

THE IONIC STYLE

The Ionic style was a more elegant, decorated style than the Doric, using slender columns with bases and decorated capitals with spiral curls known as volutes. It was particularly popular in the eastern colonies of Asia Minor and on the Aegean islands.

These are the ruins of the Erechtheum temple, built in the Ionic style, which is on the Acropolis in Athens. The pediment and roof have worn away with time and pollution.

These are caryatids, female statues used as columns



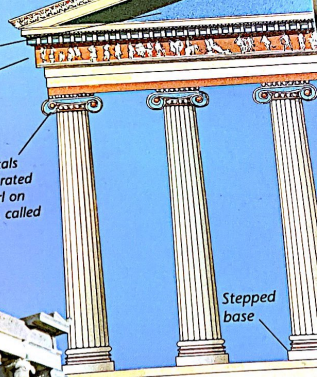
Pediment (triangular space)

The frieze went all the way around the building in a continuous band.

Ionic capitals were decorated with a curl on each side, called a volute.

Stepped base

Above is a reconstruction of the front of a typical Ionic temple, with its parts labelled.



OTHER STYLES

The Aeolic capital was an early form of Ionic capital, found at Smyrna in Asia Minor (Turkey) and on the island of Lesbos. It dates back to the 6th century BC.

The Corinthian capital was a later, more ornate style, decorated with a leafy pattern. Although the Greeks rarely used it, it became very popular later with the Romans.



Aeolic capital



Corinthian capital

A LASTING INFLUENCE

Ancient Greek architecture has had a lasting influence on the architecture of the world. It impressed the Romans so much that they copied and adapted it, but it has also inspired countless other imitations over the centuries, in many different countries.

Buildings in the Classical Greek style of architecture are often known as Neoclassical.

The 19th-century Capitol building, in Washington D.C., has Corinthian capitals and a facade like a Greek temple.

