

Rôle et outils de l'architecte dans le Gujarat muzaffaride (Inde, xv^e-xvi^e siècle)

Les mètres et le vers

The reigns of the Muzaffarid Sultans stand out as covering one of the most significant periods in the urban and architectural development of Western India. The great hydraulic, military, and religious structures of the Gujarat Sultanate created a built environment, which still today marks out the urban fabric of the region. Even though impressive stone buildings have survived over time, and craft traditions partly maintained, the builders are almost forgotten. Today the traditional architect's knowledge has almost wholly disappeared, giving way to a de-sacralized and pragmatically based occupation. This article raises the issue of the authorship of architectural projects, and of the methods and tools employed by architects. It is an attempt at recovering the likely conceptual template underlying monuments, as well as the working tools of architects (especially the metres or standard units, and the verses or teachings of the *śāstras*) and the ways of relaying information among the different parties on a worksite.

Keywords: architecture; Gujarat; Ahmedabad; plan; *śāstra*; building techniques; *sthapati*.