



**Municipal Corporation
of Greater Mumbai**



*Rich
Architectural
Heritage
of Mumbai*



Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

MUMBAI CITY

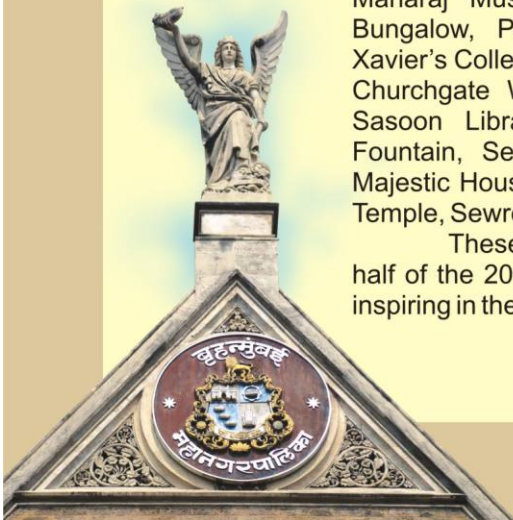


Mumbai, a city recognized worldwide by its diverse cultural variety of people living in perfect harmony. Made of seven islands, this city puts forth an architectural heritage with a string of huge architectural marvels. Even if history of Mumbai dates back merely 700 years, Mumbai has defined milestones in architectural heritages for the whole of India. As the city rests on a very low height from sea level, considering the development that has happened in the city with this architectural heritage of Mumbai will leave us awestruck. So we have highlighted chosen few of these architectural marvels of which dedicates it to all Mumbaikars.

The work of laying the foundation and joining the seven islands had begun in full swing. Famous architects got dedicated to designing eye pleasing buildings to add to the heritage of Mumbai. By the use of artistic, simple and attractive carvings in stone they created structures reflecting the era of Modern culture. Gothic and Indo-Islamic styles of architecture were the inspirations for these designs. Carved stonework, smooth and polished floors, brass door handles and latches, iron grills, stained glass, granite pillars and round domes were some of the features used extensively in the design of the structures. After the completion of this blueprint, the real construction work began.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (previously Victoria Terminus), Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai Head Office, Rajabai Tower & Convocation Hall of Mumbai University, Taj Mahal Hotel, General Post Office, Gateway of India, Mahatma Jotiba Phule Market (Crawford Market), Asiatic Society of Mumbai, Sir Cowasji Jehangir Public Hall, Bombay High Court, Old Secretariat - City Civil Session Court, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum (Prince of Wales Museum), Mayor Bungalow, Police Headquarter, Wilson College, Saint Xavier's College, Elphinstone College, Sir J.J. School of Art, Churchgate Western Railway Headquarter (Old), David Sassoon Library, Anjuman-E-Islam High School, Flora Fountain, Seth Karsetji Manokji (Khada Parsi) Statue, Majestic House, Mount Mary Church, Haji Ali Dargah, Fire Temple, Sewree Fort etc.

These artistic 'Architectural Heritages' from the first half of the 20th century still remain Monumental and awe-inspiring in the minds of Mumbaikars.





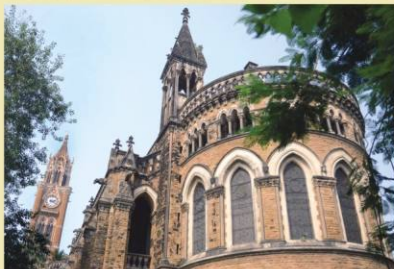
**Municipal Corporation
of Greater Mumbai Head Office**



When the construction of this building began, as per plan, Frederick William Stevens a reputed architect designed the project plan and the design of the building, while the construction was completed under the supervision of Raosaheb Sitaram Khanderiao. The building was erected on a space granted by the reigning government's Civil construction department and was about 6600.65 square metres in size. The cost of construction was about Rs. 11,19,969/- . Construction began on 25th April 1889 and completed on 31st July 1893.

The building was designed by Gothic style and is an exemplary display of the harmonious combination of Western and Eastern design. The triangular intersection created by Horneby road and Crookshank road (means today's D.N. Road & Mahapalika Marg) is the address of the building. The building is characterized by its 235 feet tall front tower and having Mayor, Municipal Commissioner, Officers & Committee offices. It also boasts of a conference hall about 68 feet long, 32 feet wide and 38 feet high. Today 227 members of the Corporation sit in this hall. On the north face of the hall you will see a huge window made of artistically designed glass bordered by throne style carved stone corners. The door on the south face opens into a corridor for the members. This corridor leads to the south facing terrace of the building via glass doors. The hall holds two audience galleries and 3 glass chandeliers each having 13 electric bulbs which remind us of the prestigious past. There are 13 statues of eminent personnels in the hall.

More than a century old structure, portrays an attractive combination of Western and Eastern culture. The committee who designed this mind whelming structure are really worthy of applaud. Because of their future sighted vision, this building, standing strong today even after 121 years, houses the work for providing the 1.2 crore citizens of Mumbai city all necessary and high standard civic facilities. Contractor Vyanku Balaji deserves a special mention who completed this project with complete honesty and well below the estimated costs.



**Rajabai Tower & Convocation Hall,
University of Mumbai**



Rajabai Tower, University of Mumbai : The Mumbai University is undoubtedly one of the finest examples of Victorian Neo Gothic architecture in Mumbai. It is also an integral part of one of the finest urban ensembles of Victorian buildings in the world. The Rajabai Tower, with its imposing skyline, dominates the skyline of the Fort area, thus further strengthening its classification for reasons of scenic value.

The Mumbai University, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, is an example of a public project in the city funded by local philanthropists, in this case, the "Cotton King" of Bombay, Premchund Roychund who made a generous contribution of Rupees 4 lakhs towards its construction. As a gesture of acknowledgment, the lofty Rajabai Tower, an awesome structure that rose to a height of 260 feet, was named after his mother. The Library structure adjoining the Rajabai Tower has among the finest ensembles of stained glass in the country while the splendid cross vaulted roof of the Reading Room with its polished timber members, is among the most spectacular architectural interiors in the city.

Convocation Hall University of Mumbai : Designed by the British architect Sir Gilbert Scott, the Convocation Hall was built with a handsome donation from Sir Cowasji Jehangir Readymoney, with the stained glass panels crafted by the firm of Heaton, Butler & Byrne, London. The wheel window in stained glass housed in the University building is among the largest in the world. The building was restored as part of the 150th year celebrations of Mumbai University in 2006.



**Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
(Victoria Terminus)**

On 16th April 1853 at 3.35 pm, a train departed from Boribandar (today's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) to Thane, which marked the beginning of Railways in the whole of Asia. Next came the decision to replace the wooden shed at Boribandar station with a huge building to function as the terminal station and the office for 'Great Indian Peninsular Railway (G.I.P)'. After this, as per the plans drawn by Architect F.W. Stevens, construction for this new building began in 1878 and completed in May 1888. It is clear that he has used Gothic style of architecture in his design. During this period about 16 lakh 35 thousand rupees were spent on the construction of the offices while 10 lakh 40 thousand rupees were spent on station. Meanwhile in the year 1887, a few months before completion, Queen Victoria inaugurated this building on occasion of the State Anniversary and christened the building as 'Victoria Terminus'.

Even if the structure is inspired by Gothic-Italian styles, the use of Indian architecture is marked. Some features of the building include carved stones, polished floors, brass latches and locks, iron grills, painted glasses, granite pillars and the central dome. The main octagonal dome is the prime feature of the building. This was the first incident where an octagonal dome was used in Gothic architecture. A 16 feet 6 inch high statue which symbolizes Progress stands on this dome. The statue holds a torch in one hand and a wheel in the other. Every corner and hallway of the building has been decorated using mounted lion statues, ancient gods, small statues of the Railway Board of Directors and painting of flowers. The visible pointed spikes and small fort style towers represents traditional Indian architecture. Today Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus is the largest Railway Terminus building in India with a visible grandeur.



**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum
(Prince of Wales Museum)**

The museum was built to a competition-winning design entry in 1908 by the architect George Wittet, who is also credited with the design of monumental structures like the Institute of Science, Cowasji Jehangir Hall and the Gateway of India, all in close proximity to the Museum. Wittet came to India in 1904 to assist John Begg, Consulting Architect to the Government of Bombay Presidency and the architecture of the Museum reflects his early influences derived from the architecture of Begg's General Post Office Building. The Bombay Gazetteer records that according to Act III of 1907.

Heavily influenced by the medieval Islamic tombs of Bijapur, the architecture of the Prince of Wales museum characterises the Islamic revivalist style of the early 20th century and reflects Wittet's early forays into the Indo Saracenic genre. The foundation stone for the structure was laid by the Prince of Wales on his visit to Mumbai in 1905 and the building was constructed in 1914. During World War I, the building served as a military hospital and was finally inaugurated by Lady Lloyd, the Governor's wife in 1922.



Town Hall
(Asiatic Library)

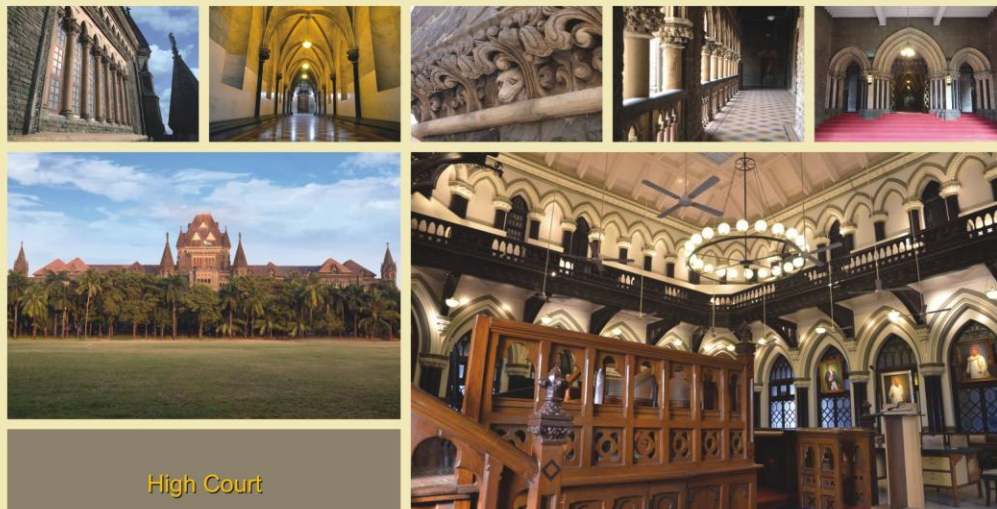
The construction of Town Hall (Asiatic Library) begun in 1821 and completed by 1833. It is among the oldest monumental structures of Mumbai. With an imposing façade of pedimented porticos surmounting a row of Doric columns, this Hellenic Neo-Classicism is representative of the early phase of British colonialism. In an attempt to impress upon the local populace, with the might and grandeur of European architecture, Mumbai was bestowed with a Town Hall. It is designed by Col. Cooper of the Bombay Engineers who was assisted by Captain Charles Waddington.

The structure was built at a cost of 60,000 pounds, met largely by the East India Company and sited at the Bombay Green, in the vicinity of Bombay Castle. The total length of the building stretched to 200 feet, with a Doric portico and a central pedimented entablature. The Town Hall has always been the fountainhead of Mumbai's cultural thought.

In the north portion of the Town Hall, we can see sculptures made by renowned architects. Aesthetic beauty of statues increases as the Sun rays directly come on statues through the top gallery. We can also see an equatorial statue of historical warrior John Malcolm by Sir Francis Chantry and statue of Mumbai's generous donor and an educationalist Sir Jagannath Shankarsheth made by Mathew Nobel in the centre of the curvatic (curved) staircases.

The Town Hall has played significant role in the social, cultural and educational development of the city. It had also housed the Mumbai University offices before the Mumbai University complex was constructed.

James Mackintosh founded the 'Literary Society of Bombay' in 1804. Later it was re-named as the (Royal) Asiatic Society of Bombay in 1829. The library boasts of a vast collection of rare books, manuscripts and historical records, as well as a priceless collection of statues and oil portraits.



High Court

Built in the same Victorian Neo Gothic genre as the Mumbai University Building, Old Secretariat and Central Telegraph Office facing the Oval Maidan, this imposing structure has made an indelible stamp on the city's architecture. Constructed in 1878 under the supervision of Colonel J A Fuller of the Royal Engineers, this edifice is the second largest public structure in the city and dominates its skyline with its towering turrets and spires. The structure has great historic significance, housing among the oldest functioning court rooms, with the famous words by Bal Gangadhar Tilak demanding "Purna Swaraj" being inscribed on one of its walls.

Employing grey Kurla basalt for its construction and softer white Porbunder limestone in its carvings, the structure is embellished with some beautiful sculptural motifs along its verandas. The western corridors used exclusively by the judiciary, boast of some of the finest Minton tile floors. The interior fittings of this magnificent Victorian structure were designed by John Adams and include some elaborate Neo Gothic cabinets and tables, decorated with pointed arches, gargoyles and animal motifs. The most notable features in the architectural details of the structure are the towering statues of Justice and Mercy perched atop the two towers at a height of nearly 150 feet and the many carvings representing a host of animals and birds, one which even has a fox wearing a lawyer's bands and a blind folded monkey holding up a pair of tilted scales of justice.



General Post Office (GPO)

This Building was completed in the year 1913. The architectural style is Indo-Saracenic. The structure was brought to use for the first time by Government advisor John Begg and his descendant Mr. George Whittet. In the later period it is in our knowledge that Mr. George Whittet laid the foundation and design of Ballard estate, Gateway of India and many other famous structures with great expertise. Even though Gothic and Indo-Saracenic style of architecture were used to design at different time lines in Mumbai, all the structures share a certain similarity. Artistic beautification and structural enhancement of the visual appearance is common to both styles of architecture. The novel thing about the structure is the use of coloured rocks available in and around Mumbai to construct them.

The GPO building is a confluence of utility, ease and excellent design. Some parts of the building have a basement with 3 storeyed construction above it. Since we can walk freely inside the post office. Here we have a huge circular hall at the centre surrounded by various departments of the workplace. The hall stretches to the full height of the building and is kept open at the centre, and the main dome of the building rests on top of this hall. The design of this dome is similar to the Gol Gumat of Bijapur and structural enhancement of the visual appearance is common to both styles of architecture. The novel thing about the structure is the use of coloured rocks available in and around Mumbai to construct them.



Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum is the oldest museum in Mumbai. It showcases the industrial arts and life in 19th century in Mumbai, earlier Bombay. The early collection consisted of replicas of the objects sent for the Great Exhibition of 1851 at London. Initially housed in the Town Barracks, the collection was opened to the public in 1857. (The year 2007 marked the 150th anniversary of this special event.)

Sir George Birdwood, was the first curator of the museum. In 1858 public funds were raised for the construction and the foundation stone of the Museum building was laid on 19th November 1862. Museum building was designed by William Tracey, a British engineer from the Public Works Department. On his death, the project was taken over by architects Scott and McClelland who made changes to the original plans. The Museum is built in Italian Renaissance Revival style and the facade of the Museum is Palladian. The Museum interiors are an example of high Victorian design. The stone used for construction is Porebunder. It took 10 years for a grand Palladian building to be completed and it was opened to visitors on 2nd May 1872 as the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Museum was renamed Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum in 1975 in honour of the man whose vision and dedication ensured its establishment. In February 2003, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, the Jarnalal Bajaj Foundation and the Indian National Trust for art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) joined hands to restore & revitalize the museum. The building and the surrounding gardens have been completely restored bringing back the original colours and grandeur of the monument. 23.4 karat gold gilding has been used for the first time in the city in a heritage building, reviving a lost art. Polish to the beautiful wooden cases, state of the art lighting, conservation of old sculptures has added to the thorough beauty. This highest quality restoration work was conferred with UNESCO 2005 Asia - Pacific Award of Excellence in Conservation.