

ARCHITECTURE
ACROSS
THE GLOBE
(SHORT PREVIEW)

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1) Step Well That Keeps Water Cooler

- The Chand Baori step well in Abhaneri village in eastern Rajasthan, is over 1000 years old. It is one of the oldest step wells in India and also one of the biggest in the world.
- Looking at it, the first thing that comes to mind is certainly not 'well'. This incredibly beautiful structure is thirteen stories deep.
- What lend to its aesthetic beauty are the 3500 narrow steps arranged in a perfectly symmetrical pattern descending down into the well.
- They line it on three sides and were used to climb down into the well to fetch water.
- The fourth side has a set of pavilions, niches with beautiful sculptures and religious carvings.
- The well was built during the 8th and 9th century by King Chanda of Nikumba Dynasty and supplied the surrounding areas with water for many centuries, until modern systems were introduced.
- The air at the bottom of the steps is about 5-6 degrees cooler than at the top.
- The well's geometric complexity of stairs and steps made it possible for the people in the area to have access to the water at all times.
- Step wells are unique to India.
- They are much larger than common wells and are of great architectural significance.

2) Jun Kitagawa's architectural 3D zippers in Japan

- The saying, 'when a door of opportunity closes, another window will open' seems true for Japanese artist Jun Kitagawa.
- His pop art, which includes dressed sculptures around Tokyo and wall paintings, was brought by the disappointment of a t-shirt business that didn't fly.
- Soon after using his rejected t-shirts to dress up public figures, Kitagawa was on his way to becoming an artist. He quit his job at an architectural firm and tutored under a sculptor to learn techniques using metals and clays.
- Aside from the sculptures, Kitagawa also paints.
- His recent works include paintings of giant zippers across establishments such as the Japanese garden in the Chinzanso Hotel, and a former house in Tokyo, which has already been torn down.
- One of his Zipper paintings found its way at the Roppongi Tunnel to cover numerous pieces of graffiti.
- The zippers can be found on buildings, walls, or in public bodies of water, which reveal what is beneath the surface by through their unzipped openings.
- According to Jun, the zippers convey that what we are actually seeing in this real world is just a surface and that once we peel it off; we see there's another hidden space, which is completely different from our side.
- However, not everyone finds his work amusing with some seeing it as either a prank or vandalism.

3) World's Longest and Widest Cable Bridge:

- The world's longest and widest multi-pylon cable-stayed bridge in China took seven years of construction work.
- The Jiaxing-Shaoxing Sea Bridge stretches 6.2 miles (10 kilometers) over the Hangzhou Bay, in Shaoxing, China.
- It is mainly supported by two cable-towers, both of which reach 745 feet in the air, and has a main body stretching 2,560 feet wide.
- **Big Stretch:** The bridge crosses Hangzhou Bay and starts from the front part of Maqing Road in Haican district in Xiamen and ends at Houzhai, Longhai in Zhangzhou.
- **Long cross:** Jiaxing-Shaoxing Sea Bridge is the world's longest and widest cable-stayed bridge and stretches so far in the distance the end disappears in the midst. The high speed bridge is designed for vehicles travelling exclusively above 60kmph and pedestrians, motorbikes and cars with a maximum speed below 45kmph are not allowed to cross. The cable-stayed bridge has one of more towers where the cables are attached to support the bridge's deck.
 - Before this bridge, China already had three bridges in the top ten of largest cable-stayed bridges.
 - The top position was held by the Russky Bridge, in Vladivostok, Russia

4) Man Made Wonders : Dole Plantation Maze, Hawaii

- In 2008, Dole Plantation's giant Pineapple Garden Maze was declared the world's largest maze.
- The maze stretches over three acres and includes nearly two and one-half miles of paths crafted from 14,000 colorful Hawaiian plants.
- Walk through the flora of the islands as you seek out eight secret stations that each led you closer to the mystery at the heart of this larger-than-life labyrinth, one of only a handful of permanent botanical mazes in America.
- The fastest finishers win a prize and enter into the history of Dole Plantation, with their names recorded on a sign at the maze's entrance.
- The self-guided Plantation Garden Tour illuminates more than eight gardens diverse with coffee plants to cocoa pods.

5) A Trip to Galtaji Temple:

- Nicknamed as the Jewel of Jaipur, the Galtaji temple is located in Galtaji, about 10 km away from Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The temple is also called the 'Monkey Temple' owing to the large number of monkeys who dwell here.
- It was built in the 18th century by Diwan Rao Kriparam, a courtier of King Sawai Jai Singh II.

- The main temple is built in pink stone and features rounded roofs, carved pillars, and painted walls which depict the scenes from Lord Krishna's life.
- The temple complex looks more like a palace or Haveli than a shrine.
- It has several temples and is especially famous for its water tanks (kunds) in which the pilgrims bathe.
- There are in all 7 kunds, out of which the Galta Kund is supposed to be the holiest one.
 - **Timings:** 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (all days of the week)
 - **Festivals:** Makar Sankranti (mid-January), Elephant Festival (March)
 - **Nearby:** Hawa Mahal, Albert Hall Museum, City Palace, Sisodia Rani Ka Bagh, Amer Fort, Birla Mandir, Jal Mahal