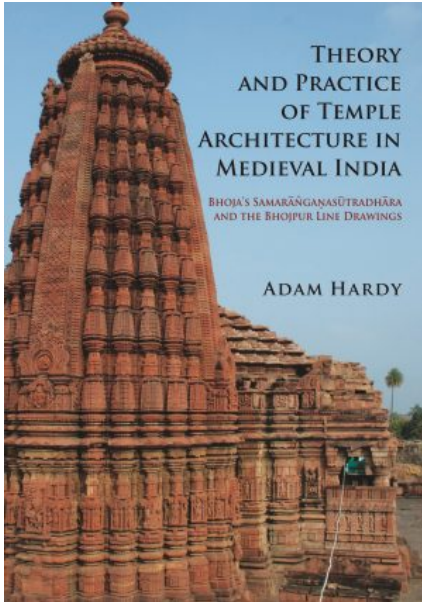


## Theory and Practice of Temple Architecture in Medieval India: Bhoja's Samaranganasutradhara and The Bhojpur Line Drawings



**Author:** Adam Hardy; with translations from the Sanskrit by Mattia Salvini

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### About the Book

This book is about vastuvidya or architectural theory, the creation of temples, and the role of drawing as an indispensable bridge between the two. It focuses on two works attributed to Bhoja, the legendary Paramara ruler of Malwa in the first half of the eleventh century. The first of these is his vastly ambitious, but unfinished, royal temple at Bhojpur, with its unique set of architectural drawings engraved on the surrounding rocks. These beautiful drawings, documented here for the first time, provide insights into construction processes and glimpses of hitherto unknown temple forms. They also hold the key to the intended design of the Bhojpur temple itself, which would have been by far the biggest Hindu temple in the world.

The other main focus of this study is Bhoja's great compendium of architectural knowledge known as the Samaranganasutradhara, a project of comparable ambition to his temple. This famous Vastushastra was compiled at a moment when the classical traditions of Indian architecture had blossomed into abundant maturity, and could be understood in relation to one another, in all their diversity. The Samarangana's treatment of Nagara, Dravida and Bhumiya temples are covered here in detail, with key chapters translated both into English and into drawings of the temple designs that the text encapsulates. As illustrated by numerous photographs, the text describes types known among surviving monuments, as well as many others probably never built. Far from being a straightjacket and an impediment to growth, the text is revealed both as full of architectural invention, and as a framework and a stimulus to further creativity. This book will allow the reader to begin to understand the temple architecture of medieval India through the eyes of its creators.

Adam Hardy, an architect, is Professor of Asian Architecture at The Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University. He has been studying Indian temples for more than thirty years, and his publications on the subject include *Indian Temple Architecture: Form and Trans-formation* (IGNCA, 1995) and *The Temple Architecture of India* (Wiley, 2007). Since 1999 he has been Editor of the journal *South Asian Studies*. He is currently working on two projects which, like the study for this book but in different ways, re-create traditional temples. One is a conservation study for the World Monuments Fund at Ashapuri, Madhya Pradesh, involving the recovery of lost temple designs from thousands of stone fragments; the other is the design of a new temple in Hoysala style near Bangalore, aiming to unfold the inherent potential of that tradition.

Mattia Salvini, Sanskritist and Buddhologist, is Visiting Professor to the International PhD Programme in Buddhist Studies, Mahidol University (Thailand). His extensive work on the Samarngana-s tradhara began, in collaboration with Adam Hardy, when he was a research scholar at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. His main publication on the subject is *The Samarngana-s tradhara: Themes and Context for the Science of Vastu* (JRAS, 2012), an overview of the universe of Bhojastext.

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