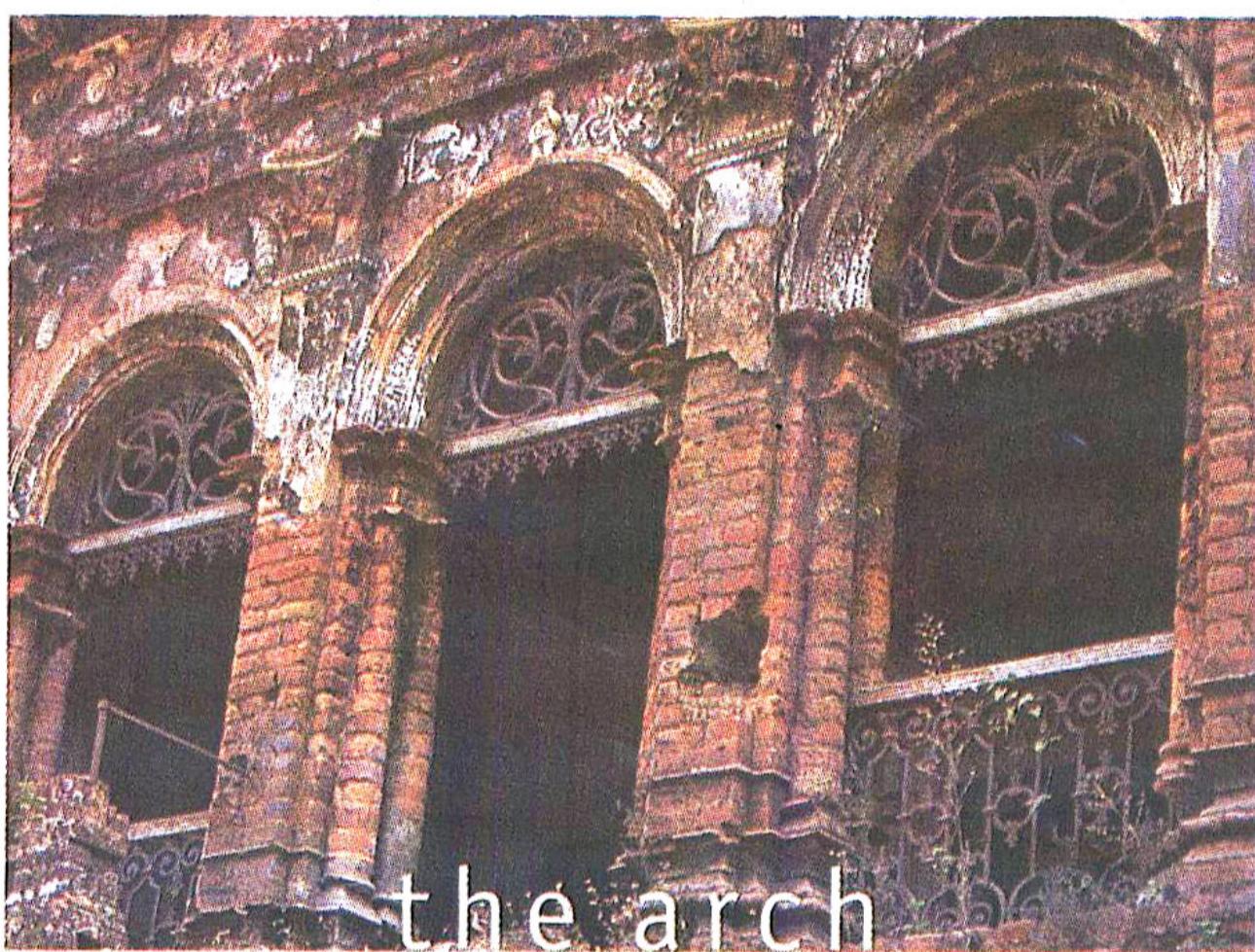


DECOR



the arch

DHAKA as a city is almost 400 years old. On the north bank of Buriganga known as Dhakabazu, Nawab Islam Khan commissioned his capital in 1608 AD. Since then Dhaka flourished as a city on the banks of the river and grew mostly northwards. Today, Dhaka is experiencing drastic urbanisation. Long gone are the single unit houses, rapidly replaced by multistoried apartments.

Yet in some sections of the city, particularly old Dhaka, landmark buildings like the Ahsan Manzil, Lalbagh Fort and Curzon Hall, Dhaka University, Eden Girl's College and others, retain their Moghul and British architectural influence. One unique architectural feature binds all this buildings in unity- the Arch!

This week, we focus on the arch, a popular architectural form loved by people through out the world. Arches were used by the Persian, Indus Valley, Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek and Assyrian civilisations for underground structures such as

drains and vaults, but the ancient Romans were the first to incorporate them into mainstream design. The Roman arch is semicircular, built from an odd number of arch bricks. The Romans used this type of semicircular arch freely in many of their secular structures such as aqueducts, palaces and amphitheaters.

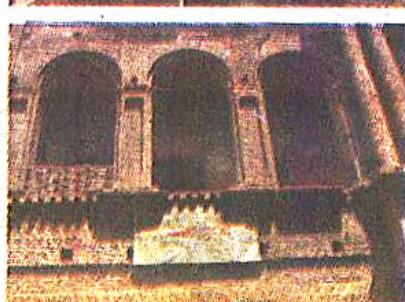
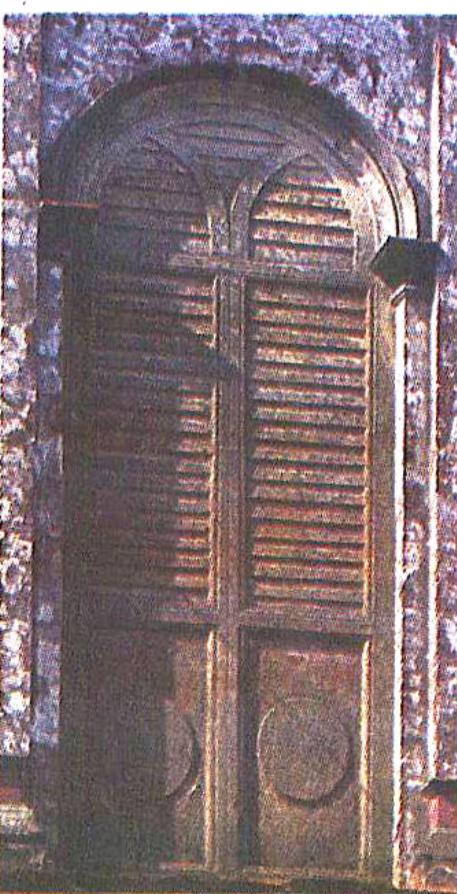
An arch requires all its elements to hold it together. A frame (historically, of wood) is first built which exactly follows the form of the underside of the arch. This is known as a centre or centring. For an arch higher than head height, scaffolding would be required by the builders, so that it can be combined with the arch support. Arches fall down when the frame is removed if construction or planning is incorrect. The interior and lower line or curve of an arch is known as the intrados.

Narayanganj, known as 'The city of Panam', still boasts old houses with arches. People still visit the historic city of Sonargaon. They are attracted by its

immense beauty and by the ruins of buildings and relics that date back to the era of medieval Bengal. The Goaldi Mosque, situated in the Goaldi village is a wonderful example of an ancient Sonargaon building. The Folklore Museum is another attraction- the old windows, doors, stairs and walls with their beautiful ornamental arches till bear our our architectural history.

The arch is such a common form that people chose to embrace it even in interior decor. Care must be taken to use it within proportion. As mentioned before arches require sufficient height, otherwise the effect is spoilt. The arch-shaped entry door or partition wall or wall panelling looks really great.

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Photo Credit: Aziza Ohida Shireen Runu



HOROSCOPE



ARIES

(Mar. 21- April 19)

You are best to be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't be lasting. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements. Confusion could result when communicating with others. Do your own research and be prepared. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



TAURUS

(Apr. 20- May 20)

Try not to upset others with your plans. You may find that family members may not be too easy to get along with. Be careful not to come on too strong. You can ferret out secret information if you just listen to what others have to say. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



GEMINI

(May 21-June 21)

Do not confront situations unless you are sure you have a good understanding of the dilemma. Problems with relatives and friends could surface. You can handle situations that require contact with institutions or large corporations. Deception may cause disputes you can do without. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



CANCER

(June 22-July 22)

Partnerships may be strained if one of you has been erratic and hard to deal with. You will be attracted to unusual forms of entertainment and foreign cultures. Make residential changes that will lift your spirits. Don't let peers distract you or push their work your way. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

An older member of the family may need assistance. You can't make things better if you don't know what to fix. Try to make arrangements with close friends or relatives to spend a few days away. It will do you some good. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

It's a good time to make changes to your living quarters that will give you more space. You may want to sign up for lectures or courses that will bring you mental stimulation. Personal problems may be hanging over your head but don't confront the situation. You can do everything on your own. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You will need to do a lot of research if you wish to get to the bottom of things. Take your time before making personal decisions. You need to sit back and enjoy. Losses are evident. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



SCORPIO

(Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Make decisions about your professional objectives. You may have problems with those you live with. Some of the best opportunities will crop up if you keep an open mind. You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Look after financial transactions this week. You need to take some time out to decide what you want to do. Your need to put great detail into everything you do may cause you to miss the overall picture. You are apt to meet someone special on your journey. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

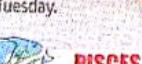
Home improvement projects will go well if you delegate work to all your family members. Take positive action. Don't hesitate to talk to your partner about rekindling your relationship. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Risks will not be profitable. You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. Hold on; your time will come. Good friends will give you honest answers. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



PISCES

(Feb. 20-March. 20)

You may be tempted to spend too much on entertainment or luxury items. You may find that your emotional partner will not be too eager to accommodate you. You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time to get them to help or to back your ideas. Avoid being overly opinionated or you will alienate friends. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.