

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 01:

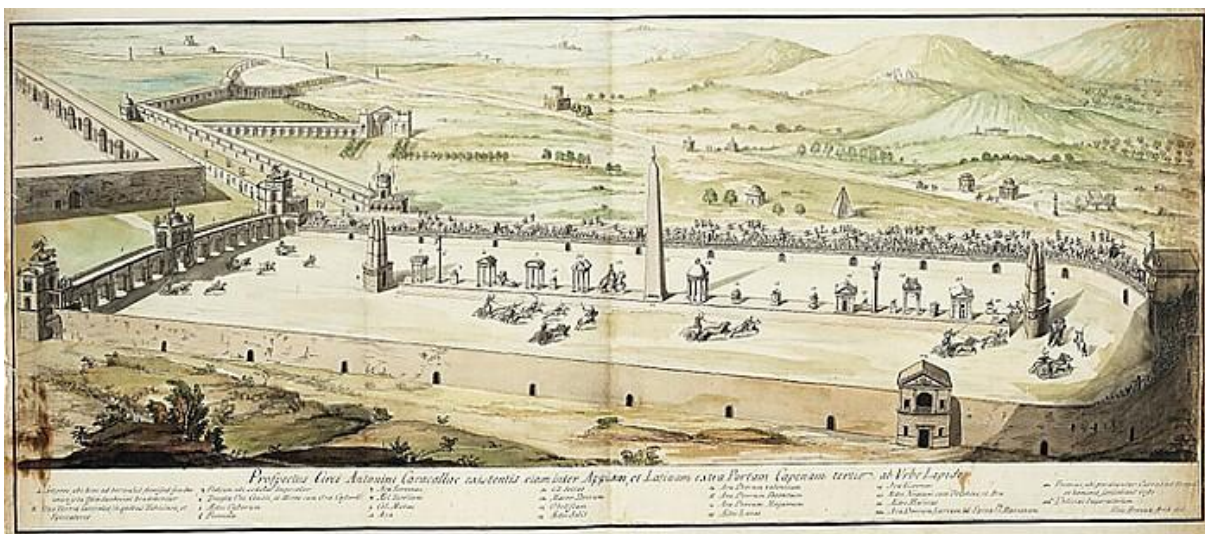
Explain the architecture of the Roman circus with example.

Answer:

- The plan of a Roman Circus was an adaptation of a Greek stadium, but, however, was used for chariot or horse races, while the Greek stadium was principally used for foot races and athletic sports.
- At Rome there were several important examples, among which were the Circus Maximus and those of Maxentius, Domitian, Hadrian, Nero, Flaminius, and Sallust.

The Circus Maxentius

- The Circus Maxentius near Rome, also known as the Circus of Romulus, was built by Maxentius in A.D. 311.
- Although only part of it now remains, it is the most perfect example of a Roman Circus existing.
- It consisted of a long open circular-ended arena with a "spina" along its axis.
- Surrounding this were rows of marble seats supported by raking vaults and an external wall of concrete.
- At one end were the "carceres" or stalls for horses and chariots, with a central entrance for processions and two side entrances, and at the semicircular end was the "porta triumphalis."



Question 02:

Explain in detail about the palaces and dwellings of ancient Rome with examples.

Answer:

Palaces

- Of the Roman palaces the ruins only remain, but there is enough to show their enormous extent and imposing character.

The Palace of the Roman Emperors.

- The principal approach was from the Forum Romanum, by a road which branched off from the Via Sacra, on the west side of the Arch of Titus.
- in 1863, and afterwards continued by the Italian Government, have revealed remains of a group of magnificent palaces. These, commenced by Augustus (A.D. 3), and having additions by
- Tiberius, Caligula, Nero and Domitian, were remodelled by Septimius Severus.
- The chief apartments in these palaces were :
 - The Tablinum or Throne-room
 - the Basilica, or hall for administering justice;
 - the Peristylum, a square garden surrounded by a colonnade
 - the Triclinium, or banqueting hall
 - the Lararium, or apartment for statues of the household gods
 - and the Nymphaeum.
- Besides these there were many minor chambers of service, whose uses cannot now be ascertained.

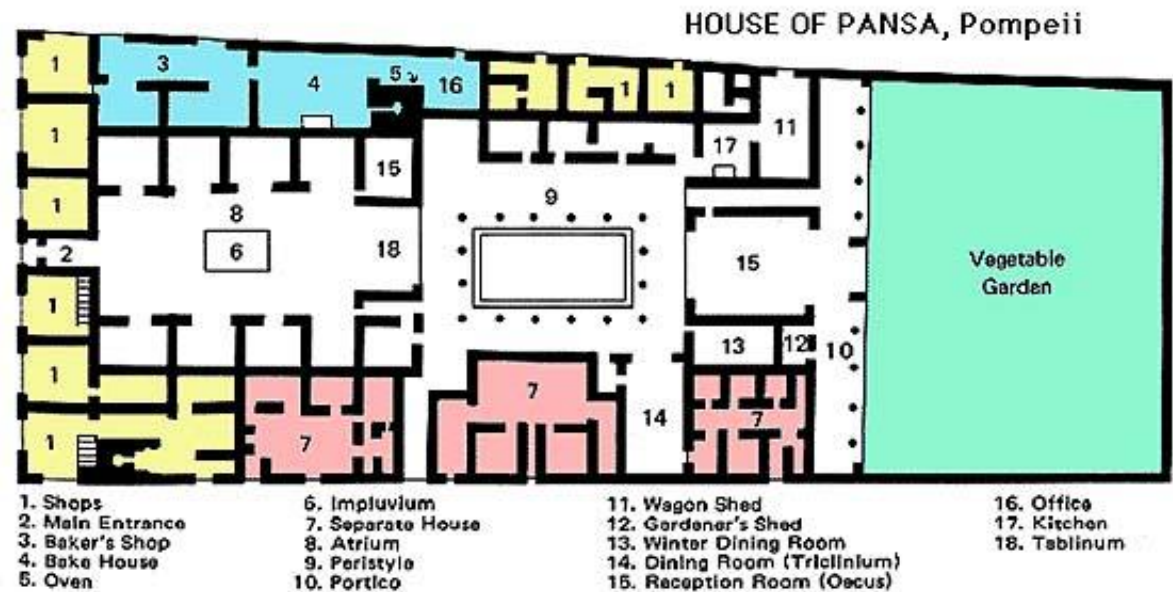
Roman Dwellings

- These may be classified under
- (a.) The domus, or private house
- (b.) The villa, or country house
- (c.) The insitla, or many storied tenement.
- The dwellings of the Greeks have already been touched upon, and there seems every reason to believe that Roman dwellings were evolved from them.
- They each possessed an atrium, forming the more public portion of the building, and a peristyle beyond, forming the centre of the family apartments.
- At Rome, the Atrium Vestae, or House/of the Vestal Virgins and the House of Livia, are interesting examples.

- The streets of Pompeii were narrow, the widest being 23 feet 6 inches, with a roadway 13 feet 6 inches and paths 5 feet wide.
- The houses had plain fronts to the street, the frontage on either side of the entrance passage being let off as shops.
- The absence of windows on the fronts is explained by some as being due to a lack of glass, in which case openings towards the street would have rendered privacy impossible.
- The rooms were lighted by openings, giving on to internal courts.
- The Pompeian houses are_ mostly one story in height, but stairs and traces of upper floors exist.

House of Pansa

- This may be taken as a good type of domus or ordinary private house.
- It was surrounded by streets on three sides, the garden occupying the fourth, and, besides the house proper, consisted of shops, bakeries, and three smaller houses.
- A prothyrum, or entrance passage, led direct from the street entrance to the atrium, which served as the public waiting-room for retainers and clients, and from which the more private portions of the house were shut off.
- The atrium was open to the sky in the centre, with a "lean-to" or sloping roof supported by brackets round all four sides.
- The impluvium, or "water cistern," for receiving the rain-water from these roofs, was sunk in the centre of the pavement, while round were grouped the front rooms, probably used by servants or guests, or as semi-public rooms.
- An open saloon, or tablinum, with "fauces," or narrow passages, led to the peristyle, or inner court, often the garden of the house.
- Around were grouped the cubiculae or bedrooms, the triclinium, or dining-room (summer and winter), with different aspects, the oocus, or reception room, and the alae, or recesses, for conversation.
- The peristyle was the centre of the private part of the house and it
- usually had a small shrine or altar.
- The walls and floors were richly decorated with mosaics and paintings.
- The kitchen and pantry are in the side of the peristyle, furthest from the entrance.



Question 03:

Name the two orders of Classical Rome. Explain Tuscan order in detail.

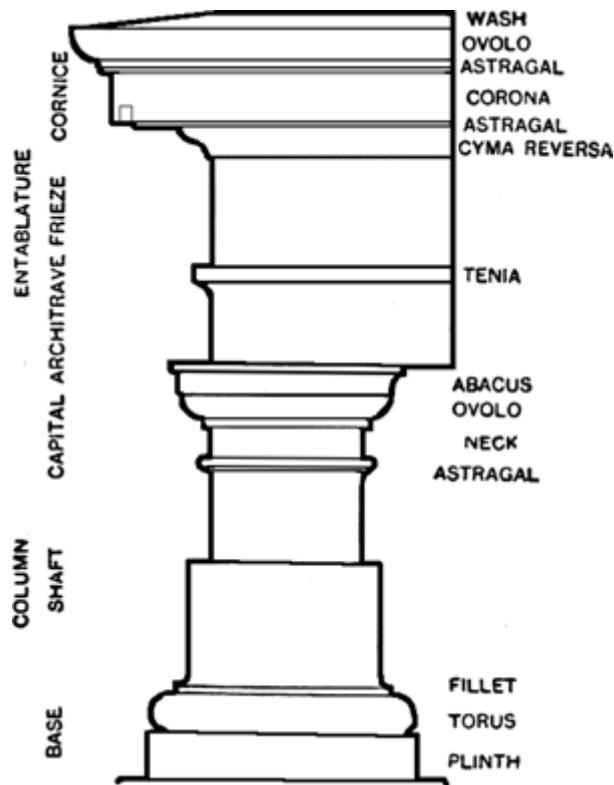
Answer:

- Three ancient orders of architecture—the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian—originated in Greece. To these the Romans added, in practice if not in name, the Tuscan, which they made simpler than Doric, and the Composite, which was more ornamental than the Corinthian.

Tuscan Order

- The Tuscan Order, is merely a simplified form of the Doric.
- The Tuscan Order has a plain unfluted column and simple entablature. St. Paul, Covent Garden, is a good modern example by Inigo Jones.
- The Tuscan order, presented as a standardized formal order, is an invention of Italian Renaissance writers largely motivated by nationalism.
- However, relatively simple columns with round capitals had been part of the vernacular architecture of Italy and much of Europe since at least Etruscan architecture.
- In its simplicity, The Tuscan order is seen as similar to the Doric order, and yet in its overall proportions, intercolumniation and simpler entablature, it follows the ratios of the Ionic.

- The Tuscan, being rough, is rarely used above ground except in one-storey buildings like villa barns or in huge structures.



Question 04:

Name the two orders of Classical Rome. Explain Composite order in detail.

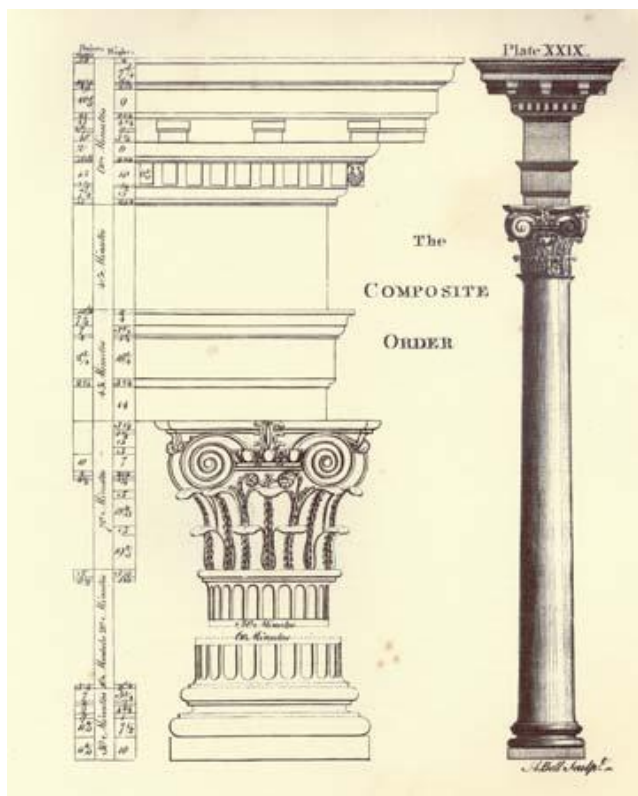
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Composite Order

- The Composite Order was invented by the Romans, being used principally in the Triumphal Arches.
- The upper portion of the Ionic capital was combined with the lower part of the Corinthian. In other details the order follows the Corinthian, but with additional ornamentation.

- The composite order is a mixed order, combining the volutes of the Ionic order capital with the acanthus leaves of the Corinthian order.
- In many versions the composite order volutes are larger, however, and there is generally some ornament placed centrally between the volutes.
- The Composite order is essentially treated as Corinthian except for the capital, with no consistent differences to that above or below the capital.
- The composite order is not found in ancient Greek architecture and until the Renaissance was not ranked as a separate order. Instead it was considered as an imperial Roman form of the Corinthian order.
- The Composite is partly based on the Ionic order, where the volutes (seen frontally) are joined by an essentially horizontal element across the top of the capital, so that they resemble a scroll partly rolled at each end.
- The treatment of details has often been very variable, with the inclusion of figures, heraldic symbols and the like in the capital.
- The composite order, due to its delicate appearance, was deemed by the Renaissance to be suitable for the building of churches dedicated to The Virgin Mary or other female saints. In general it has been since been used to suggest richness and grandeur.
- Bramante used the composite order in the second order of the cloister of Santa Maria della Pace, Rome



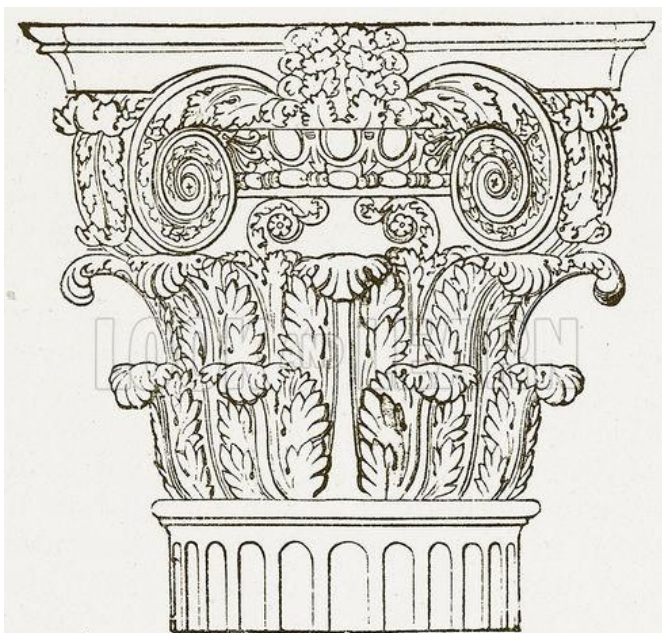


Fig. 186. Capital of the Composite Order.