Jaina Temple Architecture in India

The Development of a Distinct Language in Space and Ritual.

Jaina Temple Architecture in India is the first comprehensive study of the development and uniqueness of Jaina sacred structures. The monograph analyses Jaina temples in all regions of the Indian subcontinent and outlines clear continuities by covering the period from the early centuries BCE till the present day. It identifies a distinct approach to the shaping of ritual space in Jaina temple edifices, which involves often complex spatial layouts on numerous vertical levels as well as conglomerates of interconnected sanctums and building elements on various horizontal levels. These accommodate a multitude of venerated sacred objects and mirror specific Jaina ritual needs, patterns of worship as well as the translation of specific Jaina mythological and cosmological concepts into architecture. These aspects of multifaceted spatial planning are shown to be equally common to Jaina temples in the diaspora outside India.

The author and her team spent several years in India researching and photographing the country’s most outstanding and beautiful Jain temples. The book is lavishly illustrated with hundreds of colour pictures on glossy art paper. It is a world class production.

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A Vedic Hindu temple's architecture is a divine and yogic representation of a human being as shown in the figure. The feet represent the spire (rajagopuram). The hands represent the walkway (prakaaram) encompassing all around the temple. Tantrism includes within its fold Buddhist and Jaina tantras suggesting that Hindu, Jaina and Buddhist tantrism developed separately after arising from common sources of Tantric elements. The Agamic tradition, in general, has been dated to the pre-Mauryan period as references to the tradition are found in later vedic literature of Atharvaveda. Indian Architecture - Architectural Character. (Originally Published 1921). Indian architecture is divided into the following periods, which, however, frequently overlap: (1) The Buddhist style (B.C. 250-A.D. 750). India (north of the Deccan) and Ceylon. The whole of India from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. (2) The Hindu (or Brahman) style, subdivided into (a) The Northern Hindu style in North India (A.D. 600 to the present time). (b) The Chalukyan style in Central India (A.D. 1000-1300). (c) The Dravidian style in South India (A.D. 1350–1750). (1) Buddhist Architecture. Modern Jaina temples are mostly tinged with Mahometan influence and have bulbous domes and foliated pointed arches, while the “sikra” or pyramidal tower is often absent.
Ancient Indian Architecture. Famous Hindu Akshardham temple in South Delhi. Indian architecture is that vast tapestry of production of the Indian Subcontinent that encompasses a multitude of expressions over space and time, transformed by the forces of history considered unique to the sub-continent, sometimes destroying, but most of the time absorbing. The result is an evolving range of architectural production that none the less retains a certain amount of continuity across history. Ajanta Caves. With the introduction of Modern Architecture into India and later with Independence, the quest was more towards progress as a paradigm fuelled by Nehruvian visions. The planning of Chandigarh- a city most architects hate/love- by Le Corbusier was considered a step towards this. Art, Architecture, Jain Teerthankars, Temples, Uttar Pradesh, India. INTRODUCTION. The contribution of the Jain art to the mainstream art in India has been considerable. Most of the phases of India. art are represented by a Jain version. Jain architecture cannot be accredited with a style of its own, for in the first place it, was almost an offshoot of Hindu and Buddhist styles. Jaina art and architecture we mean specimens of art and architecture created under the patronage of the Jainas. The earliest, historical reference to some forms of Jain art is associated with king Kharavela of Kalinga. The earliest known Jain architecture belongs to the Mauryan period. Excellent Jain architecture and sculpture can be seen in their idols, stupas and temples found in Uttar Pradesh.