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Acknowledgements

My wish to research the relationship between Ancient Javanese architecture and its natural environment is probably born in 1993. That summer, I made a trip to Indonesia to complete the writing of my BA dissertation. There, on the upper slopes of the ever-clouded Ungaran volcano, looking at the sulfurous spring that runs between the shrines of Gedong Songo, I experienced the genius loci of Central Javanese architects.

After my BA, I did many things and had many jobs, not all of them being archaeology-related. Nevertheless, when I finally arrived in Leiden to enroll as a PhD student, the subject naturally imposed itself upon me. Here is the result, a thesis exploring the notion of space in ancient Central Java, from the lay-out of the temple plan to the interrelationship between built and natural landscape.

I would like to thank all those who accompanied me along this path, family members, friends, colleagues and scholars. My first thought goes to my partner, Olivier Merveille, who witnessed my enlightenment at Gedong Songo and kicked me every time I was tempted to give up. To my two little girls, Leïla and Shanti who made things a bit more complicated, especially once they found the on/off button of my computer, but brought so much joy in my life.

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Spelling

Sanskrit words, personal names, and place names, when they occur in an Indian context have been transliterated according to Monier Williams’ system, with the difference that $ri$, $s$ and $sh$ are transliterated $r$, $s$ and $s$ (Monier Williams 1974).

Sanskrit and Old Javanese words, personal names and place names, when they occur in Old Javanese context, have been transliterated according to the spelling system used by Zoetmulder in his *Old Javanese-English Dictionary* (Zoetmulder 1982).

Indonesian words, personal names and place names are written in accordance with modern Indonesian spelling, except for names of authors, which are spelled as they are found in the respective publications.

Finally, for site names, I have retained the spelling used in the lists given to me by the Indonesian Centre for Preservation of Historical Heritage (Unit Pelaksana Teknis Balai Pelestarian Peninggalan Purbakala), without an attempt to standardize it. Thus, one will read *Arjuna* (with a), but *Loro Jonggrang* (with o’s).
Note on the plans

All plans are mine, except where a specific source is mentioned. The reader should nevertheless be aware that they are not archaeological plans and that they have been drawn to fit the format of the present book.

Plans presented here are architectural reconstruction: they do not include deformations undergone by the structures. Furthermore, given the number of temples covered, I had to develop a method of quick drawing, which means that not all the components of the plan have been measured. For each temple, dimensions of the base (at original ground level), the edge of the platform, the temple body (at the base of the foot) and the cella have been measured on the four sides. Other parts have been measured on one side only (usually the southern side, except if its state of preservation was not sufficient). Complementary measurements have been taken on the other sides only when necessary.

For plans of large religious complexes – namely Loro Jonggrang, Plaosan, and Sewu – I have used plans of the Indonesian Centre for Preservation of Historical Heritage as background, but details of the shrines are mine.