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Skip to content Havali is a locally designed brand of clothing for women. Showcasing beautiful cotton dresses and blouses of earthy shades and vintage inspired prints. Stallholder Info Havali is a locally designed brand of clothing for women. Showcasing beautiful cotton dresses and blouses of earthy shades and vintage inspired prints. Traditional type of house in the Indian subcontinent For other uses, see Haveli (disambiguation). Patwon Ji Ki Haveli, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India. A haveli is a traditional townhouse, mansion, or manor house, in the Indian subcontinent, usually one with historical and architectural significance, and located in a town or city. The word haveli is derived from Arabic hawali, meaning "partition" or "private space", popularised under the Mughal Empire, and was devoid of any architectural affiliations.[1][2] Later, the word haveli came to be used as a generic term for various styles of regional mansions, manor houses, and townhouses found in the Indian subcontinent.[3] Multistorey structures and balconies during Mauryan Empire, 3rd century BCE The term haveli originates from Arabic word hawali, meaning "partition" or "private space", term which was popularized under Mughal Empire.[1] Early havelis served Muslim rulers of the Indian Subcontinent and became an important architectural component of urban environments under the Mughals. Although the term havelis originated from Indo-Islamic architecture, the existence of multi-story homes and courtyards in the region is claimed as early as 3300 BCE.[4][5] During the medieval period, the term haveli was also applied by some Vaishnava sects to refer to their temples in Gujarat under the Mughal Empire and Rajputana kingdoms. The generic term haveli eventually came to be identified with townhouses and mansions of the merchant class.[3] Townhouse Haveli with Jharokha windows. Courtyards are a common feature of traditional houses found on the Indian subcontinent, with early examples dating back to the Neolithic period, whether mansions or farmhouses.[6]. However, the architecture of these structures was very different from the traditional havelis developed under Muslim rule, which blended local and Islamic traditions. Traditional homes on the Indian subcontinent are built around a courtyard, and all family activities revolved around this chowk or courtyard. Additionally, the courtyard serves as a lightwell and helps ventilate the house in the hot and dry climates of the region. All these elements join to form an enclosure and give the chowk a composed, secured feel. The architectural form of havelis has evolved in response to the climate, lifestyle, and availability of material. In hot climates where cooling is a necessity, buildings with internal courtyards for airflow and cooling were considered the most appropriate; in rainy places the houses were built to be kept dry from humid air. It provided shade while also allowing light inside. The arcade along the court, or the high wall around it, kept the interiors cool. Many of the havelis of India and Pakistan were influenced by Rajasthani architecture. They usually contain a courtyard, often with a fountain in the center. The old cities of Agra, Lucknow, Jaisalmer and Delhi in India and Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Hyderabad in Pakistan have many fine examples of Rajasthani-style havelis. Sociocultural aspects The chowk or courtyard served as the centre for various ceremonies and rituals. The sacred tulsi plant was placed here and worshipped daily to bring prosperity to the house. Security and privacy The chowk, at times, separated areas for men and women, and provided them with privacy. Climate Using open space in the building design to respond to the local climate, air movement caused by temperature differences assists in the natural ventilation of the building. Different activities at different times In the daytime, the court was used mostly by women to carry out their work and interact with other women in a private open space. Mansions of the merchant class often had more than one courtyard. Articulation of space In Mor chowk, part of the City Palace complex in Udaipur, there is the concept of the courtyard as a dancing hall. Similarly, in havelis, a courtyard has several functions, commonly used for weddings and festive occasions. Materials Bricks, sandstone, marble, wood, plaster, and granite are commonly used materials. Decorative aspects are influenced by various local cultures and traditions. Relief depicting early form of Jharokha windows, 1st century CE A haveli in Phalodi, Rajputana Badal Mahal at Shahpura Haveli, Shahpura, Rajputana In the northern part of India, havelis for Lord Krishna with huge mansion-like constructions are prevalent. These havelis are noted for their frescoes depicting images of gods, goddesses, animals, scenes from the British colonization, and the life stories of Lords Rama and Krishna. The music here was known as Haveli Sangeet. Later on, these temple architectures and frescoes were imitated while building huge individual mansions and now the word is popularly associated with the mansions themselves. Between 1830 and 1930, Marwaris erected[7] buildings in their homeland Shekhawati and Marwar. These buildings were called havelis. The Marwaris commissioned artists to paint those buildings, which were heavily influenced by the Mughal architecture. Nangal Sirohi in Mahendragarh district, 130 km from Delhi, is popular for its havelis and architecture within NCR.[8] Frescoes developed during Raos Kings of Rewari. The Ahirwati area of Haryana state also has big Havelis,such as the Rewari Rao Tej Singh Haveli, Rao Sawai Singh Haveli etc. The towns and villages of Ahirwal are as well famous for the embellished frescoes on the walls of their grandiose havelis depicting the Lord Krishan which was developed in late 17 Century to the point of still it will take time to becoming popular tourist attractions. Having some special frescoes on Solahrahi and Tej Sarovar make some thing very different from Shekhawati Frescoes. The typical havelis in Shekhawati in Rajasthan state incorporated two courtyards — an outer one for the men which served as an extended threshold, and the inner one, the domain of the women. The largest havelis could have up to three or four courtyards and were two to three stories high. Most of the havelis are empty nowadays or are maintained by a watchman, while others have been converted into hotels and tourist attractions. The towns and villages of Shekhawati are famous for the embellished frescoes on the walls of their grandiose havelis, to the point of becoming popular tourist attractions. Shekhawati has one of the highest numbers of Havelis with 3 districts, Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Churu, alone having over 662 havelis. For the conservation, the Government of Rajasthan, has prepared the "Rajasthan Heritage Conservation Bill, 2025" and the Government of India also had undertaken projects costing Rs 124.13 crore.[9] Statistics on havelis of Shekhawati (c. 2025):[9] Total: 662 havelis including 228 owned by non-resident Rajasthanis and the rest owner-occupied by the locals. 361 in good condition, 172 average, 29 dilapidated, and 64 in disputed ownership.[9] Jhunjhunu: 278 havelis including 50 owned by non-resident Rajasthanis and the rest owner-occupied by the locals. 109 in good condition, 102 in average condition, 13 dilapidated condition, 54 disputed in ownership.[9] Sikar, there are 272 havelis including 143 owned by non-resident Rajasthanis. 201 in good condition, 15 average, 46 in dilapidated condition, and 10 disputed.[9] Churu: 112 havelis in the Churu district including 35 owned by non-resident Rajasthanis. 51 in good condition, 55 average, and 6 dilapidated.[9] The havelis served as status symbols for the Marwaris of Rajasthan state as well as homes for their extended families, providing security and comfort in seclusion from the outside world. The havelis were designed to be closed from all sides with one large main gate. The havelis in and around Jaisalmer Fort (also known as the Golden Fort), situated in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, of which the three most impressive are Patwon Ki Haveli, Salim Singh Ki Haveli, and Nathmal-Ki Haveli, deserve special mention. These were the elaborate homes of Jaisalmer's rich merchants. The ostentatious carvings, etched in sandstone with great detail and then painstakingly pieced together in lavish patterns, were commissioned to put on show the owner's status and wealth. Around Jaisalmer, they are typically carved from yellow sandstone. They are often characterized by wall paintings, frescoes, jharokhas (balconies) and archways.[10][11] The Patwon Ji ki Haveli was the first erected in Jaisalmer. It is not a single haveli but a cluster of five small havelis. The first in the row is the most popular, and is also known as Kothari's Patwa Haveli. Commissioned and constructed in the year 1805 by Guman Chand Patwa, then a rich trader of jewellery and fine brocades, it is the biggest and the most ostentatious of the five. Patwa was a rich man and a renowned trader of his time and he could afford and thus order the construction of separate stories for each of his five sons. These were completed in a span of 50 years. All five houses were constructed in the first 60 years of the 19th century.[12] Patwon Ji Ki is renowned for its ornate wall paintings, intricate yellow sandstone-carved jharokhas (balconies), gateways and archways. Although the building itself is made from yellow sandstone, the main gateway is brown. Another notable haveli is Seth ji ri Haveli in Udaipur city; now known as Shree Jagdish Mahal, it is 250 years old. The Omar Hayat Mahal in Chiniot, Pakistan The Haveli of Nau Nihal Singh is a Sikh-era haveli in Lahore. A number of historically and architecturally significant havelis survive in Pakistan, most of which are situated in the Punjab province. The most significant in Lahore, the Haveli of Nau Nihal Singh, dates from the Sikh era of the mid-19th century, and is considered to be one of the finest examples of Sikh architecture in Lahore.[13] It is the only Sikh-era haveli that preserves its original ornamentation and architecture.[14] Some other historically and architecturally significant havelis in Pakistan: Kapoor Haveli in Peshawar Choona Mandi Haveli in Lahore Fakir Khana Haveli and Museum in Lahore Haveli Asif Jah in Lahore Haveli Awais Meer in Walled city Lahore Haveli Barood Khana in Lahore Haveli Rani Jindan at the Lahore Fort in Lahore Haveli Wajid Ali Shah in Lahore Kharak Singh Haveli at the Lahore Fort in Lahore Lal Haveli or Chandu Di Haveli in Lahore Mubarak Haveli in Lahore Haveli Man Singh in Jhelum Lal Haveli in Rawalpindi Saad Manzil in Kamalia Khan Club in Peshawar Janjua Haveli in Malowal, Gujrat, Pakistan Gakhri Haveli in Gujrat Haveli Mubashar Ali Janjua in Matore, Kahuta, Rawalpindi Havelis of the Mann Sardars of Mughalchak in Mananwala, Sheikhupura[15][16][17] Wikimedia Commons has media related to Havelis. 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If you want breakfast, lunch, and dinner, you must add this when booking or buy it on board. Check-in: Check-in usually opens when the ship docks. Generally, the latest check-in time is no later than 15 minutes before departure. In ports with shorter stops, check-in starts when the doors open. You must book your journey at least 2 hours before the ship arrives at portYou can choose between a deckchair or a cabin when travelling overnightIf you want breakfast, dinner and lunch, you must book these as extrasYou cannot book port-to-port journeys earlier than 6 months before departureNote that "port-to-port" is mainly for shorter trips between ports, and does not include meals and other benefits that is included in our standard voyages. Oslo → Kirkenes → Trondheim A captivating 6-day adventure with flight transfer and excursions included. A specially tailored, complete experience. Read moreKirkenes → Svolvær → TrondheimSail in the comfort of your very own Junior Suite, then hop off in Svolvær to spend some days on a bespoke Lofoten adventure.Read moreThe "Made in Norway" certification affirms our commitment to Norwegian quality, sustainability, and support for local communities. Haveli : The architectural legacy of India is attested to by the havelis, which combine art, culture, and history. Visitors are still mesmerised by these majestic buildings' beautiful carvings, gorgeous murals, and fascinating histories. The magnificence of havelis must be preserved and celebrated in order to pass on India's cultural heritage to succeeding generations. The haveli occupies a vital place in the colourful fabric of Indian architecture. These stunning houses are more than just structures; they are the pinnacle of opulence, legacy, and a rich cultural past. For generations, havelis had been a crucial component of Indian architecture, and its breathtaking beauty still draws tourists in. We shall explore into the havelis in this post, learning about their history, distinctive characteristics, and alluring tales they contain. Are You Looking 3BHK Flat For Ren In Kharghar? An Indian haveli is a big home or traditional mansion. It stands as a tribute to the luxury and artistic skill of earlier times. Havelis are distinguished by their magnificent exteriors, beautiful sculptures, and expansive courtyards. Typically, wealthy merchants, nobility, or members of royal families possessed these opulent buildings. Havelis date back to the mediaeval era, about to the fourteenth century. They initially appeared in India's northwest, mainly in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Rich merchants who want to display their riches and social standing via their luxurious mansions constructed havelis as their principal dwellings. The architectural design of havelis combines aspects from Islamic, Persian, and Indian cultures in a particular way. The following are a few characteristics that characterise havelis: Jharokhas: Extensive, elaborate balconies with finely carved decorations. Chhatris: Majestic dome-shaped pavilions perched above haveli rooftops. Large centre courtyards that are frequently decorated with luxuriant plants and fountains. Stone screens that have been finely carve to let in light and air are called jaalis. Frescoes are elaborate wall paintings that represent mythological, natural, and daily situations. Grand entrances with elaborately carve wooden doors are known as ornate doorways. The splendour of havelis is a common association with Rajasthan, the kingdom of kings and forts. There are several magnificent havelis around the towns of Jaipur, Jaisalmer, and Udaipur, each showing a different architectural style. The Patwon Ki Haveli in Jaisalmer, which has stunning stone carvings and complex jharokhas, is one such treasure. Are you looking for a house for rent in Kharghar? We have semi-furnished, unfurnished, and furnished flats available for rent in various sectors of Kharghar. We have 1 BHK starting at Rs. 10,000 per month, 2 BHK starting at 15,000 per month, and 3 BHK flats for rent in Kharghar starting at 18,00 per month. We can provide you with the list of rental properties in Kharghar, from where you can choose the one which fits your budget and choice. Havelis adorn the streets of towns like Ahmedabad and Surat in the dynamic state of Gujarat. Ahmedabad's Sidhpur Havelis are well known for its magnificent wood carvings and exquisite jaalis. These architectural marvels are evidence of the success of Gujarati merchants in earlier times. Punjab, which is renowned for its diverse cultural history, is ornamented with old-world havelis that radiate friendliness and warmth. The Ram Bagh Palace, one of Amritsar's havelis, exhibits the region's architectural skill with its exquisite paintings and expansive grounds. Magnificent havelis may be found in towns like Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, the homeland of nawabs and a place with a rich historical heritage. With its ornate design and expansive complexes, the havelis of Lucknow, like the Bada Imambara, showcase the majesty and grace of the nawabi culture. Are you searching for residential rental properties in Kharghar then we can help you find one. We are the biggest real estate rental property portal in Navi Mumbai. Beautiful paintings and finely carve wooden ceilings were among the elaborate decorations found within havelis. The walls were frequently adorned with intricate paintings showing scenes from mythology and daily life. The interior decoration of the haveli displayed both the owner's sense of style and India's rich cultural tradition. Due to problems including neglect, urbanisation, and ignorance, maintaining havelis is difficult. These architectural gems are frequently susceptible to deterioration, deterioration, and invasion. Careful repair and conservation procedures are needed to protect the durability of the fragile frescoes and detailed sculptures. 2 BHK FLAT FOR SALE IN NAVI MUMBAI | 8433959100 Source You're looking for Buy Home In Navi Mumbai we have the Best Buy Properties In Navi Mumbai Like Ready to Move & Nearby possession: If you want daily property update details please follow us on Facebook Page / YouTube Channel / Twitter A local Shekhavati plays an instrument in Dr. Ramnath Podar Haveli Museum – one of the Historic Havelis in India. Image courtesy: Sharvarism via Wikipedia Commons Traditional havelis in India celebrated for their intricate architecture and rich history, have been meticulously restored to provide unique and immersive experiences. These experiences include authentic regional cuisine, cultural activities, and luxurious accommodations in settings adorned with antique furniture, traditional textiles, and vibrant frescoes. These Havelis are not merely architectural marvels; they are living museums that encapsulate their regions' rich heritage, intricate artistry, and historical lineage. This in-depth exploration delves into the architectural brilliance, historical significance, art and painting restoration efforts, and the unique experiences offered by the restored havelis of Delhi, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Havelis: Gateways to India's Architectural and Cultural Heritage The term "haveli" originates from the Arabic word "hawali," meaning "partition" or "private space." The concept of havelis gained prominence during the Mughal era, serving as residences for the ruling class and becoming integral to urban environments. However, the idea of multistory homes with courtyards in the Indian subcontinent dates back to as early as 3300 BCE, evident in early examples found in traditional houses and farmhouses. Over time, Havelis evolved to incorporate local traditions and Islamic architectural styles, resulting in a distinctively Indian blend. The courtyard, a common feature in traditional Indian homes, is a key element in havelis, serving as a central gathering space and a means of ventilation in the region's hot and dry climates. Patwon ki Haweli, Jaisalmer (Image Credit: Flickr) Traditionally, Havelis were grand mansions built by wealthy merchants, aristocrats, and nobility. These structures are characterized by their intricate facades, expansive courtyards, and lavish interiors, reflecting a unique blend of local architectural styles influenced by Mughal, Rajput, and European designs. Havelis stand as living repositories of history, art, and culture. These architectural marvels, predominantly found in the northern regions of the country, have stood the test of time, serving as witnesses to the nation's rich heritage. From the intricate carvings adorning their facades to the vibrant frescoes decorating their walls, havelis offer a unique glimpse into the lives and times of their former inhabitants. Experiencing the Haveli Culture Visiting a haveli is not just about admiring its architectural beauty; it is also about immersing oneself in the region's rich cultural heritage. Many havelis have been converted into hotels, offering visitors a chance to experience the grandeur of the past while enjoying modern amenities. These haveli hotels often feature traditional cuisine, showcasing the culinary delights of the region. Guests can also participate in cultural activities such as pottery making, weaving, and block printing, gaining a deeper understanding of local artisanal traditions. In addition to staying in a haveli hotel, visitors can explore the surrounding areas and experience the vibrant local culture. In Shekhawati, for instance, one can visit the numerous havelis scattered throughout the towns and villages, marvelling at the intricate frescoes and learning about the region's history. Similarly, in Old Delhi, visitors can explore the winding streets of the Walled City, visit local markets, try street food, and experience the bustling energy of the city. The restored havelis in the area offer a chance to step back in time and appreciate the city's cultural richness. Preserving the Legacy of Havelis As time passes, many Havelis have fallen into disrepair, with owners unable to afford the cost of upkeep and restoration. However, several initiatives are underway to preserve these architectural gems for future generations. One such initiative is "The Shekhawati Project," which aims to conserve and restore the structures and fresco paintings of the region's havelis. This project has helped revive interest in these cultural icons, encouraging owners to take pride in their ancestral homes. Similarly, in Old Delhi, the restoration of havelis has led to the creation of vibrant cultural spaces that celebrate the city's heritage. These restored Havelis serve not only as performance venues but also as museums that showcase the history and culture of Delhi through art, crafts, and everyday objects. The restoration of havelis is a meticulous process that involves preserving their architectural integrity and reviving the original artistry. Many have fallen into disrepair over the years, and their restoration requires a deep understanding of traditional construction techniques, materials, and artistic styles. Fresco art in the 19th-century haveli at Nawalgarh, Shekhawati, Rajasthan – one of the Historic Havelis in India Image courtesy: Kandukuru Nagarjun via Wikipedia Commons The frescoes and murals that adorn the walls of havelis are an integral part of their charm. These artworks are often created using natural pigments and depict a variety of themes, from religious stories to historical events and daily life. Restoring these frescoes involves cleaning, stabilizing, and retouching the artwork to preserve its original beauty. In some cases, layers of paint need to be carefully removed to reveal the original frescoes underneath. This painstaking process requires skilled artisans and conservationists who are well-versed in traditional painting techniques. Restoring the architectural elements of havelis, such as jharokhas, chhatris, and jaalis, involves using traditional materials and techniques. Skilled craftsmen work to replicate the intricate carvings and designs, ensuring that the restored elements blend seamlessly with the original structure. The use of lime plaster, natural pigments, and traditional woodworking techniques is essential in maintaining the authenticity of the restoration. In some cases, original elements are carefully dismantled, restored, and reassembled to preserve their integrity. Havelis as Heritage Hotels The transformation of Havelis into heritage hotels has breathed new life into these historical structures, allowing them to be preserved and enjoyed by future generations. These heritage hotels offer a unique blend of historical charm and modern luxury, providing guests with an immersive experience of India's rich cultural heritage. Heritage Haveli hotels offer luxurious accommodations that reflect the grandeur of their historical past. The rooms are often adorned with antique furniture, intricate woodwork, and traditional textiles, creating an ambience of regal opulence. For example, the 175-year-old Samode Haveli in Jaipur offers a royal experience with its beautifully restored rooms and suites. The interiors are adorned with antique furniture, rich mosaics, painted arches, frescoes, mirror work, and traditional Rajasthani decor, providing guests with a taste of royal living. One of its unique features is the elephant ramp, adding to its historical charm. The haveli offers modern amenities, including an outdoor swimming pool and a spa and wellness centre. Samode Haveli in Jaipur (Image courtesy: Wikimedia Commons) The culinary offerings at heritage Haveli hotels are an integral part of the guest experience. Many of these hotels feature traditional kitchens that serve authentic regional cuisine, prepared using age-old recipes and techniques. At the RAAS Devi Garh in Udaipur, guests can enjoy a fine dining experience that blends traditional Rajasthani flavours with contemporary culinary techniques. The hotel also offers cooking classes, allowing guests to learn the secrets of Rajasthani cuisine. The on-site restaurant, Lakhori, at Dharampura Haveli Delhi features a seven-course tasting menu that changes weekly. This menu offers a delectable fusion of Chandni Chowk street food and modern Mughlai cuisine. The Samode Haveli Jaipur restaurant, decorated with vibrant hand-painted murals, serves a delightful array of local and international cuisines, providing a feast for both the eyes and the palate. Heritage Haveli hotels often organize cultural activities and experiences that allow guests to immerse themselves in the local culture. These may include traditional music and dance performances, guided heritage walks, and craft workshops. The Ajit Bhawan in Jodhpur offers a range of cultural activities, including folk music performances, camel rides, and village tours. Guests can also explore the nearby Mehrangarh Fort and Umaid Bhawan Palace, further enriching their cultural experience. As a testament to its rich historical traditions, Haveli Dharampura Delhi hosts weekly kathak dance and classical music performances featuring artists from Delhi's renowned musical gharanas in the 200-year-old haveli's courtyard. Rajasthan: The Land of Majestic Havelis In Rajasthan, Havelis are often synonymous with opulence and grandeur. The region's arid climate and desert landscape influenced the construction techniques and architectural styles. Built primarily from locally sourced sandstone and marble, Rajasthani havelis are adorned with elaborate jharokhas (overhanging enclosed balconies), chhatris (elevated, dome-shaped pavilions), and intricate stone carvings. The Architectural Marvels of Shekhawati One of the most famous regions for havelis is Shekhawati, located in the northeastern part of Rajasthan. Known as the "largest open-air art gallery in India," Shekhawati boasts a stunning collection of havelis adorned with intricate frescoes. Commissioned by wealthy Marwari merchants between 1830 and 1930, these Havelis were heavily influenced by Mughal architecture. Shekhawati havelis were designed to be closed off from the outside world, with a single large main gate serving as the entrance. Typically, these havelis incorporated two courtyards: an outer one for men, serving as an extended threshold, and an inner one, the domain of women. The largest havelis could have up to three or four courtyards and were two to three stories high. The frescoes adorning the walls of Shekhawati havelis are a testament to the artistic prowess of the region's painters, depicting a wide range of subjects, from religious motifs to scenes of everyday life, historical events, and technological advancements. The Havelis of Jaisalmer Jaisalmer, a city in Rajasthan known for its stunning Golden Fort, is also home to some of the most impressive havelis in the country. Three havelis, in particular, stand out: Patwon Ki Haveli, Salim Singh Ki Haveli, and Nathmal-Ki Haveli. These elaborate homes, once owned by wealthy merchants, feature ostentatious carvings and intricate designs that showcase the region's architectural prowess. Mandawa Haveli, Shekhawati, Rajasthan. Image courtesy: Prashant Ram via Wikipedia Commons The havelis of Jaisalmer are not only architectural marvels but also serve as testaments to the city's rich cultural heritage. Many of these havelis have been converted into hotels, offering visitors a chance to experience the grandeur of the past while enjoying modern amenities. One of the most famous havelis in Rajasthan is the Patwon Ki Haveli in Jaisalmer. Constructed in the early 19th century by a wealthy merchant, Guman Chand Patwa, this haveli is a cluster of five intricately designed houses. The facade of Patwon Ki Haveli is a masterpiece of craftsmanship, with detailed carvings and elaborate murals. The interiors boast mirror work, intricate wood carvings, and vibrant frescoes depicting Rajasthani culture. Another notable example is the Nathmal Ki Haveli, also in Jaisalmer. Built by two architect brothers, this haveli is renowned for its symmetrical architecture and exquisite carvings. The exterior features a blend of Rajput and Islamic architectural styles, with a facade adorned with carvings of flowers, birds, elephants, and soldiers. Gujarat's Havelis, particularly in the regions of Kutch and Saurashtra, reflect a unique amalgamation of architectural influences from Hindu, Islamic, and European styles. The state's prosperous trading history is evident in the grandeur and design of its havelis, which were often built by wealthy traders and merchants. The Vijay Vilas Palace in Mandvi, Kutch, is a splendid example of the architectural elegance of Gujarati havelis. Built in the 1920s by Maharao Shri Khengarji III, the palace features a blend of colonial, Mughal, and Victorian architectural styles. The intricately carved stone jaalis (lattice screens), expansive courtyards, and ornate interiors reflect the craftsmanship and opulence of the era. Havelis of Dawoodi Bohra community in Siddhpur town in Gujarat. Built in the 19th-20th centuries the Havelis had a European-influenced architecture. Image courtesy: Nizil Shah via Wikipedia Commons In Ahmedabad, the Sidhpur havelis stand as a testament to the region's rich architectural heritage. Known as the 'Bohravad,' these havelis were built by the affluent Bohra Muslim community. The facades of these havelis are adorned with intricate woodwork, stucco decorations, and stained glass windows, showcasing a blend of European and Indian architectural styles. Historical Lineage The historical lineage of havelis is deeply intertwined with the socio-economic and cultural fabric of their regions. These grand mansions were not just residences but also symbols of power, wealth, and prestige, significantly aligned with the nobility of the time. In Rajasthan, Havelis were predominantly built by the princes and families of royal lineage as well as wealthy merchant families known as Marwaris. These merchants amassed great wealth through trade and commerce, particularly during the Mughal era and the British colonial period. The Havelis served as a testament to their prosperity and social status. The Shekhawati region in Rajasthan is particularly renowned for its havelis, often referred to as 'open-air art galleries.' The towns of Mandawa, Nawalgarh, and Fatehpur boast numerous havelis adorned with intricate frescoes and murals. These frescoes depict a wide range of themes, from mythological stories and folklore to scenes from daily life and European influences. In Gujarat, the historical lineage of havelis is closely linked to the state's noble and princely families as well as prosperous trading communities. The Jain merchants of Patan, the Bohra Muslim traders of Sidhpur, and the wealthy Hindu traders of Ahmedabad were instrumental in building these grand mansions. Wooden haveli, Old City, Kalupur Tankshal area, Gujarat Image courtesy Kalyan Shah via Wikipedia Commons The Haveli of Rani Sipri in Ahmedabad, built in the 16th century, is a notable example of a merchant haveli. This haveli was commissioned by Rani Sipri, the wife of a wealthy merchant, and showcases a blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles. The intricate stone carvings and detailed jalis reflect the artistic excellence of the period. Heritage Havelis and their rich cultural legacy Havelis are not just buildings but living, breathing testaments to India's rich architectural and cultural heritage. From the architectural marvels of Ahmedabad, the serene retreats of Udaipur, and the grand mansions of Shekhawati to the historic havelis of Old Delhi, these architectural marvels offer a glimpse into the lives and times of their former inhabitants. As we move forward in the 21st century, preserving these cultural icons for future generations is crucial. Through initiatives like "The Shekhawati Project" and the restoration of havelis in Old Delhi, we can ensure that the legacy of havelis lives on, inspiring and educating visitors worldwide. Read more: Latest Table of Contents You may have heard the term "haveli" referred to, when someone is talking about an ancient house. Do you know what exactly the word haveli means, and how it is different from a bungalow or mansion? In this blog we discuss what are havelis, the rich heritage they depict, and key cities in India where you can still find havelis, along with a look at some of India's most iconic havelis that currently exist. What are Havelis? Havelis are old mansions or large townhouses constructed around an open courtyard. The name comes from the Arabic hawali, a "private space," since they were originally enclosed family dwellings. These multi-story houses—frequently constructed by royalty or merchants—have central courtyards (generally with fountains) that bring in light and ventilation in the hot climate of India. Contrary to Western mansions, havelis focus on inwardly facing design with intricately ornamented balconies (jharokhas), latticework screens, and frescoed walls. Originally busy family residences, numerous havelis now are "living museums" of India's history, restored as heritage hotels or cultural centers. History of Havelis in India Traditionally, havelis emerged as popular features during Mughal dominance and subsequent success among merchant and princely classes. Courtyard houses in North India go back thousands of years, but the richly ornate haveli style blending Indian, Persian, and Central Asian themes emerged during the late medieval period. The aristocrats of Rajasthan and Marwari merchants constructed some of the finest examples; Mandawa and Nawalgarh in the Shekhawati region, for example, are an "open-air art gallery" of painted havelis. Nearly every traditional haveli features a central chowk (courtyard) - a lightwell and social space - usually with an ornamental fountain. Down through the centuries, most havelis deteriorated to ruins, but the last few decades witnessed large-scale restorations. Today, hundreds of these mansions have been restored meticulously as heritage hotels and museums, blending their old-world charm with contemporary comforts. Their survival helps retain a tangible connection to India's architectural heritage and lifestyles of erstwhile noble and merchant families. Key Indian State & Cities Known for Havelis Each region contributed its voice—Mughal, Rajput, Nawabi—to form India's rich haveli traditions (image Source: Wikimedia Commons) In each city, the haveli is not simply a building - it is a reflection of the area's social lives, politics, and artistic heritage. Their designs changed with the rulers, religions, and trading networks of the day, but the concept stayed the same: a house that was private retreat and public statement. Here is a look at the key states and cities famed for their havelis: Havelis in Rajasthan In Rajasthan, the haveli thrived under royal patronage as well as the emergence of prosperous merchant communities. Towns such as Shekhawati, Jaisalmer, and Bikaner were key trading centers along caravan routes, and the Marwari traders based there constructed richly ornamented houses not only for comfort but as status symbols. Rajput aesthetics—domed chhatris, jharokhas, intricate frescoes—combined with Mughal and Persian influences, a perfect synthesis Jaipur, of course, is more famous for palaces and grid-planned streets, but it also had a haveli tradition that echoed the city's combination of order and excess. The pink sandstone buildings and latticed screens of the city weren't merely pretty to look at—rather, they expressed cultural pride in beauty, astronomy, and Vastu principles. You Might Also Like Havelis in Uttar Pradesh Outside of Rajasthan, several regions developed their own distinct styles of havelis. In Lucknow, the capital of the Nawabs of Awadh, havelis were influenced by Indo-Islamic sensibilities of design—airy courtyards, stucco decoration, and a focus on leisure and elegance. The architectural expression of the Nawabi life was expressed as follows: dainty arches, baradaris, and luxurious durbars. In Agra, Mughal presence persisted even in domestic architecture. The proximity of the city to imperial seats created homes with intricately carved sandstone facades, ornate jalis, and dense gardens. While larger Mughal monuments tower over the city, a number of ancient merchant havelis continue to whisper tales of the time's intersection of commerce and culture. Havelis in Gujarat In Gujarat, Ahmedabad and Bhuj evolved haveli vernaculars of their own—usually more contained in size but no less artisanally rich. Pols (teastalled housing clusters) enclosed timber-framed havelis with finely carved facades and exquisite wooden brackets. These testified to a communal lifestyle while still providing aesthetic magnificence. Havelis in Delhi Even Delhi, India's historic capital across different dynasties, is strewn with dwindling havelis—some Mughal, some colonial, especially in such areas as Chandni Chowk. These residences, hidden behind disorganized bazaars, are mute witnesses to a more dignified, slower way of life. Haveli Influences in Mysore And then there's Mysore, also known as the "City of Palaces." While its royal palaces are more palace than haveli, the architectural influence filtered into the aristocracy's private mansions—merging Dravidian, European, and Islamic styles. Columned porticos, stained glass, and ornate cornices—remnants of a city forged by the Wadiyars' cosmopolitan reign. Top 10 Havelis in India with Photos Following are ten outstanding havelis, each with distinctive history and design: Patwon Ki Haveli A whole street of grandeur: This complex redefined how rich merchants displayed prestige (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) This enormous ensemble of five contiguous havelis (built 1805–1865) was commissioned by a wealthy cloth merchant. The first in the row – Kothari's Patwa Haveli – is the grandest. All facades are carved from golden sandstone and richly painted with murals. Patwon's balconies and archways are elaborately decorated to display the owner's wealth. Today, one portion serves as a museum displaying antique artifacts, giving visitors a glimpse into old royal life. Nathmal Ki Haveli This haveli's asymmetric charm captures the human side of opulence (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) Commissioned in 1885 for the city's chief minister, this haveli is renowned for its twin facades. It is said that two architect brothers began building from opposite sides and couldn't agree on a plan, thus creating a reflected mismatch. Detailed floral carvings and latticework abound on the front, topped by life-size sandstone elephant statues on either side of the entrance. It once had royal apartments with frescoed walls; nowadays it is privately owned but open to the public. Salim Singh Ki Haveli With a curved roof and thousands of balconies, this haveli defied all architectural norms (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) A mid-19th-century merchant mansion known for its distinctive curving roofline (now mostly collapsed). Its 38 balconies and carved brackets are testimony to its former splendor. Though partially ruined, the haveli's façade still displays Moorish-influenced arches and stone lattice, illustrating a blend of Rajput and Islamic styles. (All three Jaisalmer havelis above—Patwon, Nathmal, and Salim Singh—were highlighted together as "the three most impressive" in the Golden Fort.) Samode Haveli Where royal elephants used to ascend, visitors now reside alongside frescoes and history-laden corridors (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) Dating to the 19th century, Samode Haveli is now a luxurious heritage hotel set within original walls. Its restored rooms feature antique furniture, mirror-studded frescoes, and painted arches. One unique highlight is an elephant ramp: a sloping walkway once built so the maharaja's elephant could climb to the upper floors! The haveli's courtyard and gardens retain a royal ambiance, offering guests a "living museum" of Rajasthani design. Rampuria Haveli Once the pride of Bikaner's merchant aristocracy, this haveli is today a frozen moment of past glory (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) A beautiful mansion complex ordered by Bikaner's merchant-rulers. Constructed in rose-hued Dulmera sandstone, Rampuria Haveli is a cluster of nine contiguous houses. All facades are richly carved and painted. These historic buildings are now privately owned but become a quaint maze of narrow alleys. Their intricate latticework, chhatris (domes), and frescoes are the best example of the synthesis of Rajput and Mughal art. Vijay Vilas Palace Cinema-worthy and ocean-facing, this haveli-palace demonstrates how heritage evolves across space and time (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) Constructed in 1929, this imposing Indo-European palace was a summer home for the Kutch royal family. Its sandstone structure and domed bastions and arched windows combine Mughal, Rajput, and colonial influences. Surrounded by gardens and overlooking the sea, Vijay Vilas is best known as a movie location in Lagaan and Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam. It's now open to visitors, with portions of the palace and grounds still used by the royal family. Bagore Ki Haveli This haveli is curated tradition, puppetry, and living cultural memory (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) Sitting atop the edge of Lake Pichola, this 18th-century haveli was once home to the Mewar prime minister. A few years ago it was turned into a Rajasthani arts museum. Its 100+ rooms contain royal attire, weapons, and old folk-art (most famously, its renowned doll/puppet show). The big courtyard and terraces of the haveli overlook Lake Pichola. Tourists throng here for an evening dance performance that brings back ancient folk tales—a suitable cultural conclusion to a tour of India's havelis. Mysore Palace Though more palace than haveli, its grandeur influenced the city's love of eclectic architecture (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) Although not a "haveli" technically, Mysore Palace is the quintessential example of a royal Indian home. Indo-Saracenic, Romanesque, and Hindu styles are all mixed together in this vast palace, with large rooms, courtyards, and gardens. The 14th-century palace was reconstructed in 1912 and continues to be the residence of the Wadiyar family. Intricate woodwork, stained-glass windows, and carvings under arches make this palace one of India's grandest structures. Chowmahalla Palace Southern peek at haveli-style grandeur from Nizami perspective and Persian touches (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) Although technically a palace, some sections of Chowmahalla look like the haveli style—courtyards, audience halls, and verandas under arcades. The seat of the Asaf Jahi dynasty (the Nizams) since the 18th century, this complex is a wonderful example of hybrid architecture, with an intermixing of Persian, Indo-Saracenic, and European elements. The Durbar Hall, complete with Belgian crystal chandeliers, is one of the big attractions. Wooden Haveli (Kalupur Tankshal, Ahmedabad) Built without nails, held by legacy: This wooden marvel showcases Gujarat's humble yet intricate past (Image Source: Wikimedia Commons) Hidden in the narrow alleys of ancient Ahmedabad is a lesser-seen wonder: a nail-free wooden haveli. Situated in the Kalupur Tankshal locality, this 200-year-old mansion is a vintage Gujarati architecture—flawless woodwork, inner courtyards, ornate brackets, and jharokhas. The cherry on top? Its entire building is held firm by interlocking joints and pegs, a testament to the skill of the Vishwakarma community. Summing Up Havelis in India Havelis are not just structures. They are photographs of history, guided by the people, culture, and era in which they were constructed. Each one has a story to tell—whether it is the ornate patterns of Rajasthan or the majestic courtyards of Lucknow. Most of these havelis have discolored, but attempts to revive them and convert them into heritage hotels are giving them new life. They are not only architectural treasures but also a link to the past, providing a glimpse into family life and city development.