

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

Week 6. South India: Pallavas, Cholas, Post-Chola

Important points covered:

- Iconography and function of the carved rock-face reliefs at Mamallapuram
- Architectural characteristics of the “Pancha Rathas,” that would be seen in subsequent south Indian temples
- Characteristics of the “shore temple” at Mamallapuram, and its relation to earlier wood temples and rock-cut temples
- Parts of the Chola temple, as exemplified in the Rajarajeshwara temple, e.g., gopuram, Nandi pavilion, garbha griha, shikhara, exterior walls
- The general axial plan of the Chola temple
- The exemplary quality of Chola bronze sculpture
- Characteristics of post-Chola temples that were similar to Chola temples, e.g., various parts such as gopuram, garbha griha, etc.
- Characteristics of post-Chola temples that differed from Chola temples, e.g., greater size, more profuse and delicate decoration, non-axial plan
- Proliferation of painted stucco decoration on post-Chola temples, as exemplified in the Minakshi temple at Madurai

General Introduction

A. Pallavas

A1. History

MAP: Map of Pallava kingdom (and others) ca.590 CE

A2. Rock-face relief: Descent of the Ganges or Arjuna's penance

IMAGE: Descent of the Ganges or Arjuna's penance, carved rock face, Mamallapuram, 98' w, 630-668

IMAGE: Descent of the Ganges..., detail of central cleft in rock

TERM: nagas

IMAGE: Descent of the Ganges..., detail of rock to left of central cleft

IMAGE: Descent of the Ganges..., detail of Siva and the ascetic

TERM: vārada mudra

IMAGE: Descent of the Ganges..., detail of Vishnu shrine

IMAGE: Descent of the Ganges..., detail of elephants

IMAGE: Descent of the Ganges..., detail of cat and mice

A3. Rock-cut ratha temples, 7C

IMAGE: View of 5 ratha temples

TERM: ratha

IMAGE: Plan of the five rathas

IMAGE: Dharmaraja ratha, roof with 3 stories and stupi

TERM: stupi

TERM: shala

TERM: kudu

IMAGE: Arjuna ratha, front view

IMAGE: Bhima ratha, front view

TERM: chaitya

TERM: barrel vault

IMAGE: Bhima ratha, diagonal view showing a short side of barrel-vault roof

A4. Shore temple, ca. 700

IMAGE: Shore temple at Mamallapuram, view from north looking S

TERM: shikhara

TERM: garbha griha

TERM: mandapa

IMAGE: Shore temple at Mamallapuram, view of pyramidal stepped towers

B. Cholas

B1. History

Map: Chola Empire and influence

B2. Rajarajeshwara temple, 1010

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010

IMAGE: Plan of Rajarajeshwara temple complex

TERM: gopuram

TERM: hypostyle

TERM: mandapa

TERM: garbha griha

B2a. Gopurams

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, view of 2 gopurams (and corner of Nandi pavilion)

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, 5-tiered gopuram, back side

B2b. Hypostyle porch and solid wall mandapa

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, hypostyle hall and mandapa

B2c. Shikhara

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, shikhara

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, detail of base of shikhara

TERM: Siva Tripurāntaka

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, shikhara, relief of Siva Nataraja

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, shikhara, detail of roof levels with shala/kudu motif

B2d. Painting in Rajarajeshwara temple. continued

IMAGE: Rajarajeshwara temple, Thanjavur, 1010, mural of Rajaraja I with his guru Karuvar Devar, paint on plaster over granite

B3. Chola bronzes

IMAGE: Queen Sembiyan Mahadevi as Goddess Parvati, Chola lost-wax bronze statue, 37" high, ca.998, Washington, DC, Freer Gallery of Art

IMAGE: Reprise (from Week 1): Mohenjo-daro statue of "dancing girl," copper / bronze, 5.5" high, National Museum, New Delhi

TERM: tribhanga

IMAGE: Shiva Nataraja, Chola, 10-11th C, bronze, Tamil Nadu, 27 1/4 x 24 1/4 x 9 1/2 in, Art Institute of Chicago

TERM: Siva Nātarāja

TERM: abhaya mudra

TERM: gaja hasta mudra

C. Post-Chola

C1. Characteristics of south Indian temples, 12-17C

TERM: gopuram

TERM: shikhara

TERM: garbha griha

C2. Minakshi temple at Madurai, 1336-1736

MAP: South India with location of Madurai

IMAGE: Minakshi temple, Madurai, 1336-1736, aerial view, from top of south gopuram, looking north,

IMAGE: Minakshi temple, Madurai, 1336-1736, plan

IMAGE: Minakshi temple, Madurai, 1336-1736, thousand-pillared hall, 16C

IMAGE: Minakshi temple, Madurai, 1336-1736, thousand-pillared hall, 16C, pillar statue of goddess Rati, consort of Kama, riding a swan; and pillar statue of a rampant yali

TERM: yali

IMAGE: Minakshi temple, Madurai, 1336-1736, south gopuram with concave surface and barrel-vault top level

IMAGE: Minakshi temple, Madurai, 1336-1736, south gopuram, detail of stucco figures

IMAGE: Minakshi temple, Madurai, 1336-1736, south gopuram, stucco figure of Siva Nātarāja

End of Week 6