



The Temples of Mangyu

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Mangyu monastic-area

Among the structures attributable to the periode relevant to this study are two small assembly halls ('du-khang), one dedicated to Vairocana (Vairocana Temple), the other one with a painted Sakyamuni as its original main image (Sakyamuni Temple) but today named after the sculpture of a much later eleven-headed Avalokitesvara.

These rather small assembly halls are flanked by two high chapels with large images of Bodhisattva Maitreya which are iconographically and stylistically different.

The chapel to the side of the Vairocana Temple is considerably smaller than the one on the other side of the temples.

To the left of these structures is a chörten (mchod-rten) of the Alchi type that is also of an early date.

Further up, situated on the slope of the hill and hidden behind some village houses, is another beautifully decorated chörten, the only one in the group containing images and therefore called the Four-Image.

Text: "Buddhist Sculpture in Clay"
Christian Luczanits
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Fotos: Heinrich Pöll

