INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

HINDU AND BUDDHIST

VEDIC ARCHITECTURE
& BEGINNING OF BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE

1500 BC to 800 BC
• Advent of Aryans towards the end of Indus Valley Civilization from Central Asia.

• They moved to the basins of Ganga and Yamuna instead of settling around the river Indus.
RECORD OF VEDIC ARCHITECTURE
THE PERISHABLE TIMBER ARCHITECTURE OF VEDIC TIMES WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MADE PERMANENT BY THE ARTIST & CRAFTSMAN WHO RECORDED SCENES OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE.

THE MONUMENTS IN STONE (AS AT SANCHI STUPA) OR ROCK (CAVES) HAVE CARVED PANELS OF THIS OR FRESCOES OF THESE (AS AT AJANTA CAVES).

RECORD OF TIMBER ARCHITECTURE OF VEDIC TIMES, IN BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE IN STONE.
BUDDHIST CAVES & STUPAS CUT IN ROCK HAVE THEIR WHOLE ARCHITECTURE SPATIAL CONFIGURATION & CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS IMITATING THE PRECEDING VEDIC TIMBER ARCHITECTURE
• Aryans were a nomadic people and did not like to live in the towns and houses of brick, as they were used to living in huts of grass and bamboos.
• In time they formed village type settlements and huts of grass and bamboos, wattle & daub - which were circular in plan.
• Bamboos were bound reeds and spaces between them filled with other reeds and leaves and plastered with mud.
• These huts overtime, gave way to elongated huts which were oval in plan and the roofs were vaulted with bent bamboos.
• The shorter two ends became flatter and had semi circular openings which eventually became “Sun Windows” (OR “Chaitya Windows” as they were called in subsequent Buddhist Architecture.)
- Vedic villages were a collection of huts with Bamboo fence all-around the periphery of the village.
- The fence had verticals and horizontals with a member at the top.
- Each village had a gate which was called ‘Cow Gate’ as it was use for the cattle to go out in the day and move in at the evening time.
- The gate became the ‘Torana’ in subsequent Buddhist Architecture.
- The railing and fence was used to indicate the importance of any religious monument. It was also used to symbolically indicate sacredness.
- Internal supports of the huts had pots of clay at the base and this became bases of columns in subsequent Architecture.
- The Sun windows at the ends became windows at the top of the entrance, when the Bamboo and Grass architecture was made into timber.
- The Semi circular Sun windows evolved into ‘horse shoe’ shape because of taking in of the bottom ends by a member at the base which was used to keep the roof from spreading outwards.
• The village structures gave way to building of towns which had battered walls and a pillared storey above, which was topped with semicircular roofs and ‘Horse Shoe’ windows.

• The towns had fences and moats around them.
REMAINS OF COLUMN – CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA’S PALACE

SITE OF CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA’S PALACE
PLAN AND SECTION - LOMAS RISHI CAVE

SECTIONAL DETAIL OF ENT. TO INNER ROOM - eaves
detail of thatch roof copied in rock cut architecture
ENTRANCE TO LOMAS RISHI CAVE

WITH PILASTERS IMITATING TIMBER POSTS SUPPORTING OVERHANG
INTERIOR VIEW SHOWING ENTRANCE
ENTRANCE FRIEZE WITH ELEPHNTS OF LOMAS RISHI CAVE

WITH OVERHANG IMITATING TIMBER CONSTRUCTION OF VEDIC TIMES
SKETCHES OF EARLY ROCK-CUT CHAMBERS

VEDIC TEMPLES
BEGINNING OF BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE

FREE-STANDING MONOLITHIC COLUMNS WITH ANIMAL-CAPITALS & INVERTED BELL-CAPITAL & MANY TIMES ASHOK-CHAKRA MOTIF, BRICK-TUMULI (STUPAS), WAY-SIDE ROCK EDICTS ON TRADE-ROUTES ALSO SOME MONOLITHIC ACCESSORIES TO SHRINES AS WELL AS REMAINS OF A VAST PALACE ARE MAIN HERITAGES.
EMPEROR ASHOK’S PALACE

ARTIST’S IMAGINATION

ARCHEOLOGICAL REMAINS
INITIAL TIMBER STRUCTURES: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DERIVED FROM VEDIC ARCHITECTURE
3 main types of religious structures of BUDDHISM

**STUPA** : THE SEMI-SPHERICAL SOLID MOUND ERECTED ON MORTAL REMAINS OF BUDDHA. OFTEN ENCASED IN STONE. USED FOR WORSHIP & TO PAY RESPECTS TO BUDDHA.

**CHAITYA** : A PRAYER HALL KIND OF STRUCTURE. RECTANGULAR WITH SEMI-CIRCULAR END. WITH A BARREL VAULT FOR ROOFING & A HORSESHOE SHAPED SUN-WNDOW AT ENT. END. USUALLY HAS STATUE OF BUDDHA/MINI-STUPA AT FAR END.

**VIHARA** : A MONASTERY FOR MONKS. HAS RES. CELLS, DINING HALL, ASSEMBLY HALL & OFTEN A CHAITYA NEARBY.
STUPA AT SANCHI

- Erected in Ashok’s time, the Stupa in brick construction was, in the subsequent King’s reign & given a stone encasing, stone railings, torana etc.
STUPA AT SANCHI