

**A) IDENTIFICATION**

Nomination : Borobudur Temple Compound  
Location : Province of Central Java  
State party : Indonesia  
Date : 28 September 1990

**B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION**

That this cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria I and IV.

**C) ICOMOS OBSERVATIONS**

The World Heritage Bureau recommended inscription of Borobudur in its June 1991 meeting if the Prambanan Temple Compound, itself worthy of inscription, could be separately nominated.

A separate nomination for Prambanan was submitted in October 1991, permitting Borobudur to be considered in isolation.

ICOMOS confirms its original feelings for the high universal value of the site.

**D) BACKGROUND**

Borobudur is one of the greatest Buddhist monuments in the world. Founded by a king of the Saliendra dynasty, it was built circa 800 to honor the glory of both Buddha and its founder, a true king bodhisattva. A harmonious marriage of stupas, temple- mountain and the ritual diagram, this temple complex was built on several levels around a hill which forms a natural center.

The first level above the base comprises five square terraces, gradating in size and forming the base of a pyramid. Above this level are three concentric circular platforms crowned by the main stupa. Stairways provide access to this monumental stupa.

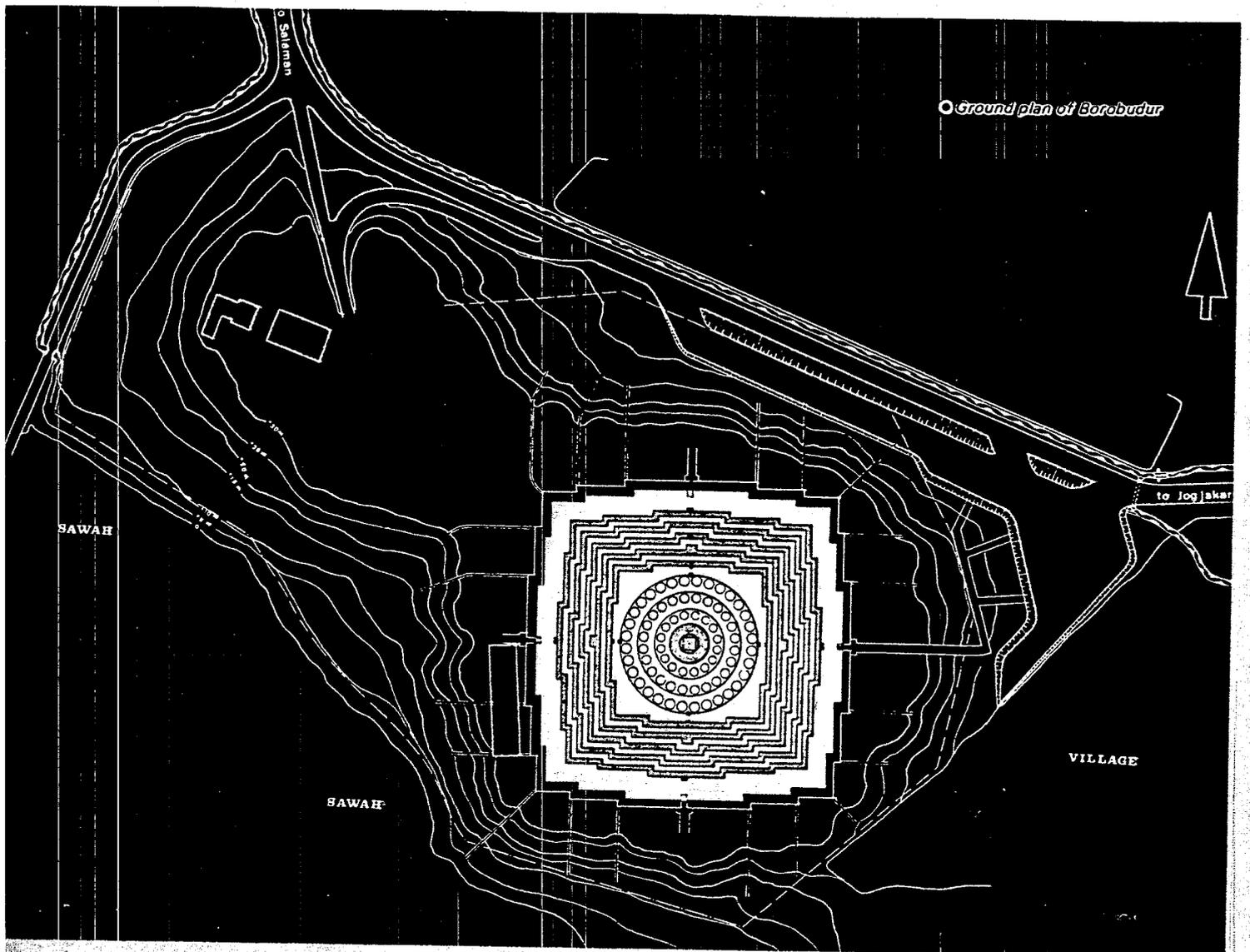
The base and the balustrades enclosing the square terraces are decorated in reliefs sculpted in the stone. They illustrate the different phases of the soul's progression toward redemption and episodes from the life of Buddha. The circular terraces are decorated with no fewer than 72 openwork stupas each containing a statue of Buddha. Stylistically the art of Borobudur is a tributary of Indian influences (Gupta and post-Gupta styles).

Abandoned around the year 1000, the temple was gradually overgrown with vegetation. It was not rediscovered until the 19th century. A first restoration campaign, supervised by Theodor van Erp, was undertaken shortly after the turn of the century. A second one was led more recently (1973-1982) by Unesco. Since then, the management of the site has been monitored by Indonesian and Japanese experts.

The Buddhist temples at Pawan and Mendut are much more modest edifices associated with Borobudur, and comprise part of the site nominated.

- **Criterion I.** Borobudur is a principal monument of the Buddhist patrimony.
- **Criterion IV.** The complex forms a characteristic ensemble of Buddhist art in Java.

ICOMOS, November 1991



Borobudur : plan du site /  
map of the site