

Vishwanatha Temple

Vishwanatha, or the 'Lord of the Universe', is a title of Siva, and is most probably the original name of the temple, as there is a figure of Siva seated on his bull, Nandi, over the centre of the entrance to the sanctum, with figures of Brahma on his goose, and of Vishnu on his eagle, to the right and left. Inside the shrine also there is a *lingam* of Siva, and most of the principal groups, both of the interior and exterior, have reference to Siva and his consort. The large central groups of the outside are like those of the other temples, purposely exposing their persons. Outside there are the usual three bands of sculptures immediately above the plinth, and the same profuse accumulation of mouldings, sculptures and pinnacles as in the Kandariya temple. Altogether there are 602 statues from 2 to 2½ feet in height, in the different ranges of sculpture of this gorgeous temple.

Chitragupta Temple

The Chitragupta temple continues the technique, evolved in the Lakshmana temple, of adorning the waist of the shrine with bands of the sculptural girdle. The integration of the decoration with plastic principles is not so complete here, but one of the stages of transformation of architectural form to structural form was achieved.

Lakshmana Temple

The Lakshmana or the Chatarbhuj temple standing near the Kandariya Mahadeva is important for the innovation of the bands of plastic decorations which began to be used around the waist of the temples. These bands were reminiscent of the triple girdles which decorate the beautiful Apsaras in Indian Sculpture. This system of plastic embellishment in horizontal strips, begun in the Lakshmana temple, was to be continued in the Devi Jagadamba temple. From here on, architecture begins to assume more and more the form of sculpture as in the Gothic Cathedral of France.

Duladeo Temple

The Duladeo temple is about a mile and a half away from the main Khajuraho Group. It is important for its exquisitely carved bracket capitals. The effigy of the four-armed *Gana*, with a conch shell, almost flying away from the column is a beautiful example of carving. The pillars in Khajuraho temples served a structural function for supporting the shaded balconied windows, but the ingenious sculptures transformed the brackets of these capitals into pleasing projections of form with a seemingly logical inevitability.