4.696 A Global History of Architecture Writing Seminar
Spring 2008

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Rock Cut Architecture Lecture

Building/Site List

I. Global and Historical Context.

1. Tombs of Khety and Baket, Beni Hasan
   Central Egypt (south of Al-Minya), Middle Kingdom, c. 2000 BCE

2. The Great Temple of Abu Simbel
   Lower Egypt / Upper Nubia, New Kingdom, 13th c. BCE

3. Lycian Tombs, Dalyan, Xanthus,
   Southern Anatolia (now Turkey), c. 4th c. BCE

4. Uplistsikhe
   Georgia, 5th c. BCE (active until the 10th c. CE)

5. Tomb of Darius, Naqs-I Rustam, Persepolis
   Persia, 5th c. BCE

6. Treasury Building, Petra
   Jordan, 3rd c. BCE

7. Selime Kalesi Monastery
   Cappadocia, central Anatolia, c. 10th c.

II. Monastic Buddhist Architecture

8. Ajanta
   Maharashtra, India, built between 2nd c. BCE-7th c. CE

9. Ellora
   Maharashtra, India, 5th-8th c.

10. Kizil
    Kucha (now Xinjiang, China), 4th-5th c.

11. Dunhuang
    China, 5th-6th c.

12. Yungang
    China, 5th - 6th c.
Key terms

Caitya – assembly hall / prayer hall

Vihara – monastic dwelling

Hinayana Buddhism – “Smaller vehicle” (in Sanskrit), more correctly called Theravada (Pali: “the teaching of the elders”), so called because its focus is on individual salvation. The oldest, most orthodox form of Buddhism, practiced from the time of the Buddha (6th c. BCE) to the present day. This school of Buddhism venerates the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, and his direct teachings. The art and architecture associated with this type of Buddhism at the time of the early excavations at Ajanta (c. 200 BCE) was simple and did not have painted or sculptural representations of the Buddha.

Mahayana Buddhism – “Greater vehicle” (in Sanskrit), so called because it is concerned with universal salvation. It first arose in the 1st century. This school of Buddhism sees the historical Buddha as the earthly manifestation of a celestial being, and venerates many such celestial Buddhas as well as Bodhisattvas, compassionate beings who delay their final attainment of nirvana (enlightenment) in order to help those in the earthly realm find their path to enlightenment.

Xuanzang – 7th century Chinese monk and pilgrim to Indian Buddhist sites

Suggested Reading


References


