UNIT 14

Chinese Religious Architecture

PART I

Theme Introduction

religion	originate	temple	Buddhist
lamasery	monastery	moslems	Great Mosque

Task ❶ **Look at the following pictures, and try to find the appropriate words from above to match the pictures.**

(Buddhist temple)

(Lamasery)

(Great Mosque)

(Taoist Temple)

Task ❷ **Listen to a short passage about the Chinese major religions and their architectures, and try to fill in the blanks with the words in the above word box.**

Among the five major existing *religions* in China, Taoism is the only one *originating* in China, and there are a lot of magnificent Taoist Temples. The most popular religion in China is Buddhism, and *Buddhist* architectures such as temples, *monasteries*, stupas, can be seen everywhere. *Lamaseries* are built especially for the Mongolian and

Tibetan people who believe in Lamaism. Besides, *Moslems* also have their own religious architecture, the *mosque*.

※ This part is used to let students have a rough knowledge about Chinese Religious Architectures

※ Before class, students are required to collect as more information about the Chinese Religious Architectures
as possible in any way: books, internet, newspaper, magazine, etc.

※ In class, students are free to talk about what they got about those Chinese Religious Architectures in pairs, and try to finish task 1 to get to know the 4 kinds of Chinese Religious Architectures listed.

※ Listen to the short passage, and try to finish the task 2 to get more information about Chinese major religions.

Word Bank

rectangle /ˈrektæŋgl/ *n.*	矩形
axis /ˈæksɪs/ *n.*	轴
sutra /ˈsuːtrə/ *n.*	佛经
monastic /məˈnæstɪk/ *adj.*	庙宇的
meditation /medɪˈteɪʃən/ *n.*	冥想
abbot /ˈæbət/ *n.*	大寺院住持
diplomatic /ˌdɪpləˈmætɪk/ *adj.*	外交的
eminent /ˈemɪnənt/ *adj.*	卓越的
dignitary /ˈdɪgnɪtərɪ/ *n.*	高僧
vicissitude /vɪˈsɪsɪjtuːd/ *n.*	变迁；兴衰
restoration /ˌrestəˈreɪʃən/ *n.*	复原

PART II

Listening Task

Task ❶ Now you will hear an introduction of the layout of the Buddhist temple. Try to paint the temple according to what you have

heard.

Usually Buddhist Temple is a rectangle courtyard facing south. It has a north-south central axis. All main halls are distributing along the axis and the attached buildings are distributing to the east and west of the axis. Along the axis, there are monastery gate, Tianwang Hall, Daxiong Hall, Dharma Hall, and Tripitaka Sutra pavilion. In front of Tianwang hall, bell tower and drum tower are standing to its left and right. To the east of Daxiong hall, there is Samgha-arama Hall, and to the west is Patriarch hall. Monastic dinning hall and Meditation hall are on the two sides of the Dharma Hall. Abbot courtyard is located beside the Tripitaka Sutra pavilion. Besides, there are also barn, kitchen room, bath room, and monastic reception room around the temple.

汉地佛寺的另一特点，就是有一条南北中轴线。主要建筑建在中轴线上，附属建筑则在中轴线的东西两侧。中轴线上的建筑由南往北，依次为山门、天王殿、大雄宝殿、法堂、藏经阁等。天王殿前的东西有钟楼、鼓楼对峙。大雄宝殿前的左右是伽蓝堂和祖师殿相对。法堂前左右为斋堂和禅堂。法堂后或藏经阁左右是方丈室。另有库房、厨房、客房、浴室等分布四周。大寺名刹，还另辟有五百罗汉堂。有的著名大寺院在寺院的左后侧或右后测设立戒坛，自成格局，另为一院。还有的附有塔院（又称塔林）。

Task ❷ **An Introduction**

You will hear an introduction about a famous temple in China. Some questions will be asked following this introduction. Listen carefully and complete the answer for each question.

Ok, here we are arriving at White Horse Temple. It is located 12 km away from Luoyang City. Established by the Han Dynasty in 68 AD when Buddhism started to spread, and this temple is believed to be the first Buddhist temple built by the government in China. According to historical records, Emperor Ming of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25 - 220 AD) once sent his minister with his attendants on a diplomatic mission

to western region to learn about Buddhism. After finishing study, they came back with two eminent Indian dignitary monks - She Moteng 摄摩腾 and Zhu Falan, 竺法兰 and a white horse carried the sutra and the figure of Buddha. In order to memorialize the contribution of the white horse, Emperor Ming built the the temple and named it White Horse Temple.White Horse Temple is regarded as the "originating court" and the "cradle of Chinese Buddhism" by the Buddhist disciples. Since its establishment, White Horse Temple has experienced vicissitudes of centuries. It was rebuilt for several times, in which the restoration during the reign of Emperor Wu Zetian was especially notable in its large scale. Now let's go inside and I'll introduce you more details about this famous temple.

1. Who is the speaker?

   He is a *tour guide*.

2. What is the name of the temple? Where is the temple?

   It is *theWhite Horse* temple, and it is *12* km away from *Luoyang* city.

3. Who built the temple and named it for the first time?

   Emperor *Ming* of the *Eastern Han* Dynasty.

4. What's the historic meaning of this temple?

   White Horse Temple was regarded as the *originating court* and the *cradle of Chinese Buddhism* by the Buddhist disciples.

5. When was it especially notable in its large scale?

   During the reign of Emperor *Wu Zetian*, it was especially notable in its large scale

PART III

Speaking Task

Basic styles of Tibetan Palaces and Temples

Get to know the meaning of following six architectural styles, and

match them with the proper pictures.

Teaching Steps

1. Ask some students to talk about the names of Tibetan Palaces and Temples they know. List them on the board.
2. Show the students the 6 kinds of architectural styles and five pictures of Tibetan palaces and temples,then require them to match the pictures with the architectural styles based on the name of each architectural style .
3. Explain the characteristics of 6 architectural styles briefly by using the following explanations for reference.
4. Check the choices, make corrections if necessary.
5. Arrange the students in groups and ask them to discuss the topic in the part of Oral Activity.
6. Go around the classroom to supervise the students' discussion. If necessary, give help to the students, especially the weaker ones.
7. Select some groups to make short presentation of their discussion in class.

Oral Activity:

After listening to the brief introductions of 6 architectural styles in Tibetan palaces and temples, students are required to introduce the five Tibetan palaces and temples showed in the pictures. They can use the model sentences for reference. If necessary, teacher can show them the introduction of each kind of architectural style.

※ Divide the whole class into 10 groups, every group chooses a picture to discuss.

※ In each group, choose one student be the leader of the group.

※ The leader should push each member in the group to talk out at least one characteristic of the palace or temple they get. And then the leader organizes the members to make a discussion on those Tibetan

Palaces and Temples.

※ While discussion, choose one member of each group to take notes with the main points.

※ Select more than 5 groups to present their introductions of the palaces and temples in class.

1. Architecture of Castle-Palaces Style (城堡宫殿式建筑 **)**

The architecture in the form of castles and palaces was inherited from the ancient times, best representing the regime integrating politics and religions. Having been constructed by the mountains, the resplendent palaces appear to climb the mountains level by level, lofty and majestic. It is not difficult to imagine that the had the palace built atop such a place partially as a military strategy to protect the territory and deter the intruding troops. In this sense, this palace site provides a kind of inspiration to the following generations in choosing a proper site for a palace. Tibetan castle-palaces built in recent decades are even more reflective of the integration of politics and religions, and more magnificent in scale and appearance, of which Potala Palace is most representative.

2. Architecture constructed on the Plains（平川式建筑）

This type of architecture is mostly found on the plains or in the valleys. In such an architectural complex a group of buildings surround a great hall. These constructions are topped and surfaced with gilt bronze decorations and the corbel arches feature the statues of nude and dressed human figures plus animals. In front of the great hall there is a pillar in near -Roman style; on the roof bridge there are bronze towers, up-side-down lotuses and lotus bottoms and so on, which can also be found in Indian and Nepalese temples; besides, the eaves of the great hall feature such things as semi-circus clay sculptures of the human face with the lion's body.

3. Architecture constructed against Mountains（依山式建筑）

As known to all, Tibet is commonly referred to as the "Roof of

the World", thus the mountain-reclining architecture was created by borrowing the designs of traditional castles and palaces. This style of constructions is most impressive in that the temples and palaces climb the mountains, forming a remarkable landscape, these buildings are against the mountains and close to waters, in harmony with the picturesque natural world.

4. Architecture of Garden Style（园林式建筑）

As of the 18th century, Tibet witnessed rapid development in an all-round way. With the culture spread from the Central Plains into Tibet, Tibetan castles and palaces took diversified forms and garden-style constructions emerged. These buildings great in scale and complete in ranges embody the uniqueness of Tibet. The preeminent construction of this style was Norbulingka (literally means "Jewel park"), first built in the middle of the 18th century. The 7th Dalai built the mirror halls and then grew plants courtyards, thus a serene and beautiful garden emerged; the 8th Dalai built a pond in the middle of which was erected a Lake-Heart Palace and a Dragon King Palace; the 13th Dalai built Golden Phobrang; the 14th Dalai built Tatanminqiu Phobrang whose interior decoration emanated modern charm. Thanks to the joint efforts of a few generations, today it is grand in scale covering 360,000 square meters and full of various styles of architecture.

5. Architecture of Tent Style（帐篷式建筑）

Tents prevail among the nomads on the Tibetan plateau, which accounts for the fact that the tent-shaped architecture is another basic style of Tibetan temples. Such buildings mostly situated along rivers or on slops share a similar layout with a majority of great temples in that they center on the sutra hall and the Buddhist palace where the Buddhist statues and sacrifices and so forth are enshrined. These buildings are attached by monk's living quarters, the circumambulation chapel and the like. Though small in scale and scattered, they perform comparable functions as the other temples.

6. Architecture of Pagoda-Temple Style（寺塔合一式建筑）

The pagoda-temple style well represents the temple architecture in rear Tibet region during the end of the 13th century and the mid-15th century. The temple can be found inside the pagoda or the other way round with the temple and pagoda complementing each other.

Potala Palace 布达拉宫（1）

Jokhang Temple 大昭寺（2）

Sera Monastery 色拉寺（3）

Norbulingka 罗布林卡（4）

Pelkor Chode Monastery 白居寺（5）

Model Sentences:

1. Sera Monastery is a typical monastery which is constructed against mountains.
2. This temple climbs the mountain, forming a remarkable landscape.
3. It is against the mountain and close to water, in harmony with the natural picturesque.

PART IV
Leisure Time

Enjoy the beautiful scenery of Lhasa. (视频曲目 2 03:50 — 05:02)

Get to know more about the architectural style of he world famous Potala Palace.

Standing on the Red-Hill of Lhasa, the world famous Potala Palace is under spacial protection of the state. At the beginning of December, 1994, Potala was listed to the World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. With an elevation of more than 3,700 meters, the palace occupies the area of more than 360,000 square meters and among them the construction more than 130,000 square meters. Its thirteen floors building rises 117 meters. Consisted of palace, stupa-tomb halls, Buddhist halls, scriptures hall, monks dormitory, courtyard. It is the highest and the largest castle-style complex in the world.

PART V
Additional Task

Task ❶ **Oral Practice**

Look at the two pictures, and try to describe the architectural features of the mosque.

Task ❷ **Listening practice**

Listen to a passage and fill in the blanks while listening.

Yungang *Caves*, one of China's four most famous "Buddhist Caves Art Treasure Houses", is located about sixteen kilometers west of Datong, Shanxi Province. There exists *53* caves, most of which were made during the Northern Wei Dynasty between 460 and 494 AD, and over 51, 000 stone *sculptures*. It *extends* one kilometer from east to west and can be fallen into three major groups.

The first group (including Cave 1to Cave 4) are at the eastern end, separating from others. Tours normally begin from the second group, ranging from Cave 5 to Cave 13.Yungang art *manifests* its best in this group. For example, Cave 5 contains a seated Buddha with a height of 17 meters. The rare seen Shiva Statue in Yungang with eight arms and three heads and riding on a bull is *illustrated* in Cave 8, Cave 9 and Cave 10, notable for front *pillars* and figures bearing musical instruments. The rest caves belong to the third group. Cave 14 has *eroded* severely. Cave 15 is named as the Cave of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The caves numbered from 16 to 20 are the oldest complex and each one *symbolizes* an emperor from the Northern Wei Dynasty, and the subject of "the Emperor is the Buddha" is *embodied*.