

Ralph Rapson in Agra, India

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[Taj Mahal](#), in Agra, India, designed by Emperor Shah Jahan, 1630 to 1653.

Color sketch by [Ralph Rapson](#), from [Ralph Rapson Sketches and Drawings from Around the World](#), courtesy of the [Afton Press](#).

On my first trip to India, I had been advised to see the [Taj Mahal](#) by full moon, if possible. Built in Agra by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his beloved wife, the white marble structure stands amid dozens of acres of landscaped promenades and reflecting pools.

The crowds of tourists had vanished by the time I reached the Taj, and I was virtually alone as I walked the grounds, which were bathed in milky moonlight. It was a profound experience, equaled in my life only by similar viewings of the Acropolis and [Machu Picchu](#). – Ralph Rapson

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Source: Architecture Week People & Places Blog