

INDIAN ARCHITECTURE



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INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

Introduction

- The architecture of India includes present day **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.**
- These countries later on got separated by political boundaries but, still share a common cultural heritage.
- The diversity of Indian culture is represented in its architecture.
- Indian architecture comprises a blend of ancient and varied native traditions, with building types, forms and technologies from west, central Asia, and Europe.



INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

- Indian architecture has influenced the surrounding regions of the world, especially eastern Asia, due to the spread of ideas with Buddhism.
- A number of Indian architectural features such as *the stupa* (temple mound), *sikhara* (temple spire), *pagoda* (temple tower), *torana* (and temple gate), have become famous symbols of Hindu-Buddhist culture, used extensively in East Asia and South-East Asia.
- Early Indian architecture is the story of how powerful and popular religions celebrated their beliefs through **monumental design**.

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Geographical condition:

- The rivers Indus and Ganges
- The Himalayas
- The Everest mountain
- Surrounded by seas and Indian ocean
- Many cities were founded on the banks of rivers

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Geological condition

- **Timber** was available in plenty in Indus and Ganges valleys
- **Stone** was ~~rare~~
- In some part of india **white marble** is available
- In some parts of india **rock-cut** temples were also available

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Climatic condition

- More than half the country lies in Tropic Cancer
- The climate therefore varies widely
- Wet in winter and dry in summer
- Buildings built to adapt the climate
- In **north flat** roofs were common, but steep pitched roofs were used in **West coast** due to heavy rain

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Religious condition

1. Hindu
2. Buddhism
3. Jainism

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Hinduism
- The religion has evolved due to the combination of faiths of Aryans and **Dravidians**.

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Jain; founded by **Mahaveer** or **Vadhaman** who was himself a **Brahman**, he was born around 599B.C.
- According to him the goal is '**Nirvana**' or a state of pure rest without **rebirth** but no total destruction
- The religion teaches avoidance of injury to life, to observe truth, honesty, abstinence from worldly desire, gentleness, holiness, self-punishment, and restraint of mind tongue and body.

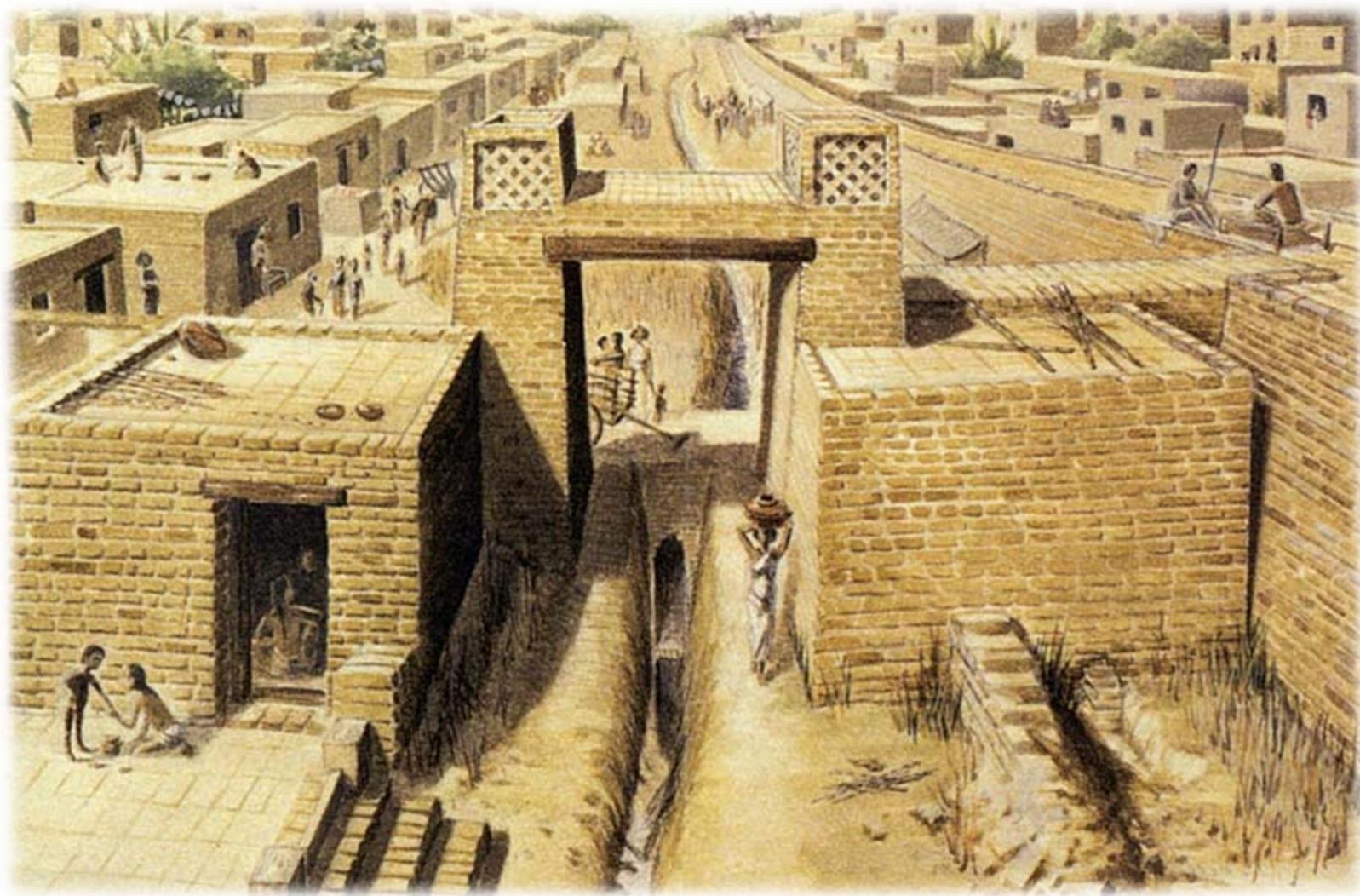
FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Buddhist; Siddhartha (Gautama), the first Buddha
 - the religion teaches against animal sacrifice, to observe oneness, humanity, the deliverance from sorrow and all trouble and from ignorance through enlightenment to the ultimate 'Nirvana'

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- The earliest known civilization in the Indo-Pak region of South Asia.
- The Indus valley civilization is dated around 3000 B.C.
- comprises many urban settlements, including the large cities of **Harappa** and **Mohenjo Daro**
- Characterized by a variety of house types, many of which had **private baths** connected to **public drainage systems**.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION



INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- The arch, a cornerstone of world architecture, was first developed by the Indus valley civilization, and would later be a staple of Indian architecture.
- The earliest production in the Indus Valley Civilization was characterized by well planned cities and houses where religion did not seem to play an active role.
- The presence of drainage systems and public baths showed advanced standards of hygiene and sanitation and ingenious planning.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION



ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

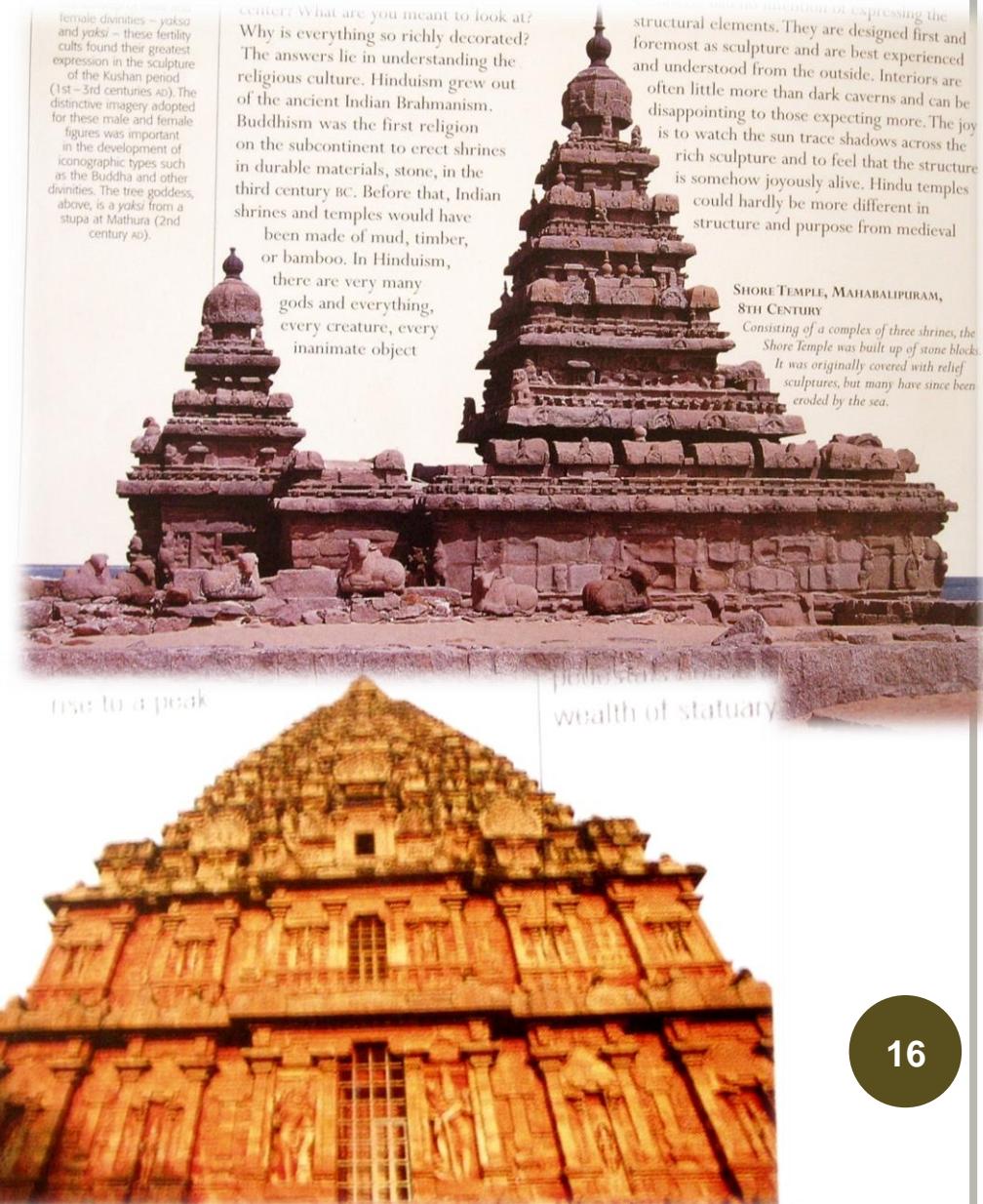
SIKHARAS

- These are the peaks of the towers rising from the core of Hindu temples
- These towers are always extravagantly decorated
- They vary in shape throughout the country

female divinities – *yaksa* and *yaksi* – these fertility cults found their greatest expression in the sculpture of the Kushan period (1st–3rd centuries AD). The distinctive imagery adopted for these male and female figures was important in the development of iconographic types such as the Buddha and other divinities. The tree goddess, above, is a *yaksi* from a stupa at Mathura (2nd century AD).

center: What are you meant to look at? Why is everything so richly decorated? The answers lie in understanding the religious culture. Hinduism grew out of the ancient Indian Brahmanism. Buddhism was the first religion on the subcontinent to erect shrines in durable materials, stone, in the third century BC. Before that, Indian shrines and temples would have

been made of mud, timber, or bamboo. In Hinduism, there are very many gods and everything, every creature, every inanimate object



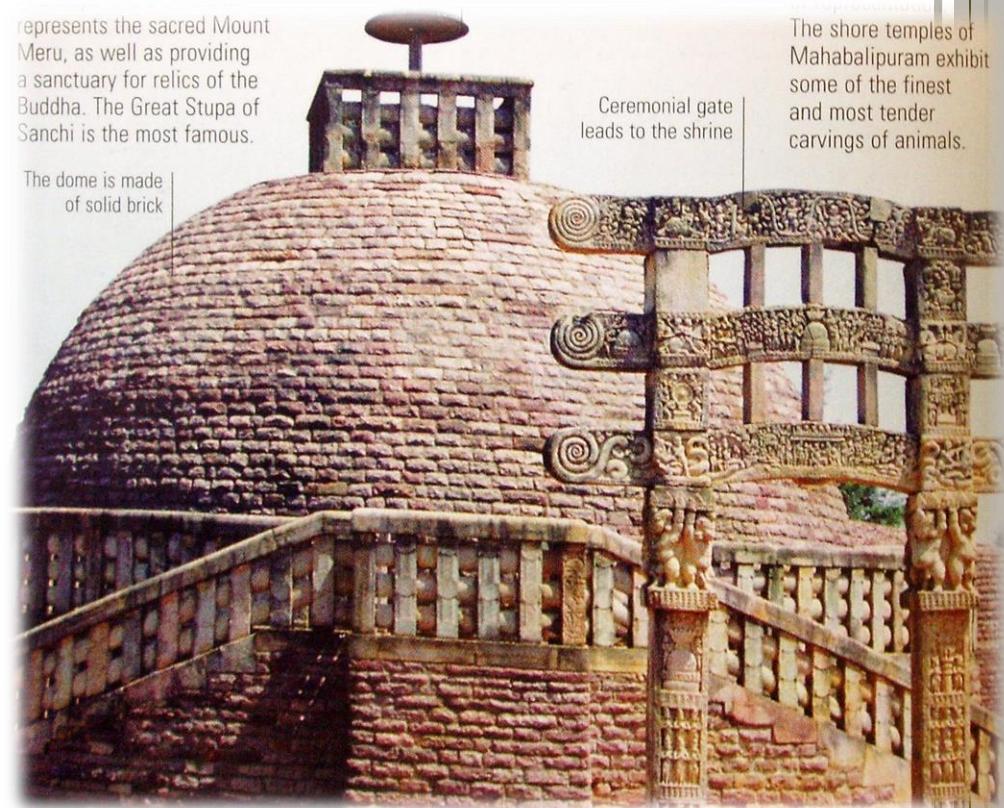
SHORE TEMPLE, MAHABALIPURAM,
8TH CENTURY

Consisting of a complex of three shrines, the Shore Temple was built up of stone blocks. It was originally covered with relief sculptures, but many have since been eroded by the sea.

ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

Stupas

- The stupa is a shrine that represents the sacred Mount Meru, as well as providing a sanctuary for relics of the Buddha.
- They have four ceremonial gates to the shrine
- It was mostly a Buddhist art, though Jains also seemed to have built stupas.



The shore temples of Mahabalipuram exhibit some of the finest and most tender carvings of animals.

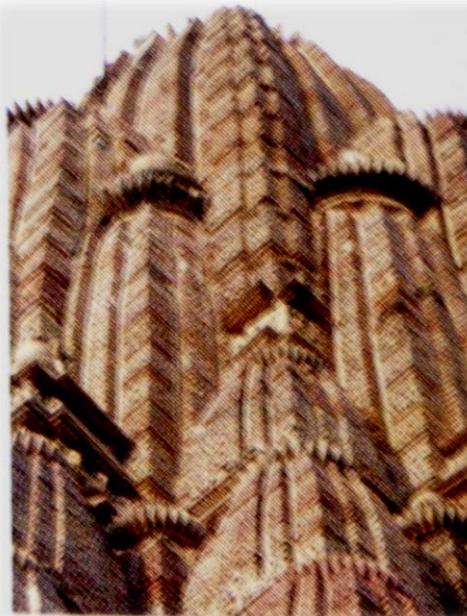
ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE



ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

Symbolic layers

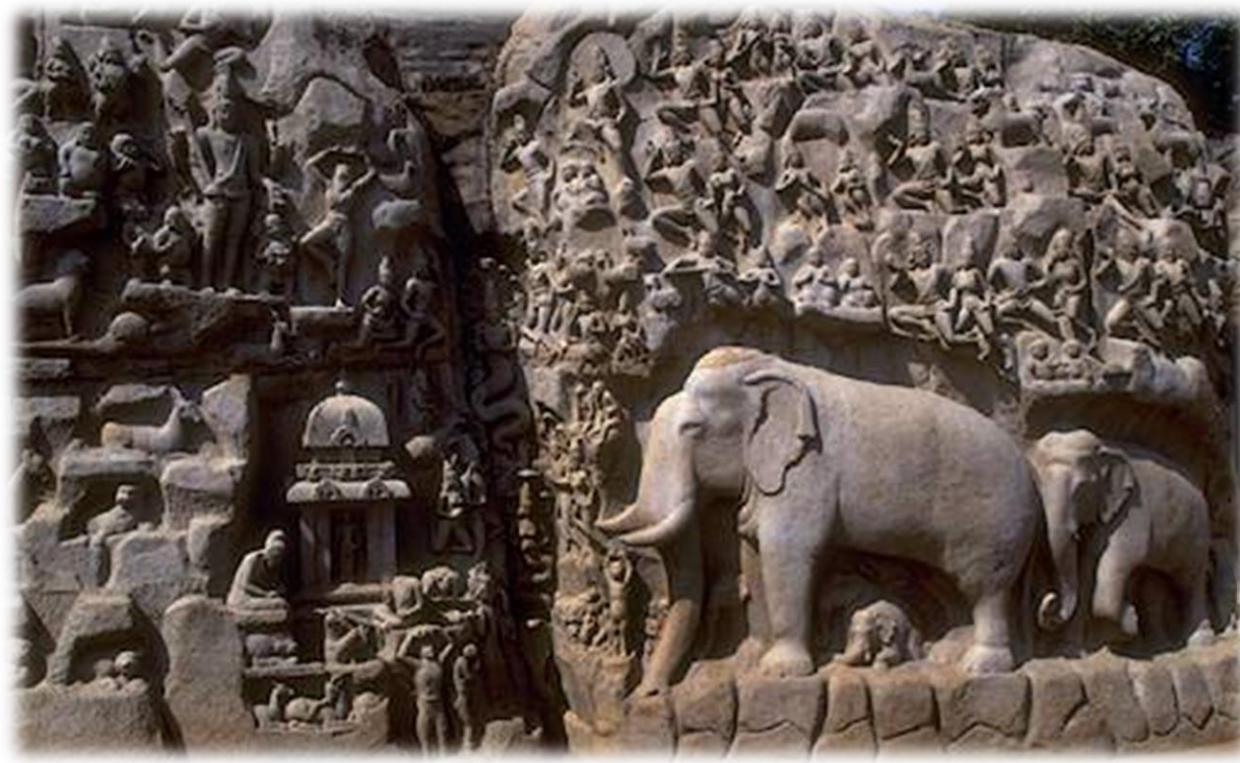
- The towers of Hindu temples tell stories as they rise skywards
- Each has its own distinctive “handwriting” and depicts the concerns of local cults as well as universal themes.



ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

Animal statuary

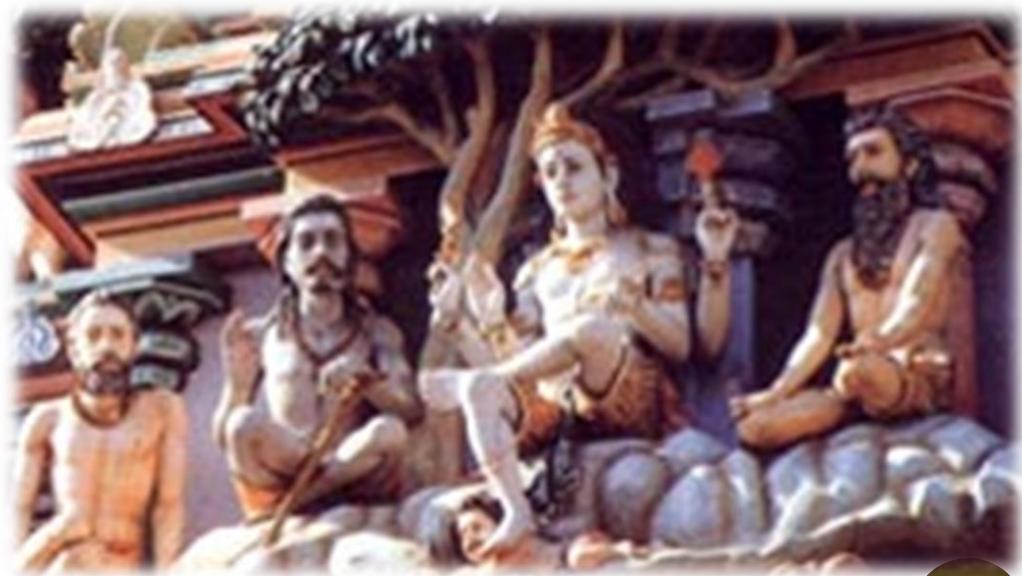
- To Hindus, **all life** is sacred and deserving of representation.
- Most of the temples show fine sculptures and carvings of animals



ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

Figurative decorations

- For Hindus, the carving of sacred images and figurines was an **art** form in itself, requiring years of disciplined training.



ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE



ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

- Cave temples



ELEMENTS OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE



INFLUENCES

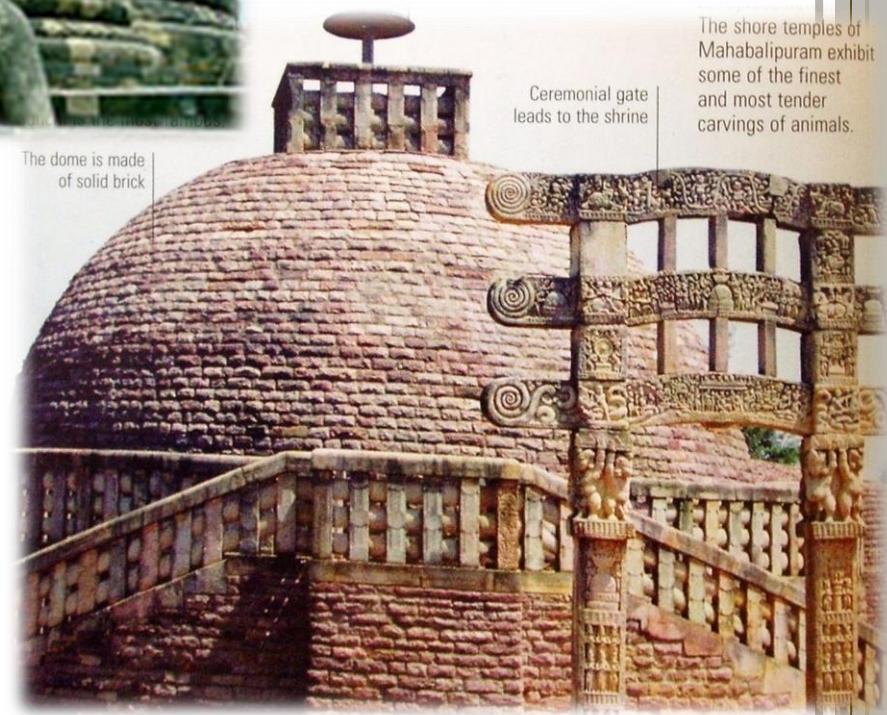
- Religion :Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Islam
- Type of raw materials
- Royal patronage (support)
- Architectural influence from Persia, Greece...

BUDDHIST AND JAIN ARCHITECTURE

- Buddhism gained prominence during the reign of the emperor **Ashoka** around the 3rd c. bc.
- It is primarily represented by three important building types- the **Chaitya Hall** (place of worship), the **Vihara** (monastery) and the **Stupa** (hemispherical mound for worship/ memory)-

BUDDHIST TEMPLES

- Stupas



The dome is made
of solid brick

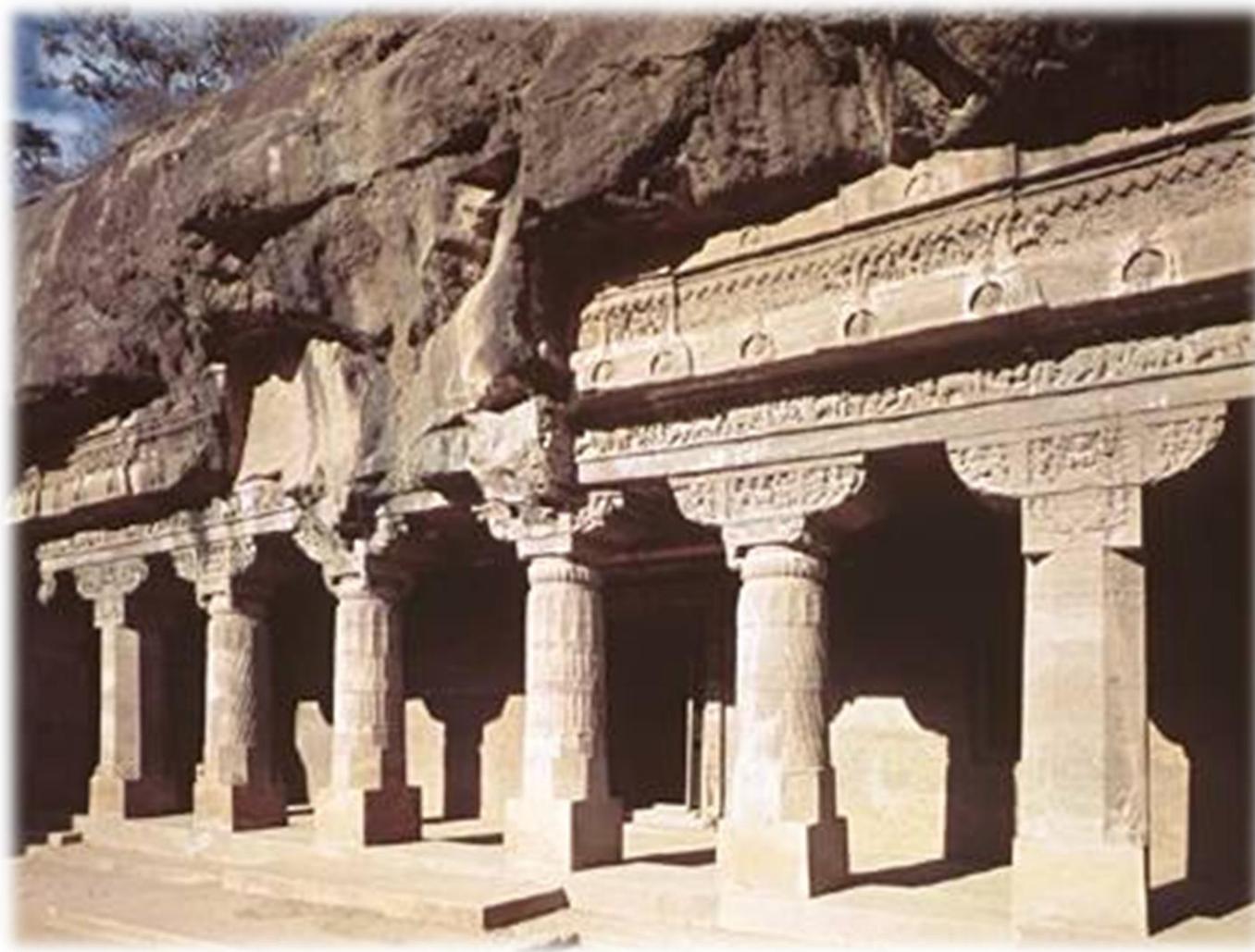
Ceremonial gate
leads to the shrine

The shore temples of
Mahabalipuram exhibit
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BUDDHIST AND JAIN ARCHITECTURE

- The Greek influence led the Indian architecture of the time, especially the rock-cut art, to fall under one of the two categories: the Mathura school of art and the Gandharva school of art
- The division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana phases also influenced the nature of rock-cut art, the former being represented by artifacts used by the Buddha, and the latter by images of the Buddha.

BUDDHIST TEMPLES



HINDU TEMPLES

- The reference to temples in literature go back early to(520 BC - 460 BC)
- Early temples were rock-cut, later structural temples evolved.
- The temple is a representation of the macrocosm (the universe) as well as the microcosm (the inner space).



HINDU TEMPLES (POETRY IN STONE)

- Indian temple architecture has often been called **sculpture** on a mass scale rather than **true architecture**.
- They are **designed as sculpture** and are best experienced and understood from the outside.
- Interiors are very small and dark spaces which are not as impressive as the exterior

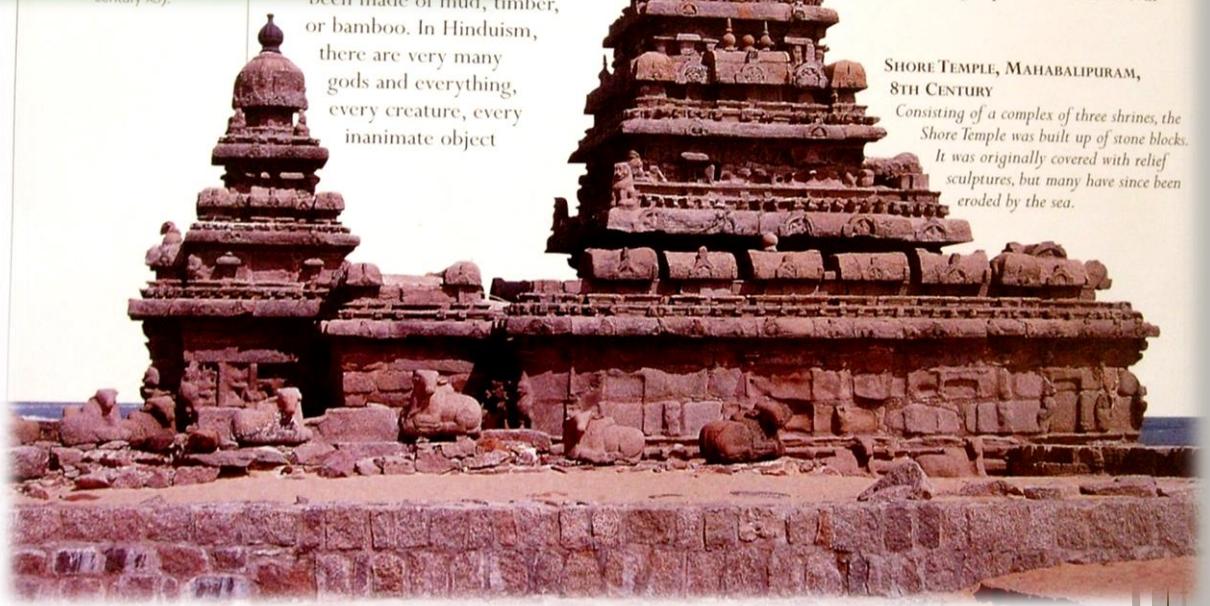


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SHORE TEMPLE, MAHABALIPURAM, 8TH CENTURY

Consisting of a complex of three shrines, the Shore Temple was built up of stone blocks. It was originally covered with relief sculptures, but many have since been eroded by the sea.

had no intention of expressing the structural elements. They are designed first and foremost as sculpture and are best experienced and understood from the outside. Interiors are often little more than dark caverns and can be disappointing to those expecting more. The joy is to watch the sun trace shadows across the rich sculpture and to feel that the structure is somehow joyously alive. Hindu temples could hardly be more different in structure and purpose from medieval

HINDU TEMPLES

- A basic Hindu temple consists of an inner sanctum, the *garba griha* or womb-chamber, in which the image is housed, a congregation hall, and possibly an antechamber (entrance hall) and porch.
- The sanctum is crowned by a tower-like *shikara*
- The structural system of temples was essentially post and beam and with massive blocks of stone being the basic raw material for the local craftsman
- Decoration was fundamental to this type of architecture

HINDU TEMPLES

- There were three major styles of temple architecture: the northern or **Nagara style**, the southern or **Dravida** and the **Vesara** or **hybrid style** but the most common are the **Nagara** and the **Dravida**.
- They are distinguishable by the shape and decoration of their **shikharas** or **superstructures**.



HINDU TEMPLES

North Indian Temples (**Nagara**)

- The Nagara style which developed around the fifth century is characterized by a beehive shaped tower called a shikhara
- The plan is based on a square but the walls are sometimes so broken up that the tower often gives the impression of being circular.



HINDU TEMPLES

South Indian Temples (Dravida)

- From the seventh century the Dravida or southern style has a pyramid shaped tower consisting of progressively smaller storeys of small pavilions, a narrow throat, and a dome on the top
- The repeated storeys give a horizontal visual thrust to the southern style.



INDO ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

Influence of Islam and the Mughal Architecture

- With the arrival of Islam, the previous Indian architecture was slightly adapted to allow the traditions of the new religion, but it remained strongly Indian at its heart and character.
- Arches and domes began to be used and the mosque or masjid too began to form part of the landscape, adding to a new experience in form and space.

INDO ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE



INDO ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

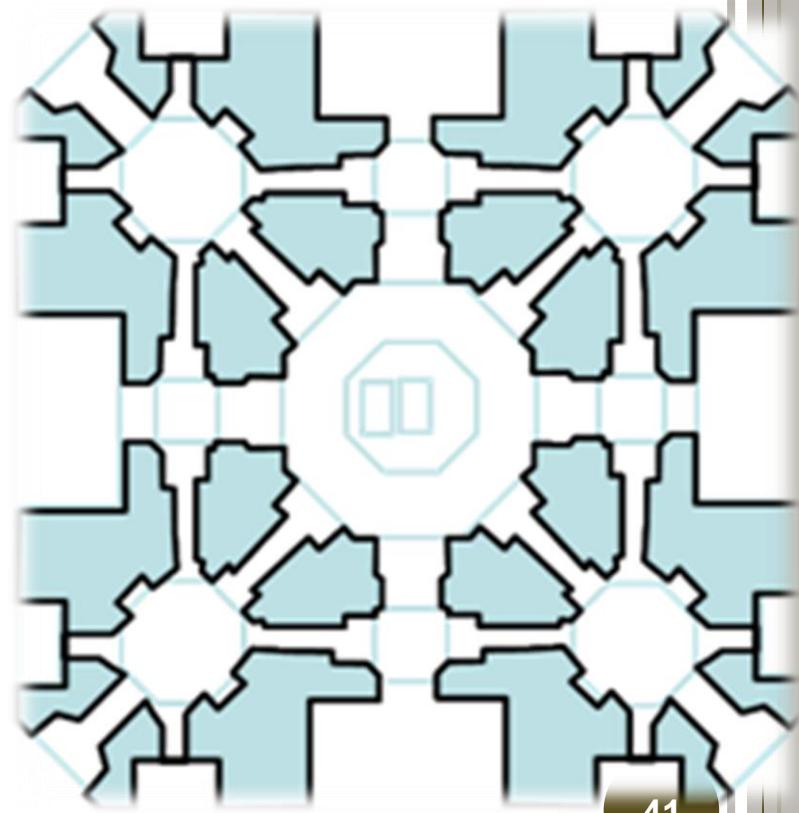
- The fundamental difference lay in the fact that Islam prohibited idol worship and therefore a concentrated point of focus such as the garbagriha was unnecessary.
- The most famous Islamic buildings in India emerged during the **Mughal period**.

THE TAJ MAHAL



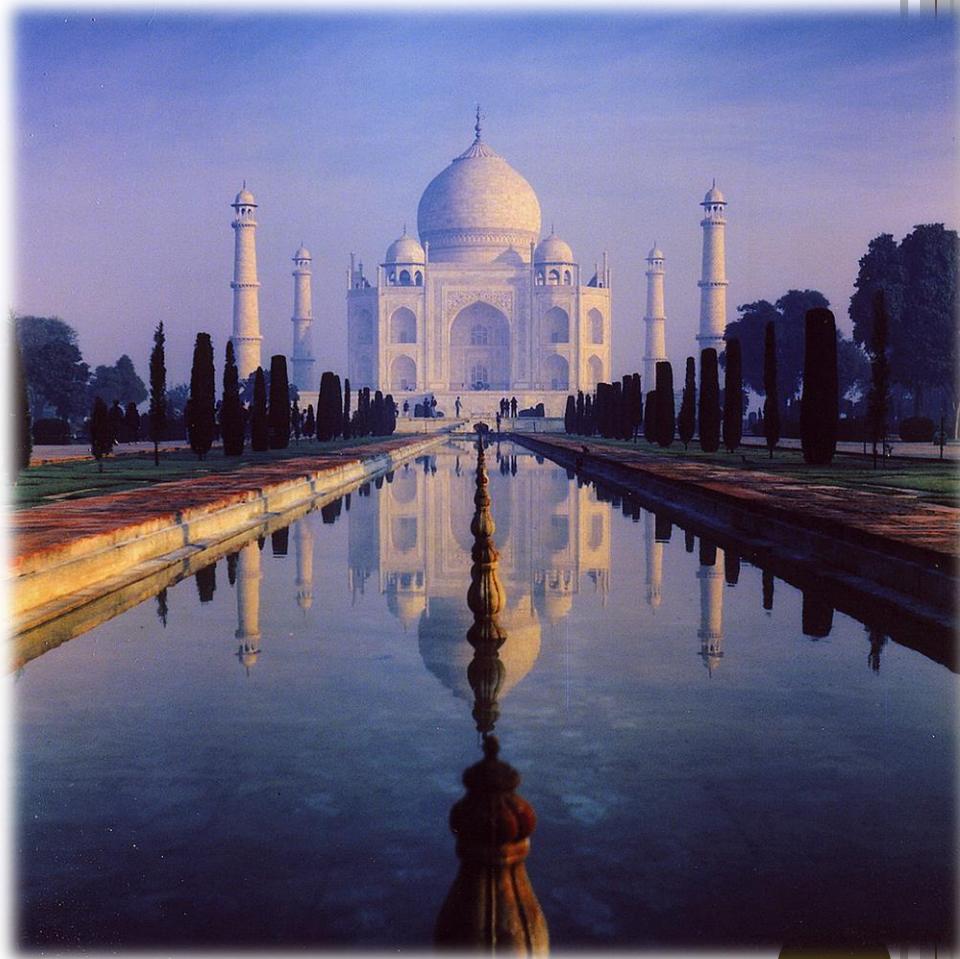
TAJ MAHAL

- The Taj Mahal was built with a special Mughal (Mogul) type of architecture which is a combination of many different types of architecture including Persian, Central, Asian, and Islamic



TAJ MAHAL

- It was erected by Shah Jahan to the memory of his beloved queen, Arjumand Banu Begum, called Mumtaz Mahal
- A year after her death in 1631 he began the Taj & it took twenty-two years to complete with over 20,000 workers participating.
- The Taj Mahal stands in a walled enclosure measuring around 580x305m.



TAJ MAHAL

- Its beauty lies in its calm solemnity, and the marble's subtle colors as it reflects the changing sky above.
- The dome was derived from both Hindu temple design and Persian Timur architecture.

