

# Temple to Love



**Architecture and Devotion in  
Seventeenth-Century Bengal**

PIKA GHOSH

# Temple To Love Architecture And Devotion In Seventeenth Century Bengal

**Cynthia Packert**



## **Temple To Love Architecture And Devotion In Seventeenth Century Bengal:**

*Temple to Love* Pika Ghosh, 2005-04-20 An excellent analytical study of a sensationally beautiful type of temple. This work is not just art historical but embraces religious studies, anthropology, history, and literature. Catherine B. Asher advances our knowledge of Bengali temple building practices, the complex inter-reliance between religion, state, power, and art, and the ways in which Western colonial assumptions have distorted correct interpretation. A splendid book. Rachel Fell McDermott. In the flux created by the Mughal conquest, Hindu landholders of eastern India began to build a spectacularly beautiful new style of brick temple known as Ratna. This bejeweled style combined features of Sultanate mosques and thatched houses and included second-story rooms conceived as the pleasure grounds of the gods where Krishna and his beloved Radha could rekindle their passion. Pika Ghosh uses art historical, archaeological, textual, and ethnographic approaches to explore this innovation in the context of its times. Includes 82 stunning black and white images of rarely photographed structures.

Published in association with the American Institute of Indian Studies. **The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape** Himanshu Prabha Ray, 2023-05-30. The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape illustrates how careful attention to the Hindu temple, its social history, and cultural landscape allows us to better appreciate how Hinduism has been practised and lived throughout history. The Hindu temple was not merely a place of worship or a static indicator of royal generosity but an institution that involved the active participation of the community for its establishment, maintenance, and survival. Rather than studying temples as isolated structures, The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape thus suggests that we need to examine them in the context of their social base and the sacred microcosms of which they form a part. Through a combination of textual study, archaeological evidence, and insights from contemporary anthropology, the book explores the diverse ways in which devotees, patrons, and visitors have engaged with temples, shrines, and their wider surroundings. Drawing attention to the vibrancy of the Hindu temple in different locales, The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape traces the ways in which Hindu notions of sanctity and sacredness were defined and redefined throughout history through the diversity of temple audiences, deities, and rituals. The book thus allows us to form a more accurate picture of Hindu religious life in the past and the central role the temple has played in consolidating Hindu identity. **Banaras Reconstructed** Madhuri

Desai, 2017-06-27. Between the late sixteenth and early twentieth centuries, Banaras, the iconic Hindu center in northern India that is often described as the oldest living city in the world, was reconstructed materially as well as imaginatively and embellished with temples, monasteries, mansions, and ghats, riverfront, fortress, palaces. Banaras's refurbished sacred landscape became the subject of pilgrimage maps, and its spectacular riverfront was depicted in panoramas and described in travelogues. In *Banaras Reconstructed*, Madhuri Desai examines the confluences as well as the tensions that have shaped this complex and remarkable city. In so doing, she raises issues central to historical as well as contemporary Indian identity and delves into larger questions about religious urban environments in South Asia. *Embroidered Histories* Barbara

Karl, 2016-03-08 Early modern India was an economic core region producing manifold textiles for export. During the sixteenth century a new customer entered the stage and expanded its influence from the city of Goa. Portugal. From early times the Portuguese had bought and commissioned textiles among them large embroideries from Bengal and Gujarat which are the focus of this study. By providing European prints as models for the professional local embroiderers they created a novel product that was successful in Portugal and beyond throughout the seventeenth century. The textiles were deemed valuable and rare enough to be included in different travel accounts, letters and inventories enabling us to trace their place of production, their transportation to Europe and their reception. Their intricate iconographies reflect political problematics of the time and shed light onto the intercultural circumstances of Portuguese colonial life. Barbara Karl is Curator of Textiles and Carpets at the MAK Museum für Angewandte Kunst Gegenwartskunst in Vienna. **The Place of Devotion** Sukanya Sarbadhikary, 2015-08-07 A free ebook version of this title is available through Luminos, University of California Press's new open access publishing program for monographs. Visit [www.luminosoa.org](http://www.luminosoa.org) to learn more. Hindu devotional traditions have long been recognized for their sacred geographies as well as the sensuous aspects of their devotees' experiences. Largely overlooked, however, are the subtle links between these religious expressions. Based on intensive fieldwork conducted among worshippers in Bengal's Navadvip-Mayapur sacred complex, this book discusses the diverse and contrasting ways in which Bengal Vaishnava devotees experience sacred geography and divinity. Sukanya Sarbadhikary documents an extensive range of practices which draw on the interactions of mind, body and viscera. She shows how perspectives on religion, embodiment, affect and space are enriched when sacred spatialities of internal and external forms are studied at once. *An Earthly Paradise* Raziuddin Aquil, Tilottama Mukherjee, 2020-02-25 This collection of articles on varied facets of early modern Bengal showcases cutting edge work in the field and hopes to encourage new research. The essays explore the trading networks, religious traditions, artistic and literary patronage and politico-cultural practices that emerged in roughly sixteenth-eighteenth centuries. Using a wide array of sources, the contributors to this volume, coming from diverse academic affiliations and including many young researchers, have attempted to address various historiographical black holes, bringing in new material and interpretations. Early modern Bengal's history tends to get overshadowed by the later developments of the nineteenth century. What this assortment of articles highlights is that this period needs to be studied afresh and in depth. The region underwent rapid transformations as it got politically integrated with Northern India and its empires and economically with extensive global economic networks. Combined with its unique geography, the trajectory of this region in all spheres manifest an almost constant interplay of local and extra-local forces, be it in literature, art, economic domain, political and religious cultures and considerable enterprise and ingenuity. Thus a variety of themes including travel accounts, Portuguese and Arakanese presence, early Dutch, French, Ostend companies forays into the region, artistic production in the Nizamat and later collections of art and missionaries, the English company state's intrusions in local economy in salt and raw silk.

production and indigenous reactions and rebellions consumption practices related to religious activities circulation and translation of texts representation of women in vernacular writings and organization of religious traditions have been analysed in this volume with a wide ranging introduction tying up the themes to the broader historiographical issues and contexts The collection will be an invaluable reference tool for students and scholars of history especially of early modern India Please note This title is co published with Manohar Publishers New Delhi Taylor Francis does not sell or distribute the Hardback in India Pakistan Nepal Bhutan Bangladesh and Sri Lanka *India before Europe* Catherine B. Asher, Cynthia Talbot, 2022-09-08 Second edition of the leading textbook on India's art architecture literature religions political and economic history c 1200 to 1750 **Clothing as Devotion in Contemporary Hinduism** Urmila Mohan, 2019-09-02 In *Clothing as Devotion in Contemporary Hinduism* Urmila Mohan explores the materiality and visibility of cloth and clothing as devotional media in contemporary Hinduism Drawing upon ethnographic research into the global missionizing group International Society for Krishna Consciousness ISKCON she studies translocal spaces of worship service education and daily life in the group's headquarters in Mayapur and other parts of India Focusing on the actions and values of deity dressmaking devotee clothing and paraphernalia Mohan shows how activities such as embroidery and chanting can be understood as techniques of spirituality reverence allegiance and she proposes the new term efficacious intimacy to help understand these complex processes The monograph brings theoretical advances in Anglo European material culture and material religion studies into a conversation with South Asian anthropology sociology art history and religion Ultimately it demonstrates how embodied interactions as well as representations shape ISKCON's practitioners as devout subjects while connecting them with the divine and the wider community **Dance Matters** Pallabi Chakravorty, Nilanjana Gupta, 2012-08-21 This volume presents a multidisciplinary perspective on dance scholarship and practice as they have evolved in India and its diaspora outlining how dance histories have been written and re written how aesthetic and pedagogical conventions have changed and are changing and how politico economic shifts have shaped Indian dance and its negotiation with modernity Written by eminent and emergent scholars and practitioners of Indian dance the articles make dance a foundational socio cultural and aesthetic phenomena that reflects and impacts upon various cultural intercourses from art and architecture to popular culture and social justice issues They also highlight the interplay of various frameworks global national and local indigenous for studying these diverse performance contexts using dance as a critical lens to analyse current debates on nationalism transnationalism gender and sexuality and postcolonial politics At the performance level some articles question the accepted divisions of Indian dance classical folk and popular and critique the dominant values associated with classical dance forms Finally the book brings together both experiential and objective dimensions of bodily knowledge through dance The Art of Loving Krishna Cynthia Packert, 2010-07-07 The vibrant tradition of Temple decoration in India

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