AMAR-03 HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURE - I

OBJECTIVES :

To inform about the development of architecture in the Ancient Western World and the cultural and contextual determinants that produced that architecture.

To understand architecture as evolving within specific cultural contexts including aspects of politics, society, religion and climate.

To gain knowledge of the development of architectural form with reference to

Technology, Style and Character in the prehistoric world and in Ancient Egypt, West Asia, Greece and Rome.

UNIT I PREHISTORIC AGE 6

Introducing concepts of culture and civilization – Paleolithic and Neolithic Culture – art forms and evolution of shelter – megaliths – agricultural revolution and its impact on culture and civilization.

UNIT II ANCIENT RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS: EGYPT 7

Landscape and culture of Ancient Egypt – history – religious and funerary beliefs and practices – monumentality – tomb architecture: evolution of the pyramid from the mastaba – temple architecture: mortuary temples and cult temples

Great Pyramid of Cheops, Gizeh – Temple of Ammon Ra, Karnak – Temple of Abu Simbel (Rock Cut)

UNIT III ANCIENT RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS: MESOPOTAMIA 8

Urbanization in the Fertile Crescent – Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian and Persian culture – evolution of city-states and their character – law and writing – theocracy and architecture – evolution of the ziggurat – palaces.

Ziggurat of Ur, Urnamu – Palace of Sargon, Khorsabad – Palace at Persepolis

UNIT IV CLASSICAL PERIOD: GREECE 12

Landscape and culture of Greece – Minoan and Mycenaean cultures – Hellenic and Hellenistic cultures – Greek character – Greek polis and democracy – Greek city planning – architecture in the archaic and classic periods – Domestic architecture; Public Buildings: Agora, stoas, theaters, bouletrion and stadias – Greek temple: evolution and classification – Parthenon and Erection – orders in architecture: Doric, lonic, Corinthian – optical illusions in architecture.

UNIT V CLASSICAL PERIOD: ROME 12

Roman history: Republic and Empire – Roman religion and the Roman temple – Roman character – lifestyle – Roman urban planning – art and architecture as imperial propaganda: forums and basilicas – domestic architecture – structural forms, materials and techniques of construction – orders in architecture: Tuscan and Composite.

Rome: Forum Romanum and other Imperial Forums, Enclosure and manipulation of space: Pantheon – Public buildings: Colloseum, Circus Maximus, Thermae of Caraculla.

OUTCOMES:

A detailed understanding of Western (Christian) architecture.

An understanding about the spatial and stylistic qualities associated with church architecture

An idea about Chennai Christian Architecture with the help of assignments.

An Understanding of the architecture as an outcome of various social, political and economic upheaveals, and as a response to the cultural and climate conditions.

REQUIRED READINGS

Sir Banister Fletcher, “A History of Architecture”, CBS Publications (Indian Edition),1999.

Spiro Kostof, “A History of Architecture:Setting and Rituals, Oxford University Press, London, 1985.

Leland M Roth; “Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History and Meaning”; Craftsman House; 1994.