



# LODHI GARDENS

# Sayyid and Lodi(Lodhi) Rulers

- Around 600 years ago, kings of the Sayyid and Lodi families ruled over this part of India.
- 4 royal tombs were built for their memory when each king was no more.
- These were enclosed in a beautiful garden
- Tombs with their arches and designs show us the genius of Mughal architecture.

3<sup>rd</sup> king of Sayyid dynasty  
(descended from prophet Muhammad)



TOMB OF MUHAMMAD  
SHAH SAYYID

Ruled  
A.D. 1434 to  
1445

One of earliest  
and most  
elegant 8  
sided tombs of  
Delhi (1443-4)

3 arches on  
each "face"

- The dome rises above a 16 sided “drum”
- Chattris are “umbrellas” of stone
- 8 Pillared chattri above each face
- Each corner of the verandah has a sloping buttress for strength
- Stone floors, walls & domed, vaulted roof
- Carved plaster decorations on ceiling & chattris



## Bara Gumbad – late 15<sup>th</sup> Century

- A magnificent gateway shaped like a tomb (Mosques on side)
- Walls of Delhi quartzite masonry
- Domed roof & floor of stone with red sandstone ornamentation
- Islamic architecture uses flowers and beautiful Persian & Arabic writing for decorations inside. Never human figures



# A Mosque between the Bara Gumbad & Muhammad Shah's Tomb



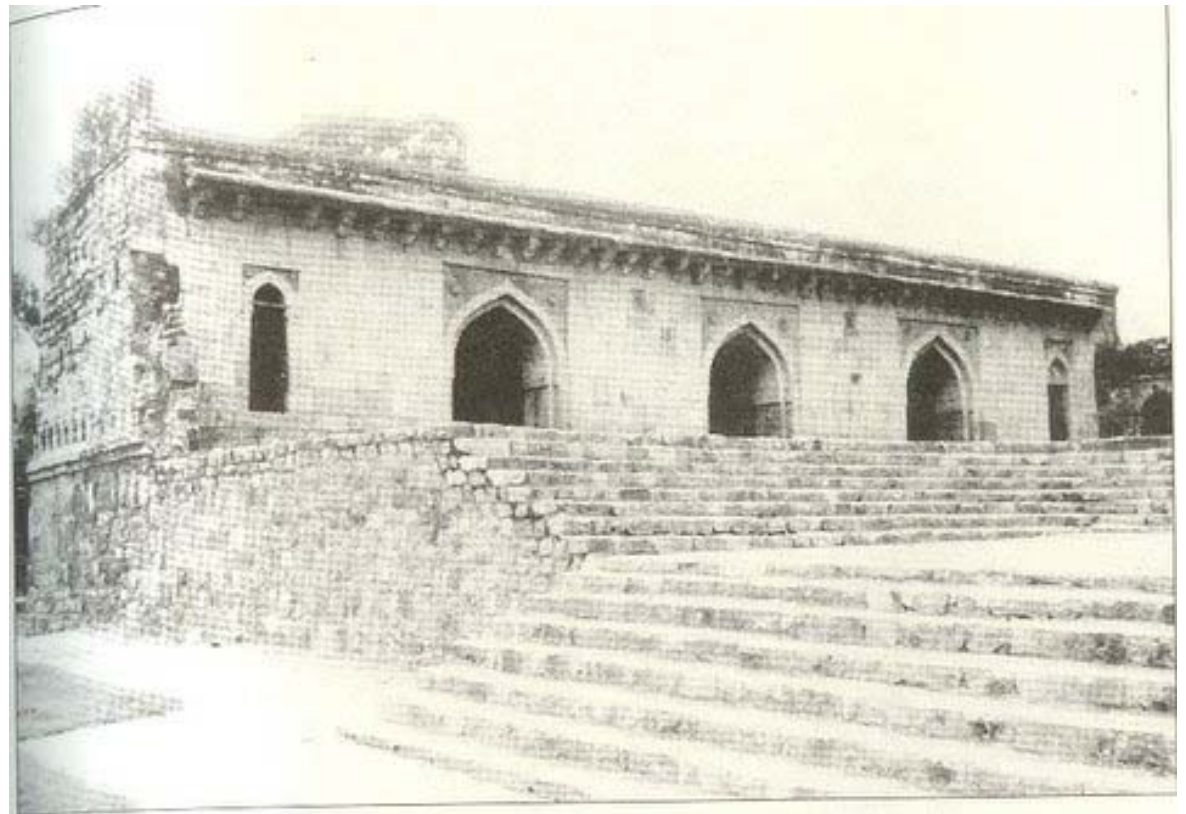
MOSQUE

- A mosque is a place of worship in Islam
- Muslims pray facing Mecca
- 3 pointed arches
- Only one chamber (room)
- This mosque used to be inside an enclosure
- 500 years ago

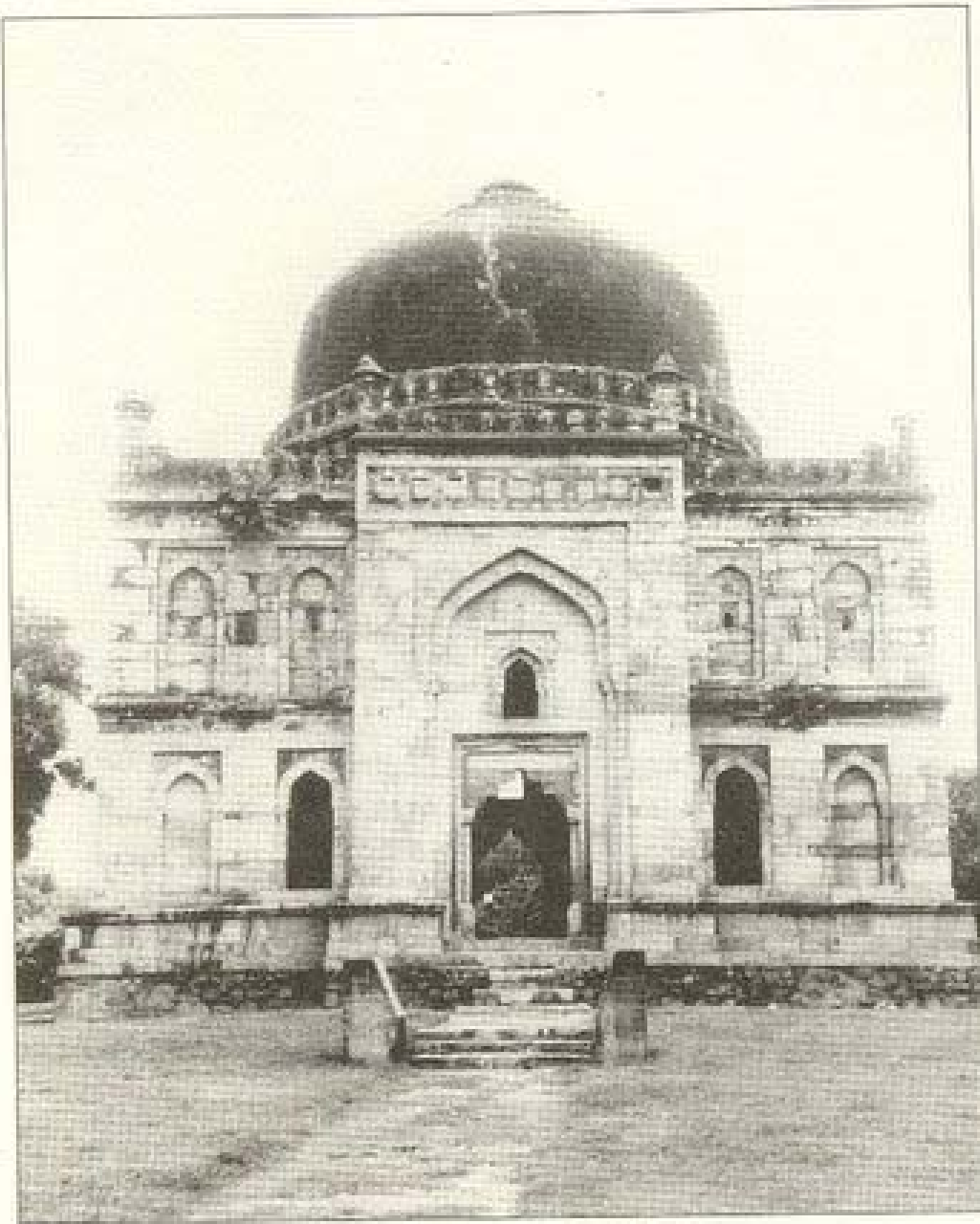
This arched building is attached to a Lodi period mosque. It gives symmetry to the courtyard outside the mosque. The arches and size are like the mosque, but not decorated and without domes.

The rooms in it were probably used by readers of the Quran.

Built in 1494 –  
2 years after  
Columbus sailed  
the ocean blue!



ARCHED BUILDING



SHISH GUMBAD

This tomb is made of local stone

It gets its name from the blue glazed tiles decorating the outside.

The ceiling of the dome is decorated with floral motifs & quotations from the Quran

The west side is closed because it is used as a mihrab (wall for prayer)

Late 15th-early 16th century

# Shish Gumbad

Some of the blue tiles are still there after 5-600 years. See all the arches inside arches designs.



- This was probably the corner turret of an enclosure, but all the walls have disappeared.
- It is 6 meters high, circular and has an opening to the middle like a window.
- For hundreds of years, people have taken old buildings apart to use the materials for new buildings
- You can see this tower near gate no.3 in Lodhi Gardens



TURRET

- This late Mughal gateway leads to an enclosed garden.
- It is double-storied with 3 cusped arches but only the middle one is the entrance. There are staircases on both corners to the terrace above.
- You can still see some painted designs on the inner walls.
- Made of Lakhori brick masonry and Brick roof
- There was a baoli (stepwell) nearby that is filled up now.



GATEWAY



This late Mughal mosque has a courtyard on its eastern side.

## MOSQUE

It is made of Lakhori brick masonry & a domed brick roof.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> king of Lodi Dynasty
- Ruled 28 years, from 1488
- His son Ibrahim built the tomb in 1517-18
- 8 sides – Octagonal
- 3 Arched openings each side
- Arched recesses in and out
- Entrances from south and east walls
- Western wall is a wall mosque for prayers
- Stone masonry with blue tiles



TOMB OF SIKANDER LODI

**Sikander Lodhi's Tomb is surrounded by one of the best gardens in Asia, filled with lush, green, well cared for foliage and mammoth trees.**



**This wall near Sikandar Lodi's Tomb is stone  
with battlements on top.  
Can you count the arches?**



# Emperor Akbar's Bridge

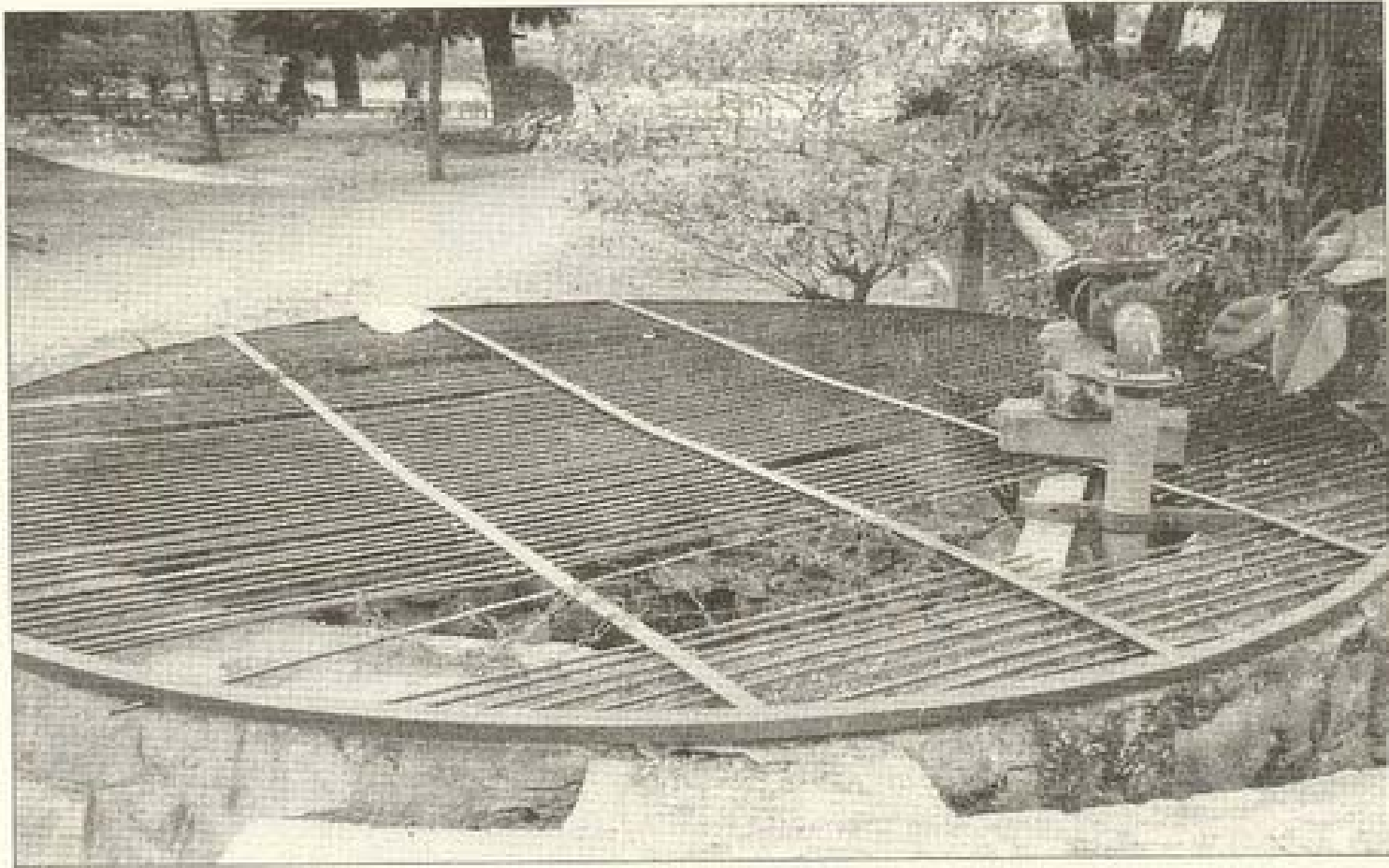
- Elegant & Sturdy
- Stone Masonry
- 7 Arches total
- Center Arch largest
- Ath means 8
- 8 piers=Athpula
- One of very few structures from Akbar's time in Delhi



ATHPULA

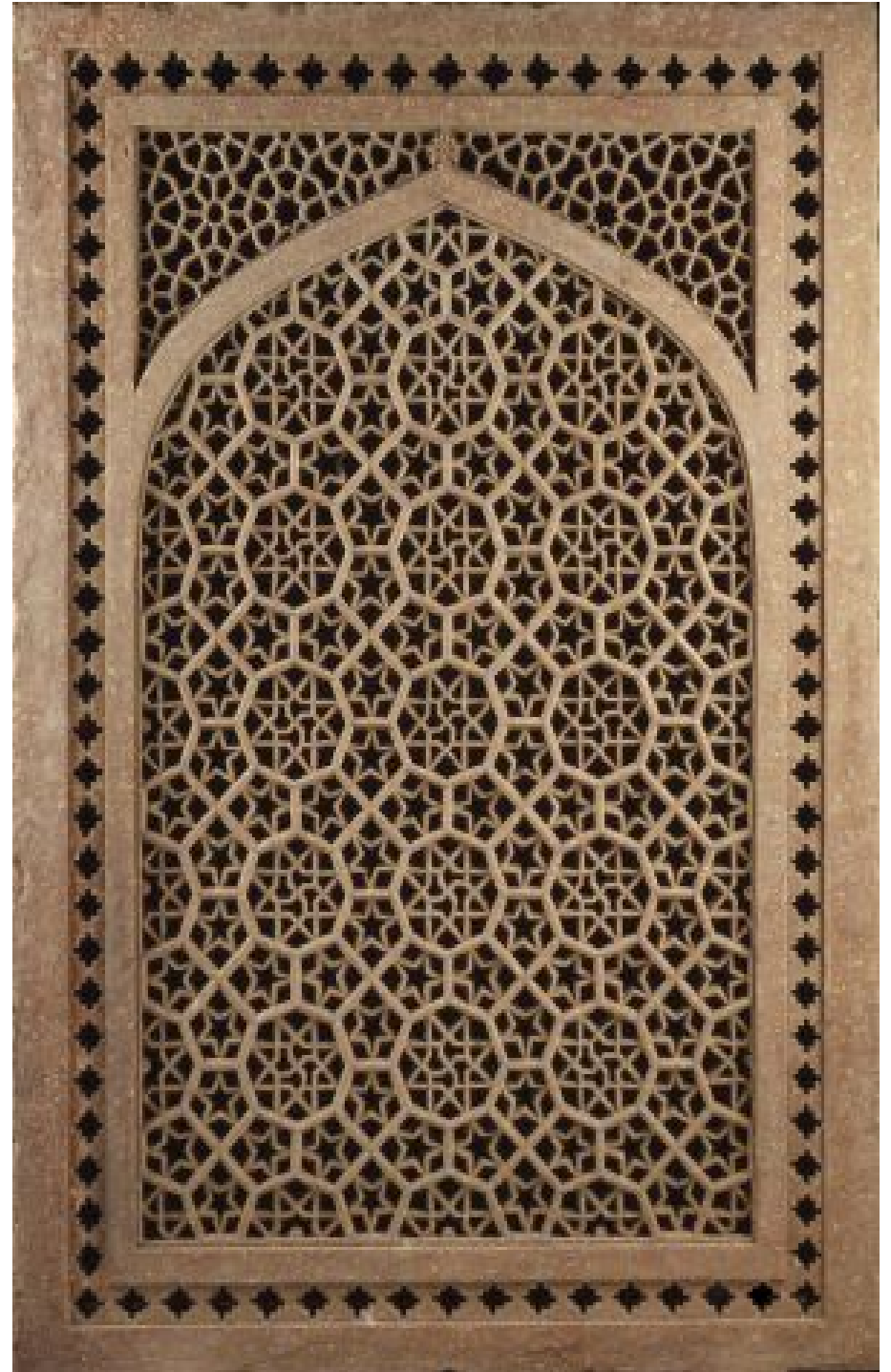
This late Mughal well is in Lodhi Garden-  
Can you find it?

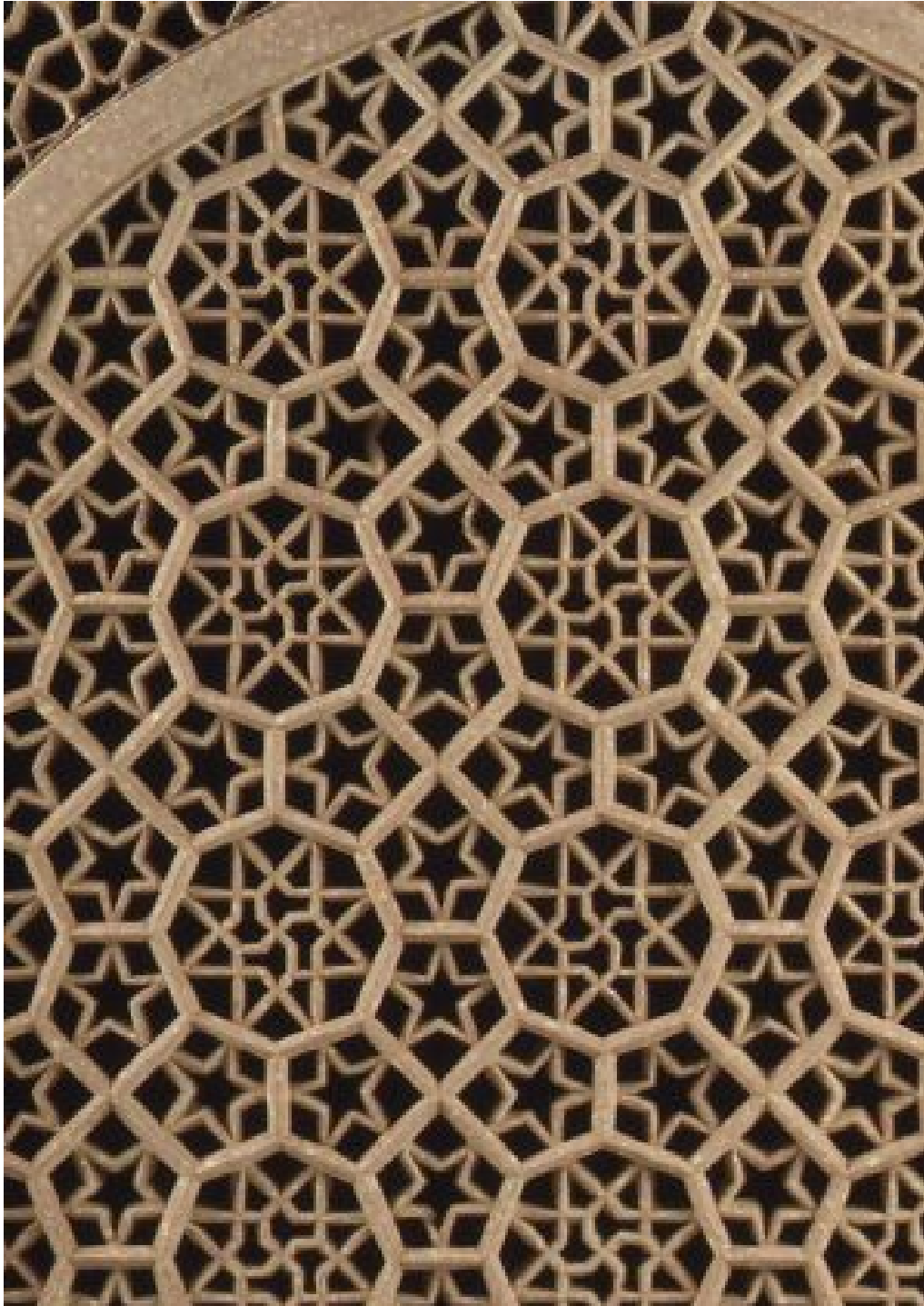
It is hundreds of years old and water is still  
pumped out today, but now with electric pumps.



WELL

- **Jalis were used extensively in Indo-Mughal architecture as windows, room dividers, and railings around thrones, platforms, terraces, and balconies.**
- **Joseph Allen Stein used many jalis in his architectural design for our American International/Embassy School, just as Luytens had for New Delhi.**
- **Screen (Jali), Second half of 16th century; Mughal, period of Akbar (1556-1605) Attributed to India. Red sandstone, set in an outside wall.**





**Used in outer walls, they were ideal for cutting down glare while permitting air to circulate and giving privacy.**

**During the day the reflection of their patterns moving across the floor would double the pleasure of their intricate geometry.**

**Jalis are usually made of stone, wood or clay. Mosquito mesh screens are also called jalis.**

# Lady Willingdon Park -1930's

- Some pathways, streetlights and this gateway remain from when a garden was built around the monuments by the British Viceroy and named for his wife.
- English ladies walked the 2 ½ km daily.



GATEWAY

The Glass House was designed by Architect Joseph Allen Stein in 1968 to house special greenery in the Lodhi Garden.



Besides the Triveni Kala Sangam arts complex (1957-77) , the India International Centre, (1959-62) and other landmarks surrounding IIC – the Ford Foundation, the United Nations, the World Wide Fund for Nature and most recently the huge India Habitat Centre, what school did he build?