

DEVELOPMENT TYPES OF BUDDHIST TEMPLES: CENTRAL ASIA AND XINJIANG UIGHUR

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Introduction

This paper elucidates the development types of Buddhist temples in Central Asia and Xinjiang Uighur area through bibliographic surveys¹. Although there have been many smaller studies of Buddhist temples in these areas, no other study has focused on the entire region. "Development type" is defined as the type of development process with common spatial composition.

Method

Based on a collected database of place (area), construction year (century), religion, dynasty, culture, drawings, and photos, and an outline of Buddhist temples, spatial compositions are presented in three dimensional (3D) diagrams to investigate and to classify into characteristic patterns, specifically regarding the stupa, shrine (chaitya), and monastery (vihara), and their mutual relationships. We used our diagrams to examine the development of the Buddhist temples and classified characteristic patterns through our analysis.

Typification and Development of Buddhist Temples

Ground Temples²

(1) Sanchi, Dharmarajika (2) Qol-i-Nāder, Kalawan, Jaulian, Karatepa (3) Miran (4) Shankardar (5, 31) Gul-Darrah (6, 7) Bhamala, Ahim Posh, Shah ji ki Dheri (8, 14, 15, 17) Qocho City (9) Rawak, Parihasapura (10) Yar City (11, 16) Ak-Beshim (12) Dharmarajika, Kalawan (13) Fayaz Tepe (18, 33) Dharmarajika (19, 20, 35) Takht-i-Bahi (21, 22) Jaulian, Ranigat, Tapa Shotor, Bagh Gai (23) Tapa Sardar (24) Ranigat (25) Gumbat (26) Dharmarajika (27) Ranigat, Mekhasanda, Thareli (28, 29) Kalawan, Jaulian, Takht-i-Bahi, Bagh Gai (30) Karatepa (32) Qol-i-Nader, Gul-Darrah (34) Jaulian, Tapa Shotor, Bagh Gai (36) Ajina tepa

Cave Temples²

(A) Junnar (B) Guntupalle (C) Kondivte (D) Bhaja 12 (a)Ajanta 12, Nasik 3 (b)Nasik (c)Ajanta 2, Ajanta 6 (d)Aurangabad 6, 7 (1) Bamiyan B(d) (2) Bamiyan D (3) Bamiyan A_under (a) Haibak 3 (4) Bamiyan 35-III, Kizil 135, Toyuk K50 (5) Bezeklik 3 (6) Bamiyan C(a), Haibak 1 (7) Bamiyan F(a) (8) Kumtura 5 (9) Bamiyan A_top(a) (10) Bamiyan F(c), Kizil 132 (11) Bamiyan V(d) (12) Basawal 1, 36, 38 (13) Bamiyan 53-V (14) Bamiyan XV(b) (15) Kizil 117, Toyuk 42 (16) Kizil 225 (17) Bamiyan E(c) (18) Kizil 48 (19) Kizil 8, 38 (20) Kizil 175 (21) Kizil 116 (22) Bamiyan K3, Kizil 110, Bezeklik 19 (23)Kizil 14, Bezeklik II (24) Kizil 118 (25) Kizil 6 (26) Kizil 77 (27) Bamiyan XIV(a) (28) Bamiyan M, Kizil 119 (29) Bamiyan XIII 1(a) (30) Basawal 8, 14 (31) Fil Khana (32) Bezeklik 8 (33) Kizil 99 (34) Kizil 27 (35) Kizil 207 (36) Kizil 123

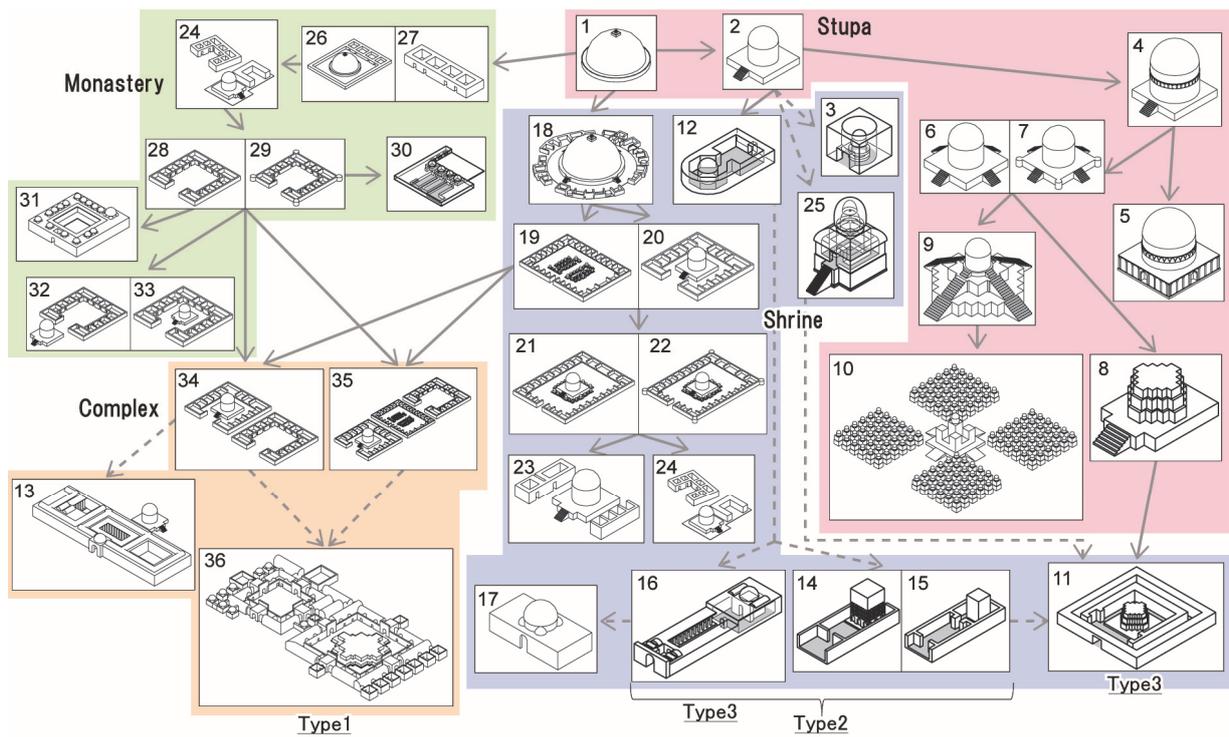


Fig. 1: Development of Buddhist Ground Temples

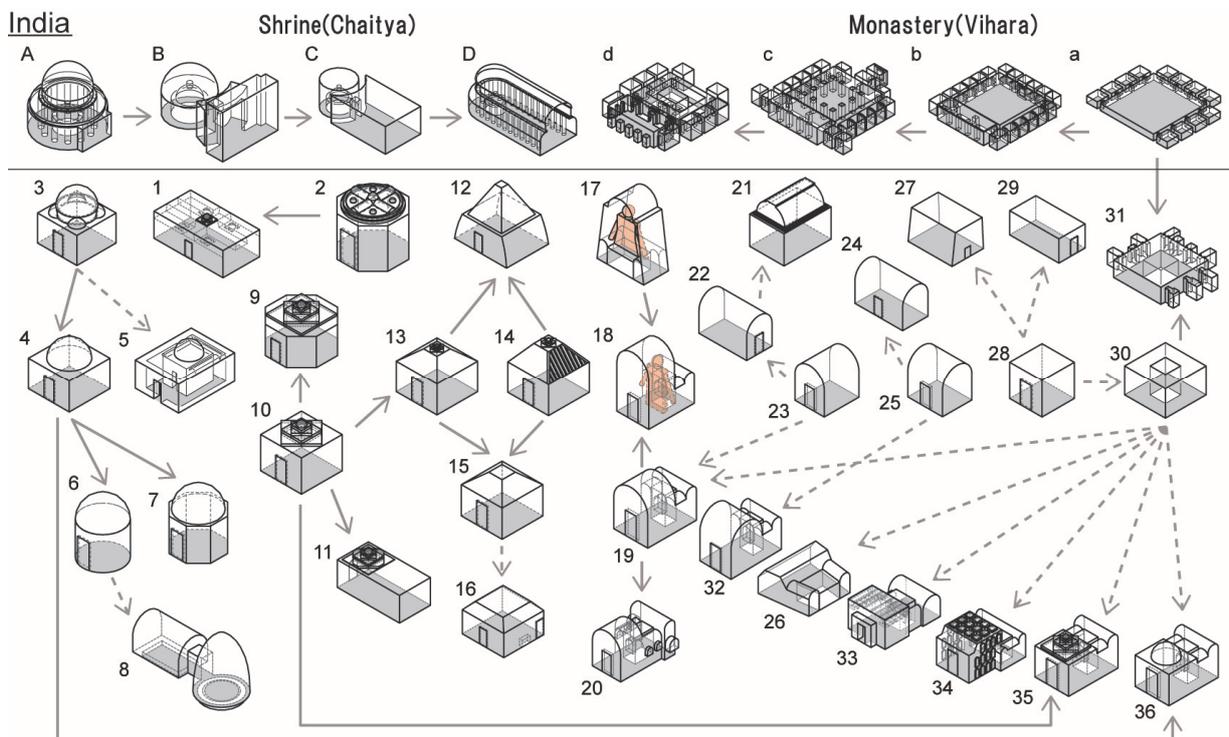


Fig. 2: Development of Buddhist Cave Temples³

← The arrow means a "development" of spatial composition.
 — from literatures searching - - - our consideration

Results & Discussion

Our 3D diagrams enabled us to classify the spatial composition of the Buddhist ground temples in Central Asia and Xinjiang Uighur into roughly three development types:

1. Spatial composition with the courtyard in the center of the C-shaped shrine or main stupa in the center of the C-shaped monastery: (20, 21, 22, 28, 29 and 33 in Fig. 1)
We found a small difference between the spatial composition of the stupa area and the monastery area. We also noted differences of placing the stupa in the center and having the courtyard. Otherwise, this type of temple encloses small cells, which resembles the Indian cave temples.
2. Spatial composition with the front chamber (or front yard) and the shrine with the stupa forming a line in the going straight direction: (11, 12, 14, 15, and 16 in Fig. 1)
The front chamber (or front yard) is placed in front of the worship object.
3. Spatial composition in which the worship object is enclosed within double walls: (11, 16, and 25 in Fig. 1)
The chancel is surrounded by a wall with the additional surrounding corridor going around to the right.

※ Type 3 can be considered the complex of Type 1 and Type 2. Type 3 often has a front chamber (or front yard).

The 3D diagrams enabled us to classify the spatial composition of the Buddhist cave temples into roughly five development types:

1. Spatial composition with the stupa or the Buddhist statue in the center of the shrine: (4, 10, and 22 in Fig. 2)
2. Spatial composition with the front chamber (or front yard) and the stupa or the Buddhist statue forming a line in the going-straight direction: (18, 19, 20, 32, 33, 34, and 35 in Fig. 2)
3. Spatial composition with the worship object (Buddhist statue) placed deep within the shrine: (1, 3, 4, 11, 21, 22, and 27 in Fig. 2)
4. Spatial composition with Buddhist statues which face inwards along the side walls of the cave, and without the worship object enshrined in the center of the cave: (2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 13 in Fig. 2)
5. Spatial composition with the front chamber and the Buddhist statue forming a line in the going-straight direction. The Buddhist statue is in the centered-pillar of the cave. It is surrounded by the corridor going around to the right: (18, 19, 20, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 in Fig. 2)

※ Type 5 is regarded as the development-shape of type 2. It is found only in the Bamiyan Buddhist cave temples near type 4.

Conclusion

We classified Buddhist temples in the study area into patterns and suggested the development types of Buddhist temples based on the following elements: stupa, monastery, shrine, shrine with the front chamber (or front yard), shrine with the corridor circling to the right, and complex with the monastery area and the stupa area. As a result, it is clear that in Central Asia and Xinjiang Uighur, ground temples can be roughly divided into 3 types and cave temples can be divided into 5 types.

Notes

1. Some of quoted Buddhist sites are located in the land of Pakistan.
2. Names of the diagramed Buddhist temples in Figs. 1 and 2. Some of these temples are examples of strictly one development type, while others are examples of two or more types. We did not record all of the Buddhist temples in our study area.
3. We did not consider cornices or tambours in our classification or describe differences in the junctions in the typification of the cave temples. Only the floor plan and the form of the ceiling were considered. In addition, it is difficult to show five types in the figure same as Fig.1 because development of caves temple is complicated.

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