

MULTAN – A SPIRITUAL LEGACY*by**Fauzia Hussain Qureshi*

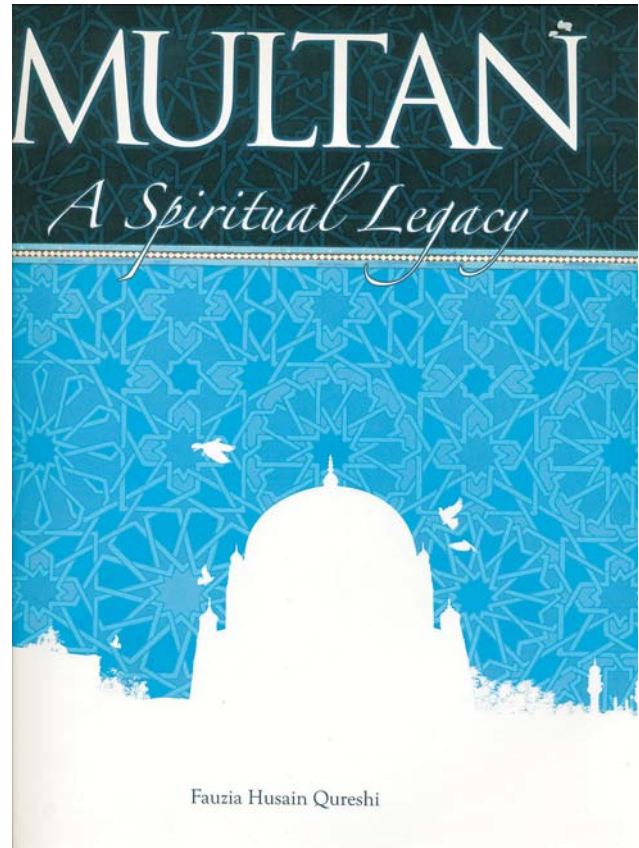
A Review by

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The city of Multan, also known as the City of Sufis and Madinat-ul-Auliya is dotted by a large number of shrines. The city has a rich history which is evident from the fine grain of the Google earth image present in the book entitled 'Multan: A Spiritual Legacy' by Fauzia Hussain Qureshi. This image which marks the location of the various monuments and shrines documented in the book speaks volumes about the intricacy, complexity and historical value of the urban morphology of the city of Multan.

The monograph under review contains detailed drawings of these historical sites and their architectural elements, and carries a brief history of the monuments, along with the connotation of their patrons. The monograph captures the rich history of the city of Multan by complimenting the historical narratives with various images and scaled drawings. The focus of the book goes beyond the documentation of Sufi shrines and includes colonial buildings, Hindu temples and other monuments. The monograph is divided into seven sections entitled Multan fort, walled city monuments, Ali Akbar complex, east of walled city, west of walled city, south of walled city and epilogue. The well illustrated historical account of the city of Multan in the beginning of the book informs the reader about the political events that shaped the morphology of the city. This account helps the reader to form a connection between the individual buildings and monuments documented in the monograph with the overall development of the historical city.

The format of the monograph is easy to comprehend as it is free from theoretical jargons and is equally valuable for a student and a professional. The architectural drawings have been made interesting with inserting colors from Multani craft into the drawings to give a flavor of the blue glazed tiles used for the ornamentation of these monuments.



The epilogue, which doubles up as a conclusion for the monograph, presents a cultural account of the association of the devotees with the shrines. More activity profiles of the users of the different monuments and shrines could have been added which would have made the monograph richer and made it interesting for a wider readership. Overall, the monograph is a significant addition to the dearth of literature available on architecture and urban design in Pakistan and it documents the rich architectural history of a city which has fallen to dearth with time and is in need of attention.

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