GLOSSARY

abhayamudrā  hand pose, the gesture of reassurance, in which the hand is raised with its palm outward and fingers stretched.

alasa-kanyās  indolent damsels, female figures in various poses, usually on the walls of temples.

amlā, amalaka  fluted disc, resembling an amalaka fruit (Emblic Myrobalan), which resting on the beki, forms an important component of the crowning elements of a rekha or a pidhā temple.

amrta-kalaśa  jar of the nectar of immortality, finial in the shape of a jar.

āṅga-śikhara  miniature representation of the rekha on the spire of a temple.

anurāhā  projection next to the rāhā.

anuratha  vertical wall projection running from the base of the bāda to the bisama, situated between the kanika and the rāhā.

ashta-dikpālas  guardians of eight quarters.

āyudha  symbolical weapon.

bāda  wall, vertical portion of the temple below the curvilinear spire or pyramidal roof, consisting of pābhāga, jāngha, bāndhanā and baranda.

bāda deul  big temple, meaning the sanctuary.

bāndhanā  string course, bond, moulding (single or multiple) between two jānghas.

baranda  moulding, single or multiple, forming the top element of the bāda. Architecturally it serves to demarcate the bāda from the gandi.
beki
neck, cylindrical member immediately above gāndi.
bhadra deul
auspicious temple, it however, refers to the jagamohana in front of the sanctuary.
bhārarakṣaka
atlantid gāna (weight supporters) generally carved on the capital of pilasters or placed in horizontal recesses.
bho
an ornamental motif of a highly ornate chaitya medallion flanked on either side by a gāna or female figure.
bhoga-mañḍapa
hall of offering, the structure usually in front of the nāta-mandira.
bhūmi
storey, storeyed division of the kanika-pāga of the gāndi of a rekha-deul.
bhūmi-amla
fluted disc demarcating one bhūmi from another on the kanika.
bhūmi-barandis
horizontal mouldings forming a bhūmi.
chaitya
window motif, ornamental motif, resembling the front window of a Buddhist rock-cut chaitya-hall, in the shape of a stylised horse-shoe.
chauri
fly whisk
chakra
wheel or disc.
chajjā
projecting member, usually over doors, windows and niches, serving the purpose of an eave.
damarū
drum in the form of an hour-glass.
deuł
general name for a temple as a whole, when used singly, it refers to the sanctuary.
devī
goddess.
dhyanamudrā
gesture of meditation. Both hands are placed on the lap, right hand on the left, with the fingers fully extended and the palm facing upwards.
dvārapālas  door guard at the entrance to the shrine, one placed on either side of the door.
ganas  host of deities attending on Śiva.
gandī  trunk, curvilinear spire or pyramidal roof above the bāḍa and below the mastaka of a temple.
gandharvas  celestial musicians.
garbhagrha  innermost chamber; womb, of the temple containing the image or symbol of the main deity.
garbha-muda  lowest ceiling of the sanctuary.
ghaṇṭā  bell, bell shaped member on the finial of a piḍhā-deul.
grahas  planetary deities
gumphana  scrollwork with circular cavities filled with various animal motifs.
jagamohana  rectangular or square hall in front of the sanctum.
jāli  any perforated or honeycombed pattern.
jāṅgha  shin, vertical portion of the bāḍa between the pābhāga and the baranda.
kalaśa  water pot, pitcher shaped member on the finial of a temple.
kanika-pāga  corner vertical segment running up the height of the structure.
kanyā  damsel, young girl, female figures in various poses.
kāṇṭhi  vertical recess between mouldings.
katara  a small chopper.
khākharā  semi-cylindrical member resembling the fruit kakārū of vaitā-kakārū, a variety of pumpkin gourd.

khākharā-deul temple having a khākharā as the crowning member.

khākharā-mundī miniature representation of the khākharā temple carved as a decorative motif on the pagas.

khapuri skull, flattish bell shaped member above the amlā on the finial of a temple.

khurā hoof, lowest level base moulding of pābhāga.

kumbha pot, second moulding of the pābhāga.

kīrtimukha decorative motif, showing the grim face of a lion, from the mouth of which often issue beaded tassels.

kuṇḍala earrings.

lakuṭa club.

latā creeper.

lalitāsana relaxed seated pose with one leg pendant while the other is under the body as in padmāsana.

liṅga phallic emblem of Śiva.

liṅga-pūjā Worship of the phallic emblem of Śiva.

makara legendary aquatic animal with the head of a crocodile.

māla garland.

maṇḍapa hall in front of the main shrine.

maṇḍala circle, an image of the universe.

maṣṭaka head, crowning elements above the gandi.

māṭrikā mother, one of the seven mother goddesses.
mudrā symbolic hand gesture.
muda ceiling.
mukhaśāla front porch, jagamohana.
mundi miniature temple.
nāga serpent, fabulous creature with a human bust, serpent tail and a canopy of serpent hoods. Its female counterpart is nāginī.
nāgara so called "Northern" style.
nāṭa-mandira festive hall, usually in front of the jagamohana.
navagraha planet slab on the architrave of the portal with the nine planetary representations.
nava-ratha temple with nine projecting pāgas on each side.
nāyikā female figures in various poses
pābhāga division corresponding to foot; a set of lowermost mouldings at the base of the temple.
padmāsana lotus seat, sitting posture in which the legs are crossed and the feet brought to rest on the thighs, yogasana.
pāga segment, vertical projecting division of the wall and spire of the temple.
pāṇcha-ratha temple with five projecting pāgas on each side.
pāṇchayatana five shrine complex with small shrines at the four corners of the compound.
pārśvadevatā deities connected in doctrine with the main divinity of the temple, placed in the rāhā niches of the deul.
pātra-latā scrollwork with a centre stalk and leaves branching out symmetrically.
pidhā flattish wooden seat; projecting members constituting the pyramidal roof of a pidhā-deul.

pidhā-deul temple of which roof is made of pidhās. This form of structure is limited only to the jagamohana, bhoga-mandapa and nāta-mandira.

pidhā mūndi miniature representation of a pidhā temple as an ornamental motif.

pītha stylobate, platform.

phanda-granthi reticulated scroll motif consisting of interlacing chaitya medallions, arches and vertical ribbons.

puruṣa cosmic man or spirit.

pūrṇa-ghāta jar overflowing with foliage; vase of plenty, symbolizing abundance.

rāhā central vertical projection on the deul.

ratha vertical projections of the temple.

ratna-mūda ceiling of the chamber above the garbha-mūda.

rekhā-deul type of temple characterized by a curvilinear spire.

śakti energy, the supreme power. Female counterpart to the god. A spear wielded primarily by kārttikeya.

śālabhaṇjikā women tree motif.

sapta-ratha temple with seven pāgas on each side.

śikhara spire of the temple.

stambha pillar, column.

tala-garbhaıkā decorative motif below the niches of the lower jāṅgha, inserted into or over the pābhāga mouldings; generally consists of a mūndi.

torana ornamental gateway; gateway in the form of an arch springing from two pillars.
tri-ratha temple with three pāgas on each side.
tryaṅga-bāda bāda with three divisions – pābhāga, jāṅgha and barāṇḍa.
urdhvaliṅga ithyphallic, a designation of Śiva.
vāhana a conveyance; vehicle of gods; mounts.
vajra-mastaka prominent ornament on the gāndī.
vana-latā lush foliage with an overall design lacking a stalk.
varadāmudrā boon bestowing gesture; the right arm is lowered and the open palm is turned downward towards the observer.
vidyādhara super-natural being who flies in the sky, usually holding a garland.
vimāna śikhara or spire of the temple.
viṇā a kind of stringed musical instrument.
vyāla composite animal-lion, bird, elephant etc.
yoga-patī cloth tied around the legs to enable one to sit with the knees raised in a meditative posture.
yakṣa a class of demi-gods.