

Recent Books on Architecture – December 2001

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Art and Architecture of Nalanda
Author : G.C. Chauley

Art and Architecture of Nalanda deals in details about Nalanda a Buddhist monument of international fame. The author of this monograph has presented Nalanda in brief with all its academic and artistic pursuits for over one millennium as a centre of the Buddhist learning as well as heart of art and architecture.

In 1st chapter an effort is made to furnish in details about the development of Nalanda from a place of pilgrimage of Buddhists and Jains to a renowned Nalanda university for Indian and foreign students.

In subsequent chapter architectural complex of Nalanda is discussed that existed right from the fourth century A.D. till its final extinction in the 12th century A.D., as these Monasteries, stupas, chaityas, and shrines have yielded large numbers of antiquities and precious art treasures of ancient Nalanda.

Chapters three to six give the different aspects of the development of a centre of art [sculptures] at Nalanda. The materials used, icons [images] carved and their age wise classification i.e. Gupta, post-Gupta, Pala and Sena etc are the salient features of these chapters. The appropriate interpretation of these icons in the context of religious development viz. Mahayana, Vajravana/Kalachakra yana etc. definitely attract the attention of scholars.

The last chapter throws light on the art and iconography of Brahmanical sculptures found from Nalanda excavation and also within the vicinity.

The author has incorporated art and architecture of University of Vikramsila and Ratnagiri in Orissa to facilitate scholars for a comparative study at a glance in the appendices.

Pub: Sundeep Prakashan, New Delhi Year : 2002 ISBN : 817574121x (Hb)
Bib: 29cm, x+161p, 23 Plates, Appendices Price: US\$ 40.00

Punjabi Baroque: And Other Memories of Architecture
Author : Gautam Bhatia

Architect Gautam Bhatia is the picaresque hero travelling through a world of architecture completely dictated by personal idiosyncracies. In this witty, erudite book he argues that the well-to-do Indian measures his success by the 'home' he

builds. To convert his fantasies into blueprint and give them shape in concrete and marble, he summons the architect. The architect has his own ideas, but these are thwarted at every turn and in the end his only real function is to juggle local by-laws to make room for whatever bizarre structure he is eventually commanded to build. These architectural monstrosities mushrooming all over India's cities defy the limits set on them by the size of plot or location and are so outrageous that it has become necessary to coin new terms to describe them: Chandni Chowk Chippendale, Tamil Tiffany, Marwari Pragmatism, Bania Gothic, Anglo-Indian Rococo, Punjabi Baroque...

The author gives a guided tour through the intricacies of the new architecture in this gloriously funny, often hard-hitting book

Pub : Penguin India, New Delhi Year : 2001 Bib : 272pp ISBN : 0140240756 Price : US\$ 7.00

BAYON: Temple of Mysterious Smiling Gods (Shogakukukan, Tokyo 1997) B4 format, 88p., text in English and Japanese. 4,800 Yen

Photographs by BAKU Saito(boep@gene.or.jp), text by Takeshi Nakagawa, Dr. Professor of the Department of Architecture at Waseda University (Field director of the Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor Monuments), with contributions by Ikuo Hirayama (Chairman of the Foundation for Cultural Heritage, Tokyo), Truong Mealy (Ambassador of Cambodia), Yoshiteru Kawase (Agency for Cultural Affairs, Fine Arts Division), and Shin-ichi Nishimoto (Associate Professor at Waseda University).

Art Direction by Shinichiro Tora (New York), with the assistance in photography by Apple Japan, Inc., American Express International, Inc., COMET Corcoration, SONY Corporation, Nikon Corporation, Nikon Photo Products Inc., Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., Broncolor; and with the assistance in publication by Tokushu Paper MFG. Co., Ltd., Heiwa Paper Co., Ltd., Toppan Printing Co. Ltd., Shogakukan Inc.

For further information and ordering, please contact directly to: Baku F. Saito (baku@pluto.dti.ne.jp).

Bayon I: The Faces of the Towers. Plates

Edited by Takeshi Nakagawa, with assistance of Shin-ichi Nishimoto; Photography by Baku Saito. UNESCO Publishing / JSA (Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor) / Foundation for Cultural Heritage (Tokyo 1999) B4 format, vii, 8 color plates, 2 figures, 196 plates c/o Studio BAKU East Azabu Mansion 403 Minami-azabu 1-5-14, Minato-ku Tokyo 106, Japan

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Building Architecture of Sthapatya Veda : The Science and technology of Vaastu Shastra – re-defined re-interpreted and its relevance and all – time universal applicability re – established. Archetypal building forms illustrated and punctuated

with apt quotations. The textual matter enriched with measured drawings. A research work of a traditional practitioner cum scholar

Author : V. Ganapati Sthapati

Pub : Dakshinaa, Chennai Year : 2001 Bib : xiii, 431p Price : US\$ 40.00

Contents: 1. Sthapatya Veda. 2. Central theme of Sthapatya Veda. 3. VAASTU SHASTRA – a scientific treatise – not a religious document. 4. Vitruvius – architect on craftsmanship and scholarship. 5. Traditional Indian science and technology. 6. Sacred geometry of Dr. Robert Lawlor of Australia. 7. Genesis of traditional Indian science, art and architecture. 8. Vaastu Shastra, a class by itself. 9. Vaastu Shilpa, as advanced science and traditional technological practice. 10. Two old Oms and five fold Vedas. 11. 'Time and space' – 'rhythm and form'. 12. Vibration and resonance. 13. Vastu reva Vaastu. 14. Measure of earth's mantle. 15. Maya, the great scientist of Bharat. 16. Shilpa Vidya Rahasyopanishad – Vaastu Sutropanishad. 17. Rig Vedic Vaastoshpati Sukta – Vishwakarma Sukta. 18. Taala system of spatial measures. 19. Selection of building site. 20. Orientation of buildings, cities and villages. 21. Ayadi calculations. 22. Vaastu Purusha Mandala. 23. Concept of time and space and design of building spaces. 24. Effect of subtle and gross spaces on human system. 25. Discussion on the designing of house buildings. 26. Archetypical or basic patterns for house buildings. 27. Town planning. 28. Outlines of temple architecture. 29. Trees and plants in and around the buildings. 30. The absolute, pure and auspicious cosmical periods of Vaastu. 31. Vaastu Puja and Vaastu Homa. 32. Building designs based on Vaastu principles. 33. Illustrations on building architecture. 34. Biographical sketch of Dr. V. Ganapati Sthapati.

Orissan Temple Architecture (Vastusatra)
[With Sanskrit Text and English Translation]

Author :N.K. Bose

The book aims at studying the architectural aspect of the Orissan temples. It gives a clear idea of the silpa shastra in general and Bhuvanapradipa, late medieval silpa-shastra text in particular, as important sources for the study of Orissan architecture. The author has arranged the material according to specific topics such as classification of soils upon which the temple is to be built, auspicious ceremonies and classification of temple types and their constituent parts. The text's analysis of system's proportion of various temples types is also presented in an admirable manner. An introduction to the book surveys the development of temple architecture in Orissa to enable the students, scholars and other readers to understand the characteristic features of the art

Pub : Bharatiya Kala Prakashan, New Delhi Year :2001 Bib :xxiii, 164 p., ill., plates
ISBN : 8186050671 Price : US\$ 45.00

Contents: Introduction. Orissan temple architecture—N.K. Bose. 1. The book of architecture and its author. 2. Classification of soils. 3. A chapter on augury. 4. Determination of the Naga's position. 5. Astrological considerations. 6. Astrological considerations (contd.). 7. The auspicious ceremony. 8. Miscellaneous matters. 9. Certain general questions. 10. The different types of Orissan temples. 11. On

pedestals. 12. The Rekha temple : general apportionment of parts. 13. The Rekha temple ; detailed vertical specification. 14. The Rekha temple (contd.) : certain details of construction. 15. The Rekha temple (concluded): specifications of different examples. 16. The Bhadra temple : general considerations. 17. The Bhadra temple (continued) : specification of different examples. 18. The Khakhara temple. 19. Miscellaneous. 20. Dictionary of architectural terms. Appendices. Index.

Splendour in Wood: The Buddhist Monasteries of Burma
Author : Fraser-Lu, Sylvia

This book introduces the reader to the beauty and genius of Burmese craftsmanship as expressed in the construction and embellishment of Buddhist wooden monasteries. The five chapters of Part I review the development of Buddhism and monasteries in Burma, the place of monks and monasteries in society, and the processes in building a monastery. Detailed accounts of monastic establishments in the precolonial, colonial and post-colonial eras are also presented. In the three chapters of Part II are descriptions of nearly ninety different edifices visited by the author in the course of her research in Upper and Lower Burma, Central Burma and the Shan state. For posterity, the detailed of many wooden monasteries are recorded, not only the 'old' and the 'beautiful' but also others with architectural features of note. The book is copiously illustrated with sketches of floor plans and architectural details of many monasteries, and photographs of significant features.

Pub : Weatherhill Inc, New York Year : 2001 Bib : 272pp 180 Full Colour Illustrations, HB ISBN : 083480493x Price : US\$ 60.00

Burmese Design and Architecture
Falconer, John & Moore, Elizabeth & Kahrs, Daniel & Birnbaum, Al

This is the first book to capture the amazing diversity of architecture, design, and arts and crafts in Myanmar. Ranging from monumental pagodas of Bagan (Pagan) to the architectural heritage of contemporary Yangon (rangoon), both religious and secular buildings are presented in rich detail. Archaeological experts highlight the major influences and styles, while sections on Myanmar's rich traditoin of arts and crafts provide a wealth of information. Buddha images, lacquawareware, apinting, ceramics, woodcarving, bronzes, textiles, costumes and many more, are illustrated with coutless examples of exquisite objets d'art. Chapters on Burmese history and culture emphasize the all-encompassing relationship between everyday life and the Buddhist religion.

Pub : Tuttle Publishing, Singapore Year : 2001 Bib : 224pp Col. Ills. Index 25cm ISBN : 9625938826 Price : US\$ 60.00

Construction Technology for Tall Buildings (2nd edn.)
Author : Michael Chew

This new edition incorporates comprehensive revision and expansion to the previous edition with new topics and numerous new figures. The text introduces the latest construction practices and processes for tall buildings from foundation to roof. It attempts to acquaint readers with the methods, materials, equipment and systems used for the construction of tall buildings.

The text progresses through the stages of site investigation, excavation and foundation, basement construction, structural systems for the superstructure, site and material handling, wall and floor construction, cladding and roof construction. The construction sequence, merits and limitations of the various proprietary systems commonly used in these respective stages are discussed

Pub : Singapore University Press, Singapore Year : 2001 Bib : 434pp PB ISBN : 9810243383 Price : US\$ 60.00