

# World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: November 3, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: Hindu Traditions in the Contemporary Era

## Teaching Module Goals:

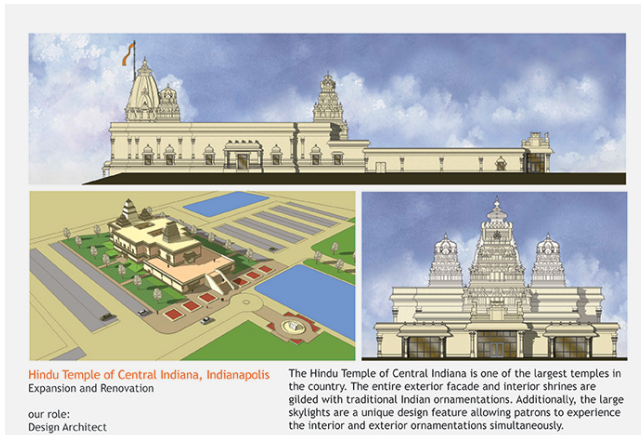
1. Discuss reading on Swami Vivekananda and the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893.
2. Screen documentary on construction of the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana in Indianapolis.
3. Familiarize students with contemporary Bombay born artist Anish Kapoor with specific reflection on his public sculpture *Cloud Gate* in Chicago's Millennium Park.

## Assigned Reading and Videos:

1. Mann, Numrich & Williams, *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America*, emphasis on pages 60-61.
2. *The Temple Makers*, PBS, WFYI, 2016, 1 hour: <http://www.wfyi.org/programs/temple-makers/television/the-temple-makers>
3. *Cloud Gate* by Anish Kapoor, 2 minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOfwsy5kxyl>

## Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What was Vivekananda's primary message at the World Parliament of Religions in 1893?
2. After screening the film *The Temple Makers* what are some of the goals, themes, and challenges in building the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana? What decisions were made so that all Hindus feel welcome?
3. Anish Kapoor often relies on tenets of Hinduism in his art and says that "The experience of opposites allows for the expression of wholeness." Primal dualities that are one, such as the linga and yoni, are important to Indian culture, and *Cloud Gate* represents both the male and female in one entity by symbolizing both the vagina and testicles. Thus, it can be said to represent tension and balance between the masculine and the feminine. What are your opinions of this sculpture?



Hindu Temple of Central Indiana, 2015

*Cloud Gate*, 2006