Taylor Daw

3402948

Week 10 write-up

Inca architecture was created by master stonemasons and is considered some of the most outstanding craftsmanship of pre-Columbian societies. Stone played a very important part in Inca society, the Inca worshipped stone as a natural power that contained its own spiritual powers. Their architecture was made with precisely cut stone, sometimes the stones were cut down to perfect squares, other times it was cut with up to ten or more angles. The housing structures typically took a plain rectangular shape but could also take different shapes or sometimes curved walls even. In Machu Picchu we see the clear distinct areas of the city that were referred to as kancha. A kancha was a walled compound filled with rectangular buildings that surrounded a patio.

The Inca also used abstraction in their architecture to promote their ideology. Gold plated rooms and gold plates placed on walls were used to represent the presence of the sun, which played an important part in Inca religion. One great example of the Inca visual culture can be seen in the “Temple del Sol” known as Coricancha. This temple was an elaborate construction with many niches and rooms that were plated in gold to represent the revered sun. The temple housed many shrines and idols that were used in ritual for not only the sun, but earthquakes as well. There are idols for such things as earthquakes, and also those idols for the sun could also be synonymous for ruler-ship in the Inca society.