

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2019
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SACRED GEOMETRY: THE ARCHITECTURE OF EARLY INDIA

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I Buddhist Stupas and Cave Shrines

- Sanchi Stupas
 - Sanchi Stupa II - Stupa of the Saints: 75-50 BCE
 - Sanchi Stupa I - The Great Stupa: 50 BCE - 50 CE
- Bodhinath and Syambunath Stupas, Kathmandu, Nepal, 3rd C BCE
- Ajanta Caves: *chaitya* halls and *viharas*
Caves carved ca. 100 BCE-100 CE, Sunga Period; and c. 450 CE, Gupta Period

II Hindu Rock Cut Monuments and Temples

- Mamallapuram: Pallava Dynasty, mid-7th C CE
5 Rock-cut *rathas* (temples conceived of as chariots)
- Udayagiri Caves, 6th C CE
Cave 4, *linga* in *garbhagriha* (Sanctuary)
- Deogarh: Dasavatara Visnu Temple, Gupta Dynasty, ca. 500-550 CE
Dedicated to Vishnu
- Khajuraho: Chandella Dynasty
Lakshmana Temple, Inscription dated 954 CE, dedicated to Vishnu
Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, 1025-50 CE, dedicated to Shiva
Both temples have double transepts

References

- Stella Kramrisch, *The Hindu Temple*, Volumes 1 and 2 (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1946)
- George Michell, *The Hindu Temple: An Introduction to its Meaning and Forms*.
(London: Elek Books, Ltd., 1977)
- Andreas Volwahren, *Living Architecture: Indian*. (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., 1969)

Terms

Brahma Lord, God the Creator
Brahman world soul, supreme principle of order
Brahman, Brahmin member of priestly caste
Brahma-sthana panel in center of mandala
chaitya hall Buddhist prayer hall
dravida style South Indian style of architecture
garbha-griha womb chamber, sanctuary
gopura towering gate in South Indian temple architecture
harmika square railing on top of stupa
Kailasha sacred mountain in the Himalayas, the abode of Shiva
kudu horseshoe-shaped window in façade of *chaitya* halls
mandapa porch or hall
Manasara mediaeval manual of architecture
mandala sacred circle, plan
medhi base of stupa
Meru the center of the universe, surrounded by concentrically arranged continents, oceans and heavenly bodies.
nagara style North Indian style of architecture
pada square area forming the grid of a mandala
pradakshina-patha path of clockwise circumambulation
Purusha primeval human being or spirit, personification of the cosmos
ratha pilaster-like projection on façade of tower; temple conceived as a chariot
rekha-deul sanctuary with square ground-plan
shastras texts
shikhara tower of temple in North India
Shilpa-prakasha mediaeval manual of architecture
stambha column, often free-standing
sthapati priest architect
stupa hemispherical burial or reliquary mound
thabha post of a railing
torana gateway
trishala house built around court open on one side
Upanishads philosophical additions to the *Vedas*
Vastu building site
Vastupurusha mandala demon who resides at every building site
Vastu-vidya doctrine of architecture, architectural theory
Vedas collection of scriptures containing primeval revelations
Vedika railing
vesara style architectural style, a blend of north and south Indian elements
vihara Buddhist monastery
vimana tower of temple in South India
Vishnudharmottara Purana, encyclopaedic Hindu text, c. 7th century
yantra mystical symbol, diagram or instrument