

# VISKAM

## CREATIVITY

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*Edited and Compiled*

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## THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE OF SRI LANKA

BY

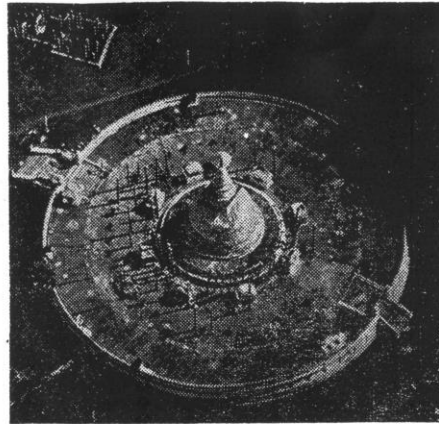
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### **Development of a national architectural tradition.**

The historical architecture of Sri Lanka has its distinctive character, its own patterns of development and a recorded history which goes back almost 2500 years. Although this architectural tradition is **specific** to this country, it also takes its place—alongside other national architectural traditions—in a complex of related cultures which extends over a wide, geo-cultural region known, especially to geographers, as “Monsoon Asia”. As its name indicates, Monsoon Asia is that large segment of the Asian continent whose climate and ecology is profoundly affected by the monsoon winds. Historically, Monsoon Asia consists of a wide belt of largely agrarian societies extending from Pakistan, India and Nepal to China, Korea, Japan and the Philippines. In effect, all the countries and societies of South, Southeast and East Asia are included in this geo-cultural and geo-historical concept. Thus, Monsoon Asia can be viewed as an immense cultural matrix from which have arisen historically a number of parallel and related cultures. All of these exhibit complex patterns of unity and differentiation—or cultural interrelation and cultural specificity. Sri Lankan architecture has its own distinctive place in this cultural complex; that is to say, like the other architectural traditions of this region, it has both its national character and its international correspondences.

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**Vatadage, Thuparamaya, Anuradhapura**



**Rock garden, Goldfish Park, Anuradhapura**