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Hanoi project

Hanoi temple of literature



Literal and Physical Significance

1. Historical Landmark and Architectural Heritage

1. Built in 1070, the Temple is one of Vietnam's oldest structures, dedicated to Confucius, symbolizing Vietnam's dedication to Confucianism.
2. Its architecture, with **five courtyards, ancient gates**, and stone stelae, reflects traditional Vietnamese aesthetics and Confucian principles.

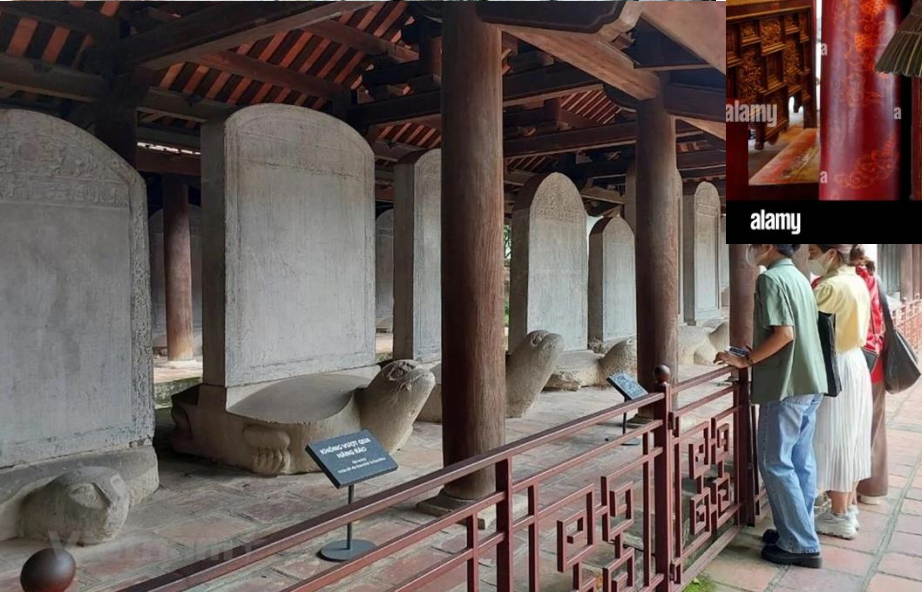
2. First National University (Quốc Tử Giám)

1. The Temple was Vietnam's first university, where royals and elite scholars were educated in Confucian texts, Chinese **literature, philosophy, and ethics**.
2. The university functioned here for over 700 years, representing Vietnam's early commitment to organized education and academic excellence.

3. Symbolic Spaces of Learning and Reverence

1. The courtyards, pavilions, and altars within the complex each represent stages of learning and reverence for wisdom.
2. The Pavilion of Literature (Khuê Văn Các) is a notable landmark symbolizing literary inspiration and serves as an icon of Hanoi.

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1. Stone Stelae as Symbols of Scholarly Achievement

1. The stone stelae engraved with the names of doctoral laureates celebrate the highest academic achievements of Vietnam's past scholars.
2. These stelae are physically preserved reminders of the nation's dedication to intellectual accomplishment and respect for learning.

2. Place of Pilgrimage for Students and Scholars

1. Modern students often visit the Temple before exams for blessings of academic success, making it a continuing centre of reverence for education.
2. The Temple's grounds are seen as sacred, providing an inspirational setting that honours Vietnam's scholarly history.

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Symbolic and Intangible Significance

1.Cultural Identity and Intellectual Legacy

1. Embodies Vietnam's rich intellectual traditions grounded in Confucian ideals of ethics, learning, and societal responsibility.
2. Represents the continuity of Vietnamese values and intellectual life across centuries.

2.Honor of Scholarship and Education

1. Symbolizes the Vietnamese reverence for knowledge, learning, and the social respect given to scholars.
2. The Temple's stelae and preserved spaces inspire a commitment to scholarly excellence across generations.

3.Moral Development and Virtuous Leadership

1. Education here was not solely about knowledge but also about developing virtues needed to serve and lead.
2. It stands for the ideal that learning should contribute to moral integrity and civic responsibility.

1.National Pride and Endurance

1. Surviving wars and foreign occupation, the Temple represents resilience and a deep-rooted pride in Vietnamese culture and heritage.
2. It reinforces the message that intellectual and cultural traditions are vital to national identity and continuity.

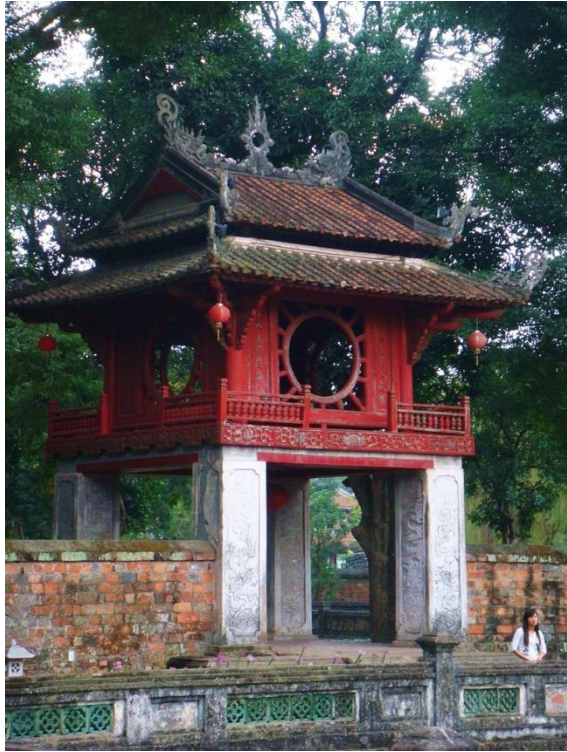
2.Inspiration for Contemporary Learning and Literary Arts

1. The Temple serves as an inspiration for Vietnamese writers, scholars, and students who seek to stay connected to cultural roots while pursuing modern ideas.
2. It embodies the balance between preserving tradition and encouraging literary and intellectual growth, keeping Vietnamese culture vibrant and evolving.

Hanoi temple of literature main colours and elements



Mainly filled with east Asian inspired elements such as architecture as well as color and layout with a lot of nature surrounding the location. Due to the nature of it being a temple it has a lot of religious and mythological elements such as dragons and animals in Vietnamese mythology the temple is also revered for its intangible qualities and so I would like to touch on those qualities



1. I am particularly interested in the roof of the buildings on the compound as they have this very angular yet organic shaped which is something I would like to replicate



2. The roofs seem to be adorned with animals or some kind of religious motif which is usually common for religious places



3. Upon further research I found animals on the roof such as dragons and clouds



The roofs seem to be decorated with very ethereal and almost whimsical like objects and motifs which seem to be very traditional Vietnamese roofs found all over Vietnam



Upon further research I found out that the slopped 4 corner roof was popularized by the Le dynasty which reigned from 1442 to 1792. this style of architecture usually made out of bullnose tiles and 4 curved corners hidden under the canopy of trees. They were usually decorated with patterns usually depicting the 4 gods (Dragon, Unicorn, Turtle, and Phoenix)



Upon further research the temple of literature is one of the architectural marvels left behind by the le era as as they valued the temple for its contribution of the Vietnamese art and literature





After finding out what the motifs of the roofs were I want to look into what they mean with the turtle, dragon, unicorn and phoenix .



Unicorns usually made out of many different animals mashed together such as the buffalo or eagle they are said to protect the places they are found



The dragon represents humanities desire for strength and independence in order to live better lives.



The tortoise represents heaven and earth it also represents longevity and perfection



Phoenix represents the empress according to Vietnamese tradition as well as peace



Temple of literature Hanoi

Moodboard

Through my research I have found out about the architecture of the buildings found the compound of the temple as well as the roofs. I have found out what the different things on the roofs mean and will use them to guide my design of the tote bag. I will be focusing on the le dynasty architecture as well as the godly intangible powers of the figurers on top of them

