

Difference Between Nagara and Dravidian Style

The difference between Nagara and Dravidian style also lies in the shape of the central tower is curvilinear in the case of Nagara and the pyramid-like shape in Dravidian style. Let us explore the differences in detail given below:

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Parameters for Difference	Nagara Style architecture	Dravidian Style architecture
Location	Temples that are present in the north Indian region are known as Nagara style temples.	Temples that are present in the South Indian region are known as Dravidian-style temples.
Main temples spire	Multiple shikharas are present in the Nagara style of temples.	Dravidian style has one single shikhara.
Central Tower	The shape of the central tower is curvilinear in the case of Nagara style temples.	The shape of the central tower is a pyramid in the case of Dravidian style temples.
Pedestal	Pedestals are higher than the ground.	Pedestals are not higher than the ground.
Boundaries and deities	Not much importance is given to the boundaries and deities that are found inside.	Boundaries of the temple are given a lot of importance, and deities are found outside.

Dravidian Style of Architecture

The Dravidian style is the oldest style of architecture with many distinct features. Most of these styles of temples have short pillars, and they also have boundary walls and gateways. A wall bounds Dravidian-style temples. The Gopuram is the entrance.

In Dravidian style temples, Dvarapalas are placed to guard the entrance. The water reservoirs are the essential feature of these temples which exists in each of them. Some examples of temples built in the Dravidian style are the Kailashnath temple at Ellora, Brihadeshwara Temple, etc.

Nagara Style of Architecture

In the Nagara style of architecture, temples are built on a platform. Also, these temples do not have any boundary walls or gateways. The mandaps are constructed anterior to the main Shrine. Unlike the Dravidian style temples, there are no water reservoirs. Rather, the images of the Ganga and Yamuna are encrypted.

The two major characteristics of this style are the cruciform ground plan and the curvilinear tower. Some examples of temples built in the Nagara style are Sun Temple at Konark, Lakshman temple at Khajuraho, Kandariya Mahadeva temple, etc.

Similarities Between Nagara and Dravidian Styles of Architecture

Nagara and Dravidian styles of architecture were developed and designed with the assistance of their prevailing dynasties. The buildings of both types of temples are engraved and full of sculptures. Both showcase Indian literature and culture. Each type of temple shows the mythologies of the specific dynasty.

Some similar features between the Nagara and Dravidian style temples are

- Sacred pools
- Mandaps with pillars
- Temple grounds
- Prakara walls