SURREAL OR PRACTICAL? INDIA’S ETHEREAL ARCHITECTURE
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BUDDHIST MONUMENTS
Stupas at Sanchi
- Stupa II, Stupa of the Saints, 75-50 BCE
- Aniconic symbols of the Buddha
- Stupa I, The Great Stupa, 50 BCE-50 CE
- South torana, gateway, Asokan column, c. 250 BCE

Bharhut Stupa
- vedika, railing, 100-50 BCE, Indian Museum, Kolkata

cf. Narrative panels, events in the life of the Buddha
- Kushan Period, Gandhara, 2nd century CE 3rd Floor Galleries, Asian Art Museum

HINDU TEMPLES
Dasavatara (Vishnu) Temple, Deogarh, Gupta, c. 500-550 CE cf. Standing images of Vishnu in AAM galleries

Parasurameshvara (Shiva) Temple, Bhubanesvar, Orissa, c. 650 CE cf. linga in Indian Gallery, and also in Himalayan Gallery

Kandariya Mahadeva (Shiva) Temple, Khajuraho, Candela Dynasty, 1025-50 CE cf. apsaras, heavenly female deity, Indian Gallery

JAIN TEMPLES
Chaumukha Temple, Ranakpur, Rajasthan, started 1440 completed 1496 CE
cf. Jain seated and standing Jinas, and hanging bracket musicians in Indian Galleries, Asian Art Museum

Vardhamana (c. 540-468 BC) founder of Jainism, son of Siddhartha, chief of the Jnatrikas, a ksatriya clan, a contemporary of Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha), he was known to his followers as Mahavira, the Great Hero.

- jina conqueror
- tirthankara ford maker (there are 24 tirthankaras)
- Adinatha (Rsabhanatha) 1st tirthankara (identified by his long hair)
- Neminath 22nd tirthankara (usually green carnation)
- Parsvanatha 23rd tirthankara (usually protected by naga)
- Mahavira 24th tirthankara
- Digmbaras sky-clad sect
- Svetambaras white-clad sect

MUGHAL MONUMENTS
Mughal Dynasty: 1526-1887
Babur: 1483-1530 r. 1526-1530
Humayun: 1508-1556 r. 1530-1556
Akbar: 1541-1605 r. 1556-1605
Jahangir: 1569-1627 r. 1605-1627
Shah Jahan: 1592-1666 r. 1627-1658

Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi, completed 1571
Commissioned possibly by a wife, Hajji Begum. Main patron, Akbar acting on Advice of Bhairam Khan, his chief military advisor Architect:  Mirak Sayyid (Mirza) Ghiyas, originally from Herat, Persia.

char bagh: four-fold garden defined by narrow waterways double dome

Fatehpur Sikri, 1571-1585
Akbar built Fatehpur, City of Glory, at Sikri, to honor Shaik Salim Chishti, who foretold the birth of his son Salim (Jahangir) b. 1569, and to celebrate his victories over the Rajput forts at Chitor and Ranthambor in 1568 and 1569.

Diwan-i-Aam: Hall of Public Audience
Diwan-i-Khass: Hall of Private Audience (Imperial column in interior)
Ankh Michauali: Treasury
Astrologer’s Seat
Panch Mahal: 5-storey Wind Palace
Anup Talao: Peerless Pool
Jami Masjid: Great Mosque
Buland Darwaza: Victory Gate
Shaikh Salim Chishti’s Tomb

Taj Mahal, Agra (begun 1632 completed 1643)
The 'Crown Palace' built as the mausoleum for Mumtaz Mahal (1593-1631), 2nd wife of Shah Jahan who died on June 17, 1631. Mumtaz Mahal 'The Chosen One of the Palace' was the daughter of Asaf Khan, the brother of Nur Jahan, 2nd wife of Jahangir, Shah Jahan’s father. Shah Jahan died in 1666; he was imprisoned in the Red Fort, Agra, by his third son, Aurangzeb, and was also buried in the Taj Mahal.

Architect:  Ustad Isa from Persia
Calligrapher:  Abd al-Haq from Shiraz, entitled Amanat Khan 'Trustworthy Noble' pietra dura, marble inlaid with precious and semi-precious stones char bagh: four-fold garden

B’HAI TEMPLE
Lotus Temple, Delhi

References:
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