

FAQs

What is the difference between Structural and Romantic Neoclassicism?

Structural Neo-classicists eyed more decoration in the interiors and they did not ornamented the facade of the buildings. Eg. **The Atles museum in Berlin by Schinkel**. The works of Structural Neo-classicists were **anti-romantic** and **anti-folkloric**. They sought universal themes and considered Ukrainian culture to be an organic part of the western European culture.

Whereas Romantic Neo-classicists eyed more on the exterior decoration and they concentrated less on the interiors. Romantic Neo-classicists were self-consciously concerned with the production of **high art** and **disdained mass art, didactic writing** and **propagandistic work**. Eg **Royal Saltworks in France by Ledoux**.

Explain the Philosophy and building style of Schinkel with an example.

Schinkel, one of the most prominent architects of Germany has designed both Neo-classical and Neo-Gothic buildings in and around Germany. He was highly influenced by the works of **Durand**.

His means was severe and neo-classical though the effects he obtained in his interiors with **dramatic lighting, change in levels** and **spatial fluidity** show an original mind at work.

Eg.-**Atles Museum in Berlin**

- Atles museum, completed in 1830 is one of the most important buildings of Neo-classical era and an important work of Schinkel.
- The exteriors of the Atles Museum is fully restrained and academic Neo-Classicism, interiors to its contrast is full of spatial effects and ornamentation.

- A two-storey entrance space within the portico, incorporating a fine double staircase, a splendid domed sculptured hall, and pictured galleries with hanging screens placed at right angles to the windows for the best lighting effects.
- The Monumental arrangement of eighteen ionic fluted columns, the expansive atrium and sweeping staircase that invites visitors to ascend to the top, the rotunda adorned with Antique sculptures on all sides as a place to collect one's thoughts and an explicit reference to Rome's Pantheon.
- At the top of the eighteen ionic columns, which support the portico, sits eighteen sandstone eagles. The dedication inscription, upon which the eagles are perched.
- Like the Pantheon in Rome, its interior surface is adorned with coffering (rectangular sunken panles)
- After the broad staircase and Ionic columns, the portico leads through a bronze portal to a double staircase ending in an upper hall.
- The staircase and hall are separated by a colonnade providing a panorama of Berlin.

Explain the philosophy and building style of Labrouste with an example.

Henri Labrouste was a French architect from the famous Ecole des Beaux-Arts school of architecture. After a six year stay in Rome, Labrouste opened an architectural training workshop which quickly became the centre of the rationalist view.

He became noted for his use of **iron-frame construction** and was one of the first to realize the importance of its use. One of the Post-Durand buildings in Paris is the **Ste Genevieve Library** by Labrouste. It is a rectilinear building in which an elegant non-renaissance facade in two tiers conceals the interiors. A fine example of iron

engineering with a double row of semicircular iron vaults carried on iron columns.

Eg.-Bibliotheque Nationale De France in Paris

- The first solo exhibition of Labrouste's work in the United states, establishes his work as a milestone in the modern evolution of architecture.
- The exhibition includes over 200 works, from original drawings-many of them watercolours of haunting beauty and precision-to vintage and modern photographs, films, architectural models, and fragments.
- Labrouste made an invaluable impact on 19th century architecture through his exploration of new paradigms of space, materials, and luminosity in places of great public assembly.
- His two magisterial glass and iron reading rooms in Paris, the Bibliotheque Sainte-Genevieve and the Bibliotheque Nationale gave form to the idea of the modern library as a temple of knowledge and as a space for contemplation.
- Labrouste also sought a redefinition of architecture by introducing **new materials** and **new building technologies**.
- His spaces are at once overwhelming in the daring modernity of their **exposed metal frameworks, lightweight walls and brightness and immersive in their timelessness**.
- The library currently holds 30 million items and was expanded to a newer building in 1996.
- The ferrous structure of the reading room, a spine of slender cast iron ionic columns dividing the space into two aisles and supported openwork iron arches that carry barrel vaults of plaster reinforced by iron mesh has

always been revered by Modernists for its introduction of high technology into a monumental building.

- The roof of the main reading room is a **cluster of nine domes faced with ceramic panels**, with **circular opening for lighting the interior**.