

Roman Architecture

History of Architecture

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Introduction

- The Roman republic started its dominion from its grandest city, Rome which is estimated to be established at 750 B.C.
- The beginning was by fighting the Etruscans and controlling their lands.
- Romans faced many severe wars against the Phoenicians until it was able to control Sicily and north Africa (146 B.C.)
- Greece became a Roman province in 133 B.C. and became a gate towards Asian territories.
- In 55 B.C. Julius Cesar crossed to Britain.
- The Roman empire stayed in power till the 4th century.

Introduction

- The Italians unlike the Greek did not have tendency for sailing.
- The main material on the Italian mainland was marble, and they also used terracotta, stone and brick.
- The Roman civilization can be divided into the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire.
- The nation became a prototype for an international nation inspiring many others to follow it.
- Romans were very good at constructions, and they developed several systems.

Architectural Character

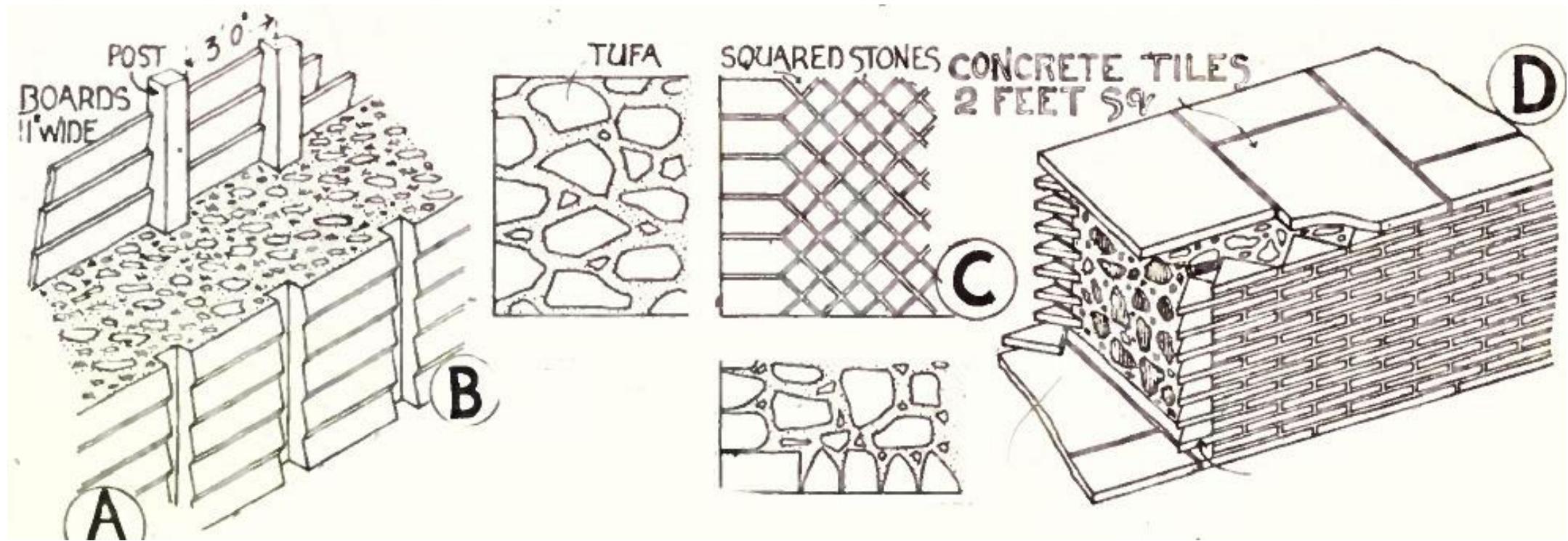
- Roman architecture is affected heavily by the Greek and Etruscan architecture.
- They used the same (column-trabeate) system and added the arch as a new development.
- They also took the dome architecture from the Etruscans, and it became an important development for the Roman architecture.
- They also used the Greek order after developing it, and thus we had five main orders: Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and the Composite.
- The construction abilities were visible in the various building types the Romans built, such as: theaters, baths, temples, amphitheaters, aqueducts, bridges, tombs, basilicas and Fora.

Architectural Character

- The Romans also utilized concrete for the first time, which was made of small fragments of stone, debris and limestone mixed with mortar.
- This method, with the use of bricks led to many walling systems.
- This also improved the Roman vaulting system, which became an important development in Roman architecture.
- The Romans used domes mainly over circular structures.
- Most of the Roman decoration came from the use of colorful marble and the different patterns produced by the building materials.
- Sometimes glass mosaic and bronze was used for internal decoration.

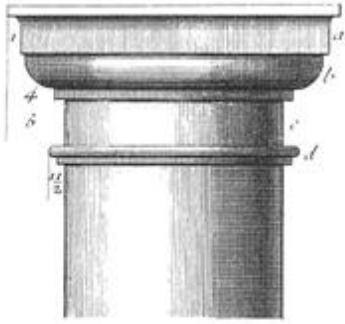
Architectural Character

- The Roman walls

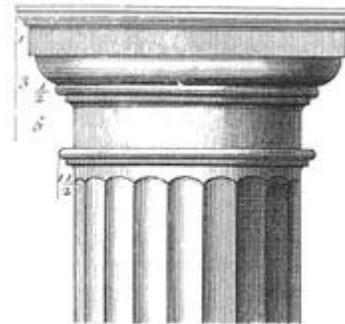


Architectural Character

Tuscan



Doric



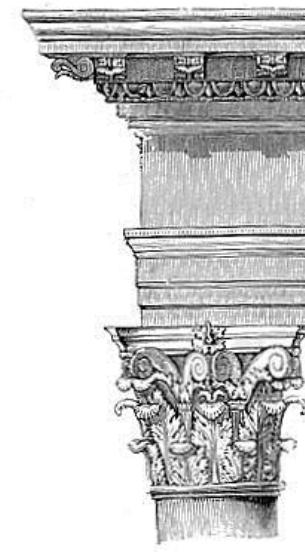
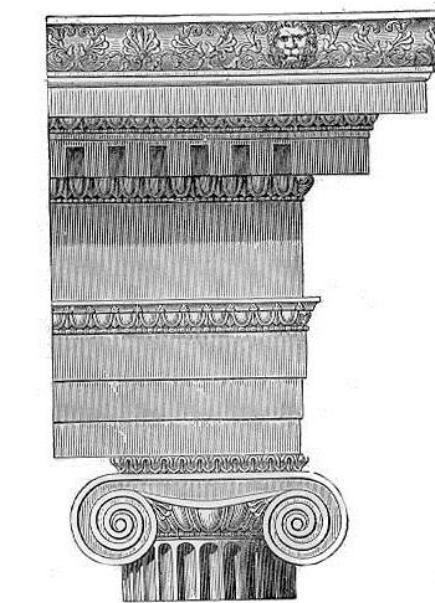
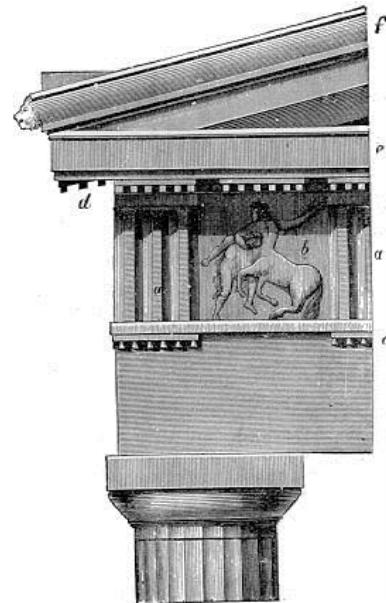
Ionic



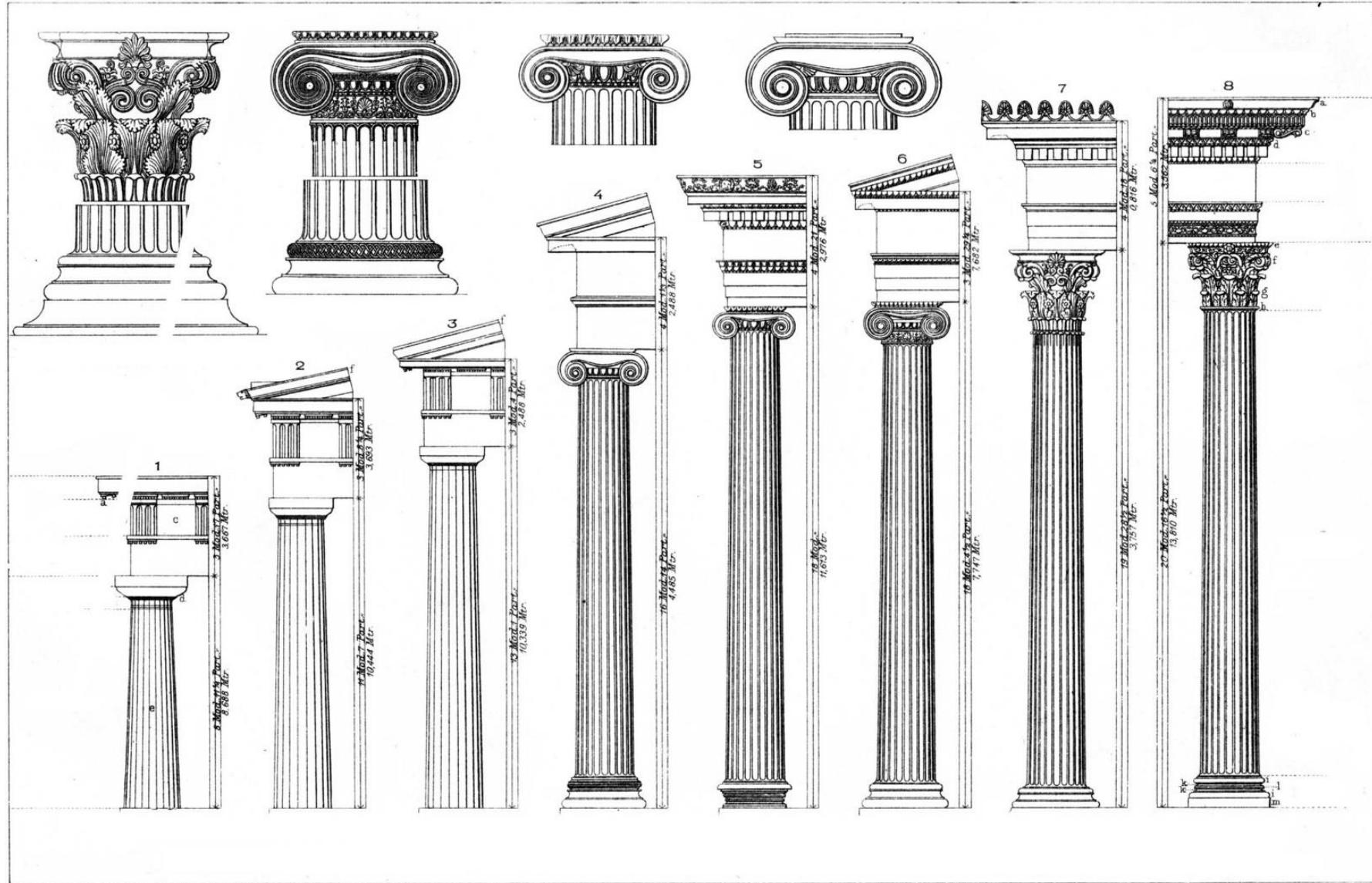
Corinthian



Composite

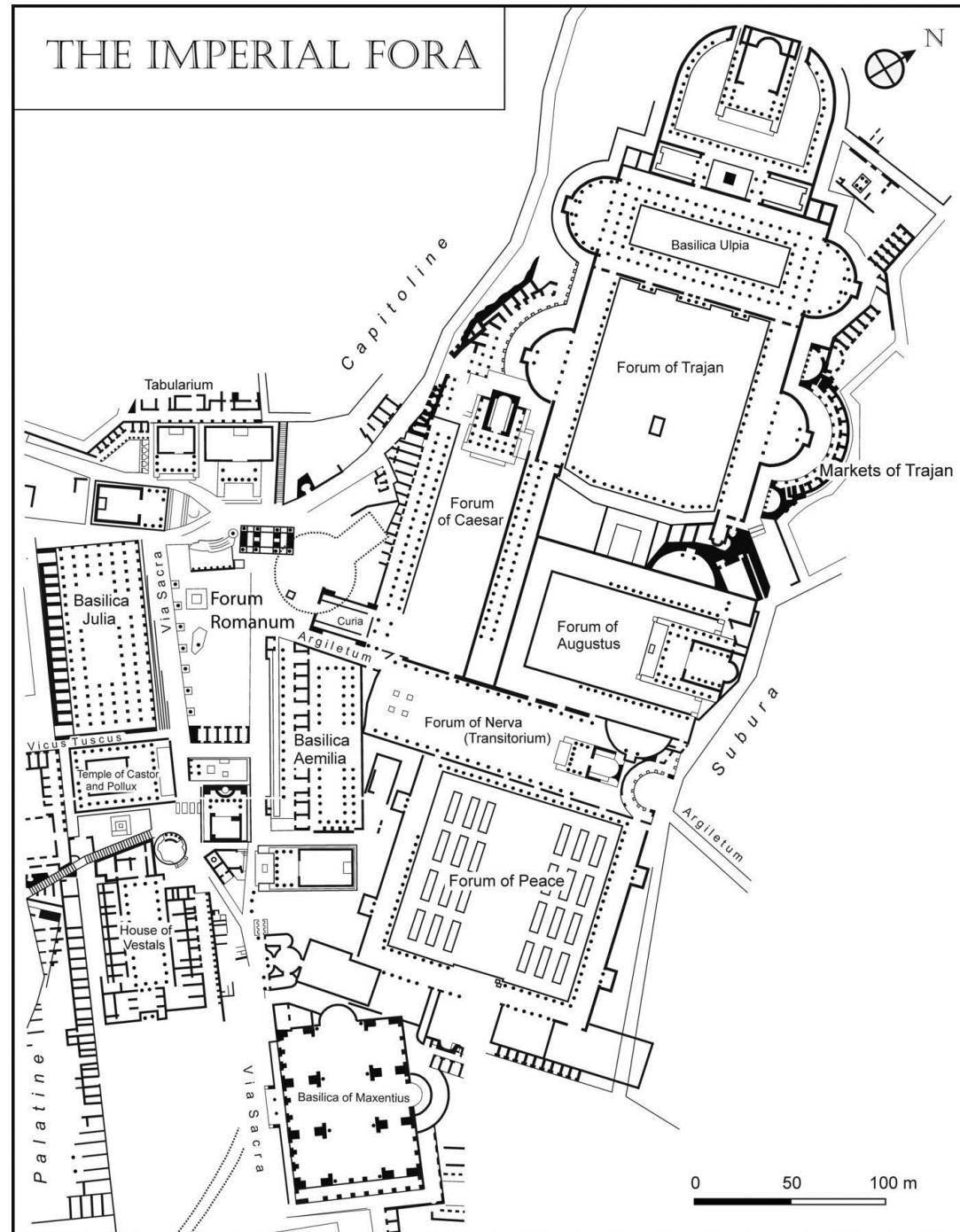


Architectural Character



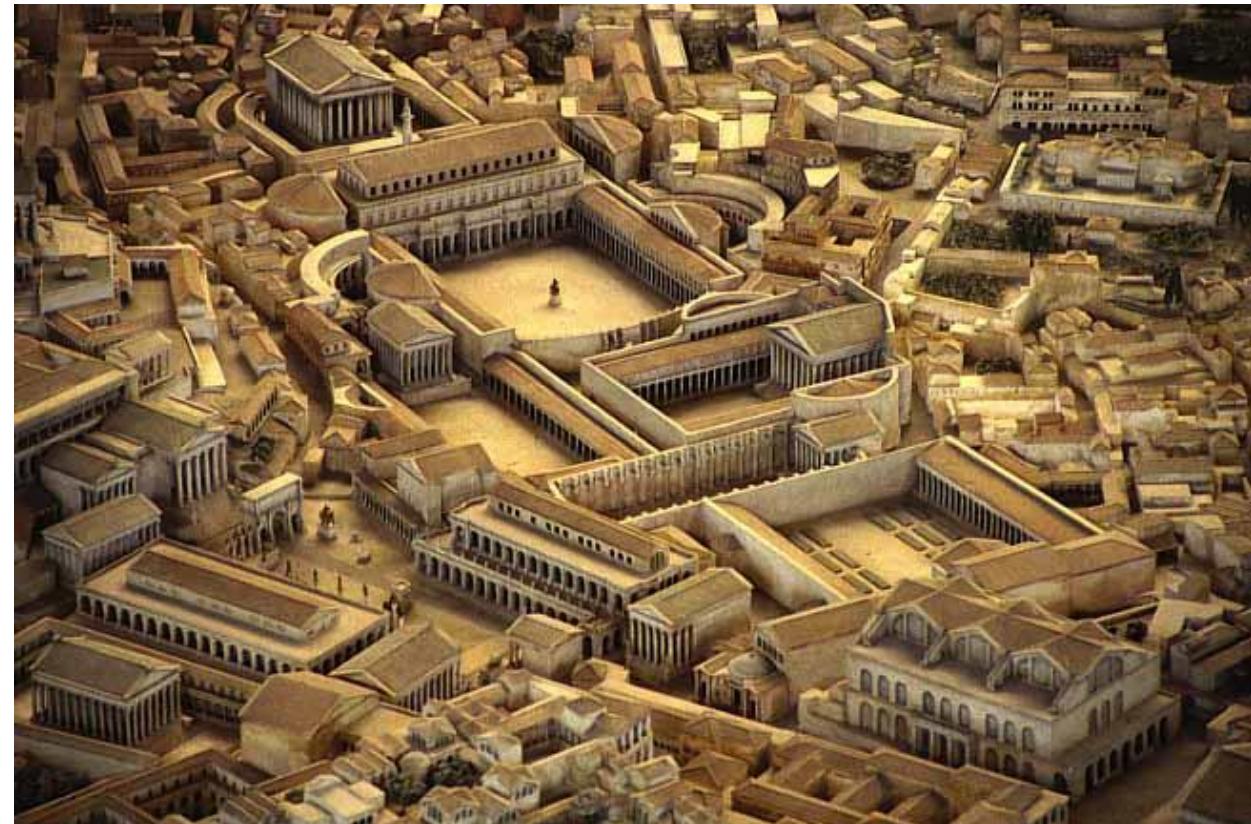
Examples (Fora)

- The Forum is associated with Greek Agora.
- It is an open space used as meeting place, marketing and political reasons.
- The Roman Forum (Forum Romanum) is the most important one since it includes many other Fora.
- Many other Roman cities included Fora like Pompeii and Damascus.



Examples (Fora)

- Forum Romanum

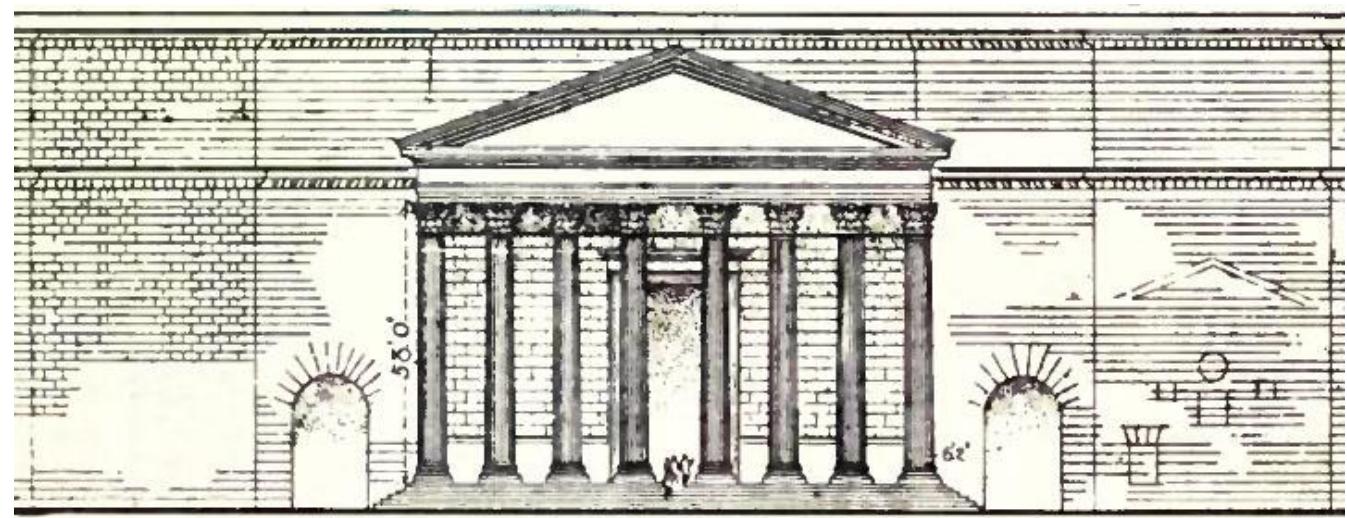
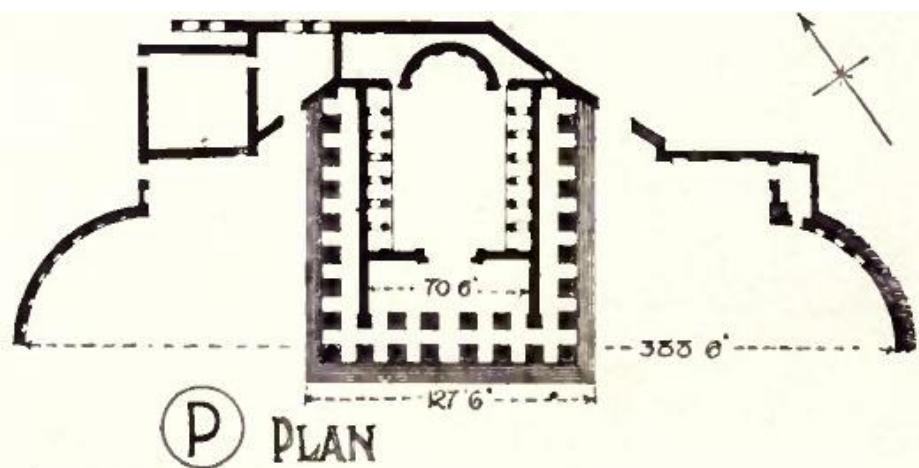


Examples (Temples)

- Roman temples were very similar to the Greek ones.
- They used the steps from the Etruscan temples, raising them from the ground.
- The Roman temples were larger than the Greek but shorter in length.
- The Romans also used circular and polygonal temples.
- The colonnade usually would not surround the whole temple.

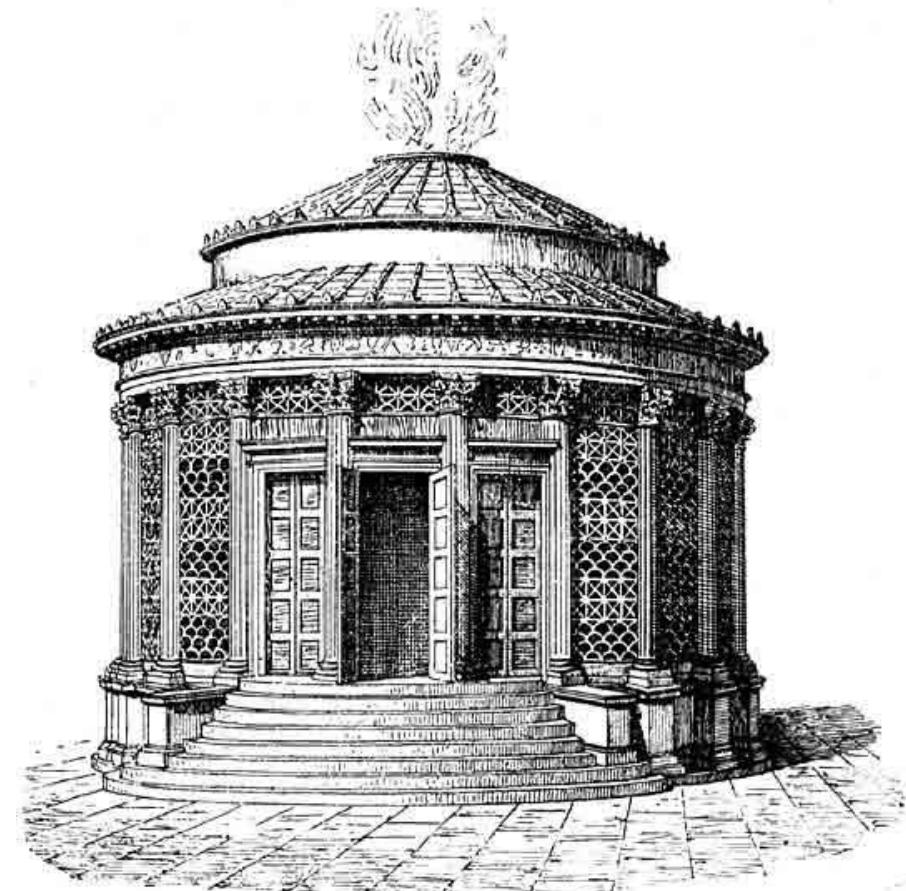
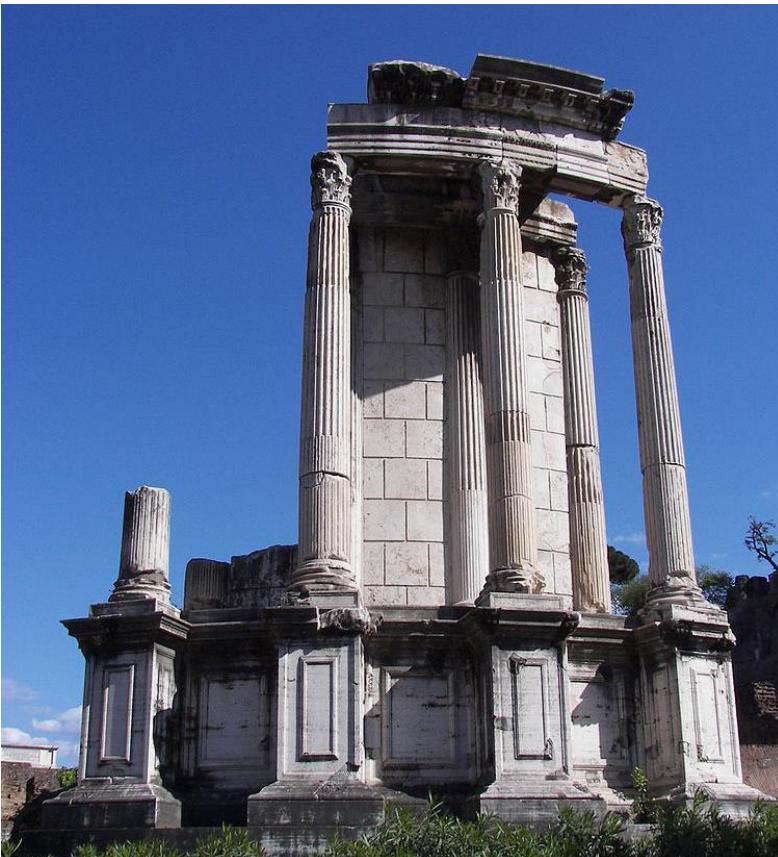
Examples (Temples)

- Temple of Mars



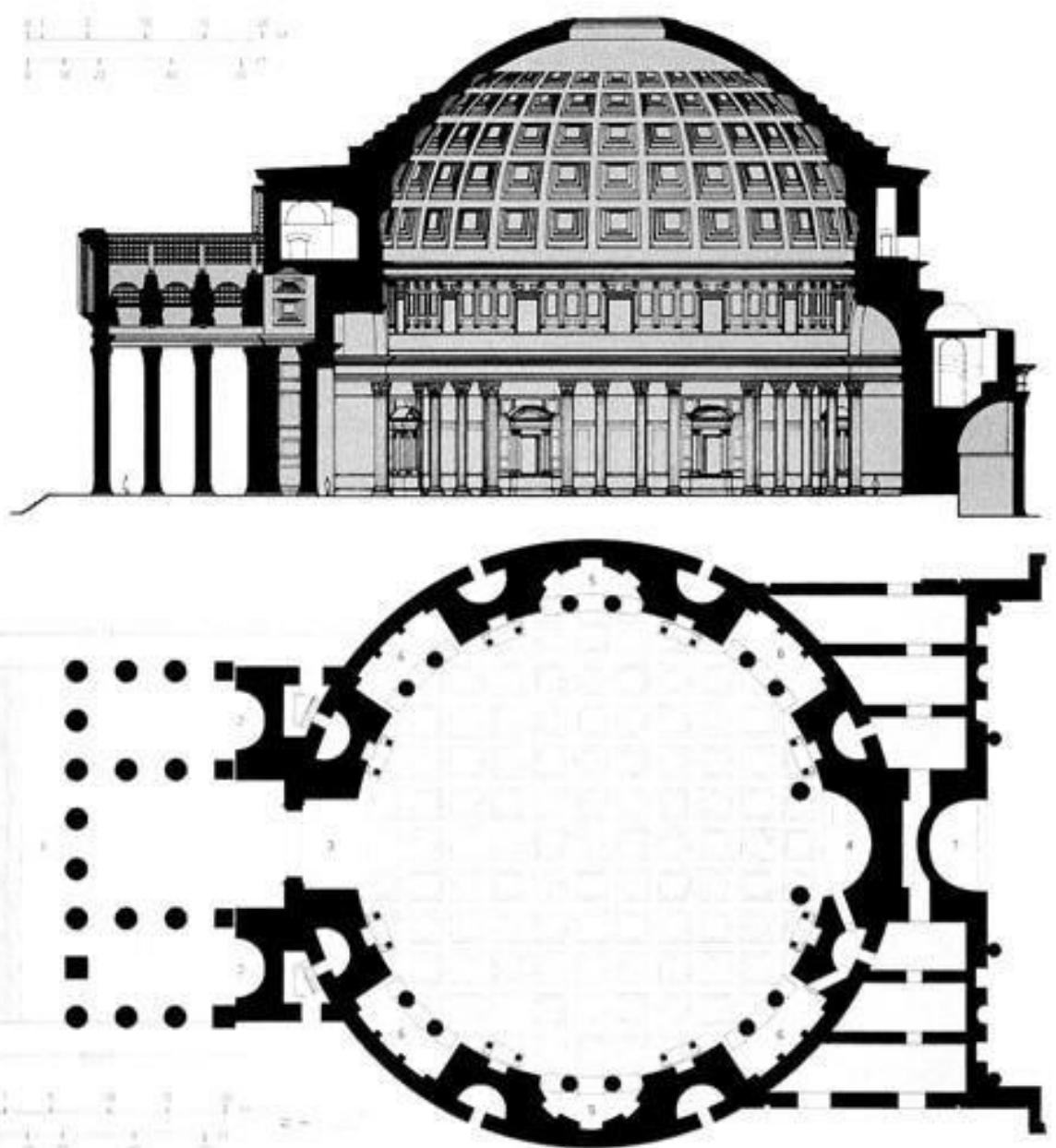
Examples (Temples)

- Temple of Vesta is one of the important circular temples.
- It was situated in the Roman Forum.



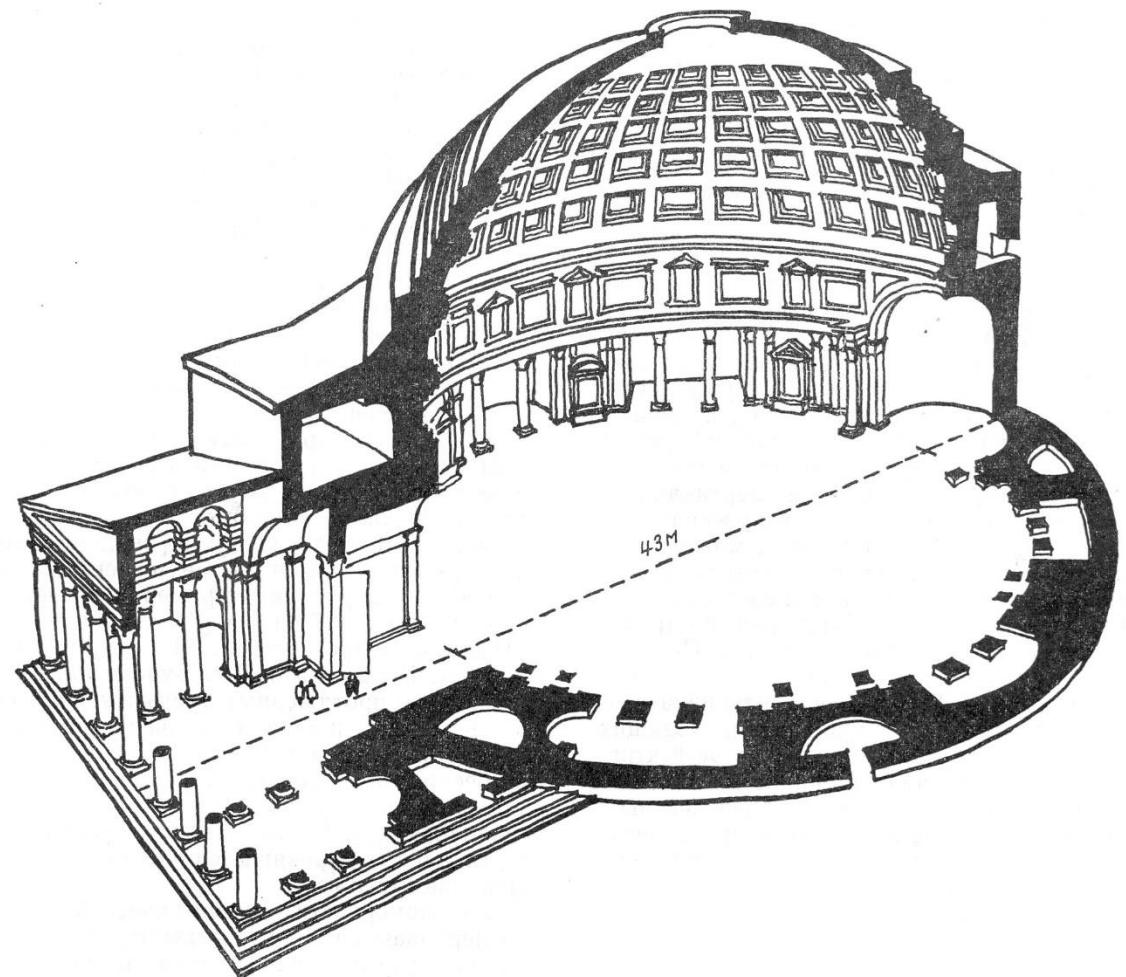
Examples (Temples)

- The Pantheon



Examples (Temples)

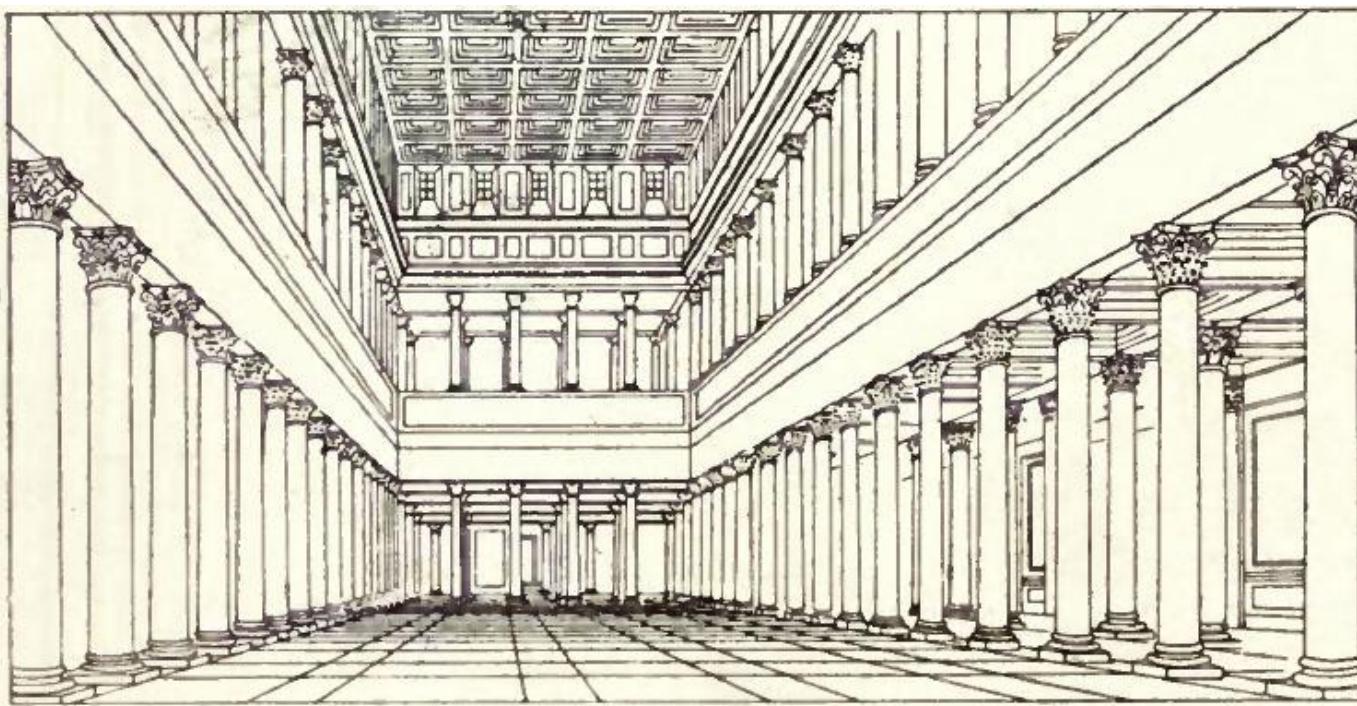
- The Pantheon



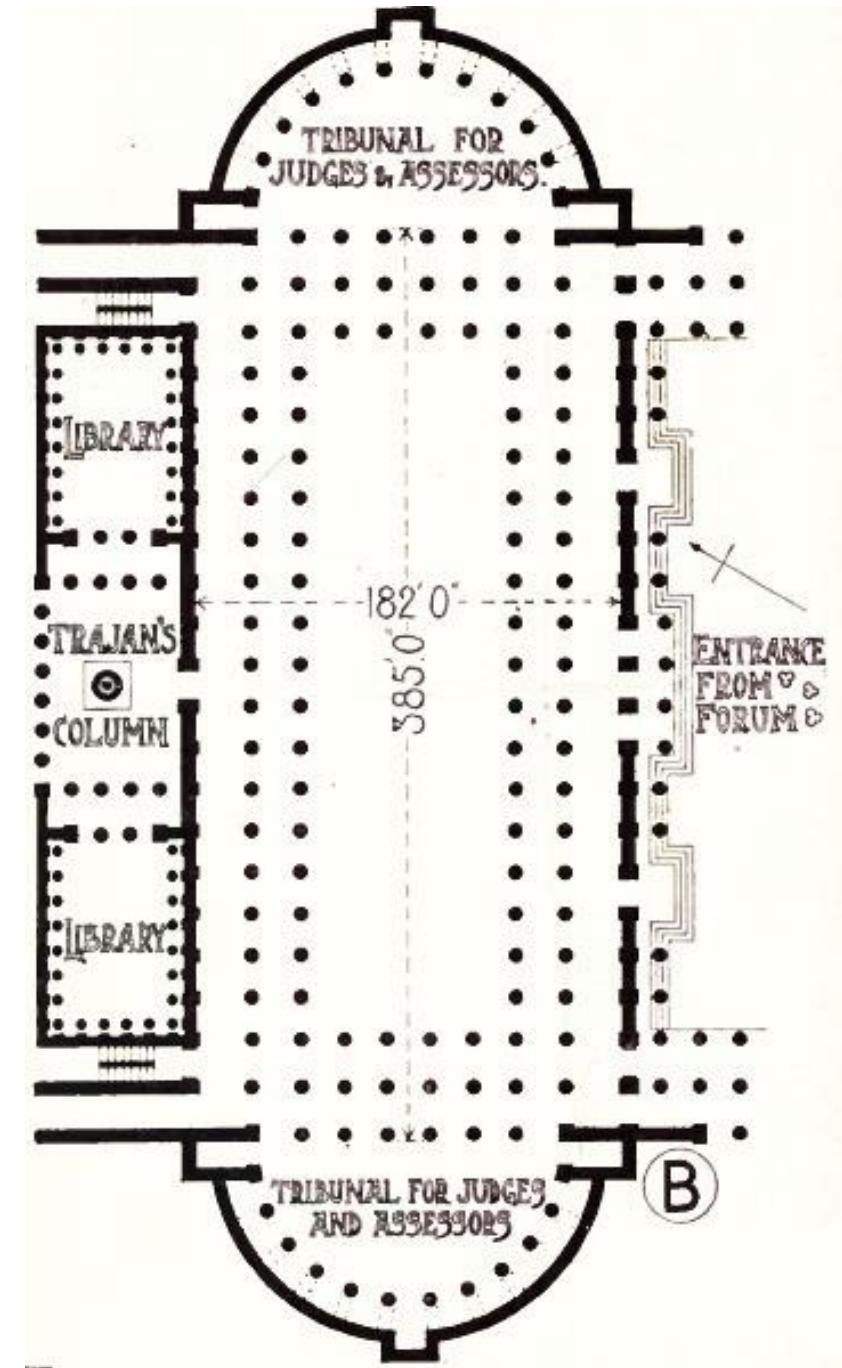
Examples (Basilicas)

- Basilicas are some of the finest buildings erected by the Romans.
- They were established as halls of justice and exchanges for merchants.
- It was usually a rectangular building, with two or four rows of columns.
- The end was a semi-circular sanctuary in which the judge would sit.
- The roof was made of wood, flat or gabled.
- The entrances were on the sides of the building.

Examples (Basilicas)

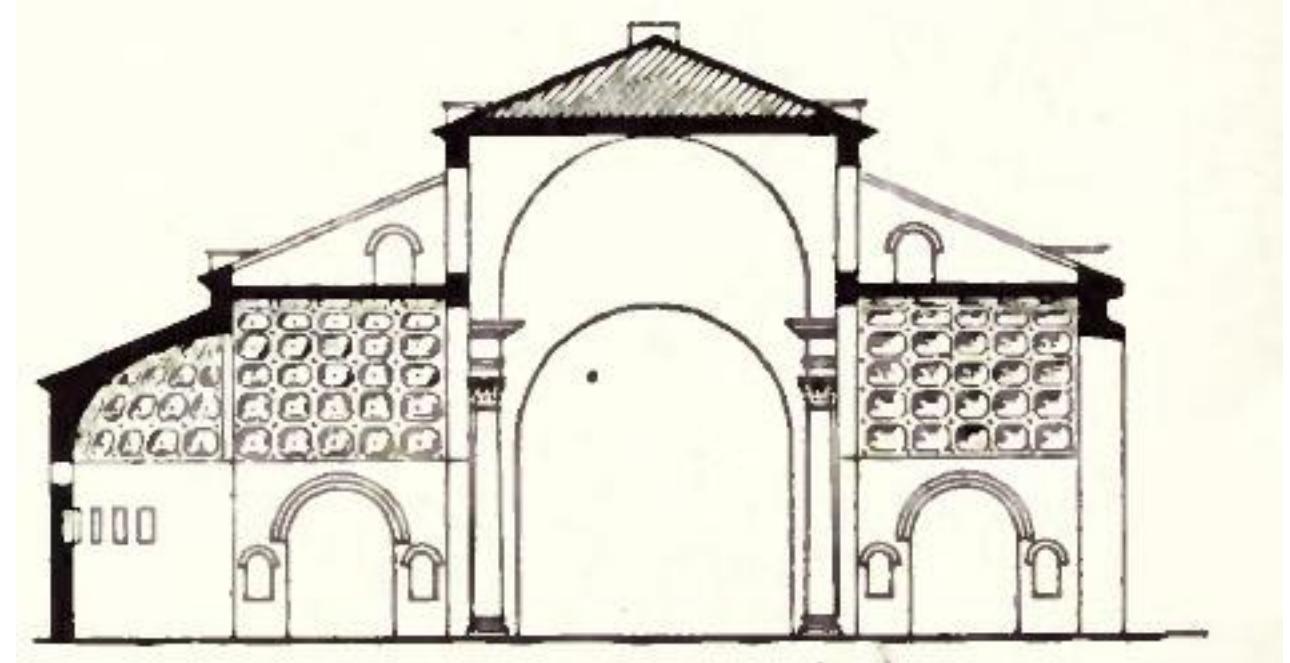
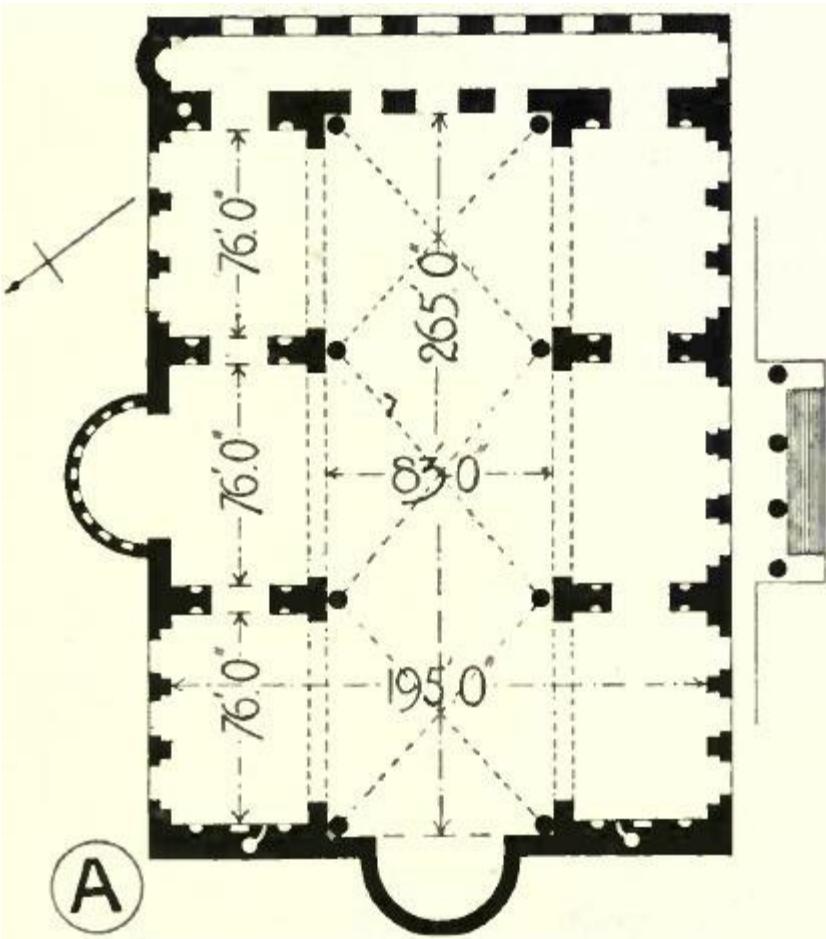


- Basilica of Trajan (Ulpia)



Examples (Basilicas)

- Basilica of Constantine (Maxentius)

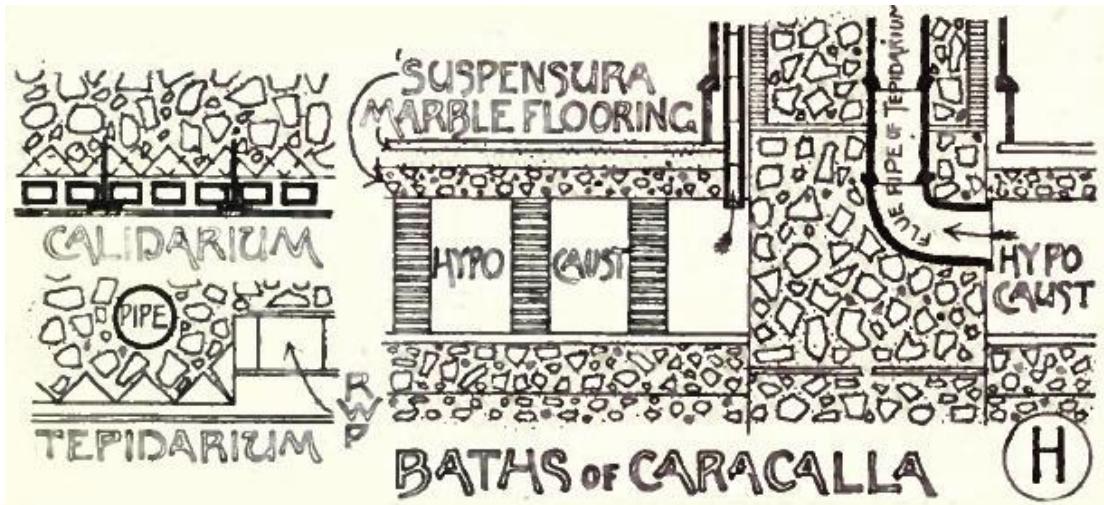
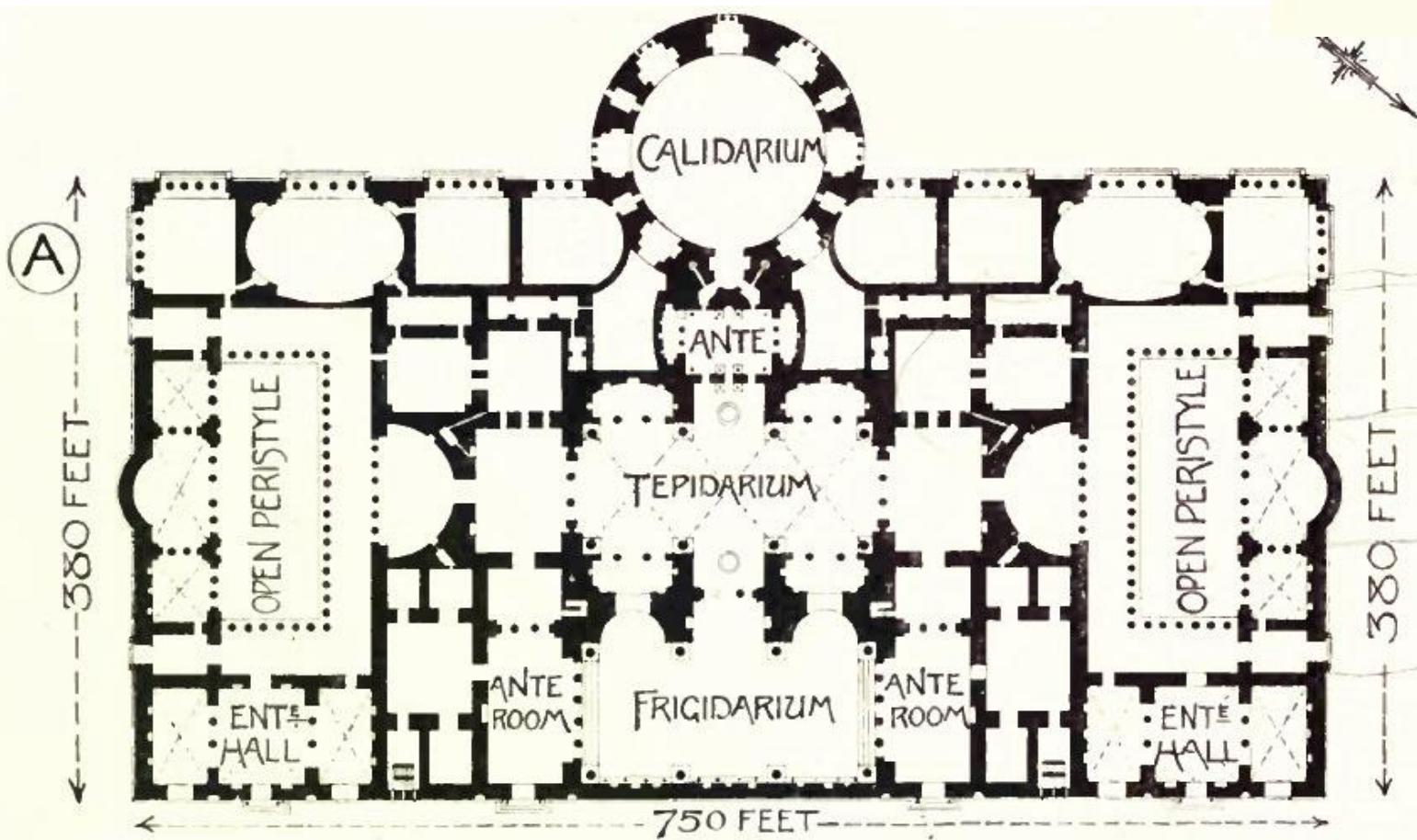


Examples (Thermae)

- Thermae or public baths, were another distinctive Roman buildings.
- These were multi-functional buildings, where cleaning was the main one.
- Usually a Roman bath would consist the following parts:
 - 1- The central block: contains the warm bath, hot bath and the cold bath.
 - 2- The courtyard: this was a large open space, with suitable sitting areas where spectators would watch sport events and wrestling.
 - 3- Surrounding apartments: here people would listen to lectures in history and philosophy, and deep discussions and conversations took place.

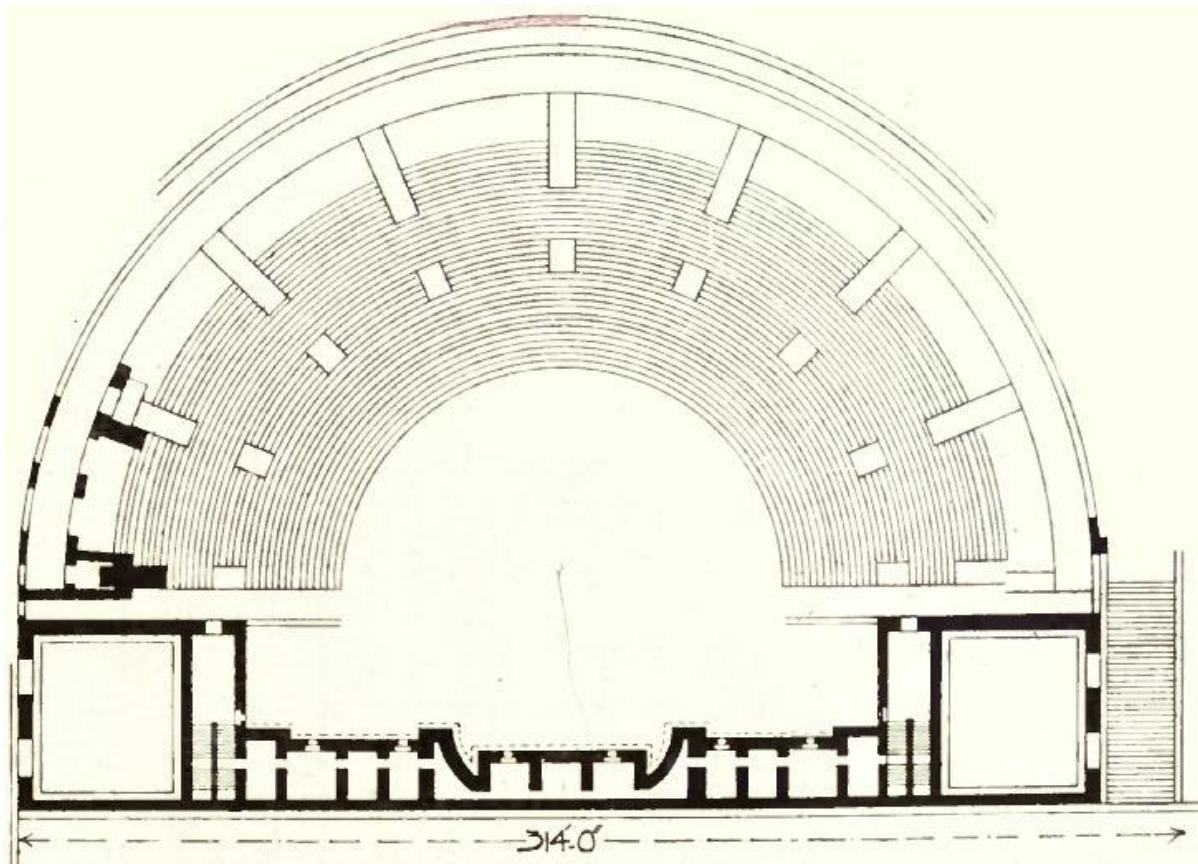
Examples (Thermae)

- Bath of Caracalla



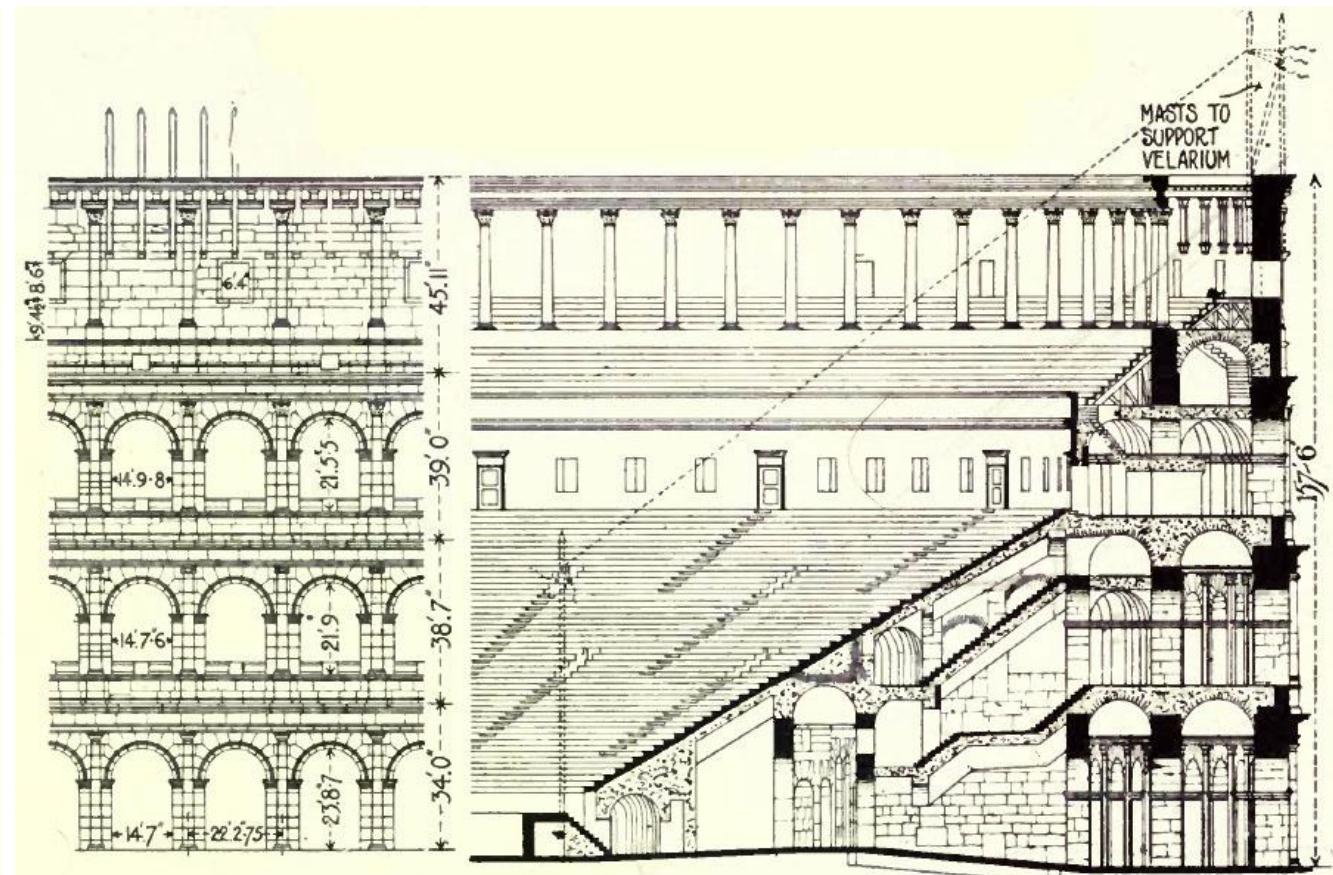
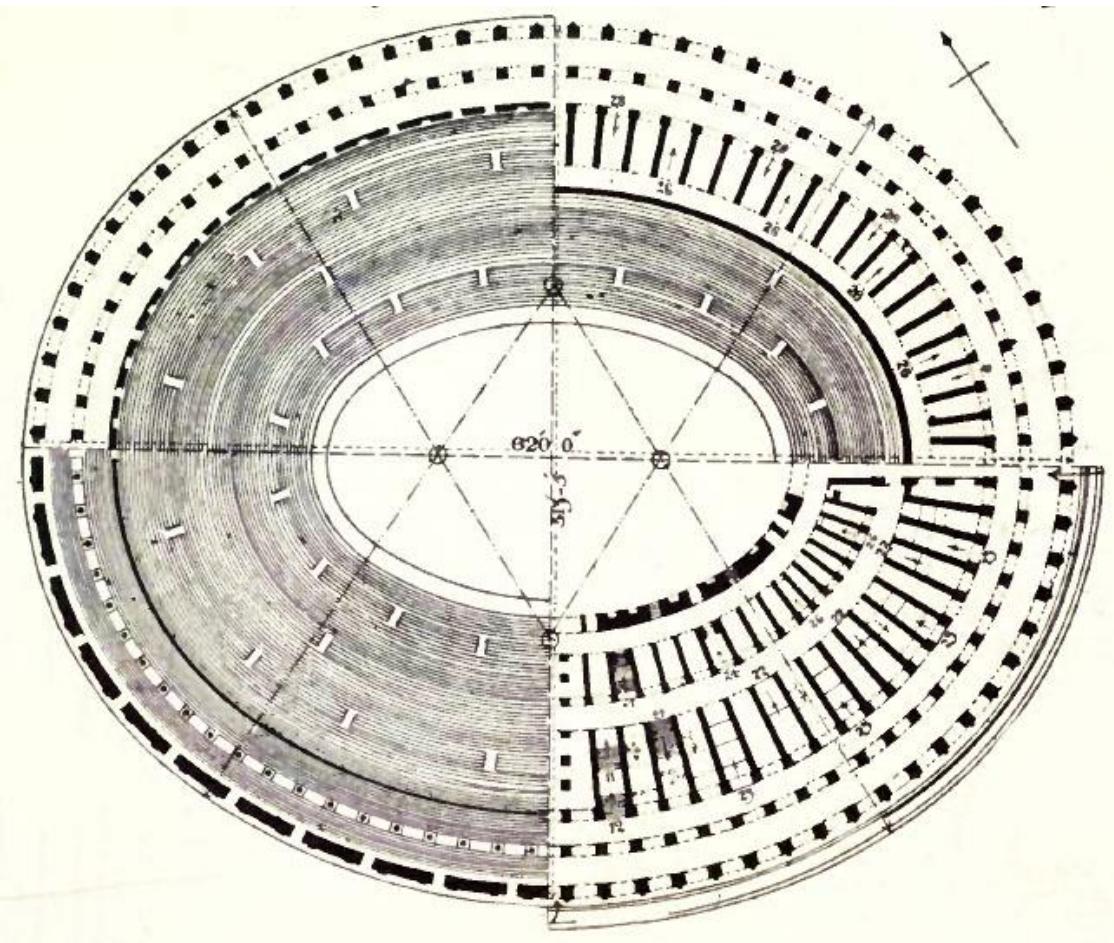
Examples (Theaters)

- The Roman theater at Orange, France



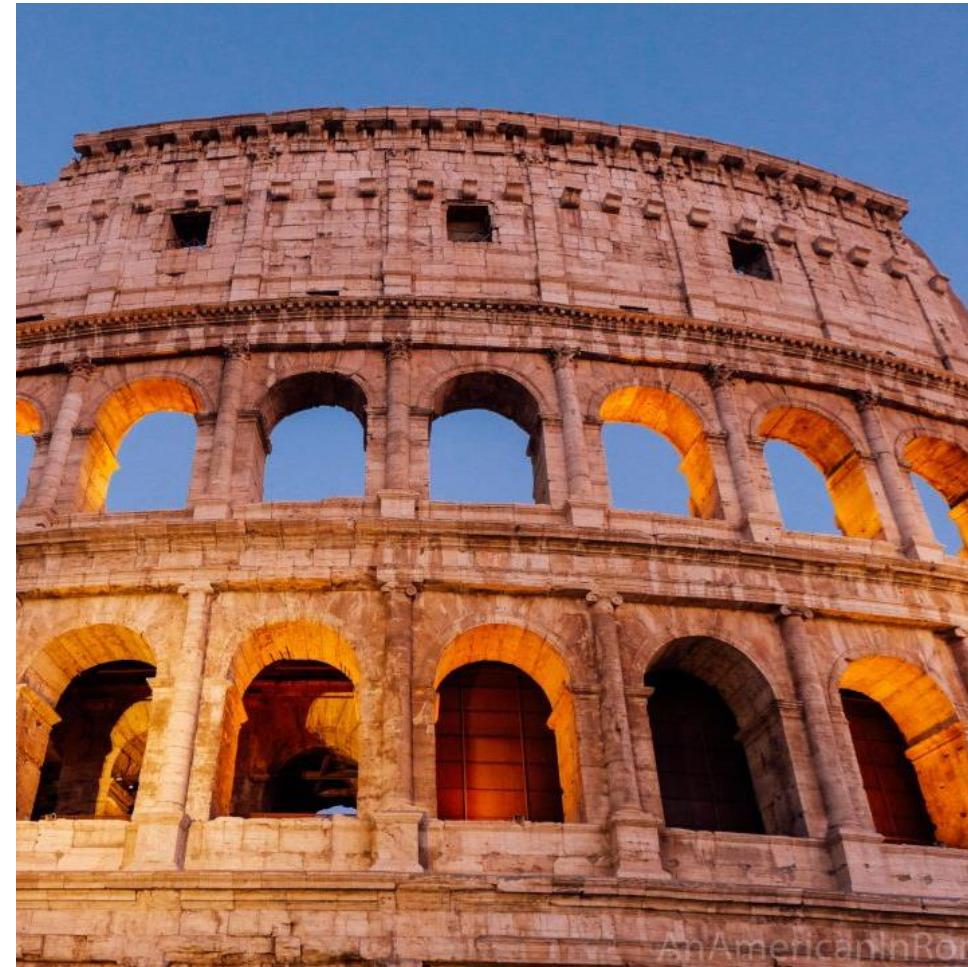
Examples (Theaters)

- The Colloseum



Examples (Theaters)

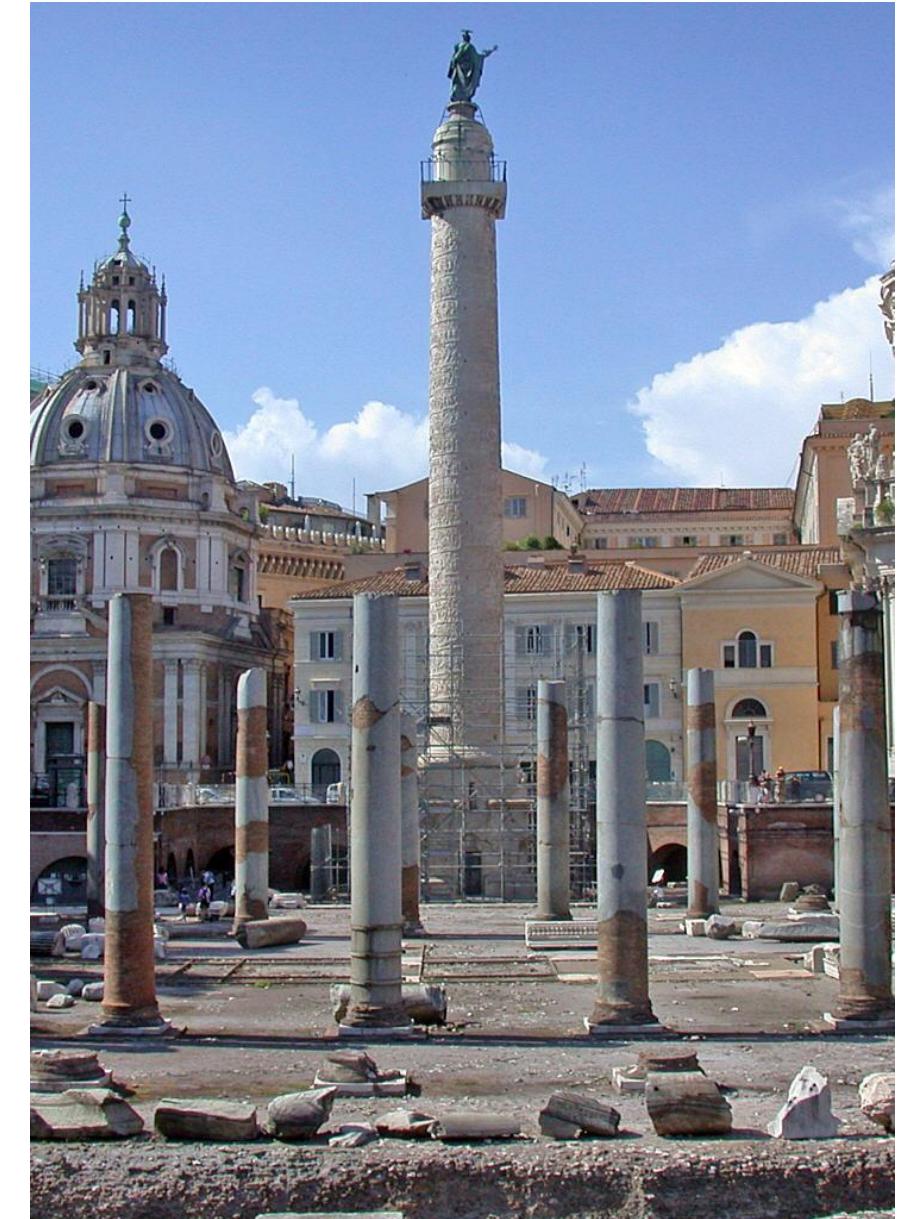
- The Colloseum



Examples (Others)



Triumphal arch



Column of victory

Examples (Others)



Aqueduct