

Subject: History of Architecture-II

Topic: Buddhist Architecture in India-2

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A thick black L-shaped frame is positioned on the left and right sides of the page, framing the central text. The top-left corner of the frame is on the left side, and the bottom-right corner is on the right side.

**BUDDHIST
ARCHITECTURE
IN INDIA**

CHAITYAS

- A Buddhist shrine or prayer hall with stupa at one end
- Made for large-gathering of devotees.
- Made in rock-cut due to permanency of structure.
- Chaityas were influenced by ascetic lifestyle of vedic period and tendency of hermits to retire in solitude



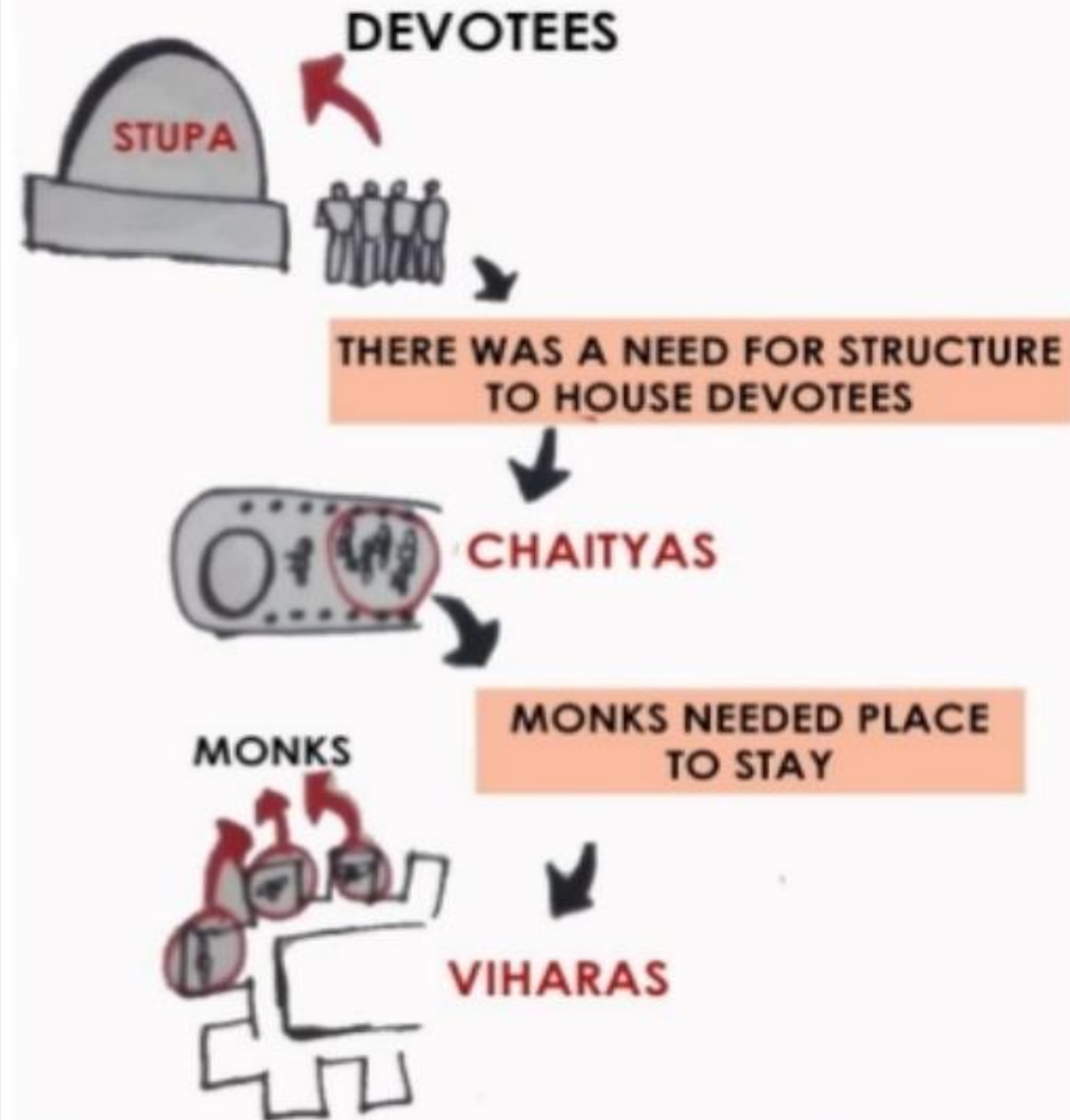
Pillars of ashoka

- Pillars retaining their animals. The most celebrated capital the four-lion one at sarnath [uttar Pradesh] erected by emperor ashoka circa 250 BC. Also called “ASHOKA COLUNM”.
- Four lions are seated back to back.
- This is one of the nineteen surviving columns erected or at least inscribed with edicts by the emperor ashoka during his reign in the 3rd century BCE.



Why a chaitya hall

- The stupa evolved from being a funerary mound carrying object of worship, had a sacral value.
- Building needed to accommodate copies of stupa and provided shelter.
- A structural house for religious activities.
- Birth of temples with idol worship.
- Building had almost circular plan and a domed roof.



CHAITYAS {CAVES}

- Architecturally, chaityas show similarities to Roman design concepts of columns and arch.
- The monks built many structures which were carved out of a single massive rock, done with hammer and chisel, bare hands.
- The chaityas were almost 40 metres long, 15 metres wide and 15 metres high.

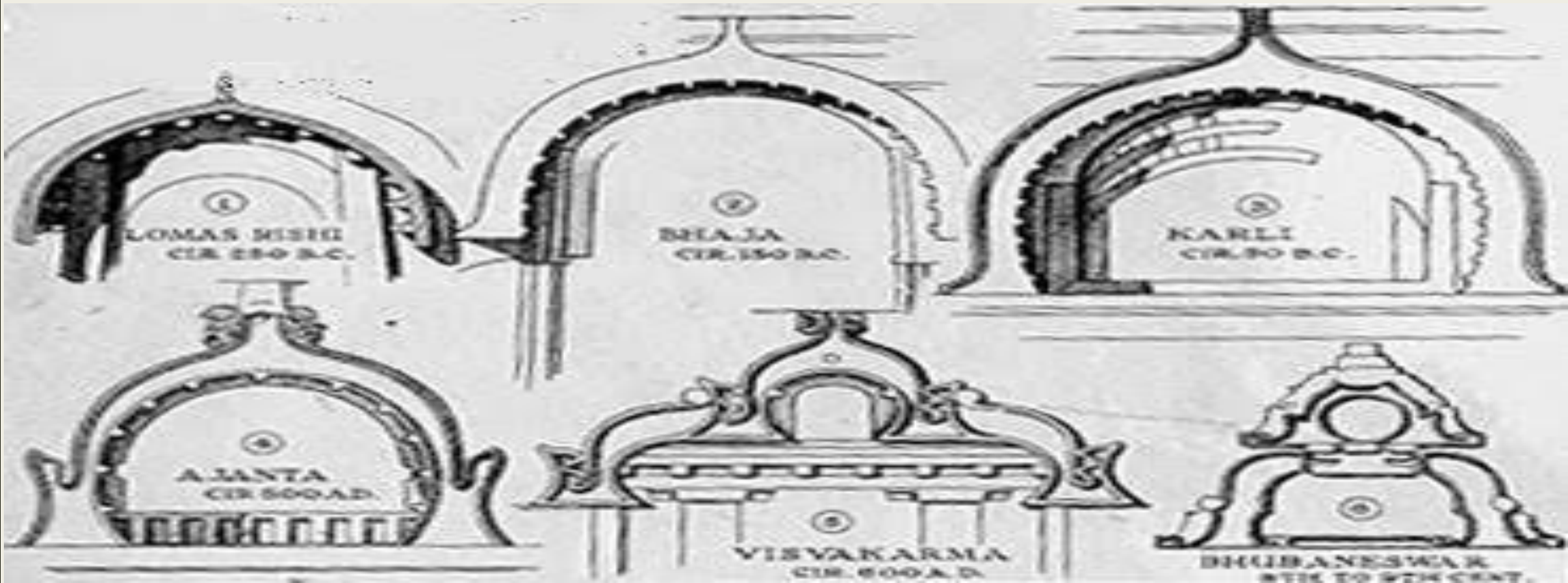


ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

- Wooden construction inspired from vedic period imitated in natural rock.
 - Supplemented with wooden surfaces for eg.. Screens etc.
 - Shows similarities to roman concept of column and arch, but no evidence of any relation.
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- Rectangular halls with finely polished interiors walls.
 - Well proportioned pillars with capitals{around 35}
 - Semi circular roof.
 - Pillar had three parts: prop, base buried in ground and shaft.
 - Stupa at the end.
 - Extensive use of motifs, decorative and symbolic.

Chaitya Arch

- Chaityas normally had a great- horseshoe archway with a wall or screen below.
- There was sun window in centre of the archway for light.



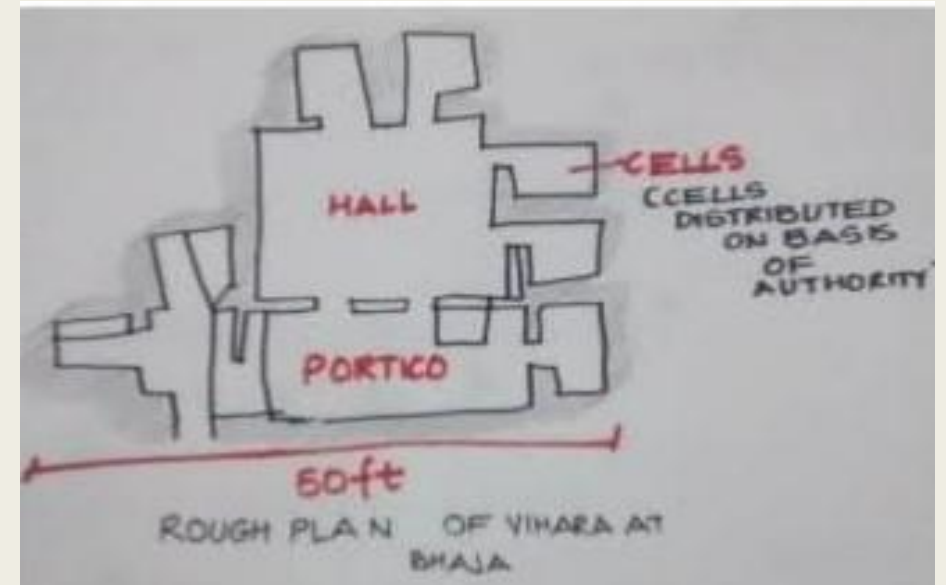
VIHARAS

- A monastery arrangement of cells for accommodation of monks.
- Dwellings were simply wooden construction/ thatched bamboo huts .
- Near settlements on trade routes.
- After first century AD, viharas came in as educational institutes.



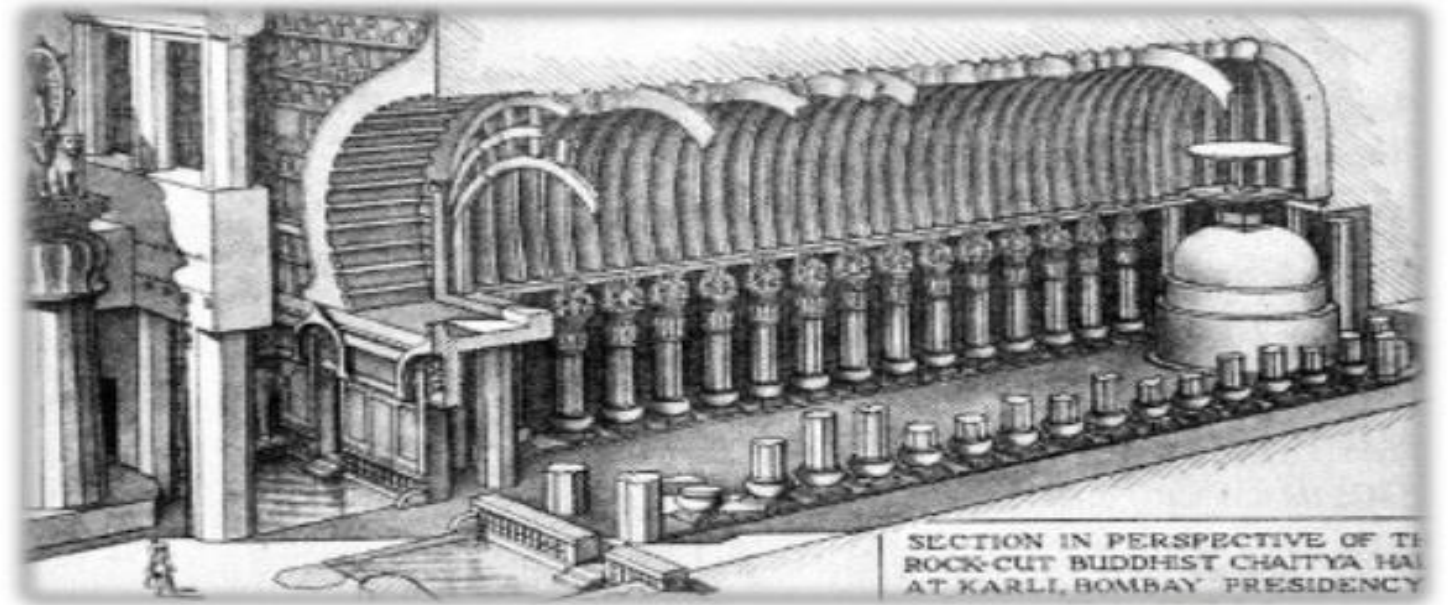
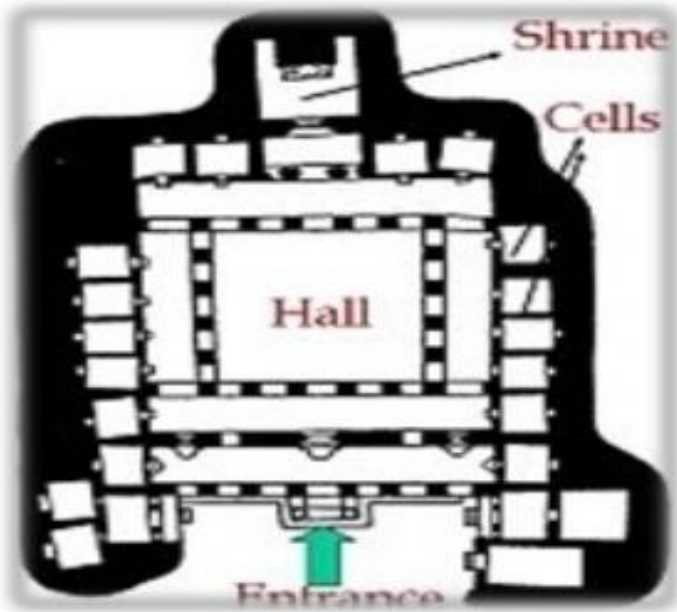
Basic Characteristics

- Quadrangular court for gathering.
- Surrounded by small cells.
- Front wall incorporated a shrine for image of Buddha .
- Cells had rock cut platforms or beds.
- Viharas were not a like in design.
- Doorways were on sides of the walls of main hall.

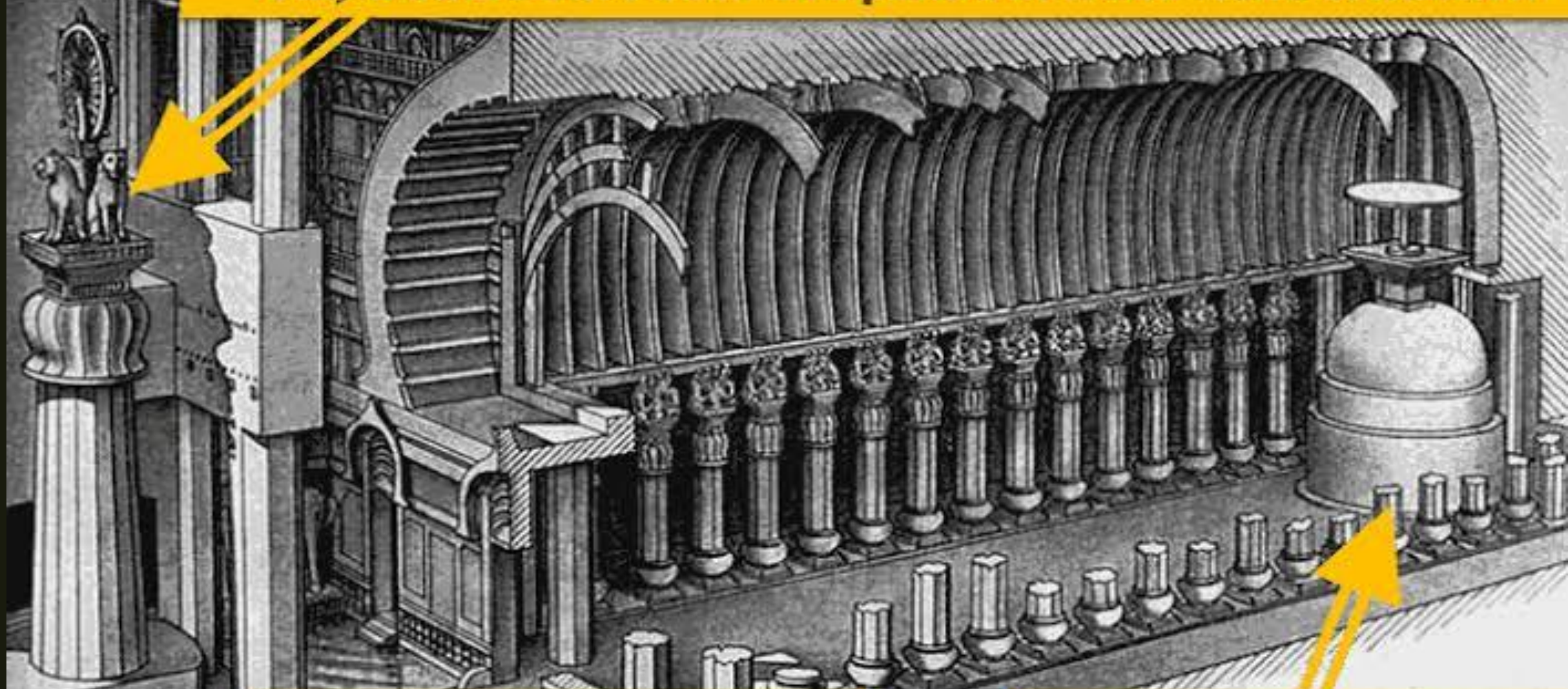


VIHARAS {MONASTERIES}

- They were the residential places of the Buddhist priest {monks}
- The main hall was entered through a doorway, leading to an assembly hall, dining chambers and meditation cells.
- The walls depict figures of the Buddha.
- The columns were of 60 metres height and well- chiseled.



Only 2 caves have such lion pillars in front: Karle & Kanheri



**Largest Chaitya-griha
in India**

**Stupa: Cylindrical
Drum shaped**

THANKU