

**VAS – to dwell –** Bhumi  
Harmyadivastu  
Paryankadivastu

**VID – to understand,**  
discover,  
experience

**STHAPATYA VAASTUVIDYA**

KS60001

# SHELTER

Camps near water (hunter-gatherers), caves

Wooden beams and posts

Twigs, saplings, leaves - upturned baskets

Mud and sun dried/kiln dried brick

Construction with wood influenced design

Style replicated in other materials – transforming cave spaces

Brick – earth, water, air, fire and ether



# FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

- Systematic approach for human habitation— planning, designing, constructing and decorating
- Different scales of settlement — grama — nagara
- **Sthapati** — **Master Builder**
- **Sutragrahi** — **Supervisor**
- **Vardhaka**
- **Taksaka**

builds and repair wooden things

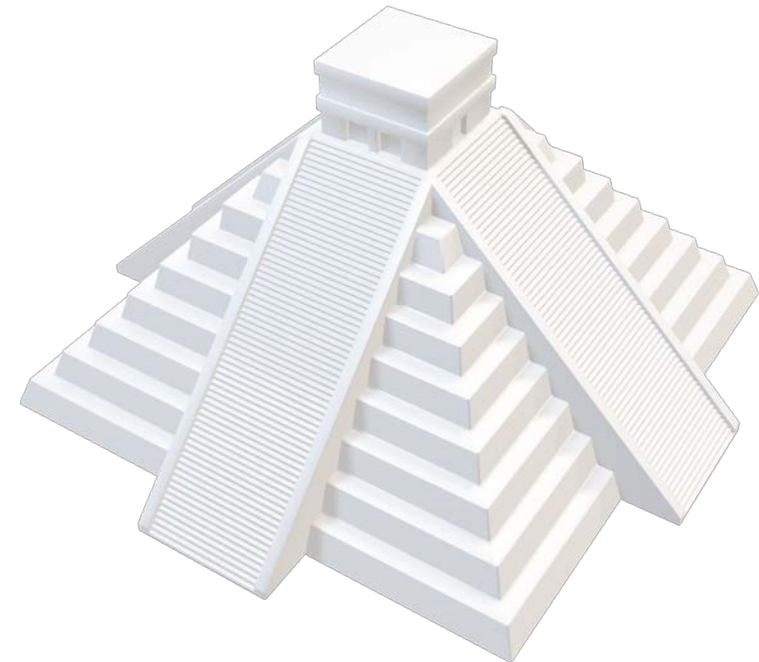
Craftsman



# VASTUSHAstra

- Sthapatyaveda (Atharvaveda)
  - Mathematics, Geometry, Graphic Arts, Structural Engineering, Astronomy, Sculptural Arts
- Matyapurana
  - Architecture, Sculpture
- Padmasamhita
  - Planning and Construction of temples
- Brhatsamhita by Varahamihira
- Natyashastra of Bharata
  - Design and construction of theatres

Mayamata  
Manasara



# DIMENSIONAL SYSTEM

defines physical measures of a person's size, form, and functional capacities

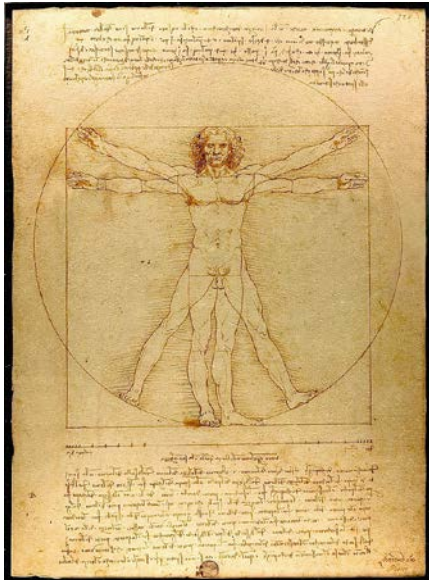
- **Anthropometrics**
- Measure of grain — size of human body
- **Pramana** — measurement of width, breadth or diameter
- **Parimana** — measurement of circumference/perimeter
- **Upamana** — measurement along slope
- **Lambamana** — measurement of height/depth
- **Yava** , one of the nine essential grains, was used as standard
- lateral width — 3.75 mm, length — 7.5 mm
- Three successive bisection ( $\frac{1}{8}$ ) of Yava — **Tila** 0.47 mm



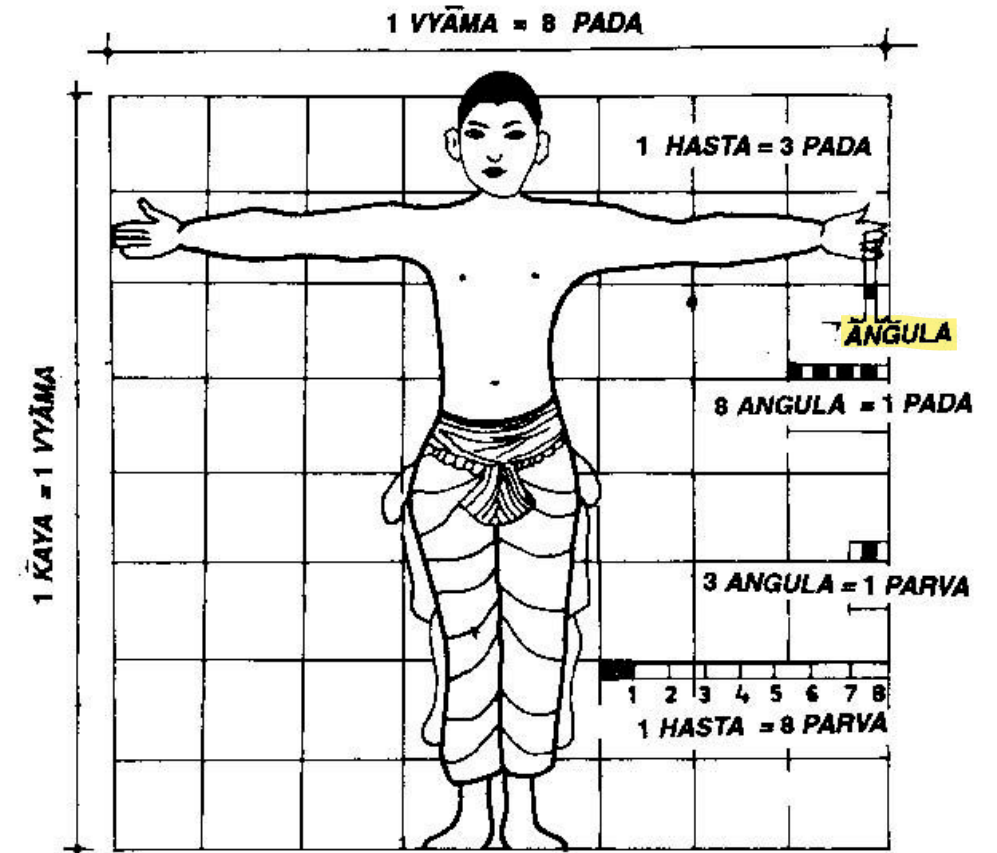
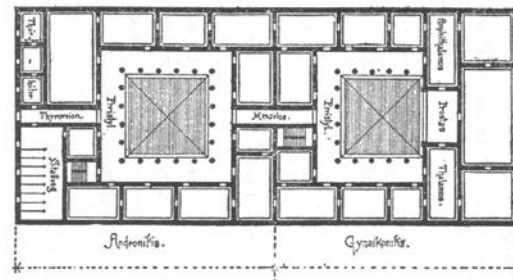


# DIMENSIONAL SYSTEM

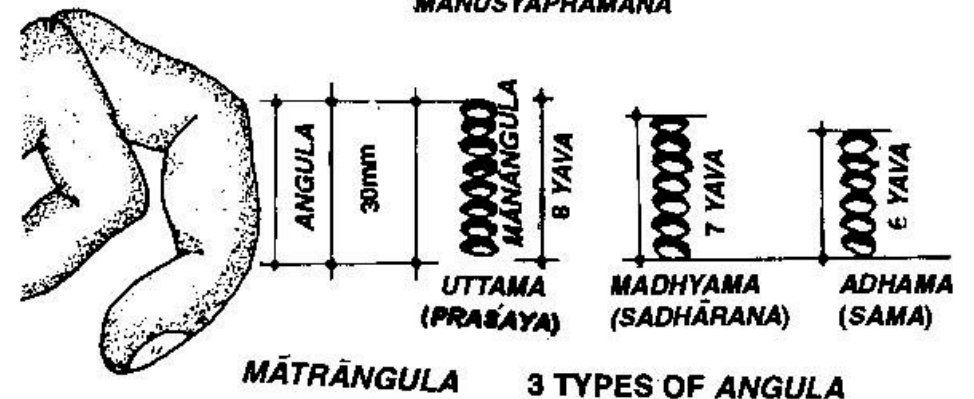
- Smallest dimension - Tila (0.47mm)
- Thickness of a chisel line on wood, joinery
- human figure as a reference system



Vitruvius



MANUSYAPRAMĀNA



MĀTRĀNGULA

3 TYPES OF ANGULA

# DIMENSIONAL SYSTEM

## Vitruvius

Leon Battista Alberti

Leonardo da Vinci

Michelangelo

**Danda = 4 Hasta**

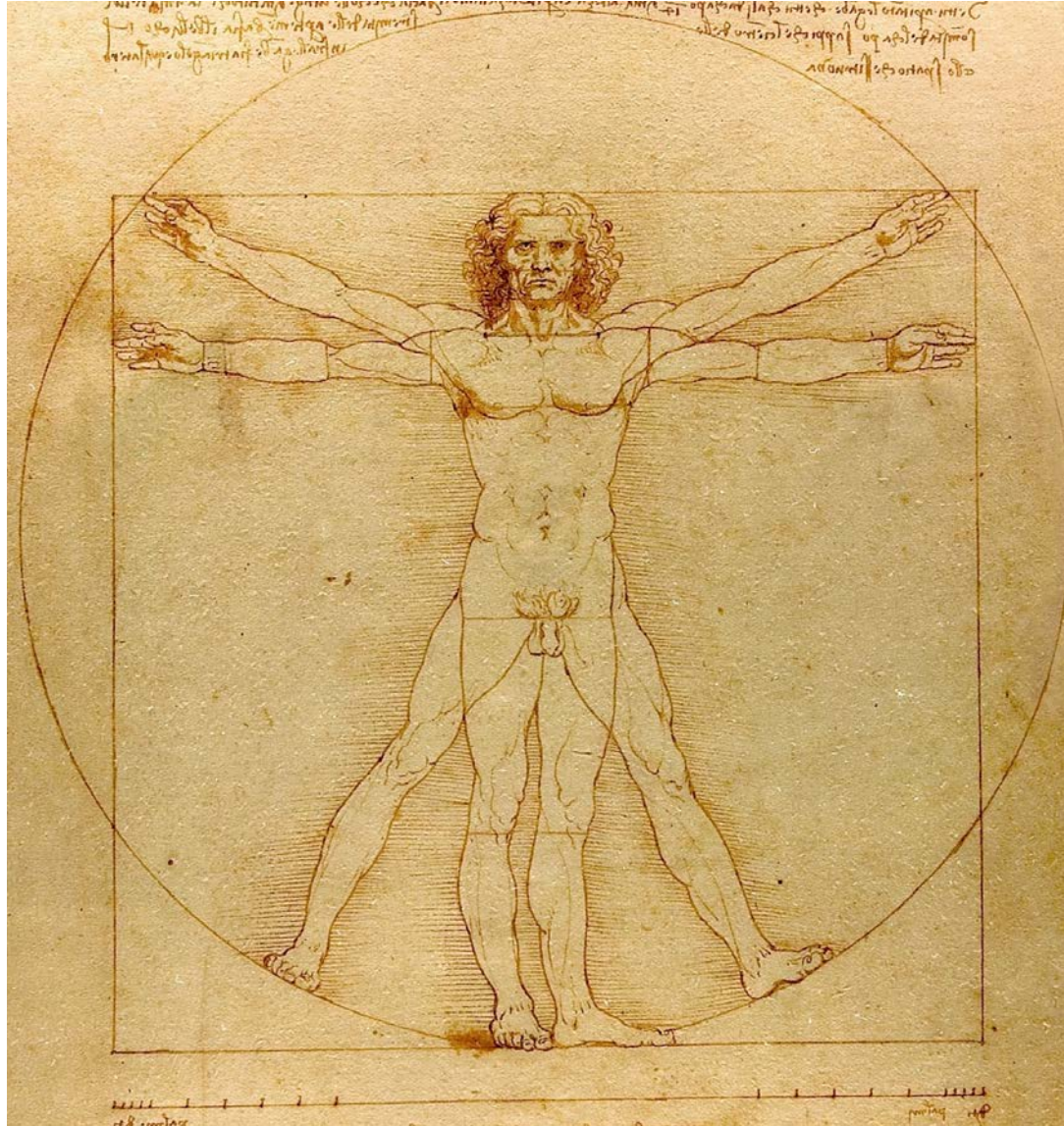
**Rajju = 8 Danda**

**Yojana = 1000 Rajju**

**Krosa = 2000**

**Danda**

**1000 Danda** can be covered by brisk walk in 1 nadika



**Kaya = Vyama**

**Vyama = 8 Pada**

**Hasta = 3 Pada**

**Hasta = 2 Vitasti**

**Parva = 3 Angula**

Single pace of walk - **Hasta**

**Hasta + Parva = Dhanurgraha**

**Hasta + 2 Parva = Vaipulya**

**Nadika** - 1/60 th of a day  
24 minutes

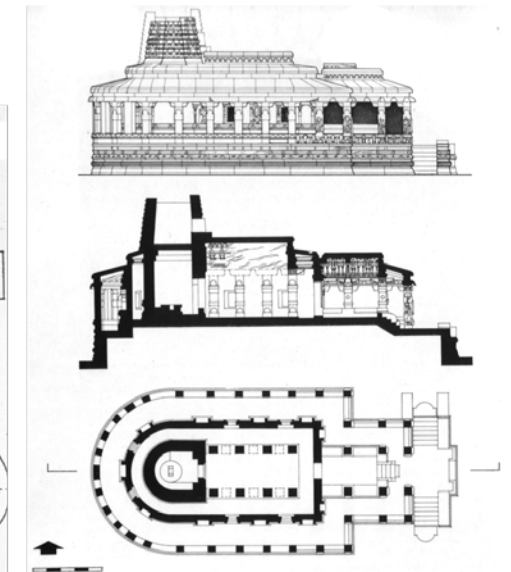
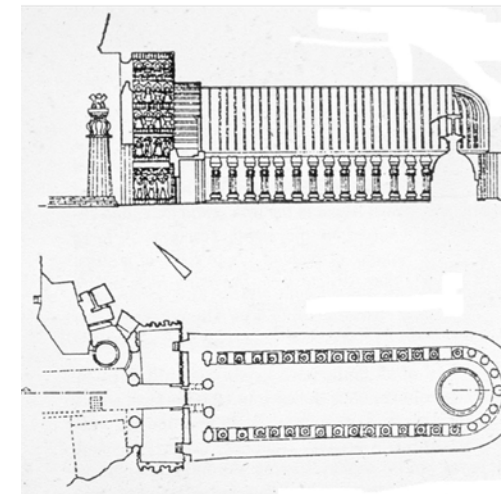
# SCALES FOR DIFFERENT USES

| Level of measurement               | Scale          | Sub-units        |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Distance, Large linear measurement | Yojana (23 km) | Nadika (2.88 km) |
| Measurement of Land                | Rajju (23 m)   | Danda (2.88 m)   |
| Measurement of Plot                | Danda (2.88 m) | Vitasti (36 cm)  |
| Perimeter of Building              | Vyama (192 cm) | Pada (24 cm)     |
| Length of Elements                 | Hasta (72 cm)  | Parva (9 cm)     |
| Size of Components                 | Pada (24 cm)   | Angula (3 cm)    |
| Details of Sections                | Angula (3 cm)  | Yava (3.75 mm)   |
| Fine Details                       | Yava (3.75 mm) | Tila (0.47 mm)   |



# VAASTU-MANDALA: ELEMENTAL SHAPES

- **Circle** – preferred geometry - 22/7, Shiva
- **Triangle** – mystic geometry, sadarsa (hexagon)
- **Square** – Brahma-mandala
- **Octagon** – Vishnu-mandala, Astadikpalas
- **Regular Polygon** – 12 sides – Suryamandala,  
16 sides – Dwivajra,  
32 sides - Pralinaka
- **Apsidal** – square and semicircle - Gajaprastha
- **Elongated Circle** - Vrittayata



48 Durga temple, Aihole, eighth century: the semi-circular-ended plan is rare in structural architecture, deriving from rock-cut Buddhist sanctuaries

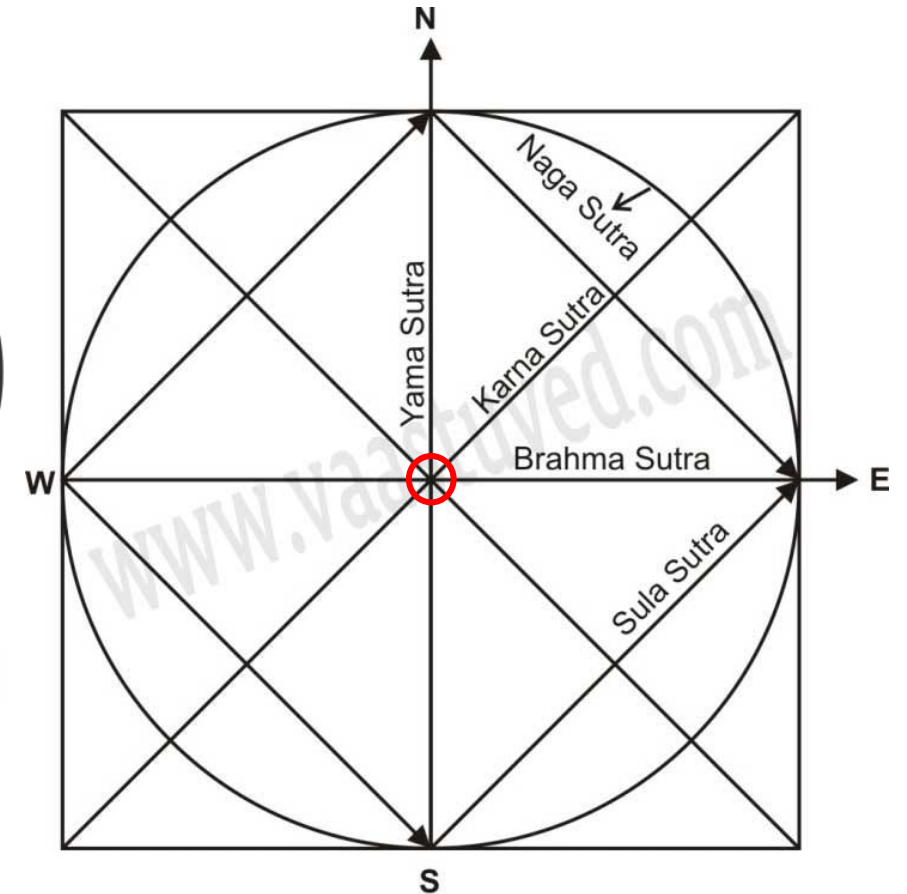
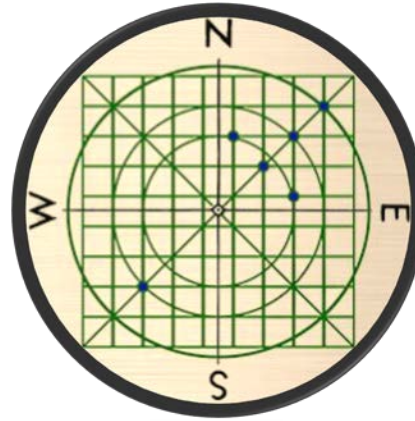
# RECTANGLES: PROPORTIONS

- \* Basic Proportion of Width:Length - 1:2, 2:3, 3:5 Golden ratio
- \* Width : Length : Perimeter 1:3:8
- \* Angula : Musti : Pada ; Pada : Hasta : Vyama
- \* Length : Width Ratio of more than 6:1 is avoided generally as area efficiency decreases significantly
- \* Nominal width of boundary wall (1 pada)

|            |        |            |       |
|------------|--------|------------|-------|
| North-East | East   | South-East |       |
| Kaka       | Dhwaja | Dhumra     |       |
| North      |        | Simha      | South |
| Khara      | Vrusha | Svana      |       |
| North-West | West   | South-West |       |

# BRAHMA MANDALA

- Sutra – axial lines
- Navi – intersection of axes
- Sakala Mandala – single cell – agni vedi
  - Bhanu, Akrin, Varuna, Soma
- Pecaka/Pitha – Seats (2x2, 3x3)
- Mahapitha-Ugrapitha – large seats ( 4x4, 6x6)
- Sthandila –Manduka – Paramsayika-Asana - Sthaniya - Mandapa and Prasad(7x7, 11x11)
- Desiya – Ganitha – Temple Complexes and Villages (12x12, 19x19)
- Suryavisalaka – Indrakanta – Towns and Cities (20x20, 32x32)
- Grama-Khetaka-Kharvata-Durga-Nagara
- Durga – Sibira, Sthaniya, Skandavara



# SCALE

**Scale and Human vision:** two fields of view – general and detailed.

General vision - 30 deg up, 45 deg down,

65 deg to either side (with eye rotation), focus – 30 deg, -60 deg regular field

Object which is at distance, 3500 times its size, from us – **cannot be identified/seen**

**Facial details** can be understood at 75-80 feet distance

**Gestures** can be understood, a **person** can be **identified** till 450 feet distance

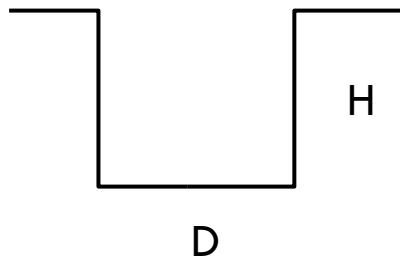
**Human figures** at more than 4000 feet - **cannot be identified/seen**

**Proxemics** -



# ENCLOSURE

## Feeling of enclosure



$H:D = 1:1$

Full sense of enclosure

Focus on façade geometry  
and details



$H:D = 1:2$

Threshold of enclosure

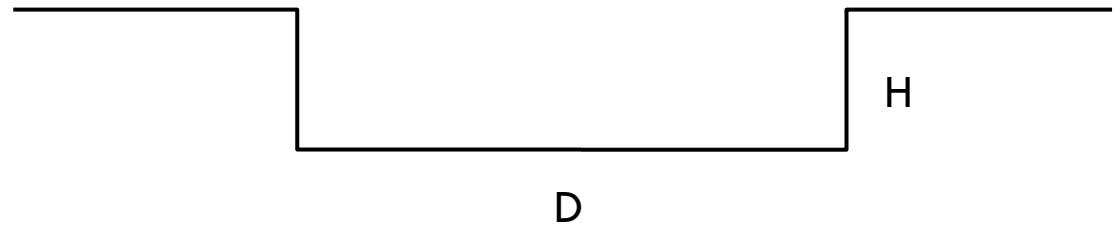
Focus on façade geometry



$H:D = 1:3$

Minimal Enclosure

Façade geometry and Background Geometry



$H:D = 1:4$

Loss of enclosure

Focus on Background geometry, leaking of space

# VAASTU PURUSHA MANDALA

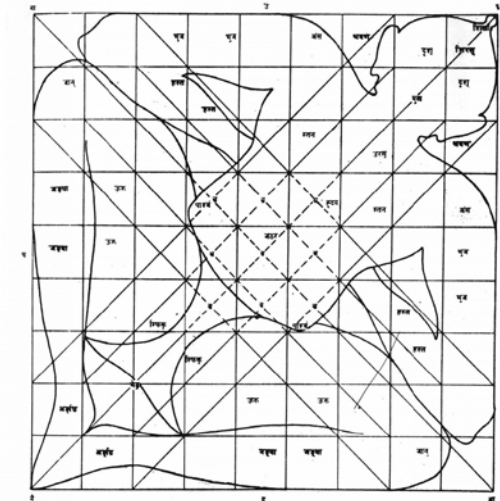
Centre –  
Brahma

12 Adityas

Nakshatra

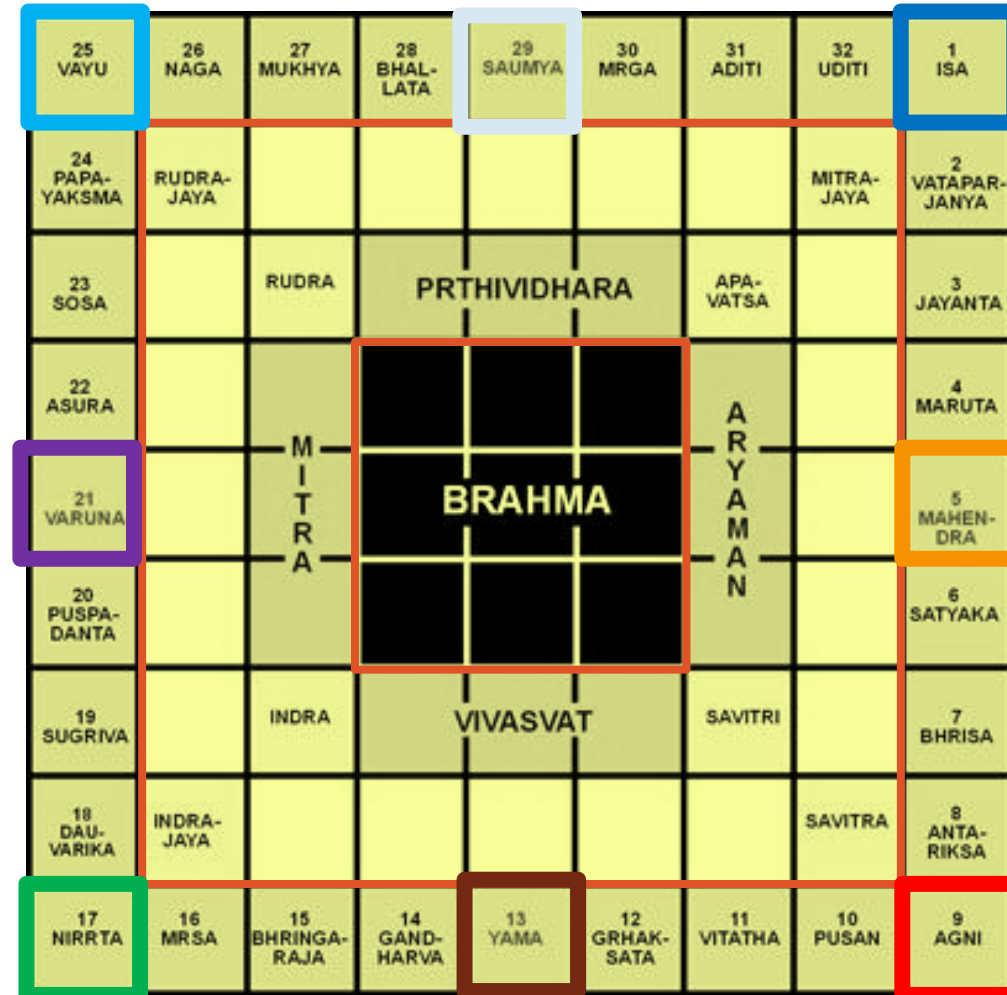
Lokpala

|                   |            |                       |                  |              |                  |                                 |             |                    |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 25<br>VAYU        | 26<br>NAGA | 27<br>MUKHYA          | 28<br>BHAL-LATA  | 29<br>SAUMYA | 30<br>MRGA       | 31<br>ADITI                     | 32<br>UDITI | 1<br>ISA           |
| 24<br>PAPA-YAKSMA | RUDRA-JAYA |                       |                  |              |                  |                                 | MITRA-JAYA  | 2<br>VATAPAR-JANYA |
| 23<br>SOSA        |            | RUDRA                 | PRTHIVIDHARA     |              |                  | APA-VATSA                       |             | 3<br>JAYANTA       |
| 22<br>ASURA       |            |                       | BRAHMA           |              |                  |                                 |             | 4<br>MARUTA        |
| 21<br>VARUNA      |            | M<br>I<br>T<br>R<br>A |                  |              |                  | A<br>R<br>Y<br>A<br>M<br>A<br>N |             | 5<br>MAHEN-DRA     |
| 20<br>PUSPA-DANTA |            |                       |                  |              |                  |                                 |             | 6<br>SATYAKA       |
| 19<br>SUGRIVA     |            | INDRA                 | VIVASVAT         |              |                  | SAVITRI                         |             | 7<br>BHRISA        |
| 18<br>DAU-VARIKA  | INDRA-JAYA |                       |                  |              |                  |                                 | SAVITRA     | 8<br>ANTA-RIKSA    |
| 17<br>NIRRTA      | 16<br>MRSA | 15<br>BHRINGA-RAJA    | 14<br>GAND-HARVA | 13<br>YAMA   | 12<br>GRHAK-SATA | 11<br>VITATHA                   | 10<br>PUSAN | 9<br>AGNI          |



# VAASTU PURUSHA MANDALA

Design of  
public  
and  
private  
buildings



Settlement  
Planning

**Nagara** – large  
urban settlement

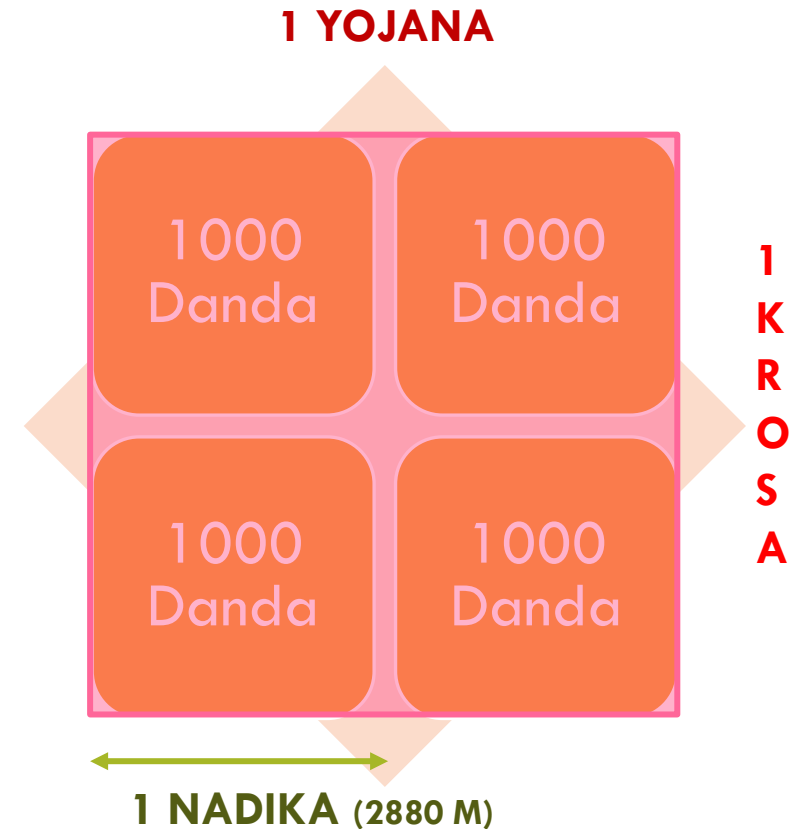
Satellite  
town/sub-urban  
development –  
**sakhanagar**

Commercial town  
– **pattana**

**PURA**

# GROWTH OF SETTLEMENT

- \* TEMPLE – mahapitha (4x4)
- \* Focus – temple/sacred tank; sannidhivithi – prime axis, pradakshinavithi
- \* Small settlement – 256 Danda (16x16)
- \* Large town – 1 Yojana
- \* Size of individual building – 16 hasta – 32 hasta
- \* Min. width of a block – 8 Danda – 16 Danda
- \* Large Village (192x192), Module (64x64)
- \* Grama (1x1), Mahagrama (4x4), Durga (9x9), Pura (16x16), Nagara (25x25), Rajdhani (36x36)

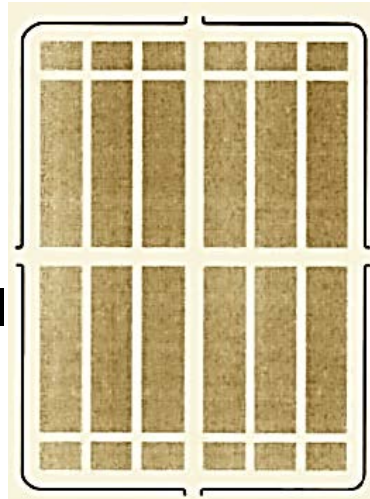




# SETTLEMENT PLANNING

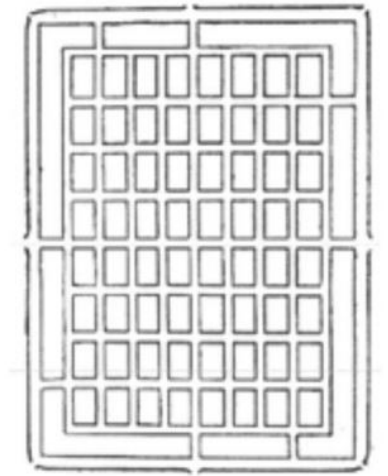
## \* DANDAKA

- ❖ linear village with one main street in W-E direction
- ❖ Two secondary streets parallel to main street
- ❖ Temple located in north
- ❖ Surroundings – agricultural fields and waterbodies



## \* SARVATOBHADRA

- ❖ Main gateways in four cardinal directions
- ❖ Temples, convents, math, pathshala, udyana, vyaparshala
- ❖ Provision for high walls and deep moats around the periphery

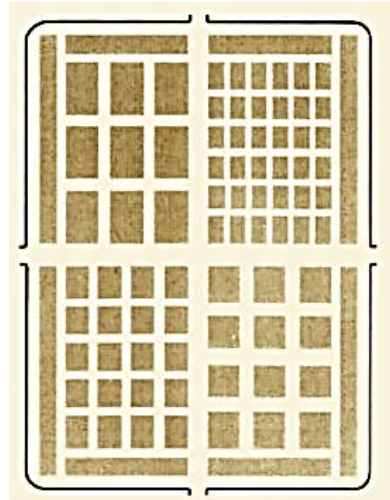


Sarvatobhadra

# SETTLEMENT PLANNING

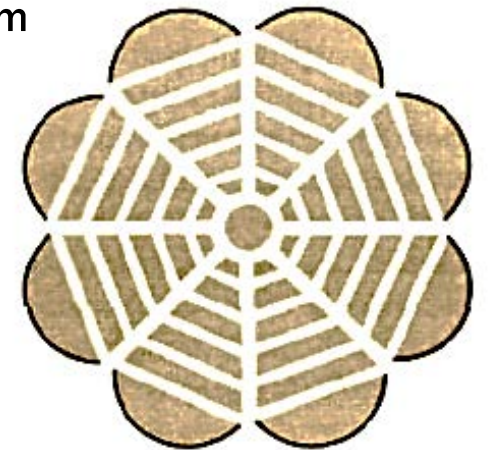
## \* PRASTARA

- ❖ Shrine at centre
- ❖ Variation in block size and street width
- ❖ Accommodates different socio-economic sectors



## \* PADMAKA

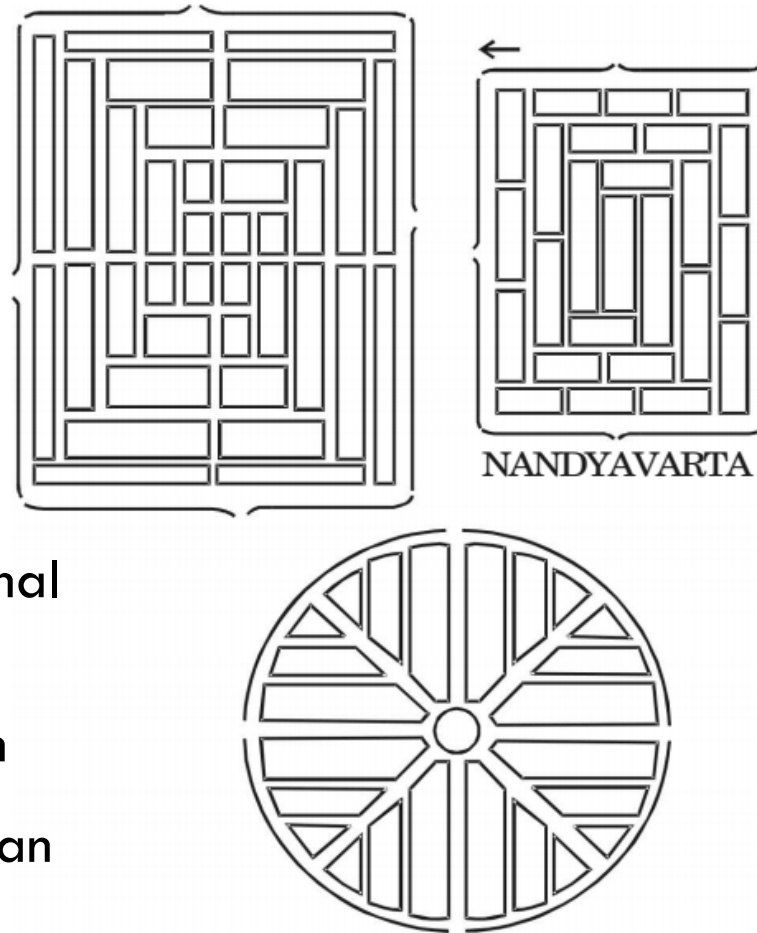
- ❖ Lotus flower, petals radiating from centre
- ❖ 8-16 sided polygon
- ❖ interior street in rectangular pattern
- ❖ palace and public buildings in north
- ❖ Markets along main streets
- ❖ Perishable products along W-E end
- ❖ Suitability for different use due to regularity of layout



# SETTLEMENT PLANNING

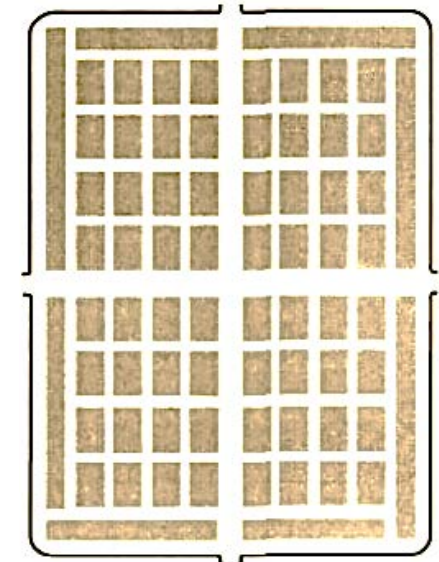
## \* **NANDYAVARTA**

- ❖ Flower – form, focus-temple
- ❖ Radial pattern, main street along cardinal directions
- ❖ frontage along diagonal street is avoided
- ❖ suited for circular plan
- ❖ Adopted for square plan



## \* **CHATURMUKHA**

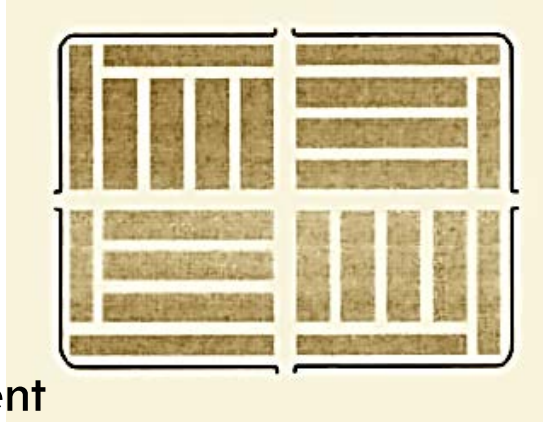
- ❖ villages and small towns
- ❖ four entry points
- ❖ concentric zones



# SETTLEMENT PLANNING

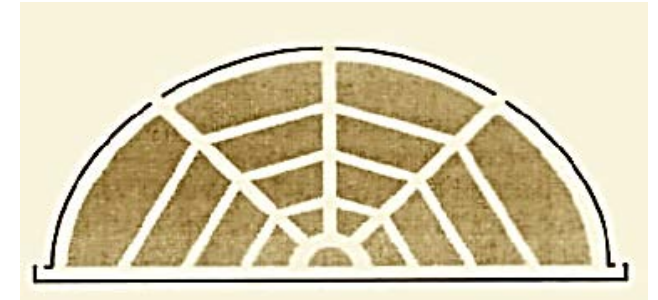
## \* **SWATIKA**

- ❖ Clockwise Movement
- ❖ Main road along W-E and N-S
- ❖ Circumferential roads originate from main roads
- ❖ main temple at centre, secondary temples in different sectors
- ❖ Ramparts and Moats provision



## \* **KARMUKHA**

- ❖ Bow – form, sites along sea shore/river banks
- ❖ Main street is perpendicular to water course
- ❖ Axis is parallel to water course
- ❖ cross roads/radian pattern
- ❖ use of water for natural moat





# SETTLEMENT PLANNING

- \* width of street –  $1/12^{\text{th}}$  of block width
- \* Junctions are enlarges to  $1/8^{\text{th}}$  of the pada
- \* Trees with thick and tall canopy on south and west of building
- \* Shade tree with low level foliage on east and north

Load bearing construction – width of a wall – related to areas/width of room/space

Material – stone, brick      - 2 hasta (wall width) – 32 hasta (building width) 1/16

- Haveli

Material dictates relative proportions for enclosed space