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# Jain Temple Architecture In Middle India

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**ABSTRACT:** The architecture of Jainism, on the other hand, is more difficult to characterize. Jain temple architecture developed in many regions of India as Hinduism spread; Jain architectural advancements were also part of the Jain traditions. Temples were erected in various sections of the nation using Jain architecture. The majority of the specimens are from the great period of Jaina architecture, which lasted from A.D. 1000 to 1300, while a renaissance occurred in the fifteenth century, coinciding with the European Renaissance. Jain temples may be found throughout India in places like Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. Mount Abu is considered to be one of the outstanding examples of Jain architecture. Jain architecture has a particular style that is more Turanian in character. The horizontal archway is the most noticeable feature of Jain temples. The bracket kind of capital was also utilized in Jaina structures for the first time in Indian architecture. The Aiwalli temple in Dharwad, displays the ground layout of the Jain temples. This is the ground plan of the structural chaitya at Sanchi Stupa.

**KEYWORDS:** architecture, jain temple, middle India, traditions, specimens, character, ground

## I. INTRODUCTION

While Jain architecture first mimicked Buddhist and Hindu traditions, they quickly developed their own distinct character. The main distinction is that the Jains build 'temple-cities' rather than lonely Hindu temples, which are the rule rather than the exception. A Jain temple is also notable for its luxurious materials (typically marble)<sup>1</sup> and the abundance of adornment that adorns the edifice. A Jain temple is built on a square layout with entrances in four cardinal directions, each of which might lead to the image of a Tirthankara. The temple's interior features an unusually large number of columns, from which a false arch/bracket springs around two-thirds of the way up. These pillars, like the roof from which they are derived, are exquisitely carved. Roof shapes, such as those found at Mount Abu temples, may become fairly ornate, with marble deities and concentric rings of sculpture. Domes or shikharas are typically more sharp than those seen in Hindu temples, giving Jain temple cities a distinctive skyline of many dome points arching into the sky. All Jain temples are named after one of the 24 Tirthankaras. Bricks were rarely employed in Jain buildings, and the practice of cutting temples out of rock faces was utilized.<sup>2</sup>

### Stupas Structure

The Jain stupa was a type of stupa constructed by Jains for spiritual purposes. A Jain stupa dating from the first century BCE to the first century CE was unearthed in Mathura in the nineteenth century. Although this is an open question, it is probable that the Jains adopted Buddhist stupa worship.

### Chaitya and Vihara structure

Jainism and Hinduism both used Chaitya structures. Jain viharas, unlike Buddhist viharas, do not have cells surrounding the assembly or prayer hall. Jain vihara cells are small and plain, designed for severe austerity by Jain monks. The doors are extremely tiny, requiring bending or crawling to enter a cell.



## Jain Architecture - Types

Jain architecture cannot be classified as a distinct style; rather, it was an outgrowth of Hindu and Buddhist traditions.<sup>3</sup>

Types of Jain Architecture:

- Layana/Gumphas (Caves)
- Jain Statues
- Jinalaya (Temple)

Layana/Gumphas (Caves) are a kind of Jain architecture.

- Ellora Caves (Cave No. 30-35) - Maharashtra
- Mangi Tungi Cave- Maharashtra
- Gajpantha Cave- Maharashtra
- Udayagiri-Khandagiri Caves- Odisha
- Hathi-gumpha Cave- Odisha
- Sittanavasal Cave- Tamilnadu

Tirthankaras are depicted in Jain statues (teaching gods). Jainism adherents worship these statues.

- Gomateshwara/Bahubali Statue- Shravanabelagola, Karnataka
- Statue of Ahimsa(Rishabh Natha)- Mangi-Tungi hills, Maharashtra

The Jain temple is located at Jinalaya. This temple is unique in that it contains 72 shrines to the Jain Tirthankaras.

- Dilwara Temple- Mount Abu, Rajasthan
- Girnar and Palitana Temple- Gujarat
- Muktagiri Temple- Maharashtra<sup>4</sup>

## II. DISCUSSION

Many temples and monasteries were built by Jain followers. Relics of similar buildings may be discovered in Orissa's Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves. Jains also built Dharamshalas, orphanages, and charity organisations. The magnificent Bahubali (Gomateswara) monuments at Shravanabelagola and Karkala in Karnataka are prominent examples of Jain architecture. The Dilwara temples at Mt. Abu, Ranakpur in Jodhpur, and the Jain tower at Chittor are also noteworthy. In this way, Jainism, in addition to religion and philosophy, made significant contributions to the development of art and architecture. Many of these locations are well-known pilgrimage and tourism destinations that contribute to the economy. Jain architecture evolved from Hindu and Buddhist forms. During the early years, several Jain temples were built alongside Buddhist temples in the Buddhist rock-cut style. Initially, these temples were mostly fashioned out of granite cliffs, with little usage of bricks. However, in subsequent years, Jains began to build temple-cities on hills based on the notion of mountains of immortality. Despite comprising less than one percent of the population, Jainism is one of the oldest religions in India. It emerged in its current version from the teachings of 24 Tirthankaras (spiritual teachers), of whom Rishabh Natha (also known as Adinatha) was the first and Mahavira (also known as Vardhamana) was the last and most prominent. The fundamental principles that the followers of the Jain faith live by are straightforward: forgiveness, non-violence, and a lack of greed.<sup>5</sup>



India is home to many Jain temples that provide a lens not only into the religion and beliefs that people of this faith follow but also into their different architectural styles. Here are some of the most awe-inspiring. The architectural history of India is extensive and diverse. Jainism is one of the first religions to have its origins in this diverse country. Most Jain temples are located in areas connected to the life of the Tirthankaras. The Jainism religion endorses a path of non-violence toward all living things. There are innumerable Jain temples in India, and they are well-known for their distinctive architecture and magnificent marble stone carvings.

#### Ranakpur Jain Temples, Rajasthan

A white marble Adinatha temple constructed in the middle of a forest in the fifteenth century is Chaturmukha temple. This temple is renowned for its fine sculptures and innovative design. The structure took the shape of the Nalini-Gulma Vimana, and the primary Chaumukha Adinatha idol is situated in the temple's Garbhagriha. A wall bounding sub-shrines surrounds this courtyard. A single marble slab was used to create the exquisite Parshvanatha deity, the temple's claim to fame. As a component of Gorwad Panch Tirth, the temple is regarded as one of the five holiest Jain temples in India. The Suparshvanatha, Neminatha, Mahavir, and Sun temples are also located nearby.

#### Shikharji Jain Temples, Jharkhand

One of the highest Jain temples is the Shikharji Jain Temple, located on a peak that rises 4,429 feet above sea level in Jharkhand's Parasnath Range. Shikharji also received the title Sammed Shikharji. Shikharji, a place in Jharkhand where 20 of the 24 Tirthankaras are believed to have obtained salvation via meditation, is revered as being extremely sacred. It is the most sacred tirtha (place of pilgrimage) for Jains.

#### Dilwara Temple, Rajasthan

Vimal Shah constructed the temple between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries, and the Dhokla Jain Ministers created a unique appearance. It is located on Mount Abu, the only hill station in Rajasthan and the five white-domed temples are flanked by gently sloping hills of rich greenery, which give the area a sense of tranquillity. This holy place is renowned for its magnificent entrance, doors, arches, roof carvings, and other marble-built monuments.

#### Palitana Temples, Gujarat

There are approximately 863 marble-carved Jain temples among 3,000 temples in the Palitana Temple Complex, most of which are concentrated in a group of nine. Being the holiest in the structure, the main temple is devoted to Rishabhanatha or Adinath. It is thought that Adinath personally travelled to the Shatrunjaya Hills on multiple occasions and was the one to sanctify the location by giving his first preaching there.

#### Gomateshwara Temple, Karnataka

One of the five monolithic sculptures, this 57-foot-tall statue of Gomateshwara, also known as Bahubali, is situated in Karnataka, India. Chavundaraya, a minister and commander of Karunadu, or the Western Ganga Dynasty of ancient Karnataka, gave the order to build it around 983 CE. A significant occasion or festival called "Mahamastakabhisheka" occurs here every 12 years. This enormous figure is washed with milk, sandalwood paste, vermilion, turmeric, and other substances throughout the celebration.

#### Sonagiri Temples, Madhya Pradesh

A significant place of worship for the Digambar Jain community is Sonagiri. The 11-foot-tall idol of Chandraprabhu, the eighth Tirthankara, is the major attraction of this temple. In addition, worshippers are well-liked by the exquisite Lord Sheetalnath and Parsvanatha idols in this religious area. Moreover, the temple has numerous intriguing components, including jewelled statues, carvings, and sculptures. The 300 steps up to the peak must be climbed barefoot by both tourists and pilgrims.





### III. RESULTS

#### Dharmanath Temple, Kerala

Lord Dharmanath is worshiped in this temple (15th Tirthankara). The magnificent interiors, which are embellished with elaborate sculptures and decorations, are a visual feast. In addition to Lord Dharmanath's primary temple, there are other gods and Tirthankara statues to be seen here.

#### Kulpakji Temple, Telangana

The age of this temple exceeds 2000 years. For Svetabaram Jains, a subset of Jainism, it is a significant place of worship. There are three shrines: Lord Neminatha, Lord Mahavira, and Lord Rishabhanatha. This most considerable part of the temple is its idol of Lord Mahavira. One chunk of jade, measuring 130 cm long, was used to create the whole statue.<sup>6</sup>

#### Ellora Jain Caves, Maharashtra

The magnificent Ellora Jain caves, embellished with intricate sculptures and paintings, are located away from the tourist crowds. There are five caves in this place: Caves 29, 30, 31, 32-33, and 34 in the four-pillared building called Cave 31, where a Mahavira idol is placed. In both cases 32 and 33, Indra Sabha and Jagannatha Sabha, and in cave 34, Parshvanatha are placed.

### IV. RESULTS

#### Badami Cave Temples, Karnataka

The well-known Trivikrama Cave temple, constructed in the late sixth century, is the first of the numerous Jain cave temples in Badami. The four separate caves that compose the temples are built of red sandstone. Lord Shiva appears as Nataraja in the first cave devoted to Hindu deities. In his fifth Vamana avatar, Lord Vishnu is honoured in the second cave. The third cave praises Lord Vishnu. Finally, the sculpture of Parshavanatha can be found in the fourth cave.

#### Hanumantal Bada Jain Mandir, Madhya Pradesh

Padmavati, a Jain goddess, is placed in this temple. On Lord Mahavira's birthday, the annual Jain procession starts at the Hanumantal Jain Temple, which was constructed in the 17th century. The temple has multiple shikharas and is designed to resemble a castle. There are 22 shrines, making it India's biggest autonomous Jain temple.<sup>7</sup>

#### Shri Mahavirji Jain Temples, Rajasthan

Five main temples were constructed in this temple: Atishaya Kshetra Shri Mahavirji, Shantinath Jinalaya, Bhavya Kamal Mandir, Kirti Ashram Chaityalaya, and Parshvanatha Jinalaya. Atishaya Shetra Shri Mahavirji temple is honoured by Lord Mahavira and is curved with sandstone.<sup>14</sup>

#### Girnar Jain Temples, Gujarat

The Neminath Temple, constructed in 1128 AD, is the centre of attention at the Girnar Temple. It has a rich history that extends back to the reign of Chandragupta as the Mauryan ruler. The Jains know Girnar as the fifth Kalyanath. Several temples, including the well-known Shivling and the Chakravarti, are located all around the temple.



#### Chaturmukha Basadi, Karnataka

Chaturmukha, constructed under the patronage of Immadi Vodeya of the Santara Dynasty, is one of the most well-known Jain structures in Karkala. The massive Bahubali statue of Karkala is in front of Chaturmukha Basadi. With more than 100 pillars supporting the ceiling, the Basadi is entirely constructed from granite cuts. Mallinath, Aranath, and Munisuvratnath are depicted in the temple.<sup>13</sup>

#### Parshvanatha Temple, Madhya Pradesh

The Parshvanatha temple is the most prominent Jain temple in Khajuraho. Chain and flower motifs, as well as two linked flying vidyadharas, may be seen on the front porch's ceiling. In addition, a mystical square, known as the "Jaina square," is inscribed on the temple. Despite the temple's Jain allegiance, the exterior walls also feature Vaishnavite themes, such as statues of Hindu gods and their paramours. The temple is declared a "Monument of National Importance" by the Archaeological Survey of India.

#### Sheth Hutheesing Jain Temples, Ahmedabad<sup>8</sup>

This temple was built by Premchand Salat around 1848 A.D. Here the main god is Shri Dharmanath. The 52 Tirthankara statues within the temple complex are expertly sculpted.<sup>12</sup>

### V. CONCLUSIONS

#### Bawangaja Jain Temple, Madhya Pradesh

There are eleven imposing temples in the Bawangaja complex, all of which were built in the fifteenth century. A site to observe is the 84-foot-tall Statue of Ahimsa. The enormous statues of Adinath, Indrajeet, and Kumbhakarna are 25.6 meters tall and are standing in position.

#### Navagraha Jain Temples, Karnataka

The second-tallest monument in the Jain community, after Bawangaja, is a 61-foot-tall monolithic figure of Parshvanatha situated at the temple. Shri Gangadhar Nandi Maharaj had a significant role in its establishment. When leaving the tapovan flyover exit off the Pune-Bangalore Road near Varur, one can view the Tirthankara statues in Navagraha Teertha from up to 4 km (2.5 mi) on the national highway.<sup>9</sup>

#### Nasiyan Digambar Jain Temples, Ajmer

The Rishabhdev-dedicated temple was constructed between 1864 and 1895 AD. Seth Moolchand Soni built this temple, and it also contains a museum and a shrine with wooden representations of Jain mythology.<sup>11</sup>

#### Tijara Jain Temples, Rajasthan

A 15-inch (38-cm) white marble statue of Chandraprabhu, the seventh Tirthankara, standing in the lotus position, was placed as the mulnayak of the temple in 1956. The magnificent painting, carvings, and glasswork on the temple walls show various scenarios from the Tirthankaras life and events from Jain legends. Nearby temple structures are the Navagraha Jain Temple and the Padmavati Temple.<sup>10</sup>



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