

FAQ's

1. What is a garbagiraha?

A garbagiraha is a dark, cuboid cell which is the heart of the temple. It is unadorned, has a single doorway, and faces east.

2. Name the different elements of a typical Hindu Temple

The different elements of a typical Hindu Temple are:

- Garbhagriha
- Mandapa
- Antarala
- Mahamandapa
- Enclosing wall
- Pradhikshana path
- Artha mandapa

3. Explain in brief about the temple architecture in Aihole with any one example

One of the best examples of temple architecture in Aihole can be found in the Durga temple which was erected during the 6th century.

- The temple includes mukha mandapa, sabha mandapa and garbhagriha.
- It has an apsidal ended structure measuring 60' by 36'.
- There is a large portico on its eastern front 24' in depth. Thus it forms 84'.
- Two flight of steps leading to a portico give entrance to the temple on the eastern side. 4 square pillars support the ceiling of the mukha mandapa from which a highly ornate doorway leads into the sabha mandapa and garbha Griha along the pillared hall, Which is divided into a central nave and two side aisles by two row of pillars.

- Niches enclosing bold figure sculpture adorn the walls of the sabha mandapa and garbha griha along the pillared corridor.
- It is raised on particular high and heavily molded plinth or stereo base.
- Over the apse a short pyramidal tower or sikhara has been subsequently added.
- Another notable feature in the design of the durga temple has peripteral or pteroma, a passage formed by the colonnade of a verandah .the main cella is surrounded by this pteroma which is connected with pillared portico.
- The seventh century Durga Temple at Aihole is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It took its name from the Kannada word "durgadagadi" or "temple near the fort."

4. Explain the significance of the temple architecture in Pattadakal with any one example

The Papanath temple in Pattadakal, stands as an example to the temple architecture that thrived during that time.

- 90' x 30' in dimension. The papanath temple erected before the end of the 17th century reveals inexperience in architectural design.
- This plan lacks correct placement of the main parts and a logical inter relationship between them.
- The sikhara at the eastern end of the building is too short and under sized
- For the long, low building and the antrala is too big.
- It looks like square assembly hall than a vestibule more like a mandapa than an antechamber to the sanctuary.
- Both the plan and the elevation does not harmonize.
- The interior still bears the influence of rock cut architecture.
- The string courses surrounding the building resemble strong braces holding the structure together. The decoration of the outer surface consisting of repetitions of elements of bas relief shrines in a triangular pattern on the canopies, shows little understanding of architectural ornamentation.