

Mountains and temples
in Southeast Asia
gods live on mountains

Sacred Indian mountains
transposed to Java
Himalaya

Kailasa

Meru

Mandara

result: stability

Merapi near Candi Sewu, C. Java



Search for immortality
amrta-elixir of life
churning the ocean

Story in Indian Mahabharata, 1st
book

story in Old Javanese translation
end 10th-beg. 11th cy A.D.

Churning of the ocean in Indian temple



Churning of the ocean in Cambodian temple – Ta Som



Kesiman Tengah – East Java



Kesiman-turtle-mountain



Spout from Wlingi, East Java top of Mt. Mandara



Turtle as base – snake as rope



Demons pull the rope



Gods pull the rope



Animals emanate – winged horse



elephant with four tusks



the wishing tree emanates



at last: amrta in a pot



Churning of ocean in Bali

Pura Desa-Puseh Klating



mountain-replicas containing
sacred objects, nectar, incense

terracotta casket, E. Java



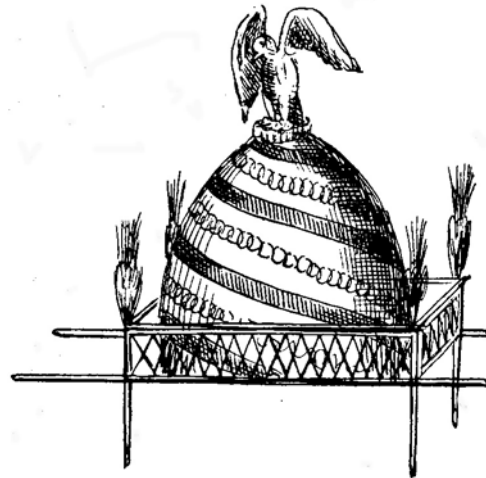
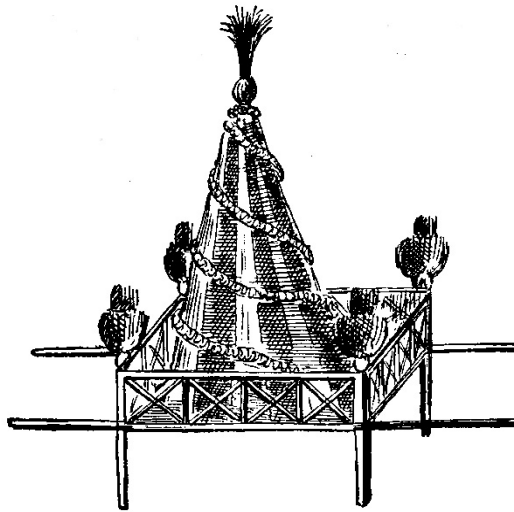
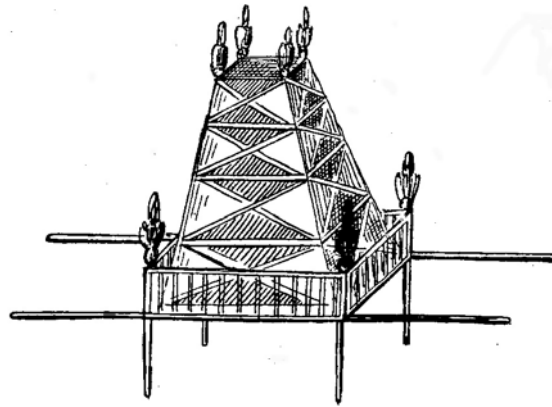
terracotta casket, E. Java



terracotta incense burner, E. Java



mountains of rice



SunanGiri-Muslim Grave 1600

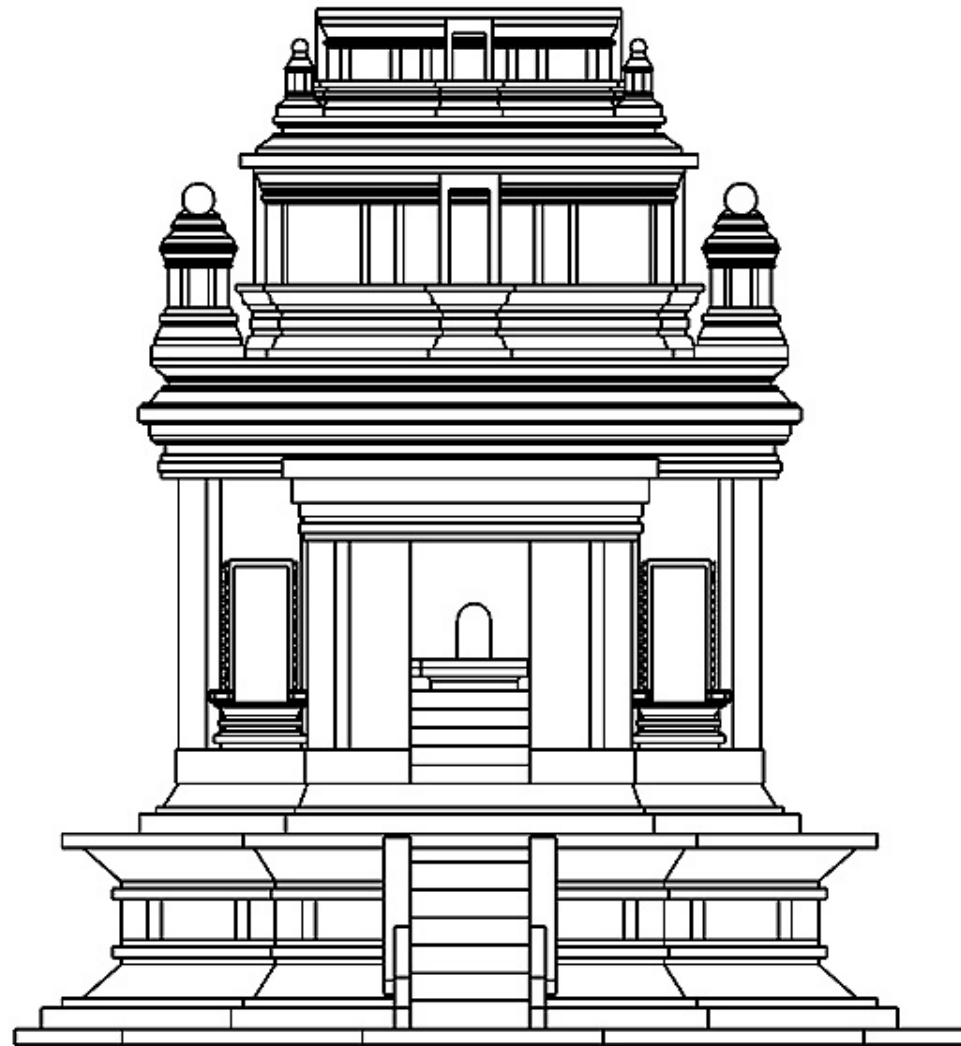


Gunungan – wayang Java



mountain represented by temple
it contained statue of immortal
identification of king with god

C. Javanese temple = Mt. Meru
base, body and tiered roof (incomplete)



Dieng - Puntadewa



Dieng - Bhima



Temple complex – Sambisari, C.Java

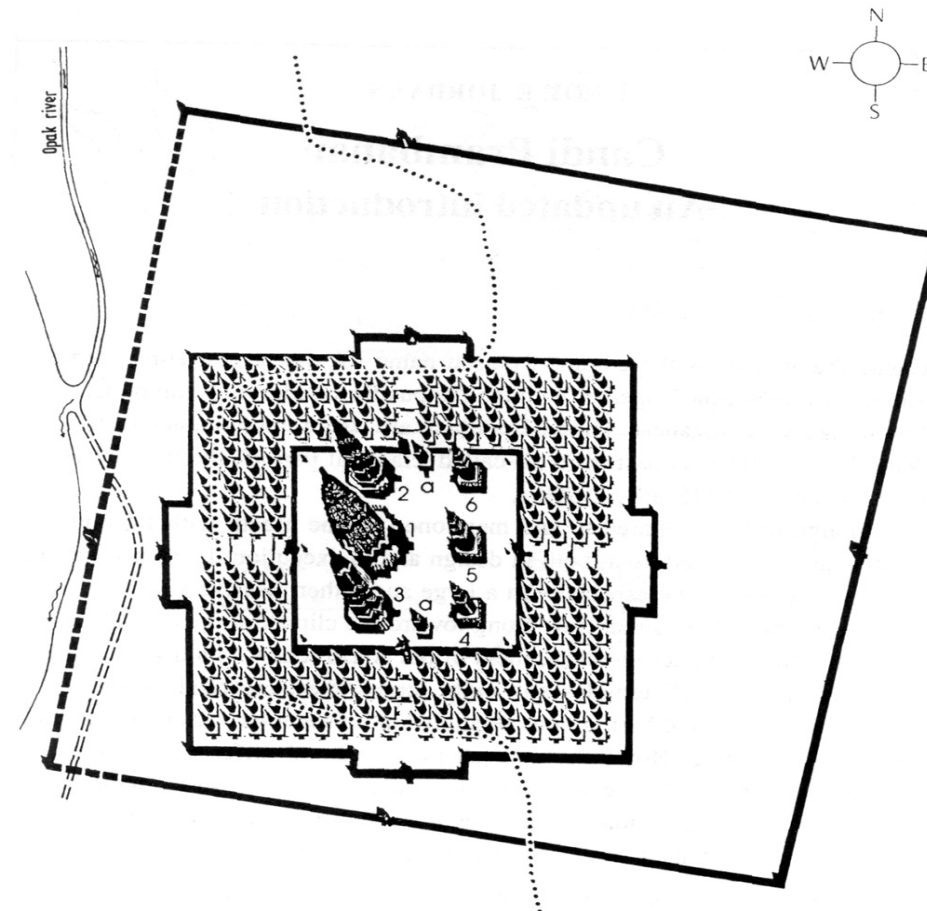
1 tower + 3 altars



Temple complex – groups of mountains

Prambanan in C. Java

$$3 + 3 + 2 = 8$$



Prambanan- overview main temples



Prambanan – Siwa temple tower



East Java – the tiered roofs of
temples and pavilions are Meru
odd number of tiers



Panataran-lower part temple
temple = mountain with snake and gods



Panataran – pavilion with 2 Meru roofs



Bali – Meru roofs
replicas of Gunung Agung, Watu
Karu in Bali, Meru in India
7,9,11 tiers

Pura Yeh Gangga in Perean, 15th cy 7 tiers



Bali-PuraPuseh Meliling-Meru 7 Gunung Agung



Cambodia – Baksei Camkrong

Rajendravarman, 947 AD

1 mountain-tower



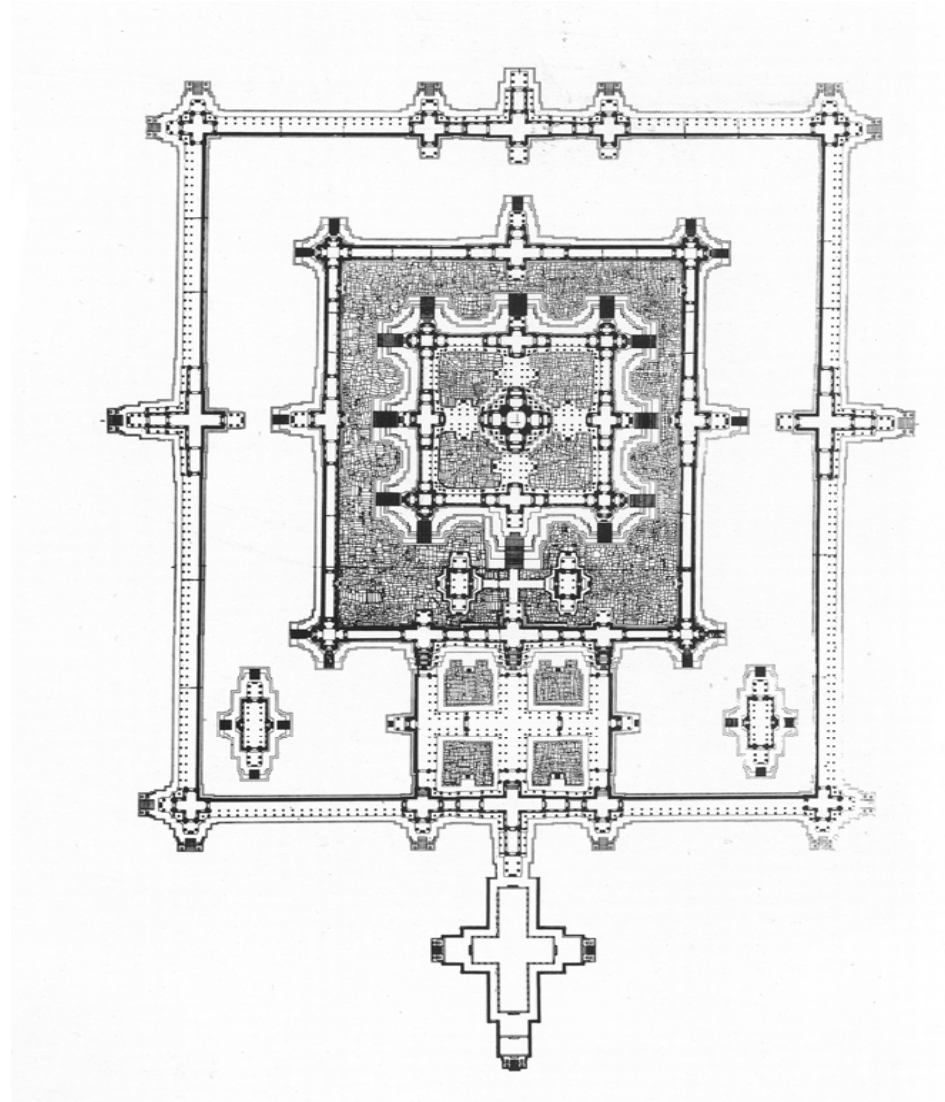
Cambodia – Angkor Wat

Suryavarman II, mid 12th cy

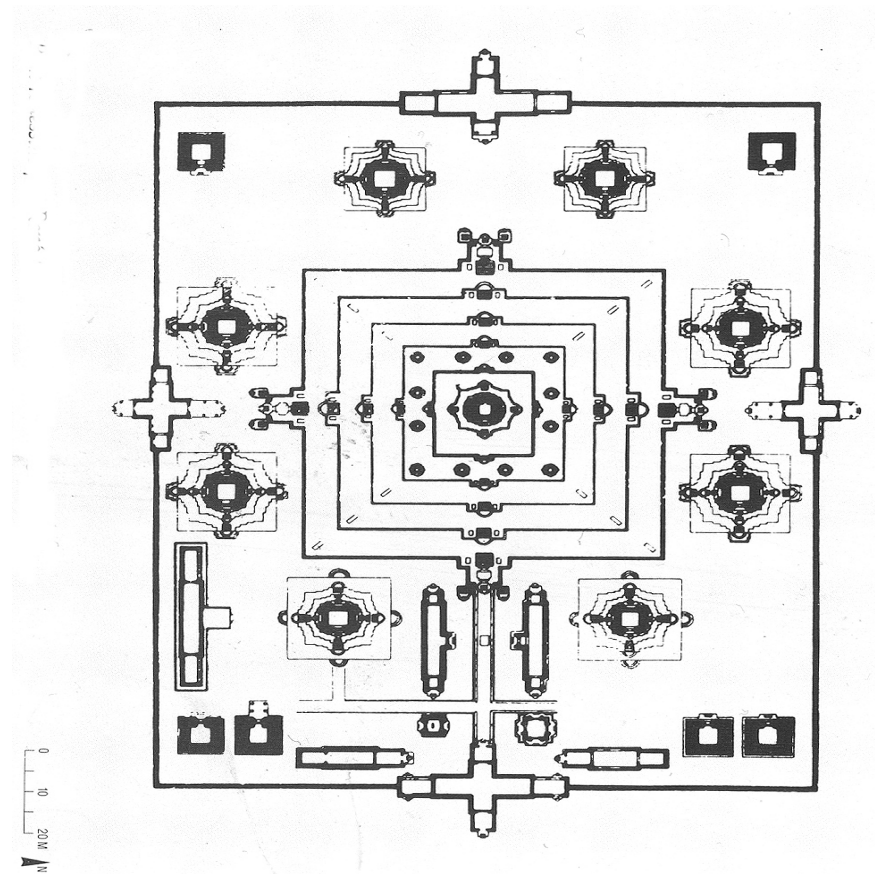
5 mountains



Angkor Wat - groundplan



Bakhong – groundplan 1 + 8 mountains



Bakhong – overview

Indravarman I, late 9th



Banteay Samrei

Suryavarman II, mid 12th



Bayon

Jayavarman VII, mid 12th

Bayon - overview

Neak Pean – tower in ocean

Jayavarman VII, late 12th



Phnom Bakheng

Yasovarman I, late 9th-early 10th

Pre Rup
Rajendravarman II, late 10th

Ta Keo

Jayavarman V, late 10th-early 11th