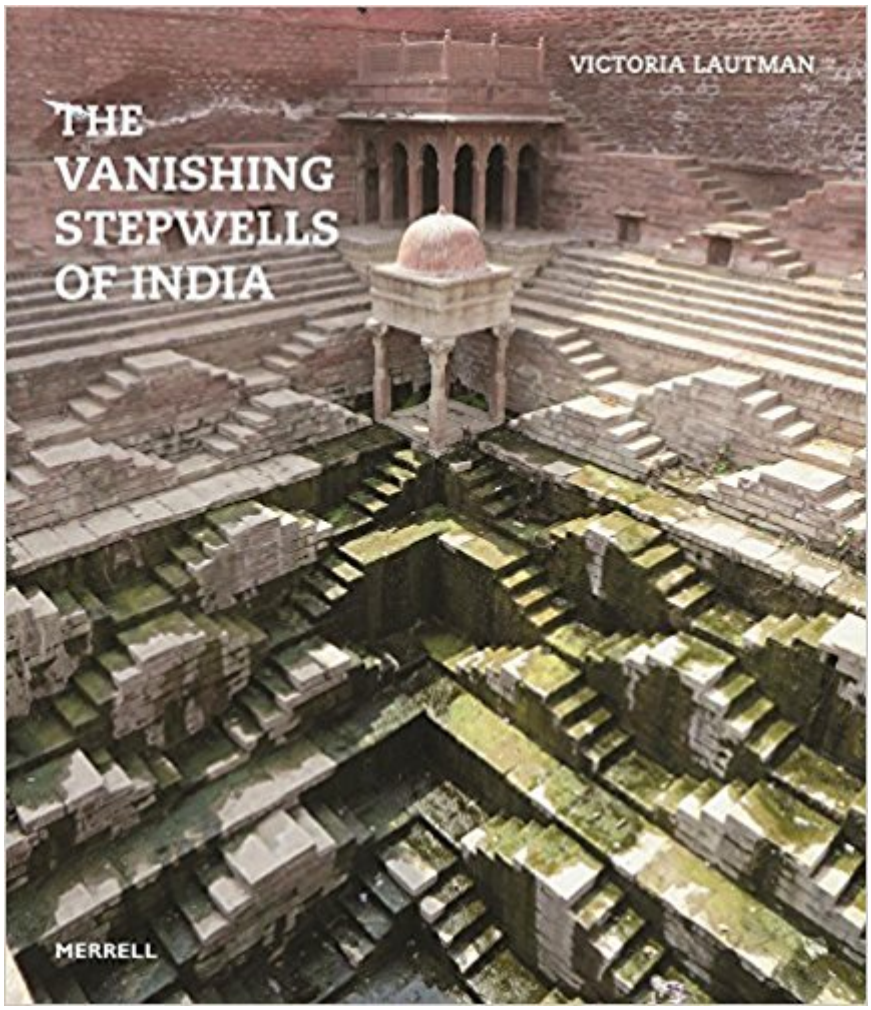
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The Vanishing Stepwells Of India



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Some of the most stunning architectural structures in India are to be found below ground: these are its stepwells, ancient water stores. Stepwells are unique to India and from around the 3rd century CE were built throughout the country, particularly in the arid western regions. Excavated several stories underground in order to reach the water table, these cavernous spaces not only provided water all year long but also fulfilled other functions; they offered pilgrims and other travelers a respite from the heat, and became places in which villagers could socialize. Stepwell construction evolved so that, by the 11th century, the wells were amazingly complex feats of architecture and engineering.The journalist Victoria Lautman first encountered stepwells three decades ago and now, a seasoned traveller to India, she has devoted several years to documenting these fascinating but largely unknown edifices before they disappear. Of the thousands of stepwells that proliferated across India, most were abandoned as a result of modernization and the depletion of water tables. Often commissioned by royal or wealthy patrons, the wells vary greatly in scale, layout, materials and shape. Those in what is now Gujarat state also served as subterranean Hindu temples that featured columned pavilions and elaborate stone carvings of deities. Islamic wells were generally less flamboyant, but incorporated arched side niches. Today, few stepwells are in use. The majority have been left to silt up, fill with rubbish and crumble into disrepair. Gradually, however, the Indian government and heritage organizations have come to recognize the need to preserve these architectural wonders. In 2014 IndiaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best-known stepwell, the Rani ki Vav in Patan, northern Gujarat, became a UNESCO World Heritage site.In her introduction, Lautman discusses why and where the stepwells were built. She reflects on the reasons they became derelict and considers how the appreciation of stepwells is changing with the work of organizations and individuals who aim to protect and restore them. The main part of the book is arranged in a broadly chronological order, with up to six pages devoted to each of c. 80 stepwells, every one unique in design and engineering. The name, location (including GPS coordinates) and approximate date of each well accompany color photographs and a concise commentary by Lautman on the history and architecture of the well and her experience of visiting it. While many of the stepwells are rather decrepit, their magnificent engineering and great beauty cannot fail to impress.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages
Publisher: Merrell Publishers (March 29, 2017)
Language: English

ISBN-10: 1858946581
ISBN-13: 978-1858946580
Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 1 x 11.7 inches
Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #327,800 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Landmarks & Monuments #311 inÃ Â Books > History > Asia > India #469 inÃ Â Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History

Customer Reviews

Victoria Lautman: Victoria Lautman is a journalist and lecturer specializing in architecture, art and design, with a current focus on India. She's hosted and produced several long-running radio programs in Chicago, and contributed to dozens of international publications. She has lectured widely on various cultural topics and, most recently, the little-known stepwells of India. Her website can be found at victorialautman.comDivay Gupta: Divay Gupta is Principal Director, Architectural Heritage Division, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). INTACH is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of India's cultural heritage.

The book is great for the general reader, resourceful for artists, exciting for those interested in architecture/under appreciated art history and all around educational. The photos are accompanied by clear and concise writings that give a rich history, context, insight and show a sincere appreciation for the subject. The photos do a wonderful job of capturing the beauty of the step wells and their surroundings, capturing them with strong compositions and in a subtle lighting that I loved. Inspiring book. Also it has that awesome new book smell that come from quality printed artbooks.

I’m SO glad I found this book (read about it in the Wall Street Journal). I’m actually going to India next month and plan on tracking down some of these stepwells with the included GPS coordinates, I had no idea these things exist and they’re just incredible to look at; some of them are other-worldly. The text is informative and approachable. I wish there were more history, but I guess there just isn’t a lot known about these things. The dude who one-starred the book for disappointing photos must have been reading it in the dark; they’re fabulous..

The photographs are fascinating and the text is equally absorbing. I particularly enjoyed the author's tone of discovery shared with the reader. This book is a must-read for anyone who loves architecture or India. Bonus- there are GPS coordinates for each stepwell, so serious devotees can actually go see them.

A Long overdue exploration in gorgeous photos and lively text of some of the world's greatest architectural treasures: India's stepwells. Bravo to Ms. Lautman for her painstaking research and dogged pursuit to document these important and almost lost marvels. Every stepwell is unique, and every stepwell tells a story. They're all here. A must read for anyone interested in India, architecture, history, or simply the hidden beauties of our fraught, fascinating world.

...especially in this beautiful and thoughtful examination of these ancient structures. The lovely photos jump off the page and are brought to life by the lively and informative text. Makes me want to go back to India!

The photographs were amazing. This book probably is not of universal appeal, but I enjoyed it very much.

Something is wrong when a one star rating is given without and writing at all. This is the equivalent online of graffiti vandalism. If for no other reason than the remarkable photographs this would merit a 5 star ranking. For those that wish to see these wonderful constructions the author has included the GPS coordinates! Nice touch in a country where almost no locals know where any of the historical sites actually are. Lovely and helpful book indeed and modestly priced for what it is not to mention the author's expertise. Was eagerly awaiting this publication. Don't miss the author's website for more interesting content., chuck that drive by rating!

While on my first trip to India in March 2017, I had the good fortune to enjoy a stop at Chand Baori at Abhaneri (just off the main highway between Jaipur and Agra--please take the time to stop if you are traveling that route). In short, it took my breath away. From the first moment I saw this marvel, I was entranced. My first thought on entering was to wonder if the artist M.C. Escher had visited Chand Baori, as this site could certainly have inspired many of his works. After returning from India, I did an search for books on India's stepwells, and was thrilled to find Victoria Lautman's very new publication. I have since been savoring it page by page, adding my own sticky notes with

comments, and making lists of stepwells I want to see on my next visit(s). Ms. Lautman, a journalist, has exceeded through her narrative and her own, excellent photos, in calling attention to these amazing architectural wonders in such an enticing and accessible way that I hope new and returning travelers to India will want to avail themselves of visits to these relatively undiscovered, architectural wonders. In closing, I must add that while I was astounded by my visit to the Taj Mahal, my memories of experiencing the Chand Baori stepwell at Abhaneri are on a par with that very impressive site. Kudos to Ms. Lautman for calling attention to these amazing, architectural/cultural sites in such a visually stunning way with her new book. I suggest that it be presented as a gift to friends who will be traveling to India, which I will be doing.

Download to continue reading...

The Vanishing Stepwells of India The Vanishing Girl (The Vanishing Girl Series Book 1) India: Where To Go, What To See - A India Travel Guide (India, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai Book 1) India: India Travel Guide: The 30 Best Tips For Your Trip To India - The Places You Have To See (New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kashmir, Jaipur Book 1) India: India Travel Guide: The 30 Best Tips For Your Trip To India - The Places You Have To See (New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kashmir, Jaipur) (Volume 1) India: India Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in India (Rajasthan, Goa, New Delhi, Kerala, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kashmir, Rishikesh, Jaipur, Varanasi) India Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in India (Backpacking India, Goa, Rajasthan, New Delhi, Kerala, Mumbai, Kolkata) 101 Coolest Things to Do in India: 101 Coolest Things to Do in India (Backpacking India, Goa, Rajasthan, New Delhi, Kerala, Mumbai, Kolkata) India: Where To Go, What To See - A India Travel Guide (India, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai) (Volume 1) Inner Asia: A Collection of Travel Stories from the Indian Subcontinent (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka) - 25 India Travel Stories / India Travelogue Finders Keepers? A True Story in India (Mom’s Choice Awards recepient) (India Unveiled Childrens Series) India ABCs: A Book About the People and Places of India (Country ABCs) The Partition of British India: The History and Legacy of the Division of the British Raj into India and Pakistan The Culture of India (Understanding India (Hardcover)) India and its native princes: Travels in Central India and in the presidencies of Bombay and Bengal India and Its Native Princes: Travels in Central India and in the Presidencies of Bombay and Bengal (Classic Reprint) India: Cities, Sights & Other Places You Need To Visit (India, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Rajasthan, Chennai Book 1) Delhi, Jaipur, & Agra: Taj Mahal: India’s Tourism Golden Triangle (India Travel Guide Book 16) India: Cities, Sights & Other Places You Need To Visit (India, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Rajastan, Chennai) (Volume 1) Misadventures in India: The comically rude awakening

of an American biodiesel engineer in New Delhi, India (The Travel Diaries of a Modern Nomad Book 1)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help