

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

### Week 2. Post-Mauryan Buddhist Art: Chaityas, Viharas, and Stupas

#### Important points covered:

- Development and characteristics of early Buddhist rock-cut caves and their function as chaityas (halls) and viharas (monastic quarters)
- The architectural and sculptural characteristics of the rock-cut caves, in particular, at Bhaja, ca. 100 BCE, and Karli, 1st century CE
- The overall architectural plan and the techniques and styles of the rock-cut cave, in particular at Ajanta, 5th century CE
- The elaboration of the architecture of the Great Stupa at Sanchi from the Mauryan empire (3rd century BCE) through the Sātavāhana dynasty (1st century CE), including the structure of the four gateways to the stupa
- The style and meaning of several examples of stone relief carvings on the four gateways of the Great Stupa at Sanchi

#### A. Introduction

##### A1. End of the Mauryan empire

TERM: brahmanism

##### A2. Terms (Buddhist monuments)

TERM: chaitya

TERM: vihāra

TERM: stupa

##### A3. Rock-cut caves

TERM (geographic): Deccan

#### B. Bhaja

##### B1. Evolution of the chaitya hall

IMAGE: Architectural ground plan for three chaitya halls

##### B2. Chaitya hall at Bhaja

###### B2a. Entrance and arch

IMAGE: Chaitya hall, cave at Bhaja (Maharashtra; 150 mi south of Bombay), entrance and arch, ca. 100 BCE

###### B2b. Interior

IMAGE: Interior with stupa, cave at Bhaja (Maharashtra), ca. 100 BCE

IMAGE: Bhaja cave, longitudinal section

###### B2c. Exterior Façade

IMAGE. Bhaja cave, ca. 100 BCE, exterior façade of chaitya and vihāras

###### B2d. Building technique

##### B3. Vihāras at Bhaja

IMAGE. Plan of chaitya hall and vihāras

IMAGE. Relief sculpture outside entrance to vihāra, Bhaja, Maharashtra, ca. 100 BCE

##### B4. Steps to Bhaja cave

IMAGE: Steps to Bhaja cave and surrounding countryside

#### C. Karli

##### C1. Façade and courtyard

IMAGE: Cave at Karli, chaitya façade with view of main door; 19th C photograph, artist unknown

IMAGE: Karli chaitya facade, full view, drawing, James Fergusson, 1845

IMAGE: Karli chaitya, column in front of courtyard screen

IMAGE: Reprise (from Week 1): Sarnath lion capital

## **C2. Façade and relief sculptures**

IMAGE: Karli chaitya facade, high relief sculpture, mithuna couple, 1C CE

TERM: mithuna

IMAGES: Reprise (from Week 1): Mauryan yaksha and yakshi statues

IMAGE: Karli chaitya facade, high relief sculpture, elephants and Buddhas, 1C CE

TERMS: yakshi, yaksha

## **C3. Interior**

IMAGE: Karli chaitya hall, interior, 1C CE, Maharashtra

## **C4. Patronage**

IMAGE: Ivory figure of naked woman, India, before 79 CE, Archeological Museum, Naples; buried in ash at Pompeii at Vesuvius eruption, 79 CE, with mirror showing reverse of statue

IMAGE: Path to Karli caves with surrounding countryside

## **D. Ajanta**

## **E. Sanchi**

### **E1. Mauryan stupa, 3C BCE**

### **E2. Shunga stupa, 2C BCE**

MAP: Shunga Empire, with Sanchi

IMAGE: Plan of the Sanchi Great Stupa under the Shungas

### **E3. Sātavāhana stupa, 1C BCE**

MAP: Sātavāhana Dynasty, with Sanchi

IMAGE: Plan of the Sanchi Great Stupa under the Sātavāhanas

IMAGE: Great Stupa, Sanchi, South (main) entrance, 1C BCE

TERM: pradakshina

TERM: toraṇa

TERM: mandala

TERM: architrave

TERM (literary): Jatakas

### **E4. East gateway narrative reliefs**

IMAGE: Sanchi Great Stupa, Eastern gateway, full view from front side, 1C BCE

IMAGES: Sanchi Great Stupa, Eastern gateway, architraves, front view & rear view

#### **E4a. Great Departure (on architrave)**

IMAGE: Sanchi Great Stupa, Eastern gateway, front view, center architrave, Great Departure (and detail left, detail right)

#### **E4b. Miracle of the Buddha Walking on Water (on pillar)**

IMAGE: Relief carving of the Miracle of the Buddha Walking on Water, from East gateway, front view, left pillar.

IMAGE: East Gateway, full view, detail of pillars and architraves

### **E5. West gateway narrative reliefs**

IMAGES: Sanchi Great Stupa, Western gateway, architraves, front view & rear view

IMAGE: Sanchi Great Stupa, western gateway, rear view, bottom architrave, Temptation and Enlightenment of the Buddha

### **E6. Female bracket figure**

IMAGE: reprise of: Great Stupa, Sanchi, East Gateway, front side, 1C BCE (pointing out bracket figure)

TERM: yakshi

TERM: Bracket figure of yakshi/woman, east gateway, front view, bottom architrave

TERM: tribhanga

### **E7. Artists and Patronage**