INDIANISATION AND INDIGENISATION:

A Study of Syncretism of the
Indian Culture and Indigenous Culture of Southeast Asia with
Specific References to Javanese and Balinese
Domestic and Religious Architecture

by

KHOO PECK-LI, BILLIE J.
HD982523E

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ABSTRACT

It had been acknowledged that the Indic cultural influence had left a profound legacy in the
culture of Southeast Asia. Such extensive influence could only occur if the indigenous
cultures were receptive to its ideas. Also it was unlikely that the Indic culture was accepted
in its entirety, there is a possibility that some syncretisation or appropriation of the foreign
culture had occurred.

This study attempts to examine the syncretisation and appropriation of Indic influence by
the Southeast Asia indigenous culture with specific references to the Javanese and Balinese
culture and architecture. Commonalities are first drawn between the Indic and the
indigenous cultures to demonstrate that the similarities in cultural and aesthetic beliefs.
Comparative studies of the Indian architecture and the two distinct periods of Central and
East Javanese Hindu-Buddhist temples are carried out with references to indigenous culture
to illustrate the prevalence of indigenous cosmological beliefs and aesthetic preferences.

Hopefully through this study, there could be a distillation of the architectural aesthetic that
is intrinsic to this region. This could thus point the foot forward in the direction of
architectural pursuit of Southeast Asia

Dissertation Supervisor: Dr David Chou Shiu-Lin
Title: Associate Professor