

**ROMAN ARCHITECTURE:
BUILDING TOWARDS THE FUTURE**

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"Rome wasn't built in a day." This quote has been echoed throughout the pages of history, because it accurately describes the architectural foundation of Ancient Rome. All civilizations possess splendid examples of structural masterpieces. Ancient Rome was among the leaders of the ancient world when it came to building the perfect beast. The proper building material enabled Romans to manifest actual examples of architecture and to create the much needed aqueducts.

Romans were not ignorant, because they figured out which building materials to use. They not only realized which materials were correct, but they used the materials in their own special ways. In the early part of Roman history, they used mud brick strengthened by timbers (the most popular building material) to build their structures. The styles that Romans developed to compliment their building supplies were domestic, sacral, and public. These particular arrangements were used in the mighty superstructures.

Roman history developed a long time after the Stone Age, but they still preferred stone in some creations. The types of stone they used included: limestone, volcanic tuft, taverine, and marble. The Romans also had special supplies for building ceilings. They covered wood with terra-cotta, and developed stone temples to cover the ceilings with. For walls, Romans baked bricks, and created sturdy, tough walls. Finally, the development of Pozzolana, or volcanic dust, allowed Romans to strengthen the cement they used. Pozzolana also made building more rapidly and economically sound for Romans. The final cement product could be used for vaulting.

Next, Romans, using the above mentioned materials, shaped their buildings with uniqueness. Perhaps, the most famous Roman building of all time was the Colosseum. In 80 A.D. the Colosseum was opened still unfinished, which did not matter to Romans, because they enjoyed the gladiatorial games and naval contests fought within the Colosseum. The Colosseum was in the perfect location: easy to get to from the heart of the city, but it was separated enough to allow generous movement of crowds. Using the same idea as steel builders do today, Romans had built their Colosseum. Another fine example of Roman architecture was the Pantheon. The Pantheon is so ever-lasting that it is still well-preserved, and it is still used a place of worship. The Pantheon, a mysterious creation, seems to exist in a hidden world, and it draws those who seek it into its secrecy. This pagan church was eventually transferred to Christianity. The Colosseum and the Pantheon are just two examples of the greatness of Roman architecture.

Finally, the combination of engineering and architecture possessed Romans into creating one of the most appropriate structures: the aqueducts. Not meant to be as

grandiose as the Colosseum, the aqueduct serves an even greater purpose of bringing water to Roman towns. Romans built aqueducts across valleys to get water from the country to the city. It was and still is considered a major engineering achievement. From 312 B.C. to 226 A.D., eleven aqueducts were constructed by Romans, and some aqueducts are still in use. Aqueducts stretch out through the land to bring water even as far as 57 miles away. Built into the ground, aqueducts required such materials as stone, terra cotta pipe and wood, leather, lead, and bronze. The interesting part about aqueducts is that it used the force of gravity to move water. Remains of aqueducts can be seen all over the land, including: Italy, Greece, France, and Spain.

Building materials, superstructure, and the aqueduct all prove that Roman architecture was second to none. Roman buildings lacked nothing in style or grace. Roman architecture, much like the empire itself, caused people to be proud of their citizenship. Testament to the quality of Roman architecture is the fact that the United States steals Roman styles to enhance American buildings. That theft is the ultimate compliment to Roman architecture.

well-written!

your writing is very smooth and keeps the reader interested!

*paper
visual*

*60/60 (legs?)
22/35
Present 5/5*

87/100 (B+)