Global Pilgrimage Lecture

Assigned Readings for today:

Introduction to Pilgrimage – Questions & Goals

- What do these people have in common?
- What do these places have in common?
- What makes a “place” “sacred”?
- Do people make places sacred or do they find sacred places?
- What motivates people to go to these places they consider important or holy or sacred – what motivates people to go on a pilgrimage?

Goal: To have a broader understanding of what Pilgrimage means globally (and historically) to a variety of cultures and traditions, as well as its influence upon space & form.

Introduction to Pilgrimage – Key Concepts

Faith – some sort of belief (desire) in something precedes the journey.
Movement – can take form of either people moving or the “sacred” (processional, circumambulation)
Differentiation of Space (Delineation between what is PROFANE and SACRED and how articulated is important for us).

Preliminal (separation)
Liminal (transition – communitas)
Postliminal (reincorporation)

Introduction to Pilgrimage – Key Sites and Terms

Karnak, Egypt (New Kingdom, ca. 1500 BCE)
Sites: Thebes, Karnak, Luxor
Terminology: Barque, Beautiful Feast of Opet, Beautiful Feast of the Valley

Buddhism (India & Nepal) (6th & 5th centuries BCE)
Sites: Lumbini – Ashoka Pillar, Sarnath - Dharmek Stupa, Bodh Gaya – Mahabodhi Temple, Kusinagar – Nirvana Stupa
Terminology: Circumambulation, Stupa

Islam (Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem) (7th century +)
Sites: Mecca - al-Masjid al-Haram “The Sacred Mosque”
Ka’ba, Medina - Al-Masjid al-Nabawi (The Mosque of the Prophet)
Jerusalem: The Dome of the Rock (ca.691)
Terminology: Hajj, Circumambulation

Christianity (S. de Compostella & Eur. Pilgrimage Routes/ Churches)
Sites: Saint Denis (ca.1140-44), Saint Foi (1080-1120), Lourdes, France (1858+)
