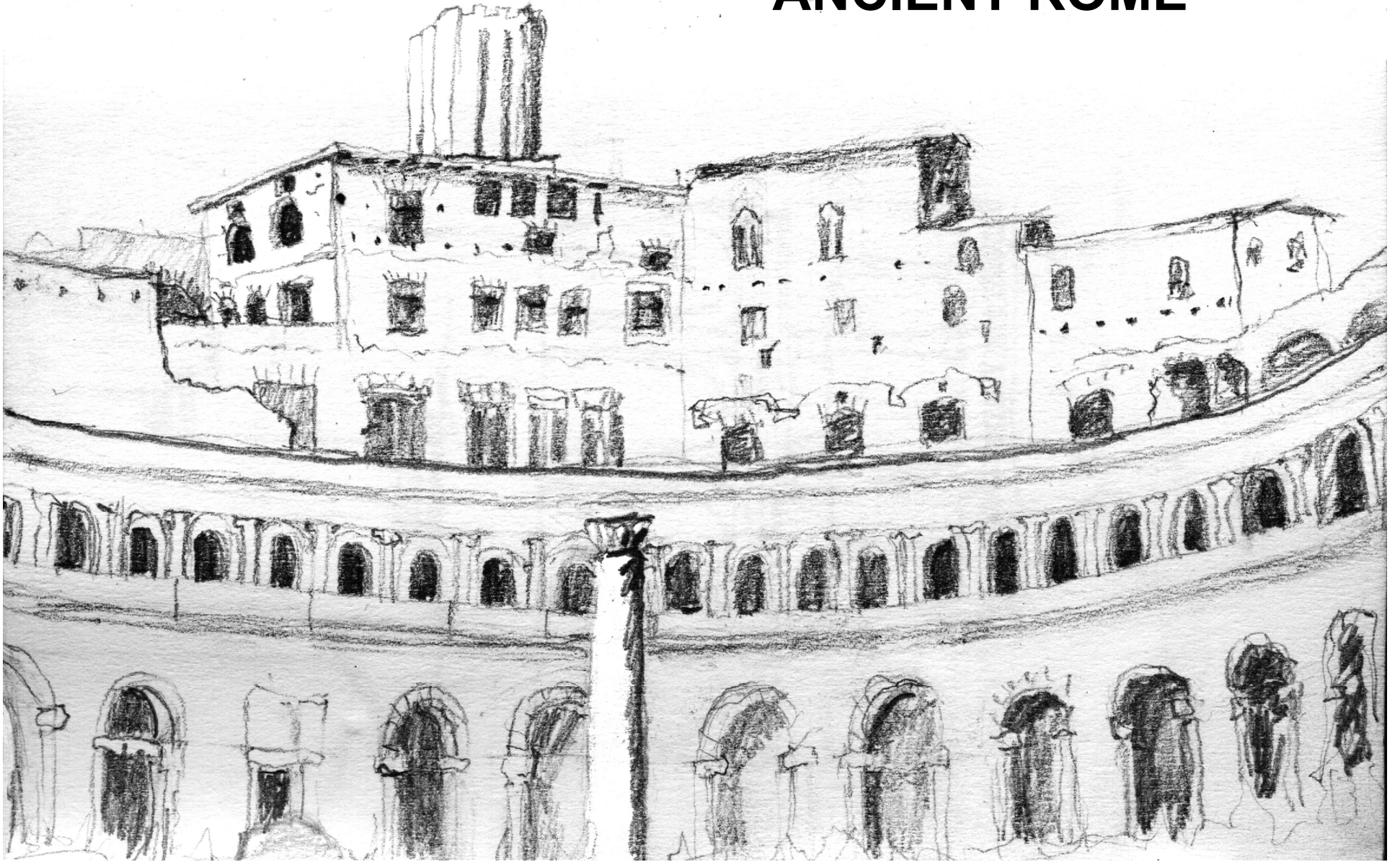


# ANCIENT ROME



Trajan's Market  
Alexander Aptekar

# ARCH 1121 - HISTORY OF WORLD ARCHITECTURE TO 1900

## Ancient Rome

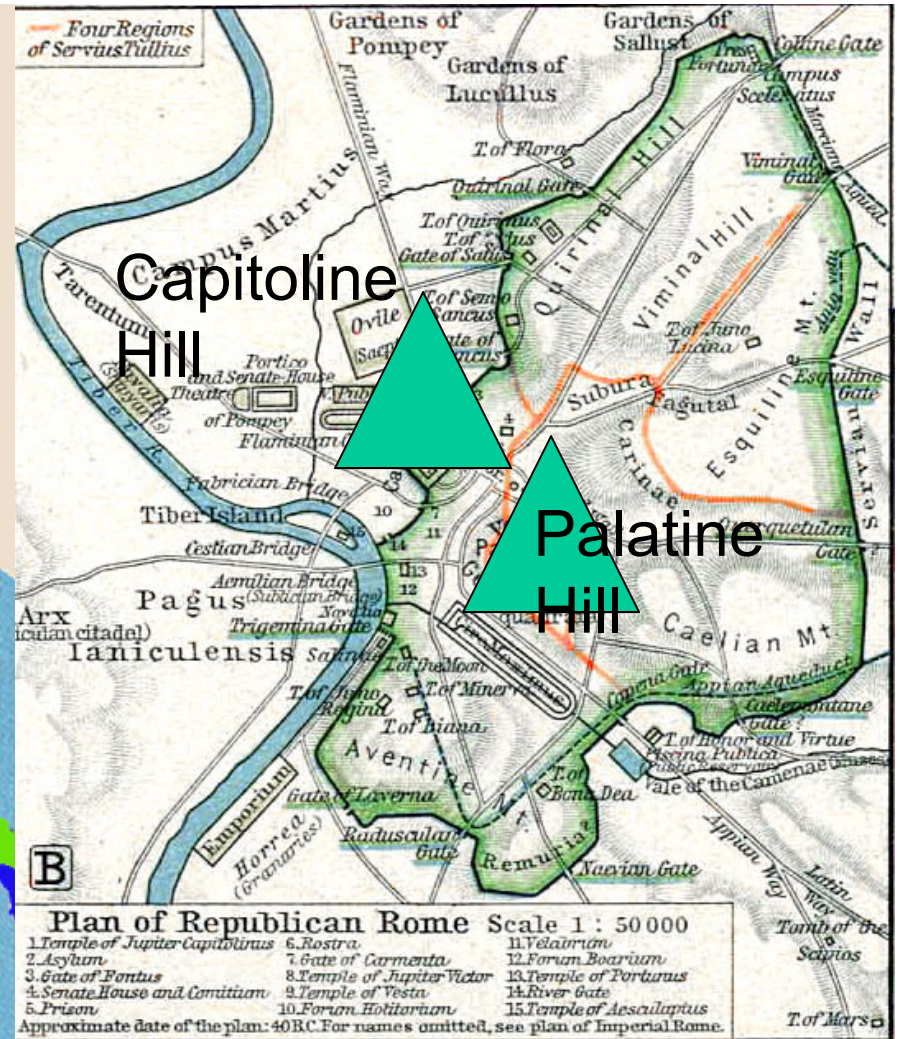
Professor: Shelley E Smith, PhD  
email: [ssmith@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:ssmith@citytech.cuny.edu)

### Course Overview:

- What is architecture? What is history?
- Prehistoric, Mesopotamia, Egypt
- Early Aegean, Greece
- India & Southeast Asia, China & Japan
- **Rome**, Early Christian & Byzantine, Islamic
- Early Medieval, Romanesque, Gothic
- The Pre-Columbian Americas, Africa
- The Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo in Europe
- 18th Century & Neo-Classicism in Europe & America

# Rome circa 500 BC

University of Texas at Austin.  
Historical Atlas by William Shepherd (1923-26).



- Roman (Latin league)
- Greeks
- Italic
- Carthaginians
- Etruscans
- Gauls

# Ancient Rome: the Master Builders



# Ancient Roman Architecture

Heavily influenced by Greek and Etruscan predecessors

Greek Archaic & Classical Periods: 700-500 BCE & 479-323 BCE

Etruscans: beginning c. 800 BCE, height of power c. 550 BCE

## Dates in Roman History

founding of the city of Rome: 753 BCE

Roman monarchy: 753-509 BCE

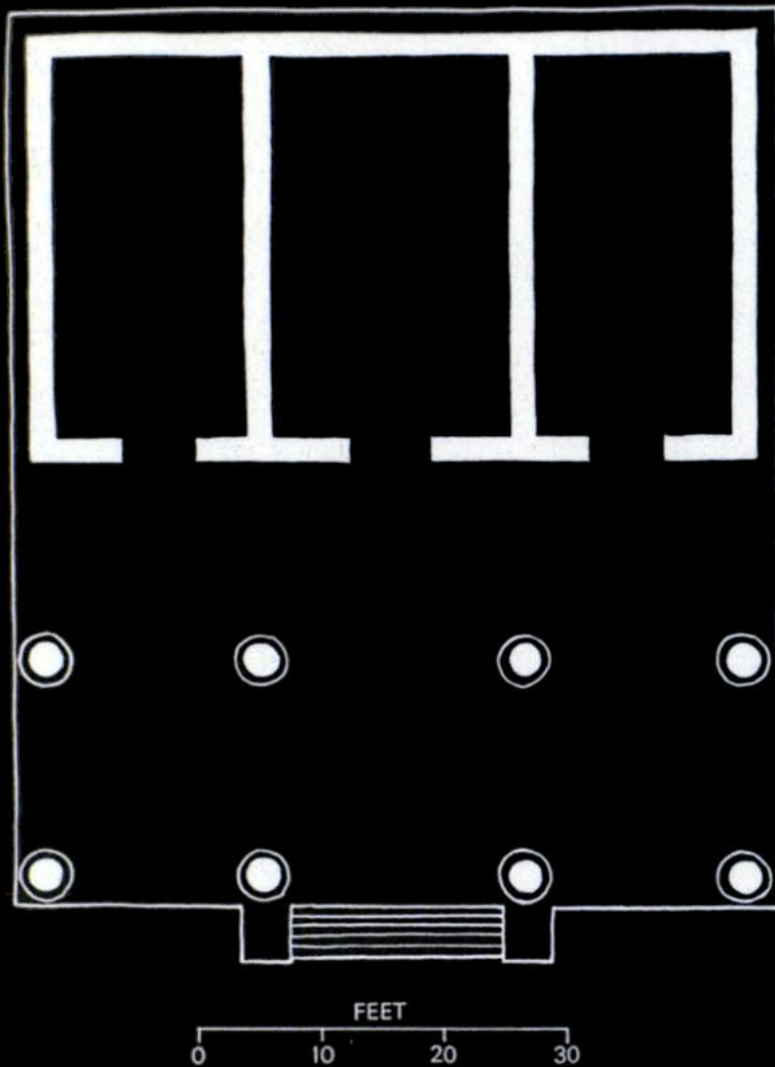
Roman Republic: 509-27 BCE

reign of Augustus Caesar: 27 BCE – 14 CE

Roman Empire: 27 BCE – 476 CE

# Etruscan Temple: c. 500 BCE

[generalized plan and elevations after descriptions by Vitruvius]



# Portonaccio Temple Model :

c. 500 BCE



# Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia 1st Century CE





# Burial Chamber, Tomb of the Bas-Reliefs: Cerveteri, Italy



# Imperio Romano en 120 d. C.



# Romans: Master Builders and Engineers



Bold and imaginative use of materials and construction techniques

- Highly developed use of concrete
- Extensive use of arches, vaults, domes



Public infrastructure

- Roads and bridges
- Aqueducts to provide water for plumbing



Large structures for diverse public uses in urban environments – fora, baths, theaters, basilicas, markets, triumphal arches, temples



New orders – Composite and Tuscan; continued use of Corinthian; pilasters

Awe inspiring interior spaces



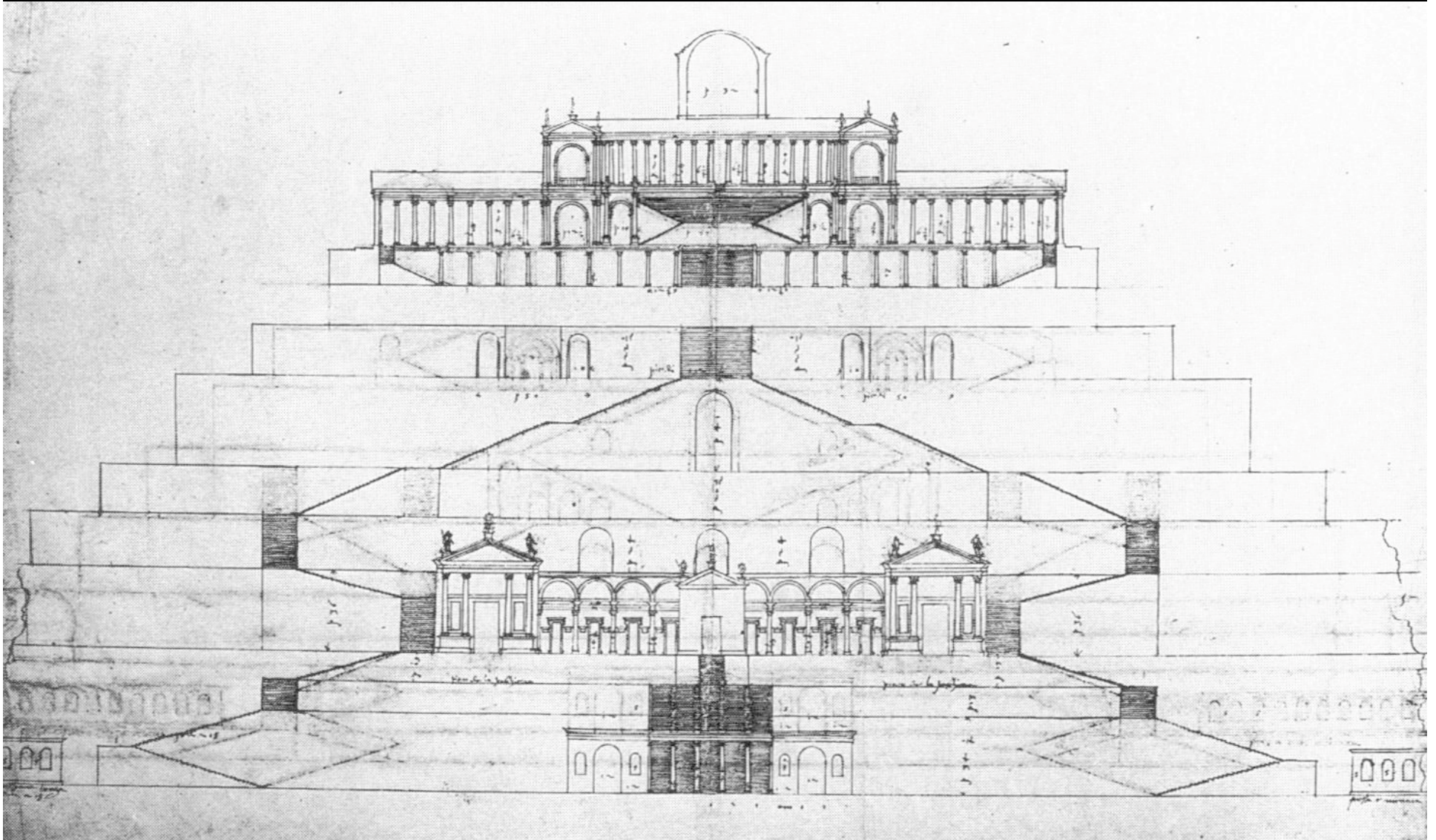
# Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia: 82 BCE



# Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia: 82 BCE

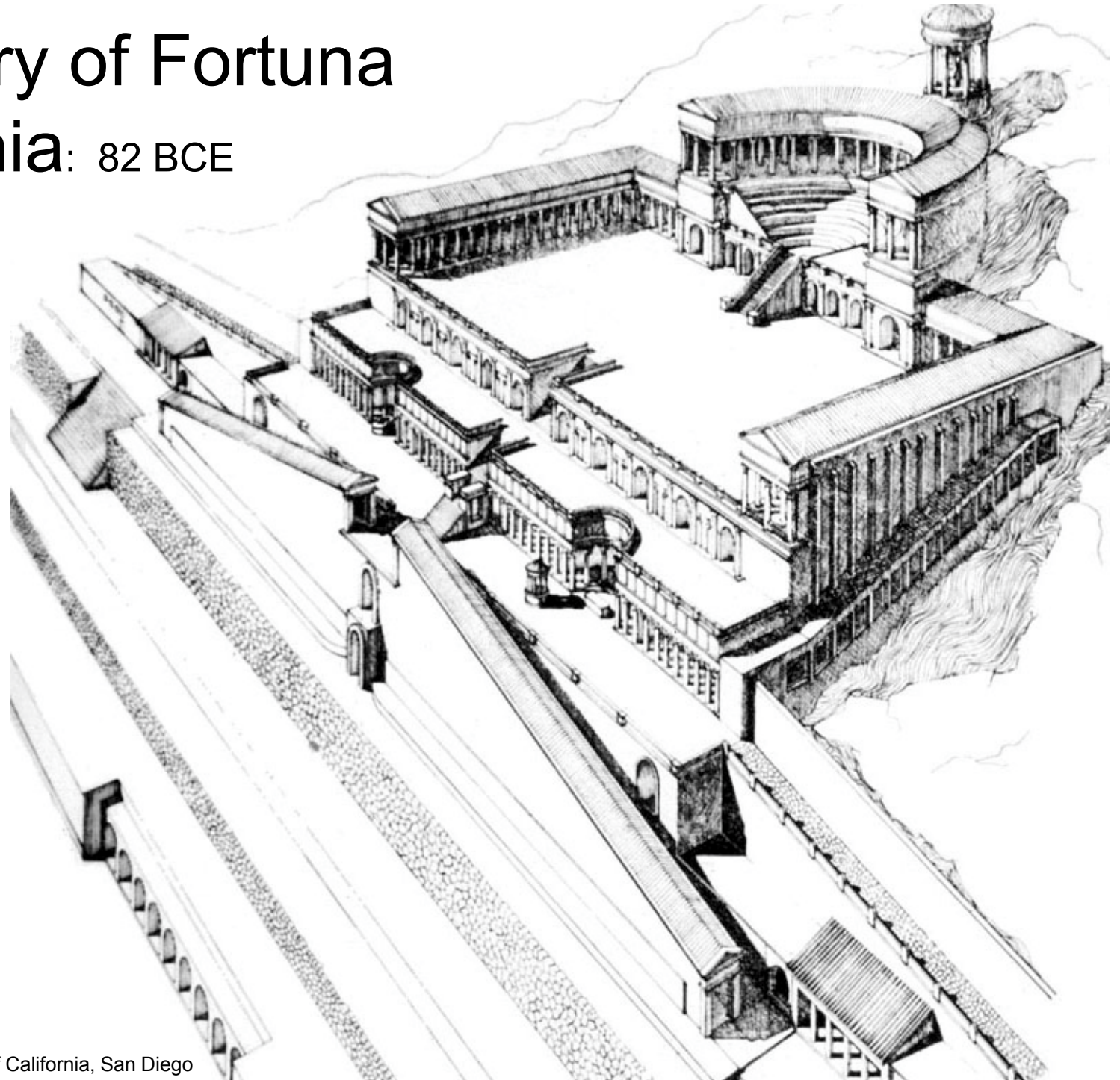


# Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia: 82 BCE



Reconstruction of the temple of the Fortuna Primigenia by Palladio.

# Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia: 82 BCE



# Acropolis, Athens Greece 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE



Giro P. Chastnaja i obwestvennaja zhizn' grekov. Petrograd. Izdanie t-va O. N. Popovoj, 1915, inset between pp. 384—385.



# Acropolis, Athens Greece:

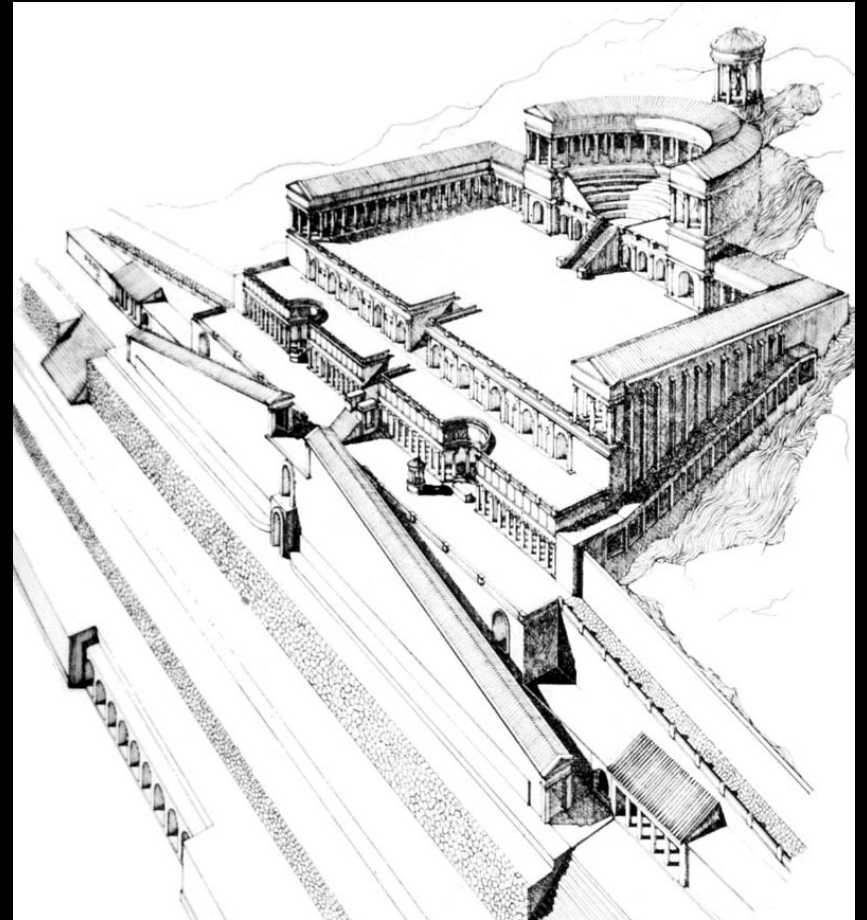
5<sup>th</sup> century BCE



Giro P. *Chastnaja i obwestvennaja zhizn' grekov*. Petrograd. Izdanie t-va O. N. Popovoj, 1915, inset between pp. 384—385.

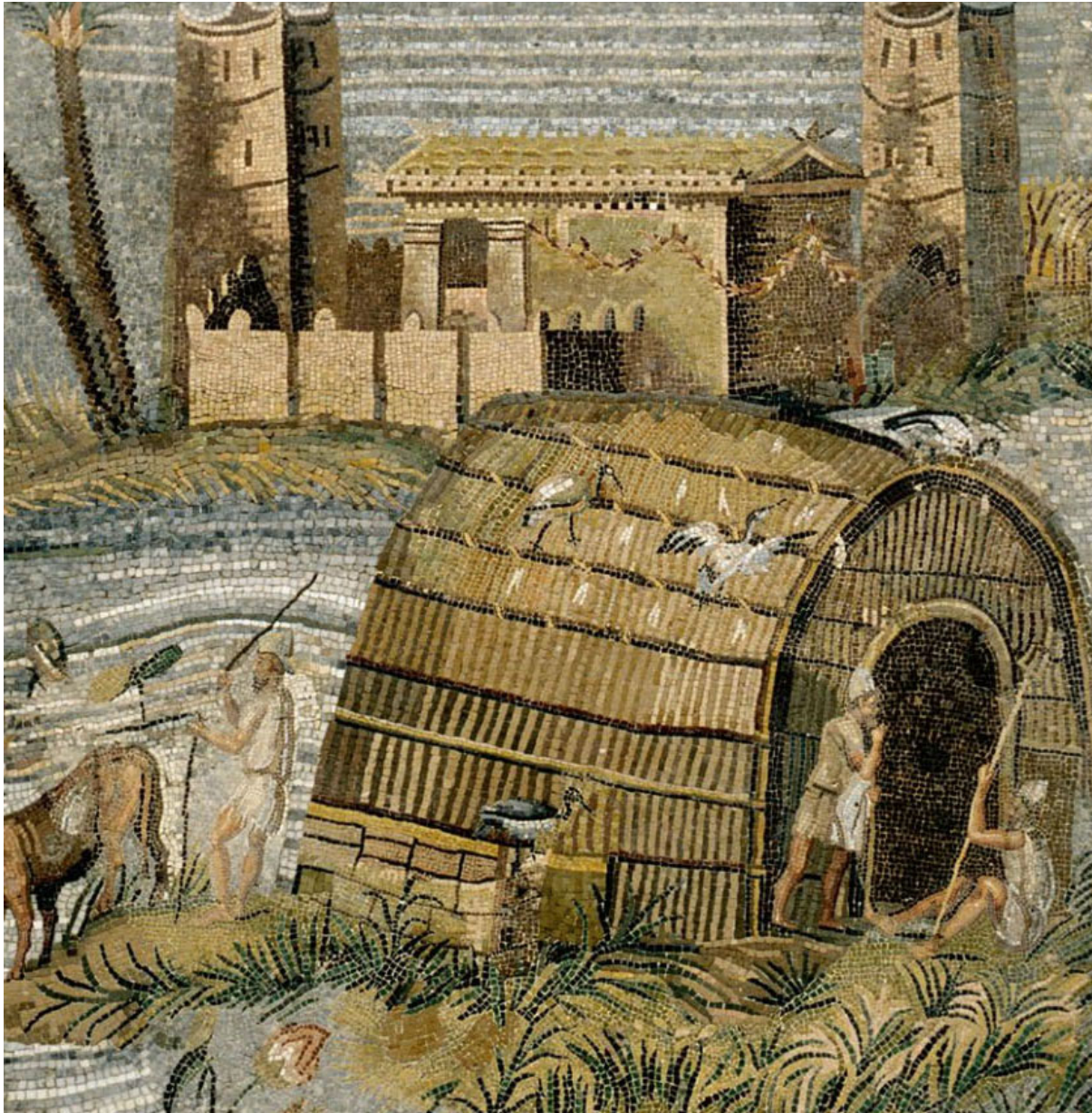
# Sanctuary of Fortuna

Primigenia: 82 BCE



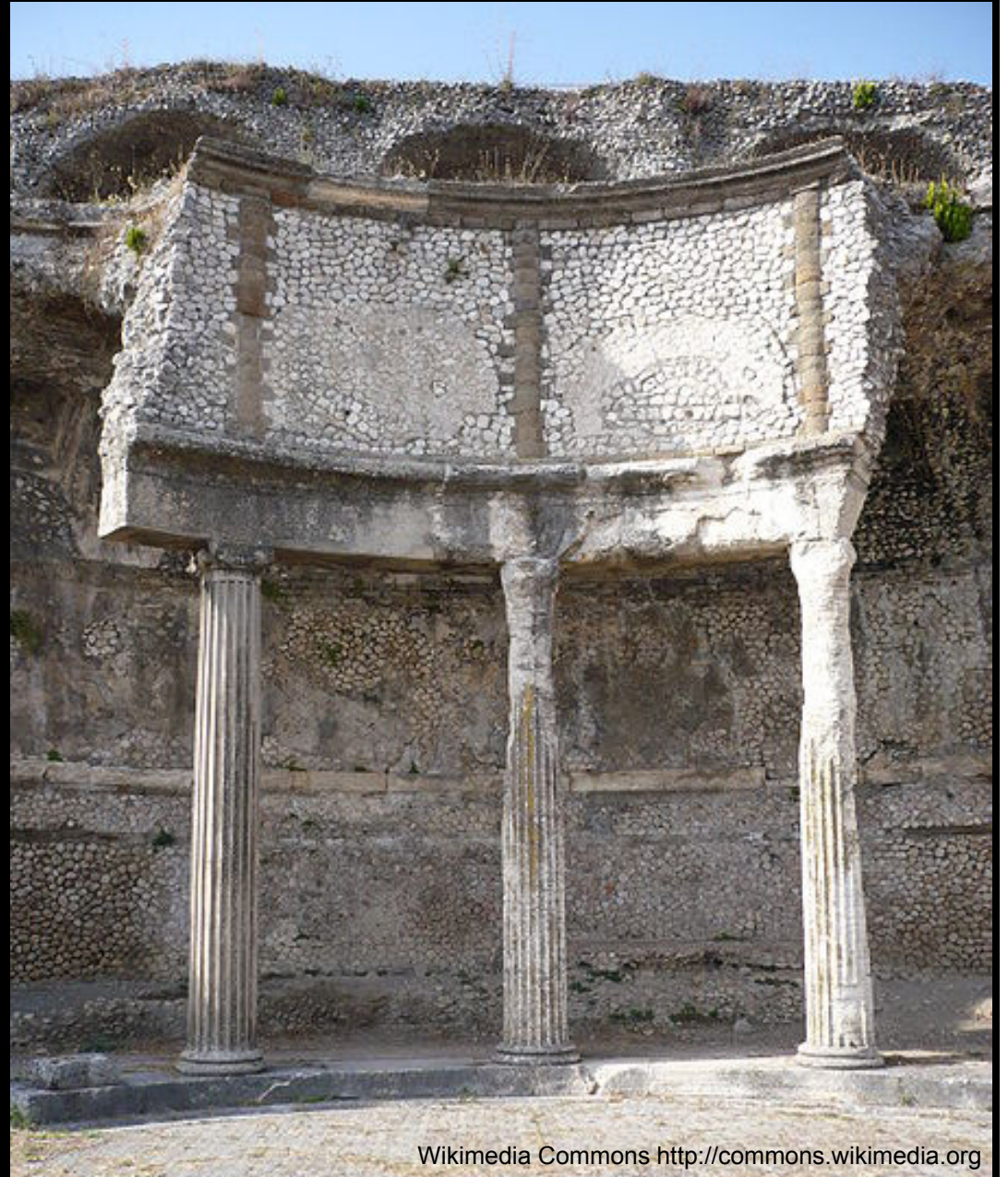
ARTstor Collection: University of California, San Diego

# Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia: 82 BCE



Boschetti, Cristina. (2011). Vitreous Materials in Early Mosaics in Italy: Faience, Egyptian Blue, and Glass. *Journal of Glass Studies*. 53. 59-91.

# Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia: 82 BCE

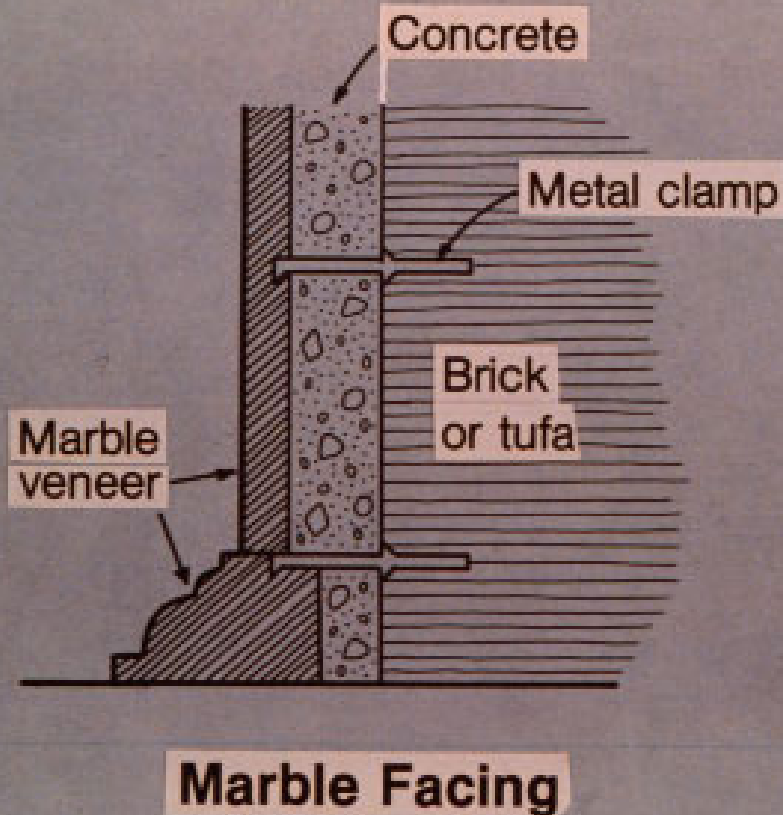


# Concrete:

A stiff mixture of aggregate (sand, gravel), binder, and water

Poured into wood or brick forms –strong, waterproof, monolithic

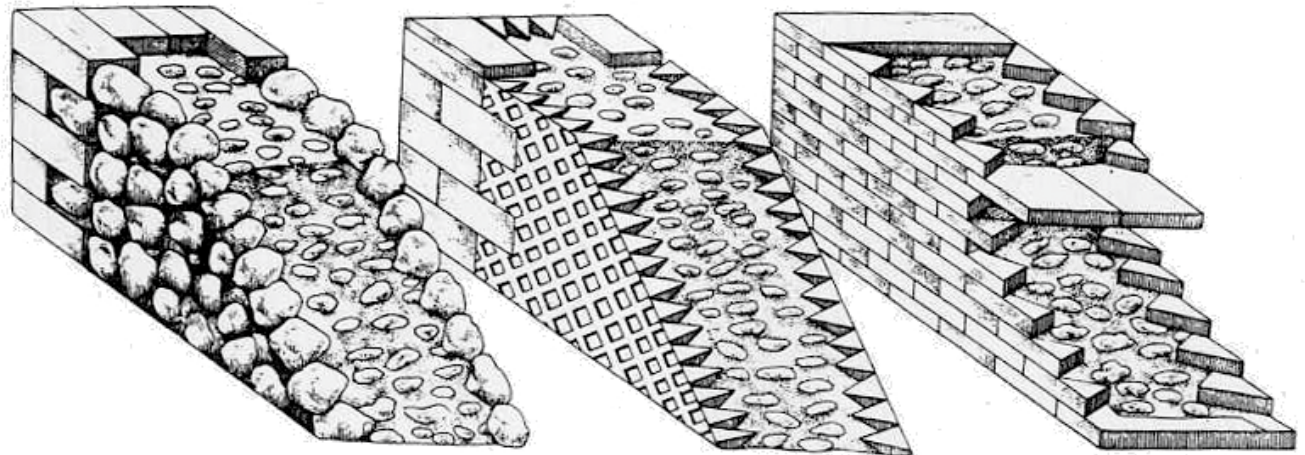
Covered with brick or marble veneer, or a decorative stucco





1.

1. Opus Caementicium



2.

3.

4.

Norwich - *Great Architecture of the World*

2. Opus Incertum

3. Opus Reticulatum

4. Opus Testaceum



2.



3.



4.

# Concrete: mix of aggregate, binder & water

- Aggregate is “filler” – can be sand, gravel, pieces of brick or stone, etc.
- Binder is a substance that “sets” (hardens) after being mixed with water – can be clay, lime, gypsum, Portland cement, pozzolana

## Opus Caementicium = Roman concrete

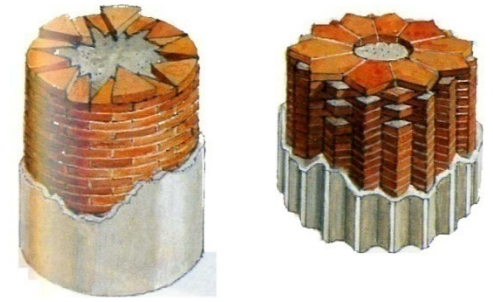
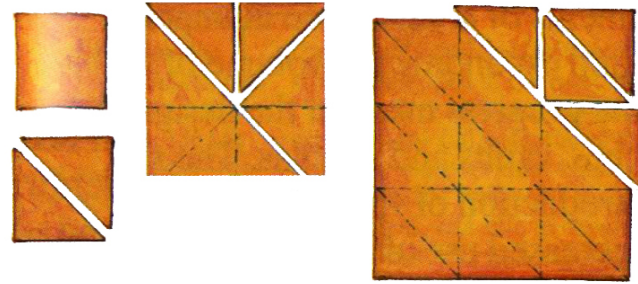
- Pozzolana, a type of volcanic ash found in central Italy
- Roman concrete used lime mixed with pozzolana as a binder; it set to an extremely hard concrete, even under water, and is resistant to cracking and durable even in salt water

## Opus Incertum = rough stones surrounding a concrete core

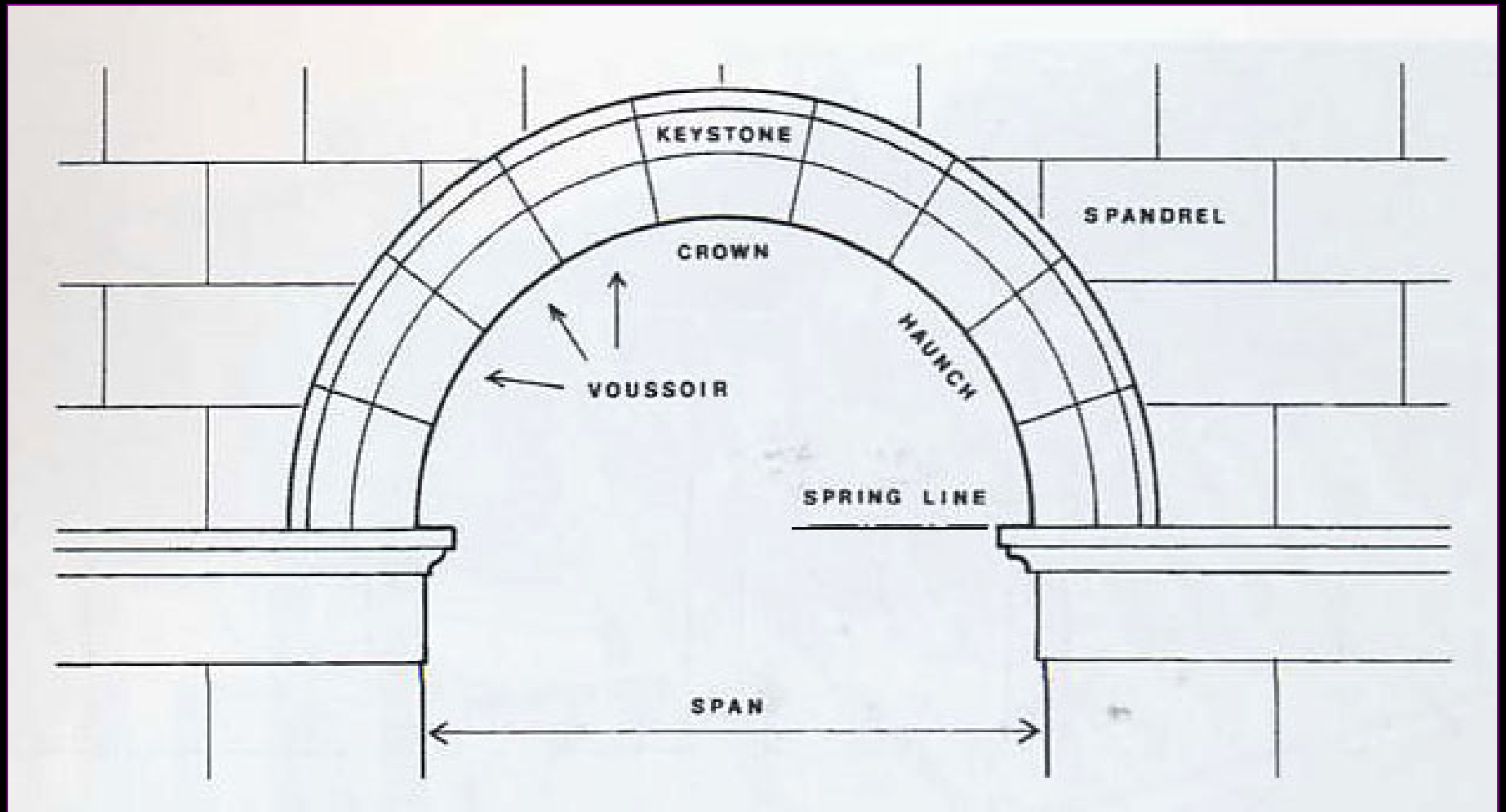
Opus Reticulatum = pyramidal stones with square faces surrounding a concrete core, smooth faces set in a diagonal pattern, with pyramid points imbedded in the concrete core

Opus Testaceum = triangular bricks surrounding a concrete core, laid flat with points imbedded in the concrete core

Opus Testaceum  
triangular bricks  
surrounding a  
concrete core



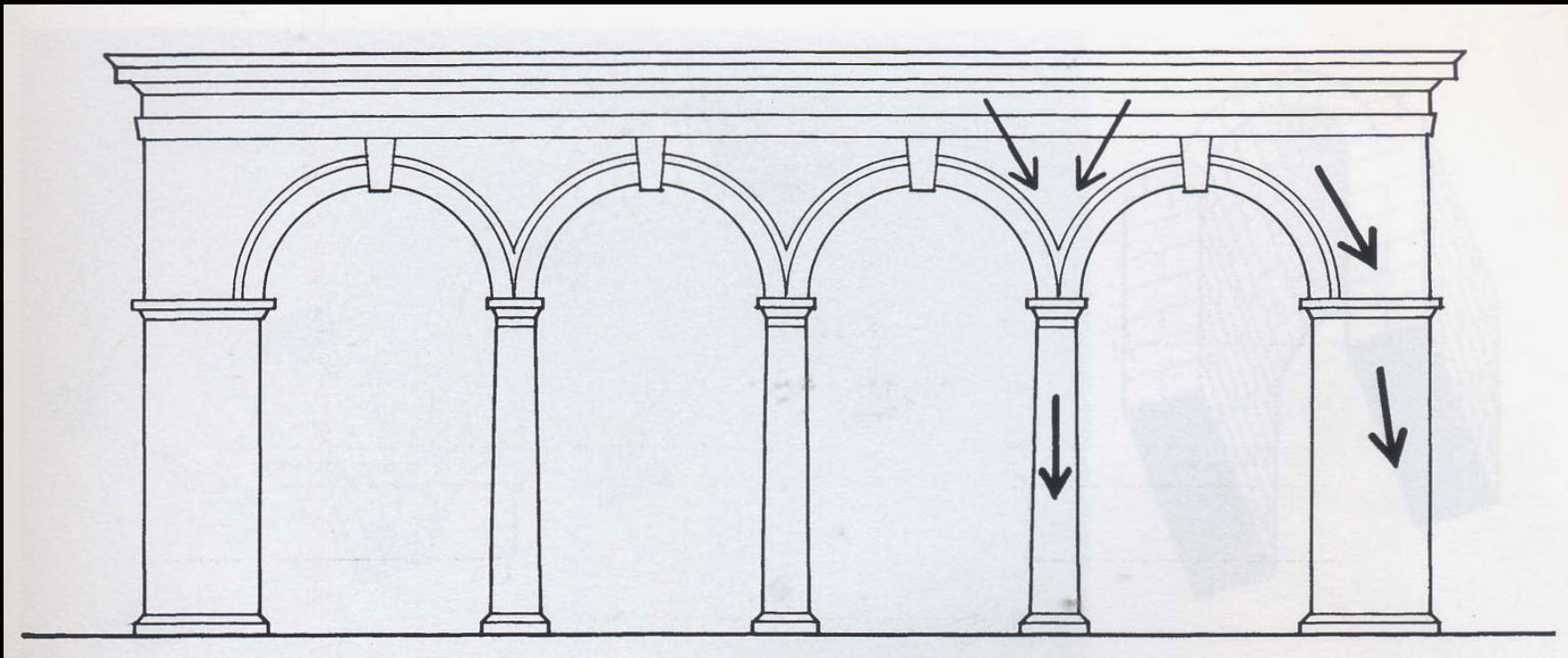
# The Arch: Terminology



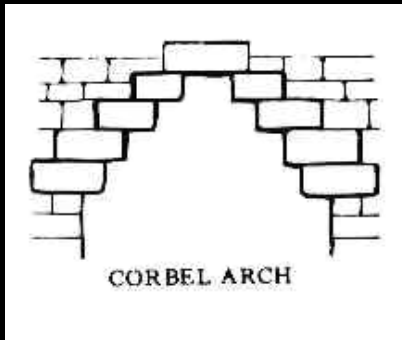
Roth, Leland M., *Understanding Architecture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2007.



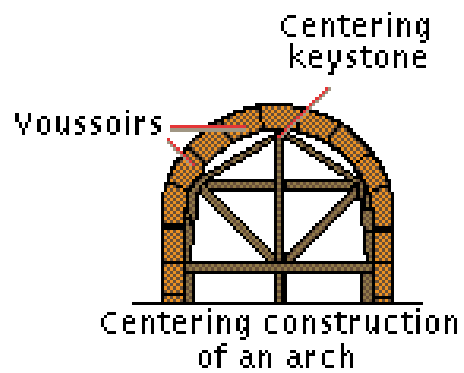
# Arcade: A series of arches



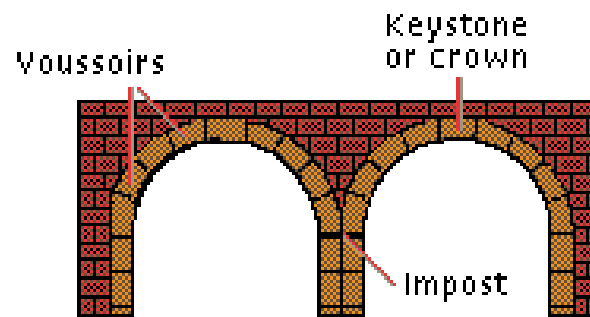
Roth, Leland M., *Understanding Architecture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2007.



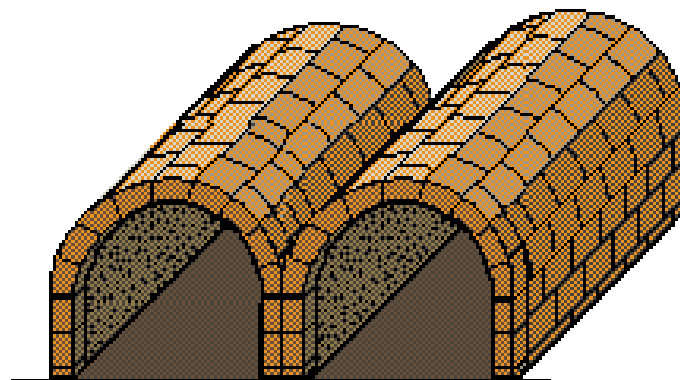
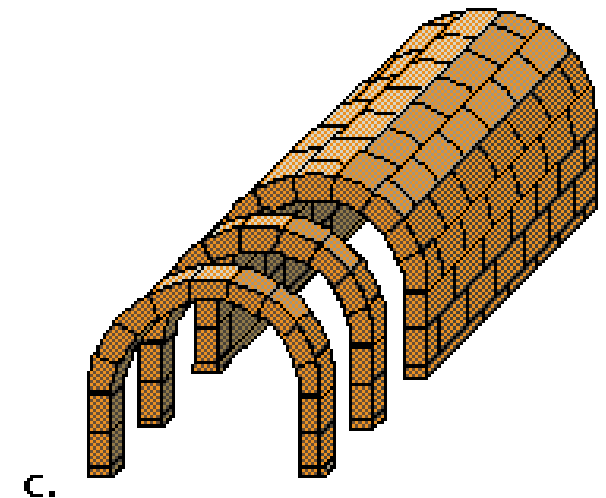
# Forms of arches and vaults:



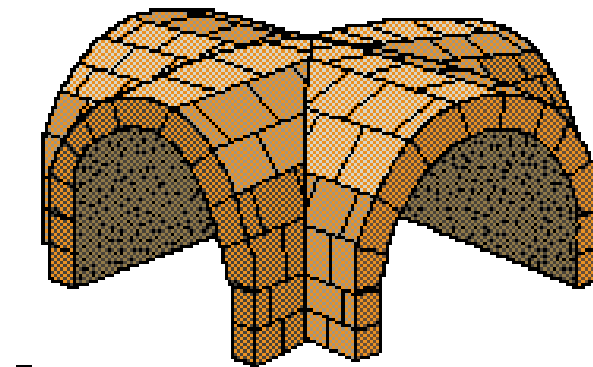
A.



B.



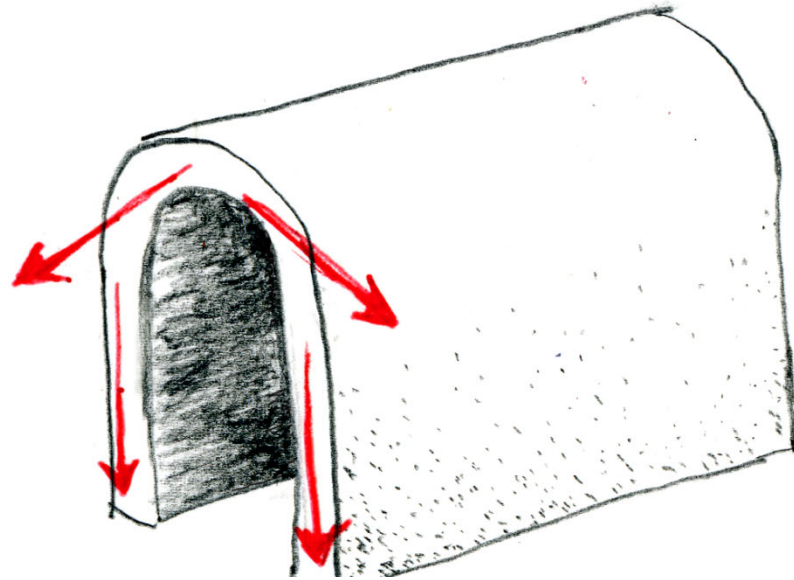
Barrel vault



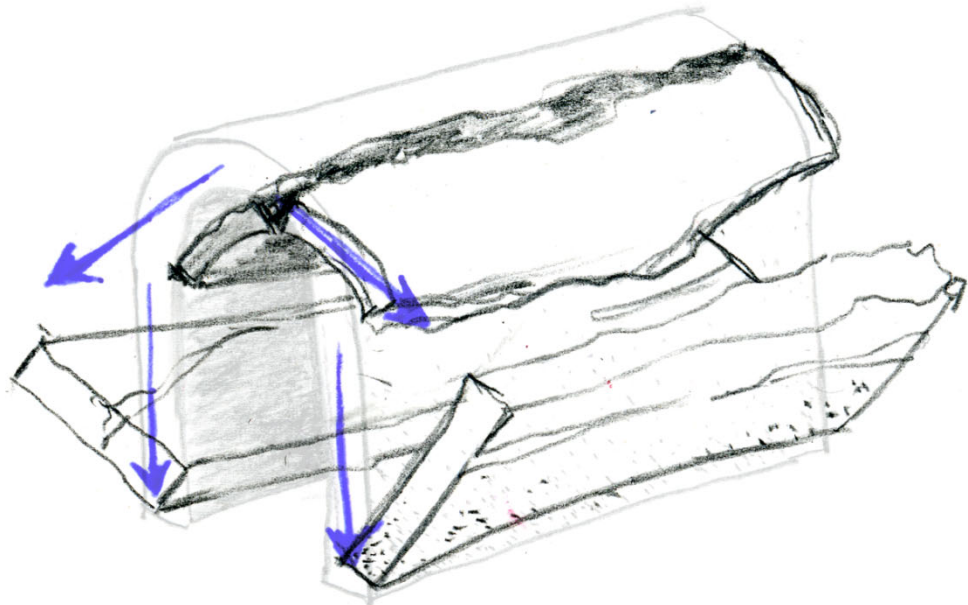
Cross (groin) vault

# Barrel Vault

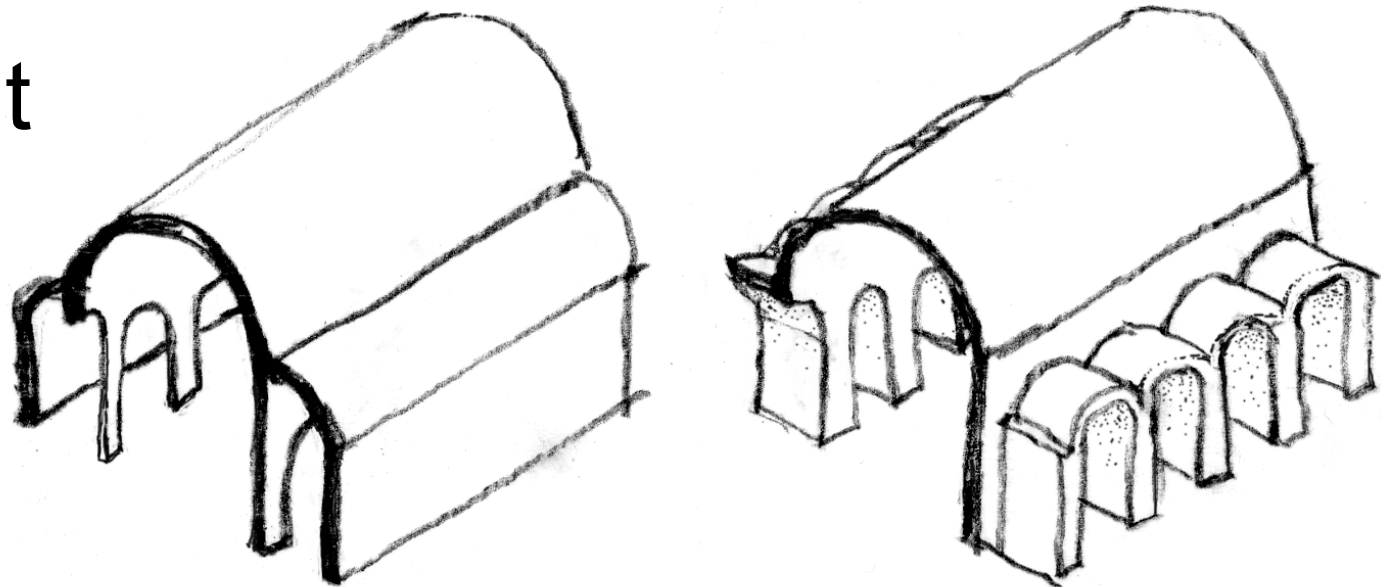
Lateral force diagram  
of a barrel vault



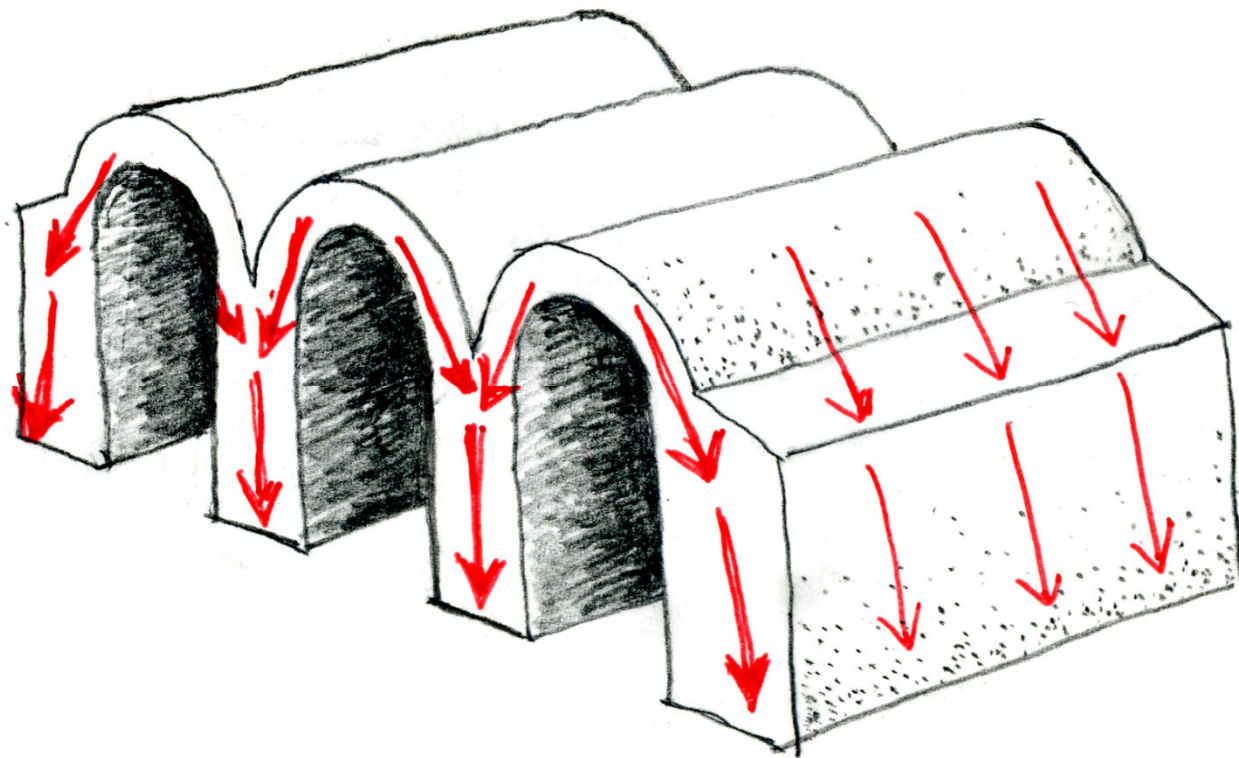
Lateral force diagram  
showing structural failure



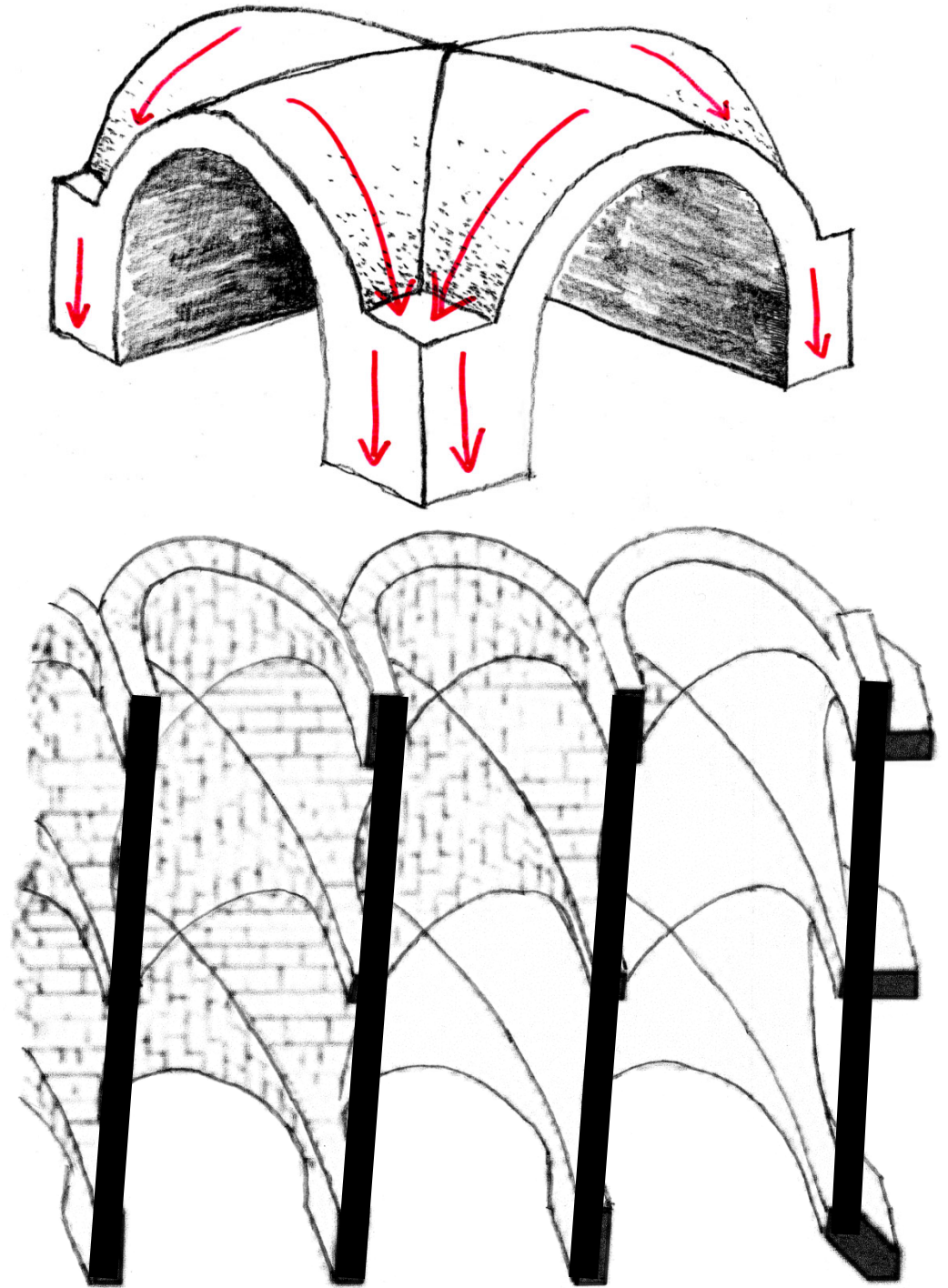
# Barrel Vault



Lateral  
support  
options



# Groin Vault



# Aqueducts

Sloped to have water travel from source to city

Built first using wood frame-removed once keystone was placed



# Pont du Gard at Nimes: 25 CE(AD)

Aqueduct – water supply

Three tiers of stone arches 160' high bringing water from over 25miles away





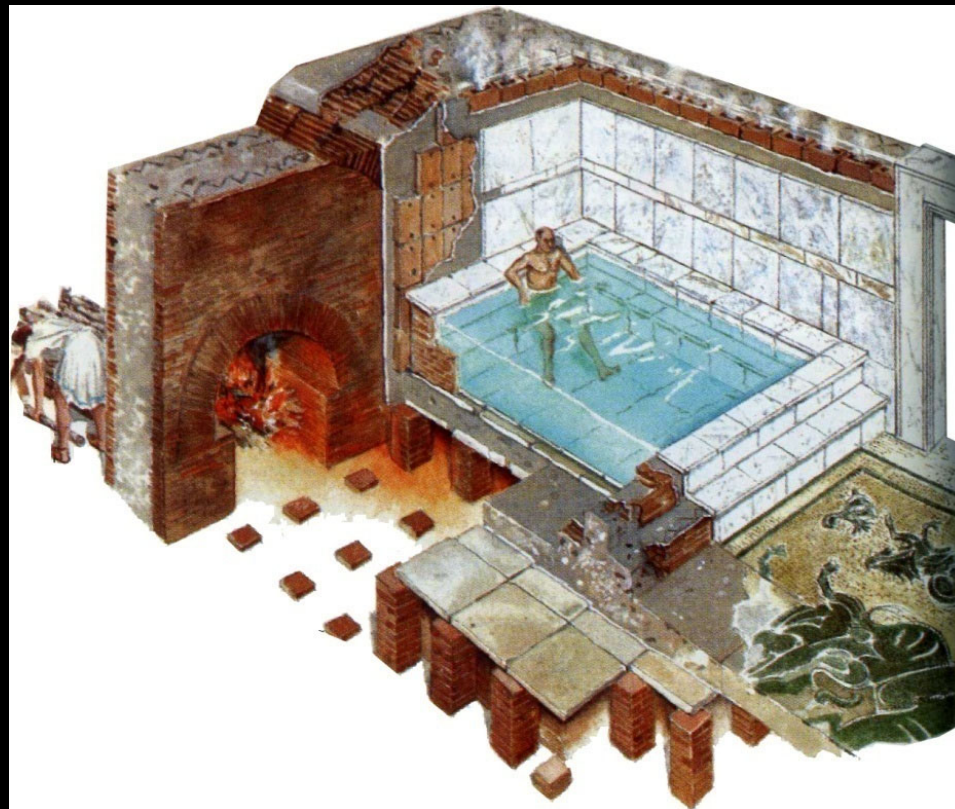
by Libär <http://www.flickr.com>

Hedwig Storch  
Wikimedia Commons <http://commons.wikimedia.org>



# Roman Engineering Advances:

- Development of the wood roof truss and extensive use of concrete allowed spanning of huge volumes of interior space
- Aqueducts and sewers served indoor plumbing for public baths and private houses, creating a highly developed urban infrastructure



# Roman Engineering Advances:

- Extensive use of arches, vaults, and domes characterizes Roman architecture.
- Well-engineered, paved roads and bridges were built across the Empire, some of which are still in use today.



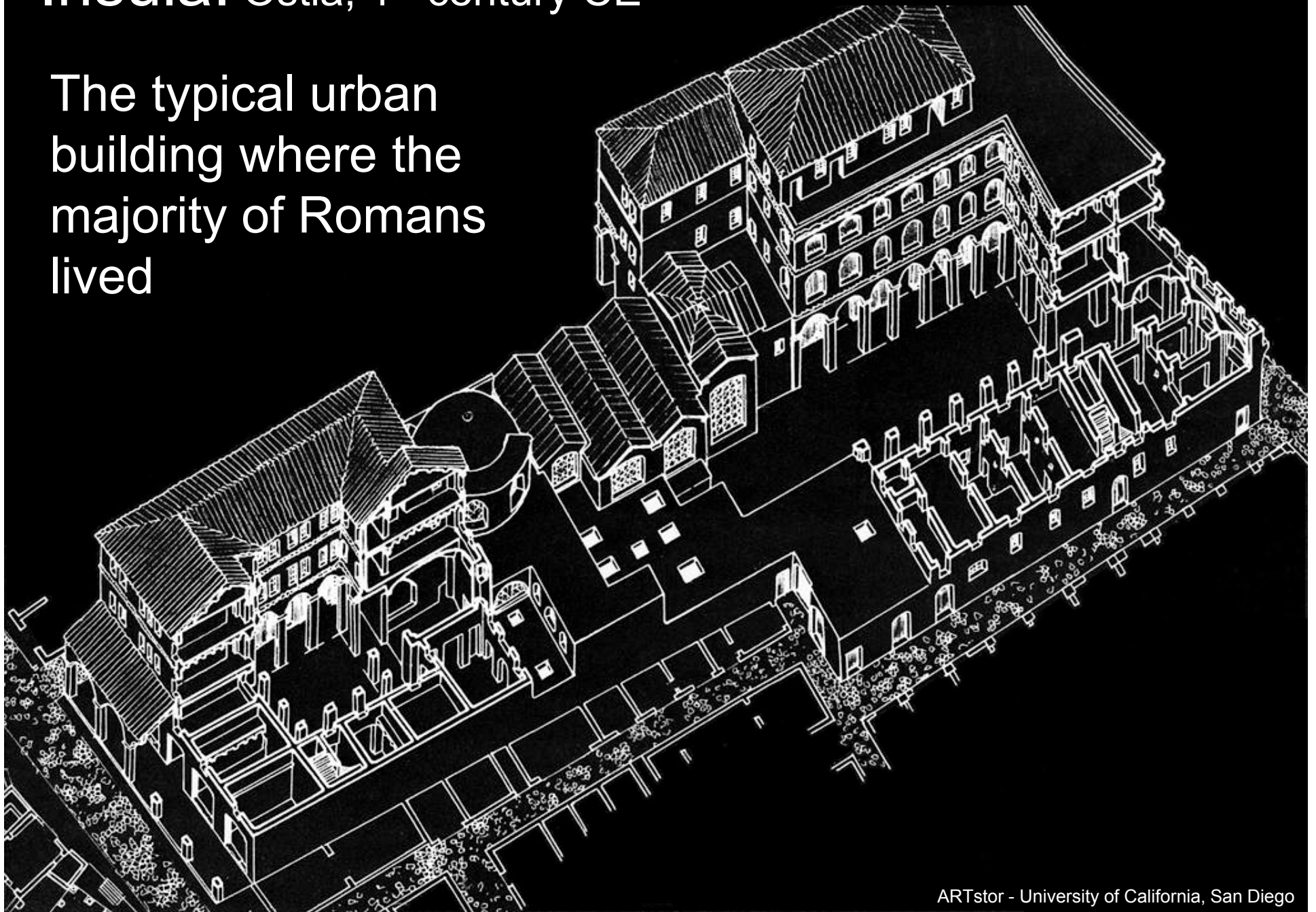
# Roman Architectural Innovations:

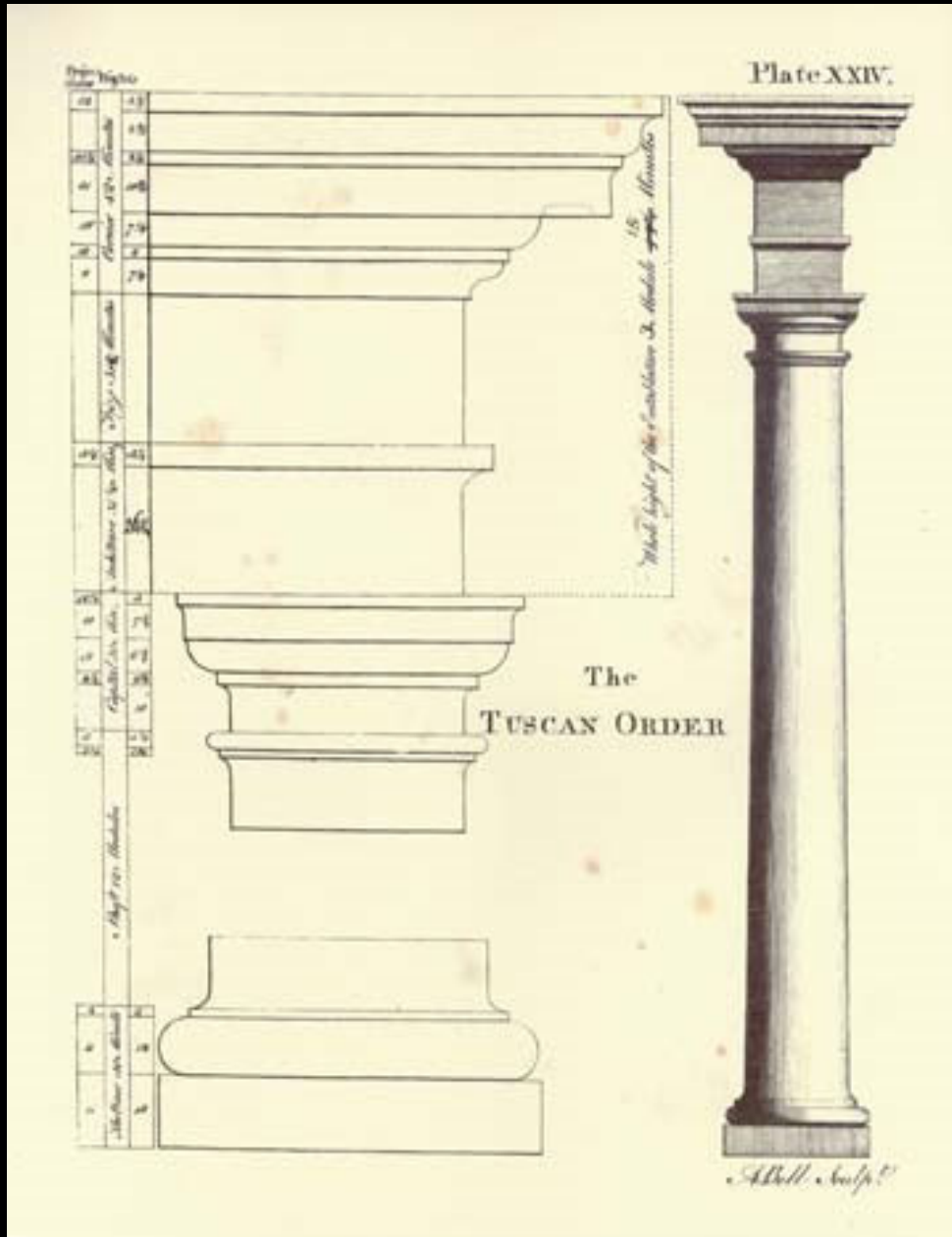
In addition to Roman engineering advances, architecture and city planning developments included:

- Forum (similar to the Greek Agora) – large open urban space generally surrounded by arcades, the civic center of a city incorporating temples, basilicas, and markets
- Insulae – blocks of apartments using concrete, rising six stories high.
- Triumphal arches and triumphal columns
- Development of the classical orders:
  - Use of pilasters and engaged columns – rectangular columns or half-round columns that were embedded as part of the wall
  - Use of Tuscan and Composite orders

# Insula: Ostia, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE

The typical urban building where the majority of Romans lived

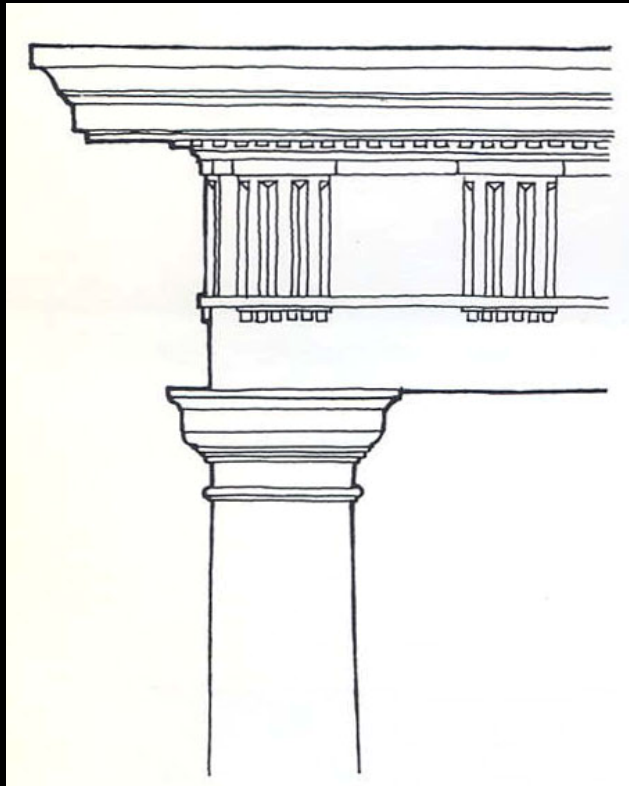




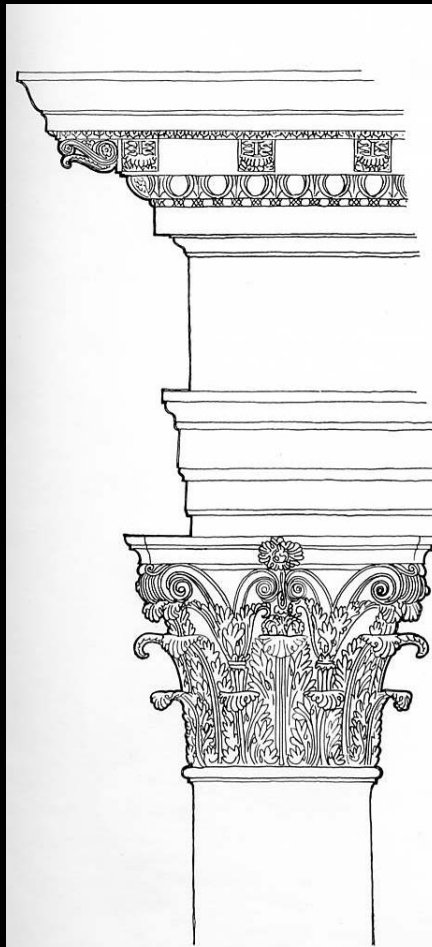
# Tuscan Order

# Roman Orders

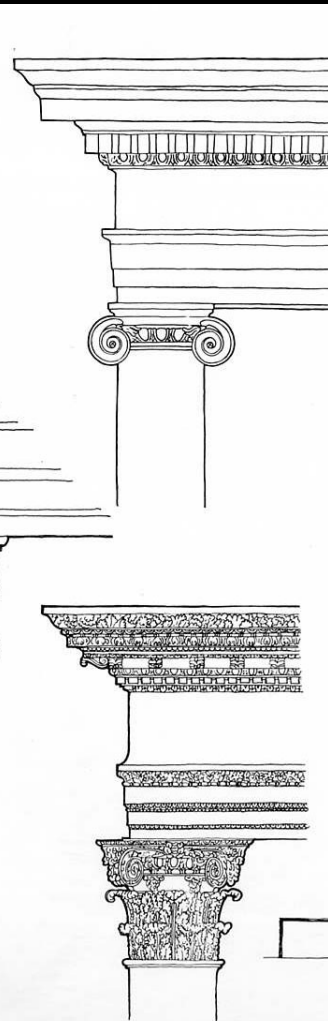
Tuscan



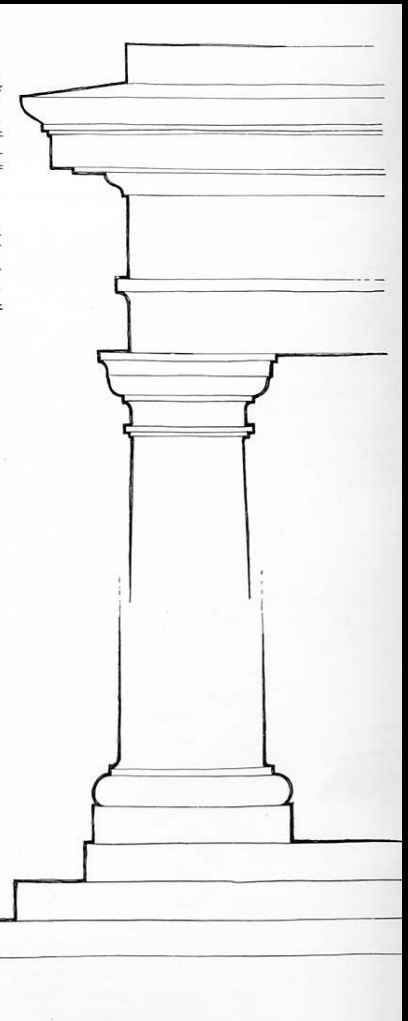
Corinthian



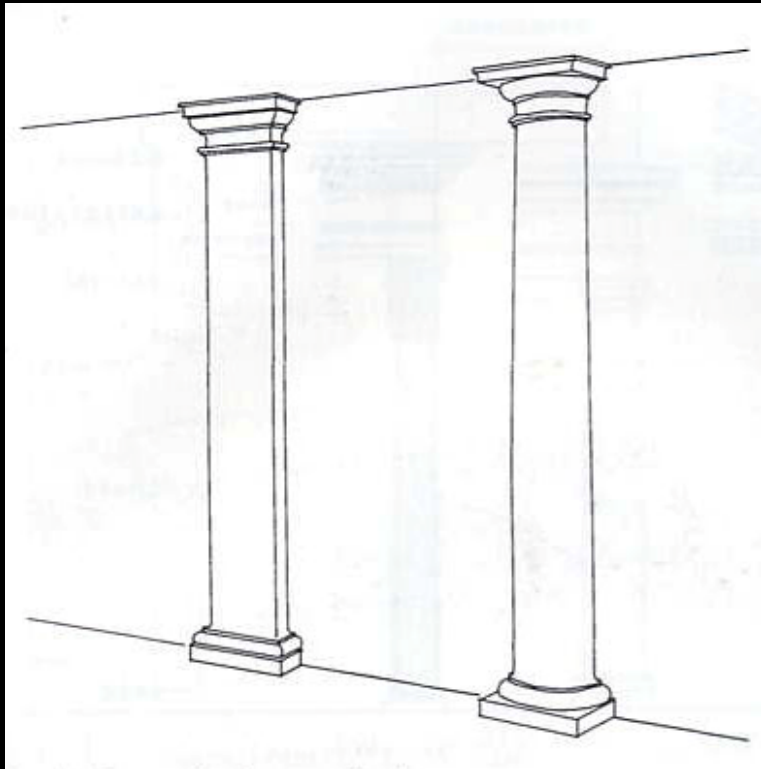
Ionic  
Composite



Doric



# Pilasters and Engaged Columns



Roth, Leland M., *Understanding Architecture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2007.



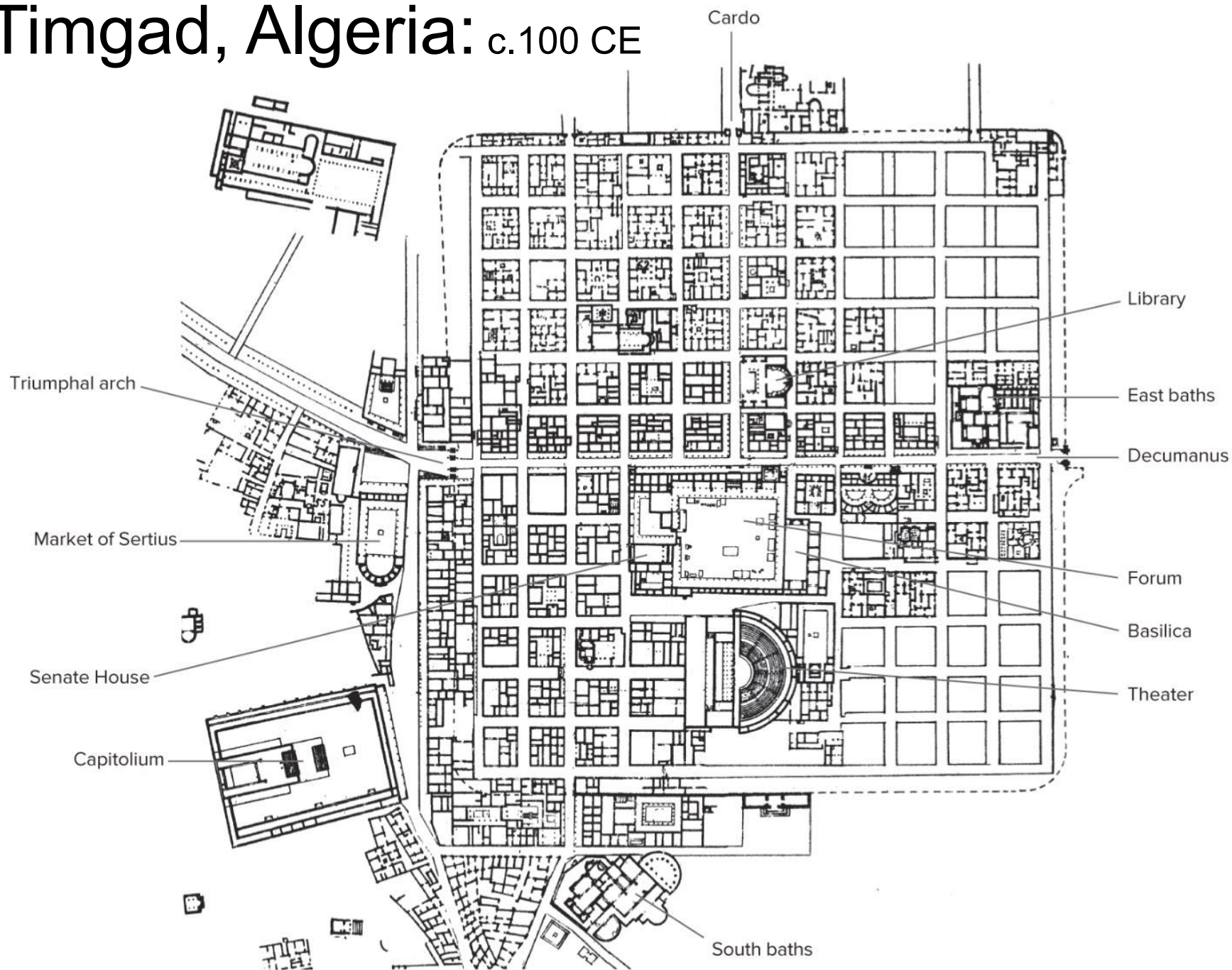
# Timgad, Algeria: c.100 CE



Timgad, l'arc de Trajan.  
<http://www.gannarthuebertrand.org>

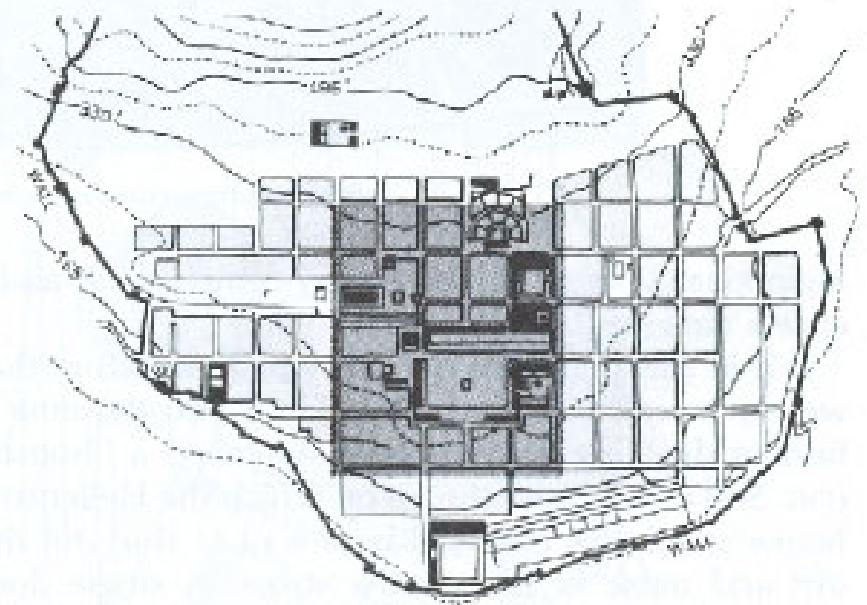
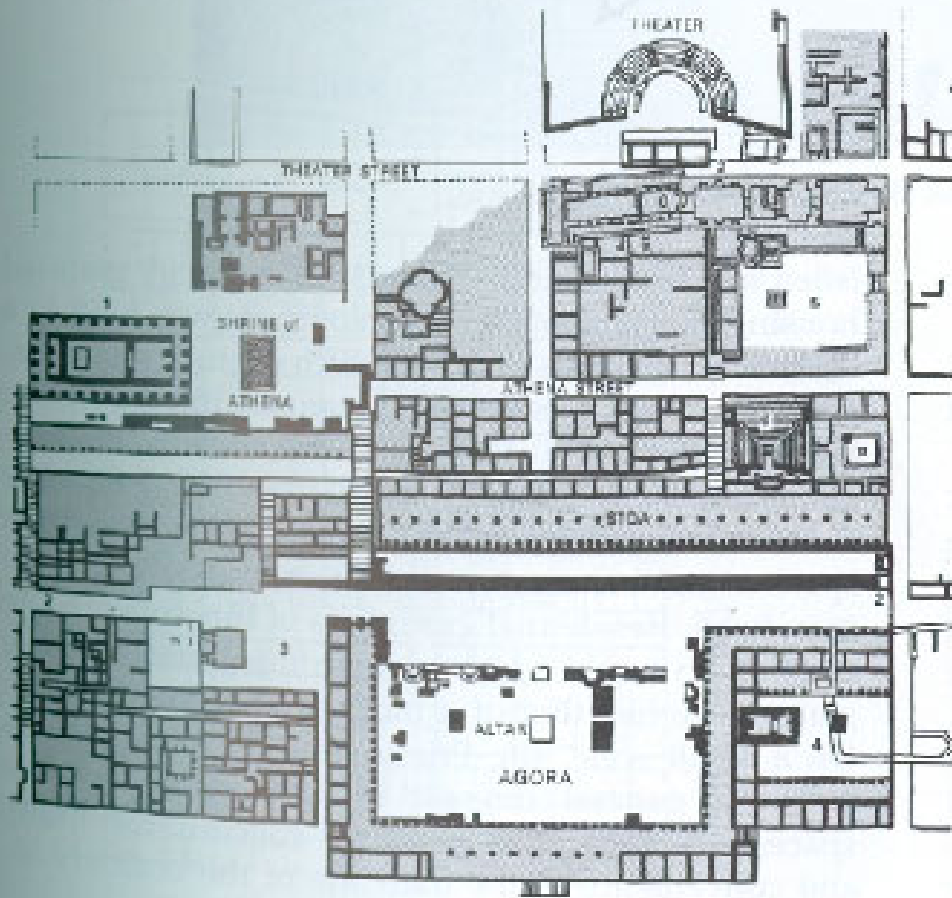


# Timgad, Algeria: c.100 CE



# Priene 350 BCE – Lessons from Greek colonial town planning

5-88 City of Priene, fourth century B.C. Right: Simplified ground plan. Shaded rectangle indicates area shown in detail at left.



1. Temple ruins
2. Wells
3. Fish and meat market
4. Sanctuary of Olympian Zeus
5. Gymnasium
6. Bouleuterion



Gardner - Art Through the Ages

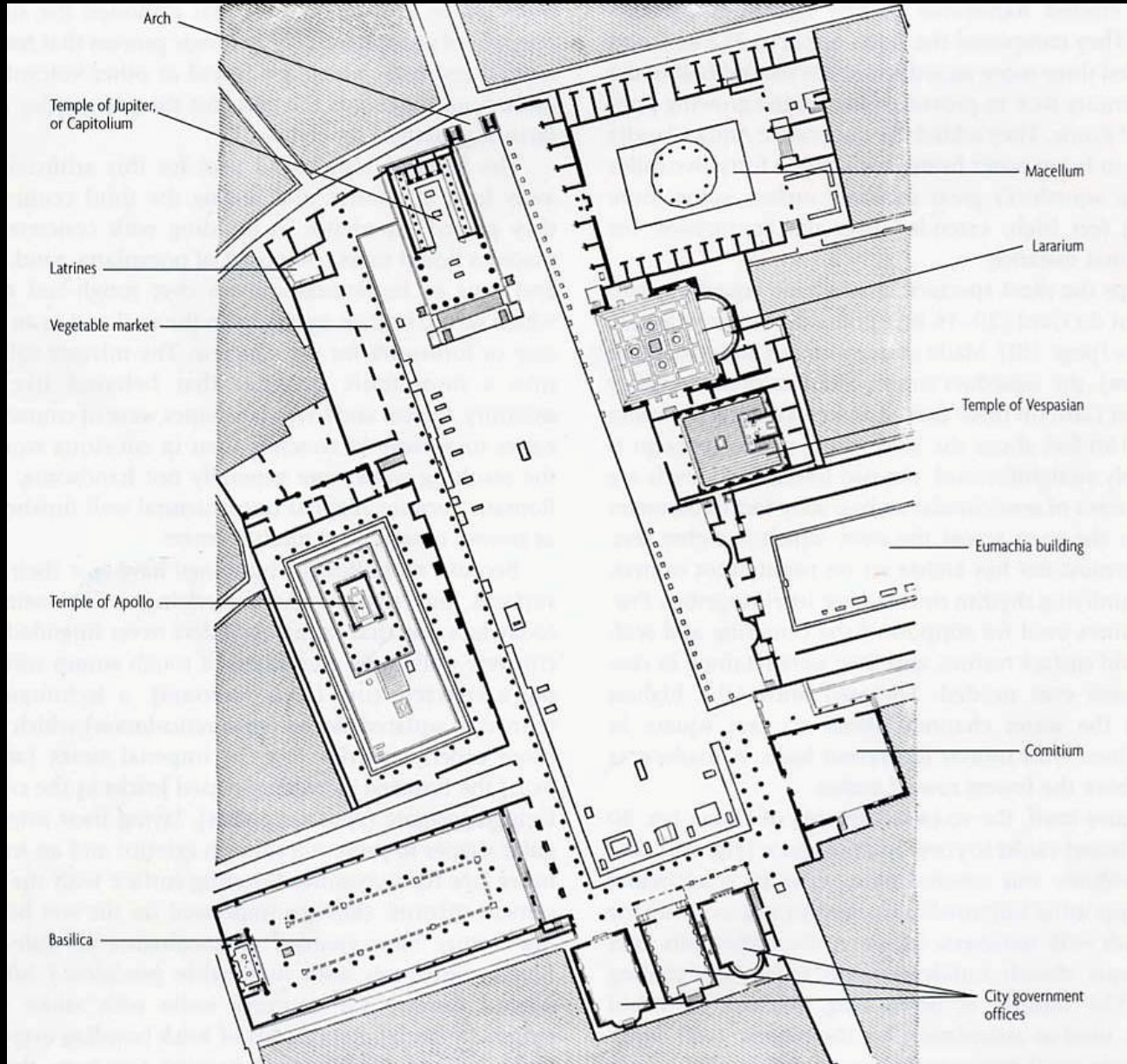
Wikimedia Commons @ <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

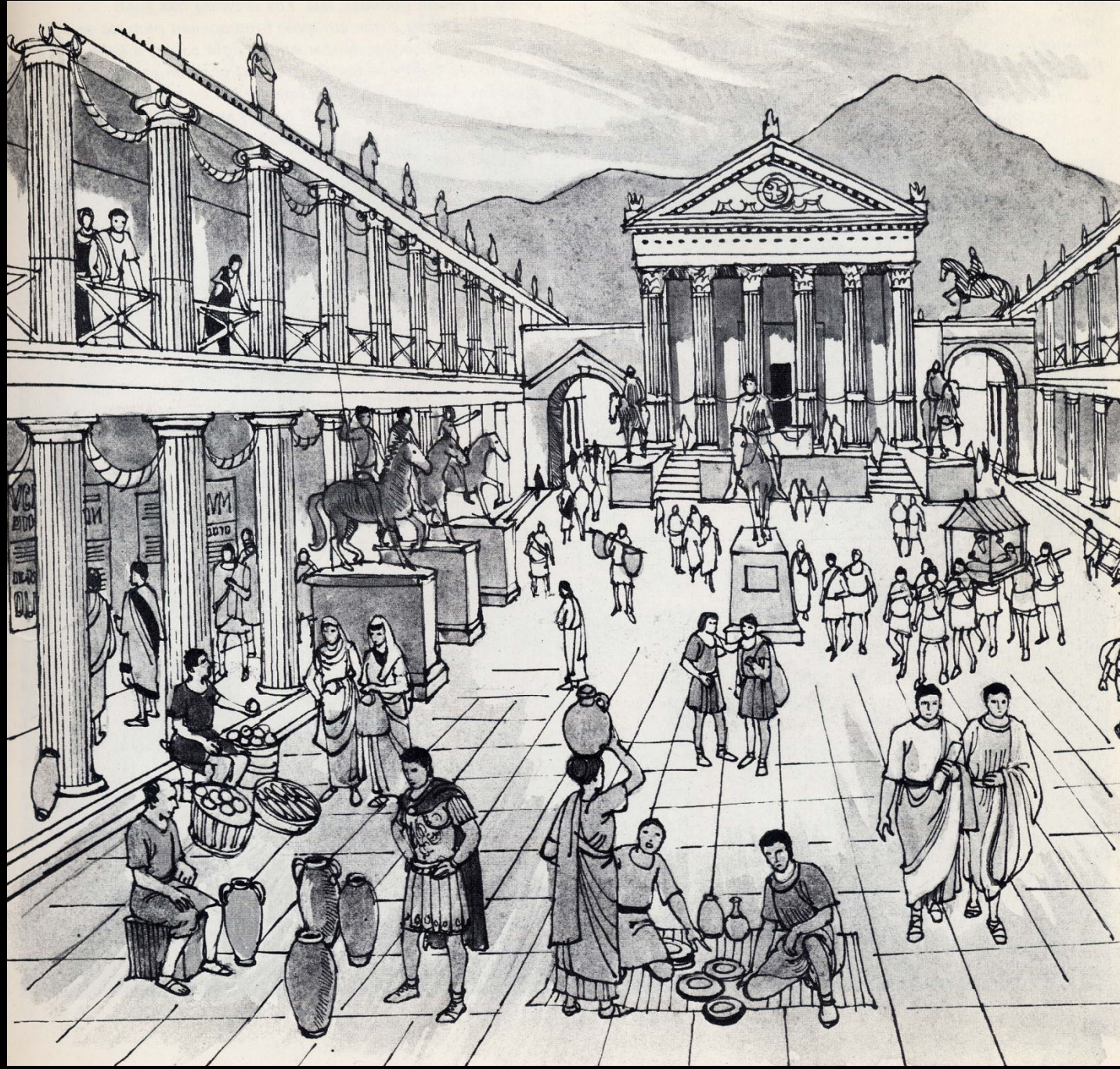


# Roman architectural developments

- New building types and forms
  - forums
  - triumphal arches
  - basilica
  - baths
  - theaters
  - amphitheaters / stadiums
  - temples

# The Forum at Pompeii





Andrews, Ian, Pompeii, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

# The Forum Romanum

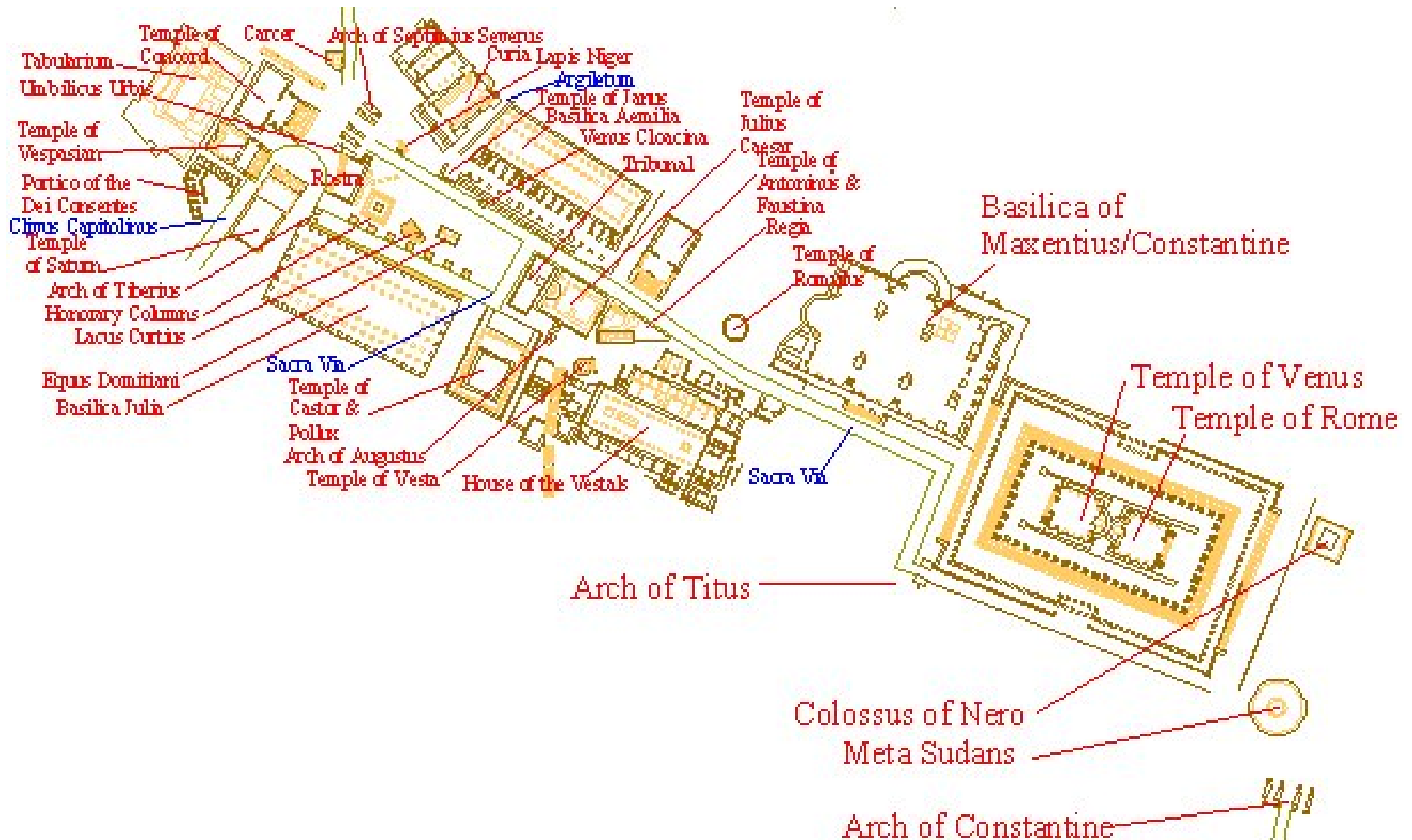
The original Roman Forum, 8<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BCE

Grew up from the period of the Roman monarchy through the period of the Roman Republic

Collection of temples, government and commercial buildings, memorials and statues



# Forum Romanum 8<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE



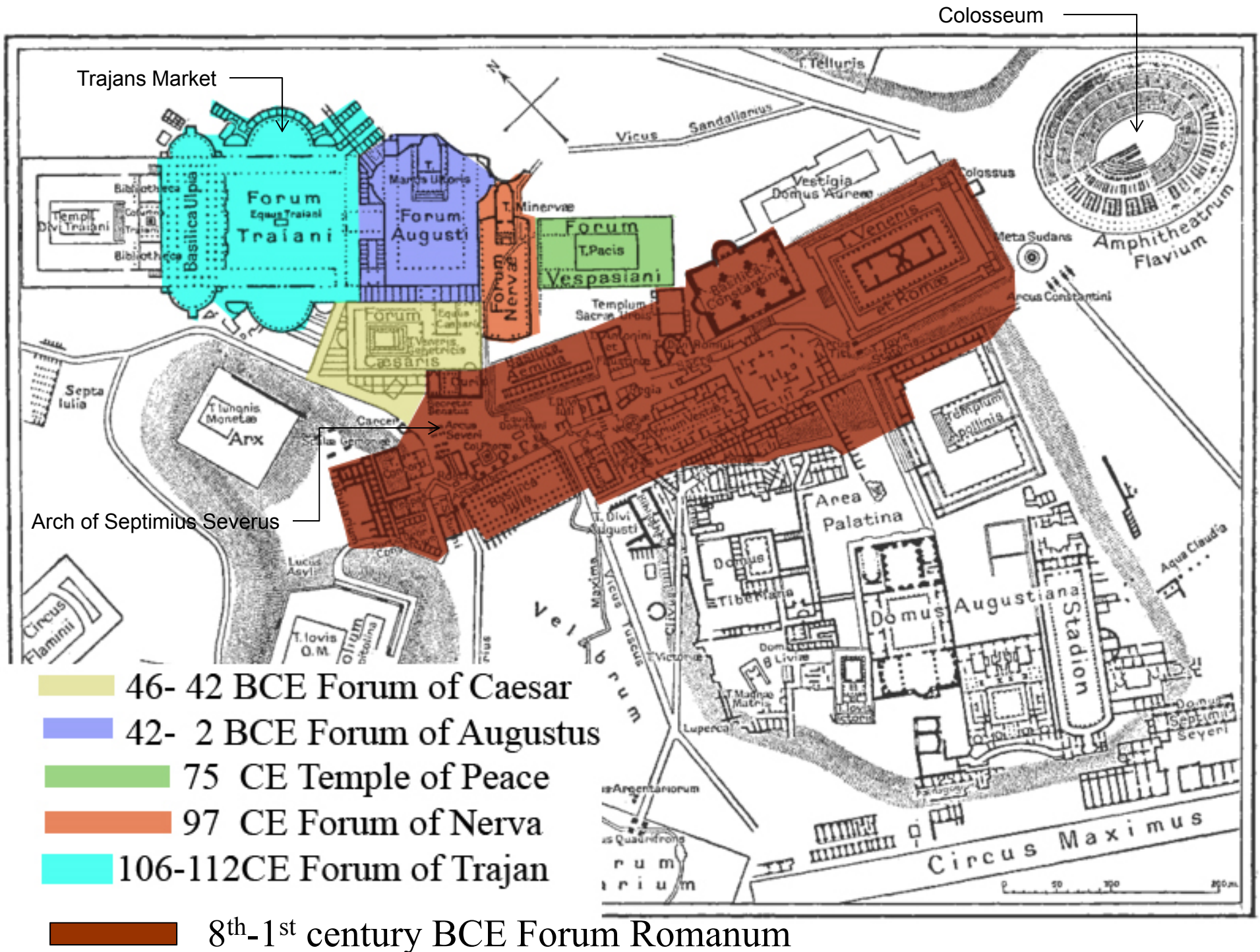
# Forum Romanum 8<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE

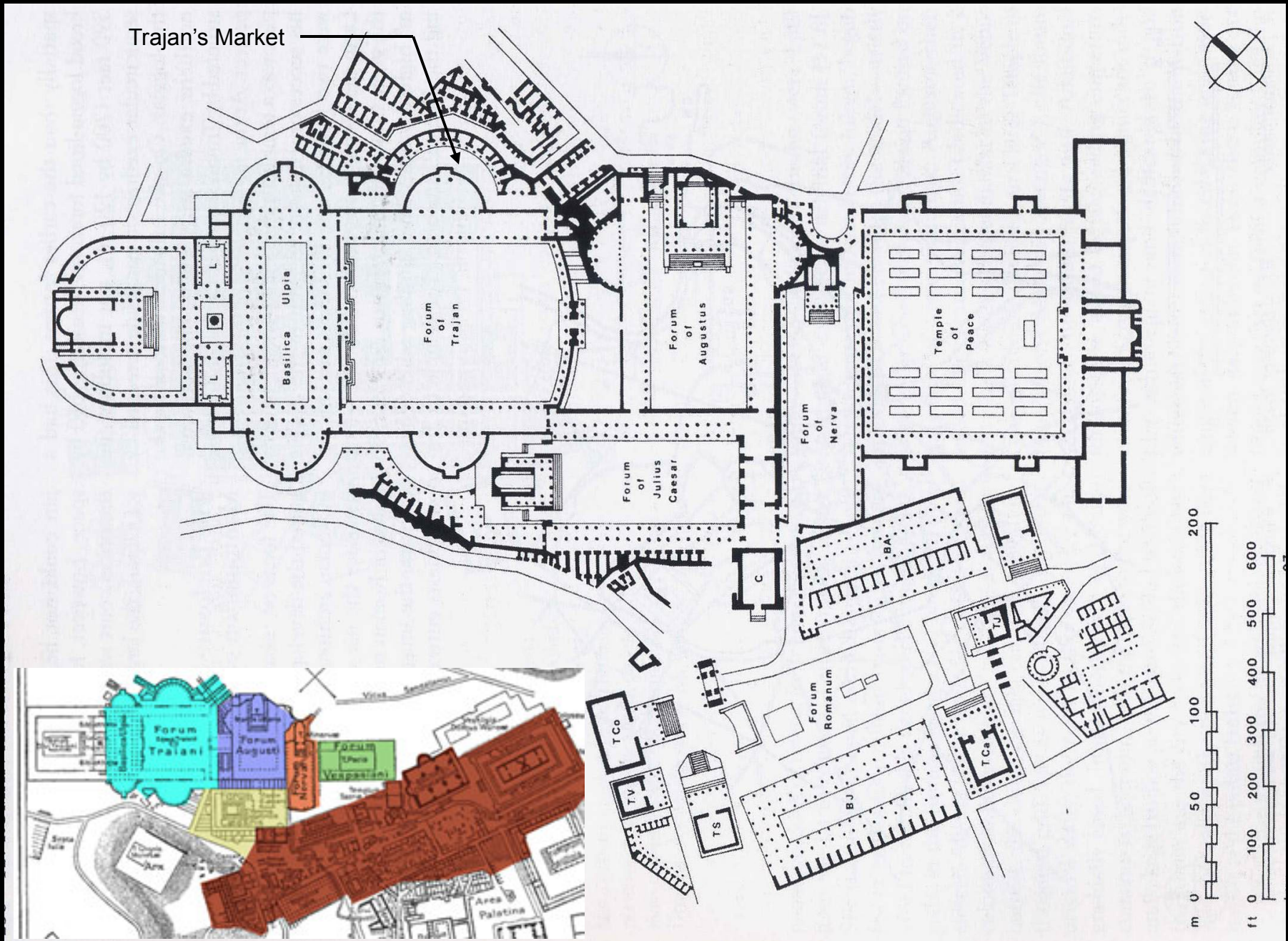




# Forum Romanum 8<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE







# Trajan's Market, 100-114 CE

Located on the hills behind the Forum

Streets of Shops

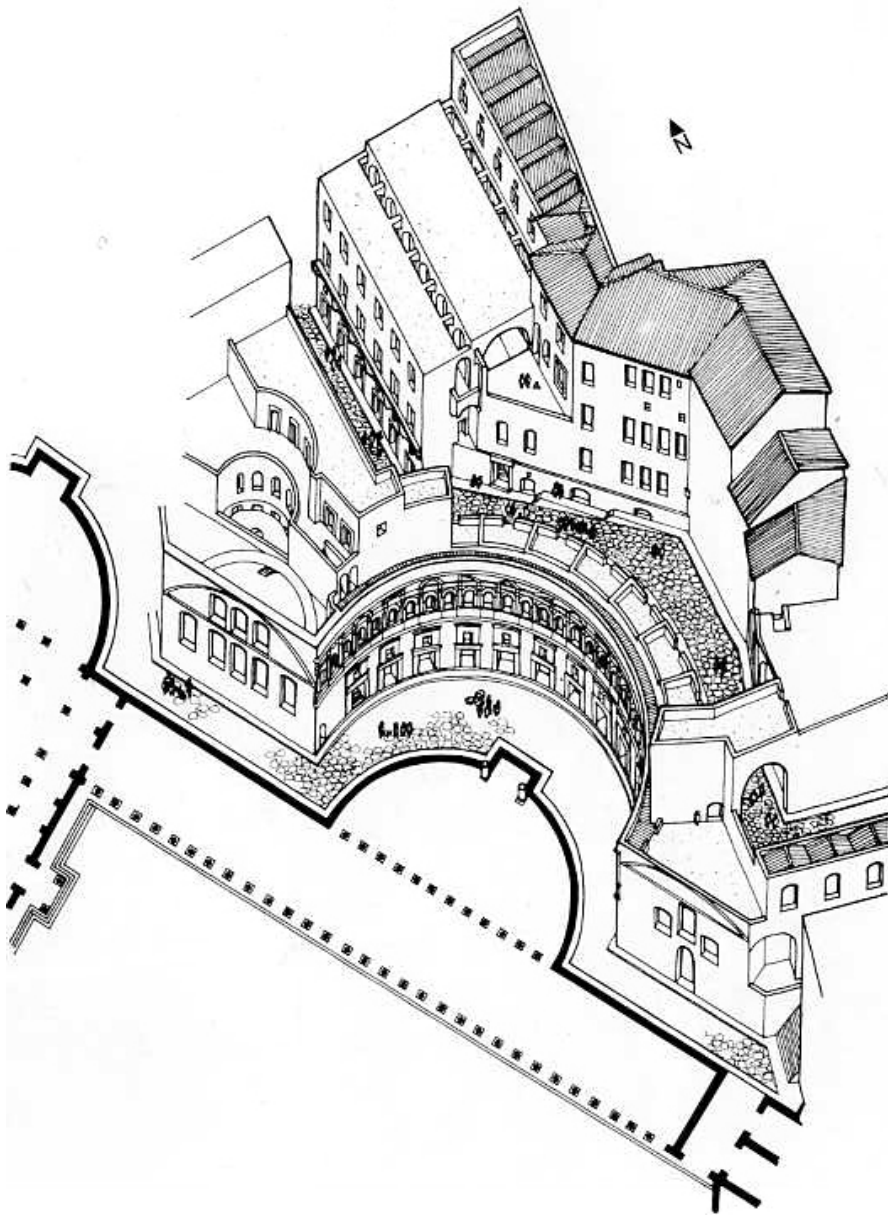
Includes a covered market



[www.Harpy.ucc.edu](http://www.Harpy.ucc.edu)



# Trajan's Market, 100-114 CE





Chris 's Public Gallery  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/>

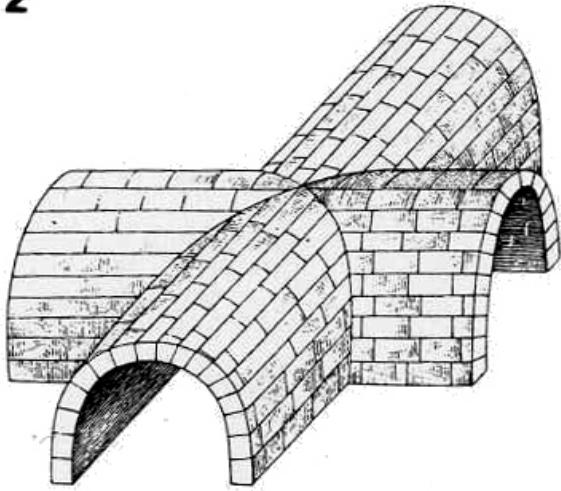


Wikimedia Commons <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>

# Trajan's Market, 100-114 CE



2

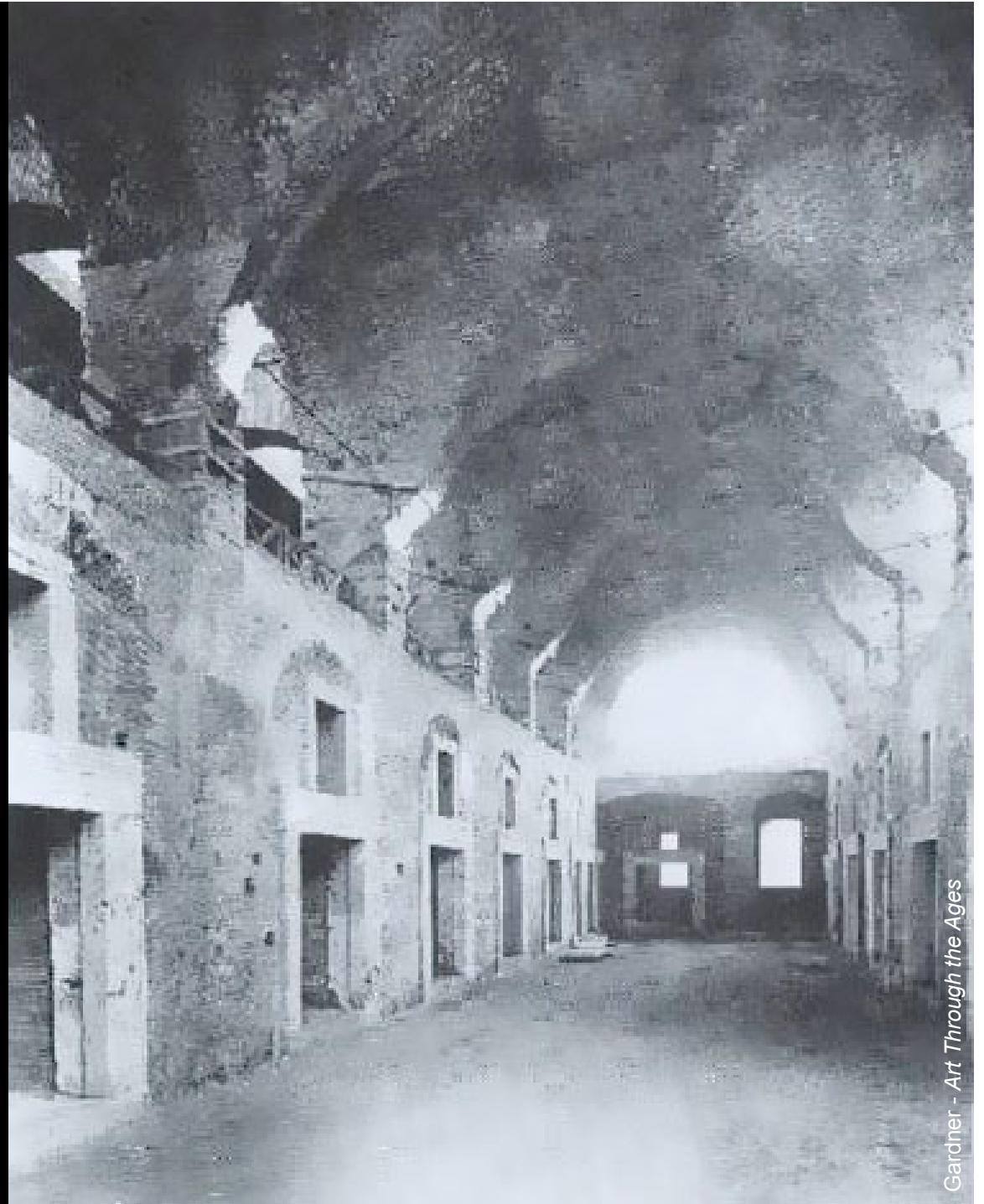


*Cross, or groin, vault*

Norwich - *Great Architecture of the World*



Chris 's Public Gallery  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/>

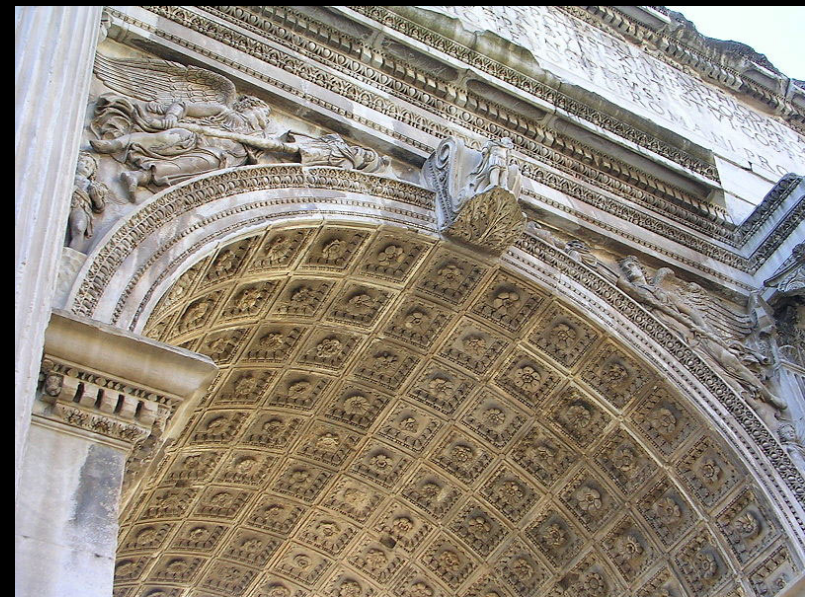


Gardner - Art Through the Ages



# Triumphal Arch of Septimius Severus 203 CE (AD)

- Built of brick and travertine, clad with marble slabs
- Celebrated the military victories of Emperor Septimius Severus and his sons



Wikimedia Commons <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

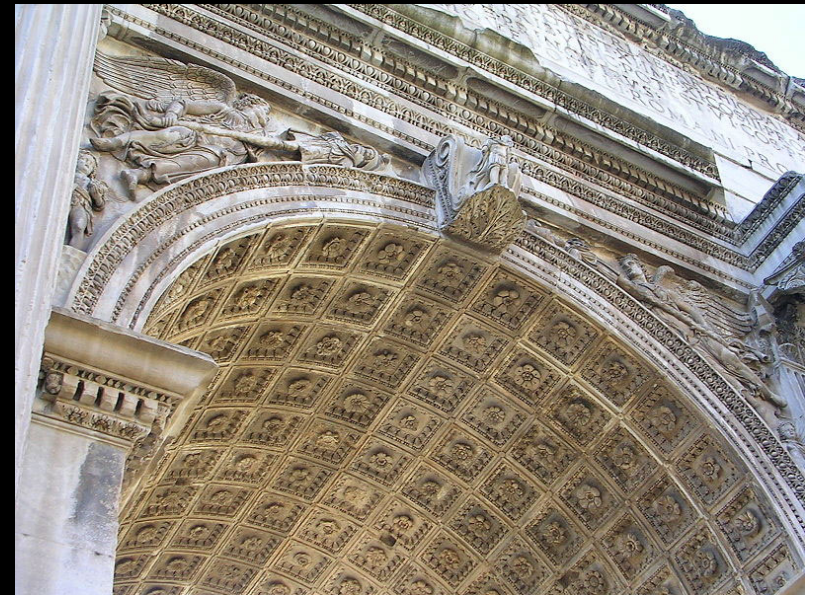
# Triumphal Arch of Septimius Severus 203 CE (AD)



# Triumphal Arch of Septimius Severus 203 CE (AD)

It is build out of brick and travertine, clad with marble slabs

Built to celebrate the victories of emperor Septimius Serverus and his sons



Wikimedia Commons <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

# Basilica Ulpia:

112 CE (AD)

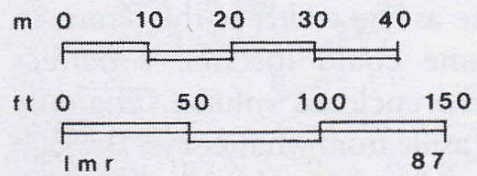
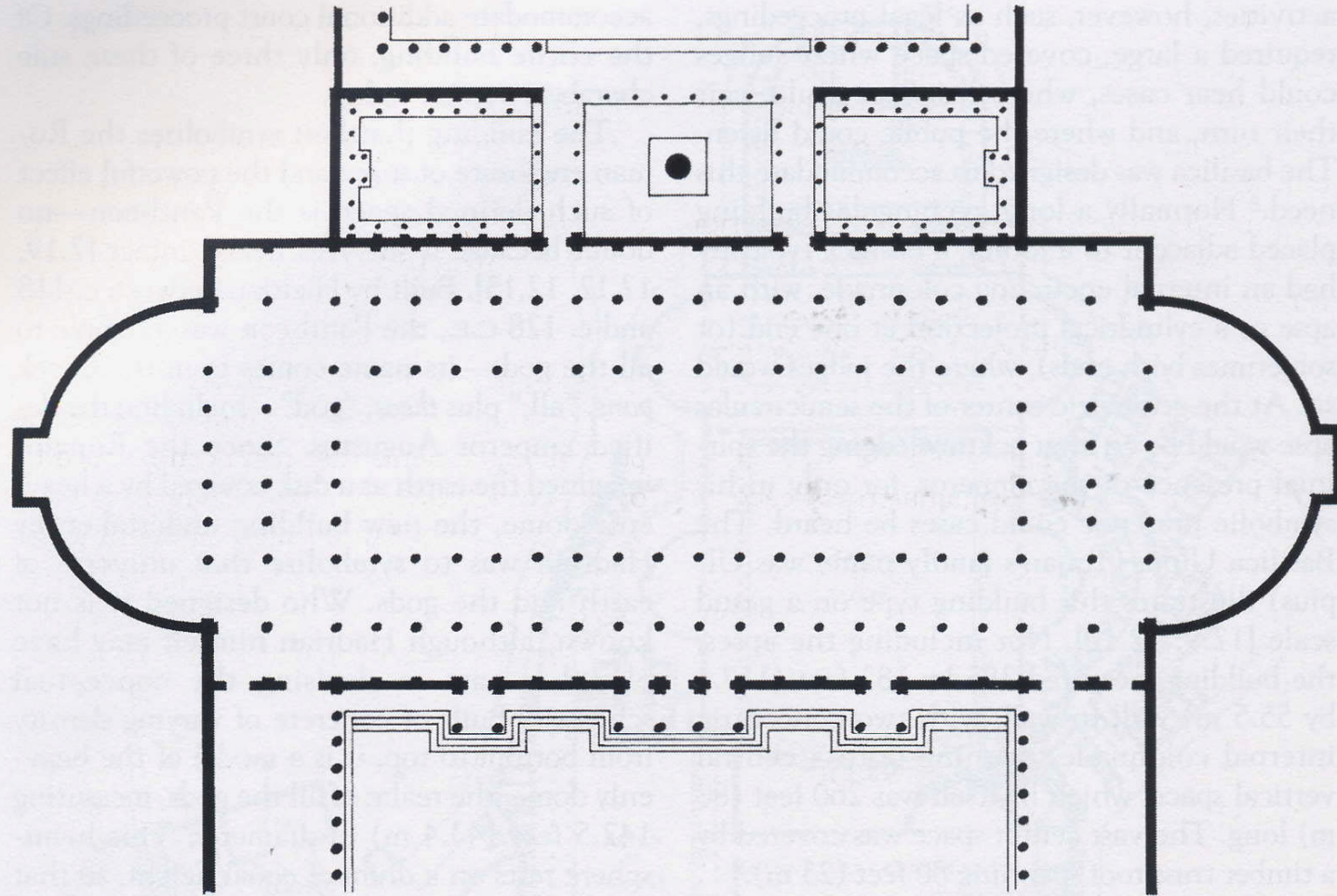
In Forum of Trajan

A civic building 385' x 182'

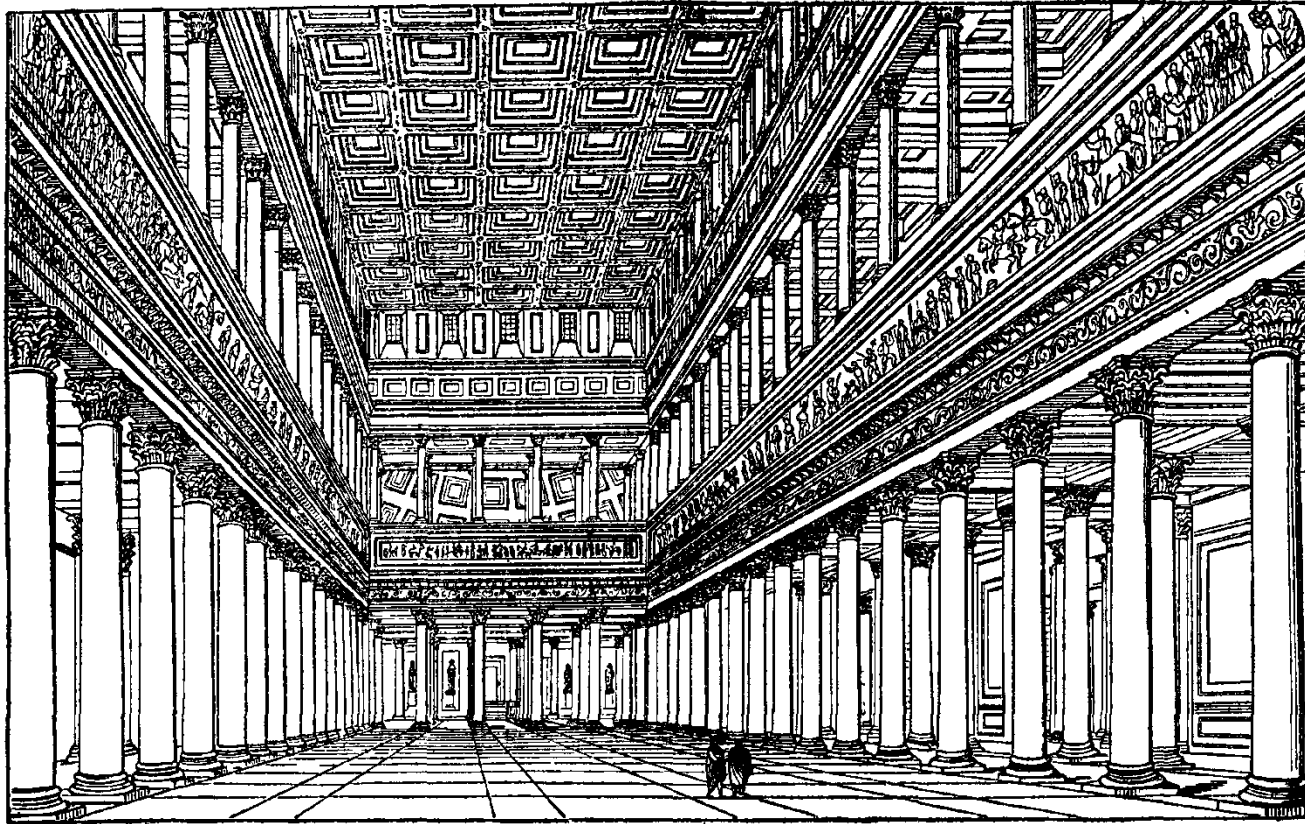
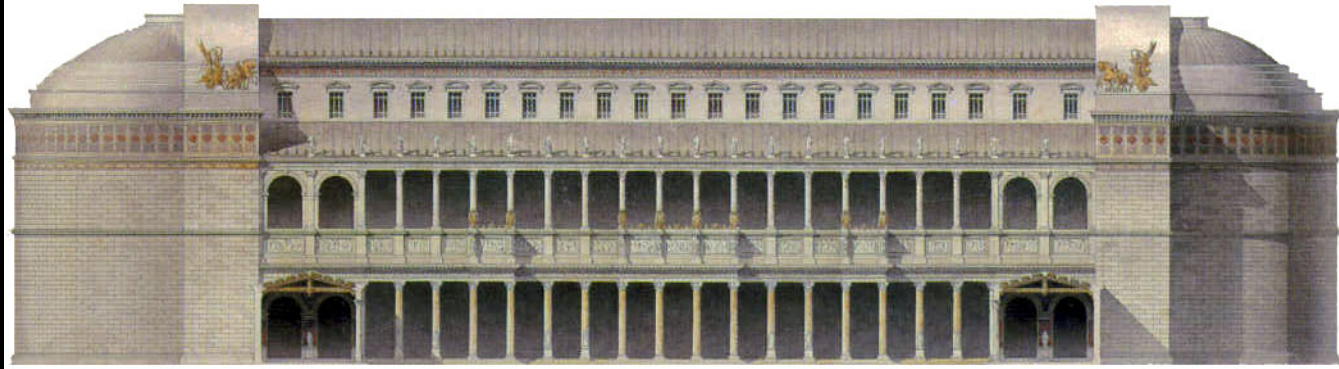
A prototype for the layout of the Christian churches



# Basilica Ulpia: 112 CE



# Basilica Ulpia: 112 CE



# Baths of Diocletian: 302 CE (AD)

Largest and most sumptuous of the imperial baths

Remained in use until the aqueducts that fed them were cut by the Goths in CE (AD) 537.

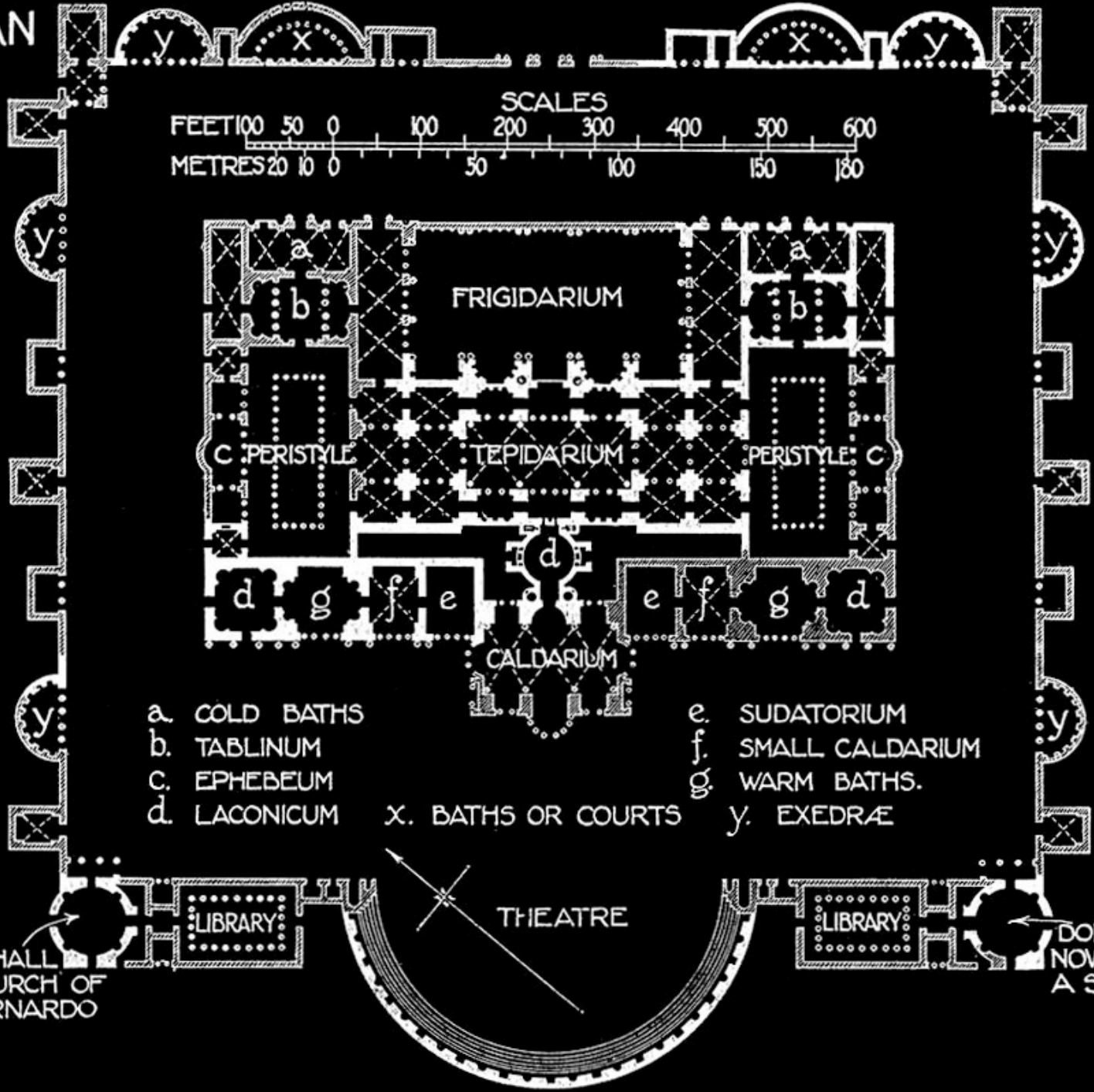
Barrel vaults, groin vaults and domes



*Piazza di Termini*  
Rovine delle Terme Diocleziane, Chiesa di S. Maria dell'Angelo e Convento de' Monaci Certosini; Sito della Cava A. fatta nell'anno 1750-2. Granari della R. Camera

ARTstor: Illustration from: Fletcher, Banister. *A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method*. Sixth edition, rewritten and enlarged. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1921. Page 161d

PLAN



- a. COLD BATHS
- b. TABLINUM
- c. EPHEBEUM
- d. LACONICUM
- e. SUDATORIUM
- f. SMALL CALDARIUM
- g. WARM BATHS.
- x. BATHS OR COURTS
- y. EXEDRAE

DOMED HALL  
 NOW CHURCH OF  
 S. BERNARDO

DOMED HALL  
 NOW PART OF  
 A SCHOOL



# Baths of Diocletian: 302 CE (AD)

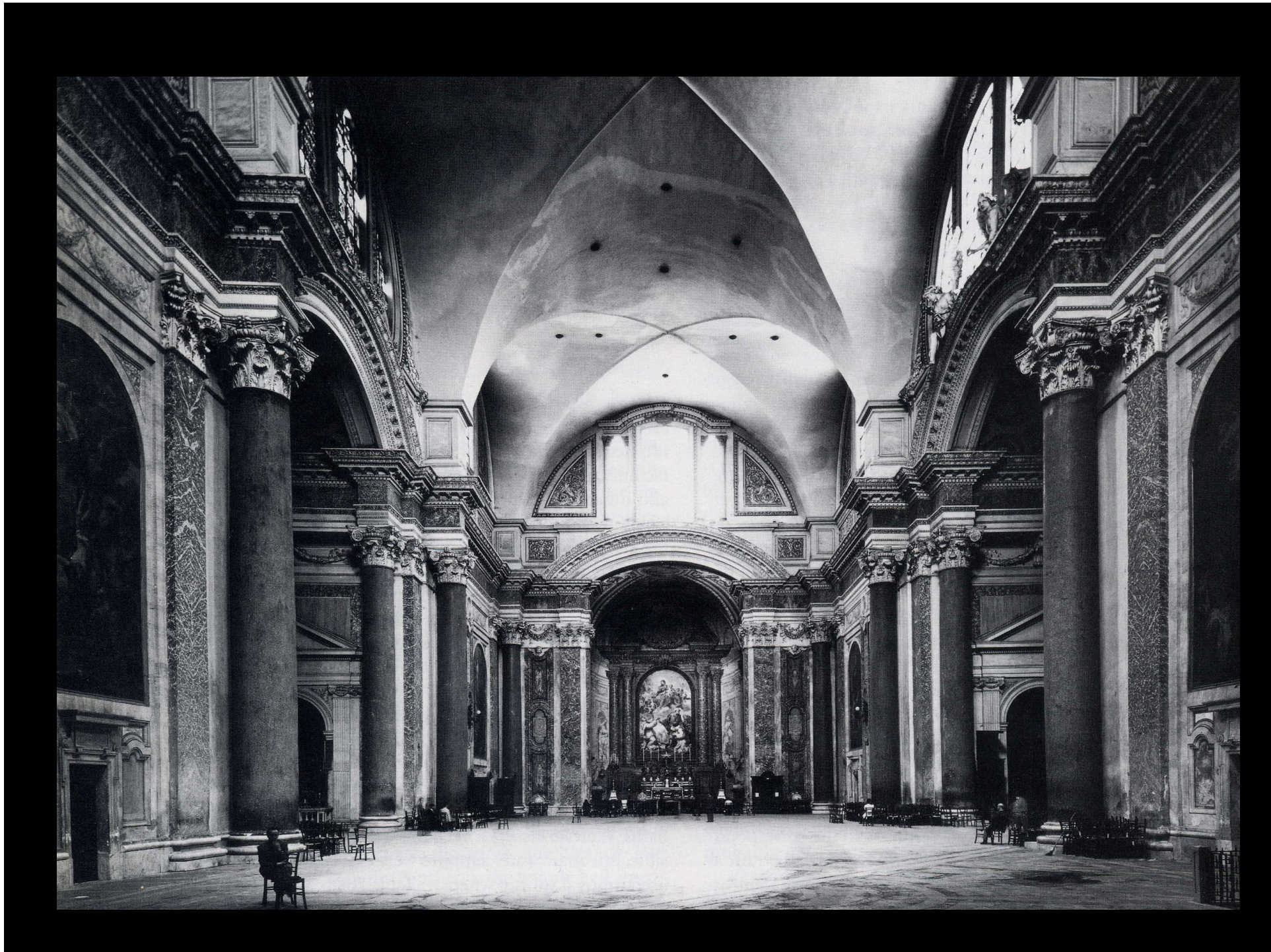
Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri

Was built inside the frigidarium of the Baths

ARTstor:  
SCALA, Florence/ART RESOURCE, N.Y.

Norwich, John - *The world Atlas of architecture*





# Basilica of Maxentius & Constantine (Nova)

4<sup>th</sup> century CE (AD)

Very large, vast interior – 280' x 88' x 120' high

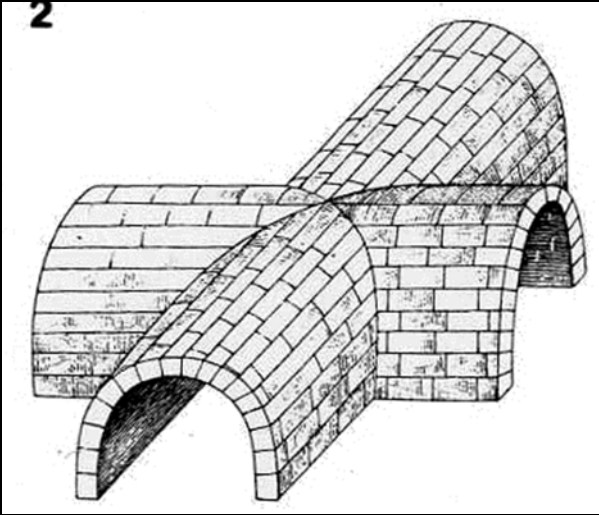
Destined for commercial and administrative activities

Covered with vaults, not the typical flat roof as most basilicas



# Basilica of Maxentius & Constantine (Nova)

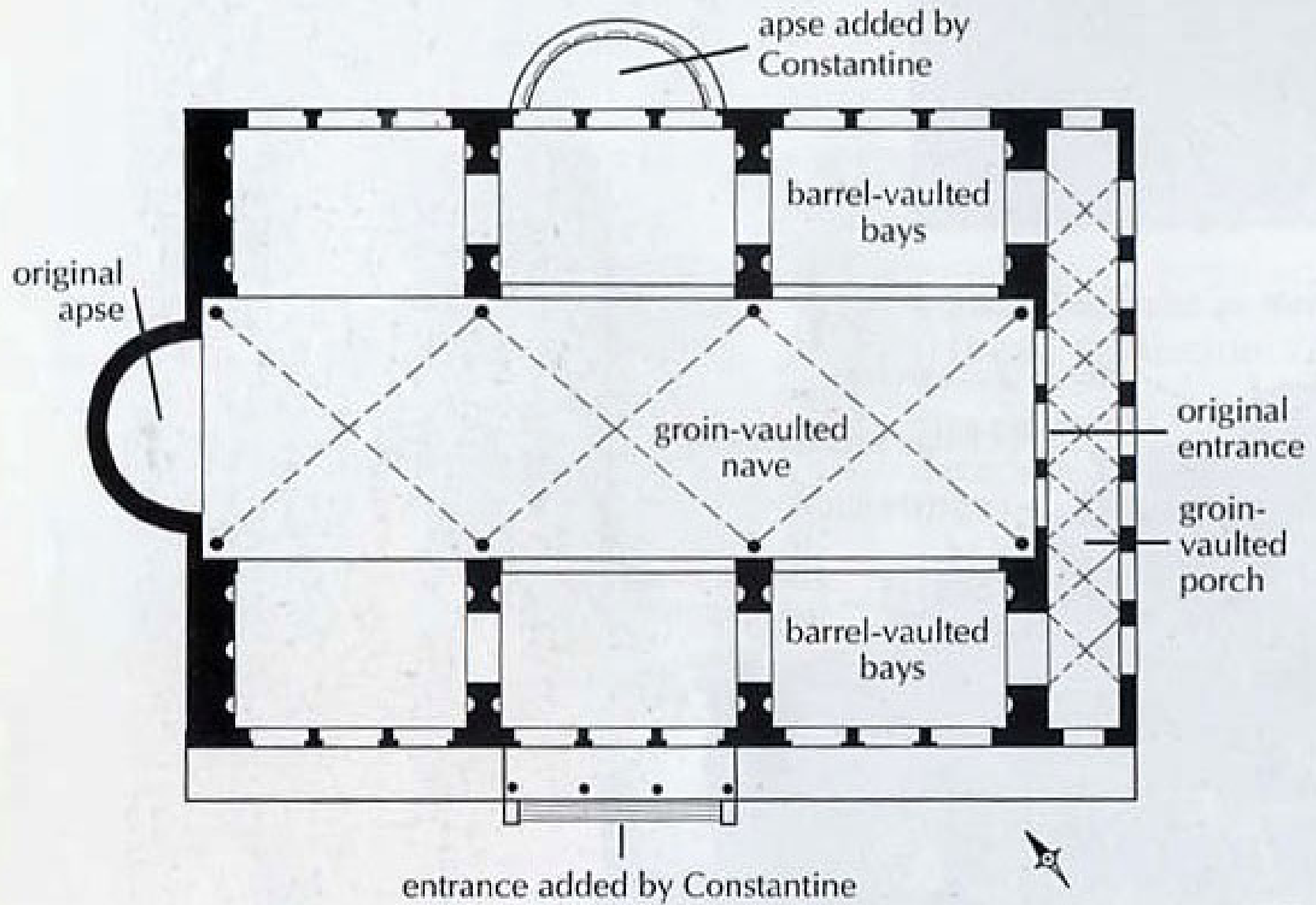
Covered by 3 groin vaults (two intersecting vaults with ribbed intersection) and buttressed by barrel vaults

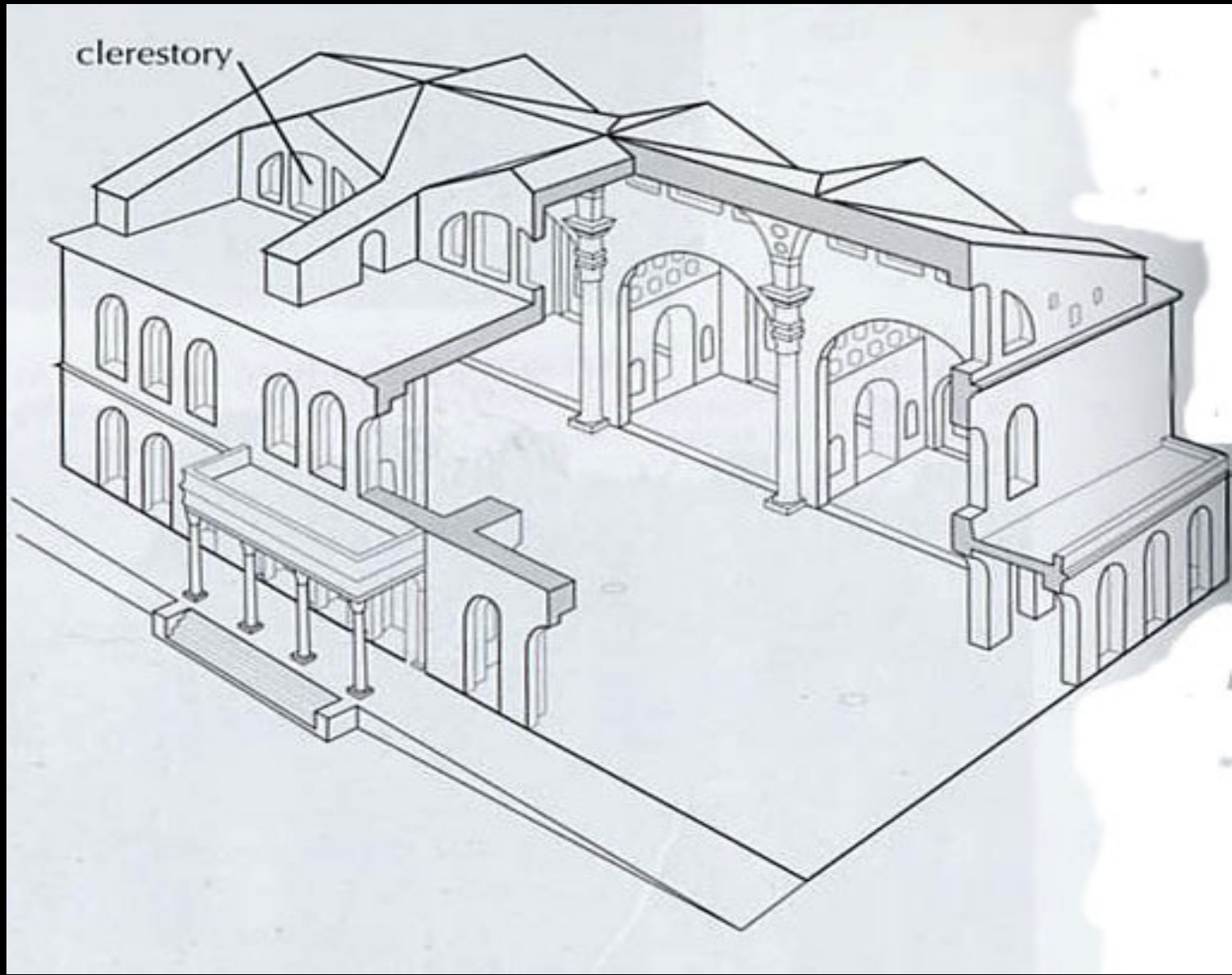


Norwich - Great Architecture of the World



www. Harpy.ucc.edu

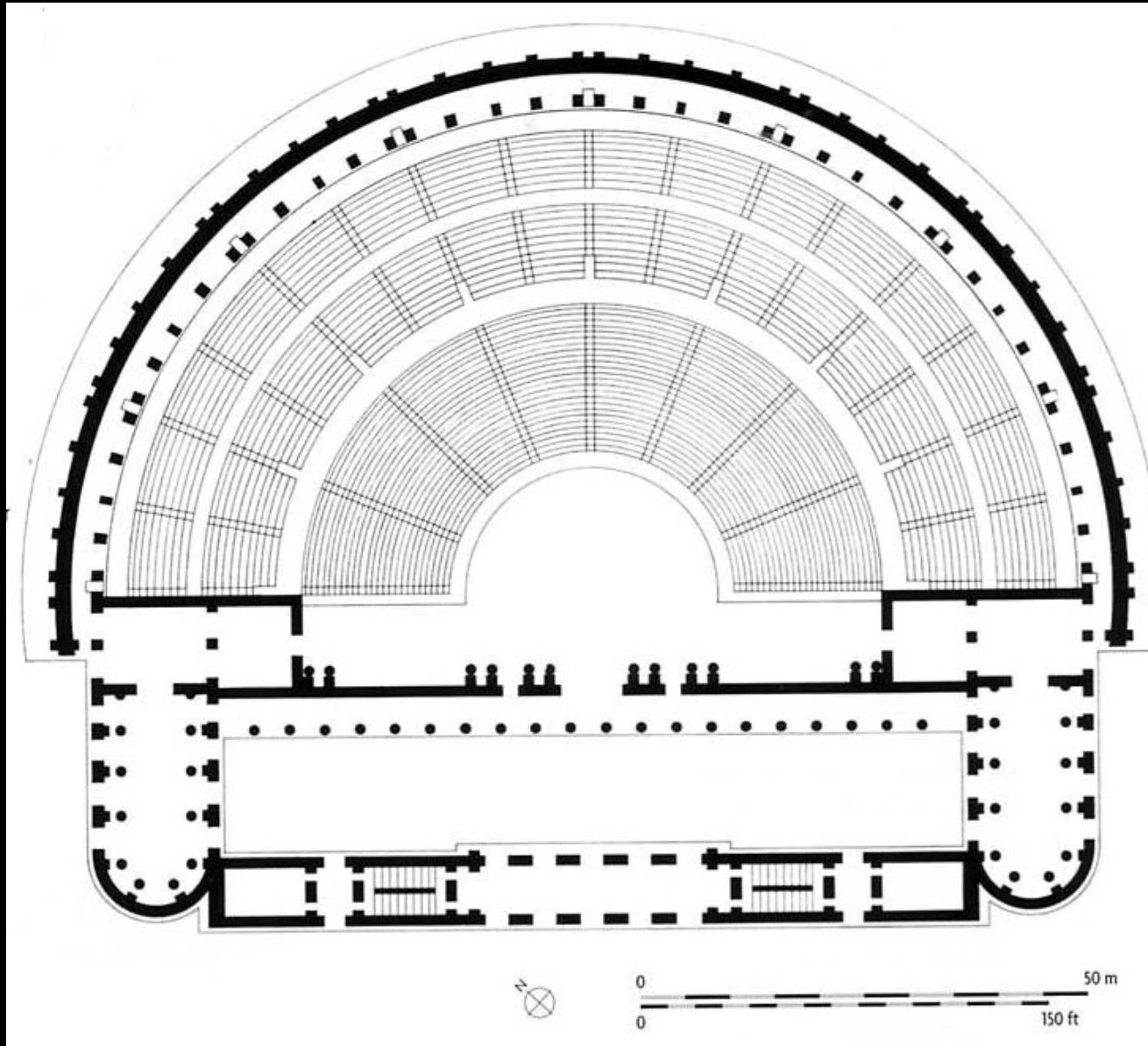




# Basilica of Maxentius & Constantine (Nova)

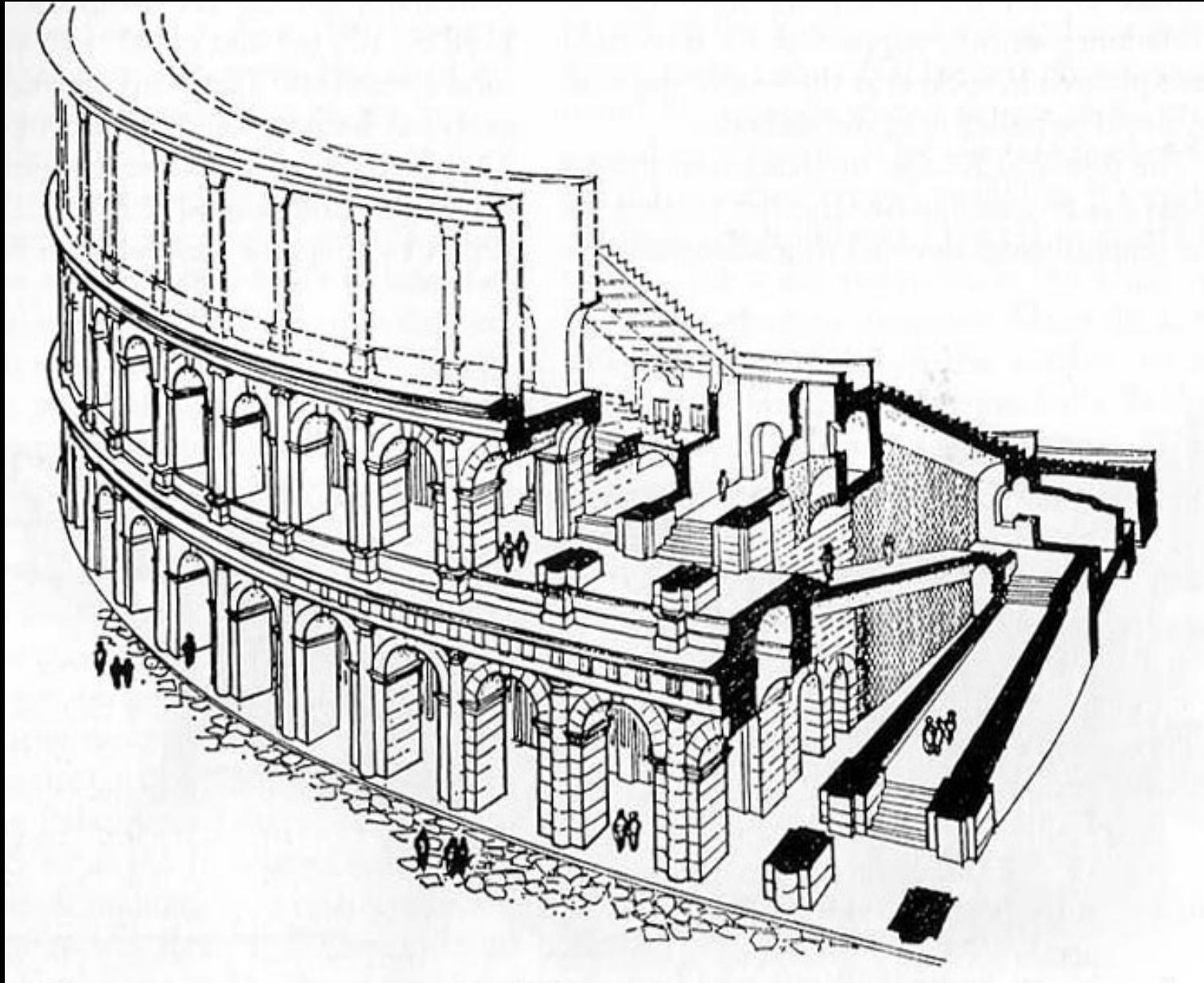


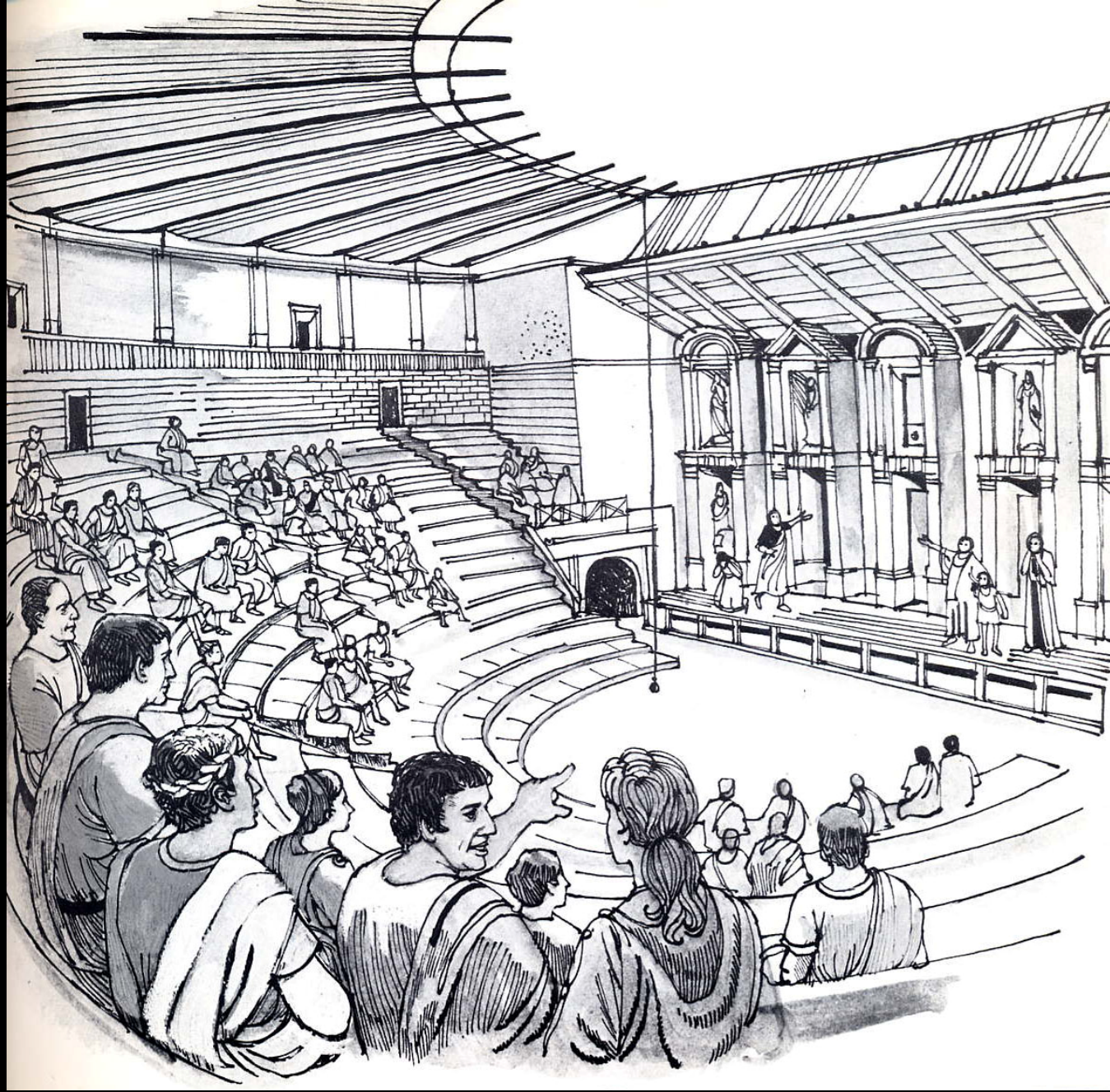
# Theater of Marcellus, Rome 13-11 BCE





# Theater of Marcellus, Rome 13-11 BCE





Andrews, Ian, Pompeii, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

# Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheater): 80CE (AD)

Largest Roman Amphitheater (could seat 50,000)

6 tiers of seats supported by a structural brick and concrete façade of 80 arches on four levels – 600' end to end



www.Harpy.ucc.edu



www.Harpy.ucc.edu

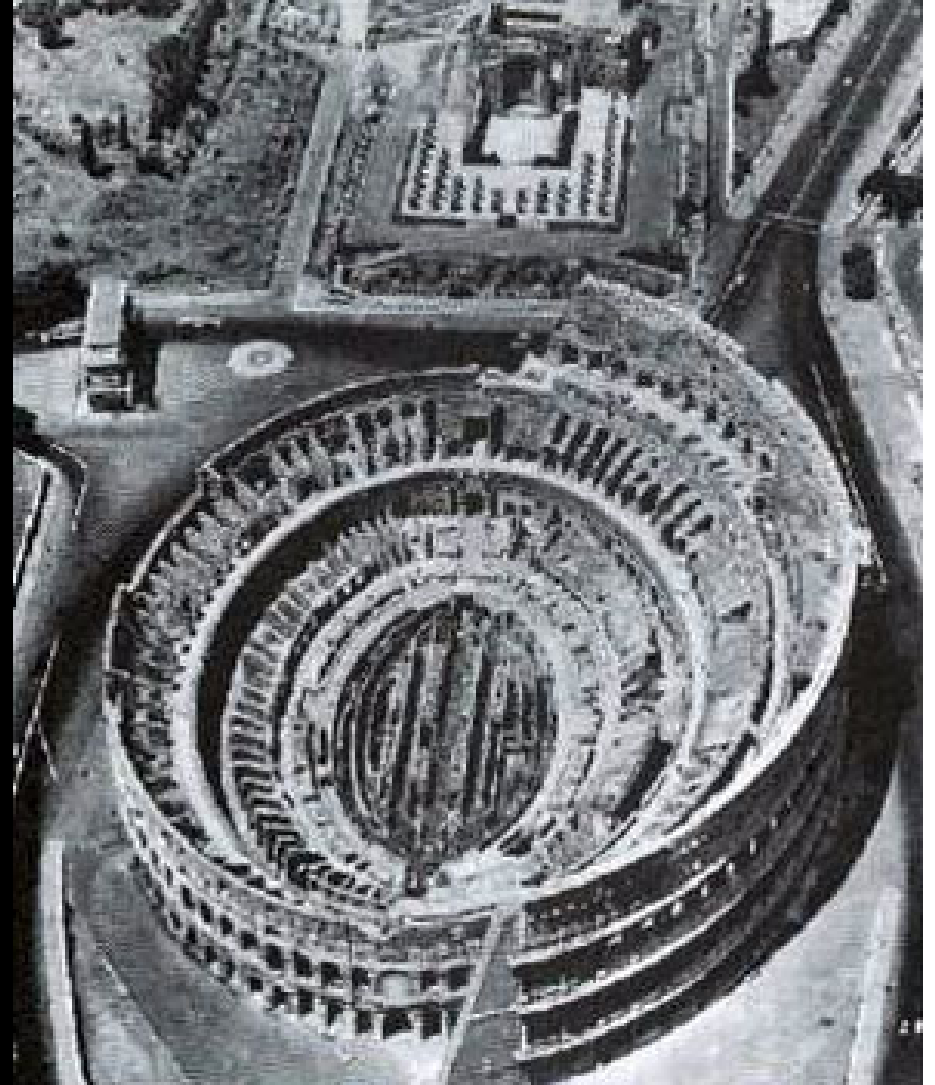
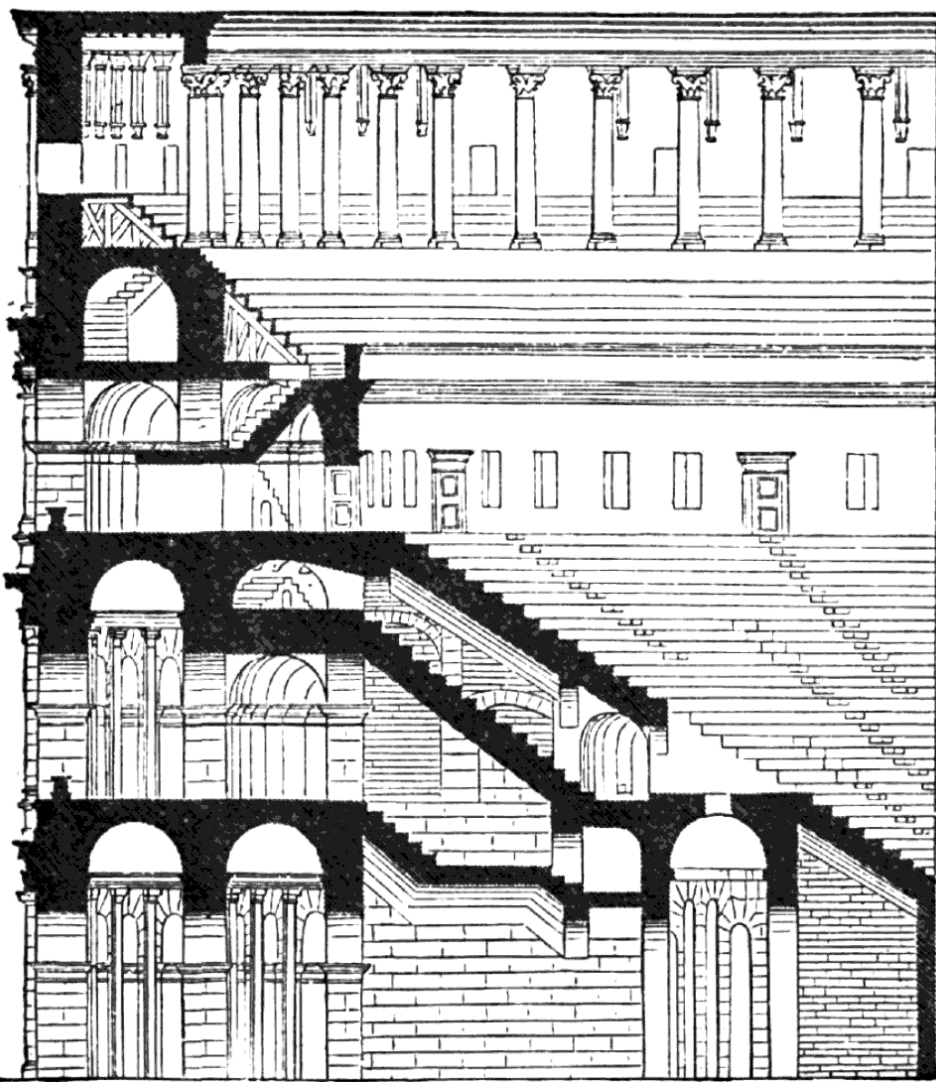
# Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheater): 80CE (AD)

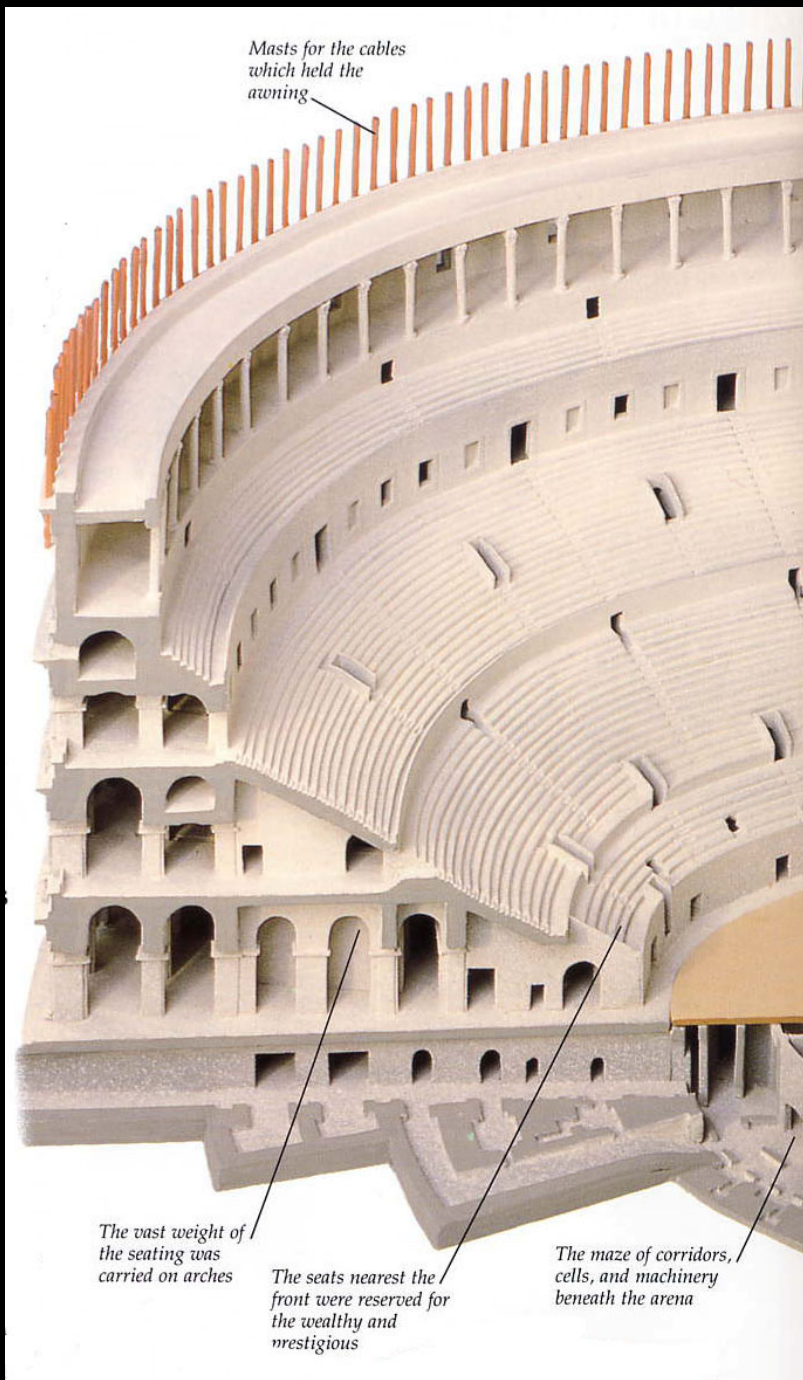
- Begun by Vespasian on Nero's Lake of his Golden House
- 2 complete passageways encircling it with ramps from seating areas – allowed for handling of large audiences



# Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheater): 80CE (AD)

- Used as late as 523 CE (AD)



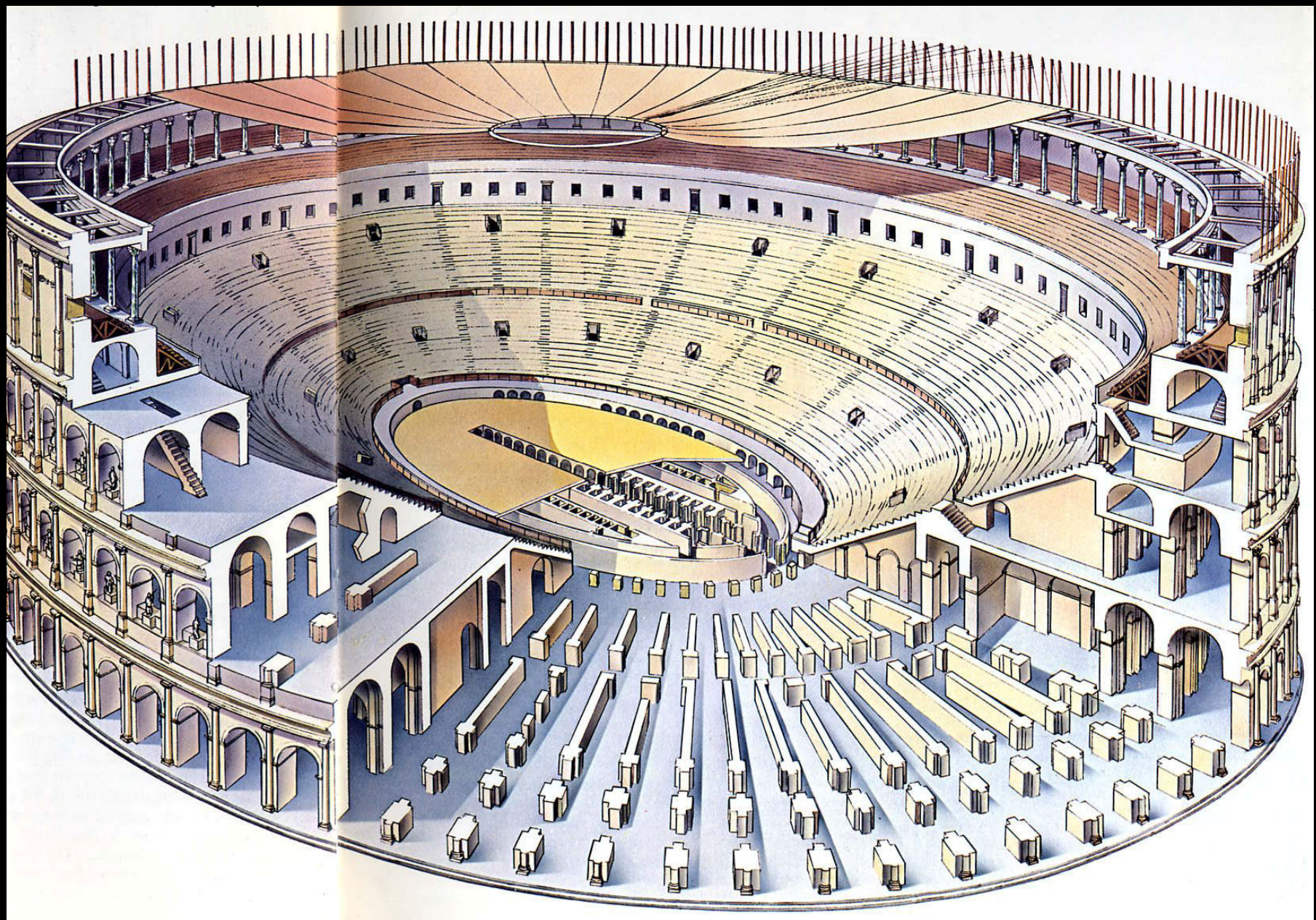


Masts for the cables which held the awning

The vast weight of the seating was carried on arches

The seats nearest the front were reserved for the wealthy and prestigious

The maze of corridors, cells, and machinery beneath the arena



Mansell, George, *Anatomy of Architecture*, London: Hamlyn Publishing, 1979, p 31.

# Temples:

Often for 3 Gods – individual chambers (Cellas)

Divine accommodations were pushed back on high podium

Viewed from only one viewpoint – the front

Ideal position was at the end of the open space / axis

Flat, frontal view

1<sup>st</sup> Century Augustus and Tiberius rebuilt most of the temples in Rome – Retained base, but changed the exterior to meet current Hellenistic and Roman style

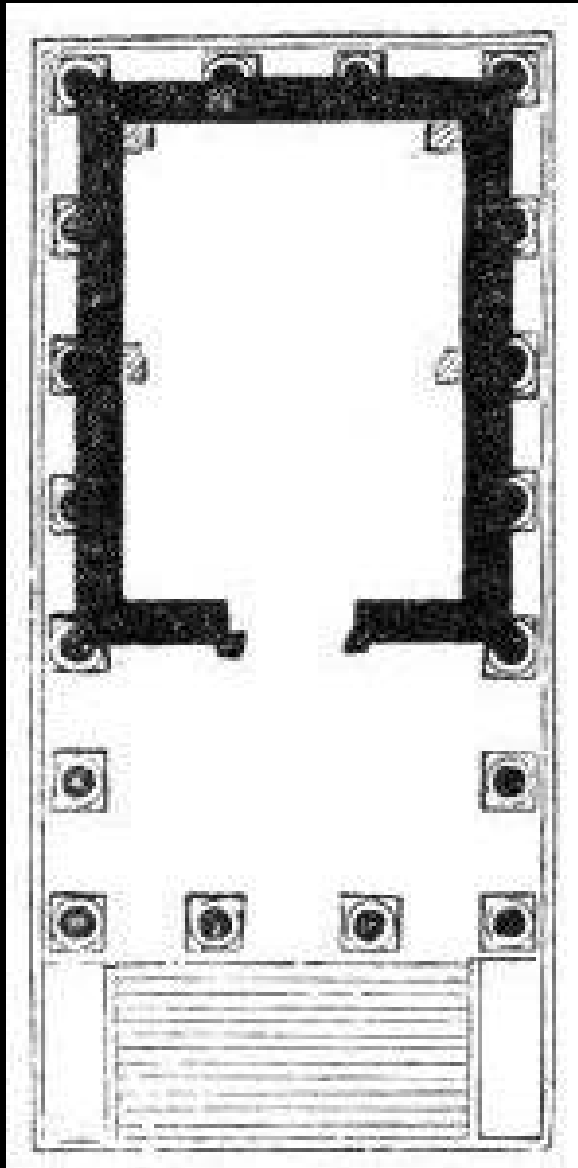


# Temple of Fortuna Virilis

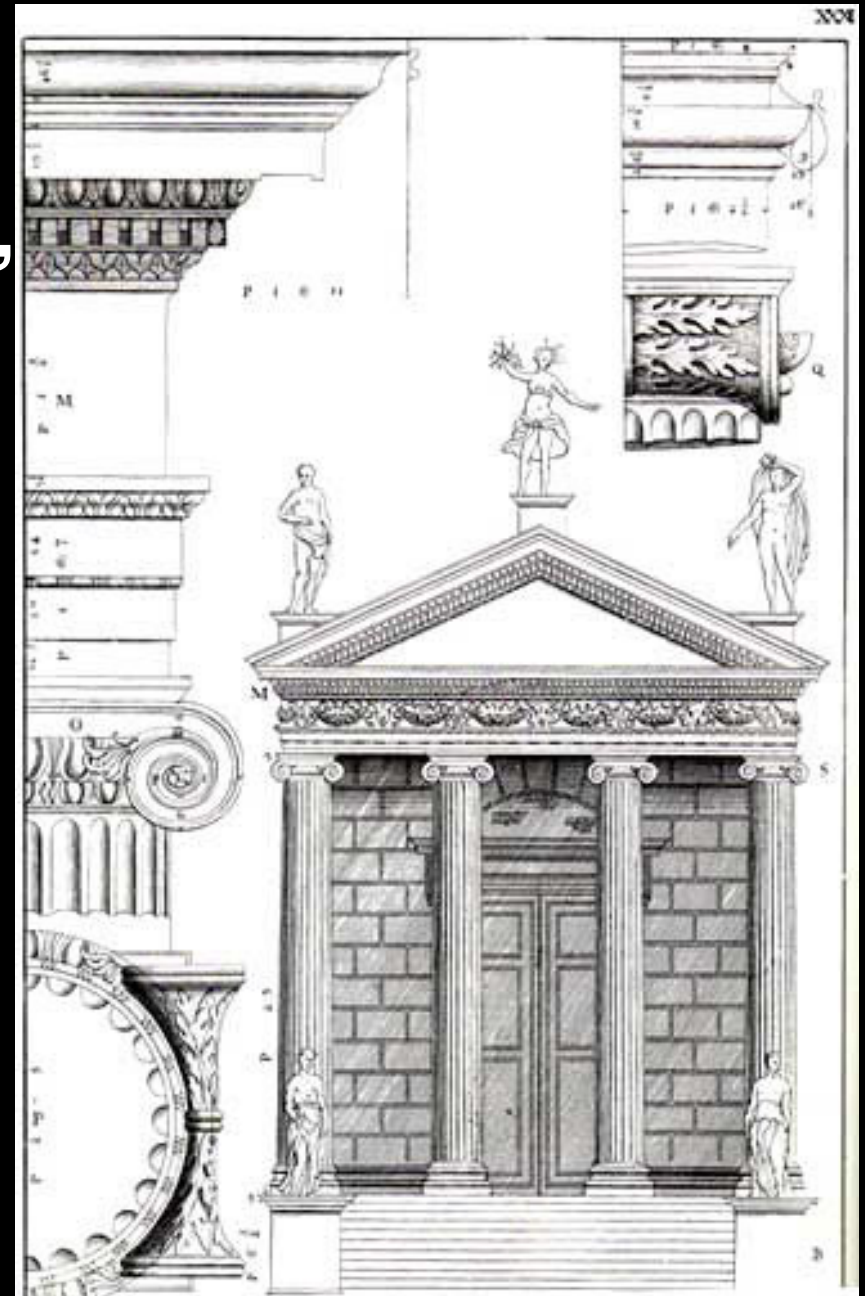
c. 75 BCE



# Temple of Fortuna Virilis, Rome c. 75 BCE



# Temple of Fortuna Virilis, Rome c. 75 BCE

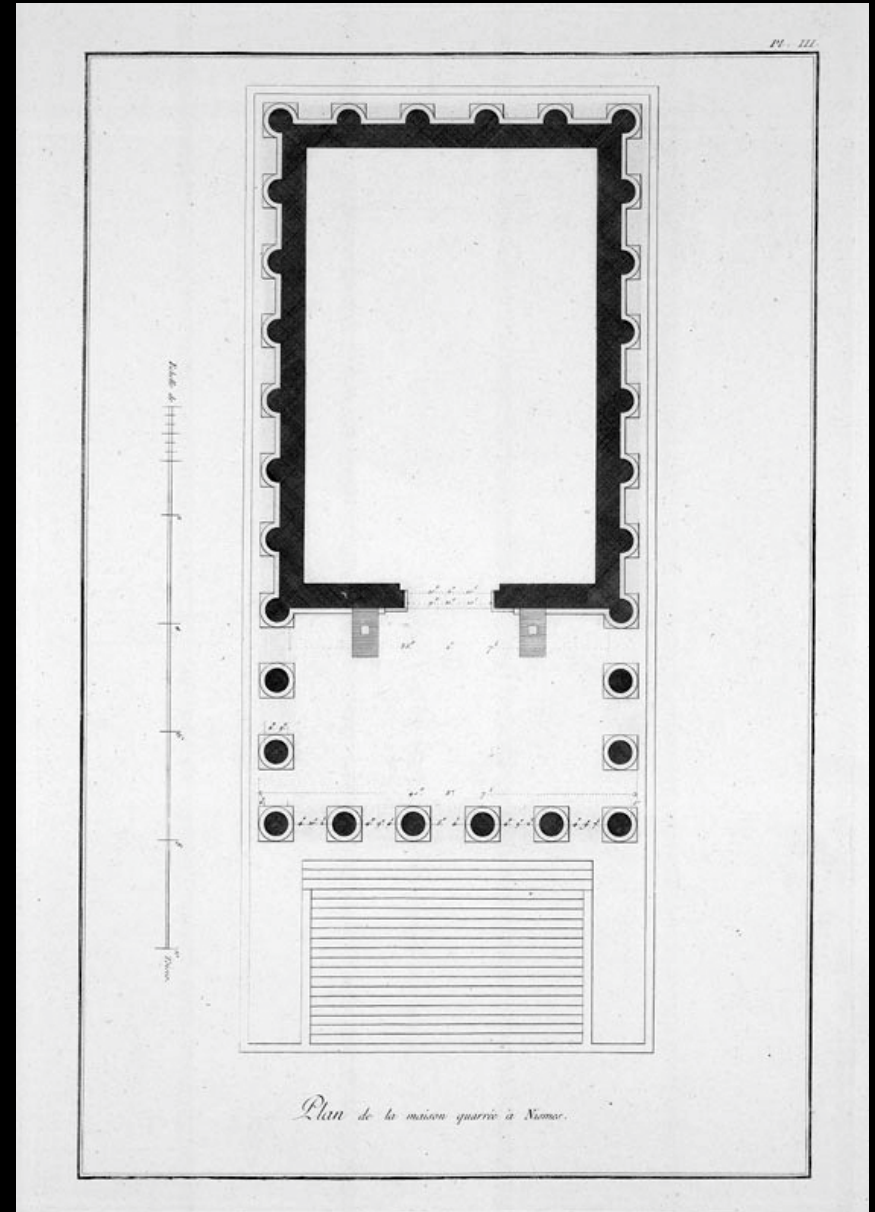


# Maison Carree: 16 BCE Nimes

Perfect example of classic Vitruvian architecture.



Wikimedia Commons <http://commons.wikimedia.org>



"The Maison Carrée" from Antiquités de la France. Charles-Louis Clérissseau. Paris. Bound volume. Library of Virginia.

# Maison Carree: 16 BCE Nimes



# Pantheon: 25 BCE -213 CE (AD)

One of the last great Pagan Temples

Portico: Corinthian granite columns by Agrippa (25 BCE)

120-124AD Hadrian built the rotunda, with an oculus at the highest point, an opening through which the sun shines





# Pantheon: 25 BCE -213 CE

- 142' spherical rotunda with a 30' oculus
- Height of dome equals diameter of the floor plan (in theory could hold a sphere).
- Coffered ceiling: once embellished with stucco





# Pantheon dome





By féileacán  
www.flickr.com



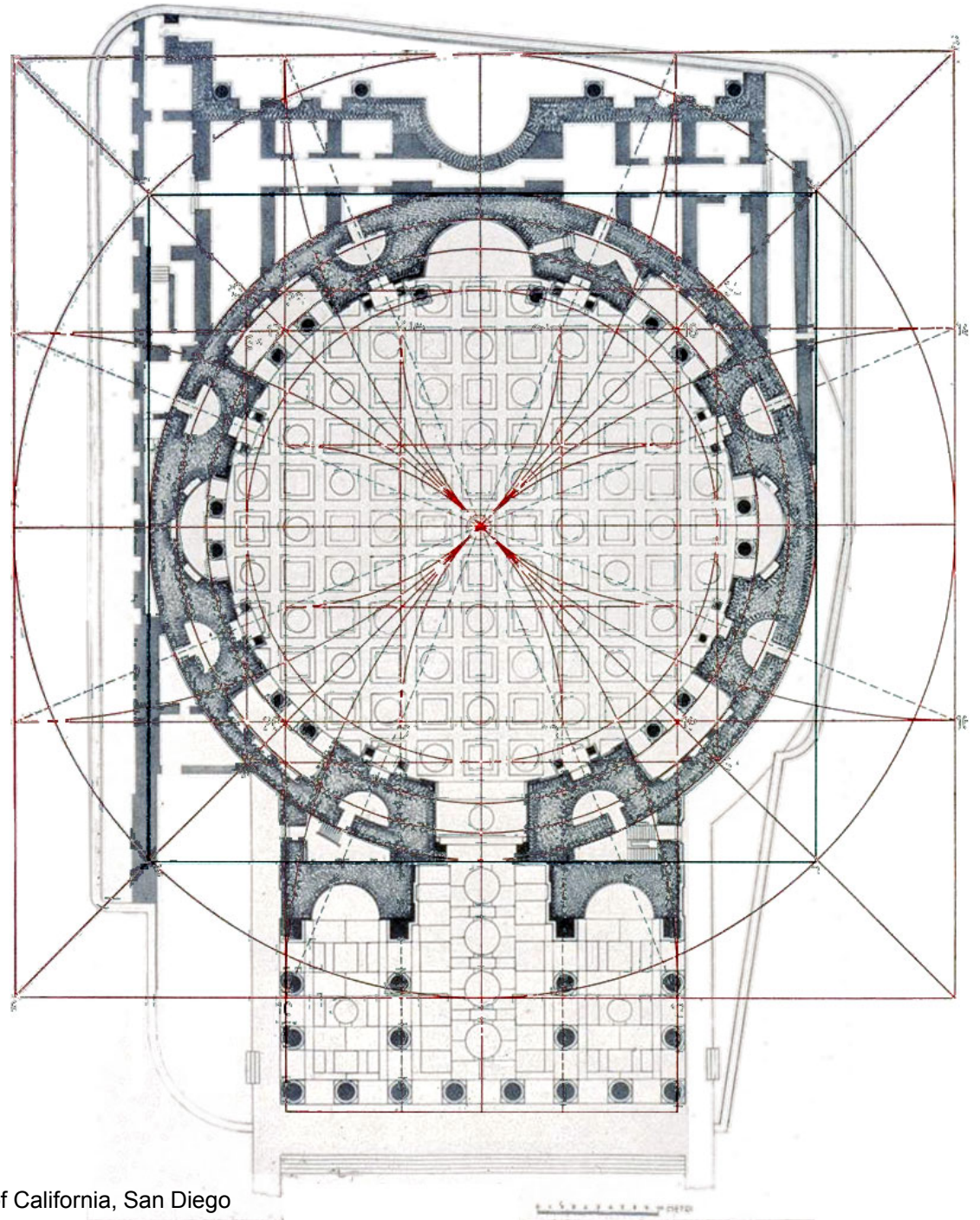
By irene  
www.flickr.com

# Pantheon:

25 BCE - 213 CE



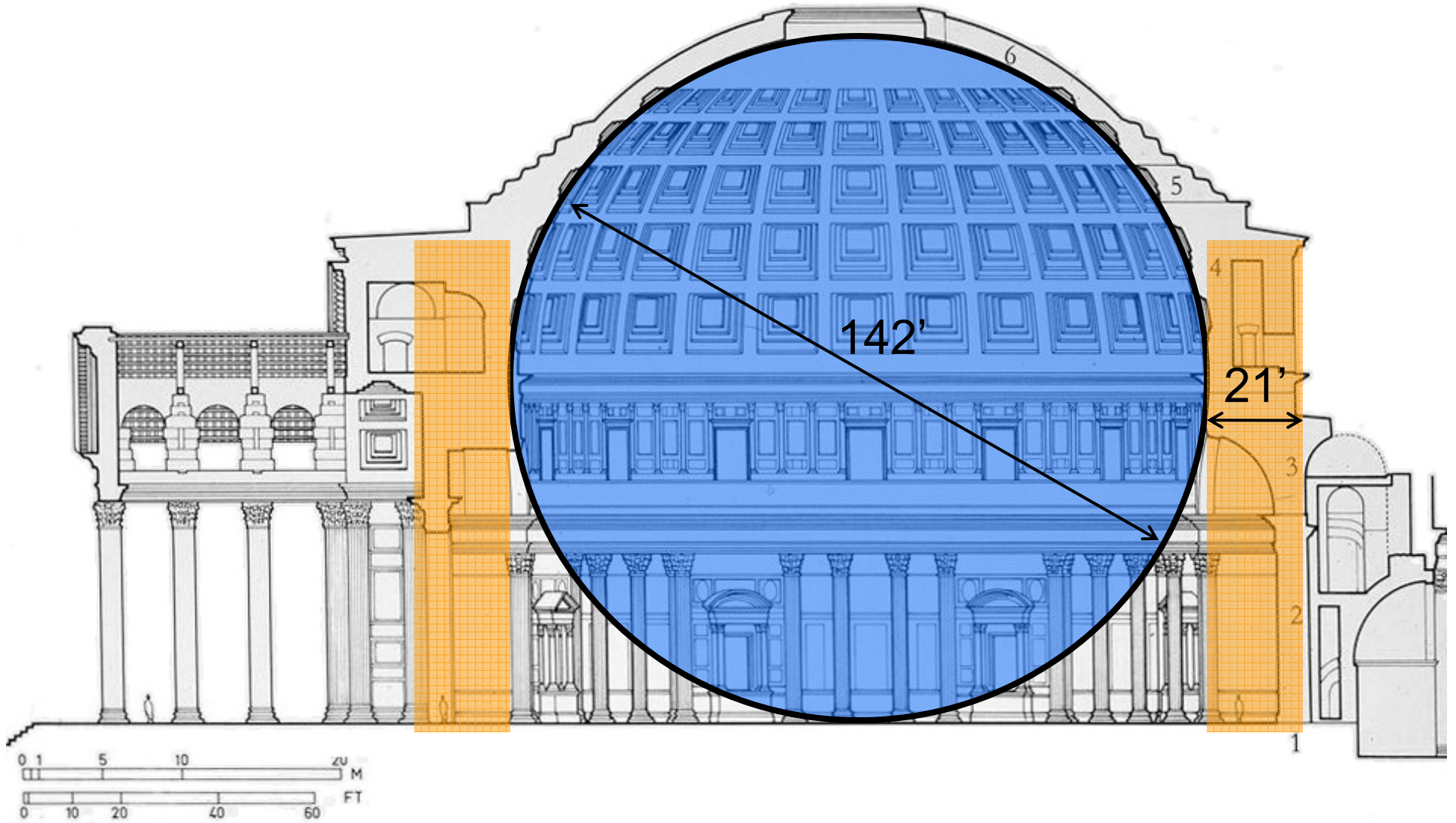
ARTstor - ARTstor - University of California, San Diego

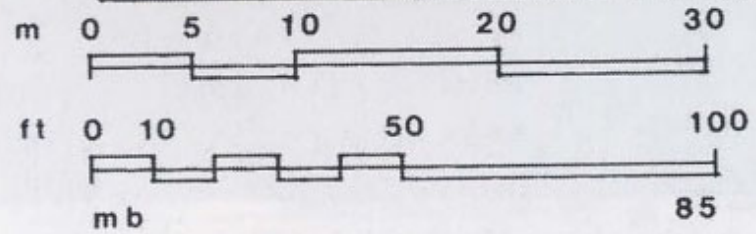
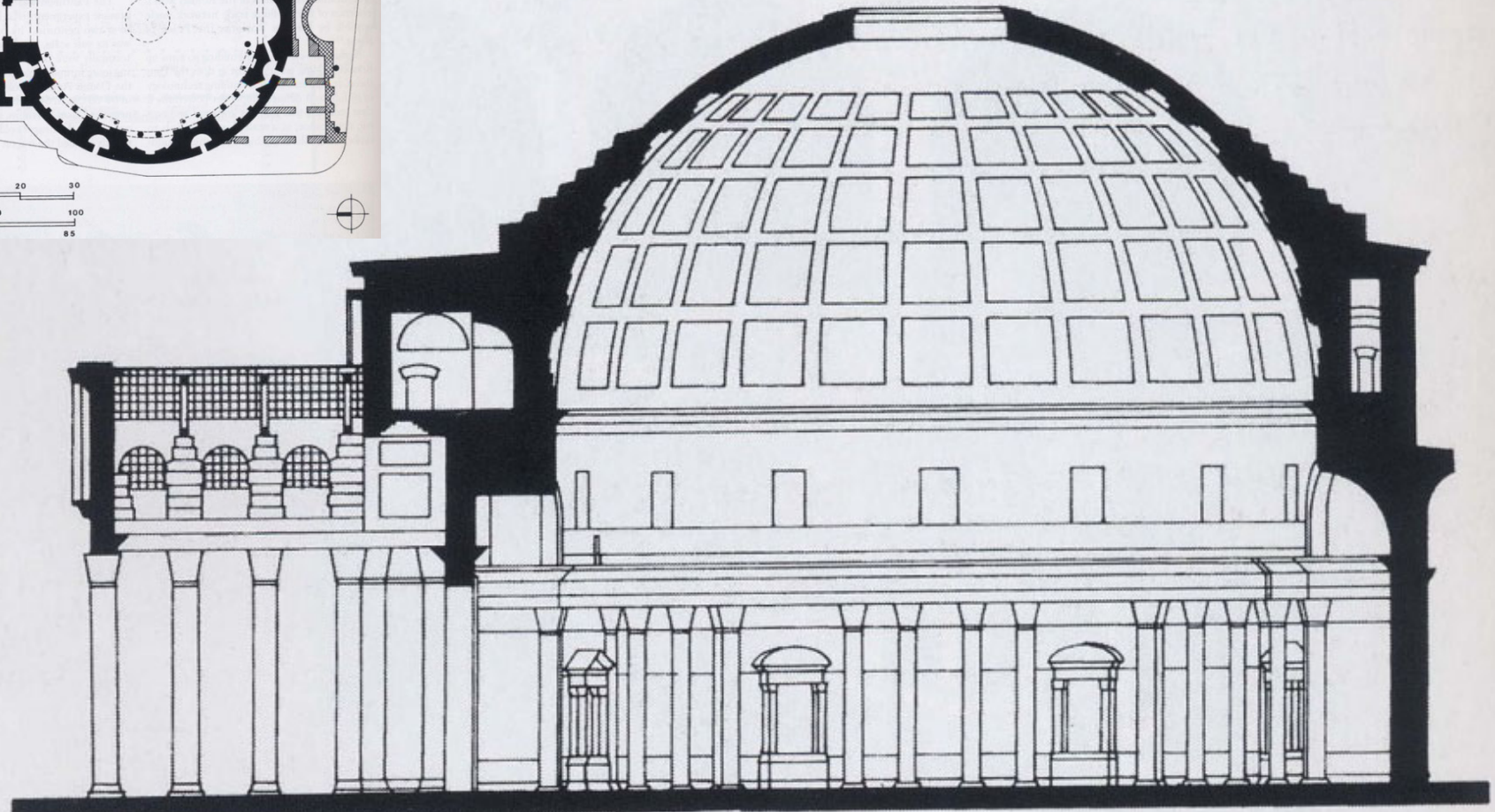
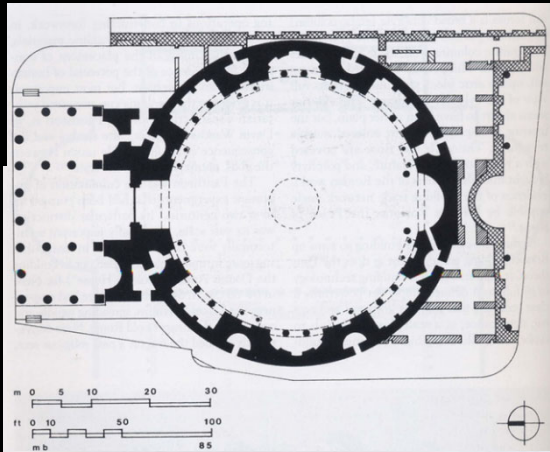


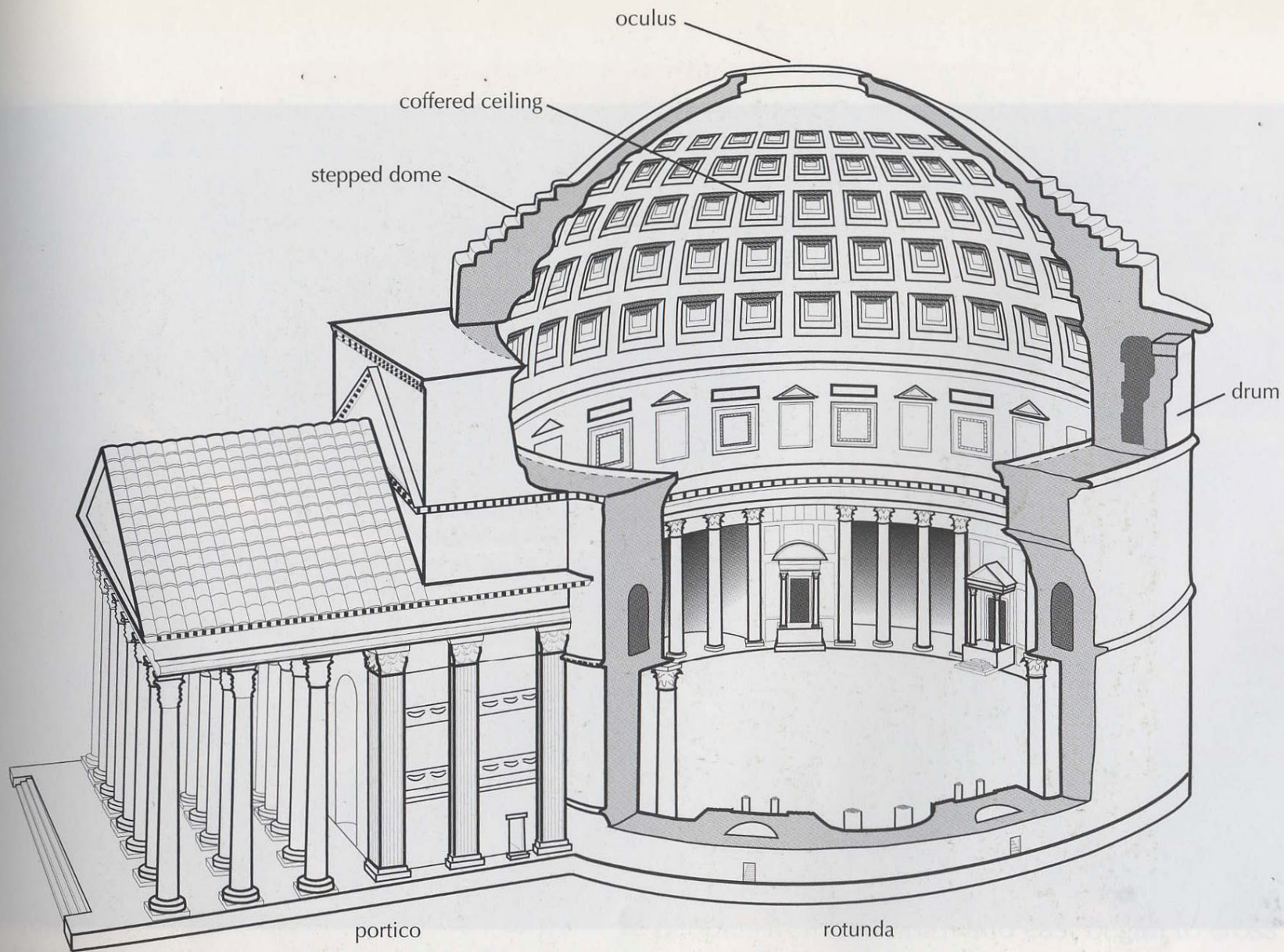
ARTstor - University of California, San Diego

# Pantheon: 25 BCE -213 CE

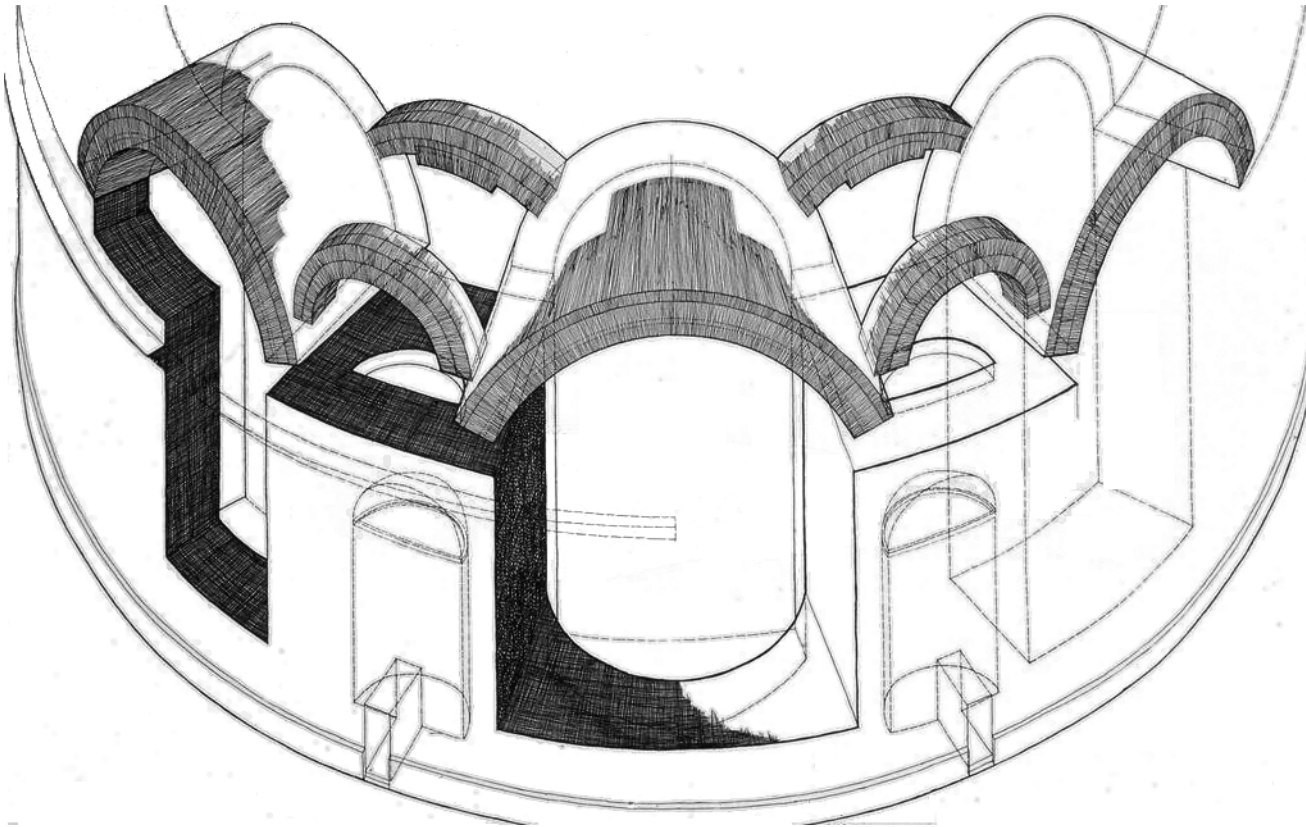
21' walls built of concrete sandwiched between layers of brick, sheathed in marble veneer



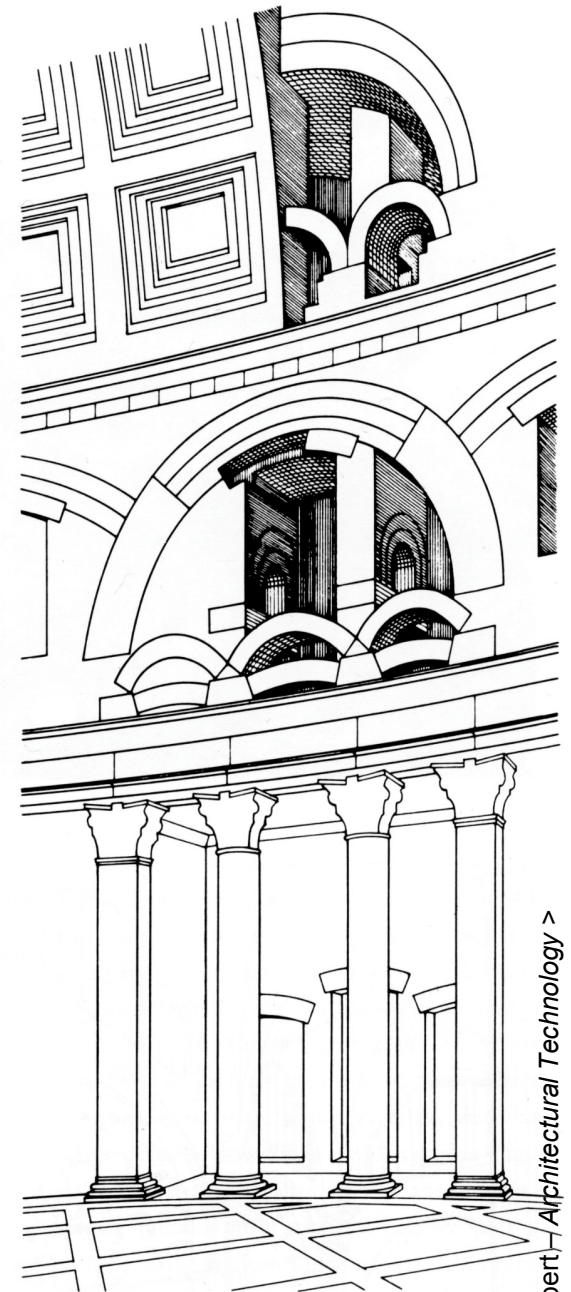




# Pantheon: 25 BCE -213 CE



ARTstor - University of California, San Diego



3.37 Pantheon: relieving arches in the wall (MacDonald).





# Pantheon:

25 BCE -213 CE

Built with 8 great recesses  
7 for major gods  
1 for the entrance

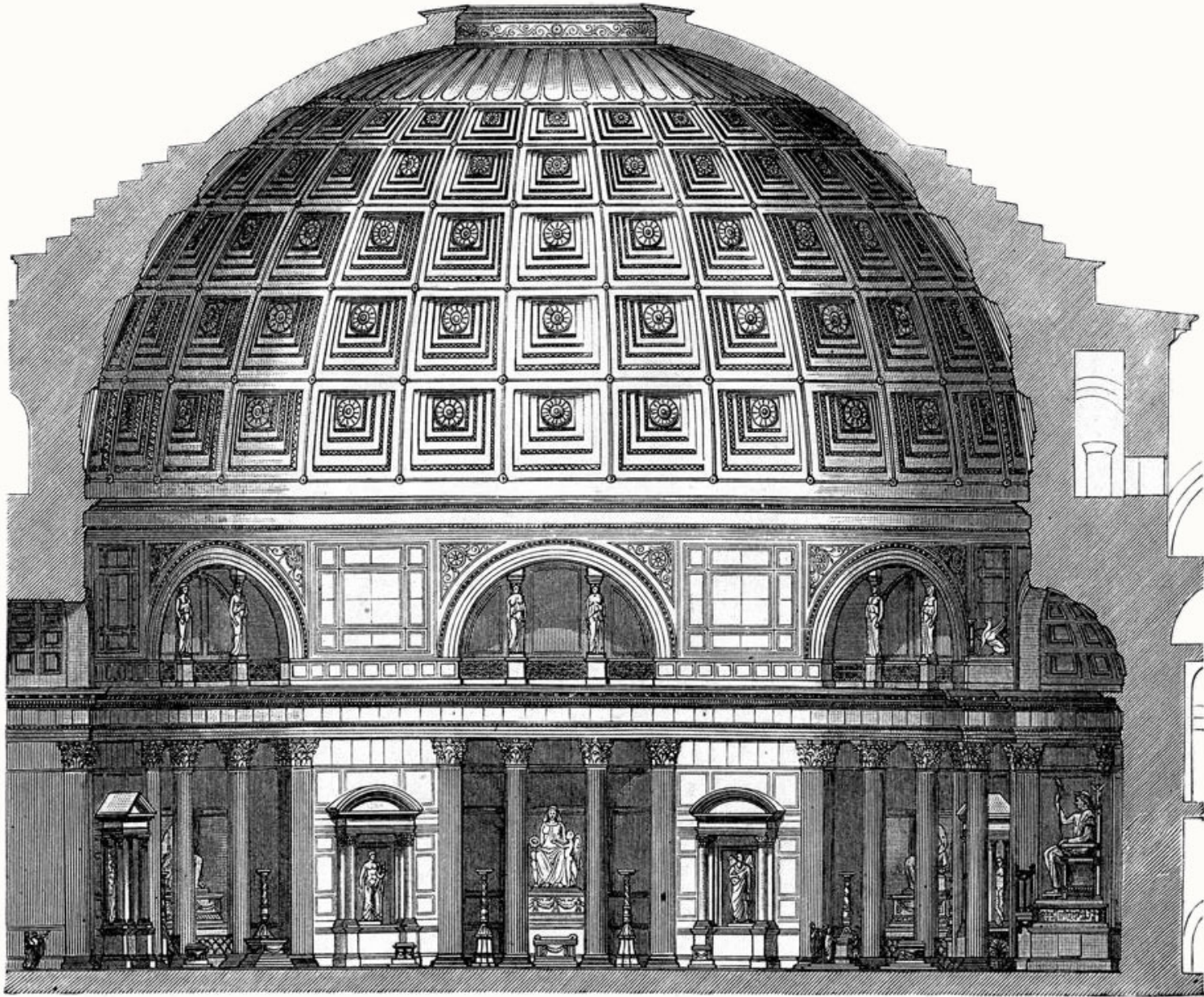


[www. Harpy.ucc.edu](http://www.Harpy.ucc.edu)



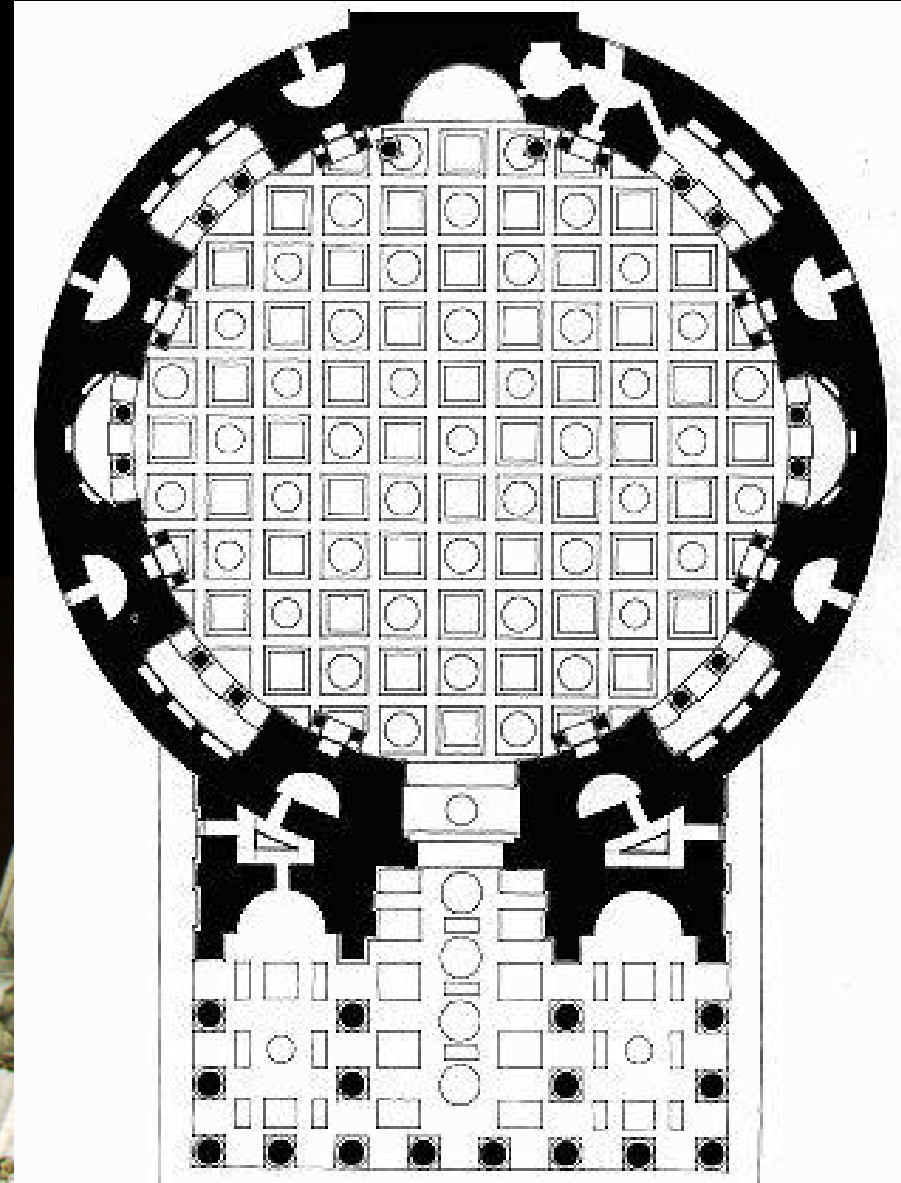
[www. Harpy.ucc.edu](http://www.Harpy.ucc.edu)

# Pantheon: 25 BCE -213 CE



14. Section of the Pantheon. Original disposition. (According to Adler.)

Pantheon: 25 BCE -213 CE: Its monumental size is unparalleled by any other masonry structure up to now



# Pantheon: 25 BCE -213 CE



# Pantheon



ARTstor - ARTstor - University of California, San Diego

# Roman Residential Forms

## Insula: tenement (multi-family) buildings

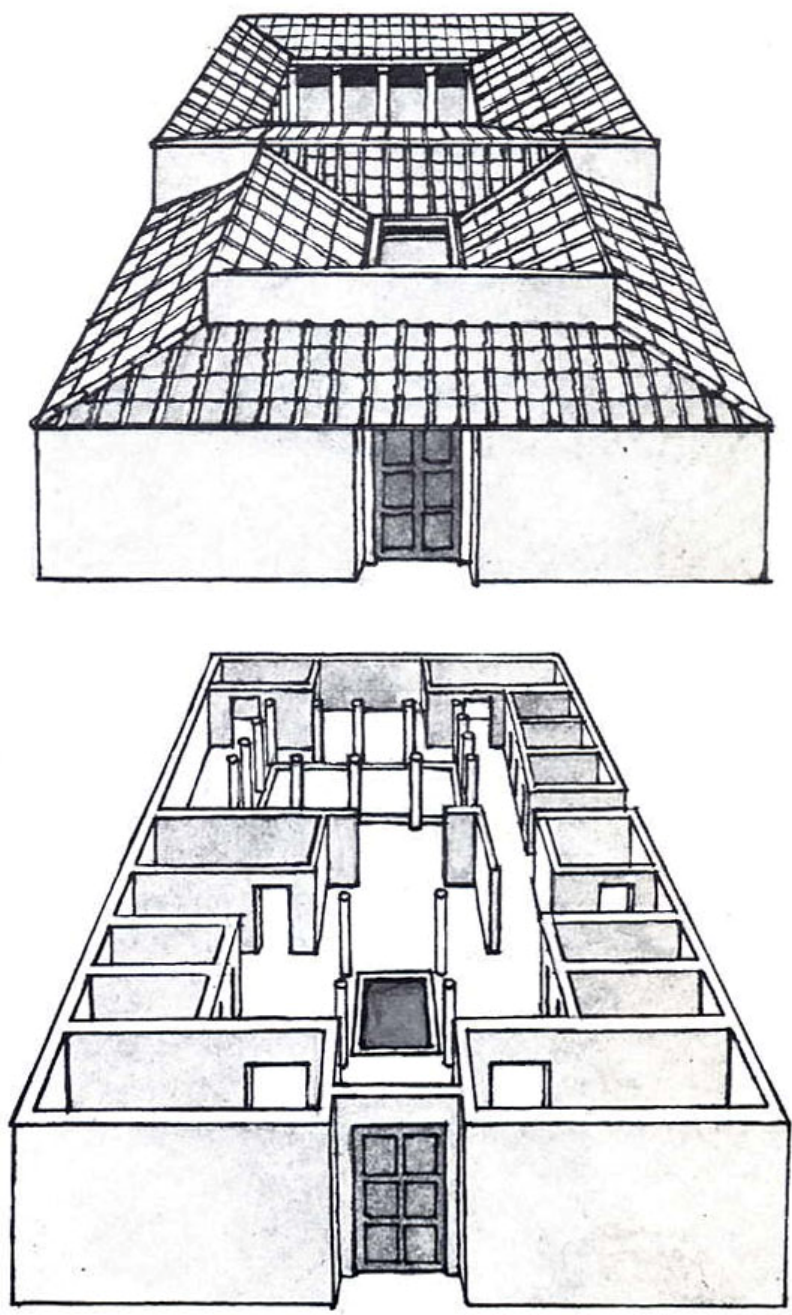
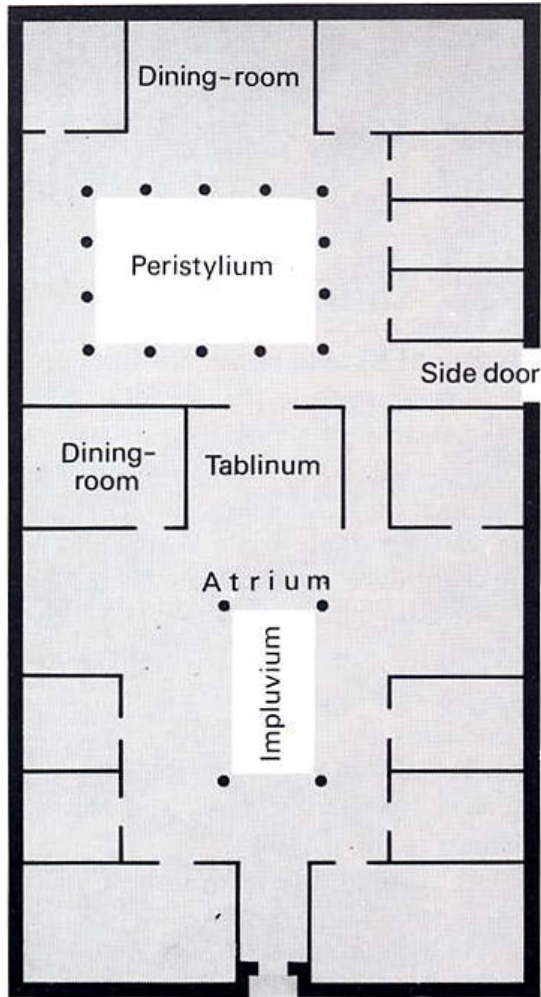
- common after 64 CE when there was a disastrous fire
- could be 6 stories high
- central courtyard
- shops on ground floor; cooking facilities on roof

## Urban Houses:

- Atrium plan: rooms open on courtyards for access to light and air
- Blank walls to street; could include shops
- Center door = axial symmetry
- Vestibule
- Atrium: covered colonnade, open above impluvium (water basin)
- Tablinum: main reception area
- Triclinium: dining room
- Peristyle: another covered colonnade, around a garden

## Villas (country houses) and Urban Palaces

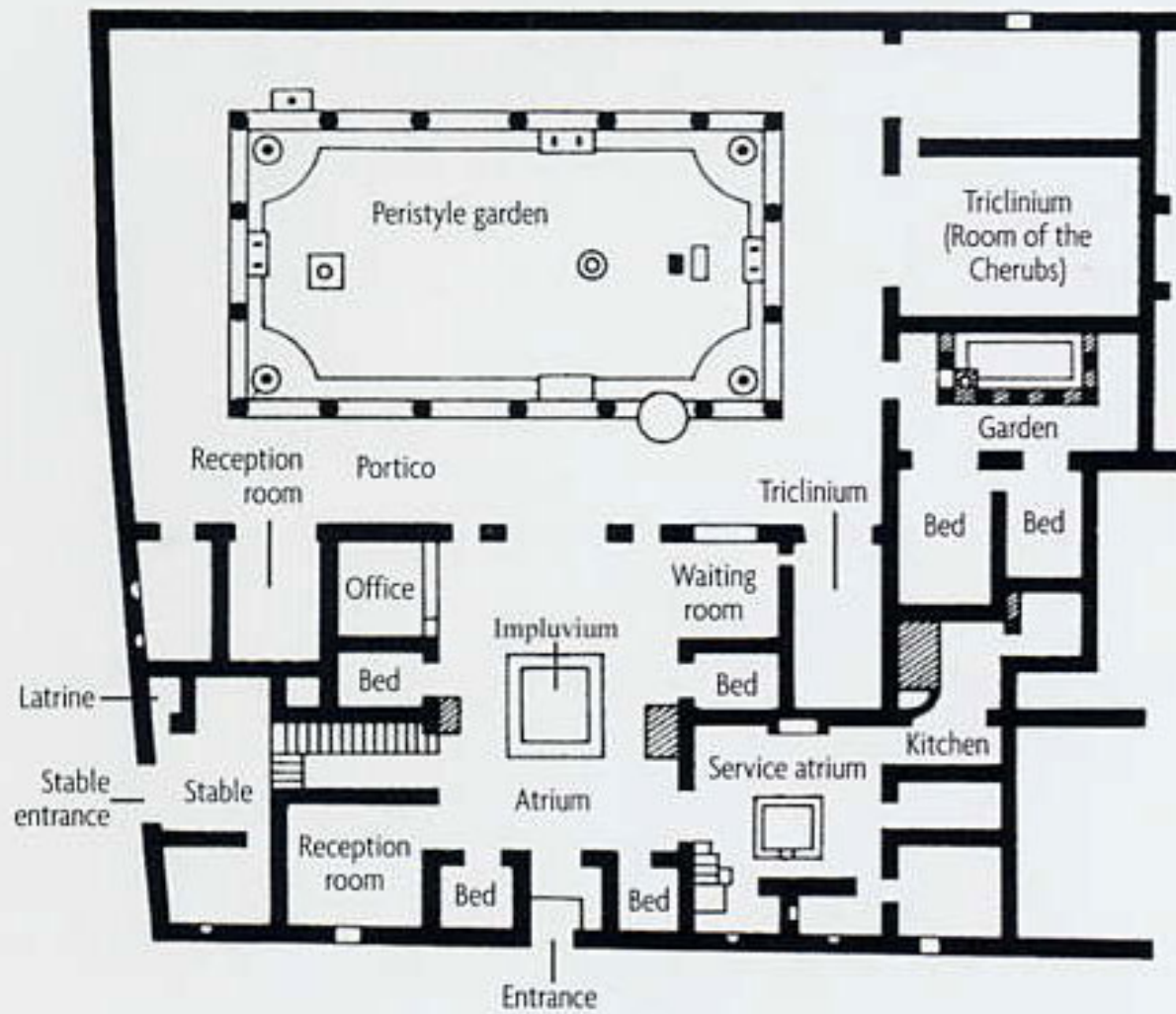
- similar features, rooms, and axial arrangements
- some rooms opening to exterior gardens and the landscape



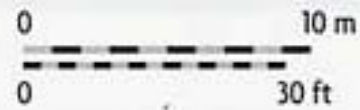
Andrews, Ian, Pompeii, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.







House of the Vetii



# Peristyle and garden, House of the Vettii, Pompeii, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE



# Atrium and Impluvium, House of the Cellii, Pompeii, 1<sup>st</sup> century CE



**Reading: Fazio, Moffet & Wodehouse**  
***A World History of Architecture or Buildings Across Time***  
**Chapter 5**



# Review of Residential Forms

## Urban houses and palaces in antiquity:

- Catal Höyük Assyrian
- Egyptian
- Minoan
- Mycenaean
- Greek
- Harapan (Indus Valley)
- Chinese

# Catal Huyuk, Anatolia 6000-5900 BCE

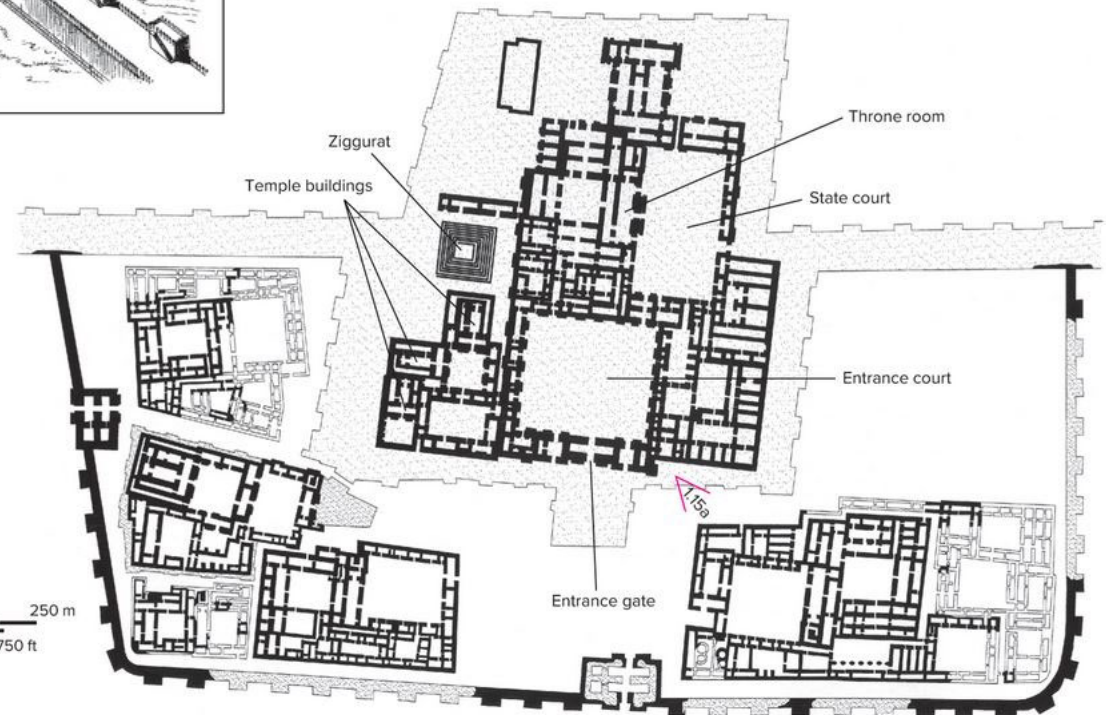
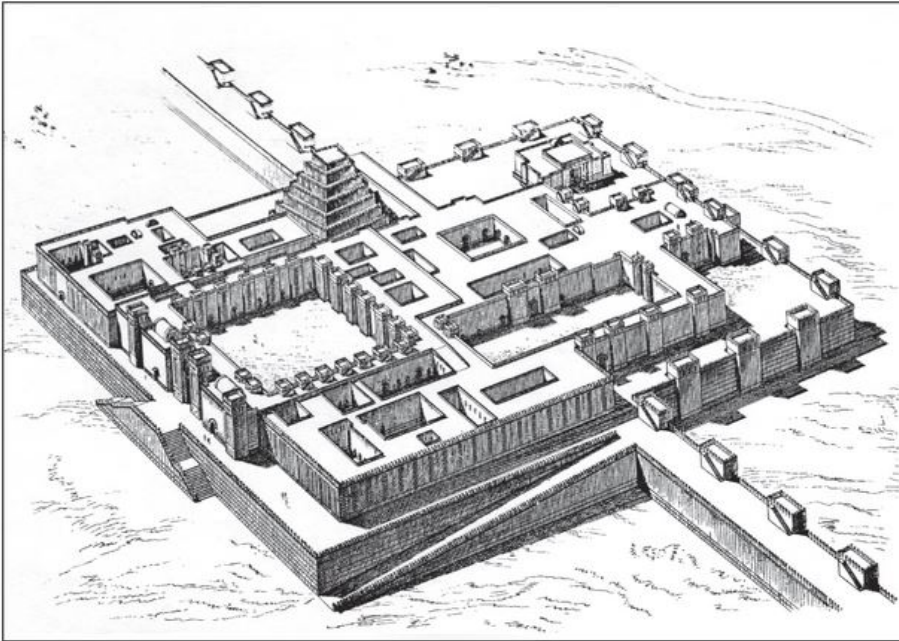


<http://www.illustrato.de/mappe.html> by Jochen Stuhmann

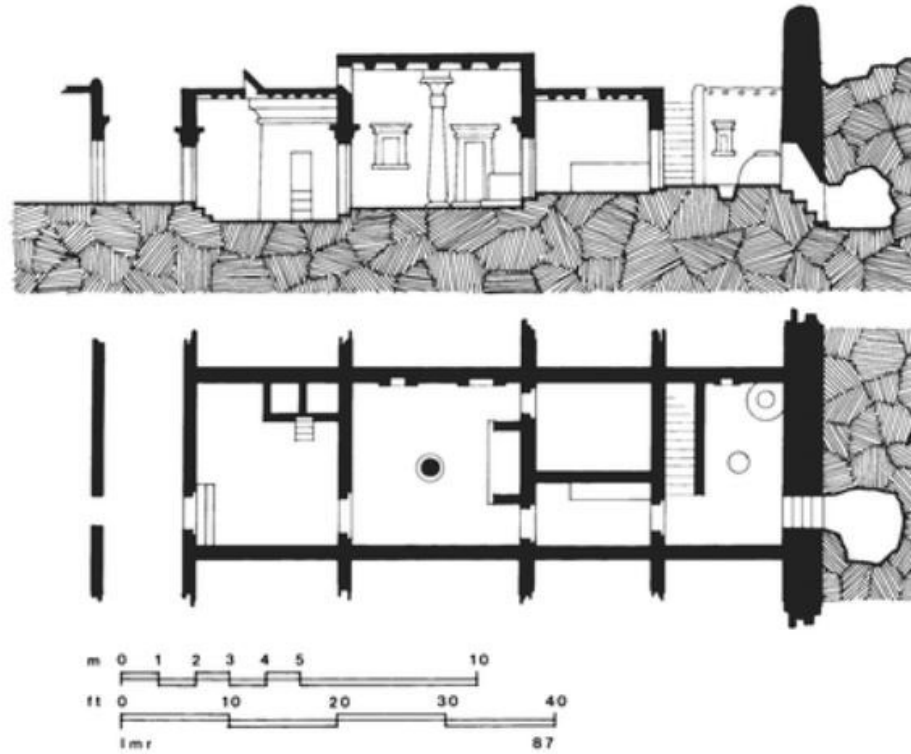


Weimar (Thuringia). Museum for Prehistory in Thuringia: Model of Catal Höyük (7300 BC) .  
[Wolfgang Sauber](#) (Wikimedia Commons)

# Assyrians Palace at Khorsabad, Assyria (Iraq), by Sargon II: c. 720 BCE



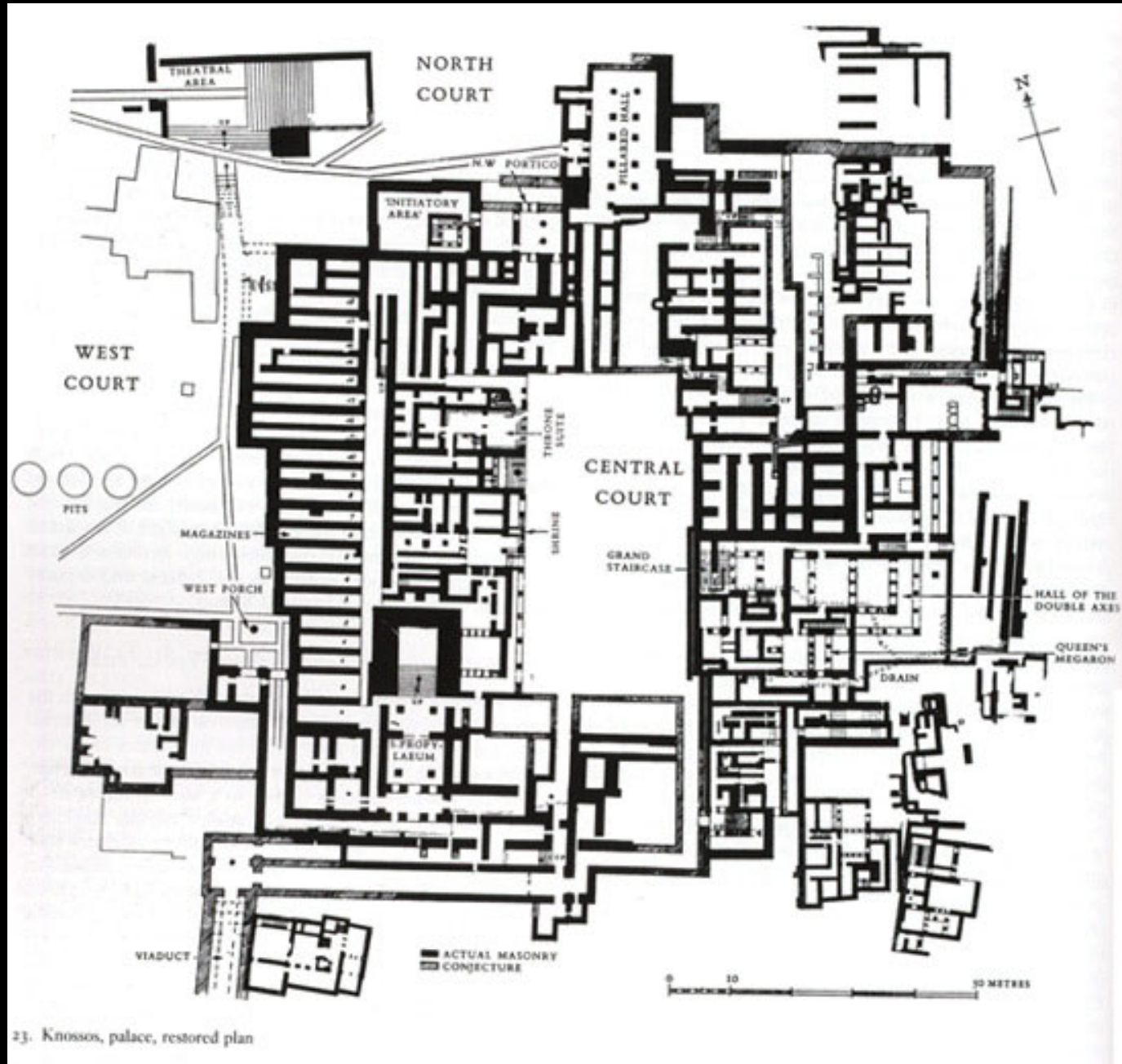
**1.15b** Plan of the palace, Khorsabad, Assyria (Iraq), ca. 720 BCE.

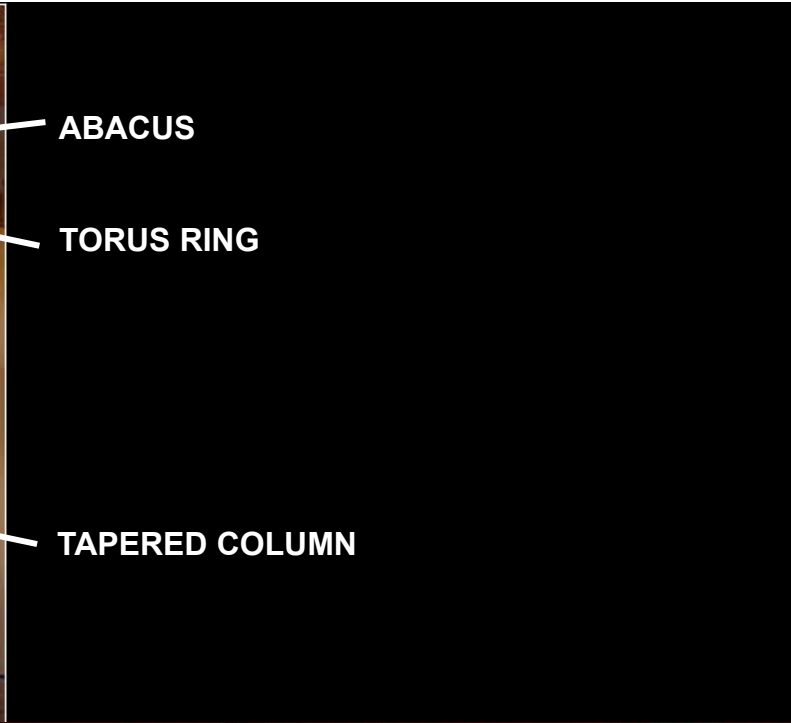


*10.26. One of the artisans' houses at Deir el-Medina. Plan and section. Drawing: L. M. Roth, after James, Introduction to Ancient Egypt (New York, 1989).*



# Palace of Knossos: Evolved organically around a central courtyard





Restored light well, directly above the "Throne Room"

Bathing tub in the "Queen's Megron"

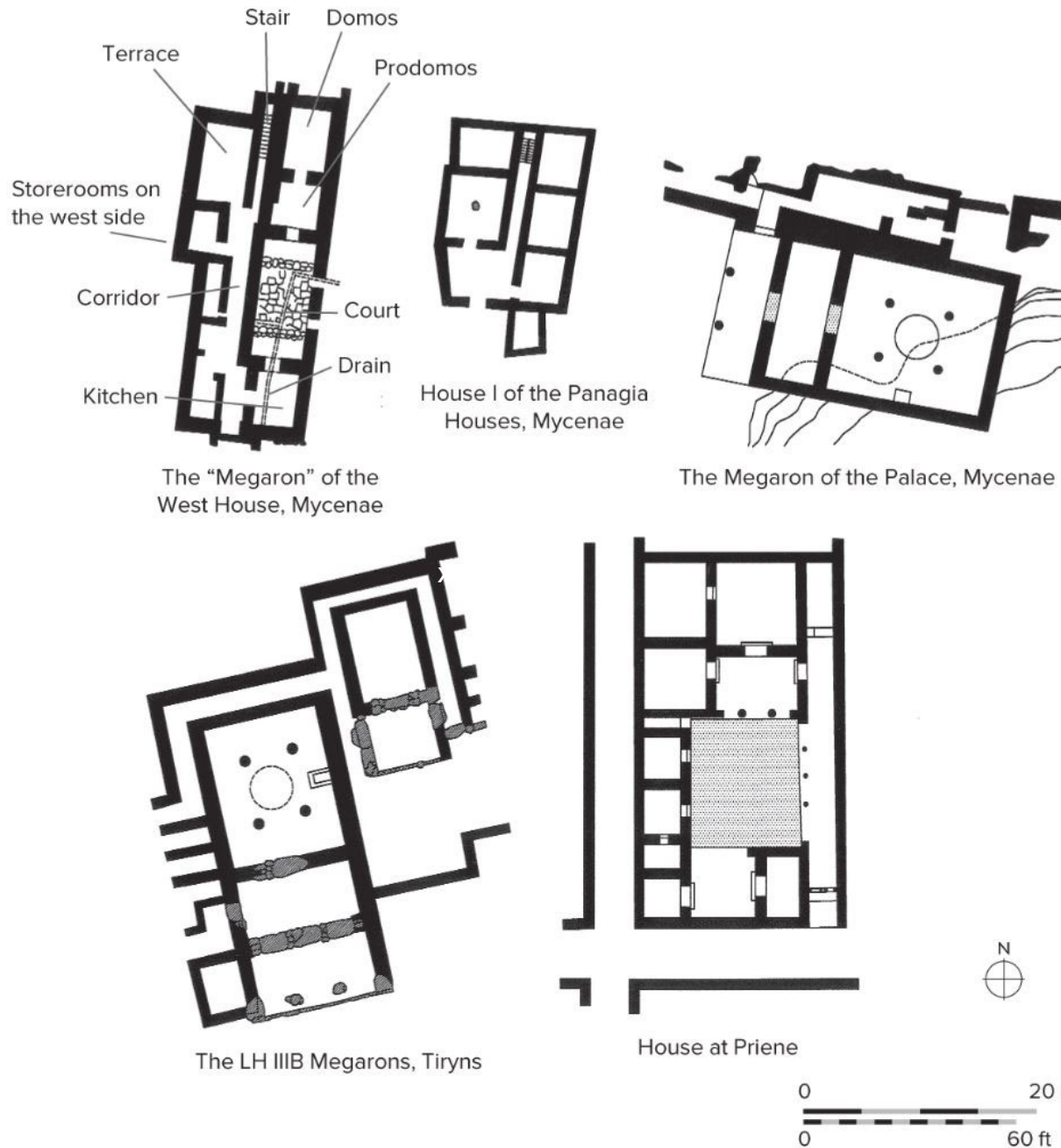




Reconstruction of the large megaron at Pylos

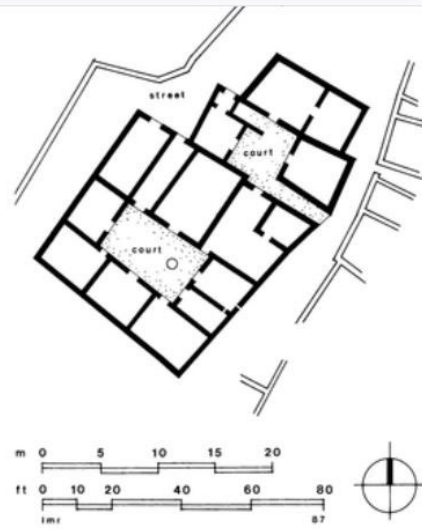


Palaima & Wright 1985

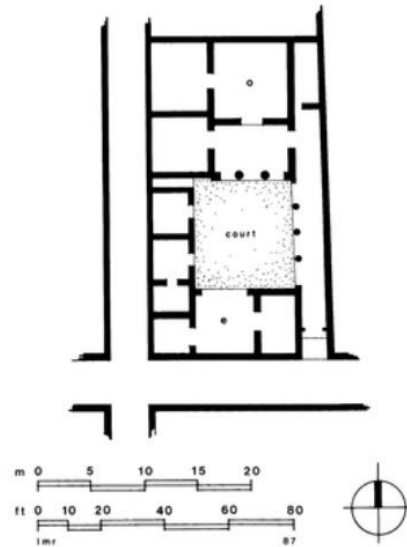


**2.12 Plans of the megarons at Mycenae and elsewhere.**

The West House, located just outside the walls at Mycenae, combines a courtyard porch, antechamber, and megaron. The palace megarons at Mycenae and Tiryns are considerably larger, both with remains of the four column bases that supported the roof around a central hearth.

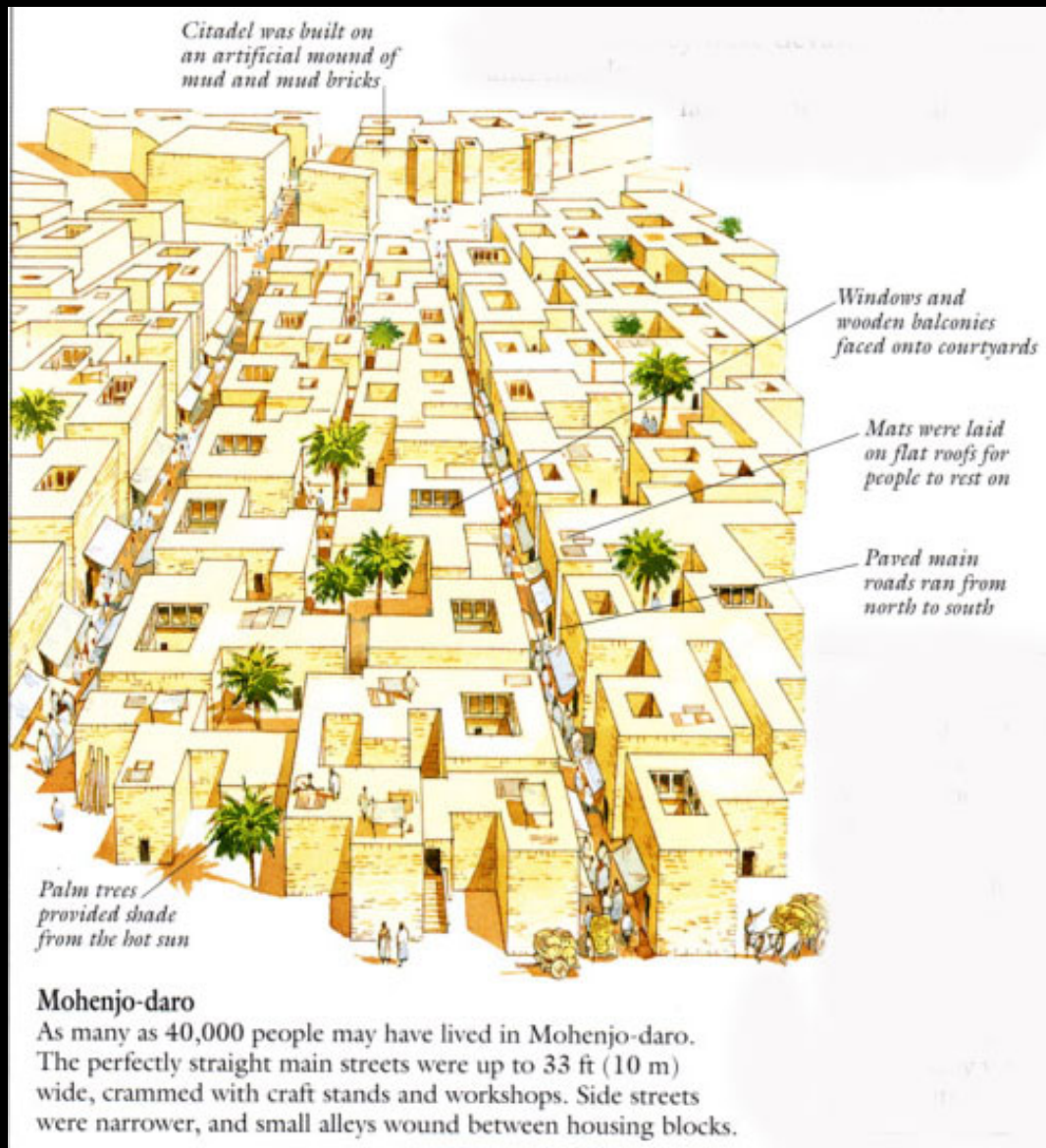


[11.11](#). Artisans' houses near the Agora, Athens, Greece, c. 350 BCE. In Athens private houses were fitted into the irregular street pattern. Drawing: L. M. Roth, after Travlos, *Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Athens* (London, 1971).



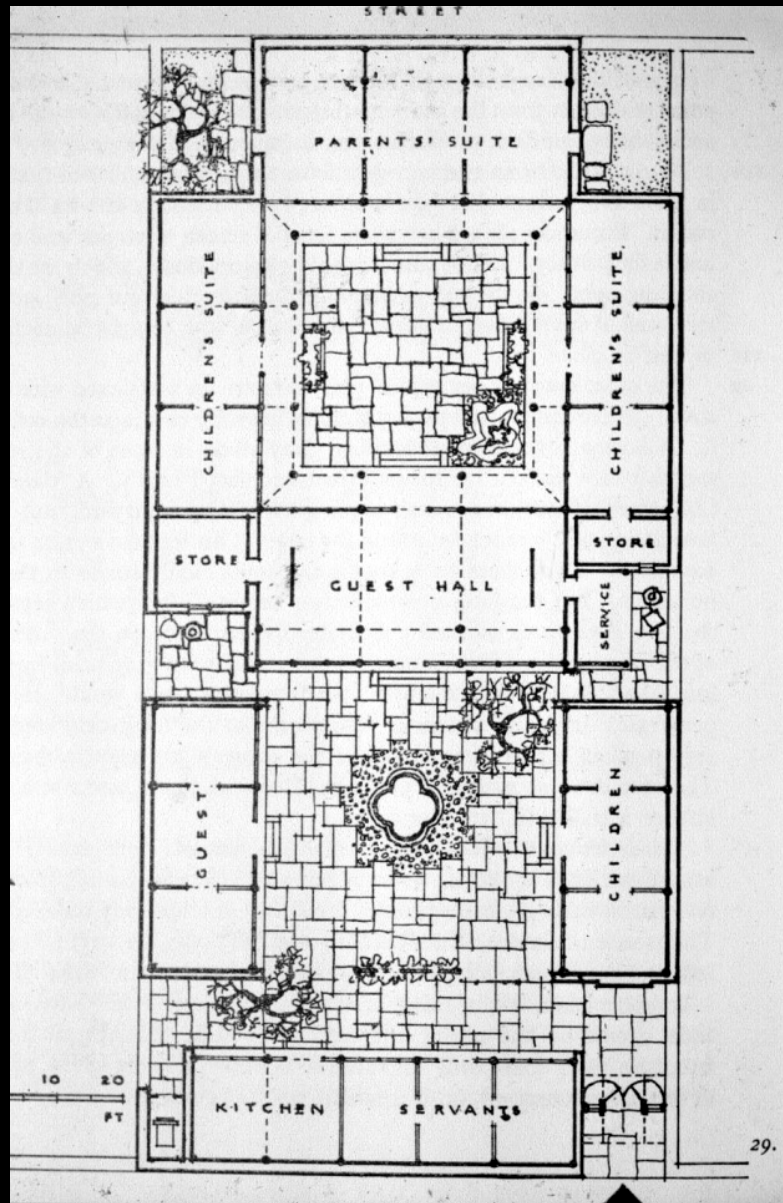
[11.12](#). House, Priene, Asia Minor, c. 450 BCE. In planned cities such as Priene, private houses had more regular plans. At the south edge of the open central court was the exedra (e), and off the court was the principal public room, the oikos (o). Drawing: L. M. Roth.

# Mohenjo Daro, Pakistan, c. 2400 - 2000 BCE



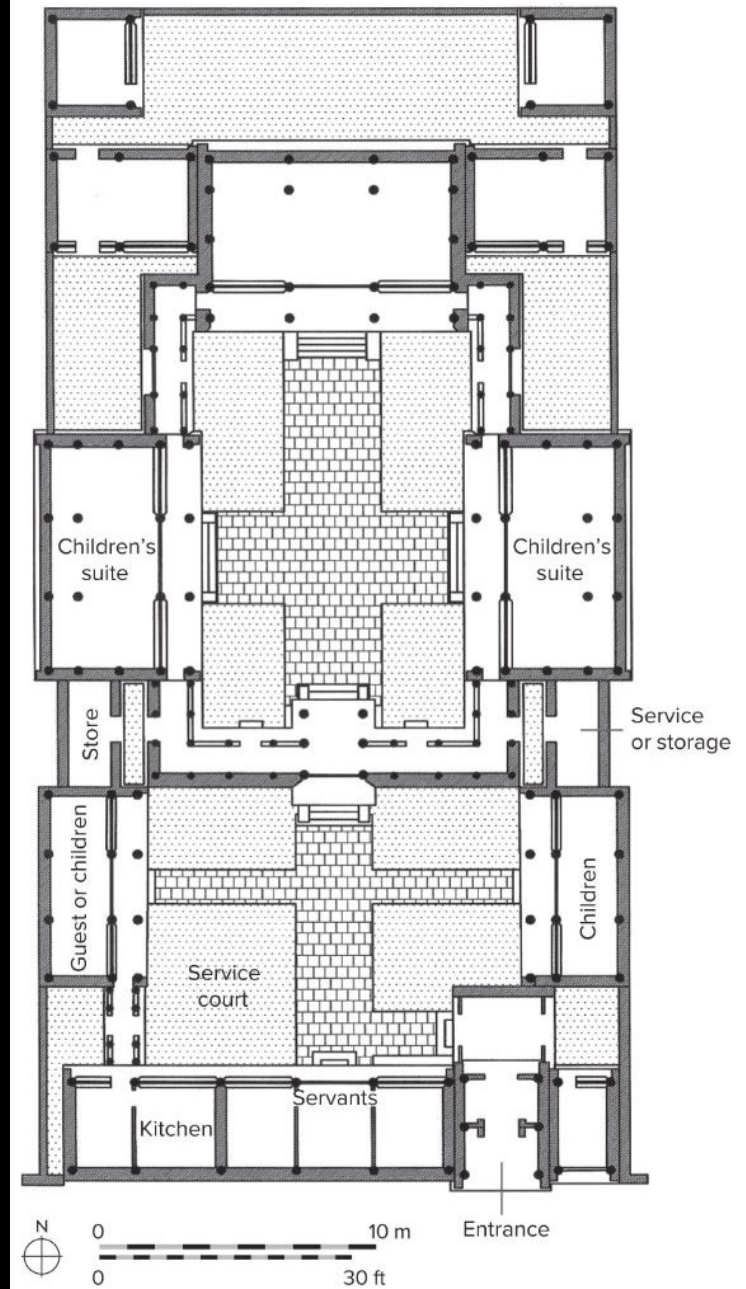
- Best preserved of the ancient Harappan cities of the Indus Valley
- Orderly, well planned cities constructed of uniformly sized fired brick
- 40,000 inhabitants
- Citadel with a large storehouse & a great bath
- No evidence of temples, tombs, or palaces
- Sophisticated plumbing system with fresh water and waste piping

# Houses and Gardens



Fazio, *Building Across Time* (2012) p.92

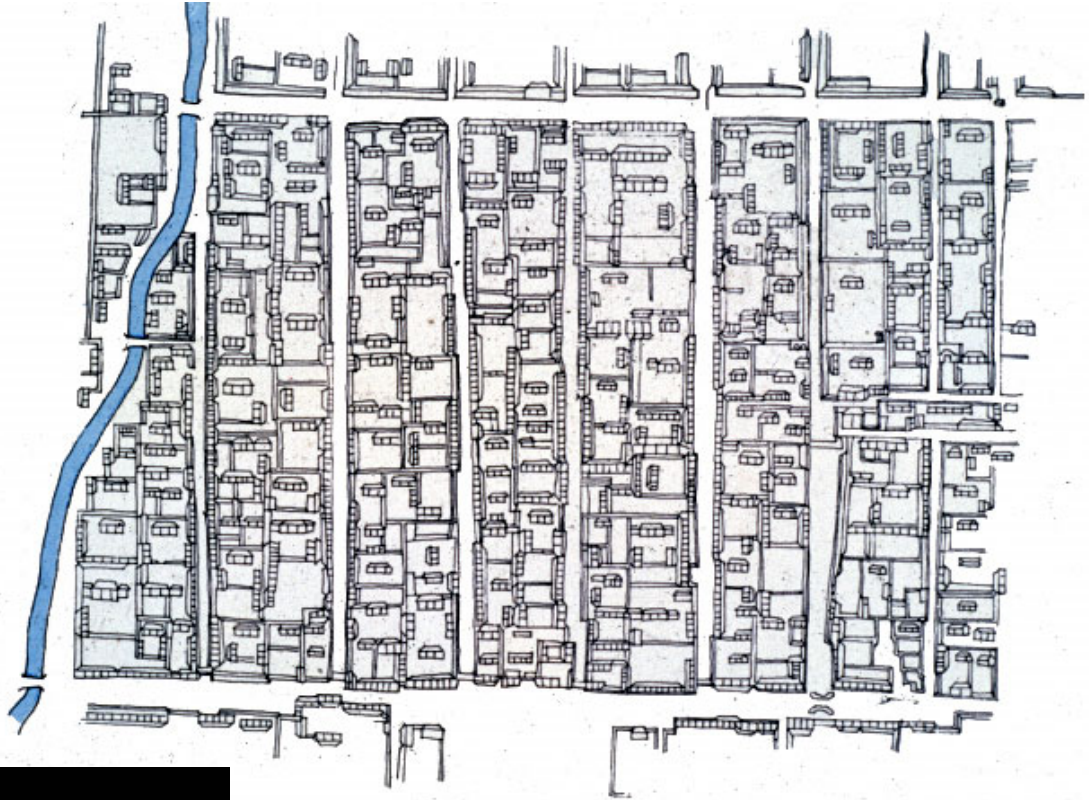
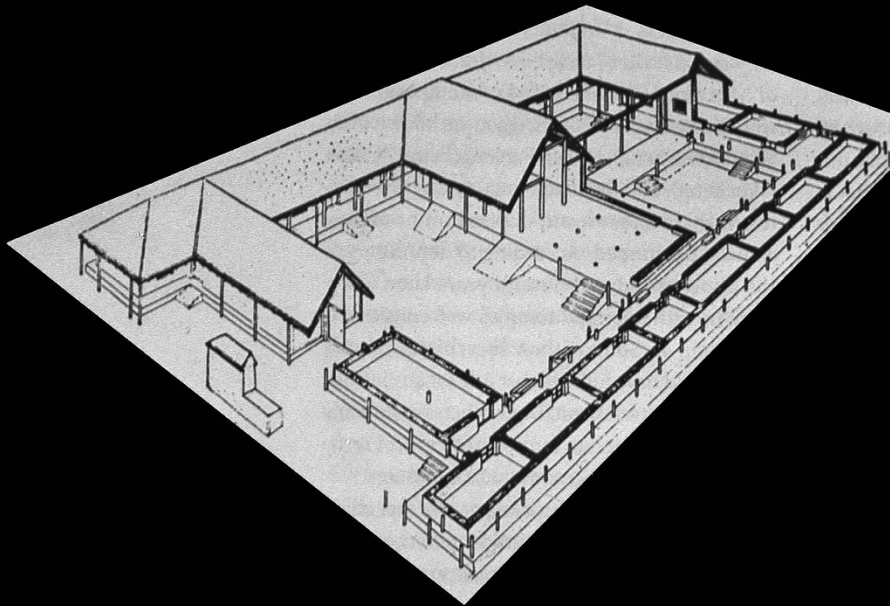
## Plans of Chinese courtyard houses



4.17 Plan of a typical house, Beijing, 15th century.

This extended plan shows how the independent pavilions are organized around courts. Note that the entrance from the street is off axis, thus preventing those who called at the gate from intruding on family privacy. (Also see Fig. 4.4.)

Reconstruction of Temple-Palace Structure and Courtyard, Fengchu, Shaanxi Province, ca. 11th c. BCE (Cheng)



△ Beijing, typical residential blocks, Ming and

*Chinese Architecture*

The Chinese courtyard house is organized similar to the Chinese temple and city



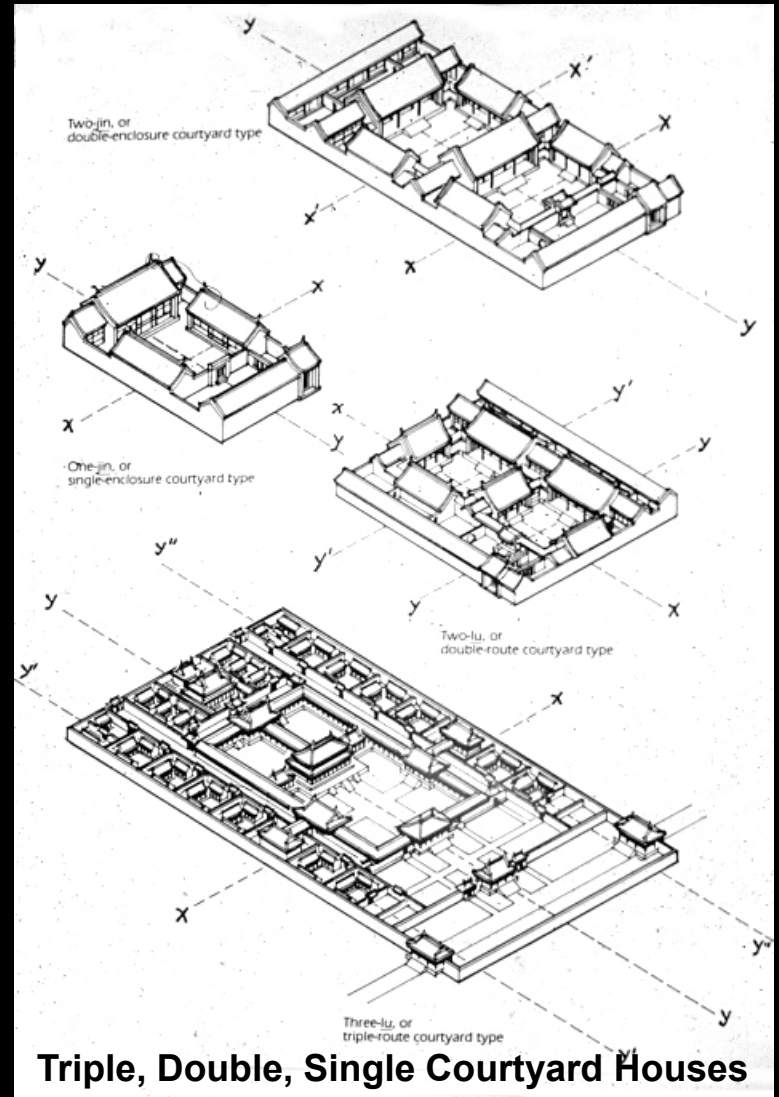
# Detail of Ming dynasty *Carpenter's Manual*



*Carpentry and Building*



*Chinese Architecture*



**Triple, Double, Single Courtyard Houses**

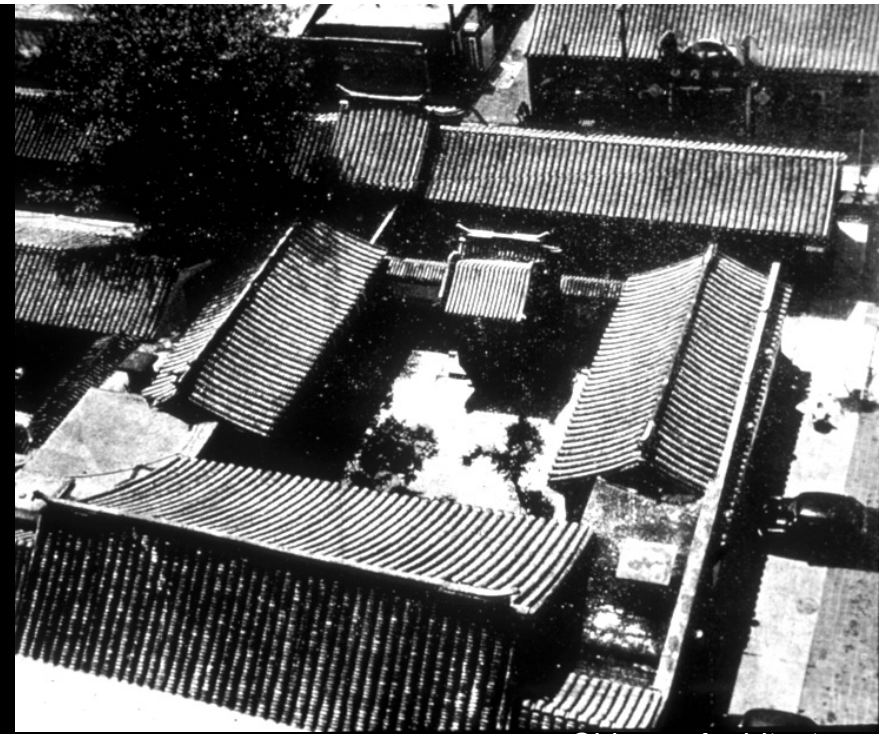
Chaz.org

**"If there is a rock resembling a wine jar, the house changes into a 'site of fullness.' The family will be rich and as soon as a wish is pronounced, gold and silver will come pouring out."**

Huppert/ Way GAHTC



VRC-UW



*Chinese Architecture*



VRC-UW

**Courtyard House:**  
walled on the street  
courtyard is used for light and  
air in the house -- no windows  
look out to street  
courtyard serves as a private  
outdoor room



# Roman Residential Forms

## Insula: tenement (multi-family) buildings

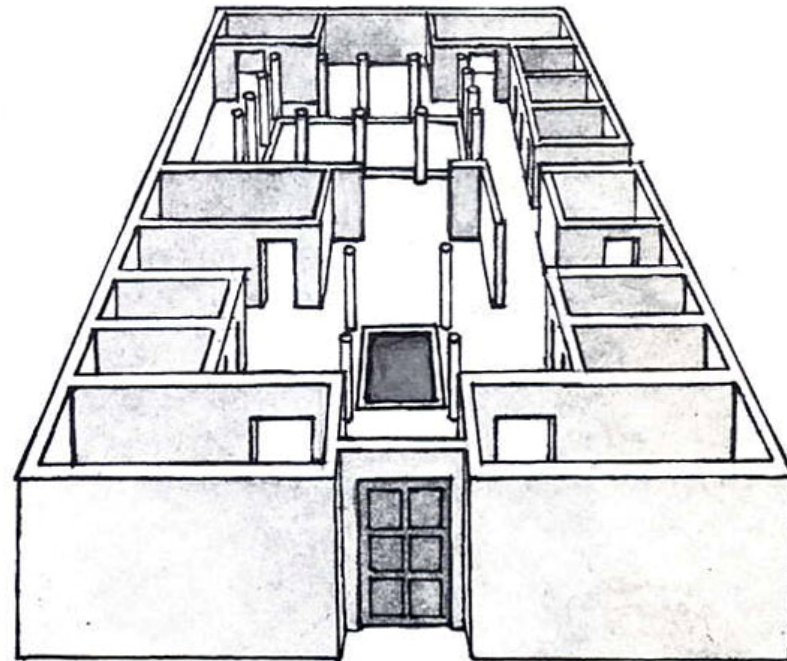
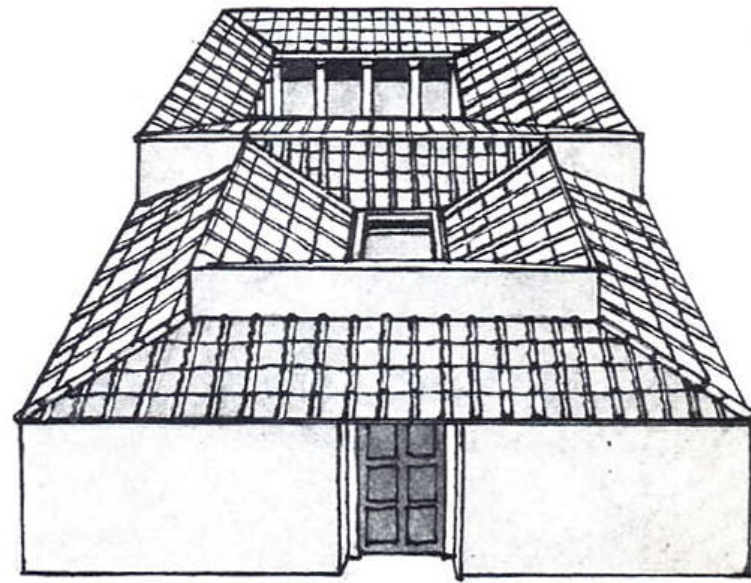
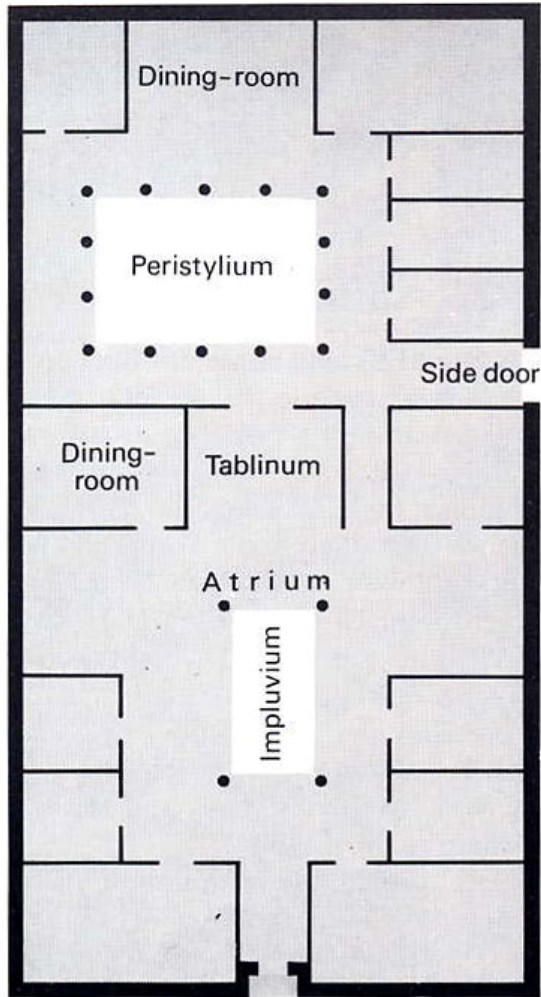
- common after 64 CE when there was a disastrous fire
- could be 6 stories high
- central courtyard
- shops on ground floor; cooking facilities on roof

## Urban Houses:

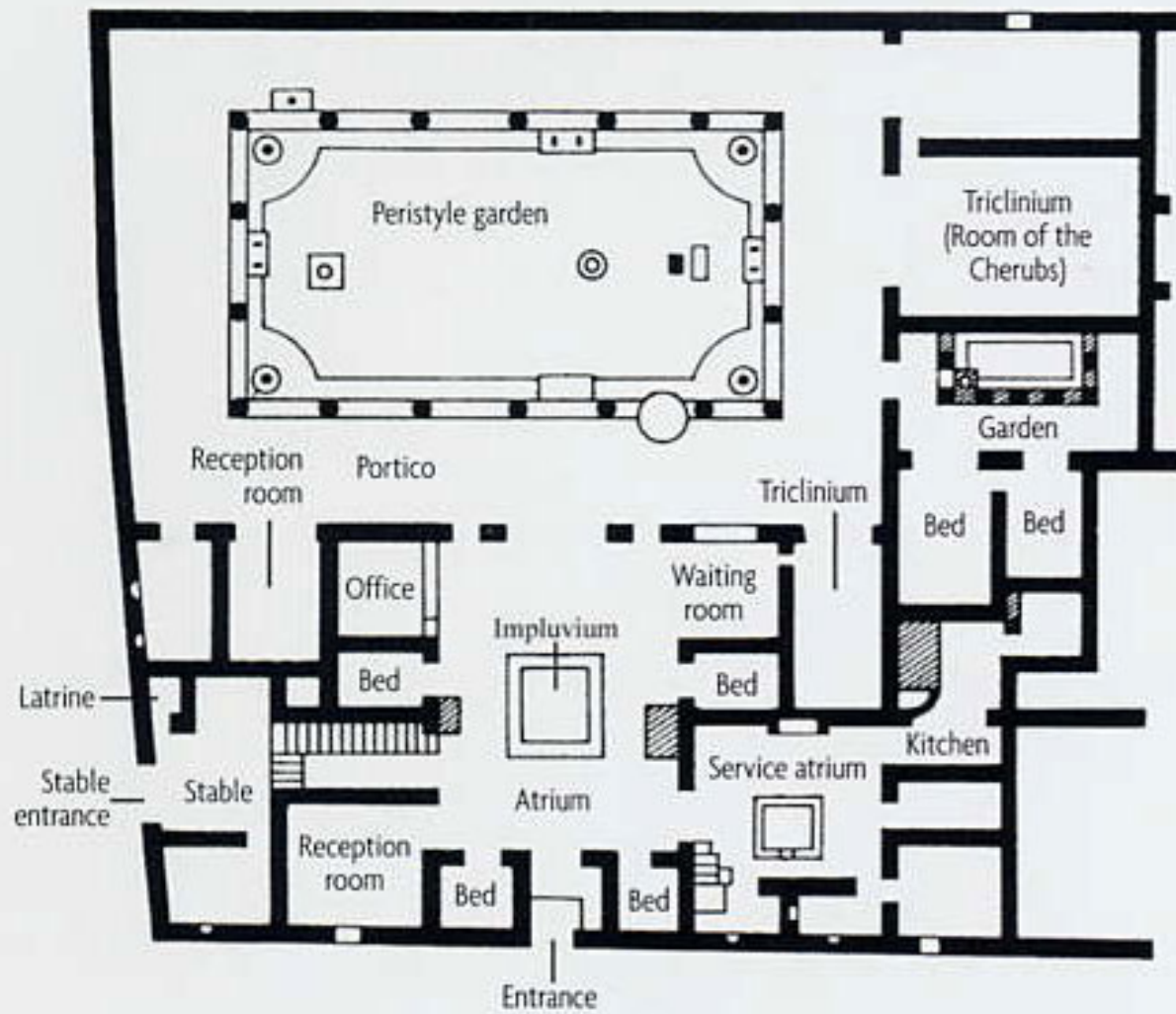
- Atrium plan: rooms open on courtyards for access to light and air
- Blank walls to street; could include shops
- Center door = axial symmetry
- Vestibule
- Atrium: covered colonnade, open above impluvium (water basin)
- Tablinum: main reception area
- Triclinium: dining room
- Peristyle: another covered colonnade, around a garden

## Villas (country houses) and Urban Palaces

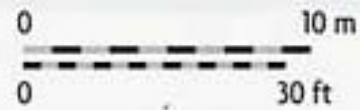
- similar features, rooms, and axial arrangements
- some rooms opening to exterior gardens and the landscape







House of the Vetii





Fazio, Moffett, Wodhouse (2019) fig. 5-36)





Fazio, Moffett, Wodhouse (2019) fig. 5-34)