Rome: City of an Empire

Part I: Architectural Terms

Buildings

Amphitheatre	Arena for gladiatorial games and other entertainment.	
Circus	Arena/track for chariot racing, games, and other entertainment.	ACTINY HEIGHT
Theatre	For plays, dances, and other entertainment and public events (political meetings)	
Forum	City Centre – major buildings like temples and basilicas and the senate house surrounded it. Place for public/political meetings and markets.	
Aqueduct	Transports water across valleys and into cities.	
Temple	Place of worship holding the cult statue of a god.	
Altar	A place to make animal sacrifices – usually close to the temple.	
Basilica	A large building with open indoor spaces – used for public meetings, courts, and markets.	After the set of the s
Triumphal Arch	Commemorative monument celebrating a commander's military victory.	

Architectural Terms

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Column	A circular pillar	
Capital	The head of a column	
Doric/Tuscan	A column with a simple capital – a echinus and abacus	Tuscan Doric
Ionic	A column with a volute (ram-head) capital	Composite
Corinthian	A column with carved foliage (leaves) for a capital	Ionic Corinthian © 2006 Merriam-Webster, Inc.
Arch	A semi-circular support	vousion aska singing ing
Barrel Vault	The archway elongated to create a tunnel	barrel vault
Groin Vault	Two archways cross- sectioned like a cross opening up internal space	abutment barrel vault groin groin vault
Dome	An archway/groin-vault extended around to create a circular ceiling	
Rotunda	A circular room	
Portico	A entranceway with columns	1
Pediment	The triangular front of a classical building's roof	
Peristyle	A line of columns usually surrounding a courtyard	

Decoration & Design

(Free-standing) Sculpture	Sculpture that stands on its own weight	
Relief Sculpture	Sculpture that is coming out of a flat surface – high means deeply carved, low means shallow carved	
(Acanthus) Foliage	Relief in the shape of leaves – usually of the acanthus plant	
Frieze, Cornice, Architrave	The decorated levels of moulding (sculpture and paint) that sits above the columns or on the top of a building were the side-walls meet the roof	Eatablature Implify the first of the state of the sta

Paint	Most buildings and sculptures were painted	
Marble	Most of the inner decoration, floors, and surfaces of a Roman building could be decorated with different coloured marbles	
Mosaics	Small pieces of stone/tiles were placed onto a flat surface to create a design – usual the floor	
Frescos	Wall paintings – painted onto the wet plaster to prevent it fading	
Inscriptions	Writing carved onto a building – usually onto a plaque or on the frieze	