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few countries possess a richer architectural heritage than india a country whose buildings are rooted in history culture and religion as a results of india s global discourse with other regions around the world there have been many influences that have been assimilated into its architecture producing unique varied and lively results this fantastic volume walks the reader through india s history both architecturally and culturally exploring its different styles of buildings and providing interesting insights into their origin and evolution indian architecture is highly recommended for those with an interest in architecture and indian history alike many vintage books such as this are increasingly scarce and expensive it is with this in mind that we are republishing this volume now in an affordable modern high quality edition complete with a specially commissioned new introduction on architecture

this work visually presents some of india s great architectural achievements viewed by a westerner as an art form strong black and white photographic details of existing buildings starting with the second century b c stupa at s ch and concluding with the indo muslim architecture of the moghul period are presented

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deep within an inner cave guhahitam of our existence remains our potential divinity it is the place where our reflected sentient being the first bird is trying to probe into to recover the hidden sun the allegory is evident in the parable of the cave once preached by the upanishads and later by the greek philosopher plato the probe is to push forward the first bird to surge higher in the resplendent celestial blue under the full radiance of the solar world which is the second resulting in an explosion of an infinite all pervading divinity till the union and the rapture is attained there are the two birds one the psychic being which is within us and the other one which is the direct portion of the divine the direct portion is constantly trying to guide and work within us so that evolution goes on and on in the words of sri aurobindo it is the ऋhaitya purusha the direct portion of the divine in the human which is working incessantly till the rapture is activated ancient roots are evident in the ancient swetaswatara upanishad hailed by the primordial sage kapila and coded originally in a later text called the bhagabat purana the ऋhaitya purusha is also the being that is behind the chitta sri aurobindo says millenniums later the inspired architects in the most ancient of all buddhist ages had carved out the sacred idea in form of rock cut expressions called the chaitya hall as the mahayana sutra of the foremost shurangama at the crown of the great buddha says the way of practicing the samadhi is not singular and its actual method of cultivation depends upon the functioning of mind and mental concomitants citta chaitya pravritti of each being and their interconnectedness mahat it is in the recovery or a re tracing of the two as a divinity that is originally one an individual s journey called evolution and a collective journey called civilization itself are sustained it is also from the deeper embedded patterns of this journey the gems of the system s foundation can be quarried

this book contains five essays and one monograph on medieval and modern indian history the essay on ibn khaldun formulates his conception of history which was the earliest attempt made by any historian to discover a pattern in the changes that occur in man s political and social organisation the next on al biruni brings out the contributions of the first scientific indologist the third on the sufi silsilas is a critical appreciation of the various religious orders as developed in india the fourth on islamic architecture is a graphic account of the evolution and culmination of the style of indo islamic architecture the monograph on sayyid ahmad shahid is based on yet unexplored sources of information it presents a scientific portrayal of the mission and movement of sayyid ahmad shahid and highlights the evolution of two nation theory the fifth paper is an interesting refreshing portrayal of the different sects in islam particularly among the indian muslims

this volume is unique in examining the geographical historical and functional aspects of architecture in india looking beyond the point of view of dynasties periods or religions the book traces the various social and historical developments in the field following a multi disciplinary approach that emphasizes sociological aspects the volume examines in detail settlement patterns the architecture of individual houses and chaityas as also structural materials used for their construction in addition to those of palaces funerary monuments temples mosques and monasteries

muqarnas is sponsored by the aga khan program for islamic architecture at harvard university and the massachusetts institute of technology cambridge massachusetts in muqarnas articles are being published on all aspects of islamic visual culture historical and contemporary as well as articles dealing with unpublished textual primary sources

this book takes the reader through the centuries and gives a rich insight into india s heritage and architecture for years the preserve of scholars this is a presentation of the myriad forms school and styles of architecture in an informative yet reader friendly manner focusing on aspects of indian aesthetics principles of engineering history and philosophies replete with brilliant visuals and illuminating

perspectives

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