

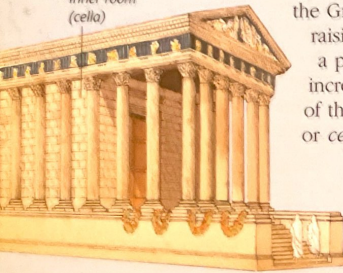
# AMAZING ARCHITECTURE

The elegant temples of the Greeks were an inspiration to Roman architects, and the builders of the Republican period copied the Greek style closely (see pages 212-213). But by imperial times, the Romans had developed their own style of architecture, along with new building techniques. Throughout the Roman world, grand public buildings were erected to celebrate the glory of Rome.

## COPYING THE GREEKS

Greek temples were rectangular in shape with an outer row of columns supporting the roof, and most early Roman temples followed this plan. But the Romans tried to make their temples grander than the Greeks', by raising them up on a platform and increasing the size of the inner room - or *cella*.

Inner room (*cella*)



In most Roman temples the outer columns, known as the *peristyle*, were attached to the *cella*.

The Romans copied the three types of columns used by the Greeks, but made them chunkier and more richly decorated. They also created two styles of their own - Tuscan and Composite.

Types of columns used by the Romans



Ionic (Greek)



Tuscan (Roman)



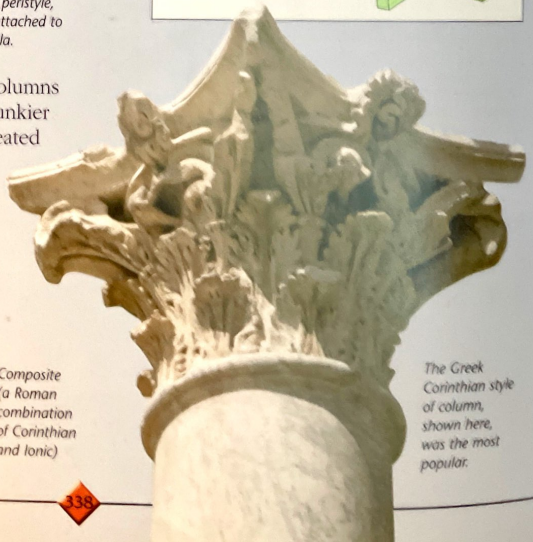
Corinthian (Greek)



Doric (Greek)

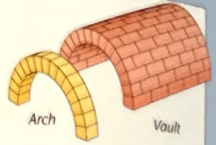


Composite (a Roman combination of Corinthian and Ionic)

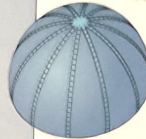


The Greek Corinthian style of column, shown here, was the most popular.

## USING ARCHES



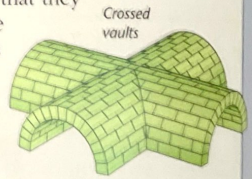
From the Etruscans, the Romans copied the rounded arch for doorways and windows, and for high, curved roofs, called vaults. They also used arches as a frame to build the first circular domes.



Dome

By the 2nd century AD, the Romans had learned how to build a roof from a series of crossed vaults supported by columns.

This meant that they could create huge rooms inside their basilicas and bath-houses.



Crossed vaults