

Meru Education Foundation

Co-sponsored by Harvard University Art Museums
presents

Creating Sacred Space: Architecture, Dance and Sculpture Design Principles in the Classical Arts of India



Summit Meru 2003

July - Aug - Sep, 2003
Evening Workshops ~ Open to Everyone

Workshop I: Vaastu Shastra - Harmonious Living by Dr. Sashikala Ananth

Tuesday July 22, Wednesday July 23 & Thursday July 24 Time 6:30-9:00 pm

Venue: [Arthur M. Sackler Museum](#), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138

Dr. Sashikala Ananth is India's most renowned teacher of Vaastu Shastra, an architect, Temple Designer and Vastu Practitioner. She will introduce Vaastu Shastra - the classical Indian science of design. The central goal of architecture is to create buildings that provide space for inner and outer experience for harmonious coexistence with nature. This three-lecture workshop incorporates some of the principles of this ancient knowledge of design to create sacred spaces into modern dwellings. Dr. Ananth is the author of several books on Vaastu, and Yoga, and producer of a film, "The Living Tradition - A Shilpi Speaks".

Workshop II: Classical Indian Dance: Invoking Sacred Space by Leela Samson

Saturday, August 9, 10am - 12:30pm & Performance on Sunday, August 10, 3:00 pm

Venue: [National Heritage Museum](#), 33 Marett Road (Rt. 2A), Lexington, MA 02421

Dance is architecture in complete abstraction. It is created with no physical materials yet is a living example of creating sacred space where the aesthetic can be experienced. Dance is living sculpture and the dancer is creator of sacred space in both temporal and spatial contexts. The Saturday morning lecture on these concepts will be given by renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Padmashri Leela Samson. Ms. Leela Samson is one of India's most dynamic and technically brilliant exponents of the Bharatanatyam style of Indian classical dance. Leela is an outstanding representative of Kalakshetra, the famed institute for the classical arts founded by the late Rukmini Devi Arundale in Chennai. On Sunday she gives a [Bharatanatyam Dance Performance](#).

Workshop III: Khajuraho: Sacred Sculpture by Dr. Devangana Desai

Thursday, Sep 18, Friday Sep 19 & Saturday Sep 20 Time 6:30-9:00 pm

Venue: [Arthur M. Sackler Museum](#), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138

In this workshop Dr. Desai, an art historian and leading expert on the Khajuraho temples, will focus on the tradition of how sacred spaces are concretized in temple buildings. In her three lectures - "Art and Architecture of Indian Temples", "Temples and Sculpture of Khajuraho" and "Beyond the Erotic at Khajuraho" - Dr. Devangana Desai will highlight how buildings can be representations of the inner and outer cosmology. Dr. Desai has written numerous books on Temple Art, Mother Goddess, Ramayana Scenes in Sculpture and Buddhist Bronzes.

The fees for each workshop is \$40. Discount for students.

To register please visit: <http://www.merufoundation.org/>

Meru Education Foundation is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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