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Unveiling the Sun Temple, a Timeless Legacy Bathed in Light

D5 EDITORIAL



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Modhera, Gujarat, boasts a captivating monument – the **Sun Temple**, a dedication to the solar deity Surya. Built during the reign of the Chalukya dynasty (after 1026-27 CE) on the banks of the Pushpavati River, this temple complex is a testament to the architectural brilliance of the era. Today, it stands as a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India.

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The temple’s design is a marvel of astronomical precision. The eastern entrance serves a unique purpose: during sunrise, the first rays of the sun illuminate a gem embedded in the Sun God’s crown, bathing the inner sanctum in a divine glow.

The complex is not just a singular structure. **108 smaller temples surround the central tank**, creating a visually stunning panorama, especially during dawn and dusk.



Modern Illumination for an Ancient Marvel: [Innovative Lighting Designs Limited \(ILD\)](#) had the honour of illuminating this heritage site. Their lighting scheme carefully complements the temple’s grandeur, with credit for the design going to **Design Factory India**. The project utilized high-quality products from **Litolux**.

- **The Warmth of the Rising Sun:** Luminaires with a colour temperature of 2200K mimic the warm glow of the rising sun, highlighting the temple’s facade.
- **Gradual Illumination:** Linear grazers mounted on the peripheral wall create a subtle grazing effect on the Sabhamandapa (assembly hall) and shrine hall facades.
- **Uniformity and Accents:** Linear wall washers bathe the pavilion walls in uniform light, while strategically placed spot projectors accentuate the Shikhara (tower) and the central kund (tank) with its surrounding smaller temples. Subtle tree illumination adds a touch of depth to the scene.

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A Mesmerizing Transformation: The result is a breathtaking spectacle, especially when reflected on the still water of the kund. The strategic use of light transforms the entire complex, highlighting its architectural details and creating a captivating atmosphere that complements the temple's historical significance.



ARCHITECTURE 259

EVENTS 41

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This project exemplifies how modern lighting design can enhance our appreciation of historical monuments, allowing them to continue to inspire awe for generations to come.

Photo credit: Andre J Fanthome

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



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