

History of New York City Architecture

1820-1865

The Lure of the Past,
The Promise of the Future

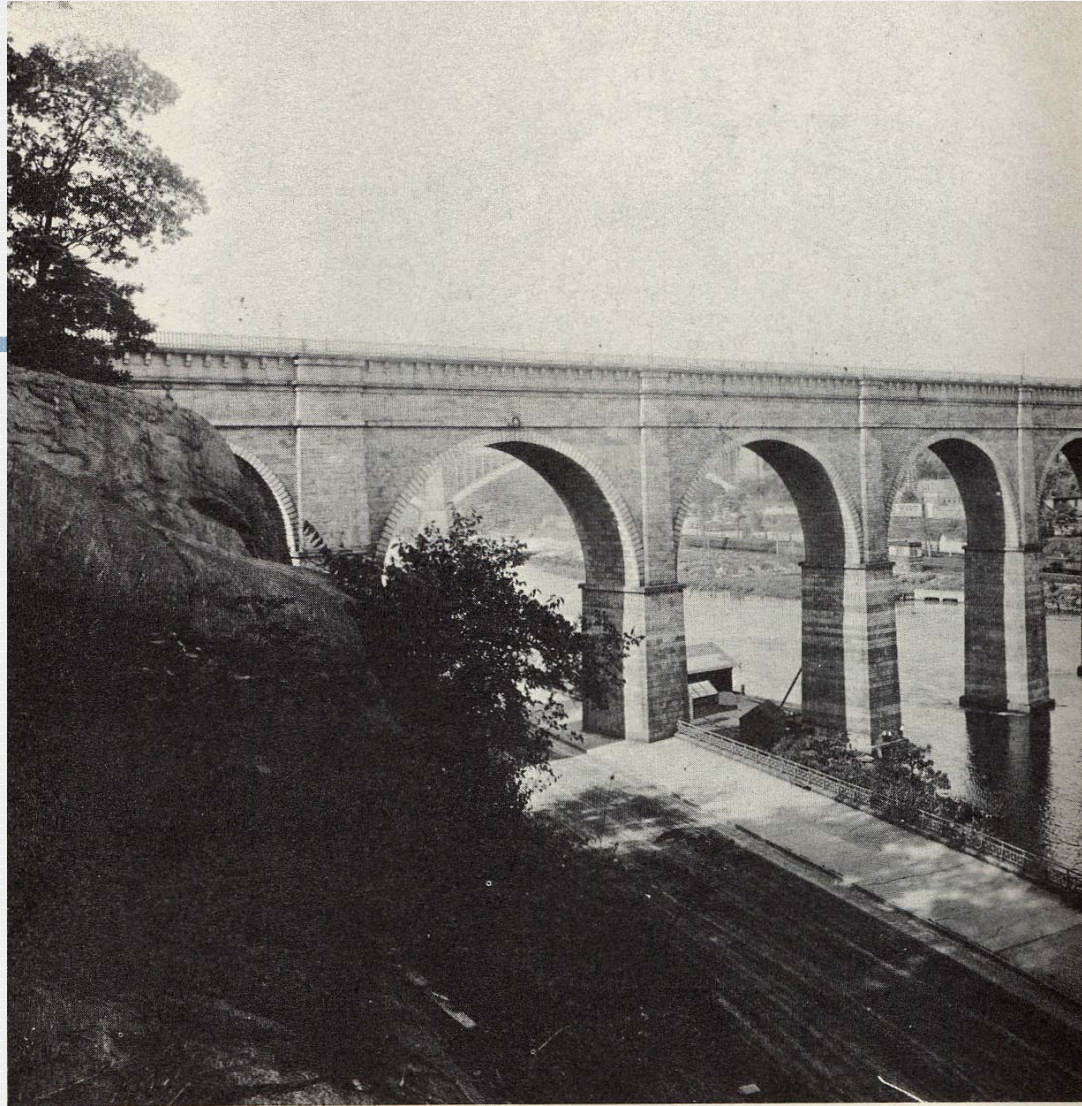
Changes in Architecture and the Building Industry

- New York City infrastructure
- Rise of Architecture as a profession
- Rapid changes in building technology
- New building types
- Multiplicity of styles

New York City Infrastructure



- Fire remained a constant threat



- Croton aqueduct system built for fire prevention and public health

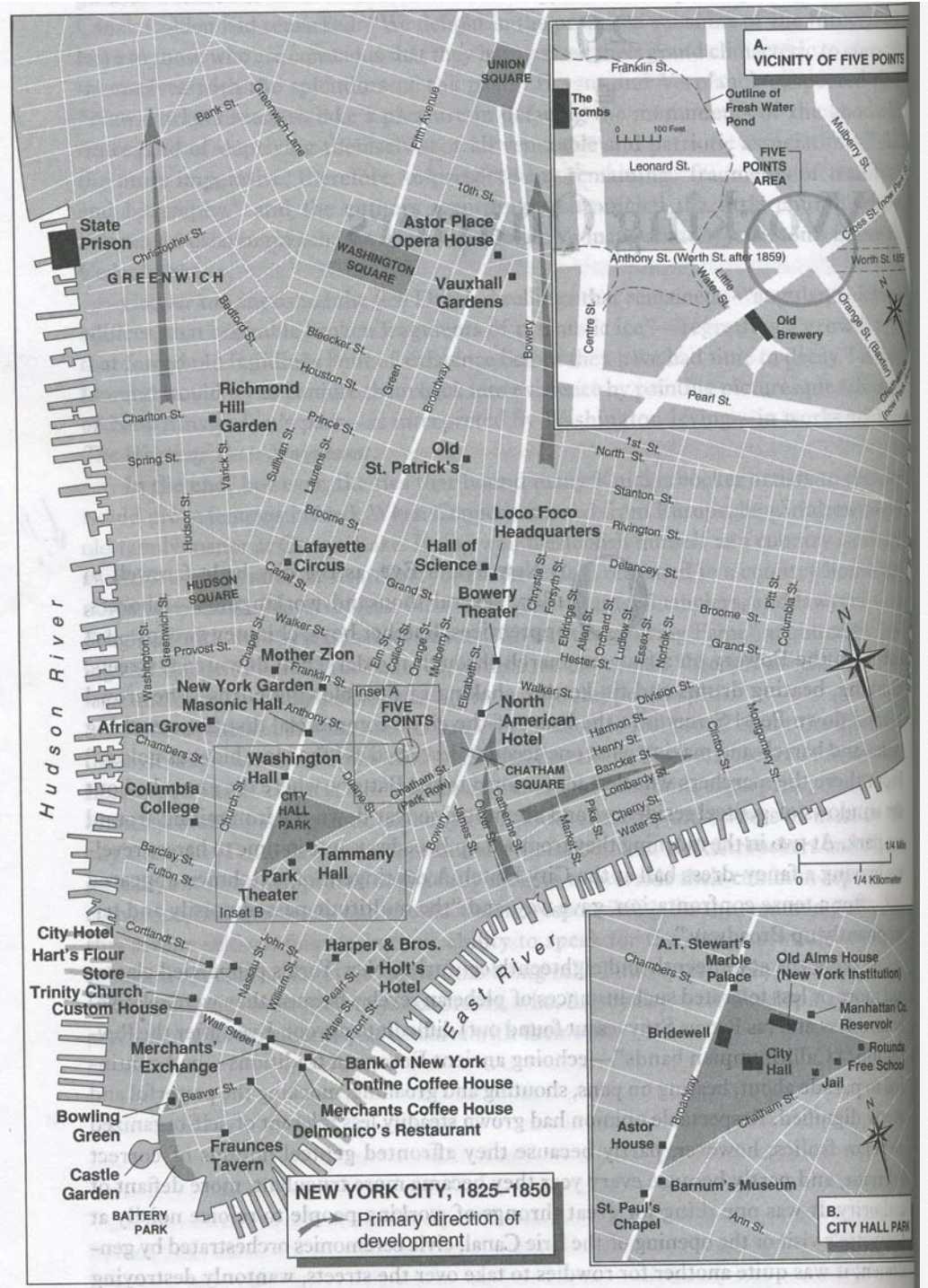


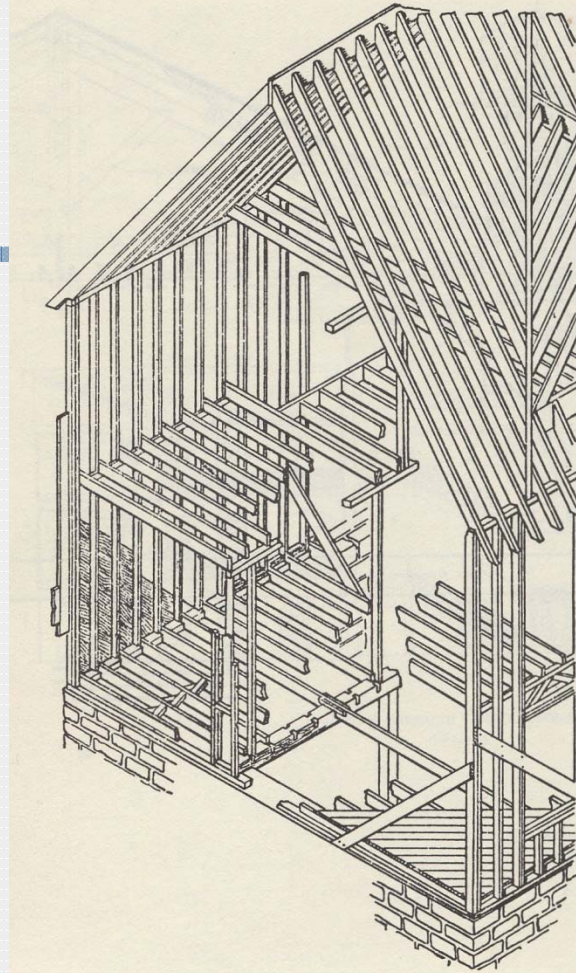
- Fires also forced revision of the building laws.
- Yet first tenements appear in the 1840's



- Streets remained congested and dirty
- Encouraged movement to the "suburbs"

NYC 1825-1850



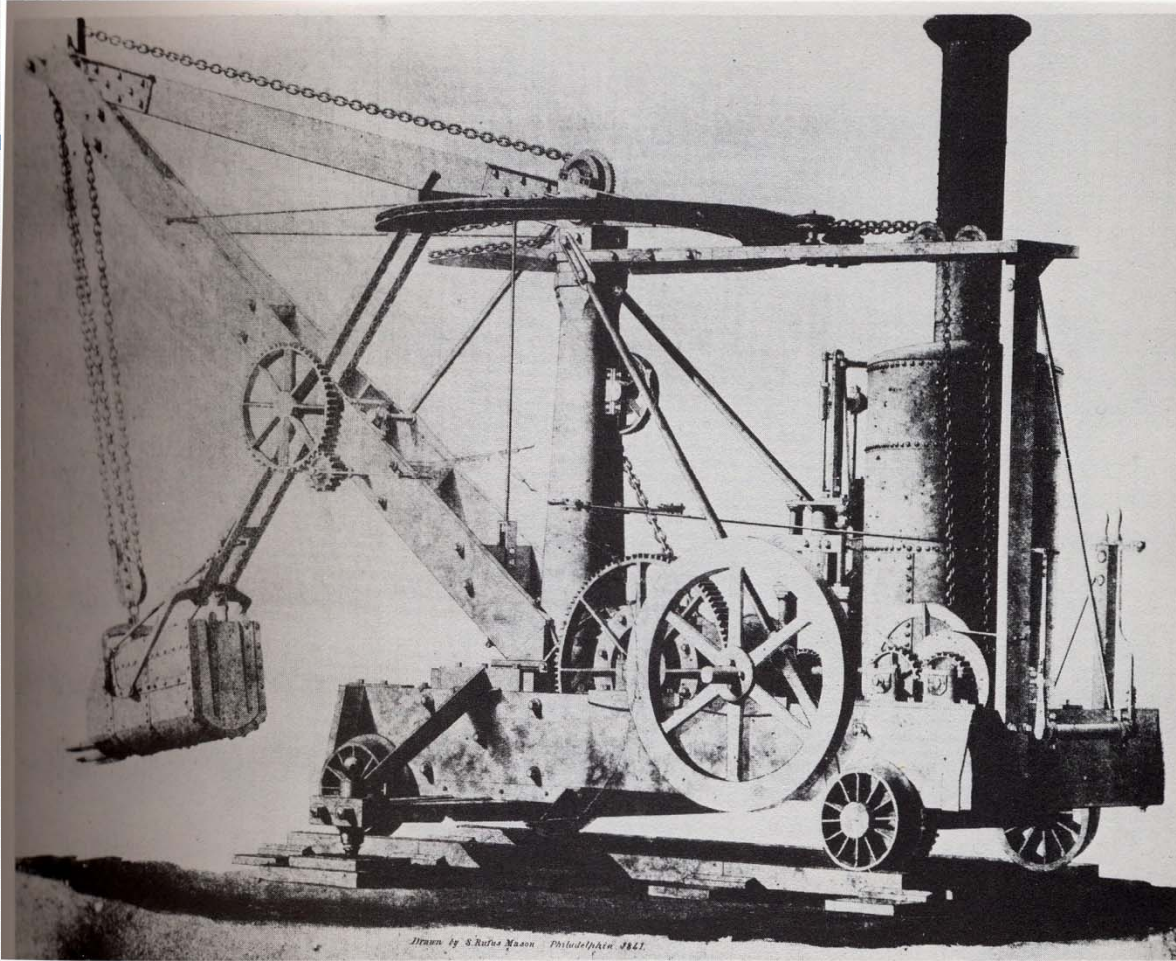


- Many new materials were introduced-
Cast iron, plate glass, wire nails, light
wood framing

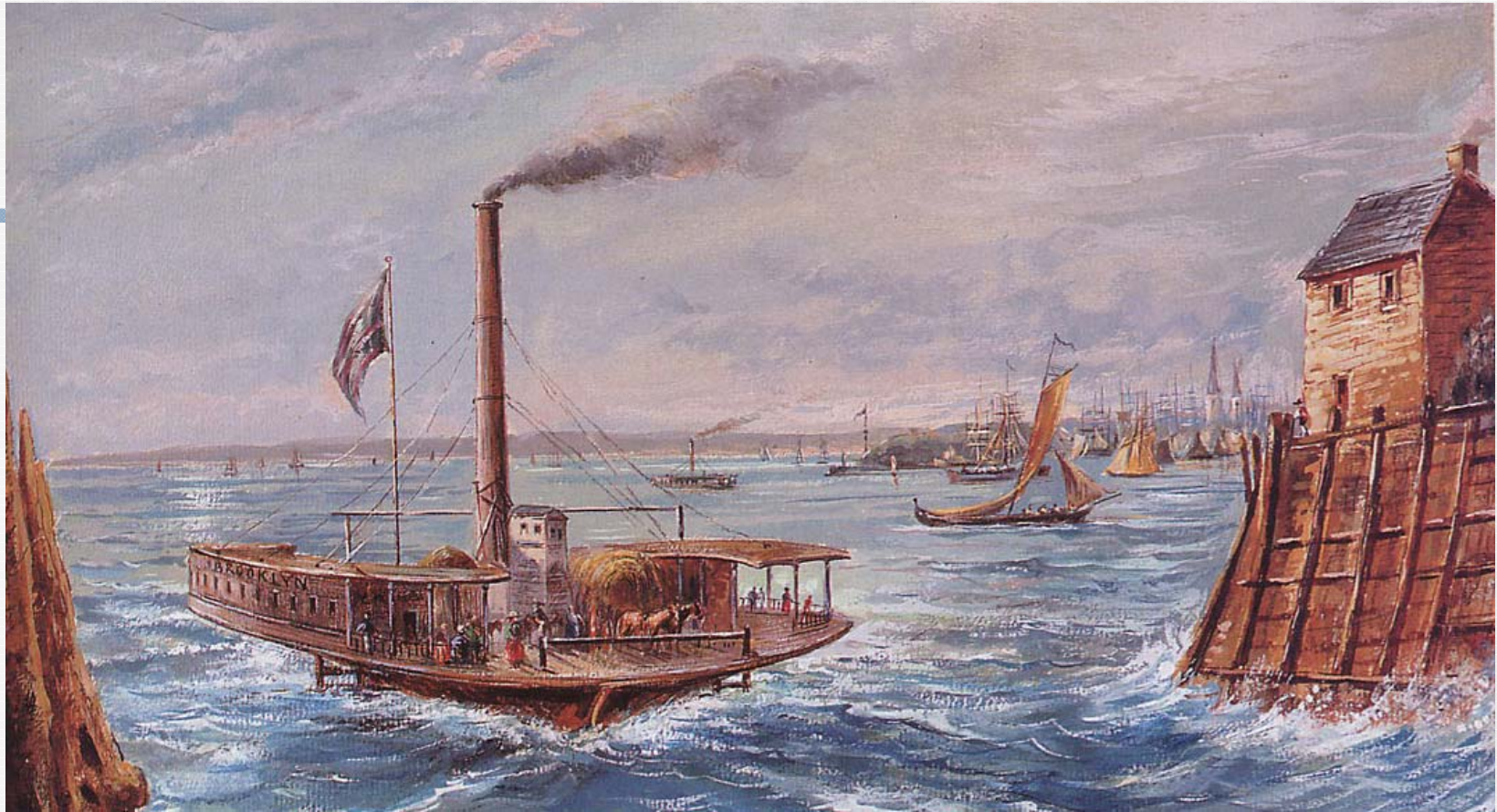


- Canals, especially the Erie Canal which opened in 1825

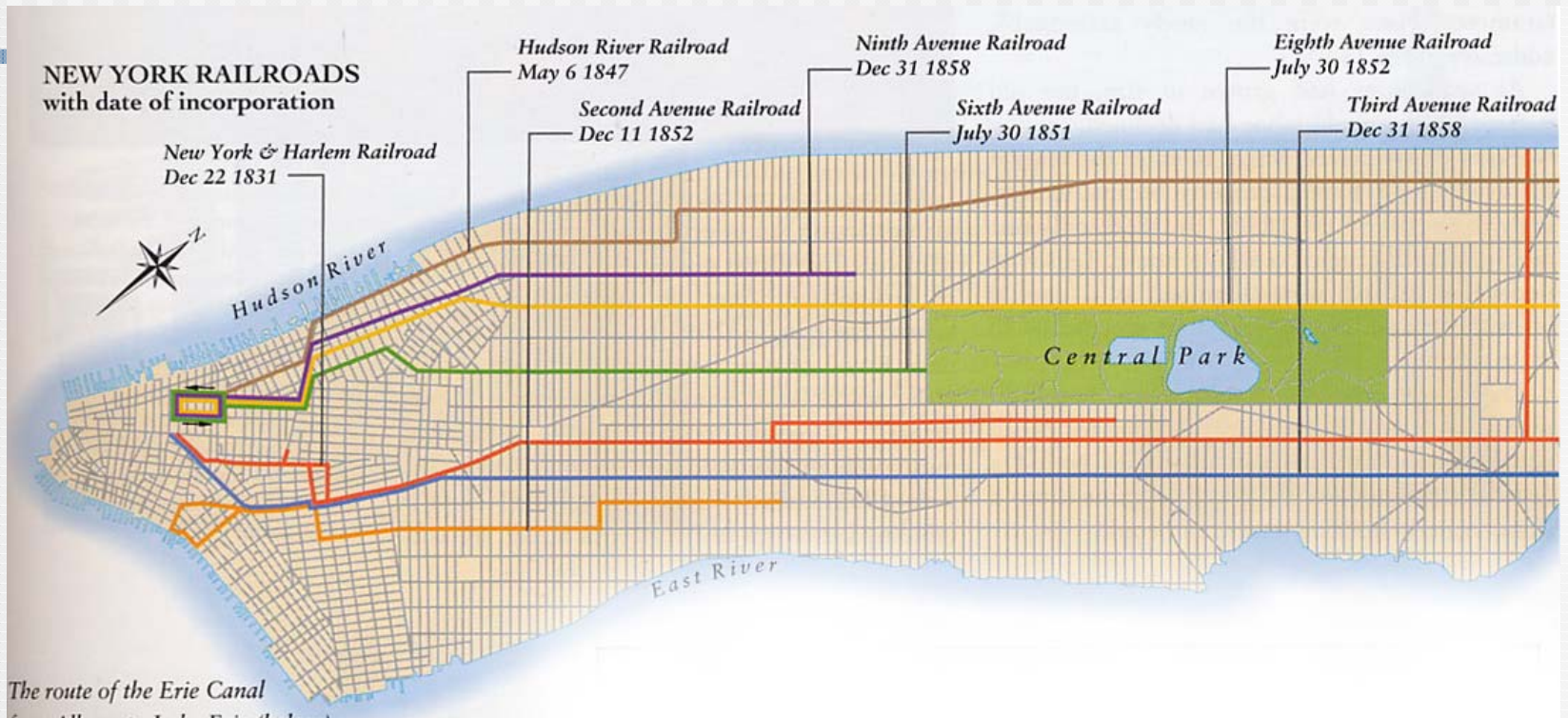
Advances in building technology



- Mechanization made work easier, quicker and cheaper



- Rapid improvement of transportation used to move people, goods and raw materials. Innovations included the steam ship...



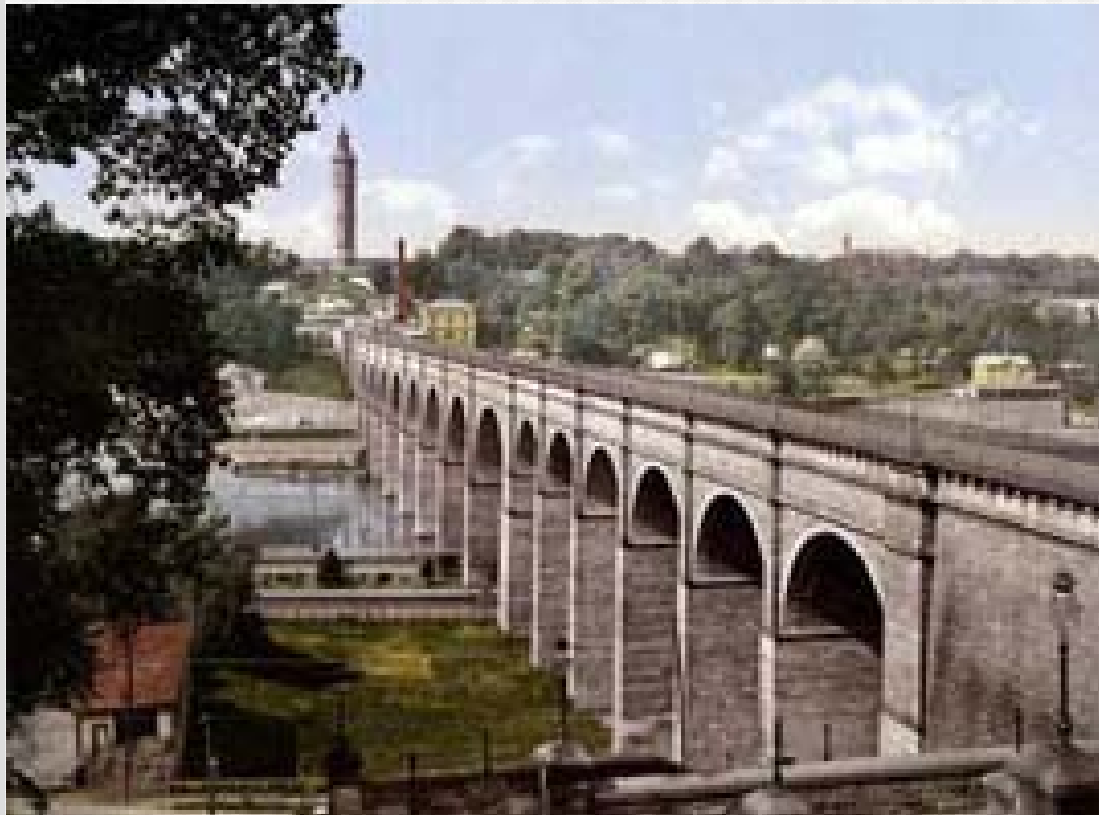
- And railroads which traversed the country. New York City was the terminus

Croton Water Supply System



Croton Water Supply System

High Bridge



Croton Water Supply System

Viele Map 1865



Reservoir, 42nd St.

Developments in architecture and building technology

- Architecture developed as a profession
- Extensive advances in building technology
- Transportation became easier and faster
- New building types introduced

Architecture developed as a profession

- Number of architects increased
- Combination of college education and engineering experience
- Extensive libraries of design, mathematics and science collected



- 1837 First attempt to establish a professional organization of architects
- 1850 NYC architect won right in court to be paid for preliminary designs
- 1857 American Institute of Architects established

New building types were introduced



- "The office"



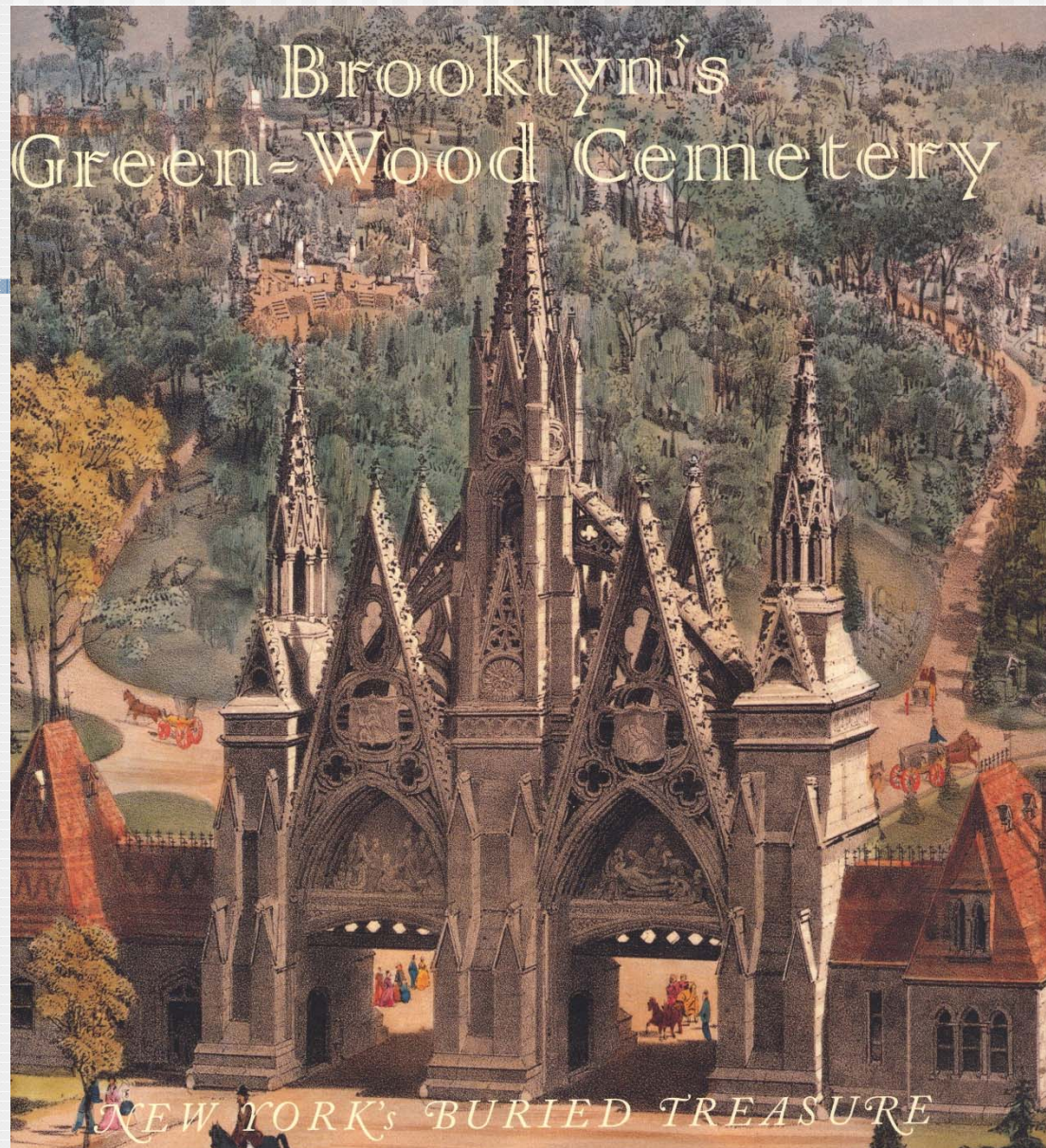
- Department stores



- Tenements



- Libraries, schools and colleges



- Cemeteries

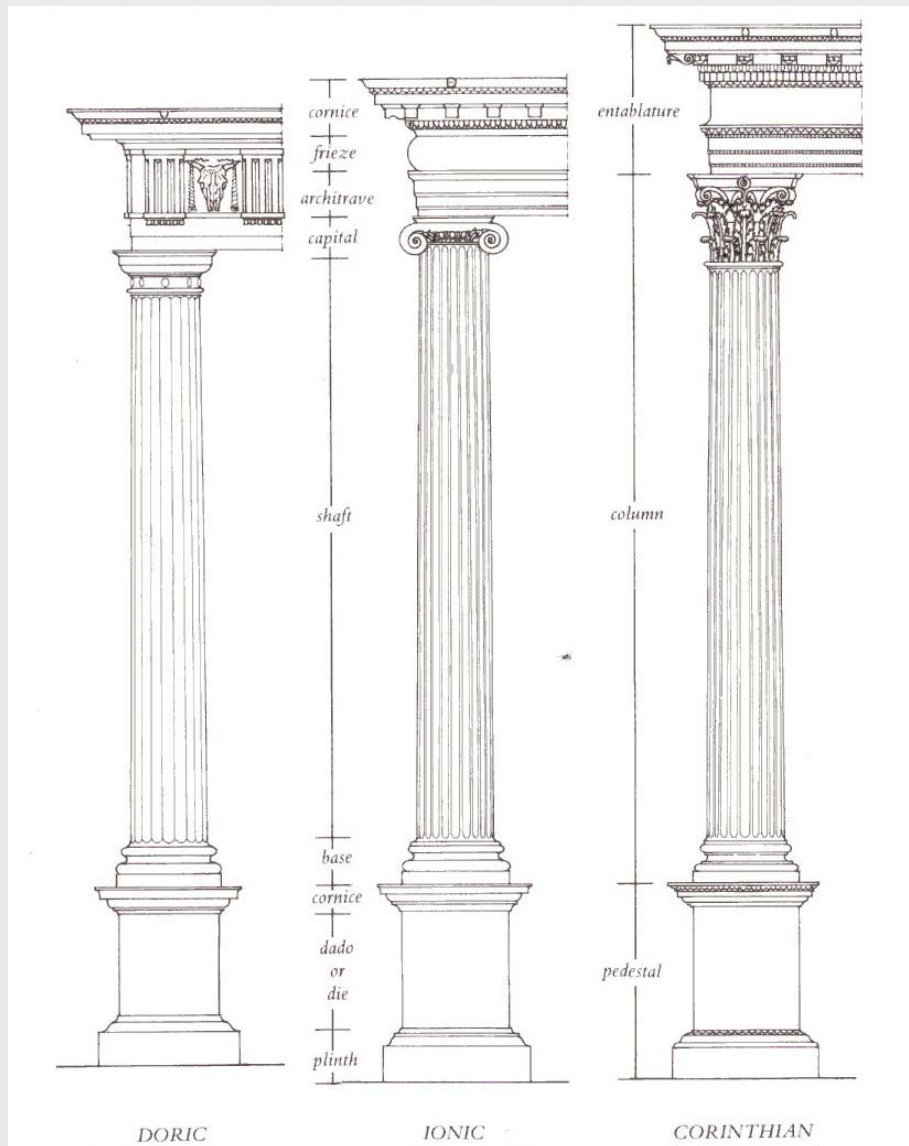
classicism

revival of principles of Greek and Roman architecture

symmetry, proportion, geometry, ordered

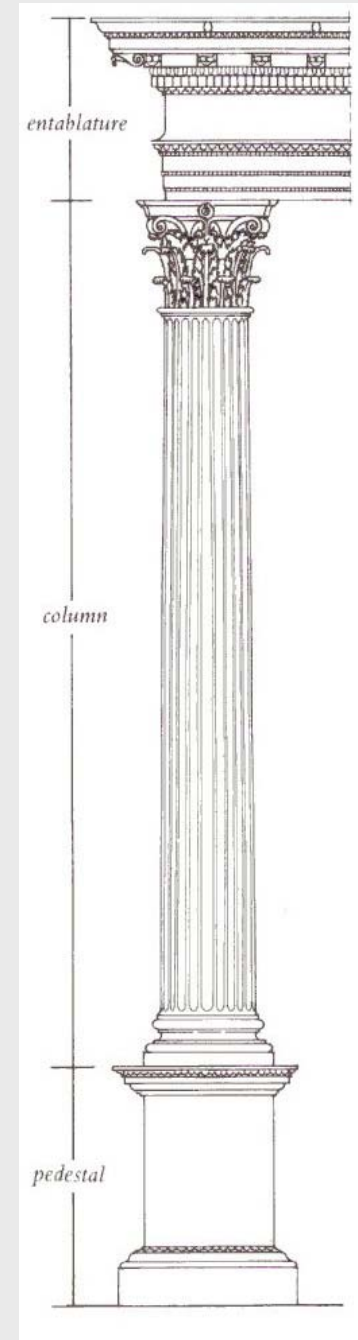


the Orders: terminology

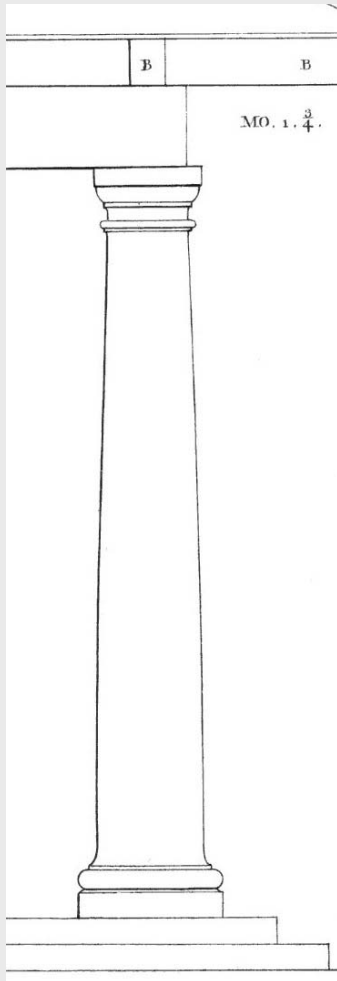


What is an order?

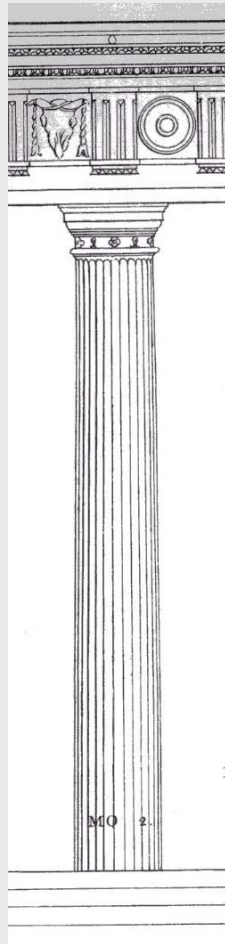
- An order is the total assemblage of parts consisting of the column and its appropriate entablature.



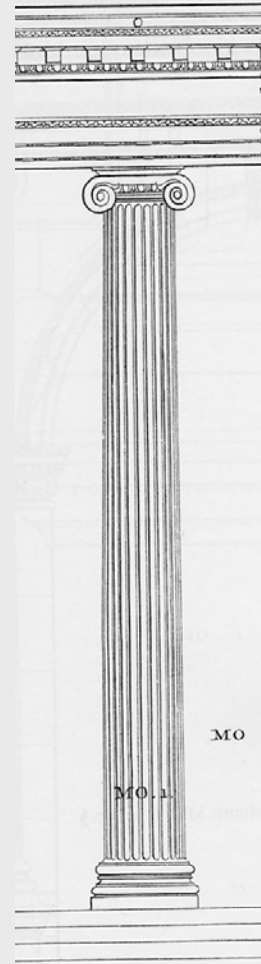
orders



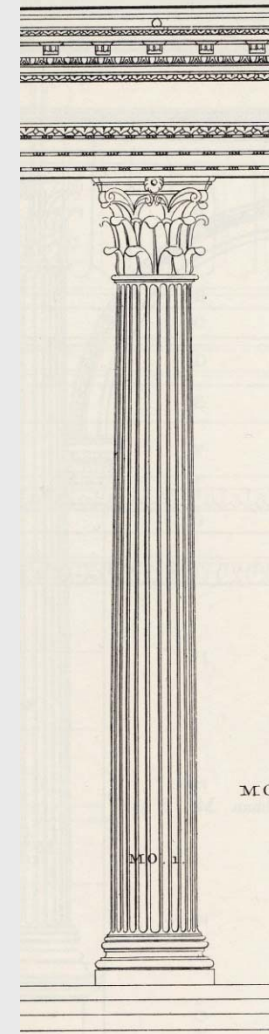
■ Tuscan
Corinthian



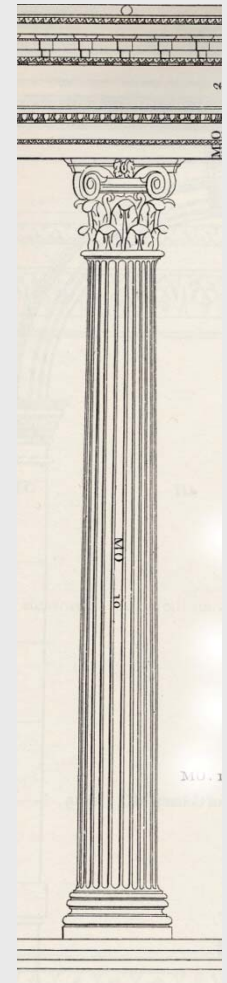
Doric
Composite



Doric



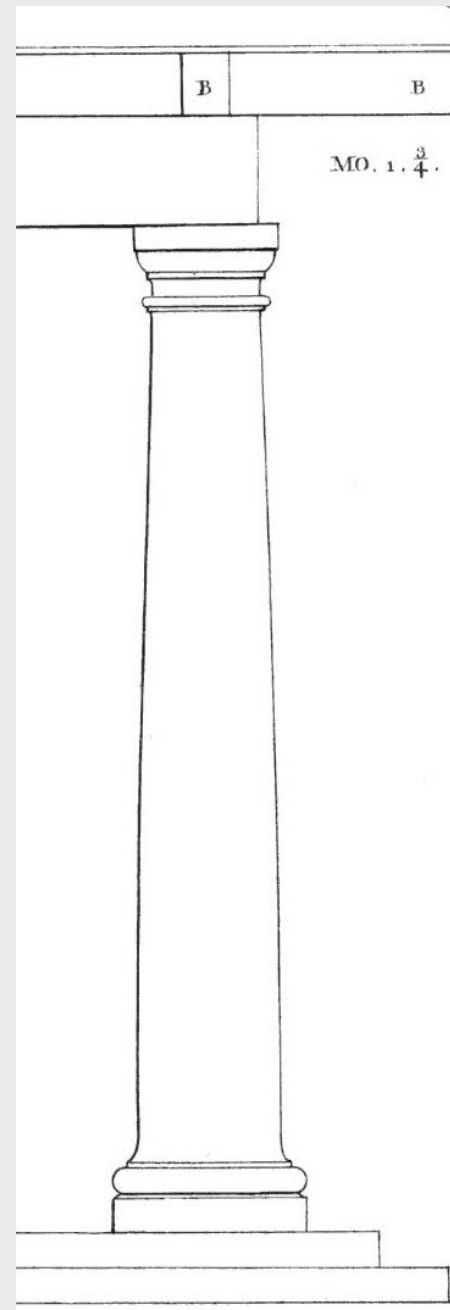
Ionic



MO. 1.

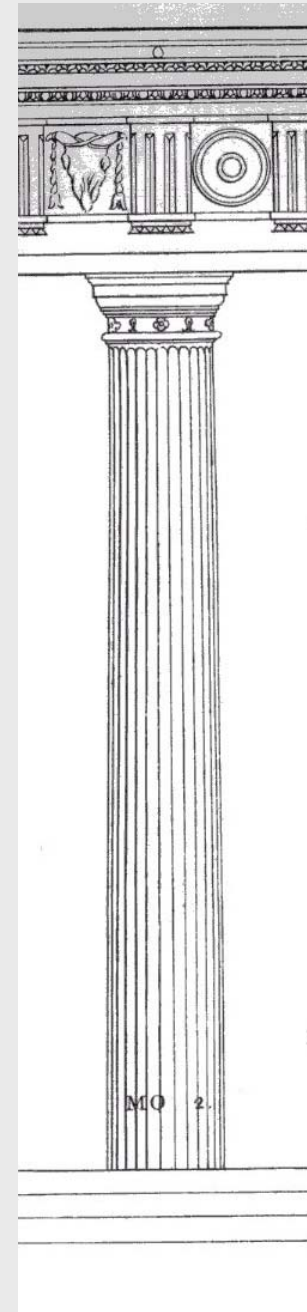
Tuscan

- Simple base
- Unfluted shaft
- Plain frieze
- Variation on the Doric column



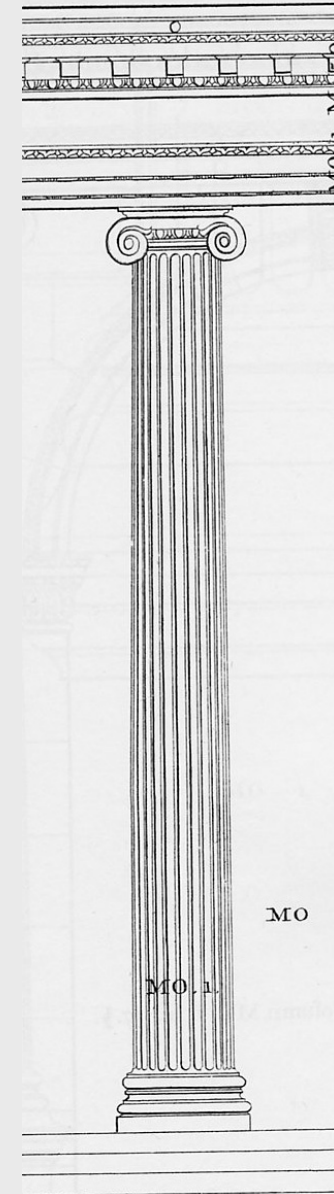
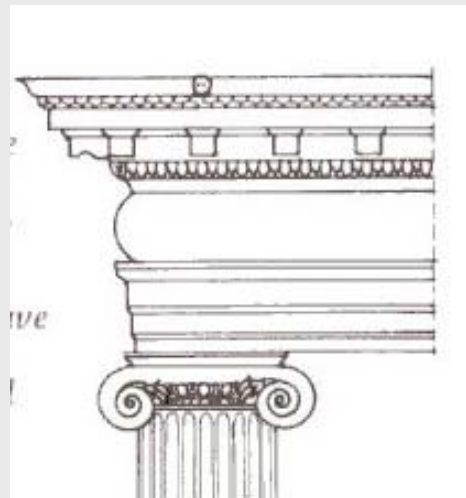
Doric

- Heaviest and most massive of the orders
- No base
- Fluted column



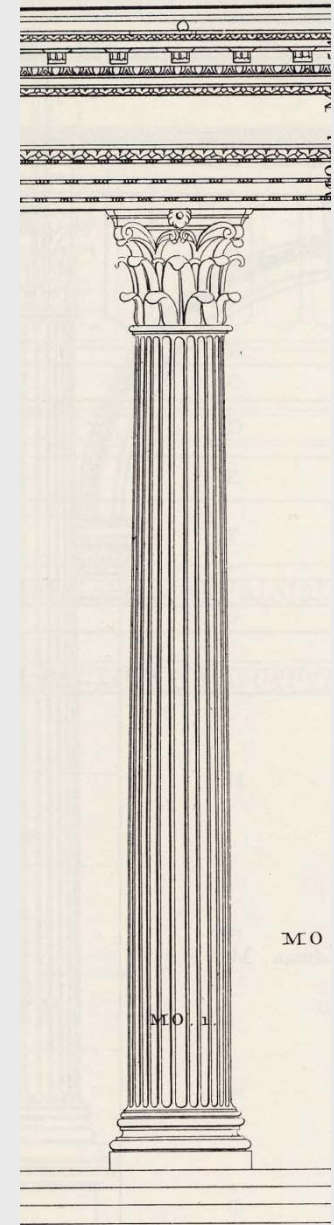
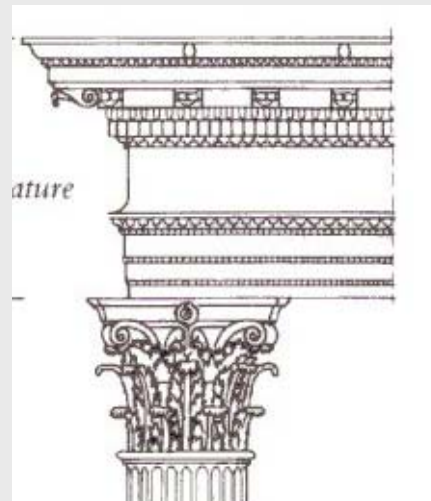
Ionic

- Base
- Fluted shaft
- More elaborate capital with volute (a spiral curve; a curved top)



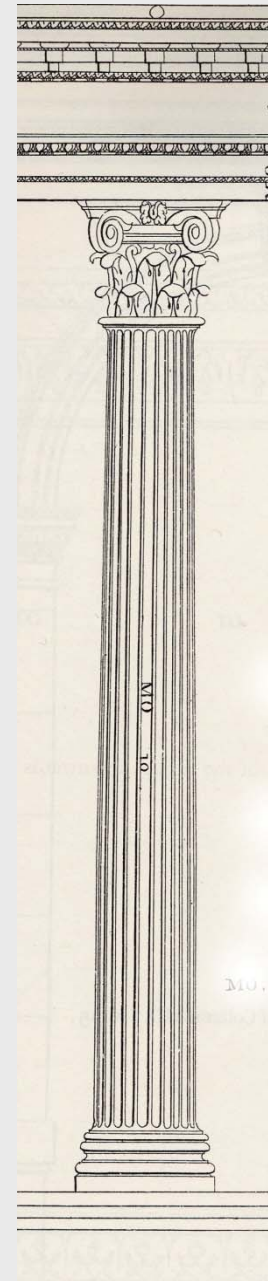
Corinthian

- Base
- Fluted shaft
- Thinnest
- Richly decorated
- Large capital with 3-4 layers of curling acanthus leaves

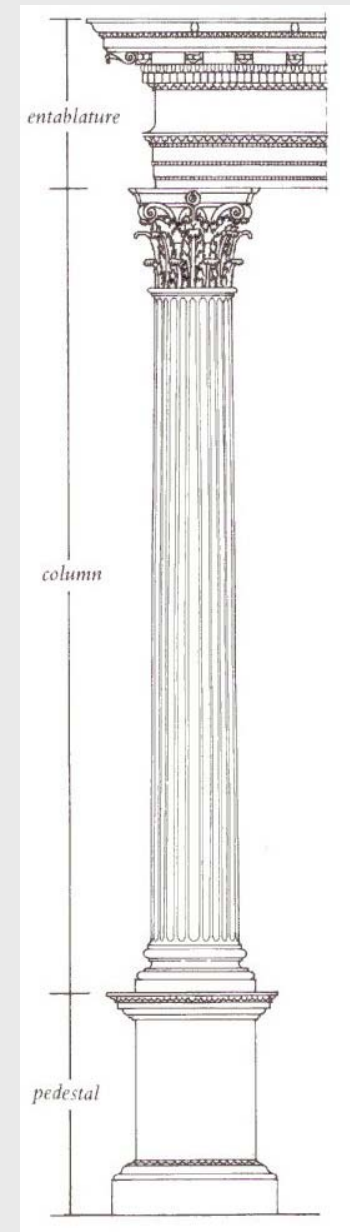


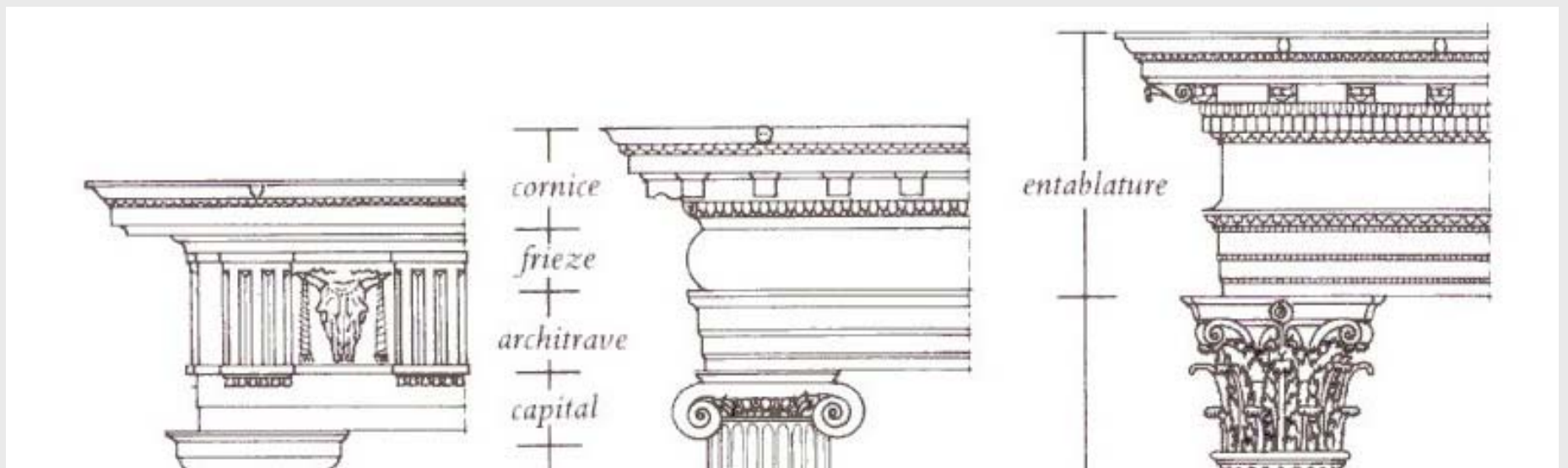
Composite

- Base
- Fluted shaft
- Most sculpturally elaborate
- Acanthus leaves of Corinthian capital combined with the volutes of the Ionic order



entablature is the whole assemblage of parts supported by the column.



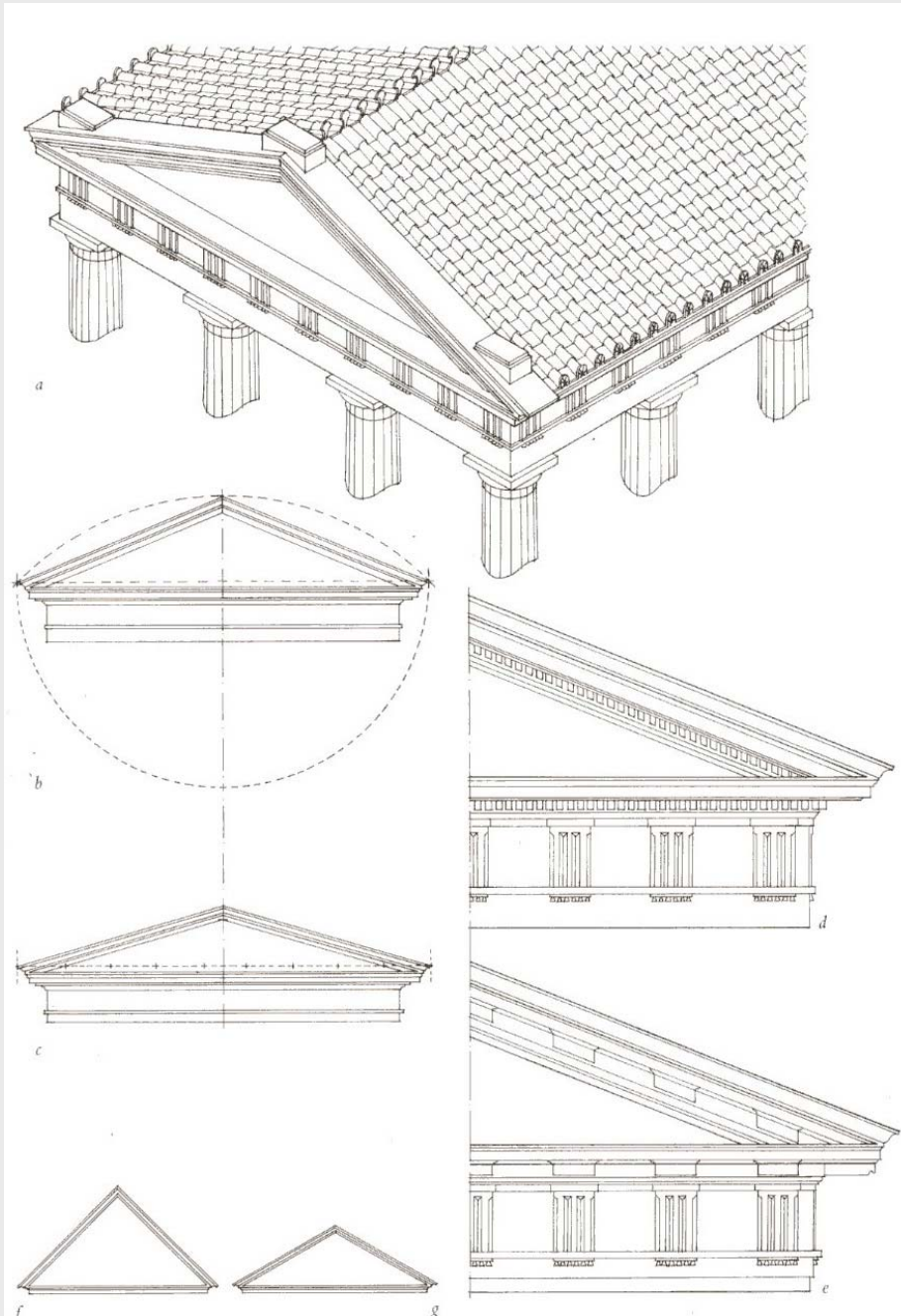


The entablature is divided into three parts:

cornice (any molded projection which crowns or finishes the part to which it is attached)

frieze (a decorative band)

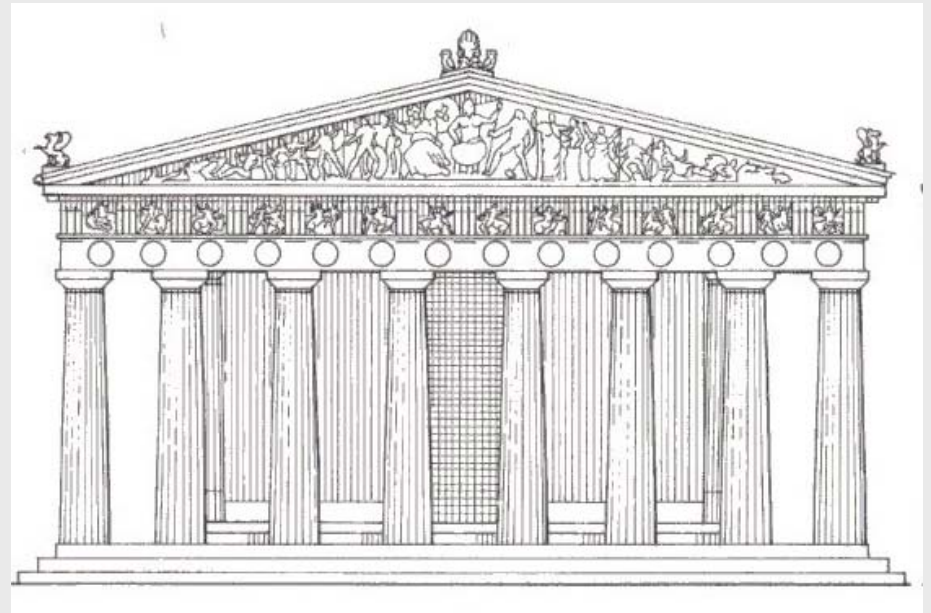
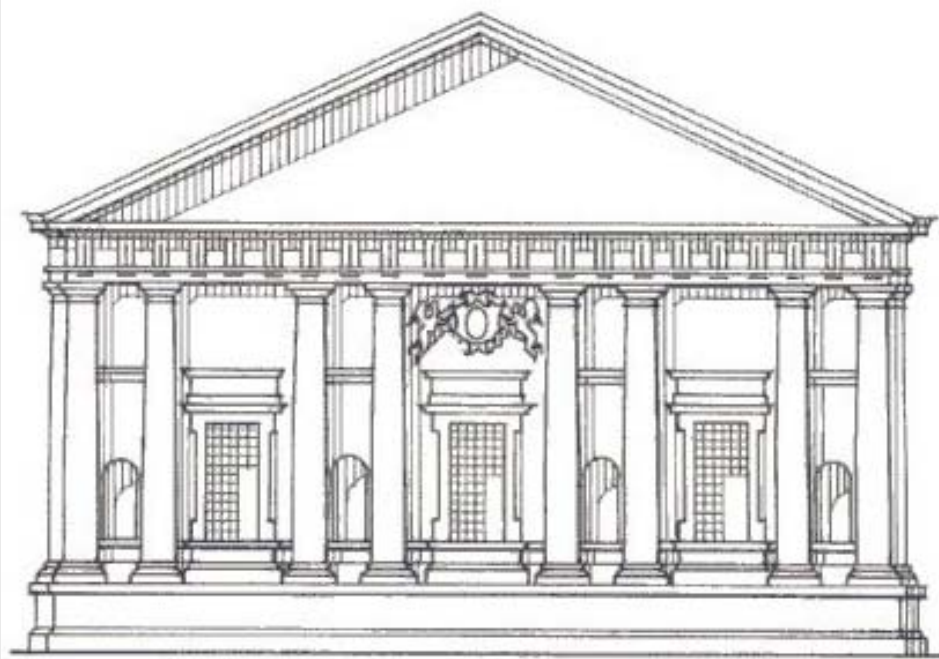
architrave (ornamental moldings)



pediment

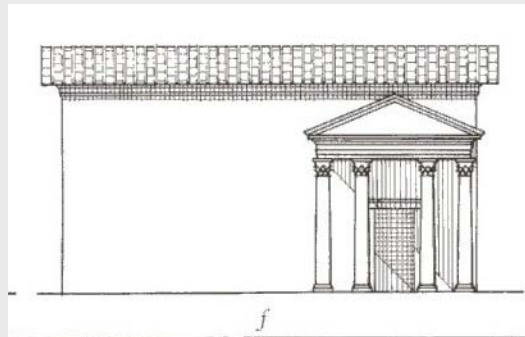
In classical architecture, it is the triangular gable end of the roof above the horizontal cornice.

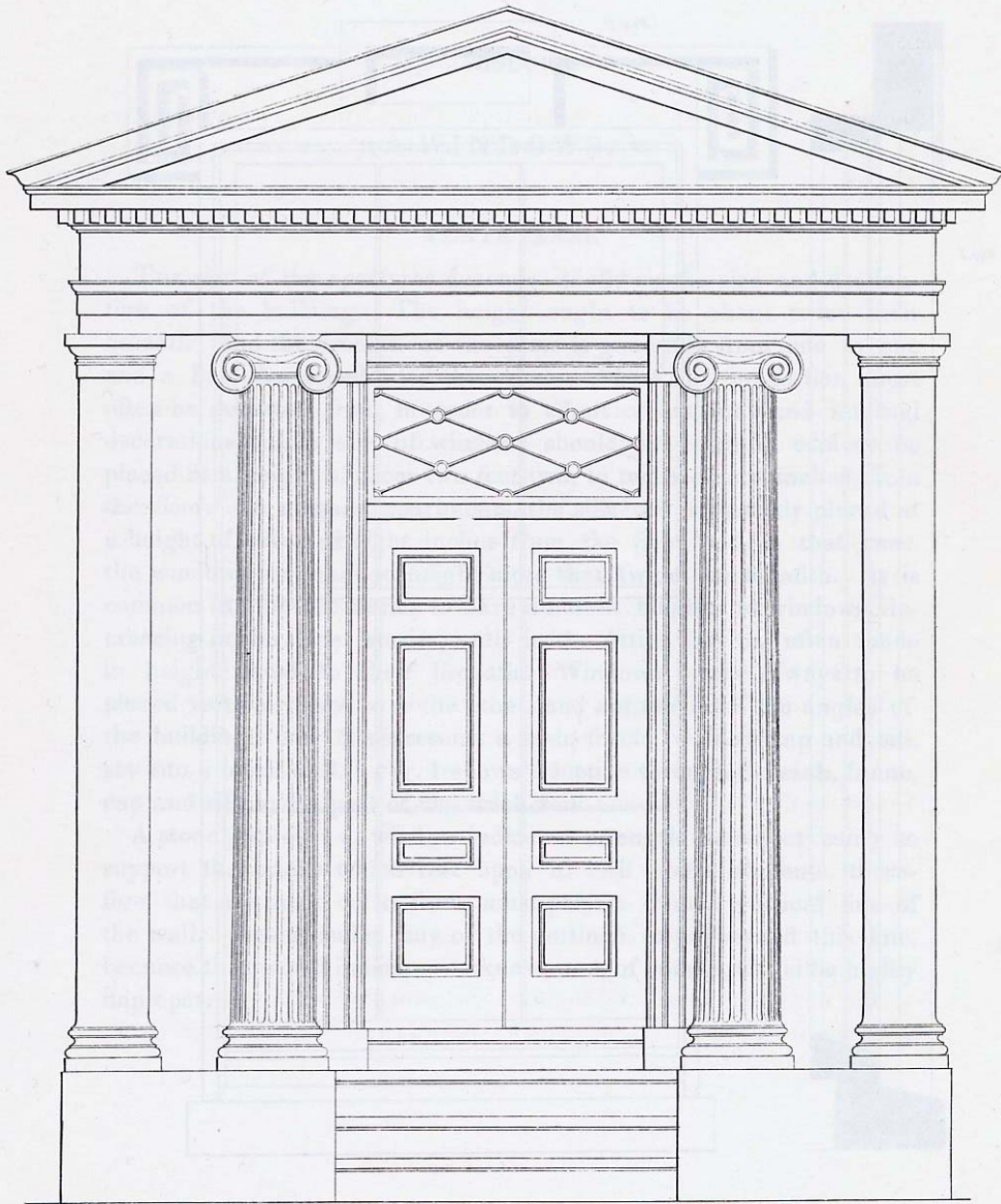
In later work, a surface used ornamentally over doors or windows.



portico

porch with a roof usually carried by columns, protecting the main entrance to a building.





From
Asher Benjamin's
*The Architect, or
Practical House
Carpenter*

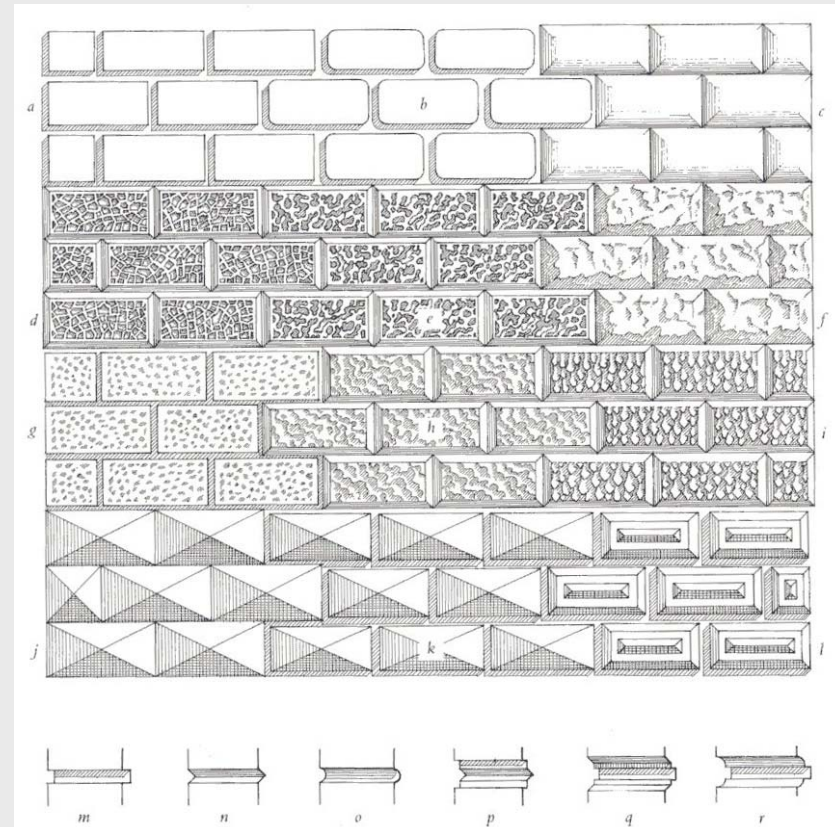
temple front

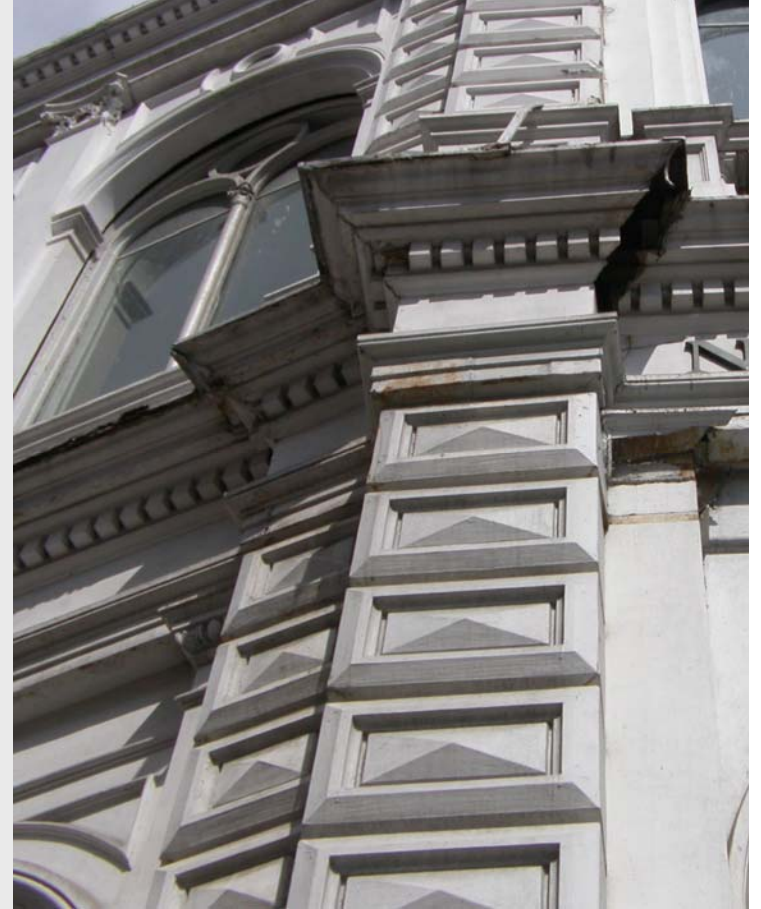
A temple front is a decorative façade treatment consisting of columns carrying a pediment and resembling a Classical temple. It extends across the entire front façade.



rustification

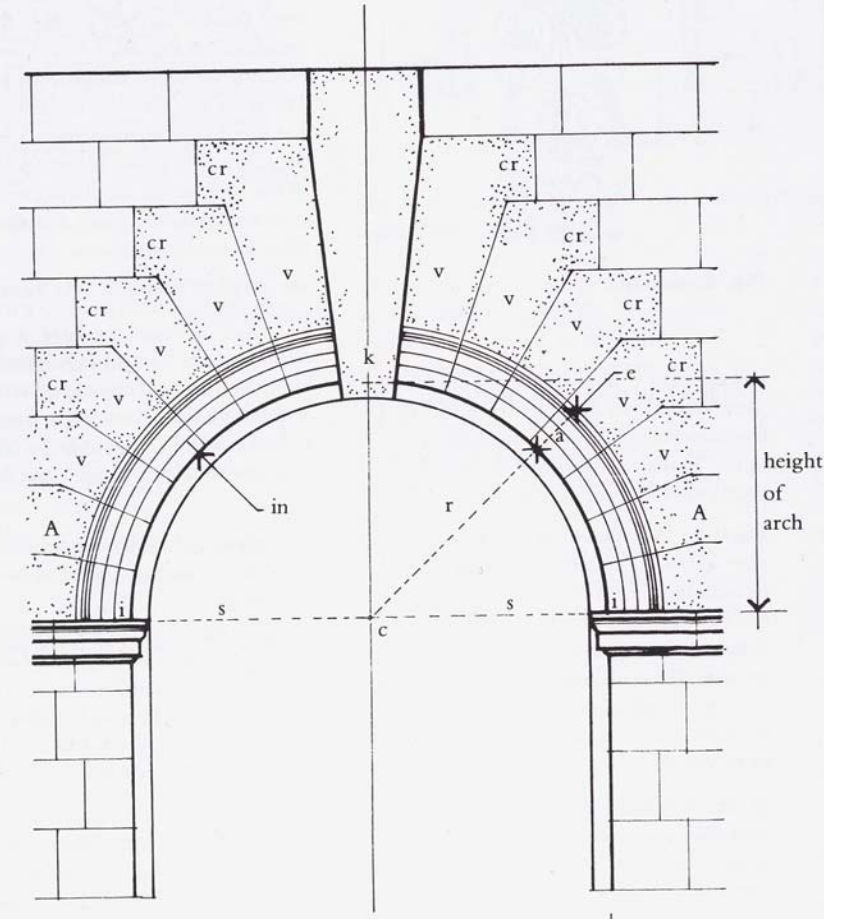
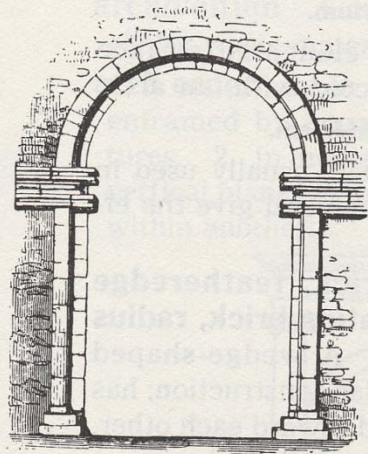
- Cut stone having strongly emphasized recessed joints and smooth or roughly textured block faces, used to create an appearance of strength. There are many patterns of rustification.



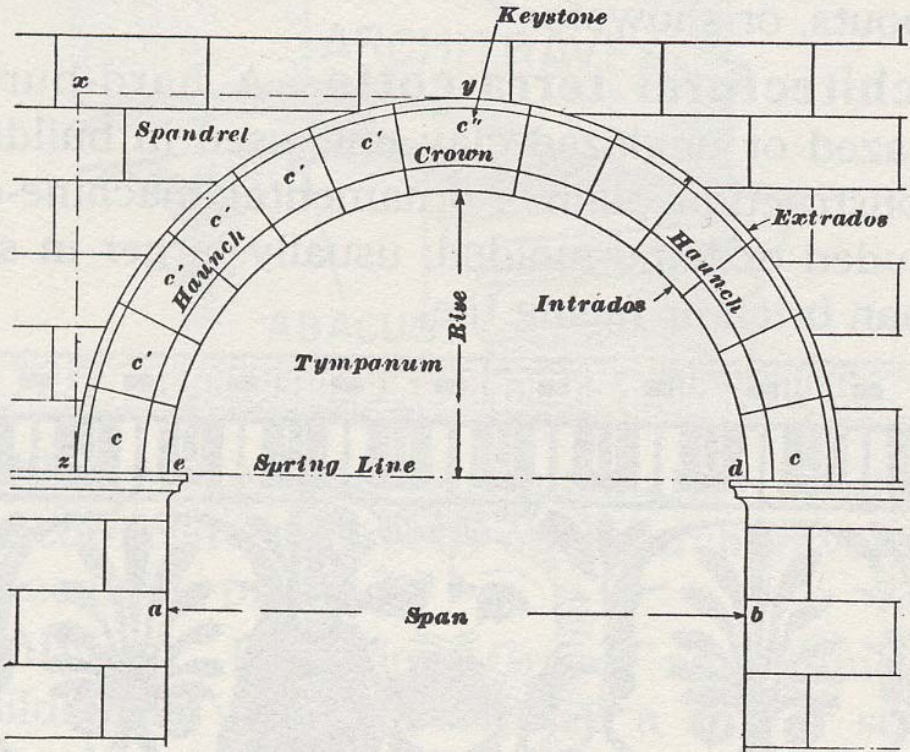
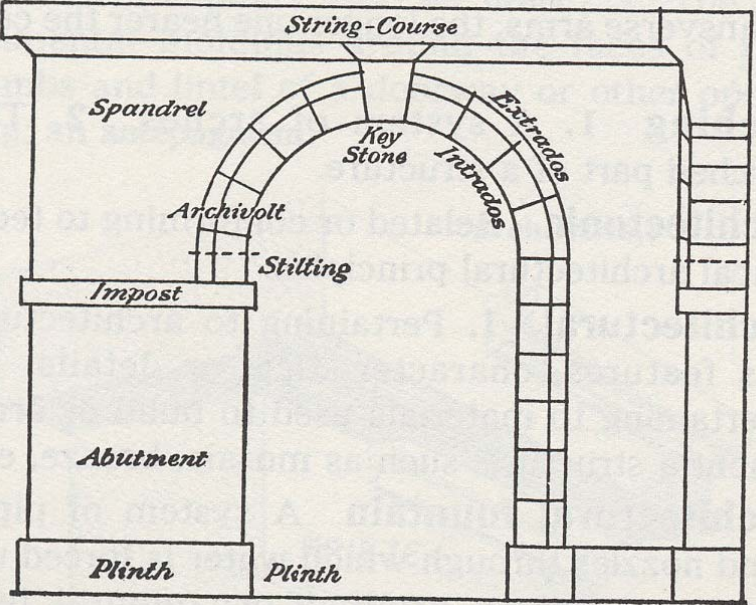


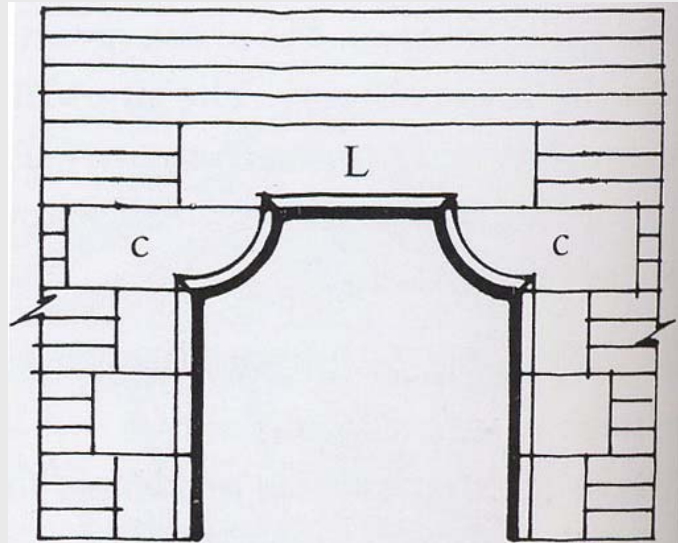
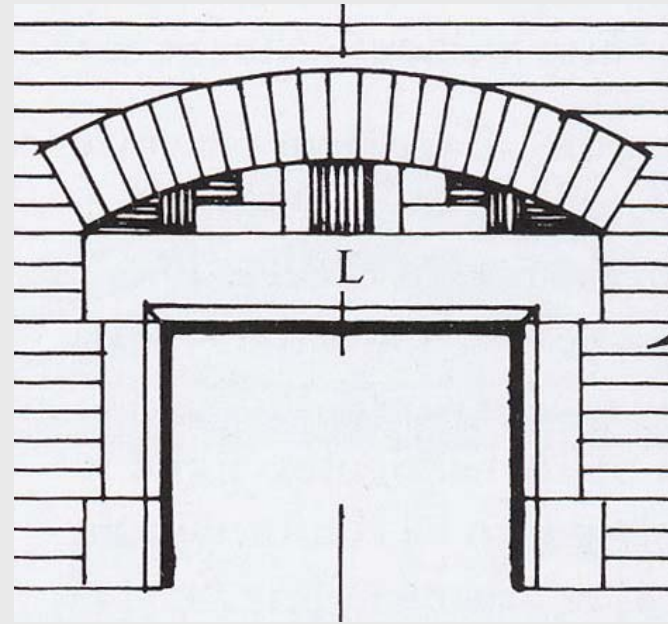
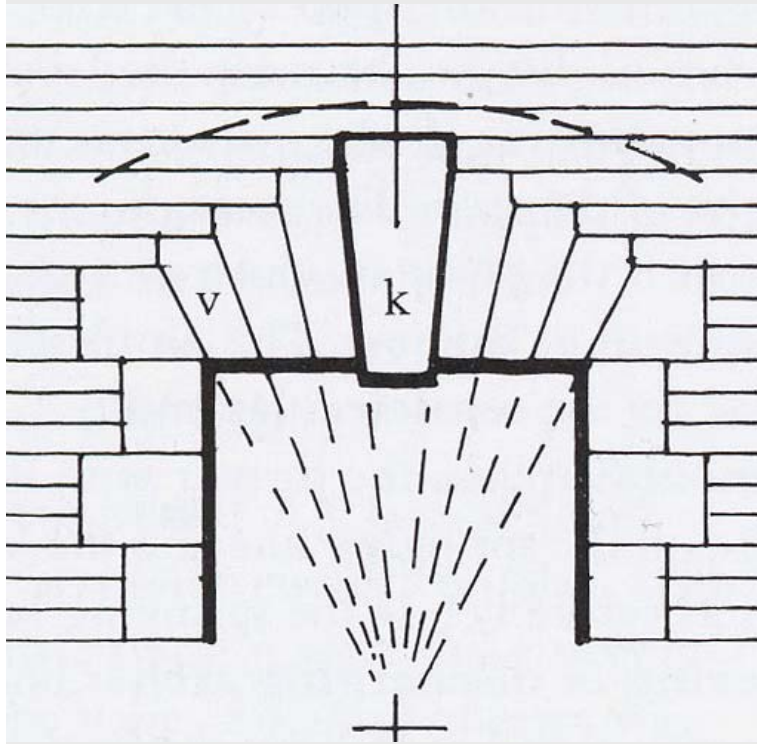
arch

- A curved construction which spans an opening; usually it consists of wedge-shaped blocks called voussoirs, or a curved or pointed structural members which is supported at the ends or



arch terminology







Multiplicity of styles

- Greek Revival 1820-1850
- Gothic Revival 1840-1870
- Italianate 1840-1860
- Additional: Renaissance, Egyptian, Romanesque revivals

“Eclectic Revivals” characterized this era

Greece c. 450 BCE



Characteristics of the Greek Revival Style 1820- 1850

- Simplified forms and proportions
- Bold silhouette
- Use of columns and pilasters
- Broad proportions
- Temple front with pedimented gable
- Or flat entablature with unadorned friezes
- Entrances covered by porticos
- Or door framed by entablature and pilasters
- Sparse and simple ornamentation
- Buildings were generally larger



- Simplified forms and proportions



■ Bold silhouette



- Use of columns and pilasters



- Broad proportions



- Temple front with pedimented gable



- Or flat entablature with unadorned friezes



- Entrances covered by porticos



- Or door framed by entablature and pilasters

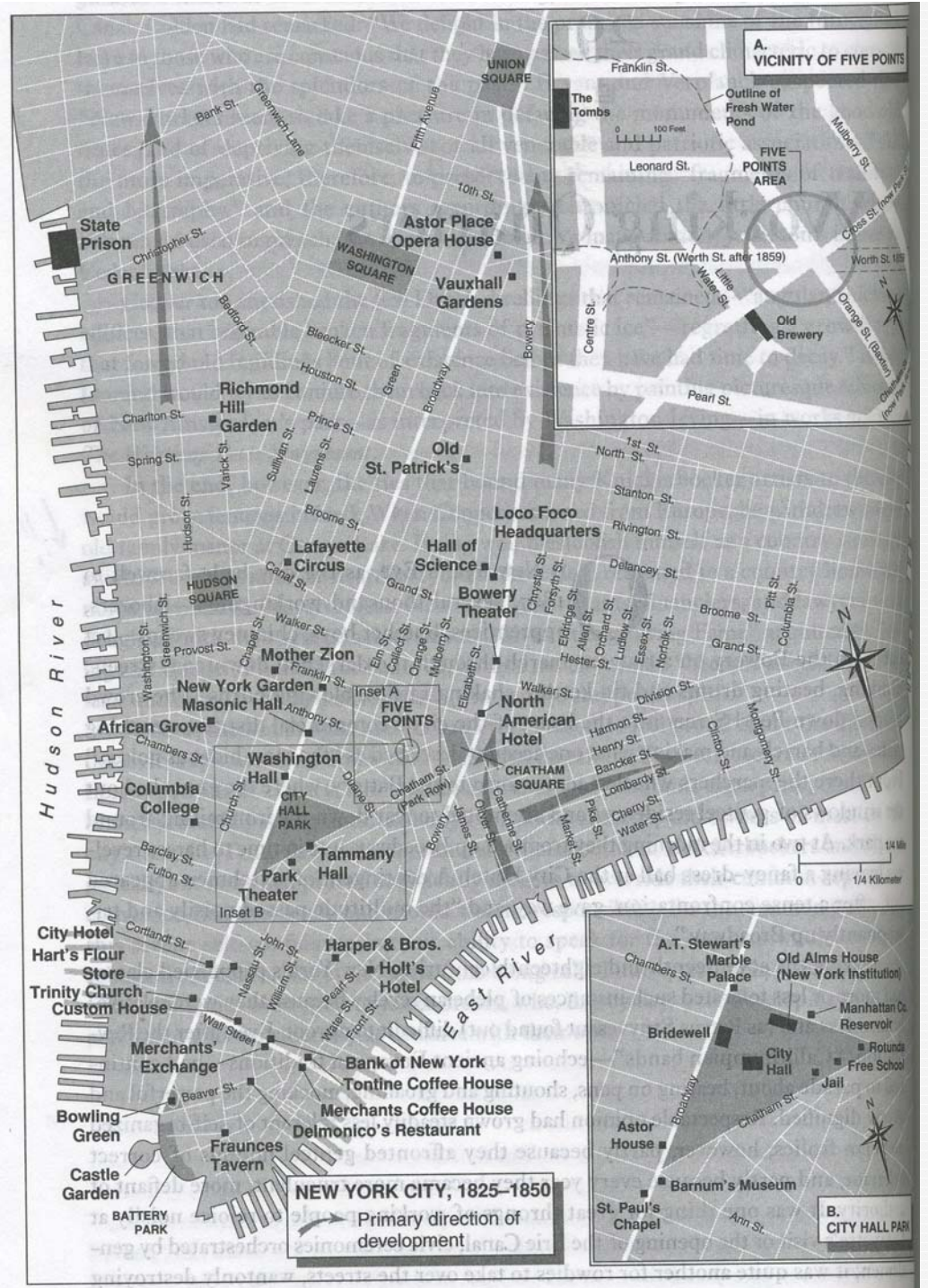


- Sparse and simple ornamentation



- Buildings were generally larger

NYC 1825-1850





- 1-13 Washington Square North, attributed to Ithiel Town & A.J. Davis, 1832-1833.



- 1-13 Washington Square North, attributed to Ithiel Town & A.J. Davis, 1832-1833.

- 1-13 Washington Square North





- 1-13 Washington Square North -- entrance details

Old Merchant's House

- 29 East 4th St. 1832
- Late Federal, early Greek Revival





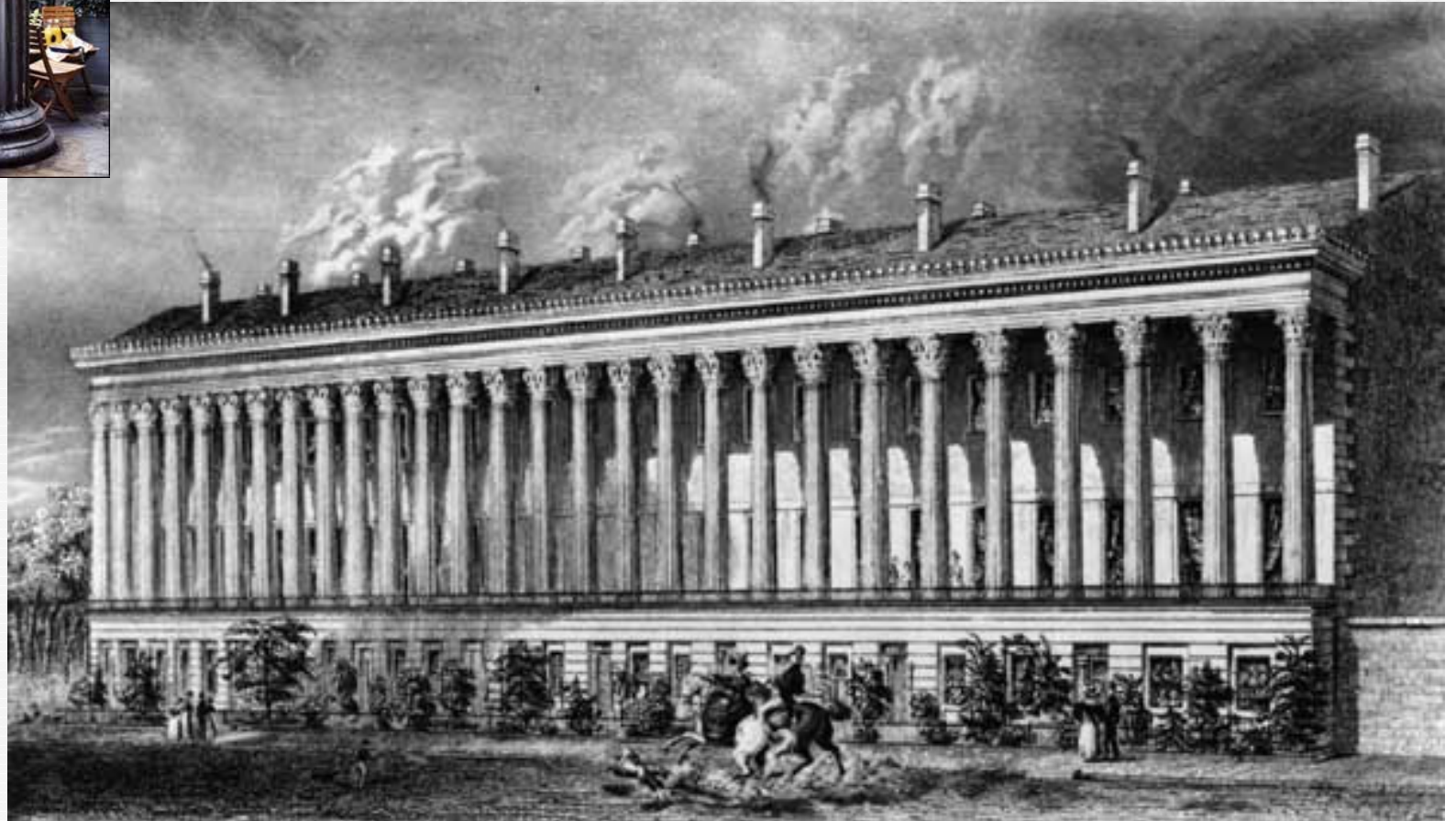
*Snug Harbor Cultural Center/ originally Sailors' Snug Harbor,
Buildings B, C and D, Minard Lafever, 1831-1841



*Snug Harbor Cultural Center/ originally Sailors' Snug Harbor, Buildings B, C and D, Minard Lafever, 1831-1841



- *La Grange Terrace, also known as Colonnade Row, attributed to Seth Geer, 1832-1833.



- *La Grange Terrace, also known as Colonnade Row, attributed to Seth Geer, 1832-1833.



- St. James Church, attributed to Minard Lafever, 1835-1837.