

Cultural

Classics

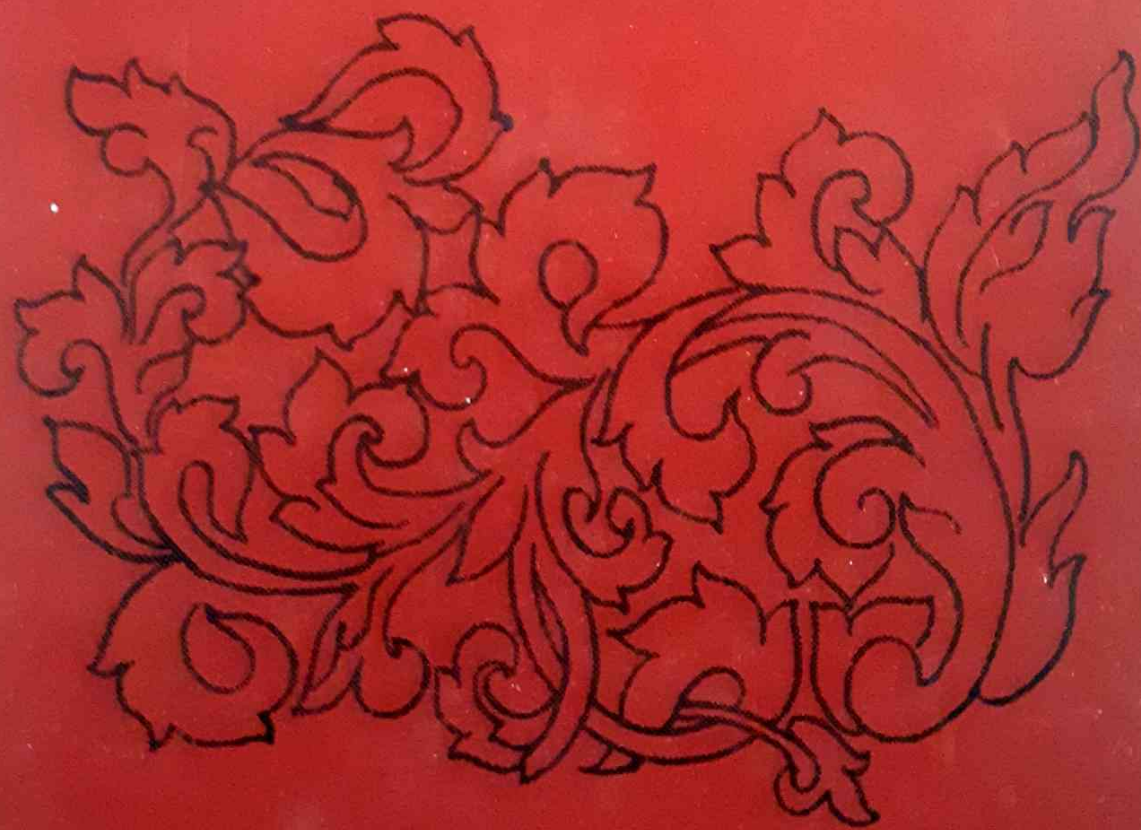


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There are two types of pagodas. They are

- (1) the bell-shaped stupa or *ceti* of solid structure, in which the holy relics of the Buddha are enshrined.
- (2) a hollow vaulted temple mainly for enshrining Buddha images.

Originally almost all of them were constructed after Indian models.

Based on these types, various forms of pagodas and temples were evolved later by introducing different architectural and decorative features. Some scholars classify Bagan temples

into two types. The first is Mon style or early temples which have dark interior and little air and the other is Myanmar style or later temples with bright and airy interior. Pahtothamya, Nagayon and Apeyadana are in Mon style and Shwegugyi, Thatbyinnyu and Sulamuni are in Myanmar style. The Ananda and the Dhamayangyi are intermediate types. This change of type took place in the 12th century.



Four views of Ananda



Sapada pagoda with a cubical relic-chamber and Pebingyaung pagoda with a square based relic-chamber were made after models of Sri Lanka style.

The monuments of Bagan, with only a few exceptions, are all monuments of Theravada Buddhism. Nat-hlaung-kyaung temple is the only Hindu temple and it is dedicated to Vishnu. Payathonzu temple and Apeyadana have frescoes of Mahayanist characters.

Art and architecture

All over the world, most forms of art and architecture were originally associated with religion, and Myanmar is no exception to the rule. Art and architecture of Bagan was associated with Buddhism. Buddhist art and architecture remain dominant in Bagan. The Buddhist shrine - a square base,



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Yangon, Myanmar
2001