The rise of Islam, the religion of peace and brotherhood in Arabia, in the beginning of the 7th century A.D., had its repercussions in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Within a century, it spread rapidly over these three continents. It touched the region as far as India in the East and Morocco and Spain in the West.

The Arabs had their relation with India even before the advent of Islam and after the promulgation of Islam, the Islamic Arabs who had come to India for trade and commerce required their own housing and place for performing religious prayers. Many inscriptions indicate their presence and also suitable donations, protection and patronisation of the local rulers. These caused the development of the Islamic secular and religious architecture in Indian towns.

The conquest of Gujarat by the Islamic Turks at the end of the 13th century A.D. resulted in the destruction of manpower and damage to the towns on the one hand and construction of Islamic habitations near the older towns on the other. As a result of all these activities, towns and cities were brought under well planned schemes of beautification not only by architectural activities but by horticultural planning as well. These architectural antiquities were neither properly explored nor effectively recorded.
This condition encouraged the present researcher to carry out a detailed exploration of the Muslim monuments to bring out their architectural and decorative features and analyse various aspects of the monuments in relation to townscape.

Chapter I

This is an introductory chapter that deals with the background of the study, rationale of the study, review of related literature, specification of the problem, scope and objectives of the study, methodology—selection of the sample, collection of data, technique of analysis, limitation of the study and scheme of the chapters.

Chapter II

This chapter is devoted to the historical background of the study covering a period of five thousand years to establish a brief chronological relationship of India with West Asia through available data.

Chapter III

This chapter studies the growth and development of the Muslim towns and cities in Gujarat. It is initiated with the development of the Muslim towns and cities outside India.
It deals with the topography, archaeology and toponomy of Ahmedabad city. It includes the description, analysis and interpretation of its topography, architecture and toponomy showing the distribution of the monuments in relation to its general towncape.

This chapter includes the description, analysis and interpretation of the topography, archaeology and toponomy of Saroda city.

Chapter VI

Chapter VI sheds light on the topography, archaeology and toponomy of Unaruch.

Chapter VII

It deals with the topography, archaeology and toponomy of Cambay.

Chapter VIII

This chapter describes the topography, archaeology of Sharpener city. This is a dead town with a very little toponomy that is also discussed.
This chapter depicts the topography, archaeology and toponomy of Rasht.

This chapter deals with the topography, archaeology and toponomy of the famous western Indian port town of Surat.

This chapter contains the comparative discussion and interpretation of the findings in the light of the specific objectives, related literature and researches. Hence, comparison and correlation of the architectural traditions of Gujarat are discussed. The main architectural and decorative features of the monuments are compared with that of the Parso-Byzantine styles, their adoption and transformation at the hand of the Indian architects.

This chapter deals with the summary of the findings, conclusions and suggestions for further research.
The present study brought to light the following facts:

1. This study proved that the pre-Muslim towns allowed the growth of the Muslim quarters and religious structures in them.

2. The topographic features of the selected towns proved that the new Muslim settlement was confined to the building of the residential quarters, mosques, logcha and labarstans. They constituted the minimum Islamic element of the settlement.

3. It is proved that the local geomorphological factors played a vital role for the growth of urban patterns. Towns growing up on the bends of the rivers began as linear towns and took the form of radial towns in the developed stage and those on the straight banks of the river followed linear or rectangular patterns along the banks while in case of plain land the developed towns were in rectangular or square patterns.

4. The Muslim fortified their towns and cities to protect them as their administrative centres. It is proved that this feature contrasts with the open capitals of the Chalukyas and Parmaras.
5. The study reflects that some of the towns were primarily developed on gridiron pattern, but in the subsequent period when density of population increased and the suburbs were brought under fortifications, the planning of the additional town was rather haphazard.

6. The residential quarters had different plans and patterns. They indicate that the houses of the rich were spacious garden houses with sufficient space for servants, stables and other amenities but these facilities were limited in the houses of the lower classes.

7. The acoustic construction of the large tanks, wells, stepwells, water cisterns for general use and for pleasure resorts and gardens is a significant activity in these towns and cities. These amenities for pleasure are interesting features of the Gujarat towns and cities.

8. The distribution of the monuments in the towns and cities indicates that all the towns and cities are enriched with considerable Muslim buildings such as residential quarters, mosques, mausoleums, idgah and lavastens. The latter two devices were observed on the fringe of the towns.

9. This study has also put the chronology of the art and architectural tradition on a new footing. It has helped to study these monuments and examine their relationship with other monuments in India as well as outside it.
10. The most important discovery of this study is a duodecagonal monument.

11. The building materials were usually produced locally but stone indicates movement over considerable distances.

12. Both arcuate and trabeate systems were observed in the buildings.

13. It reflects that the decorative motifs and designs were admixture of indigenous style and that of Islamic traditions of other countries. The decorative device is greatly indebted to local artistic talents.

14. The topography of the selected towns and cities indicates that these towns and cities had mixed population. The geographical, religious, commercial, botanical and zoological as well as language factors had a greater impact on the formation of place-names.

The present study is based on the diverse archaeological sources like:

1) Archaeological remains,

2) Epigraphic records and,

3) Literary source.
In these context the published works of the eminent scholars like Abul Fazl, Sikander bin Manjhu, Ali M.K., Najji-al-Labir, J. Burgess, F.W. Hope, Cousens, J. Ferguson, A. Neville, H. Coast, F.W. Cross, and Prof. R.N. Mehta have been referred to. For a comparative study the works of K.H. Creswell, A. Papadopoulos and A.J. Pope have been consulted.

The data used in the present study are mainly of two types.

1) Primary data

ii) Secondary data

All the primary data of this thesis were collected from archaeological explorations and excavations. The basic portion of the thesis contains the description, analysis and interpretation of the data which were collected from the explorations of the selected towns and cities. Data were also collected from the printed inscriptions, records, publications of the Archaeological Survey of India and other Institutions. The reports of the excavations conducted by Department of Archaeology, M.S. University of Baroda under the guidance of Prof. Mehta at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Champaner and Patan were also consulted.