



Welcome to Art &  
Architecture in  
Medieval India

SHOW

SLIDE

A



# THE BACKGROUND

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EARLY INDIAN  
ARCHITECTURE

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# BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE

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✧ STRUCTURE      →      ✧ FUNCTION

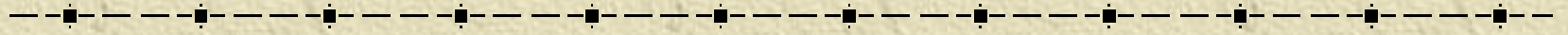
✧ STUPA      →      ✧ RELIQUARY

✧ CHAITYA      →      ✧ PRAYER HALL

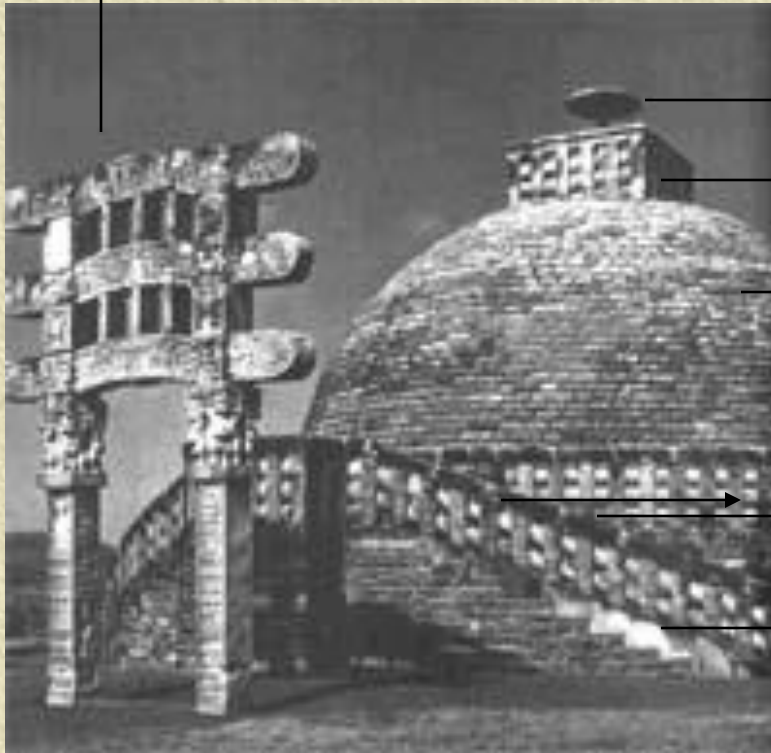
✧ VIHARA      →      ✧ RESIDENTIAL HALL



# STUPA



Torana or gateway



Chatraveli

Harmika

Anda

Vedi

sopana

# Origin & functions

- 
- ✦ **Originated from funerary tumuli**
  - ✦ **Used to store ashes of great men**
  - ✦ **Lord Buddha's ashes were divided into eight parts and encased as relics**
  - ✦ **Practice of venerating relics started**
  - ✦ **Stupas increased in size and ornamentation over period due to patronage by laity & royalty**
  - ✦ **Early stupas like Sanci on trade routes**
  - ✦ **Patronising a stupa earned religious merit**
  - ✦ **Practice of circumambulation started**



# The *Torana* or gateway

✦ **Volute**

✦ **Architrave**

✦ **Suci**

✦ **thaba**



# STUPA

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- ✦ **Architraves and volutes modelled on wooden designs**
- ✦ **Stone sculpture for the first time**
- ✦ **Stupa is a free standing structure**
- ✦ **Sanchi was enlarged with stone casing successively**
- ✦ **Asoka is said to have built 84000 stupas but the No. seems conventional**



# RAILING OR *VEDI*

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- ✦ The Vedi was provided as a fence and therefore a symbol of protection
- ✦ Large stupas were provided with an ambulatory path called *pradakshina patha*



# Layout of SANCHI STUPA

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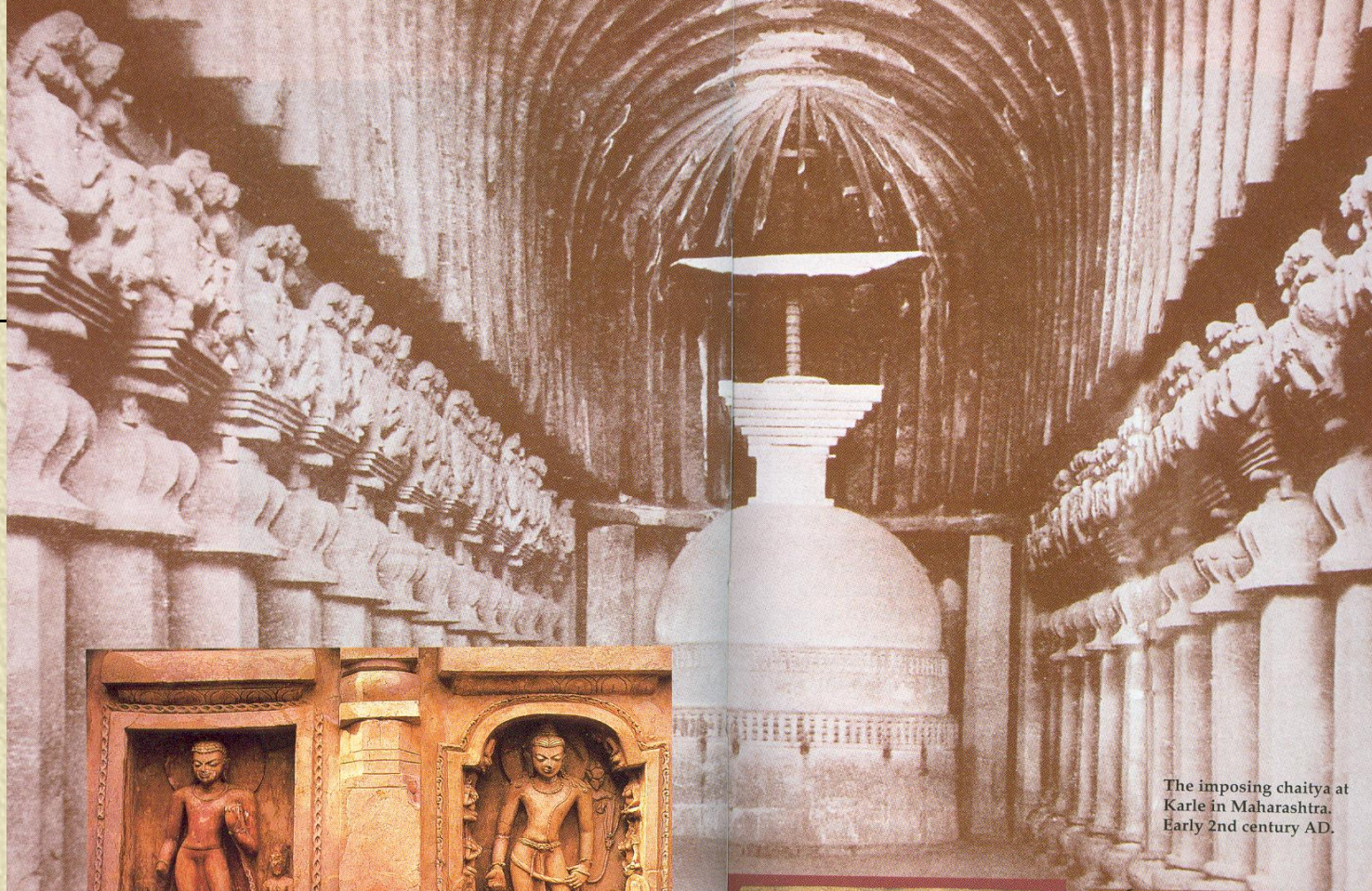
- ✦ The layout shows among many buildings and structures that Sanchi was a well endowed with buildings
- ✦ Sanchi was situated near trade routes
- ✦ Therefore royal and mercantile patronage are evident



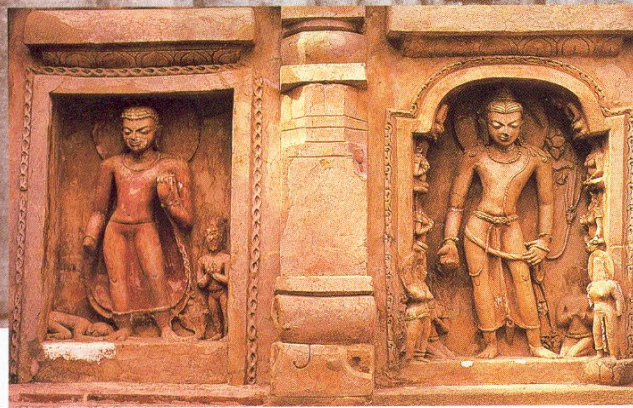
# Chaitya

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- ✦ *Chaitya* was a prayer hall
  - ✦ The main object of veneration was a small *stupa* i.e. a votive stupa
  - ✦ Veneration was done by circumambulation in a clockwise direction so that the right shoulder faced the stupa
  - ✦ Thus the apsidal shape was the most suitable for the *chaitya* hall
  - ✦ Chaitya halls were mostly rock cut out of natural formations like caves (*guha*) also called *gumpha* in Orissa e.g.. Hatigumpha, Ranigumpha





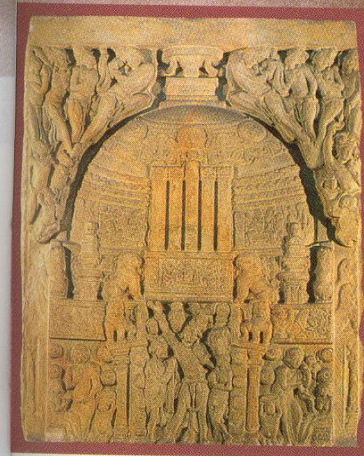
The imposing chaitya at Karle in Maharashtra. Early 2nd century AD.



Above: Bodhisattvas, Nalanda, 5th-6th century AD.

Right: Marble stupa relief from Amaravati, 2nd century AD.

Nalanda in Bihar has the ruins of one of the world's oldest universities, founded in the 5th century AD. In the 7th century Hiuen Tsang spent twelve years, both as a student and a teacher, at Nalanda which once had over 3,000 teachers and philosophers, attracting students from countries as far flung as Java, Sumatra, Korea, Japan and China.



Huge rock-cut *chaityas* (halls of worship) and viharas for the monks were carved in the hills far away from major towns but close to the trade routes. Many chaityas are found in Maharashtra, at Bhaja, Bedsa, Nasik and Karle and in Bihar, the Lomas Rishi chaitya at Barabar hills.







# VIHARA

- ✦ Literally means a place to stay
- ✦ The origin of a community of monks started with the heterodox (*nastika*) sects
- ✦ Buddhist monks were prohibited from travelling during the rainy season *Vassa vasa* as they would trample the newly sprouted plants, therefore they stayed put.
- ✦ Earlier concept of holy man in *brahmanical* religions was a solitary recluse
- ✦ Earliest *viharas* in eastern & western India

# PLAN

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- ✦ *Viharas* were of different sizes but followed a similar plan
- ✦ Ajanta *Viharas* c AD 480
- ✦ A portico entrance
- ✦ A prayer hall that also served as a congregational room during the *uposatha* or fortnightly meeting of the *Sangha*
- ✦ Cells on the side for the monks to reside

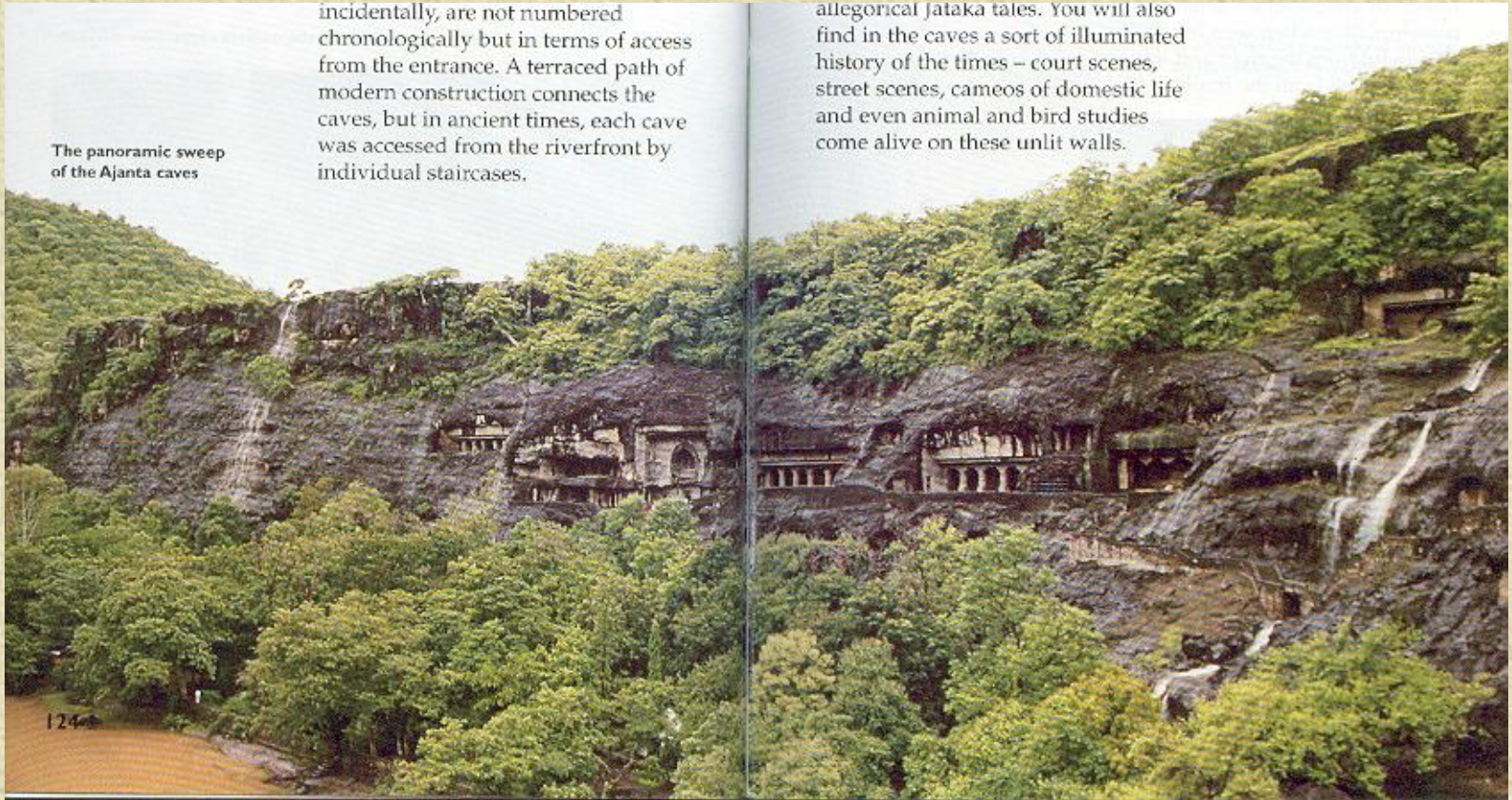


# AJANTA

The panoramic sweep  
of the Ajanta caves

incidentally, are not numbered chronologically but in terms of access from the entrance. A terraced path of modern construction connects the caves, but in ancient times, each cave was accessed from the riverfront by individual staircases.

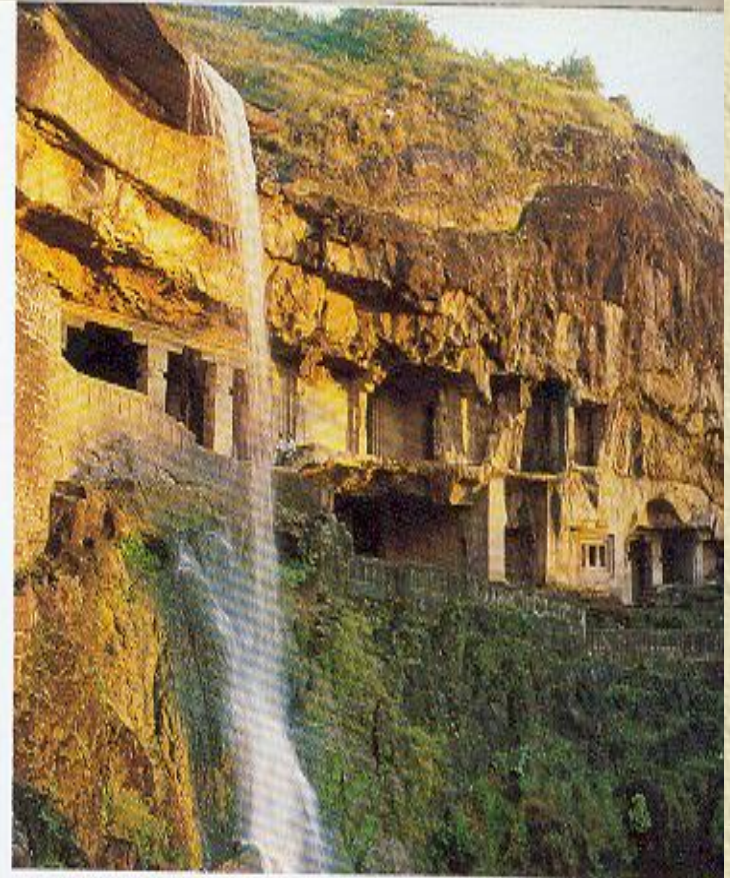
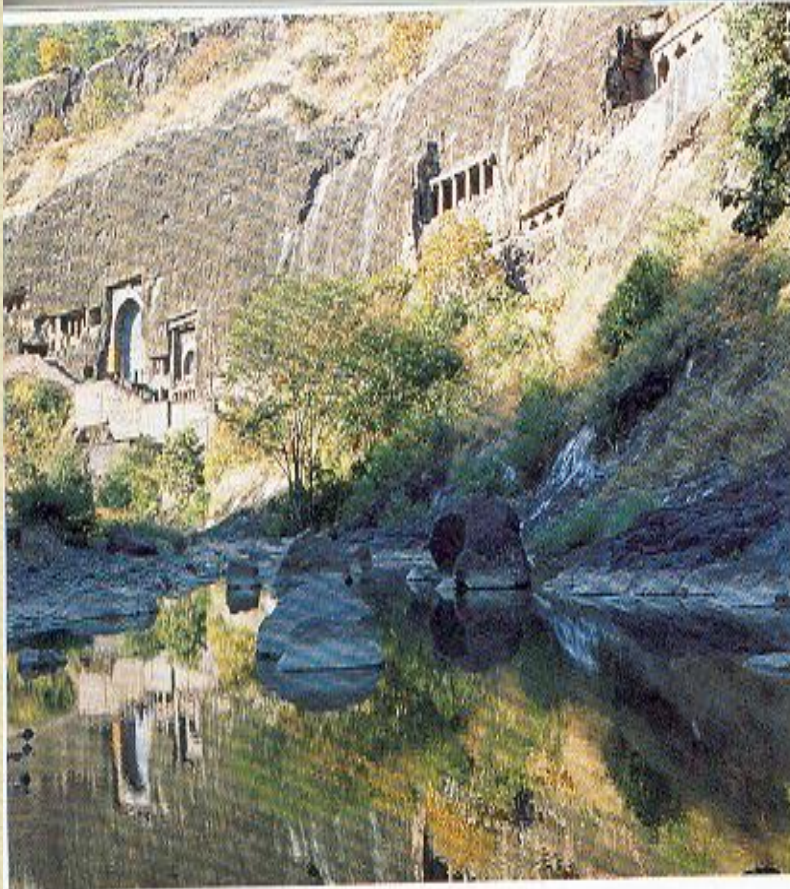
allegorical Jataka tales. You will also find in the caves a sort of illuminated history of the times – court scenes, street scenes, cameos of domestic life and even animal and bird studies come alive on these unlit walls.





# AJANTA ELLORA

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THE ELLORA CAVES



# Vihara to Mahavihara

- 
- ✦ Not just increase in size but qualitative changes
  - ✦ Mahavihara means a monastic university and not a big Vihara
  - ✦ Rising no of inmates
  - ✦ More patronage
  - ✦ Functional requirements lie increased no of kitchens, wells, granaries, classrooms
  - ✦ Because philosophy and education were rapidly developing in the viharas



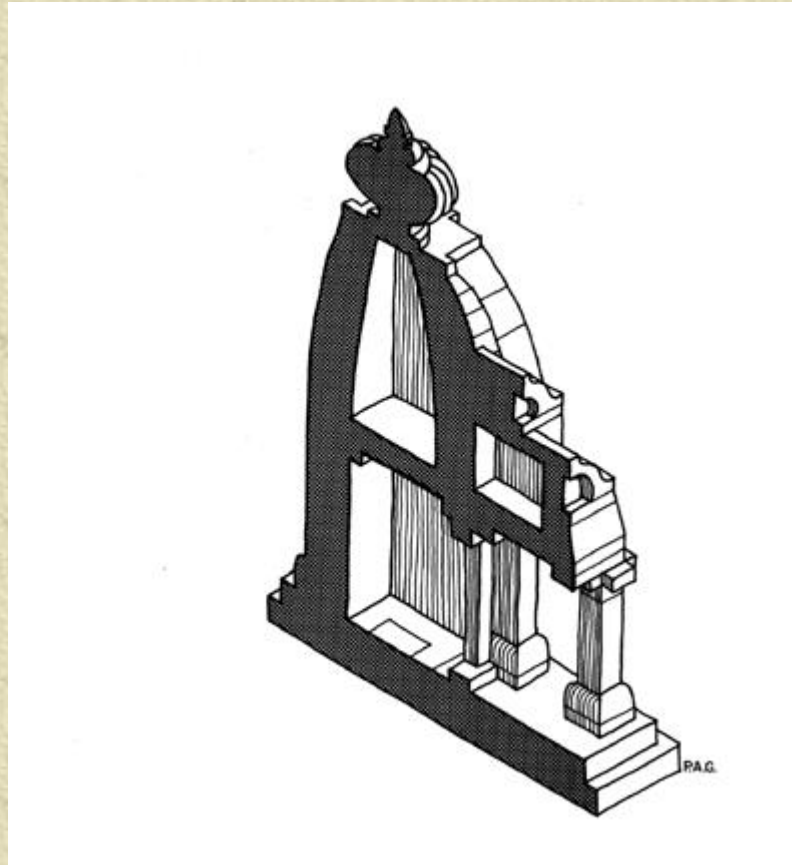




# BATU CAVES

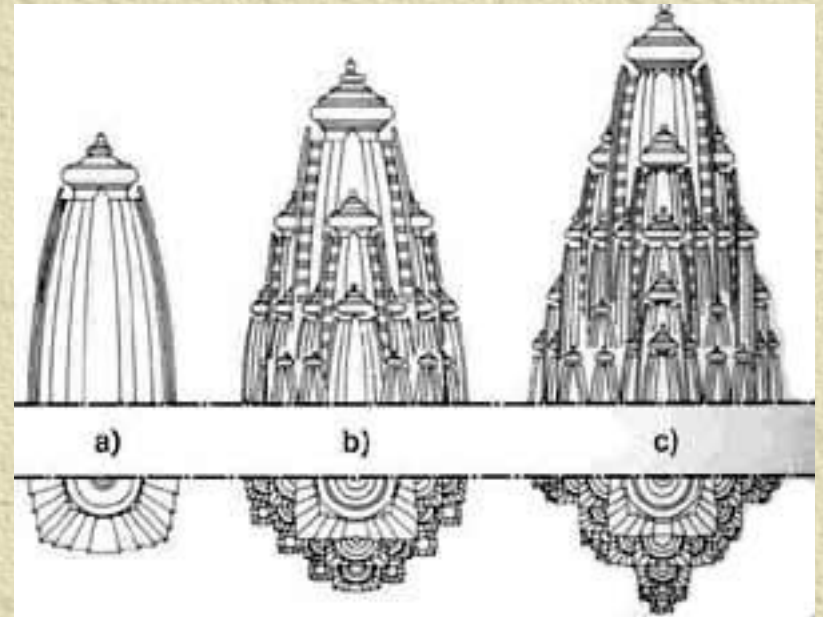
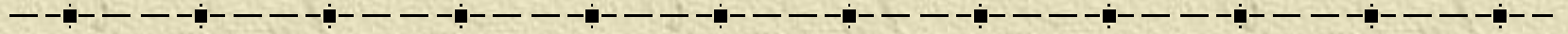


side

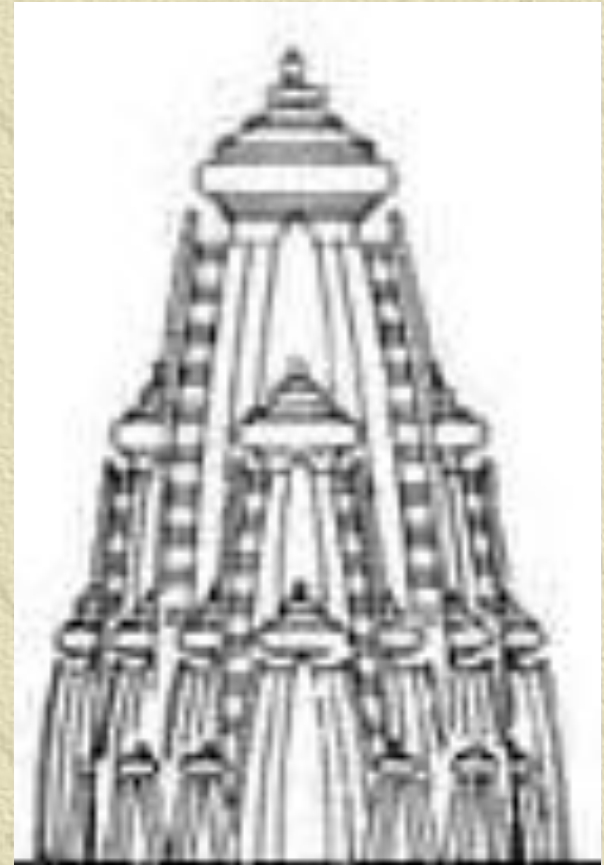
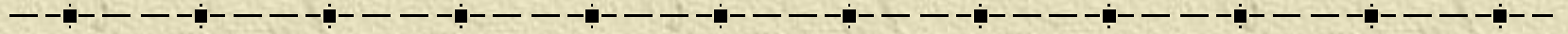




# prasada

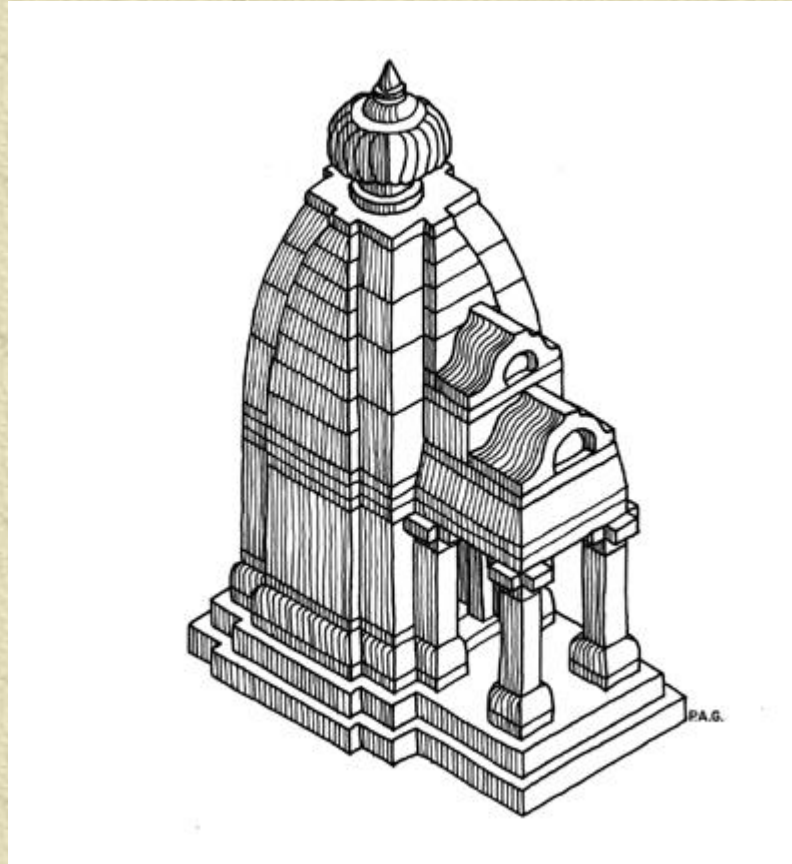


# shikara





# firstframe



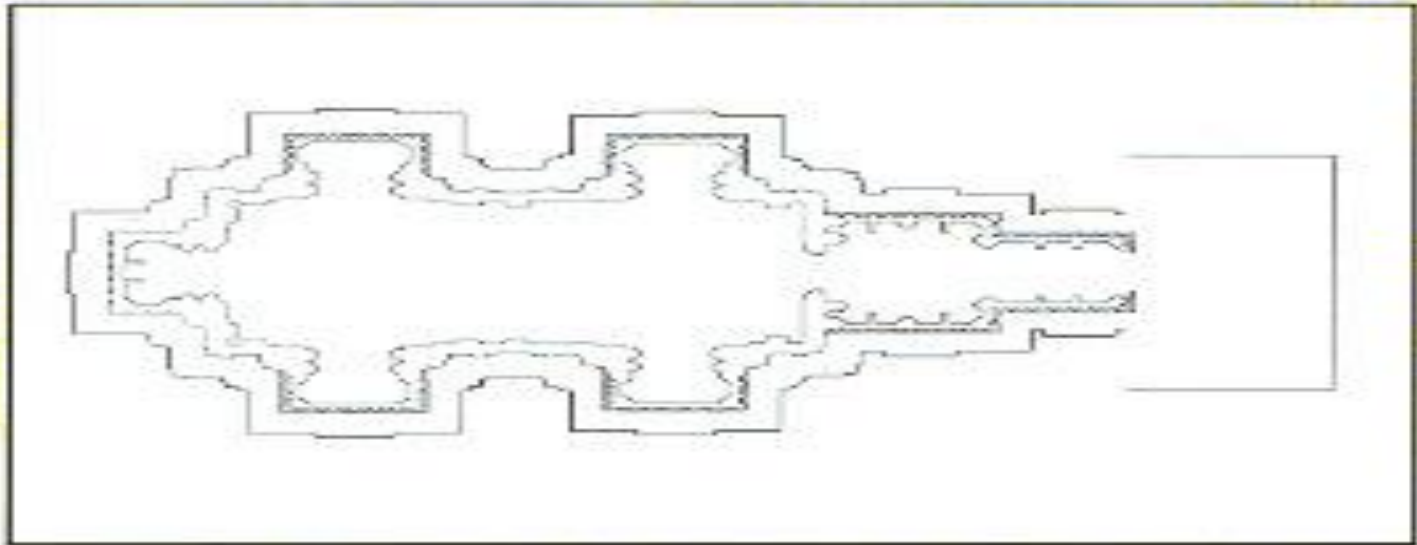
# NAGARA





# LAKSHMANAPLAN

LAKSHMANA TEMPLE



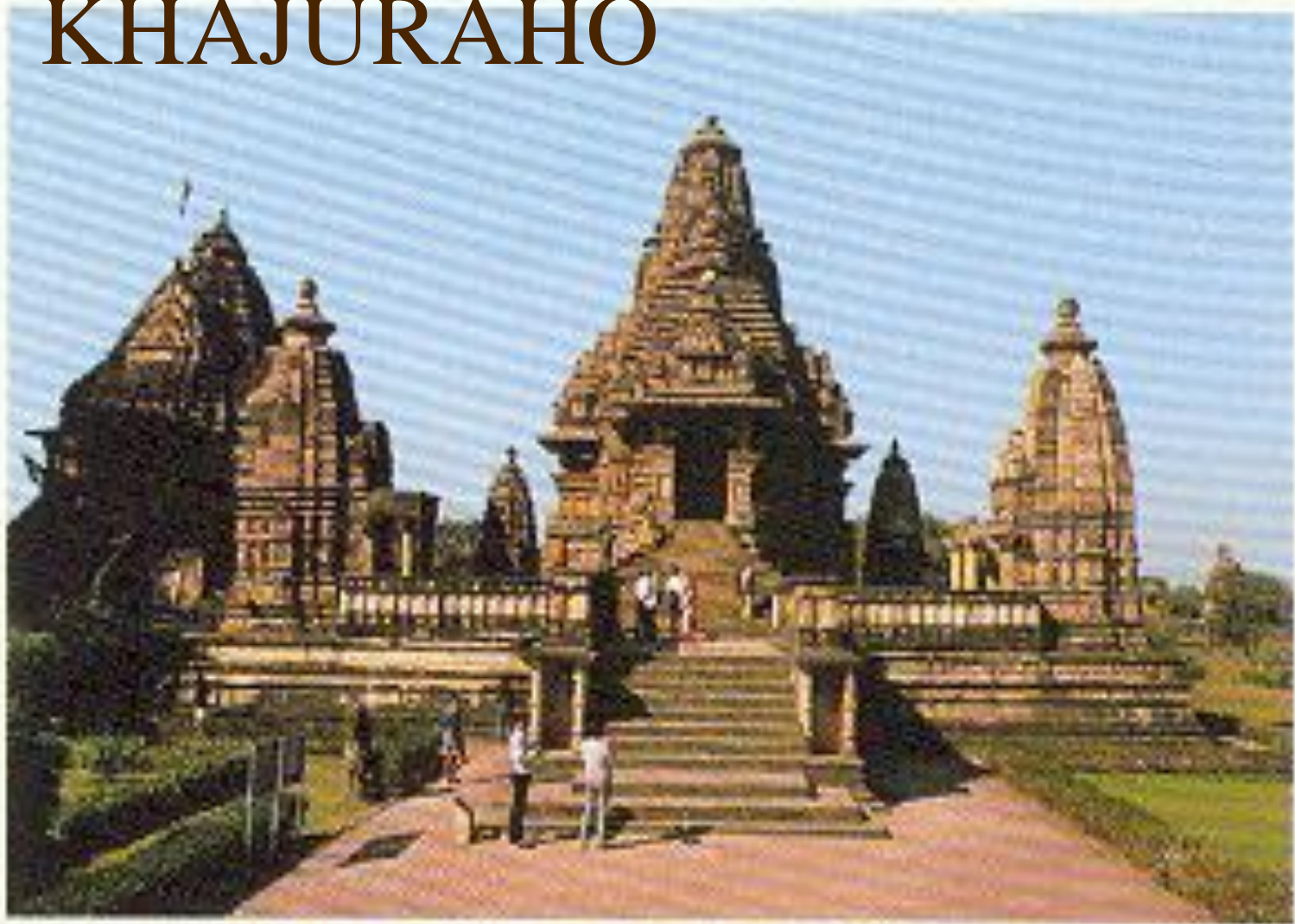
# Lakshmana



Jagati - plinth

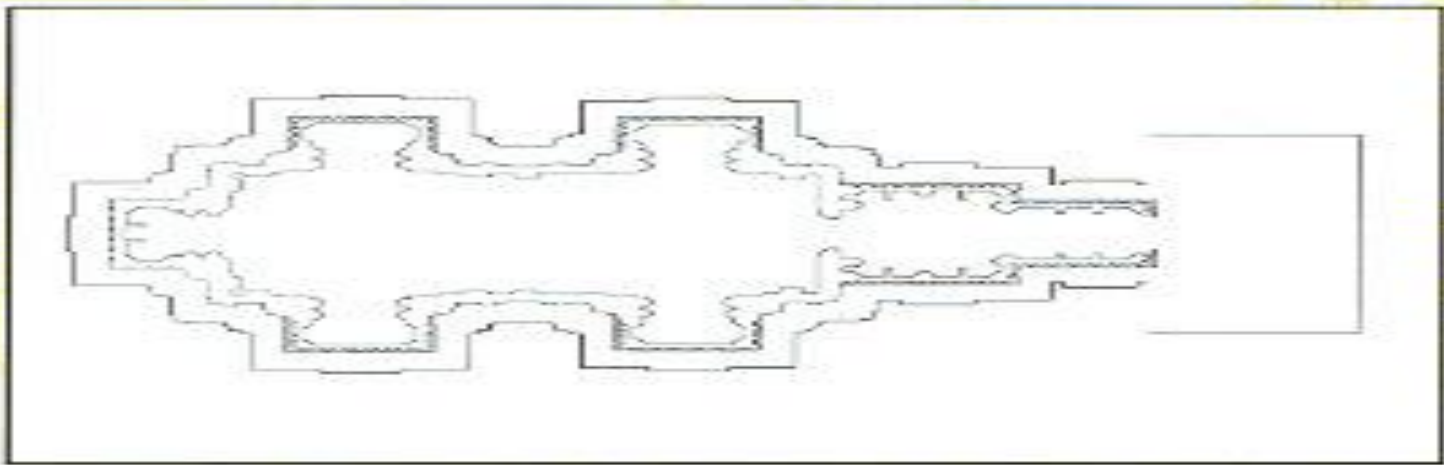


# KHAJURAHO



# KHAJURAHO PLAN

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panels of the *sannidhā* temples, that have drawn maximum attention. Their gestures and expressions pulsate with life and exhibit great passion, sensitivity, joy and warmth.

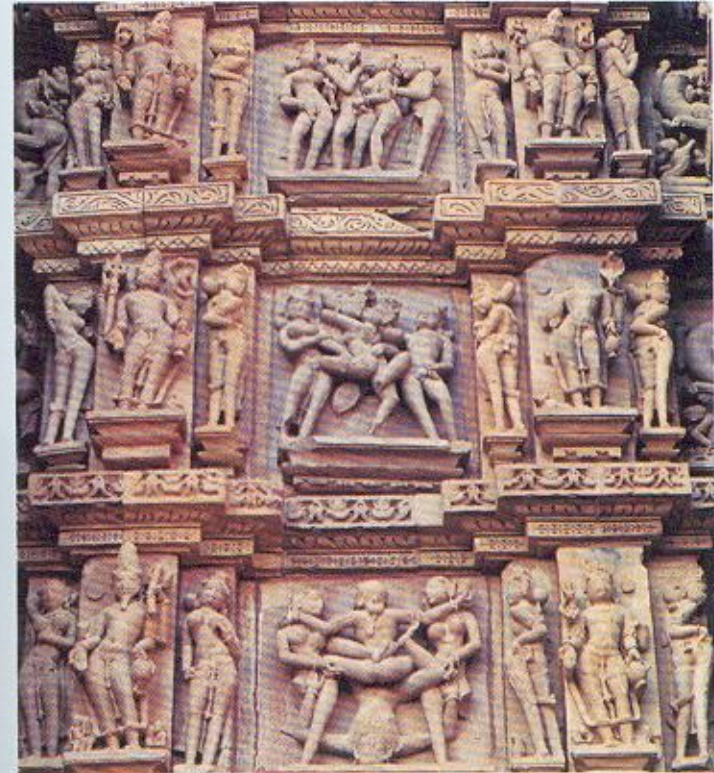
# KHAJURAHO

Ten centuries after they were constructed, these temples remain a celebration of life

of life, along with *dharma* or piety and *artha* or economic pursuit. The full attainment of all three leads to *moksha* or salvation. Depictions of *mithuna* or loving human couples were seen as auspicious signs of fertility that would ward off evil and bestow great merit on the builder when used in architecture.

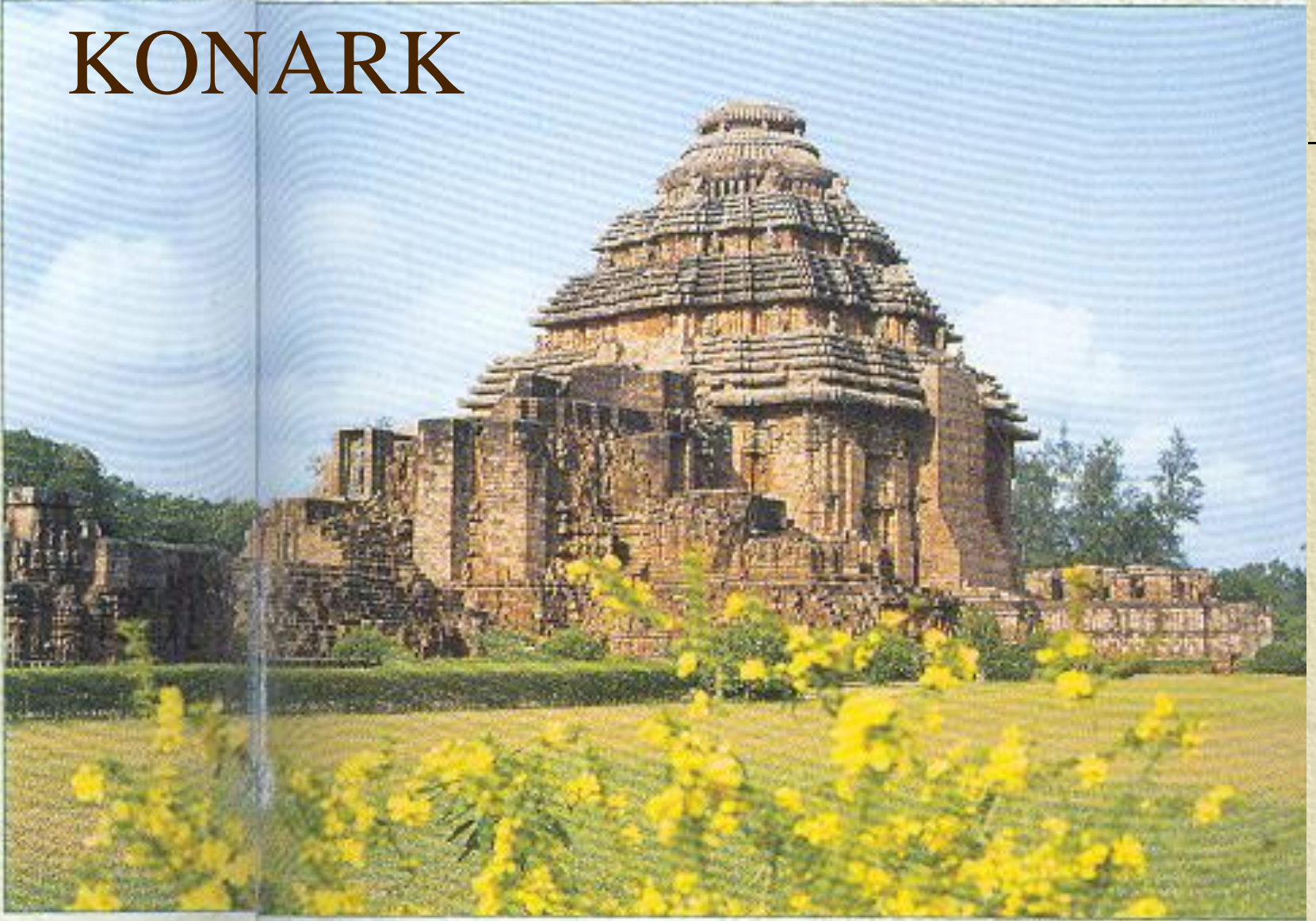
The existing temples of Khajuraho can be divided into three groups, Western, Eastern and Southern. The famous Western group, designated a World Heritage site, is enclosed within a beautifully laid-out park. The Lakshmana and Vishvanath temples to the front and the Kandariya Mahadev, Jagdambi and Chitragupta temples at the rear, showcase the best of Khajuraho.

Considered a brilliant episode in the history of Indian temple architecture, the Khajuraho sculptures reveal the sensuous charms of the human body



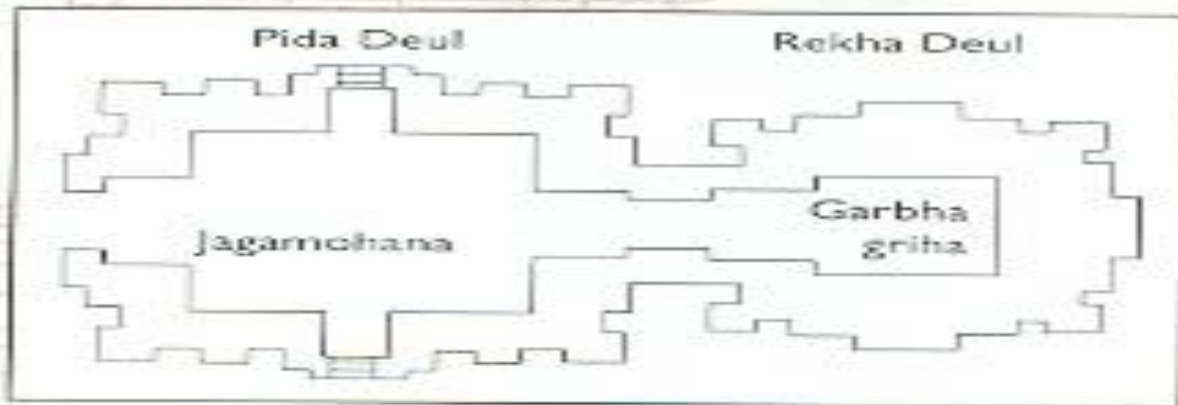
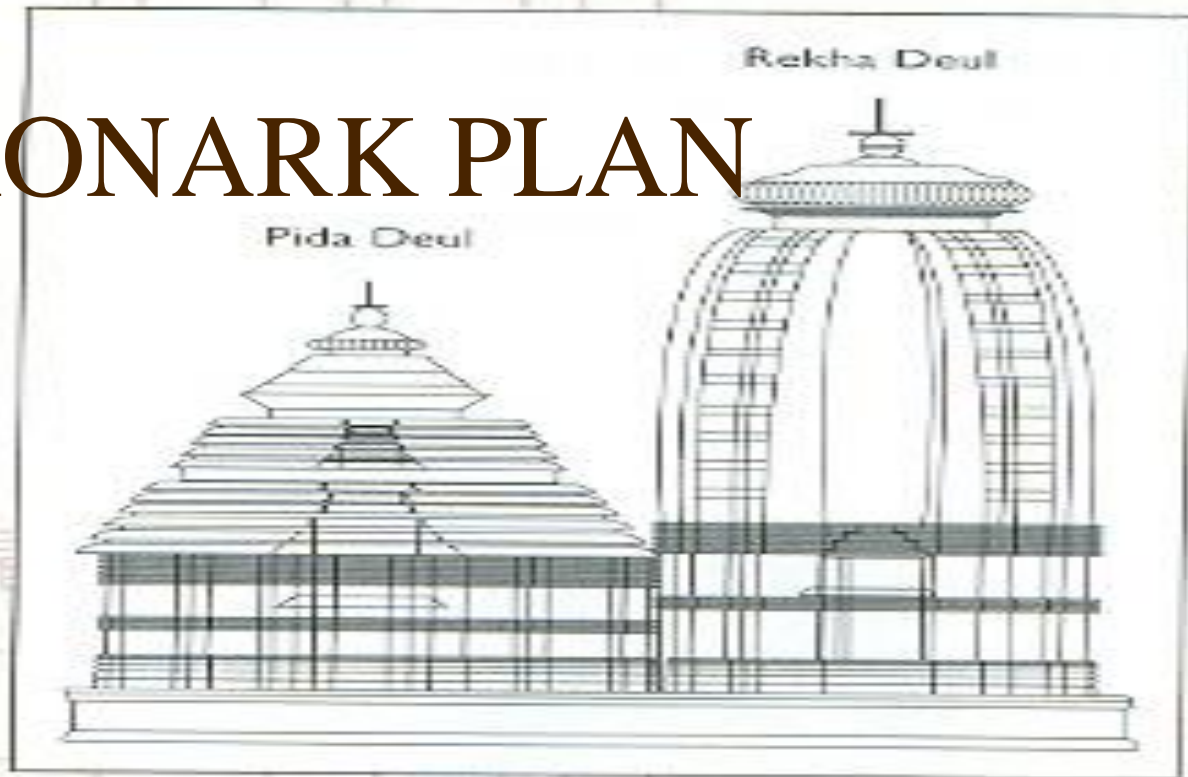


# KONARK



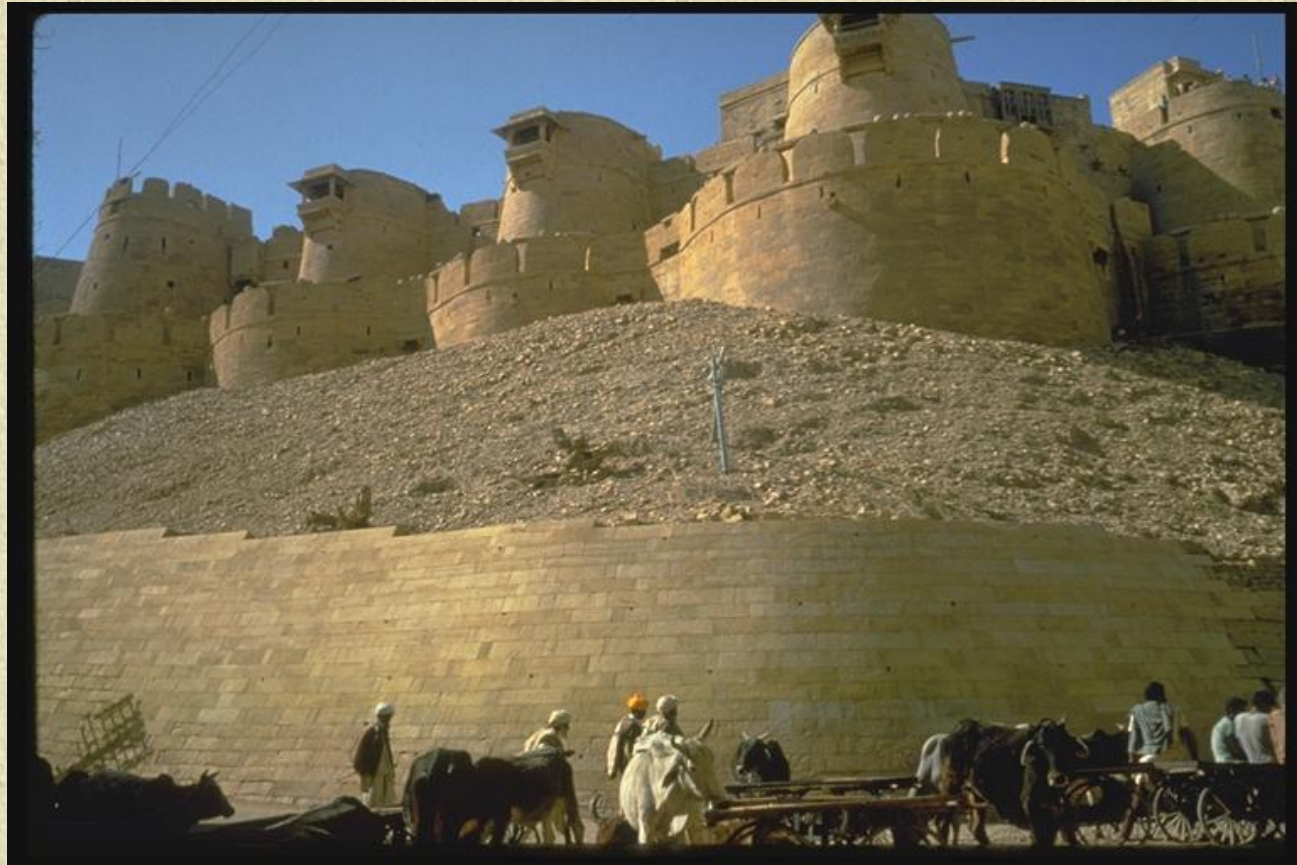


# KONARK PLAN



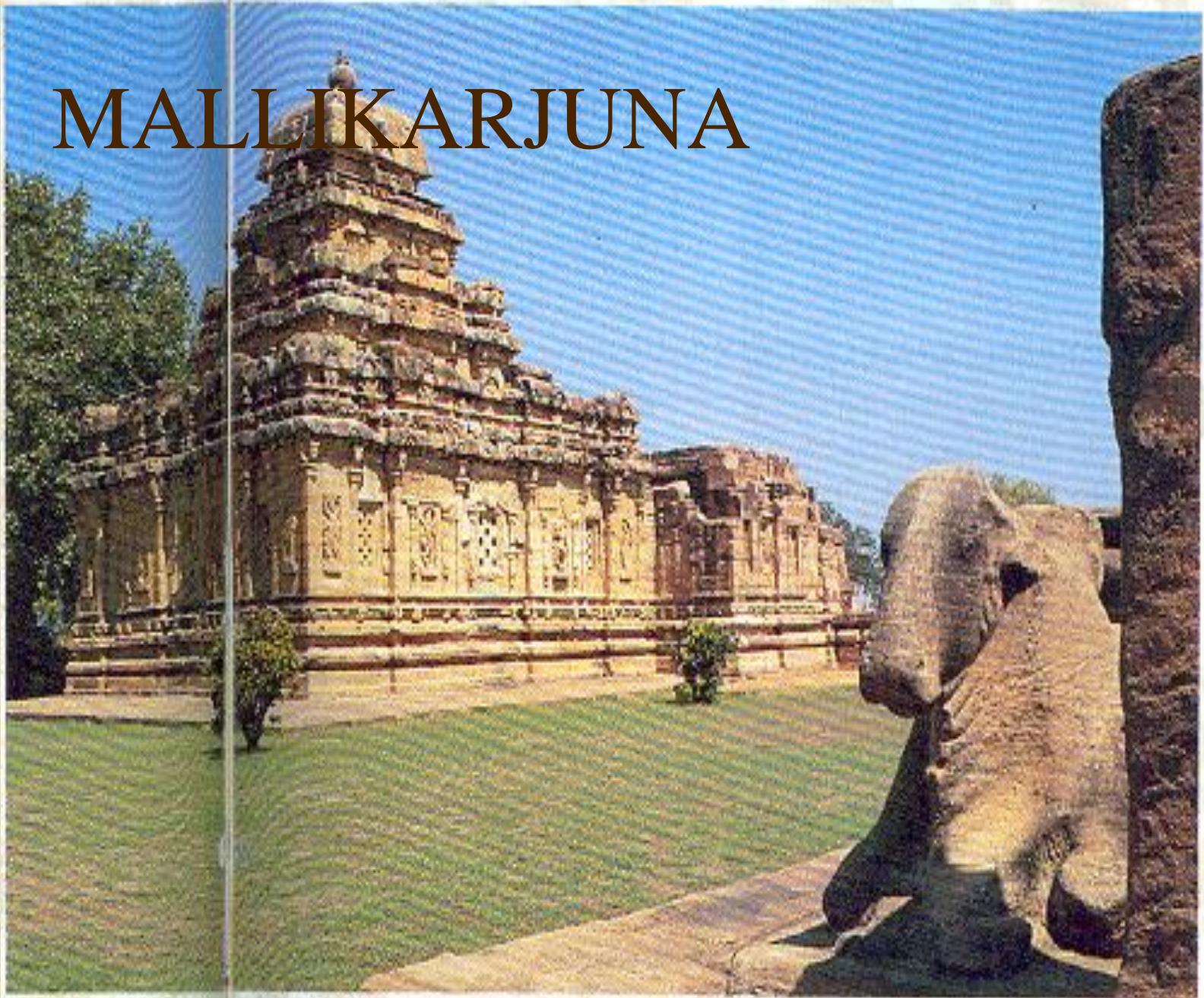
ADAPTED FROM PERCY BROWN, INDIAN ART & ARCHITECTURE

# JAISALMER



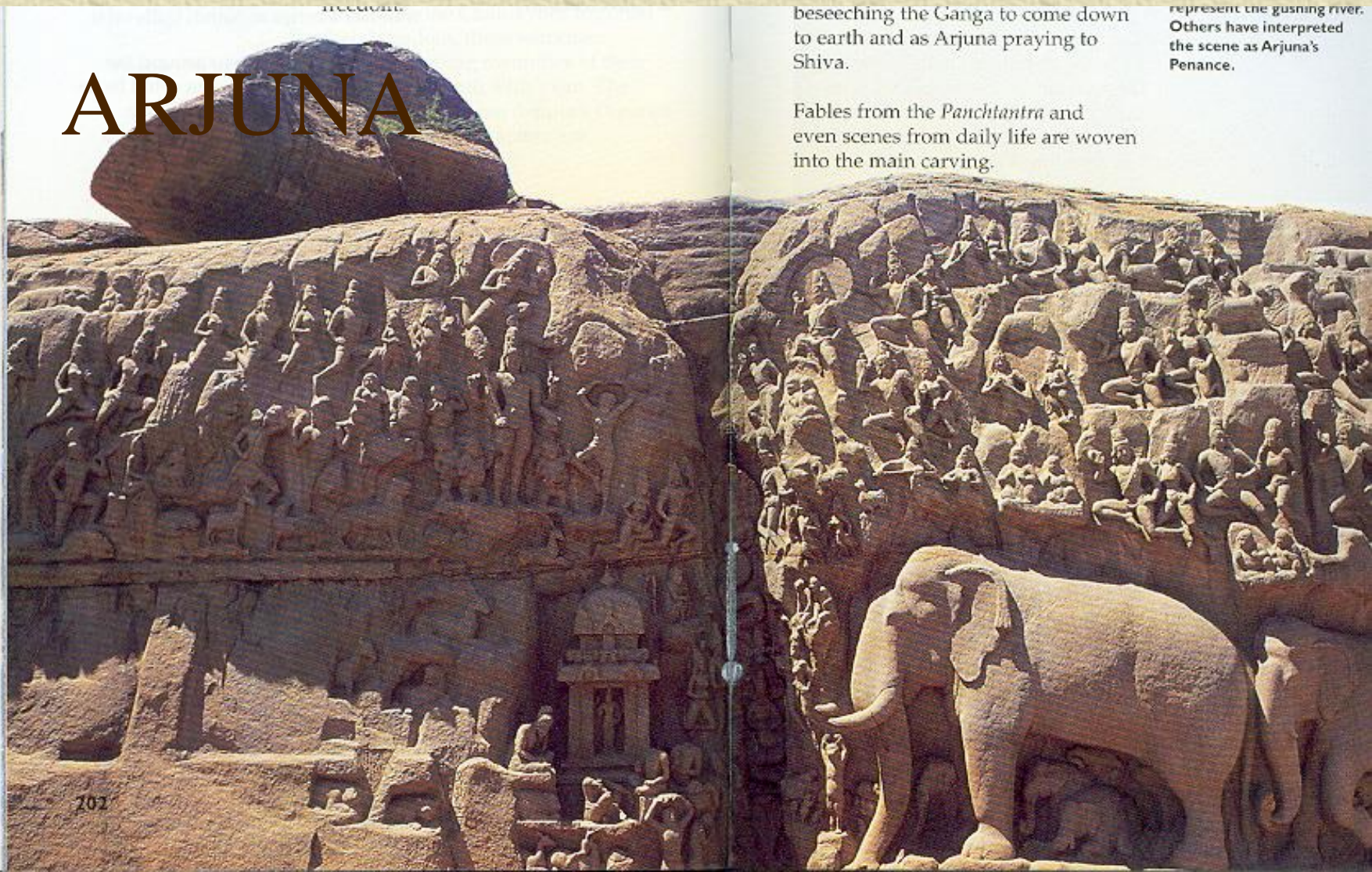


# MALLIKARJUNA





# ARJUNA



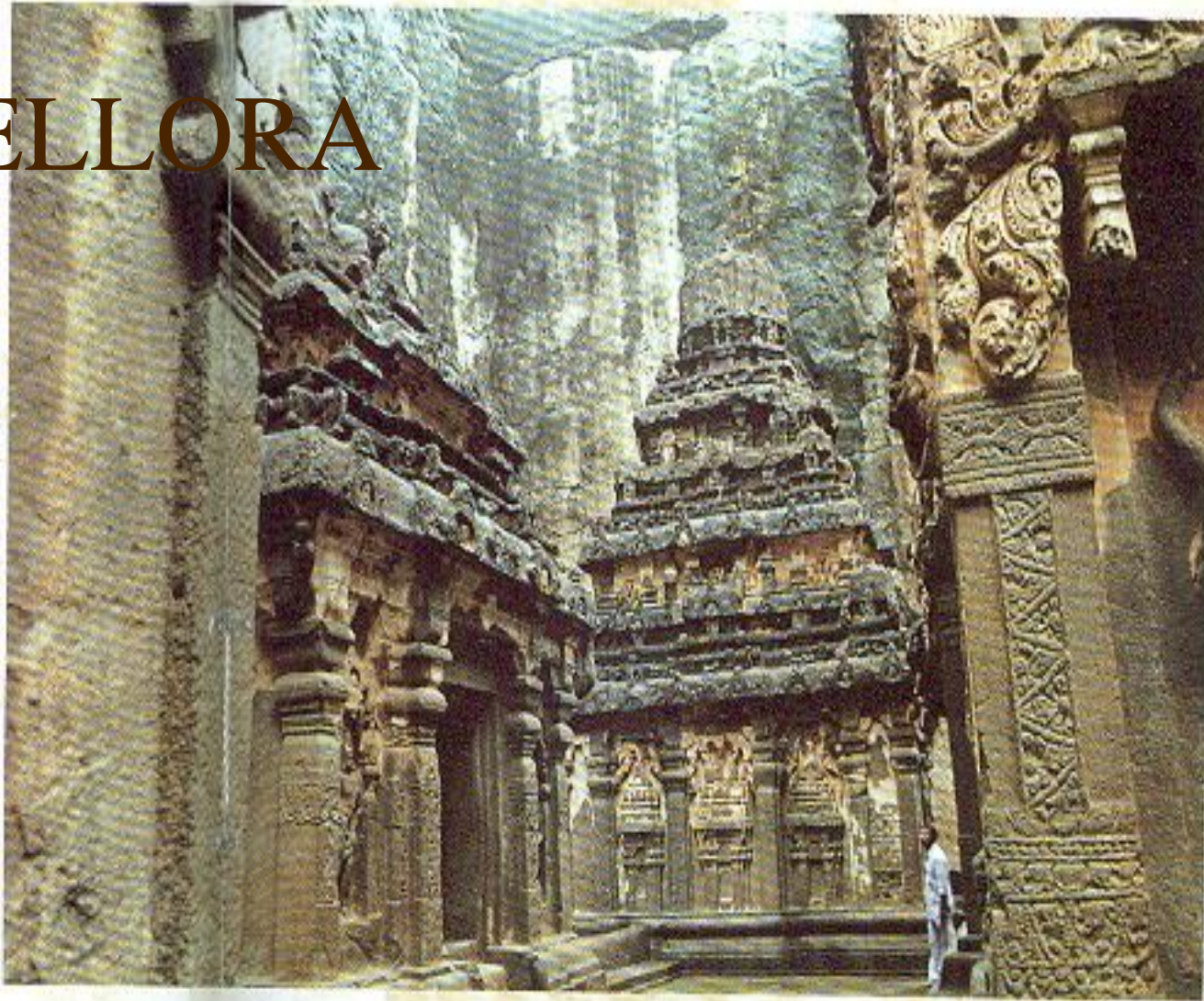
beseeking the Ganga to come down to earth and as Arjuna praying to Shiva.

represent the gushing river. Others have interpreted the scene as Arjuna's Penance.

Fables from the *Panchtantra* and even scenes from daily life are woven into the main carving.



# ELLORA

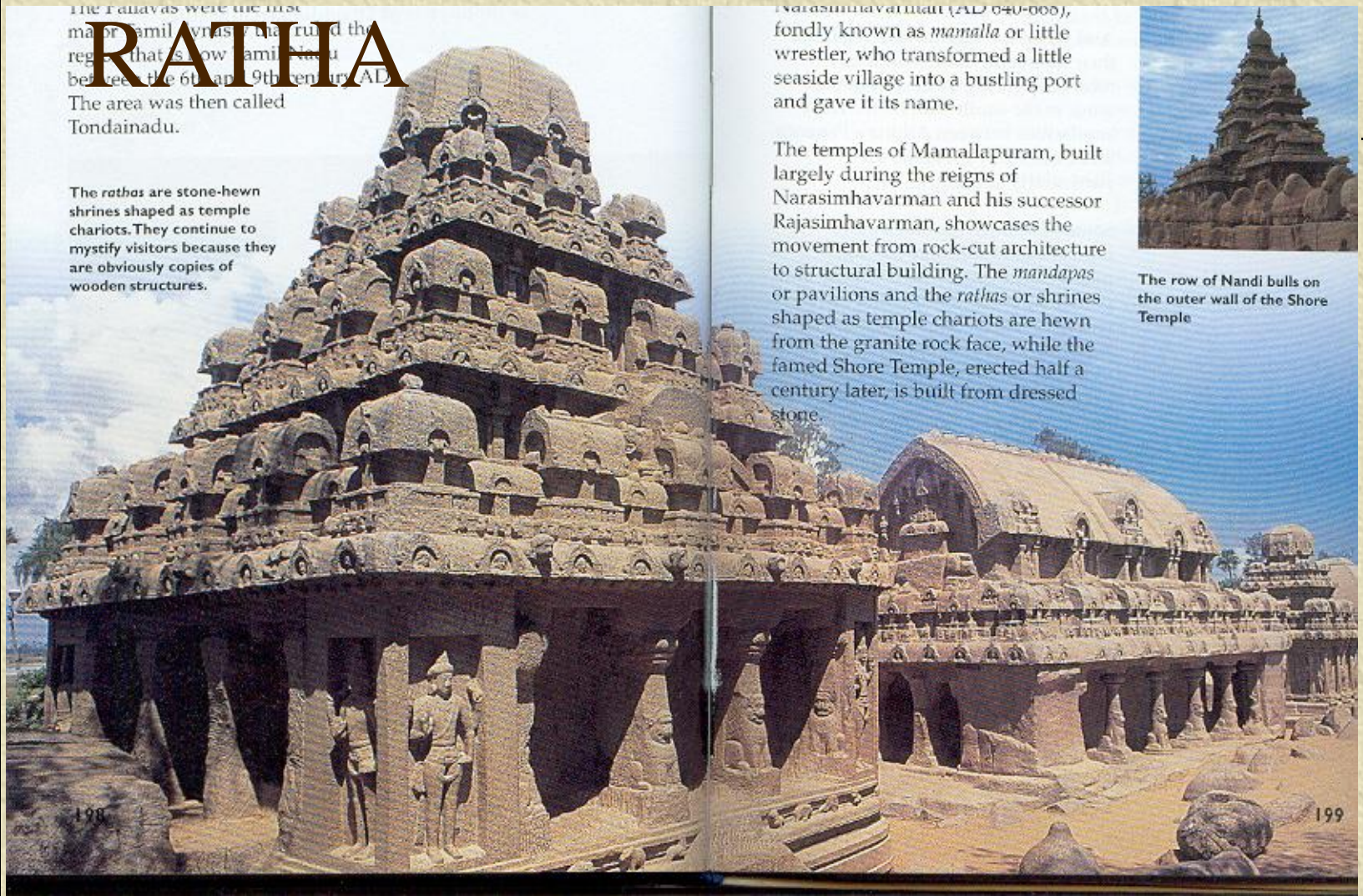




The Pallavas were the first major family dynasty that ruled the region that is now Tamil Nadu between the 6th and 9th century AD. The area was then called Tondainadu.

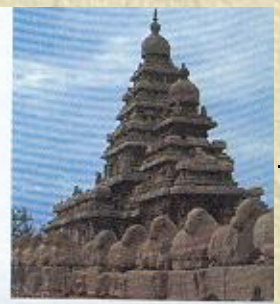
The *rathas* are stone-hewn shrines shaped as temple chariots. They continue to mystify visitors because they are obviously copies of wooden structures.

# RATHA



Narasimhavarman II (AD 640-668), fondly known as *mamalla* or little wrestler, who transformed a little seaside village into a bustling port and gave it its name.

The temples of Mamallapuram, built largely during the reigns of Narasimhavarman and his successor Rajasimhavarman, showcases the movement from rock-cut architecture to structural building. The *mandapas* or pavilions and the *rathas* or shrines shaped as temple chariots are hewn from the granite rock face, while the famed Shore Temple, erected half a century later, is built from dressed stone.



The row of Nandi bulls on the outer wall of the Shore Temple



# JAGANNATHA



Parade during Hindu festival, 1950s ©Hirz/Archive Photos

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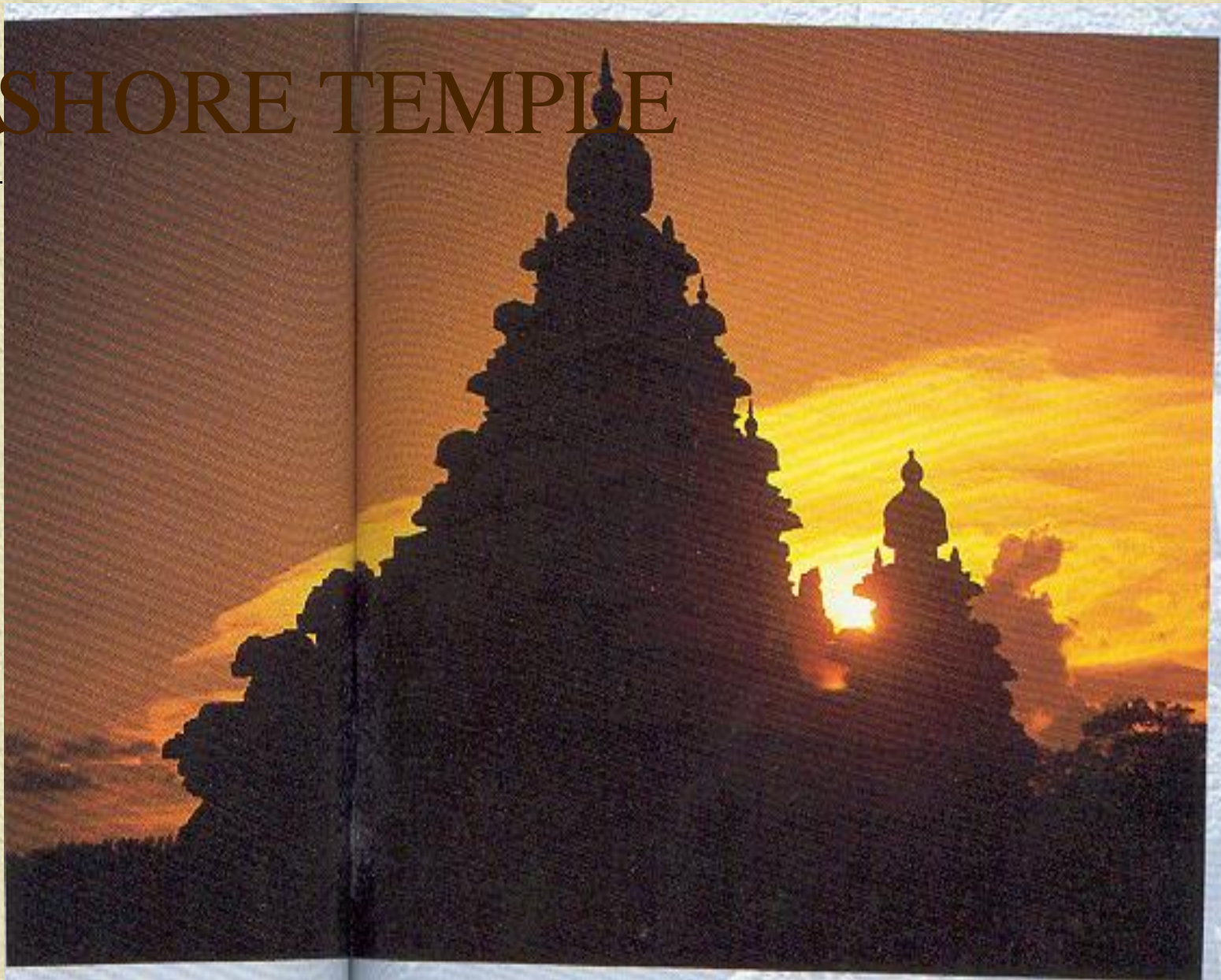


# HARE RAMA



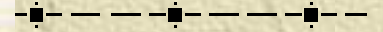
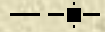
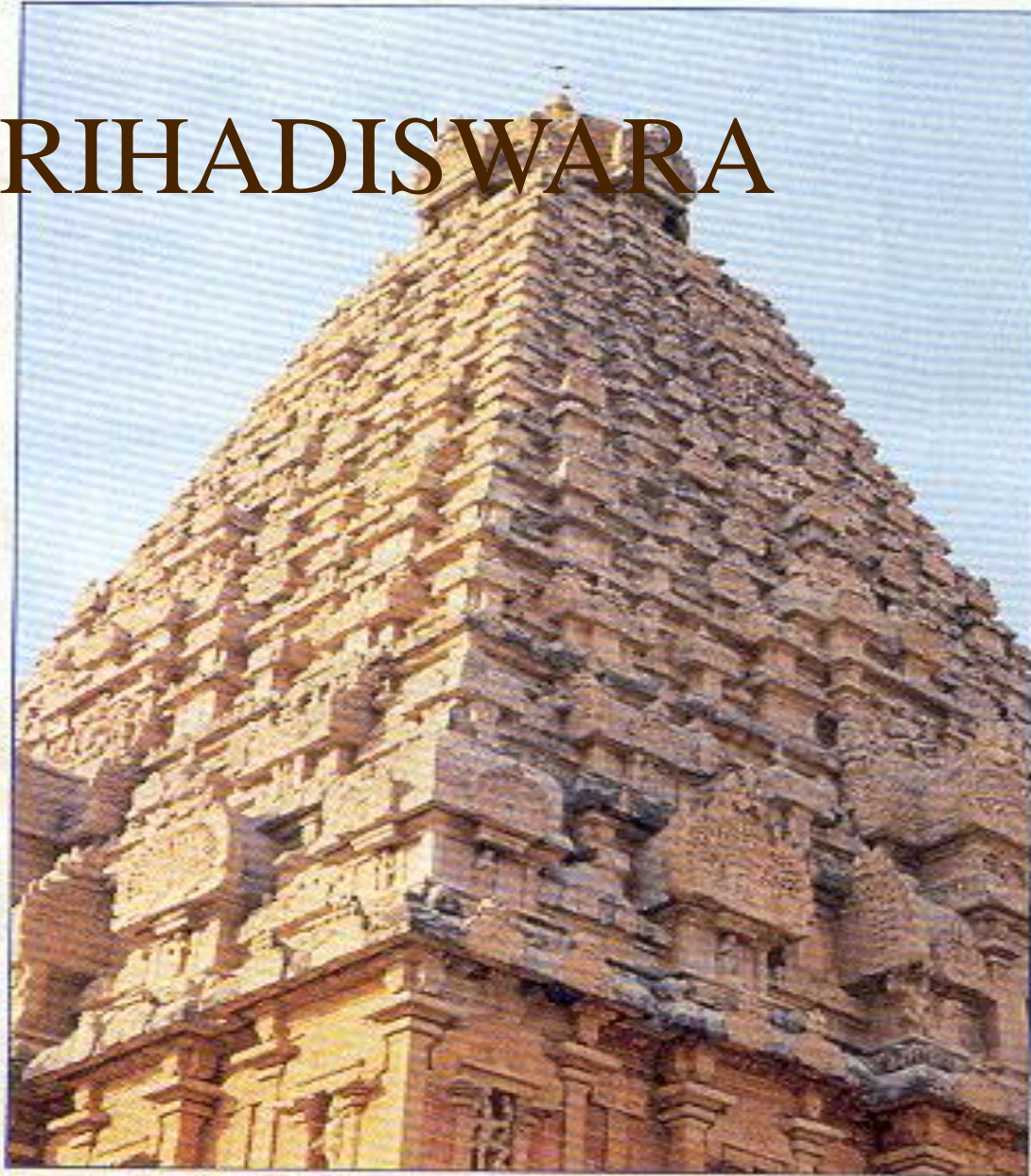


# SHORE TEMPLE





# BRIHADISWARA





81-tonne granite block mounted on logs to the top of the *shikhara*.

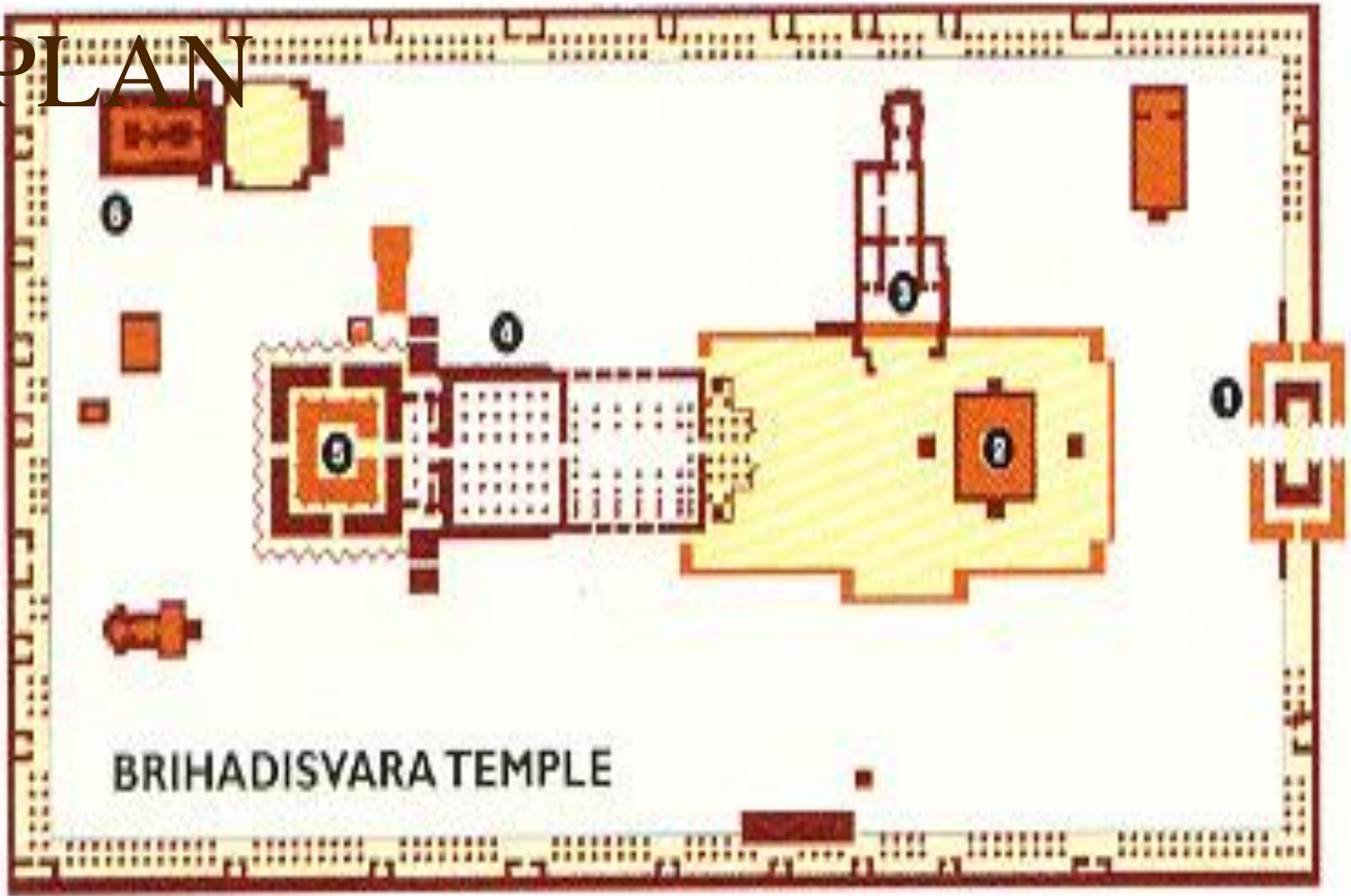
Brihadisvara is the showpiece of Chola architecture. The two elaborately carved *gopurams*, widely separated from each other, lead the devotee to the huge 152 metres by 76 metres inner courtyard. Just ahead stands the monolithic granite statue of Nandi, Shiva's vehicle, ensconced under a painted canopy of the later Nayaka period.



Below:  
Nandi mandapa



# PLAN



BRIHADISVARA TEMPLE



# SINGAPORE





# SINGAPORE COW





# TAMIL TEMPLE



Elaborately beautiful Hindu temple ©Archive Photos

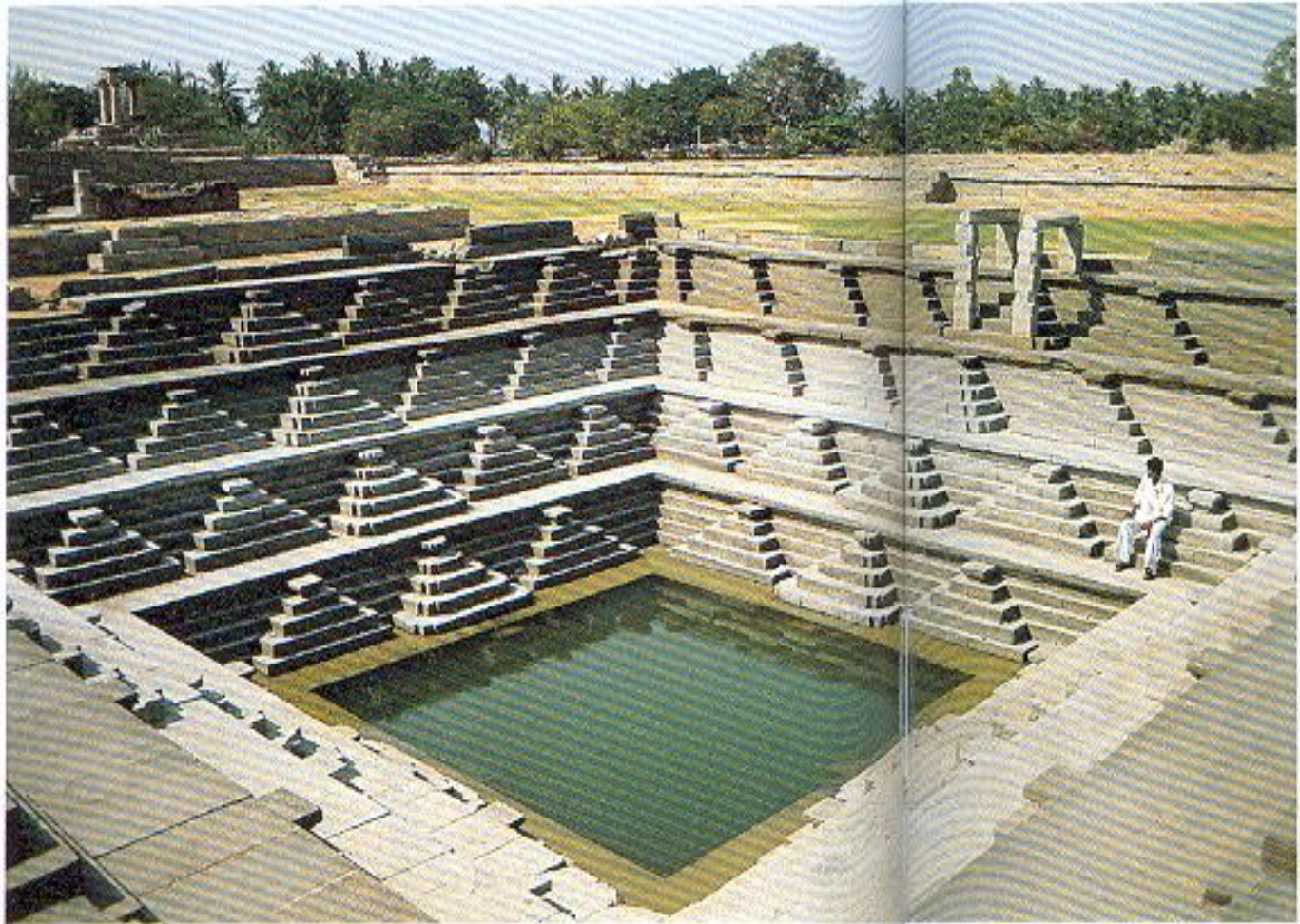
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# PUSHKARNI





# LOTUS MAHAL





# STONE RATHA

