

Mapping Early Buddhist History Through Architecture before Sui Era

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Abstract : Buddhism, originating in ancient India, saw its most profound development in China. Similarly, Buddhist architecture, though derived from Indian prototypes, evolved distinctively as the religion reached new regions. The interaction with local traditions led to architectural forms that mirrored the unique cultural and ethnic identities of each area. Before the Sui and Tang dynasties, three prominent styles could be observed: Indian, Central Asian, and those of the northern Central Plains. This paper aims to analyze the spatial distribution of temples and the evolution of temple layouts which means the general layout and floor plans in architecture study, with the innovation of the Pagoda in China. Through examining these transformations and their underlying causes, this paper seeks to unravel the early stages of Buddhism's adaptation to Chinese cultural contexts before the Sui dynasty.

Keywords : Buddhist architecture, early Buddhism in China, change in Buddhism with developing in architecture, temple, pagoda

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