

**What can architecture tell us
about the national story?**

Power and Religion as Part of our National Story

- Power and religion are intertwined.
- Political leaders have to give off the image of being religious in order to legitimize their authority → Also reflects on the make up of the country where there is a high degree of religiosity prevalent.
- Power and religion have an exalted position compared to ordinary society.

Masjid and Fort



How Architecture is a Representation of this Idea

- The three buildings that reflect this idea are the Shahi Qila (Lahore Fort), the Badshahi Masjid (King's Mosque) and Heera Mandi (red light district).
- Close proximity of the three to each other, they act as a triumvirate in Old Lahore.
- Grand, imposing structures of the Fort and Masjid represent the exalted position of power and religion. In contrast, Heera Mandi is tucked away in a small corner showing how base needs, and by extension the ordinary man is subservient to power and religion.

How the Architecture Highlights the Façade Present in Pakistani Society

- Back alley ways made for the Kings to frequent the “Husan ka Bazaar” (Market of Beauty) whilst still keeping the public appearance of being pious and orthodox.
- The way the red light district is made with small living units decorated ornately with beautiful, intricate, balconies and silk curtains in place of doors shows how even something taboo is worked on to be seen as appealing and inviting.
- At odds with a society that prides itself with its staunch religious beliefs.