

History of the Art of India, Part I: Origins to Mughals

Week 7. North India: Temple Architecture, 8th through 13th Centuries

Important points covered:

- Evolution of the Orissan temple from 7th through 13th centuries
- Axial plan of the Orissan temple, including the basic units of garbha griha (inner sanctum) and jagamohana (hypostyle hall), to which are later added nata mandira (dance hall) and bhoga mandira (offering hall)
- Vertical elements of the Orissan temple, especially the pida deul (tower over jagamohana) and rekha deul (tower over garbha griha)
- Decoration of walls of Orissan temples with reliefs, including erotic couples
- Typical elements of the temples of Khajuraho, as exemplified in the Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple
- Similarities of Khajuraho temples to Bhubaneswar temples (e.g., architectural units), and differences (e.g., units integrated into a unified structure)
- The elaboration of Khajuraho shikharas with “mini-shikharas”
- Decoration of walls of Khajuraho temples with reliefs, including erotic/tantric sculptures
- Characteristics of Jain temples of western India, especially fine marble carving in interiors

Introduction

MAP: South Asia, ca.1215

TERM: nāgara

A. Orissan temples: Parasurameshwara through Rajarani

A1. Parasurameshwara temple, Bhubaneswar, late 7C

TERM: jagamohana

TERM: garbha griha

IMAGE: Parasurameshwara temple, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, late 7C

IMAGE: Typical Nagara temple in Orissa; elevation of rekha deul and pida deul

TERM: rekha deul

TERM: pida deul

TERM: āmalaka

TERM: kalasha

IMAGE: Typical Nagara temple in Orissa; evolution of pida deul roof

IMAGE: Typical Nagara temple in Orissa; elevation of rekha deul

TERM: paga

IMAGE: Parasurameshwara temple, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, late 7C; view focused on rekha deul

TERM: kudu

IMAGE: Parasurameshwara temple, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, late 7C; view of pida deul with Siva lingam in front

TERM: Siva lingam

A2. Rajarani temple, Bhubaneswar, 11C

IMAGE: Rajarani temple, Bhubaneswar, 11C, view of jagamohana and rekha deul

IMAGE: Rajarani temple, Bhubaneswar, 11C, view of Rekha deul

IMAGE: Rajarani temple, Bhubaneswar, 11C, plan

IMAGE: Rajarani temple, Bhubaneswar, 11C, relief of apsara

IMAGE: Reprise (from week 2): Yakshi bracket figure from Sanchi stupa gateway

TERM: apsara (celestial singer, dancer)

TERM: tribhanga pose

TERM: yakshi

IMAGE: Rajarani temple, Bhubaneshwar, 11C, relief of mithuna couple (example 1)

IMAGE: Rajarani temple, Bhubaneshwar, 11C, relief of mithuna couple (example 2)

TERM: mithuna

A3. Lingaraja temple, Bhubaneshwar, ca. 1050

IMAGE: Lingaraja temple, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, ca.1050; view of temple complex on night of Maha Sivaratri 2023

IMAGE: Lingaraja temple, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, ca.1050; plan

IMAGE: Lingaraja temple, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, ca.1050; view of rekha deul, jagamohana, nata mandira

IMAGE: Lingaraja temple, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, ca.1050; elevation

IMAGE: Mā Pārvatī temple in Lingaraja complex, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa, ca.1050; view of bhoga mandira, nata mandira, jagamohana, rekha deul

A4. Sun temple at Konarak, ca.1250

Introduction

A4a. Temple compound

IMAGE: Surya temple at Konarak, ca.1250, panoramic view in compound

A4c. Chariot wheels

IMAGE: Surya temple at Konarak, ca.1250, relief of chariot wheel (with erotic reliefs on wall)

A4d. Jagamohana

IMAGE: Surya temple at Konarak, ca.1250, jagamohana

IMAGE: Surya temple at Konarak, ca.1250, jagamohana, female musicians along wall in breaks of pidas

A4e. Relief sculpture

IMAGE: Surya temple at Konarak, ca.1250, relief of female musician and dancer

IMAGE: Surya temple at Konarak, ca.1250, 2 reliefs of mithuna couples

IMAGE: Surya temple at Konarak, ca.1250, relief of mithuna couple

B. Chandella temples: Khajuraho

B1. Introduction

MAP: Chandella territory, ca.1025

MAP: Site of Khajuraho temples

B2. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Plan

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, plan

TERM: ardha-mandapa

TERM: mandapa

TERM: mahā mandapa

TERM: antarala

TERM: garbha griha

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, view from S of temple with all units

B3. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Elevation

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, elevation

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, view of entrance, showing plinth, base, walls, roofs; and long stairway, slightly angled view

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, view of walls from S of temple with all units

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, view of towers from S of temple with all units

B4. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Shikhara

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, view of shikhara with mini-shikhara buttresses

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, view of shikhara with relief friezes

B5. Kandāriyā Mahādeo temple, 1004-35: Wall reliefs

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, relief of woman adorning herself (probably from shikhara)

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, view of joining wall between garbha griha and mahā mandapa, with relief friezes

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, one relief band from joining wall with set-of-three, erotic scene, set-of-three

IMAGE: From previous slide: close-up of left hand set-of-three: A god with a woman on either side

IMAGE: Close up of center of previously shown band of relief sculpture: erotic scene of one man and three women

IMAGE: Kandāriyā Mahādeo Temple, relief sculpture: erotic scene of two men and two women

TERM: kama

TERMS: lingam / yoni

C. Jain temples of Western India

MAP: West India with locations of Ranakpur, Mt. Abu, Palitana

IMAGE: Surya (Sun) temple at Ranakpur, exterior

IMAGE: Vimala Vasahī temple, Mt. Abu, interior: dome, pillars and triangular brackets, shrines

IMAGE: Page from a Jain manuscript, Jaunpur, Gujarat, Mid-15C, Opaque watercolor and gold on paper, ca. 5" x 12", Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

End of week 7