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The byzantine and Romanesque architecture

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THE Byzantine and Romanesque

THE Byzantine and Romanesque styles of architecture are the phases into which the art passed from the decay of the styles of ancient Rome.

THE Romanesque

History:

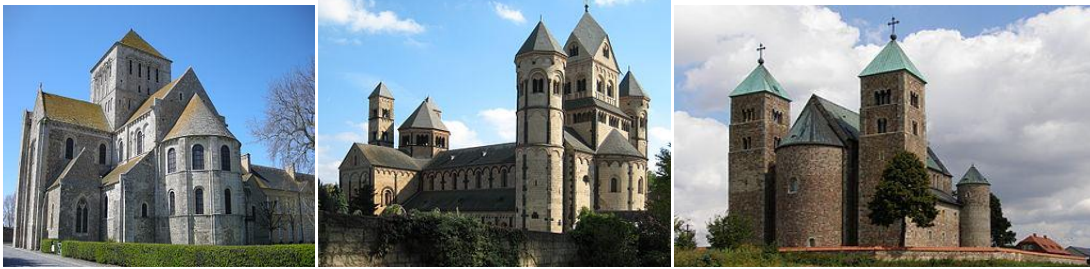
In the eyes and judgment of the great masters of the Renaissance in the 15th and 16th centuries Roman architecture was the perfection of human art, and fixed the standard which it was their ambition to reach with that of their own time.

Location:

THE extent of Roman architecture was limited only Roman by that of the Empire itself. Wherever the Roman carried his arms he took with him the arts and civilization of the capital. In every part, from Britain in the north Empire to "the shores of Africa in the south, and the sands of Baalbec and Palmyra in the east, Roman architecture is to be found, varying no doubt in degrees of scale and execution but bearing everywhere the impress of the same character;

Examples of Romanesque architecture can be found across the continent, making it the first pan-European architectural style since Imperial Roman architecture. The Romanesque style in England is traditionally referred to as Norman architecture.

Features:



Combining features of ancient Roman and Byzantine buildings and other local traditions, Romanesque architecture is known by its massive quality, thick walls, round arches, sturdy pillars, barrel vaults, large towers and decorative arcading. Each building has clearly defined forms, frequently of very regular, symmetrical plan; the overall appearance is one of simplicity when compared with the Gothic buildings that were to follow. The style can be identified right across Europe, despite regional characteristics and different materials.

Romanesque churches characteristically incorporated semicircular arches for windows, doors, and arcades; barrel or groin vaults to support the roof of the nave; massive piers and walls, with few windows, to contain the outward thrust of the vaults; side aisles with galleries above them; a large tower over the crossing of nave and transept; and smaller towers at the church's western end. French churches commonly expanded on the early Christian basilica plan, incorporating radiating chapels to accommodate more priests, ambulatories around the sanctuary apse for visiting pilgrims, and large transepts between the sanctuary and nave.

Example:

examples of Romanesque styles include the cathedrals of Worms and Mainz, Limburg Cathedral (in the Rhenish Romanesque style),

Maulbronn Abbey



(an example of Cistercian architecture), and the famous castle of Wartburg, which was later expanded in the Gothic style.

cathedrals of Worms:



The cathedral is located on the highest point of the inner city of Worms and is the most important building of the Romanesque style in Worms. It is closely associated with Bishop Burchard and the high point of Worms' history in the 12th and 13th centuries. It was the seat of the Catholic Prince-Bishopric of Worms until its extinction in 1802, during German mediatisation.

After the extinction of the Bishopric, it was reduced in status to that of a parish church; however, it was bestowed the title of Minor basilica in 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

Most of the cathedral was finished by 1181, however the west choir and the vaulting were built in the 13th century, the elaborate south portal was added in the 14th century, and the central dome has been rebuilt.

Great events associated with the cathedral include the nomination of Leo IX as Pope in 1048, the Concordat of Worms which ended the Investiture controversy in 1122, the marriage of Emperor Frederick II to Isabella of England in 1235 and the Diet of Worms in 1521, during which Martin Luther was condemned as a heretic.

THE Byzantine

History:

Byzantine architecture is a style of building that flourished under the rule of Roman Emperor Justinian between A.D. 527 and 565. In addition to extensive use of interior mosaics, its defining characteristic is a heightened dome, the result of the latest sixth-century engineering techniques.



Location:

Byzantine architecture building style of Constantinople (now Istanbul, formerly ancient Byzantium) after AD 330. Byzantine architects were eclectic, at first drawing heavily on Roman temple features. Their combination of the basilica and symmetrical central-plan (circular or polygonal) religious structures resulted in the characteristic Byzantine Greek-cross-plan church, with a square central mass and four arms of equal length. The most distinctive feature was the domed roof. To allow a dome to rest above a square base, either of two devices was used: the squinch (an arch in each of the corners of a square base that transforms it into an octagon) or the pendentive. Byzantine structures featured soaring spaces and sumptuous decoration: marble columns and inlay, mosaics on the vaults, inlaid-stone pavements, and sometimes gold coffered ceilings. The architecture of Constantinople extended throughout the Christian East and in some places, notably Russia, remained in use after the fall of Constantinople (1453). See also Hagia Sophia.

Features:



Original Byzantine churches are square-shaped with a central floor plan. They were designed after the Greek cross or *crux immissa quadrata* instead of the Latin *crux ordinaria* of Gothic cathedrals. Early Byzantine churches might have one, dominant center dome of great height, rising from a square base on half-dome pillars or pendentives.

Byzantine architecture blended Western and Middle Eastern architectural details and ways of doing things. Builders renounced the Classical Order in favor of columns with decorative impost blocks inspired by Middle Eastern designs. Mosaic decorations and narratives were common. For example, the mosaic image of Justinian in the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy honors the Roman Christian Emperor. Byzantine engineers turned to the structural use of pendentives to elevate domes to new heights. With this technique, a dome can rise from the top of a vertical cylinder, like a silo, giving height to the dome. Like the Hagia Irene, the exterior of the Church of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy is characterized by the silo-like pendentive construction. A good example of pendentives seen from the inside is the interior of the Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya) in Istanbul, one of the most famous Byzantine structures in the world.

Example:

The two greatest examples of Byzantine churches are Hagia Sophia - pronounced ah YEE ah so FEE ah - (532-537) in Constantinople, and St. Mark's Basilica (830) in Venice. Byzantine church architecture is concerned almost exclusively with a decorated interior.

A Church to Holy Wisdom

The Hagia Sophia, located in Istanbul (formerly Constantinople), Turkey, is perhaps the most enduring building of late antiquity. The name, which translates from Greek as 'Holy Wisdom,' seeks to honor Jesus. While the building has long since ceased to serve as a church, the indelible mark of its patron, Emperor Justinian of the Byzantine Empire, and its early days as one of the most important seats of Christian worship, have not been erased by more than 500 years as a mosque and then as a museum.

History of the Hagia Sophia



The building we call the Hagia Sophia was actually the third building of this name at the site; the other two had been previously destroyed. In 532, following the Nika Revolt, Emperor Justinian sought to rebuild the structure. In doing so, he sought the expertise of Isidore of Miletus and Anthemius of Tralles, two prominent builders within Byzantine society. Taking five years to complete, Justinian was pleased with his work, proclaiming upon his initial entry into the building, 'Solomon, I have surpassed you!'

Despite its original grandeur, the fate of the Hagia Sophia was to match that of the Byzantine Empire for much of the next 900 years. In 1054, the church saw a major blow to the Empire's influence abroad as the site of the Great Schism, when Papal representatives excommunicated the Byzantine Patriarch. This caused a split between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy that continues today. This was soon followed thereafter by the arrival of numerous waves of Crusaders, whom in the Fourth Crusade were as happy to plunder Constantinople as other Crusaders had been to press their attack on the Holy Land.

These attacks took a serious toll on the Empire, and by 1453 the Hagia Sophia, and Constantinople, had fallen into the hands of the Ottoman Turks. The ruler of the Ottomans, Mehmet II, ordered the church transformed into a mosque, complete with heavy carpets covering the marble of the floor, as well as Arabic calligraphy displaying the names of God, Muhammad, and selected early leaders of Islam to be hung from the dome.

Like the Byzantine Empire before it, the Ottoman Empire too fell, this time with the secular Republic of Turkey taking the place of the once thoroughly-Islamic empire. Seeking to limit connections with the previous Ottoman rulers, the first president of the new Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, reopened the Hagia Sophia as a museum in 1937, having renovated the building.