

ASIAN ARCHITECTURE-S2021

(Section 48442)
T-Th 8:20am – 9:40am
CFA 206A

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The development of Indian, Chinese, Korean and Japanese architecture was guided by both originality and assimilation. This course is intended to serve as an introduction to the evolution of urban spaces and the function of the architecture within them. It is organized chronologically and will examine the impact of indigenous philosophical principles on the organization of villages, capital cities, and religious centers.

The course will begin in the Indus Valley where complex urban planning along with public and private architecture flourished from 2600-1900 BCE. We will examine Indian Hindu and Buddhist cave monasteries as well as freestanding Hindu temples and identify the salient architectural forms that identify each type. We will then move to China where the earliest villages were arranged according to ideas about nature and the organizing system of *fengshui*. By the earliest Chinese dynastic period, urban planning and building placement were beginning to be codified according to Confucian and Daoist ideals. Later Chinese imperial centers were consciously designed according to Confucian regularity and hierarchy in order to make visual statements of power. We will then move through urban organization and Buddhist temples in Korea to Japan where the Chinese model was adopted for early Japanese capitals. Chinese, Korean and Japanese religious centers will be studied as examples of both indigenous ideas and the adoption of Buddhist beliefs and temple organization. The examination of the Japanese warrior culture will include castles, new ideas in residential architecture, the Pleasure Quarters, and retirement villas. Contemporary architecture will be addressed through group projects that will examine specific structures from an Asian country and will situate the buildings within the cultural and historic circumstances that led to their creation.

The course is divided into units that will organize the material into regional sections that are subdivided into specific topics. Examples of material culture will be woven into each lecture in order to add further context and explanation.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this course is to better understand of the evolution of both urban spaces and the buildings they held in India, China, Korea, and Japan. To this end, this course will explore cultural and political contexts within each culture as they unfold over time.

By the end of this course students are expected to:

- have a broad understanding of the relationship of built environments and architecture to the history and culture of each respective historical period and place
- use specific examples in order to analyze the organization of urban and religious centers within their particular cultural and political contexts
- identify and explain the process of interaction, exchange, and adoption that occurred over time and space from one culture to another
- complete an independent research project that demonstrates the ability to form a thesis that accurately defines the problem, conduct and organize their research, and present their results through clear and coherent writing