ART AND RELIGION:

- *Works of art inspired by beliefs shape sacred space.* (Places that have sacred character)

- *Works of art inspired by beliefs express things that cannot be seen* (Representation of specific gods or deities)

- *Works of art inspired by beliefs explain and teach* (Objects used to Facilitate Worship)

- *Works of art, inspired by beliefs facilitate communication with the spiritual realm.* (Communication with the spiritual, natural or ancestral world)
Sacred Places

• Sacred places restore a person’s soul
  • Can be individual or communal
  • Allow us to feel connected and at peace

• Some artists and architects mark sacred places
  • Places of personal retreat
  • Communal worship
  • Connected to nature, religion, or community
WORSHIP SPACES

- What affects the nature of the space?
- Why would a space change over the years?
- What elements might be consistent through different faiths?
- What elements would be different?
- Who determines the shape?
PROTOTYPE EXAMPLES
Ancient Near East: Ziggurat

- ZIGGURAT=Sacred Mountain
- 2100 BCE
- Mountains were seen as the place where bridge heaven and earth.
- Rulers often received requests and instructions from gods on where and how to construct ziggurats.
- Was a place for the union between mortals and gods.
- This was the center of the religious, political and social in the city
- Corners of temple oriented on cardinal compass points (ORIENTATION OFTEN IMPORTANT)
2.9 Plan of the White Temple
Nanna ziggurat, Ur – Nammu (southeast Iraq) 2100-2050 BCE
ANCIENT GREECE

• MAN IS THE MEASURE OF ALL THINGS: Gods had human foibles
• GODS (Pantheon)
  • nature worship evolved into personification
  • Gods assumed human forms
  • had same aspects as humans
• Temples: shrines to protect the statue of the god
• Ceremonies outside
• Sculpture as defining the function
• Building conceived as a sculpture, ‘possessing power of sculpture to evoke human response’
• Note placement. All cities had acropolis above the city
Plan of Sanctuary at Delphi

Reconstruction of Ancient Olympia
www.harrys-greece-travel-guide.com
Temple of Zeus at Olympia (reconstruction)
Cult statue from Temple of Zeus at Olympia. By Phidias. 40’, chryselephantine.
ACROPOLIS ATHENS

- Altar of Athena (far left)
- Erectheum (left back)
- Parthenon (Temple of Athena Parthenos)
- Armory (right middle)
- Sanctuary of Artemis
- Propylaia
- Temple of Athena Nike
Reconstruction of the Parthenon
5.55 Equestrian Group from North Frieze
Athena Parthenos. (reconstruction) after Phidias. (originally 40’. Gold and ivory over wood)
Roman Temples:

- Worship involved animal sacrifice
- Temples in midst of life: on roads, in towns, etc.
- They were painted with bright frescoes
7.24 Temple of Portunus aka Fortuna Virilis. Rome. 2\textsuperscript{nd} C. BCE
PANTHEON: ROME
PANTHEON

• Means: ‘All the Gods’
• space used for political function: Hadrian made decrees from
• Built as Roman Temple, converted to Catholic church
Interior and Plan of Pantheon
7.26 Temple of the Sibyl. Tivoli. Early 1st C. BCE

PRIVATE ROMAN TEMPLES
Judaism

- The words of the prophets are true
- Moses' prophecies are true, and Moses was the greatest of the prophets
- The Written Torah (first 5 books of the Bible) and Oral Torah (teachings now contained in the Talmud and other writings) were given to Moses
- There will be no other Torah

- RELIGIOUS SPACE IS THE TEMPLE/Synagogue
- MUST CONTAIN A SPACE DEDICATED TO HOUSE THE TORAH
- Service is communal and lead by Rabbi and Cantor. There is a Reading of Torah
Temple of Solomon. Believed to have been destroyed 587 BCE
The Ark carried into the Temple from the early 15th century

*Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*

Carrying the Ark of the Covenant: gilded bas-relief at the Auch Cathedral
Green Synagogue. Illinois

Krakow
Warsaw

Edinburgh
Great Synagogue in Dohány Street, Budapest,
Portugal. 1671

Torah from this temple
Moorish Synagogue. Toledo, Spain. Converted to a church in 15th C.
Synagogues in Houston.
Interior of Synagogue. United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston.
EARLY CHRISTIAN/BYZANTINE

- Emphasis on congregational worship
- Basilica form
- Nave
- Aisles
- Clerestory
- Narthex
- Transcept
- Atrium
- Tradition for churches built over martyr sites.
4.33a Plan and section (through main gallery of oldest region) of catacomb of Callixtus, 2nd century CE, Rome, Italy
Old St. Peter’s basilica. Rome. 333-390. interior 368 ft,

FIRST CHURCH IN FORM OF ROMAN STATE BUILDING
Old St. Peter’s Basilica. 320-335
Built over the Circus of Nero (where many Xians martyred) and a cemetery.
Had relics and bones.
EACH SPACE HAS SPECIFIC USE
9.34 Reconstruction model of St. Gall.

MONASTIC COMMUNITIES COMMON IN BUDDHISM and CHRISTIANITY.
ROMAN CATHOLIC: ROMANESQUE THROUGH BAROQUE

- Western European tradition
- Canonical Hours: Vigil, Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, Compline
- These taken from Jewish tradition
12.5 Giotto. Arena Chapel, Padua. 1305
Praised by Dante.
Chartres, Notre Dame Cathedral. 12th-13th C.

NOTRE DAME=OUR LADY
Chartres owned tunic of Virgin Mary
Plan and Perspective of Chartres
Nave Chartres.
Giselbertus, Last Judgement. West Portal Tympanum, Autun. Romanesque
10.27 detail showing pilgrims
10.26 detail showing weighing of souls
The Notion of Stained Glass Windows: Light and Color

Detail of Windows from Chartres.
‘Royal Portal’ West façade. Chartres.
14.08 Michelangelo’s plan for New St. Peter’s. 1546.

14.9 N.S.P.’s as built by Maderno according to Michelangelo’s drawings 1606-16
14.10 New St. Peter’s.
17.2-3 BErnini. Aerial view of colonnade and piazza of St. Peter’s Rome.

SYMBOLIC SPACES
17.20 Bernini. Cornaro Chapel. 1645-52
(anonymous ptg. Illustrating the chapel)

ART FOR RELIGIOUS MOTIVATION
17.21 Bernini. Ecstasy of St. Teresa. Cornaro Chapel, Sta Maria della Vittoria. 1645-52. Marble. 11’6”
Catholic Churches in Houston.
CoCathedral of Sacred Heart (Downtown Houston).
ISLAM

• Literal: Arabic: ‘surrender to God
• Founded by Mohammed: prophet born in Mecca (died 632 CE)
• TEXT; Koran, dictated by Allah to Mohammed in series of visions

• TENETS OF FAITH:
• 1) no god but Allah
• 2) ritual prayer in direction of Mecca 5 times a day
• 3) almsgiving
• 4) fasting and abstinence during Ramadan
• 5) haj: pilgrimage to Mecca (expected once during lifetime)

• Rejects all representation of human forms as image worship.
• Recognizes Moses and Jesus as prophets: forerunners to Mohammed
MOSQUE ARCHITECTURE

- **haram**: prayer hall. rectangular, partially open to the sky.
- **sahn**: courtyard. arcaded and directly preceding the prayer hall.
- **hypostyle**: hall supported by columns. often a mosque's prayer hall is a hypostyle hall.
- **qibla**: the direction of prayer toward Mecca.
- **mihrab**: the recess or niche in a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca.
- **minbar**: pulpit in the mosque.
- **muqarnas**: ornamental vaulting composed of small concave elements, often employed to fill the zone of transition between supporting walls and a dome.
- **minaret**: tower from which daily call to prayer is issued by the muezzin (official).
Detail of Tile work under dome
The Al-Aqsa Mosque, adjacent to the Dome of the Rock (along the southern wall of al-Haram ash-Sharif), is the site from which Muhammad is believed to have travelled to heaven and returned.
Mosque. Kairouan. Tunisia. 836
qibla: the direction of prayer toward Mecca.
mihrab: the recess or niche in a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca.
Persia. Iran 1354
The Great Mosque, Mecca. Saudi Arabia
The Ka'ba, The Great Mosque, Mecca
9.6-7 Plan and Hypostyle Hall, Mosque Cordoba Spain. 768-787
9.12 Courtyard of Mosque of Suleyman I.

9.13 Interior of the Mosque.
8.28 Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (Istanbul) completed 537.

CONVERSION OF SPACES. TRANSFORMATION BETWEEN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS
Mosques in Houston
Synott Mosque. Houston.
**HINDUISM**

- **Hindu Religion and Art**
  - Oldest continuous religious tradition (from 2500 BC)
  - has a centrality of god which exposes itself through many manifestations
- **Brahma: creator**
- **Vishnu: sustainer**
- **Shiva: destroyer**
- this multiplicity of manifestations gives artwork an important role in Hindu Art
  - Rigveda is the oldest known religious text.
  - art rose to prominence in the Gupta Period (320-415 AD)
TEXTS

- Upanishads
- Ramayana
- Mahabharata
- Bhagavad Gita, or the "Song of the Blessed Lord
OVERVIEW OF TENETS

• **Karma.** The law that good begets good, and bad begets bad. Every action, thought, or decision one makes has consequences good or bad that will return to each person in the present life, or in one yet to come.

• **Reincarnation.** Also known as transmigration of souls, or samsara. This is a journey on the circle of life, where each person experiences as series of physical births, deaths, and rebirths. With good karma, a person can be reborn into a higher caste, or even to godhood. Bad karma can relegate one to a lower caste, or even to life as an animal in their next life.

• **Nirvana.** This is the goal of the Hindu. Nirvana is the release of the soul from the seemingly endless cycle of rebirths.
Kandarya Mahadeva (temple of Shiva). 10th-11th C.

Garbhagriha: inner room: literally ‘womb house’
Relief Sculpture from the Kandariya Mahadeo Temple
Relief sculpture, ca. 1000, depicting mithuna figures stands on the south outer wall of the antarala of the Kandariya Mahadeo Temple, Khajuraho, India. OVER 600 figures on the exterior. 200 interior
Shri Swaminarayan Mandir - Houston
BUDDHISM

• Quest for Enlightenment (Nirvana)
• 2 paths: ascetic growth through meditation OR prayer and faith
• FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS (Dharma, Law)
• Three Jewels of Buddhism: Buddha, Law, Community of Monks
W 3.10 Great Stupa at Sanchi. Shunga and early Andhra. 3rd C. BCE
W 3.13 North Torana.

W 3.14 Yakshi from east Torana.
W4.6 Caves at Ajanta. Maharashtra India. 450-500 CE
W4.1 Chaitya Hall, Karli.
Maharashtra, India. CE 50-70.
EVOLUTION OF BUDDHIST ARCHITECTURE.

a. Early Indian stupa. 3rd century to early 1st century B.C.E.
b. Later Indian stupa. 2nd century C.E.
c. Chinese pagoda. 5th to 7th centuries C.E.
d. Japanese pagoda. 7th century C.E.
Five Storied Pagoda & Monastery of Horyuji. Nara, Japan. Late 7th C.
Borobudur. Java. C. 800.
Corridor at Borobudur. First Gallery
462 Angkor Wat. 1120-1150 CE
One Pillar Pagoda

Tiếng Việt: Chùa Một Cột

Hanoi, Vietnam
Buddhist Temples in Houston
Chung Mei Buddhist Temple. International Buddhist Progress Society of Houston.
12550 Jebbia Lane, Stafford, TX 77477, USA.
Vietnamese Buddhist Temple Houston.
Collapsed. 2014