



A STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE OF BUDDHIST TEMPLES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The Indian subcontinent is home to a staggering number of remarkable buildings and other kinds of constructions. Some of the oldest and most well-preserved examples of architectural brilliance are seen in Buddhist temples and other structures. These architecturally stunning buildings were erected during the reign of the Mauryan dynasty. During the reign of Maurya, these buildings were constructed to provide Buddhist monks with spaces dedicated to worship as well as recreation. These constructions were carved both as a place of prayer and as a symbol of the people's loyalty to Buddhism. The Chaitya hall is one of the several rooms that make up the Buddha temple. It is in this area that monks offer public prayers. In the beginning, the monks used the Vihara as a place for the community to gather for meetings. In the beginning, Buddhist constructions were spherical, but over the course of time, these structures suffered structural changes that caused them to become rectangular, and subsequently, these structures acquired additions of varied shapes. When they were ultimately built, the churches in the stupa style looked exactly like their Christian contemporaries from many centuries ago.

Keywords: *Architecture, stupa, buddhist temples*

INTRODUCTION

It is impossible to ignore the impact that Buddhism had on the visual arts of ancient India. In terms of artistic creation, the Vedic period was not exceptionally fruitful. Stupas, viharas, and monasteries were only some of the structures that Buddhist rulers like Ashoka, Kanishka, and Harshavardhana constructed to show their support for the religion. There is a good chance that statues of Buddha were the very first human figures to be revered in India. Mahayana Buddhists are responsible for the creation of a large number of statues depicting Buddha and Bodhisattvas, which they afterwards begin to adore. The Ashoka Pillars are a living witness to the highly developed metallurgical techniques that existed during the Mauryan era and may be found all over the world. The extraordinary cave construction of ancient India can also be traced, at least in part, to the Buddhist influence that existed throughout that time. Many rooms were carved out

of the rocks to offer lodging for Buddhist monks in the Barabar hills of Gaya and in the western region of India around Nasik. These areas are located in India. The ardent followers of Buddha carved stone depictions of the numerous events that occurred throughout his life. Panels found at Gaya, Bihar; Sanchi and Bharhut, Madhya Pradesh; and Bharhut, Madhya Pradesh all stand out as exceptionally stunning examples of the artistic output of this civilization. The so-called "Gandhara School of Art" was founded in the most remote part of the northwestern corner of India by sculptors from both Greece and India working together. The Gandhara and Mathura Schools of Art have a significant amount of influence on Buddhist artwork.

HISTORY OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

It is well known that the region around the Indus River in India was the original site of human civilization. This country is well-known not only for its location at the confluence of the Indus and Ganges rivers but also for its dedication to Hinduism and its elaborate religious rites. There is a significant amount of building there that takes its ideas from Hindu mythology and ritual. India's lengthy history as the heart of the Buddhist faith has had a significant impact on the architectural style of the religion.

Buddhism, which came first, and then Hinduism, each had a substantial contribution to make to the evolution of architecture. In terms of the advancement of both technology and intellectual thought, early Buddhism was actually more advanced than Hinduism. This is because Asoka, a king of the Hindu religion, proclaimed Buddhism under a variety of different circumstances due to the position he played as a monarch. This is the reason for this.

DEFINITION OF ARCHITECTURE

Architects receive education in the art as well as the science behind the design and construction of buildings. The term "architecture" can refer to a number of different things, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) Anything that was built by architects, including cities, towns, and individual buildings and landscapes.
- 2) A method of building or design that is exclusive to a specific culture, era, or geographical place.
- 3) The labor that is done by architects to create living environments for other people to occupy. The act of moulding anything into a more coherent whole through a purposeful procedure.



The term "architecture" has its roots in the Greek language, according to its etymology (the study of the origins of words and phrases). The combined meanings of the words arkhi, which may be translated as "chief" or "master," and tekton, which can be translated as "mason" or "builder," result in the compound term arkhitekton. According to the origin of the word, architects were originally known as "master masons" or "master builders," and the term "architecture" was used to refer to both the process of building construction as well as the completed structure.

The construction of buildings may be traced all the way back to prehistoric times. Its origin can be traced back to the time when people recognized they required a place to shelter themselves from the elements and protect themselves from potential dangers. Its beginnings can be traced back to the intersection of desires (such as a place to live, feel secure, and worship) and capabilities (such as the availability of building resources and skills). As civilizations progressed, building became an art form; the study of building, which eventually evolved into the profession of architecture, is referred to as architecture.

Building design and construction are both an art and a science, and both require evidence that aesthetic and functional considerations, such as the building's attractiveness and its usefulness, were given due attention.

INDIANARCHITECTURE

Elegant structures could be found in almost every region of India. There are several buildings, sculptures, and monuments from the ancient world that have been carved into the rock at that location. According to A.S. Thayenbi, a well-known art historian, "a country's architecture is the primary source of its civilization." For instance, the concept of chastity is frequently associated with Greek architecture. Architecture from France symbolizes the power of passion, architecture from Rome represents the growth of knowledge, and architecture from Italy symbolizes the Renaissance of intelligence. Despite this, 'Spiritual Life' was the cornerstone upon which the growth of Indian architecture was built.

The art and science of designing buildings is referred to as architecture. The walls, roof arches, doors, and windows of a building are the fundamental elements that contribute to its structure and functionality. The word "arch" is where the concept of architecture first emerged.

There are two main subfields included in the arts. Arts that are not only beautiful but also have a deep meaning. The creation of products that have a practical use is what is meant by the phrase "arts for use." Creations that have aesthetic value and are made with the intention of capturing the attention of spectators are referred to as sense arts. The term "art" refers to a wide range of creative endeavors, including not only the visual arts but also architectural design and sculpture. An article that was written by an art historian named E.P. Heval stated that "Indian Architecture

Indicates the Belief in the Almighty who has Ordained a Spiritual Life Even After Death of the Individual."

OBJECTIVES

1. To study Indian architecture
2. To study Buddhist temples architecture in India

BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE

Asoka is frequently mentioned as a significant person in the propagation and growth of Buddhist architecture in India at the time it was during his reign. In spite of the fact that Buddha had often cautioned his disciples not to worship him as a divinity, the practice continued well into the first century A.D. The author of this survey of Indian buildings divides Buddhist architecture into three distinct periods, which are as follows:

1. The Government of Mauri
2. The Government of Shunga
3. The Government of and haras

The Government of Mauri

It is traditionally believed that King Asoka of the Mauryan Empire was the one who initiated the process that led to the spread of Buddhism throughout India. Asoka was the first emperor of the Mauryan Empire and the grandson of Chandragupta the Great, who is known as "the Great." Although it was a slow and steady process in particular situations, he was a king who accepted Buddhism after renouncing his previous religion of Hinduism (Sen. T.T, 2010).

In the third century A.D., the Mauri Government, which was ruled at the time by Asoka, was the one responsible for bringing Buddhism to the area. Asoka was a devoted follower of the Buddhist faith up until the time when Persian design elements began to be incorporated into Buddhist building. Both the pyramid and the Zingurat that were constructed during his time period adhered to a similar design theory in which the base of the structure became larger while the upper half of the structure shrank accordingly. (Chopra. P.N., 1983) asserts that the development of Buddhist architecture may be traced back to this concept.

Stambhs are massive pillars that are employed in Buddhist architecture. They often include religious texts carved into them from the Pali Scriptures and were utilized to spread Buddhism

throughout the region. On the top of the 50-ton pillars that stand 40 feet tall (Zulkifli H, 1985), there are exquisite sculptures of various creatures, the cosmos, and even bodi trees. Asoka conceived of the Stambhas on his own, and they came to stand as a symbol of his greatness as king.

In addition, there is the Buddhist building known as Boudhanath, which is essentially just a heap of rocks that acts as a shrine. The top of the hill was rounded into the shape of a half circle. As Buddhism became more widespread, the sacred texts of the religion were eventually carved into Boudhanath. Stupas are typically constructed in Buddhist temples, in the centre of junctions, or on the side of roadways on either side of the road. According to H. Musterberge's research from 1970, the Boudhanath barrier in Sanchi that is 16.5 meters tall and dates back to the 2nd century BC CM is the oldest one that has survived. It is also on display at the Museum of Calcutta, which can be visited after a visit to Bharhut. According to Sarkar (1996), the majority of the Boudhanath were built in a style that is comparable to the Stupas that can be found in other countries that practice Buddhism. During the height of Asako's authority, there were as many as 84,000 unique Boudhanath objects available for purchase.

Government of Shunga

During the reign of Shunga in the Sanchi province, Boudhanath was expanded, and the buildings that comprised it underwent extensive renovation. Stone finally took the place of the timber Vedika, or barrier, that had been in place around the Boudhanath since its construction. The Boudhanath buildings were strengthened by the erection of the stone Vedika, which was likewise revered and served as the boundary of the Boudhanath Government of Shunga. In addition, the stone Vedika served as a fortification.

The Torana, which was a gate away, was primarily constructed out of bamboo as part of the traditional architecture of the community, while the two pillars were made of stone and measured 10.3 meters in height. The history of the Buddha was carved into the stone in the form of statues and carvings. It was believed that entering Boudhanath by the torana was the holiest way possible.

The Government of Andhras

Despite the fact that Andhra's government and the governments of its neighboring territories constantly engaged in battle with one another during this historical period, Buddhism was nevertheless able to develop to a great degree. Bricks were used to create a hollow Stupa that was bent like a bicycle wheel. This modification serves as a prime example of the emerging fashion in architectural design. The marble that was used to construct India's largest stupa, which is known as Amaravati, features a number of figures that are both large and stunning. The white

marble that was utilized in the construction of this stupa is still something that the people of India take great pleasure in, and it is a topic that is frequently discussed in Buddhist scriptures.

Buddhism is the bedrock upon which the practice of Buddhist art is built. An Indian sage by the name of Gautama Siddhartha is credited with the founding of Buddhism. It is famously challenging to provide explanations for many of the core beliefs that underpin this religion. Ethics, the dynamics of family life, and broader questions concerning the meaning of life all make for interesting topics of conversation. The word "Buddha" originally came from the Sanskrit language, where it meant "awakening" or "enlightenment," but it referred to something that happened in the opposite direction of how the truth is revealed. Its own sacred text is referred to as the Tripataka, which literally means "Three Baskets."

Theravada and Mahayana, both of which can be translated as "the way of the small vehicle" and "the way of the great vehicle," respectively, are the two primary schools of Buddhism that are followed and practiced today. The size and influence of each congregation was taken into consideration while classifying the two organizations as distinct entities. It's likely that you don't have a lot of supporters if you're driving a little automobile. In Buddhist thought, the cause, or stambha, is represented by a statuette of a lion. This Indian emblem is known as the lion figurine. The Four Noble Truths center on Dukka, which is translated as "sadness," Samudaya, which is translated as "the causes of sadness," Nirodha, which is translated as "destruction," and Magga, which is translated as "eight roads leading to the formation of morality." The teachings of Buddha are broken down in photographic and written form and shown on the statue. The Stambha in Banares was the first location where Buddha delivered a sermon, and the four lions are meant to symbolize the dissemination of Buddhist teachings around the world. The Buddha's bodily enlightenment is symbolized by the elephant, his physical birth by the cow, and his ultimate submission to authority by the horse. Another representation of perfection is the lotus, which can only open its petals when the sun is at the correct position.

The lotus flower, which Buddha designed, is said to stand for the ambitions and aspirations of the human mind. Because when the lotus flower blooms, it yields stunning flowers that may also be eaten. As was mentioned earlier, each individual is analogous to a lotus flower that carries within it a seed that originated from Buddha. As a result of this, the lotus flower, which is an important emblem in Buddhism, can be seen carved into several of Asoka's pillars.

According to the author's point of view, the Hindu teachings contain inequity, favor the Brahmin and Kshatriya castes, and imply that only these people can reach Nirvana. As a result, Buddhism is growing in popularity and has a significant impact in rural India. Because of this, Buddhism was able to spread to many different regions of the world, which led to the development of a diverse range of architectural styles within the Buddhist tradition.

DISCUSSION

The spread of Buddhism around the world has coincided with an increase in the prevalence of architectural styles that incorporate Buddhist motifs and components. This trend can be seen throughout the development of human civilisation. It is possible to view it in Indonesia by visiting the Borobudur Temple. Certain components and ideas utilized in Buddhist architecture had an indirect influence on the architecture of Hindu and Muslim countries. These include stambhas, tarana, and other such components.

CONCLUSION

This research takes a look at the architecture and visual arts associated with Buddhism. Starting from the distant past and working our way up to the present day. When contrasted with the doctrines of Hinduism, Buddhism is considered as both a religious tradition and a set of ethical guidelines. Buddhism had a significant impact on the culture of India, which led to the flourishing of Buddhist architecture in that country. In order to acquire knowledge of one's own soul, Hinayana Buddhism encourages its followers to understand as much as they can about bakthi and the rites associated with it. In the Hinayana school of Buddhism, enlightenment is attained through exercising rigorous self-control and engaging in introspective practices. Followers of the Mahayana school of Buddhism believe that Buddha inhabited a celestial realm in the service of various gods and idols. The architecture of Buddhist countries followed comparable patterns as the religion spread over the world in the same manner as Buddhist art did.

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