



GLOSSARY

Agate	A fine-grained variegated chalcedony, its colours arranged in stripes, blended in clouds, or showing moss like forms
<i>Amalaka</i>	Ribbed, lenticular or globoid part resembling the <i>amala</i> (Indian gooseberry fruit) crowning the top of the North Indian style <i>shikhara</i>
<i>Anda</i>	Semi-circular structure typically used for Buddhist <i>stupa</i>
Arabesque	An ornamental design consisting of intertwined flowing lines, leaves and flowers, a feature of the Indo-Islamic architecture
<i>Ardhmandap</i>	Semi-hall in front of <i>garbhagriha</i> of the temple
<i>Ashtadikpalas</i>	Guardians of the eight directions
<i>Ayudhas</i>	Weapons
Batter	Slope in the wall
Bodhisattva	In Buddhism, Bodhisattva refers to the previous births of Gautam Buddha
Bosses	Circular embossed decorations, usually in stone of contrasting colours located on either side of an arch and within the spandrels
Buddhism	A religion originated in the sixteenth century BCE with the preachings of Buddha
Burin	A pointed tool of flint or stone with a transverse edge made by the removal of one or more flakes. Used for working bone, antler and ivory, and, perhaps, for engraving
CE	Common Era, replacing AD or Anno Domini (Era of the Lord)
Calligraphy	The art of producing decorative handwriting
<i>Caturasra</i>	Square
<i>Chhatra</i>	Umbrella-like structure on top of the <i>stupa</i>
<i>Chhatri</i>	Cupola resting on four pillars with a dome or pyramid-shaped roof
<i>Chahar Bagh</i>	A square, walled garden divided into four by intersecting water channels
<i>Chaitya Arch</i>	Semi-circular arch with pointed tip in the centre towards the top
<i>Chaitya</i>	Place of congregation and worship
<i>Chakra</i>	Wheel, a symbol used for Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath
Chamfer	To cut off the edge or corner, thereby, increasing the number of sides

Chert	A flint-like material, usually black or dark brown in colour. Although it has a conchoidal fracture like flint it is not so fine-textured
Chevron Patterning	V-shaped patterns
Corbel	The stone or wooden bracket laid horizontally to support a cornice or an arch
Cornice	A moulded roof-line
Crystal	A high quality, clear, colourless glass or an object, especially a vessel or ornament, made of such glass
Dado panel	Lower part of the interior wall when it is finished differently from the rest of the wall. Some excellent examples are Hoyasal temples of Halebid, Jamali Kamali tomb in Mehrauli and Turkish Sultan's palace in Fatehpur Sikri, Agra
Dargah	Shrine of a Sufi saint, where the saint's grave called <i>mazar</i> is located
Dhammachakrapravartan	First sermon by Buddha at Sarnath near Varanasi
Dravid	Normally used for people, culture, language and architectural style of South India
Dressed stone	Stone which is cut to size and polished
Encaustic tile work	Inlay in ceramics
Faience	Blue-coloured artificial glass-like material. Faience was used in a variety of ornaments and pieces of jewellery
Gahapati	Big land-owner or big farmer involved in farming and trade
Garbhagriha	Sanctum sanctorum
Gopuram	Main gateway; the storeyed structure over the entrance or entrances through the enclosing walls to the premises of a temple
Harmika	Small square fencing atop the <i>anda</i> or semi-circular dome of stupa
Imam	The person who leads a Muslim congregation in prayers. Over a passage of time, this position became hereditary
Intaglio	The process of cutting a design into the surface of a small hard stone or gem
Jagmohan	Rectangular or square hall in front of a sanctuary or main temple — a term used for temple architecture of Odisha
Jainism	One of the most ancient religions, it is a path of victory (<i>jina</i>) over life's stream of rebirths through ethical and spiritual practices.





<i>Jali</i>	Ornamental, perforated lattice screens with arabesques, star motifs and other geometric designs such as pentagons, hexagons, octagons and circles
Jasper	A variety of quartz that may be red, yellow or brown; long used for jewellery and ornamentation
<i>Jataka</i>	Stories of the previous births of Buddha
<i>Jati</i>	Caste
<i>Kalash</i>	Wide-mouthed pot; ornamental pot-design decorating the <i>shikhara</i> of a temple
Keystone	A central stone at the summit of an arch
<i>Kos minar</i>	Distance marker or milestone in the shape and size of a tower
<i>Kuta</i>	A shrine of square plan
Lapis lazuli	A rich blue semi-precious stone. The main source in the ancient world was the mountains of Badakshan, northern Afghanistan, from where it was traded widely. Lapis lazuli was used as inlay in ornaments, jewellery, seals, etc.
<i>Linga</i>	Phallus, the form in which Lord Shiva is being worshipped
<i>Mahamandapa</i>	Big hall in the temple
<i>Mahaparinibban</i>	Death of Lord Buddha — liberating him from the cycle of life and death
<i>Mandap</i>	Hall
<i>Maqbara</i>	Mausoleum or tomb
Medallion	Circular discs in the spandrels of arches decorated with motifs or calligraphy
<i>Mihrab</i>	Prayer niche indicating the direction of Mecca
<i>Mimbar</i>	Stepped pulpit in the Jama Masjid or Friday mosque from where the <i>Khutba</i> was read
<i>Mukhlinga</i>	Phallus with face
Multiple foliations	Many curves in an arch
Mural	Paintings made on the walls of caves, buildings or temples in Fresco or any other style
<i>Nagara</i>	North Indian style temple architecture
<i>Naqqar khana</i>	Drum house from where ceremonial music was played which was usually situated over the gate. It was a popular feature in Mughal palace-complexes
<i>Natyamandapa</i> or <i>Rangmandapa</i>	Dancing hall in front part of the temple
<i>Panchayatana</i>	Main temple surrounded by four sub-shrines in each corner

Pendentive	A triangular bracket in the angle of two walls, connecting the base of the dome to its supporting arches
Phamsana	A buildings/ temple which tends to be broader and shorter than Latina type
Pietra-dura	Pictorial mosaic work using semi-precious stones. Found on walls, cenotaphs and marble <i>jalis</i> in the Taj Mahal
Polychrome	An object or a work composed of or decorated in many colours
<i>Pradakshina</i>	Circumambulation
<i>Qibla Liwan</i>	The wall of the mosque in the direction of Mecca
Qila-i Kuhna Masjid	Built by Humayun or Sher Shah between 1530 and 1545, it is located inside Purana Qila in Delhi
Quartz	A variety of stone found in many parts of the world and variously used for toolmaking and in ceremonial contexts. Varieties of quartz include agate, chalcedony, chert, flint, opal and rock crystal
<i>Rekhaprasad</i> or Latina	This type of temple has square <i>shikhar</i> at the base and its walls curve slowly inward towards the top
<i>Rupkar/Shilpi</i>	Artisan
<i>Sabha Mandapa</i>	Assembly hall
Saracenic	A style of architecture popular with Muslims in West Asia particularly from the eleventh to the fourteenth century
<i>Sarai</i>	<i>Dharamshala</i> or a traveller's lodge
<i>Shala ayatasara</i>	Elliptical
<i>Shikhar</i>	Superstructure above the <i>garbhagriha</i> in the north Indian style of temple
<i>Shilpa texts</i>	Ancient Indian texts/manuals describing the elements and principles of art and architecture to be practised by artists
<i>Shraman</i>	A Buddhist or Jain sect, whose followers used to wander from place to place
Sovereignty	The authority of a ruler/state to govern himself/itself absolutely independently
Spandrels	The almost triangular space between two sides of the outer curves of an arch and a rectangular enclosure
Squinch	An arch spanning the corners of a square chamber and acting as support for a dome
Steatite	A greyish or greenish stone, which is generally soft and can easily be worked to make figurines, vessels, seals and other objects





Stellate	Arch nets arranged in a radiating pattern like that of a star
<i>Sthapati</i>	Architect
<i>Stupa</i>	A mound-like structure containing relics of Buddha or Buddhist monks worshipped by Buddhists
Stucco	A fine plaster used for coating wall surfaces
Suzerainty	A sovereign/state having some control over another ruler/state who/that is internally autonomous
Tablet	A regularly shaped, separate panel, or a representation thereof, often bearing an inscription or image
Terracotta	Literally, 'baked earth' mainly used to refer to fairly coarse, porous clay that, when fired, assumes a colour ranging from dull ochre to red
Tessellation	Decoration on walls and floors with mosaic
<i>Torans</i>	Carved, serpentine-shaped ceremonial gateways
Trefoil	Three curves in an arch
Turquoise	A semi-precious stone, sky blue to pale green in colour, highly prized for its use in jewellery by many ancient cultures
<i>Valabhi</i>	Sub-type of <i>nagara</i> temple
<i>Vanga</i>	Ancient name of the Bengal region
<i>Varna</i>	Four-fold division of the society based on profession i.e. <i>Brahmana</i> , <i>Kshatriya</i> , <i>Vaishya</i> , <i>Shudra</i> during ancient India
<i>Vesara</i>	Term used for the independent style of the temple during the time of the Chalukyas of Karnataka. It consists of a combination of the northern (<i>nagara</i>) and southern (<i>dravida</i>) styles
<i>Vihara</i>	Place of residence of Buddhist monk
<i>Vijanain</i>	Temples having a rectangular building with a roof that rises into a vaulted chamber
<i>Viman</i>	Superstructure over the <i>garbhagriha</i> of shrine in the south Indian temples
Volute	A scroll or spiral ornament on a pillar
Voussoir	A wedge-shaped or tapered stone used to construct an arch
<i>Vritta</i>	Circular
<i>Yakshas/Yakshanis</i>	Demi-gods and demi-goddesses — protectors of nature and resources

NOTES

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