

# The Alchi Sumtsek - a Jewel Endangered?

Symposium: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 4-6 p.m.  
Faculty Room South, DHT

\*Archaeology \* Architecture \* Asian Studies \* Energy Systems \*  
\*Environmental Change & Sustainability \* Heritage International \*  
\*History of Art \* Religious Studies \* Structural Engineering \*

Alchi in Ladakh is one of only four surviving monasteries of the 108 founded by the Great Translator, Lotsava Rinchen bZangpo in the late 10<sup>th</sup>/early 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, at the instigation of the royal monk Yeshes Od of Tibet. In its unique murals and iconography it preserves some of the finest examples of Kashmiri art of the period. The three-storied temple or Sumtsek is a fragile wooden structure soon to be dwarfed by the 57m high dam of the proposed Nimu-Basgo hydroelectric scheme on the Indus nearby. Structural Engineers from Edinburgh are collaborating with the Indian heritage organisation Intach to study the construction and vulnerability of the Sumtsek. This symposium will bring the art, architecture and religious heritage of Alchi to a wider audience.

The Alchi Gompa: origins and history

The Architecture of the Sumtsek

Structural modelling of the Sumtsek

What price sustainable energy?

The Nimu - Basgo Hydroelectric Scheme

An evocation of shrines and palaces: the robe of Avalokitesvara in the Sumtsek



Presenters: Colin Pritchard, Tim Stratford,  
Craig Torrance, James Lewis

Wine and nibbles will follow!

*Support from the following is gratefully  
acknowledged:*

The University of Edinburgh Development Trust  
The College of Science and Engineering  
The International Association for Ladakh Studies

<http://www.see.ed.ac.uk/~s9901467/>  
Contact: colin.pritchard@ed.ac.uk