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Concepts of Space in Traditional Indian Architecture

Yatin Pandya

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- Comprehensive study to understand the very roots of what constitutes the Indian architectural context
- Illustrated with nearly 500 photographs, architectural plans with analytic overlays, and volumetric constructs
- Unravels the inherent virtues of traditional Indian architecture relevant even in today's world

This book is an attempt to answer the questions: What makes historic architecture awe-inspiring? How have the Indian architectural masterpieces retained their vitality even after so many centuries? What spatial qualities and organizational principles have rendered them timeless?

At the outset the author sets forth fundamental Indian philosophical and ideological tenets—the Indian notion of time, the duality of existence, the concept of a world within a world, the idea of opposites as counterpoints, the role of semiotics in providing visual clues in architecture, and the changing perception of space while in movement. The study unravels the inherent virtues of traditional Indian architecture, inferred and exemplified in a range of traditional Indian architectural examples.

Discussion of each site is illustrated with a wealth of visual materials—photographs, architectural plans with analytic overlays and volumetric constructs. Miniature-style reproductions drawn for each example reconstruct their spatial, environmental and experiential qualities and are used to demonstrate the universality of communication in Indian architecture.

Yatin Pandya is an author, academician, researcher as well as practising architect with his firm FOOTPRINTS E.A.R.T.H. He has authored numerous papers and several books, and has produced many documentary films on architecture. Pandya is a recipient of numerous national and international awards for research, design and dissemination, most recently the special mention for United Nation's World Habitat Award and the Curry Stone Foundation Design Prize for sustainable practice.

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