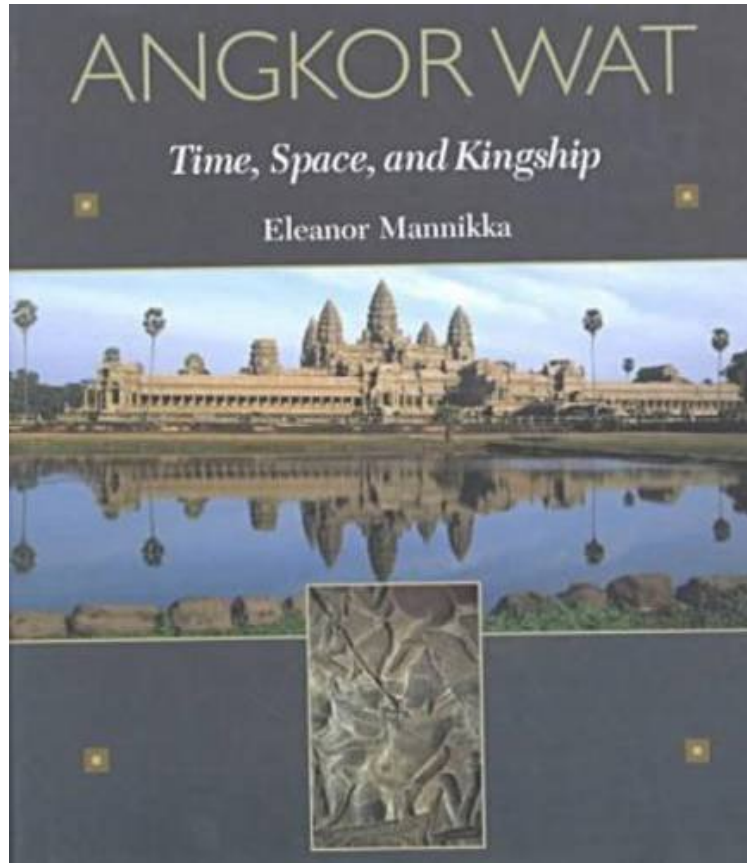


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## Angkor Wat: Time, Space, and Kingship

*Eleanor Mannikka*

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**Eleanor Mannikka : Angkor Wat: Time, Space, and Kingship** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Angkor Wat: Time, Space, and Kingship:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Detailed Interpretation of Angkor Wat By Michael Gunther Eleanor Mannikka's grand idea is that the symbolism of Angkor Wat can be understood by interpreting the most significant measurements on the temple as references to Cambodian astronomical, calendrical, and religious concepts. Thus, for example, she identifies some distances, on the entrance bridge and outer enclosure, as referring to the Four Ages (yugas) of Hindu cosmology. The Churning of the Sea of Milk, at the Western Entrance, symbolizes the annual orbital oscillations of the sun and moon between summer and winter solstices. The third enclosure records, in its dimensions, some important events of Suryavarman's reign, and indicates that the king was symbolically bringing a new "golden age" to mankind. The upper levels of the temple represent Mt. Meru, the home of the gods and especially of Vishnu, who is the supreme deity in this temple. The measurements in this part of the temple include a mandala of the gods with lunar and solar astronomical cycles. In addition to its architectural symbolism, the temple's measurements also provide a great deal of information about the third gallery reliefs, and even help identify which gods would be represented by the (now absent!) statues that were set up in various locations in the temple. Mannikka's

book will be accessible to most interested readers, especially now that it has been issued in softcover. While the book does contain (necessarily!) a lot of long and involved calculations, it is possible for the reader to skip over the numerical details and still get a good sense of the author's interpretations and conclusions. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, scholarly, unorthodox, well written. By Arete This brilliant book looks at the organization of Angkor Wat, as well as the other monuments of the Khmer civilization in terms of mathematics, geography, and distance measurements. Extensive tables, and references to earlier French works. A valuable guide to anyone planning a study or tour of ancient Angkor. I took mine along and retraced the old French tours. Highly recommended for anyone who has an interest in archaeology, Angkor, or astronomical alignments of monuments. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Narrowly focused but compelling analysis of the great temple By Hodge Based on a University of Michigan doctoral dissertation, this book provides an astronomical/numerological interpretation of the awe-inspiring temple of Angkor Wat. I would love to have it with me at the temple on an equinox or solstice (though it is a little heavy to carry, and Cambodia is always hot). It has splendid photographs and architectural drawings and makes a convincing case that components of the temple were aligned with the sun and based on measurements and iterations of the sacred numbers of 32 and 12. Mannikka has interesting things to say about the cult of the devaraja (usually translated as god-king), Sryavarman II in particular (she believes that the unit of measurement for the temple was the distance between his elbow and outstretched fingertip: 43545 m. The book is essential for those interested in the architecture. Although well-written, it is dauntingly technical.

Bringing the principles of 12th-century Khmer temple architecture to the modern world, this text finds that the key to understanding the temple lies in the measurement system used by its original builders. By translating metres into cubits, the author uncovered a highly sophisticated system of philosophical and religious principles expressed in the temple measurements themselves. The measurements connect the temple to the stars and the cosmos, bridge the gap between human and divine realms, help unite the king and his deity - in short, they define how time, space, kingship and divinity exist inseparably from each other.

From Publishers Weekly For nearly a quarter of a century, Mannikka worked to unravel the logic and symbolism that guided construction of Angkor Wat, the famed 12th-century Hindu temple in Cambodia. Portico by galley by apartment, she links the temple's dimensions to the heavens and to Southeast Asian history. The book, a cross between doctoral dissertation and love letter, has a structure that reflects the temple-as you read the book, you figuratively walk through the building, aided by 209 illustrations (12 in color) and by Mannikka's poetic tributes to the ruin's stones and corridors. The author hopes her book will help form a general paradigm for use in analyzing other temples, but many of her techniques could apply to secular structures whose origins have been obscured by time. Mannikka's growth as a scholar is another subtext, and her honest assessment of what she had to learn to fully appreciate her subject is refreshing ("In 1972," she writes, "my knowledge of astronomy was limited to the shape of the Big Dipper"). Historians, architects and those interested in Eastern religions will compose the main audience for the book, but it is also an object lesson in how to stay with a project for the long haul despite the pressures of a hit-and-run research academy. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This balanced, thorough, and revealing study of sacred space in an environment threatened with destruction adds significantly to our knowledge of mensuration, calendar keeping, and the architectural expression of indigenous cosmological ideas in a culture about which the western world knows to little." - Anthony F. Aveni, - Russell B. Colgate Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology - Colgate University About the Author Eleanor Mannikka is curator, Visual Resources Collection, in the Department of Art History, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas.