

Explanation of some important terms

1. **Arabesque:** It was a dominant form of architectural decorative style used on the walls of buildings built during the medieval period. It largely constituted geometrical and floral designs. Another distinctive feature of *arabesque* was elaborate interweaving of lines, leaves, flowers, and calligraphic presentation of Quranic verses. In India, the early example of the *arabesque* style can be seen in the buildings of the *Qutub* complex in Delhi.
2. **Arch:** The term refers to an inverted U-shaped curved structure that spans the opening between two columns. It supports the weight above it. The central stone in an arch is known as the keystone. There are various kinds of arches such as corbelled arch, typical horse-shoe type arch, pointed arch etc. Balban's tomb at Mehrauli was the first true arch of horse-shoe type in India.
3. **Corbel:** This is a term used in architecture. It is derived from the Latin word 'corbellus' or 'corvus'. It refers to a bracket made either of stone, wood, brick or any other building material which holds a cornice or arch on to a wall.
4. **Trabeated:** The term refers to the use of post-and-lintel principle in the construction of a building. It involves the use of horizontal beams or lintels which are borne up by columns or posts.

Source: NCERT (2017) *Dictionary of History for School Children (Trilingual)*, National Council of Educational Research & Training, New Delhi.