

# ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF BHARAT

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Indian Architecture has always been inquisitive due to its magnanimity and the arty creations. Our country has a plethora of monuments, baroque and modernistic buildings which echo the tales of their era.

Among the 830 World Heritage Sites listed by UNESCO, 26 belong to the Indian soil

India has seen a number of architectural styles which developed the course of history. Let's take an overview of such amazing Indian architectural styles.



# 1. Temple Architecture

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- Temple architecture has deep roots in India. It has developed in almost all the regions in the country. Although the origins of the style are the same, we can see a substantial differentiation and variety of architectural styles in temple construction. This variety is mainly caused due to the geographical, climatic, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and historical diversities in India.





Primarily, the Indian temple architecture has been classified into three broad types, namely;

Nagara or the northern style,

Vesara or mixed style, and

the Dravida which is the southern style.



# Vesara Architecture

- Vesara style of architecture has found its roots in the state of Karnataka during the medieval period. This style is a combination of both Dravida and the Nagara architectural styles. In this style, the heights of the individual tiers are reduced without affecting their actual numbers. This reduces the total height of the temple architecture.



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# Dravidian Architecture

- The Dravidian architectural style emerged in the southern region of the Indian subcontinent thousands of years ago. The structures built by the native Dravidian people, which were primarily called as Kovils are epic instances of Dravidian architecture. These Kovils are dependent on complex carved stone. Such materials are the key to create step kind of designs which contain many statues of kings, deities, dancers, and warriors.



## Nagara or the northern style

- Nagara or **North Indian** Temple Style
- The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower. ... Their roofs are composed of several slabs that gently rise to a single point over the centre of the building, unlike the latina ones which look like sharply rising tall towers





# Kalinga Architecture

- The Kalinga architecture flourished in the ancient region of Kalinga. This architectural style can still be seen in the eastern Indian state of Odisha and the northern parts of Andhra Pradesh.



# Sikh Architecture

- Sikh architecture has gained immense popularity across the globe. Sikh architecture is identified with brilliant intricacy, progressiveness, incredible beauty, and amazing flowing lines. This is a particular architectural form which has contributed to the evolution of modernism and progressive style in Indian architecture. The wonderful Sikh architecture is all about attractive curves and straight lines; which makes it look outstanding and different from other architectural styles.







# Rock-Cut Architecture

- The Rock-cut structures in India project the most impressive pieces of ancient Indian art. The Rock-cut architecture is an art of creating a structure through carving it out of one single, solid and natural rock. Most of the rock-cut structures in India are related to various different religious communities. India has more than 1,500 renowned rock-cut structures, and a number of these structures are artworks which have gained global importance, decorated with wonderful stone carvings.





- *Archit Kesar*

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