

#1. Structural Features

- 1) **Garbhagriha** → ‘womb-house’ and is a cave like a sanctum + small cubical structure with a single entrance + house the main icon (main deity)
- 2) **Mandapa** → Place in front of Garbhagriha where devotees assemble for ‘Darshan’ of main deity + Bhajan, kirtan, dance etc are played here + Some temples have multiple mandapas in different sizes named as Ardhamandapa, Mandapa, and Mahamandapa.
- 3) **Shikhara or Vimana**: mountain like tower above the garbhagriha + Shikhara is found in North Indian temples and Vimana is found in South Indian temples + Shikhara has a curving shape while vimana has a pyramidal-like structure.
- 4) **Iconography**: River goddesses + Dwarapalas + mithunas (erotic images) + navagrahas + Yaksha and Yakshinis.

#2. Classification of Indian Temples:

[1] Nagara (in North India) [2] Dravida (in South India) [3] At times, the Vesara style of temples as an independent style created through the mixing of Nagara and Dravida styles.

#3. Classification of Nagara Style: [1] Latina/ Rekha-Prasada [2] Phamsana-type Shikhara

[3] Valabhi-type Shikhara

#4. Comparison of Nagara, Dravida and Vesara style of temple architecture

Nagara	Dravida	Vesara
Northern region	Southern region	Deccan region. Between the Vindhya and Krishna River
Developed regionally with each region manifesting its own particular qualities	Developed dynastically	mixture of two styles Hybrid style. It was developed both regionally and dynastically.
Curvilinear tower (Shikhara built over garbhagriha) gradually curving inward	Pyramidal Tower (Vimana) with several stories in receding dimension	The shape of tower was Pyramidal but height was reduced (Miniature Vimanas)
Multiple Shikharas	Subsidiary shrines are either incorporated within the main temple tower, or located as distinct, separate small shrines beside the main temple.	Multiple shrines are present side by side
Garbhagriha is generally situated below the tallest tower (Shikhara)	At some of the most sacred temples in South India, the main temple in which the garbhagriha is situated has, in fact, one of the smallest towers.	

Terracotta panels & figurine on exterior walls	Sculptures of fierce dvarapalas were built at the front of the temple	
Squared hall	Squared hall	Squared hall
Sanctum Garbhagriha	Sanctum Garbhagriha	Sanctum Garbhagriha
Gopurams are absent	Gopurams are present	Gopurams may or may not be present
A water tank may or may not be present	A water tank is present at the front of temple from where water is drawn for sacred purposes	A water tank may or may not be present
Compound walls are absent	Dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall	Compound walls may or may not be present
Examples - Dashavatara temple (Deogarh), Vishwanatha temple (Khajuraho), Lakshman Temple (Khajuraho), Jagannath temple (Puri)	Examples - Shore temple (Mahabalipuram), Brihadiswara temple (Thanjavur), Meenakshi Temple (Madurai)	Examples - Badami temple, Durga Temple (Aihole), Virupaksh Temple (Pattadkal), Keshava Temple (Somnathpur)

#5. Important Temple Architecture of India

[1] Dashavatara vishnu temple, deogarh, uttar Pradesh [2] temples at khajuraho, madhya Pradesh [3] dilwara temples, rajasthan [4] sun temple, modhera, Gujarat [4] Sun temple, Konark, Odisha [5] Jagannatha temple, Puri, Odisha [6] The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu [7] The Ratha Temple at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu [8] Brihdeshwara Temple: Chola Architecture [9] Ravan Phadi cave, Aihole, Karnataka [10] Lad Khan Temple at Aihole, Karnataka [11] Durga Temple at Aihole, Karnataka [12] Kailasnath Temple at Ellora [13]