

Ancient Rome



View of the Colosseum

The Roman Empire, lasted for nearly five centuries. They conquered surrounding enemies and expanded into all parts of Italy & the neighbouring territories. The Roman Republic (509-27 BCE), eventually grew into the vast Roman Empire.



One big factor in Rome's ability to conquer the vast territory of an Empire was their superior legions of well trained soldiers.





She-Wolf

Circa 500 - 480 BCE.

Bronze,
Height 34"

- fierce, defiant
animal

as a **symbol of Rome**

According to legend, twins **Romulus and Remus** were fathered by the war god **Mars** and born to a Latin princess. The Latin king at the time was afraid the twins might make claim to his throne so he had them put in a basket and set adrift on the **Tiber River**. The king assumed they would die, but **Romulus and Remus** were found by a female wolf who fed them her own milk. Soon after, a shepherd adopted them and raised them as his own. Upon growing up, the boys vowed to build a city where they had been abandoned as babies. Each brother chose a hill and became leader of a new city. Eventually quarrels broke out and **Romulus** killed **Remus**, leaving **Romulus's** hilltop, **Palatine**, the center of the new city called **Rome** (about 753 BCE.)

ROMAN ARCHITECTURE

The ROMANS became the masters of using the arch to create practical structures like bridges.



The **Pons Fabricius** (Italian: **Ponte Fabricio**) is the oldest bridge in Rome. Spanning half of the Tiber River, this arched bridge was built in 62 BCE & is still used today.

The ROMANS not only had sewer systems but used series of arches to build their water pipelines. By using the ARCH in much the same way as a bridge spanning a river, the Romans built elevated AQUEDUCTS (water pipelines) to bring fresh water into their cities from the mountains. These arched waterways carried water over hills, valleys & river gorges for miles into the public fountains so every citizen had access to fresh drinking water



Pont du Gard, Nîmes, France



The Pont du Gard is a spectacular well-preserved three tiered Roman aqueduct built over the River Gard. It is a bridge as well as an aqueduct. Built around the year 20 BCE to transport water over 50 kilometers to the city of Nîmes, this aqueduct is tallest (over 50 meters) ever constructed by the Romans.

The Colosseum, Rome 70 – 82 A.D.

This building type is an invention of the Romans, who expanded the amphitheater into this spherically-shaped auditorium. The Colosseum in Rome was the largest of its type but most major cities of the empire had smaller versions. These giant theaters were:

- designed for the staging of lavish spectacles such as battles between animals and gladiators
- the arena could be flooded and it is documented that a naval battle with over 3,000 participants was recreated.
- the bloody entertainment cost thousands of lives, many of them Christians







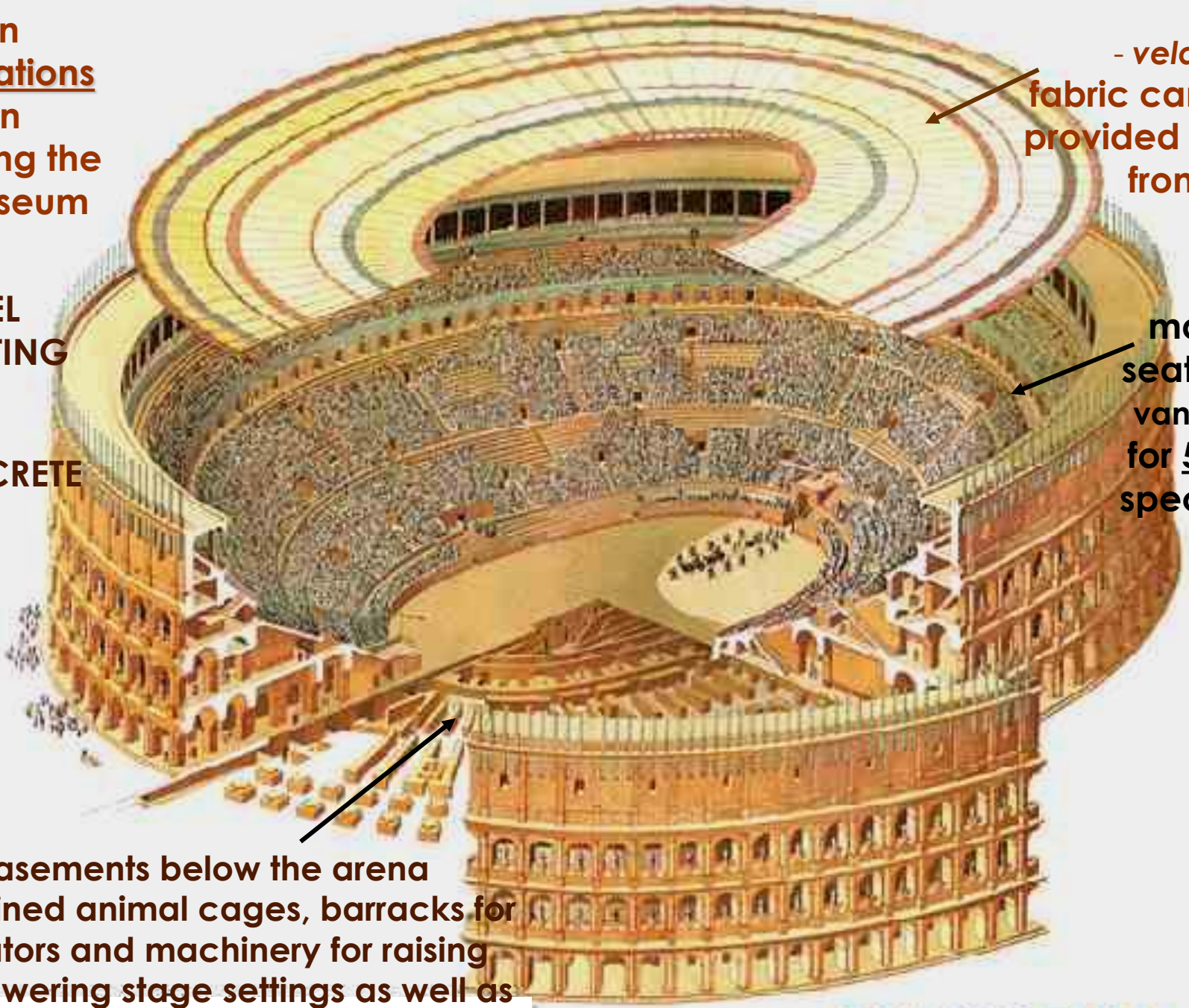
Roman innovations used in building the Colosseum are:

BARREL VAULTING & CONCRETE

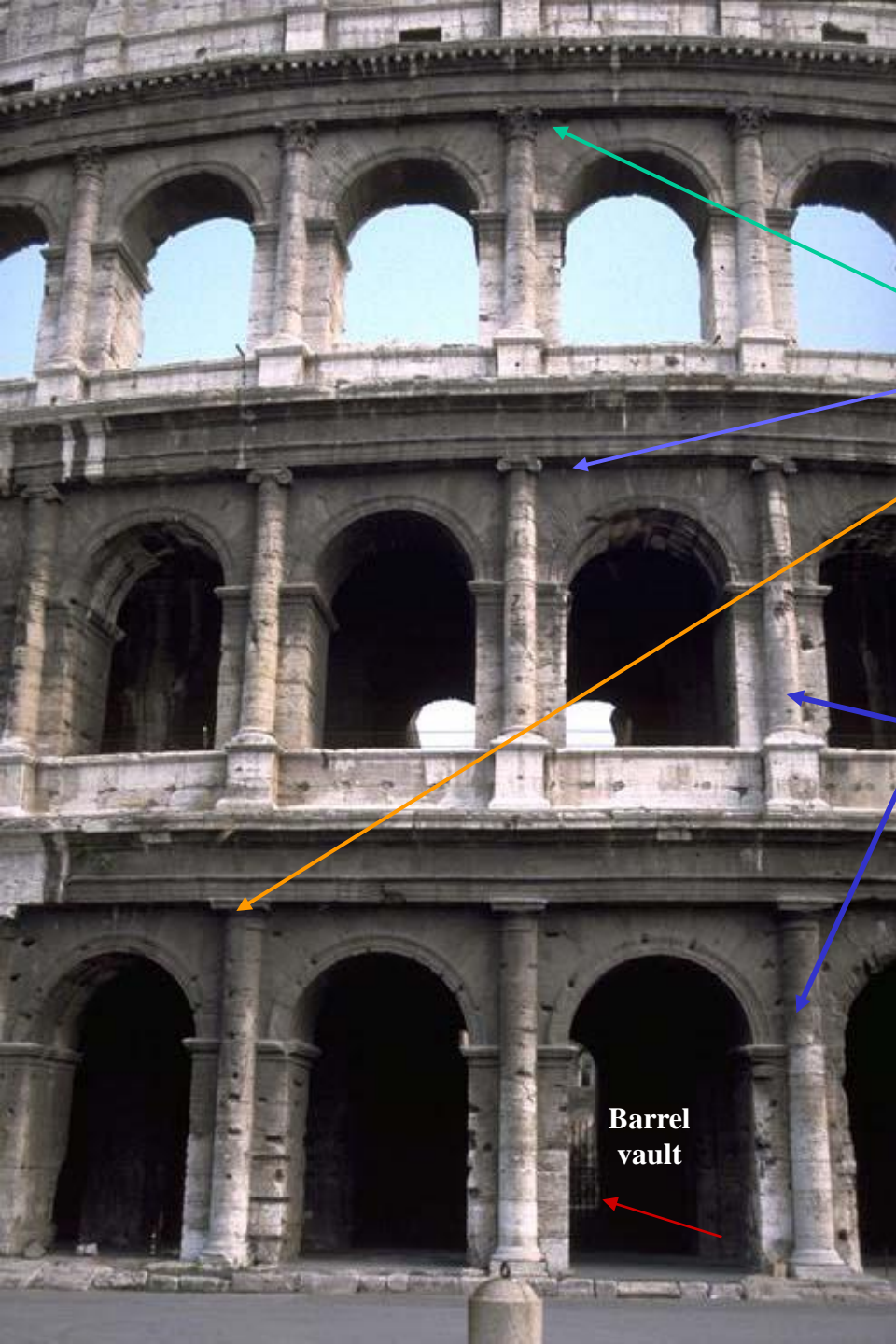
- velarium: fabric canopy provided relief from sun

marble seats (now vanished) for 50,000 spectators

-the basements below the arena contained animal cages, barracks for gladiators and machinery for raising and lowering stage settings as well as the animal and human combatants.



COLOSSEUM

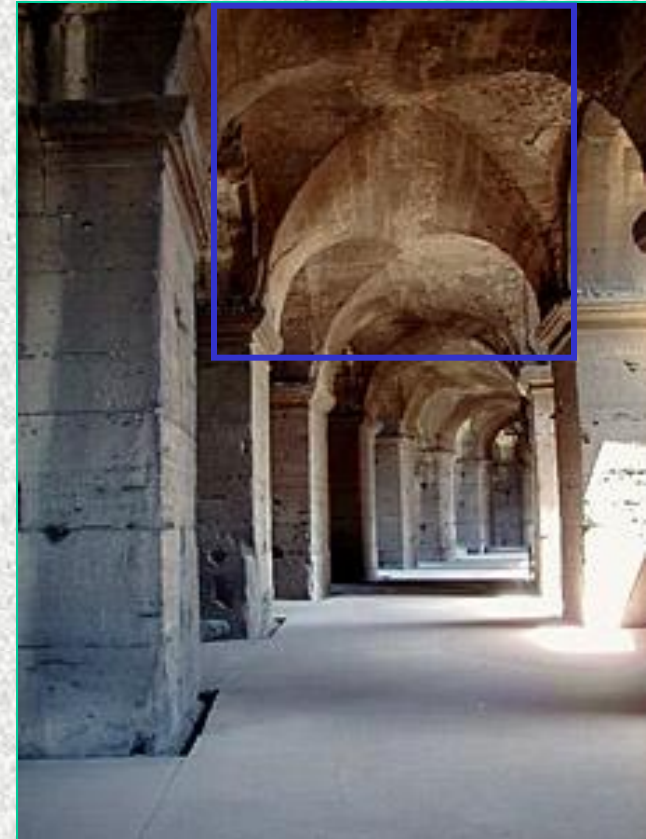


The Colosseum façade (outside facing walls) was limestone, brick & concrete with marble facing. The façade was decorated with PILASTERS of the 3 orders placed one above another:

Corinthian
Ionic
Doric

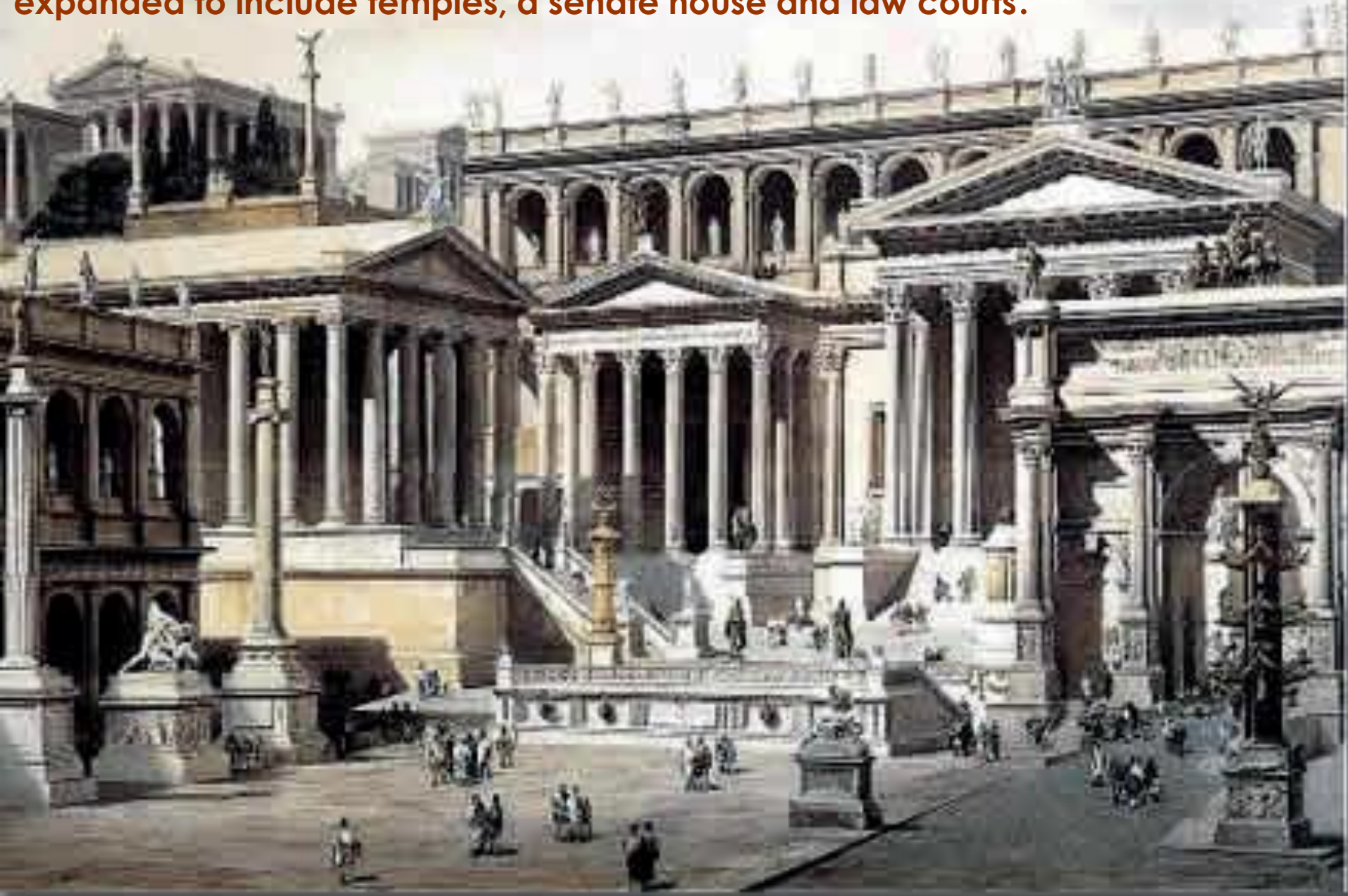
PILASTER a flattened column attached to a facade for decoration rather than structural support.

Barrel vault



Cement corridors of Colosseum with groin vaulted ceilings

The ROMAN FORUM was the city's center of political and social activity. The Forum was also the marketplace, business district and civic center. It was expanded to include temples, a senate house and law courts.



Today the Roman Forum is in ruins with only parts of its great buildings remaining



The Romans were into winning & to commemorate military victories, they erected **TRIUMPHAL ARCHES**





- **Triumphal arches** – were ornamental gateways
- Covered with narrative relief sculptures that depicted military exploits & glorified the Empire's leaders.



Triumphal procession going through the Arch of **Constantine** in Rome. The conquering Roman armies would march through its monumental arches parading their naked, chained prisoners & captured riches.

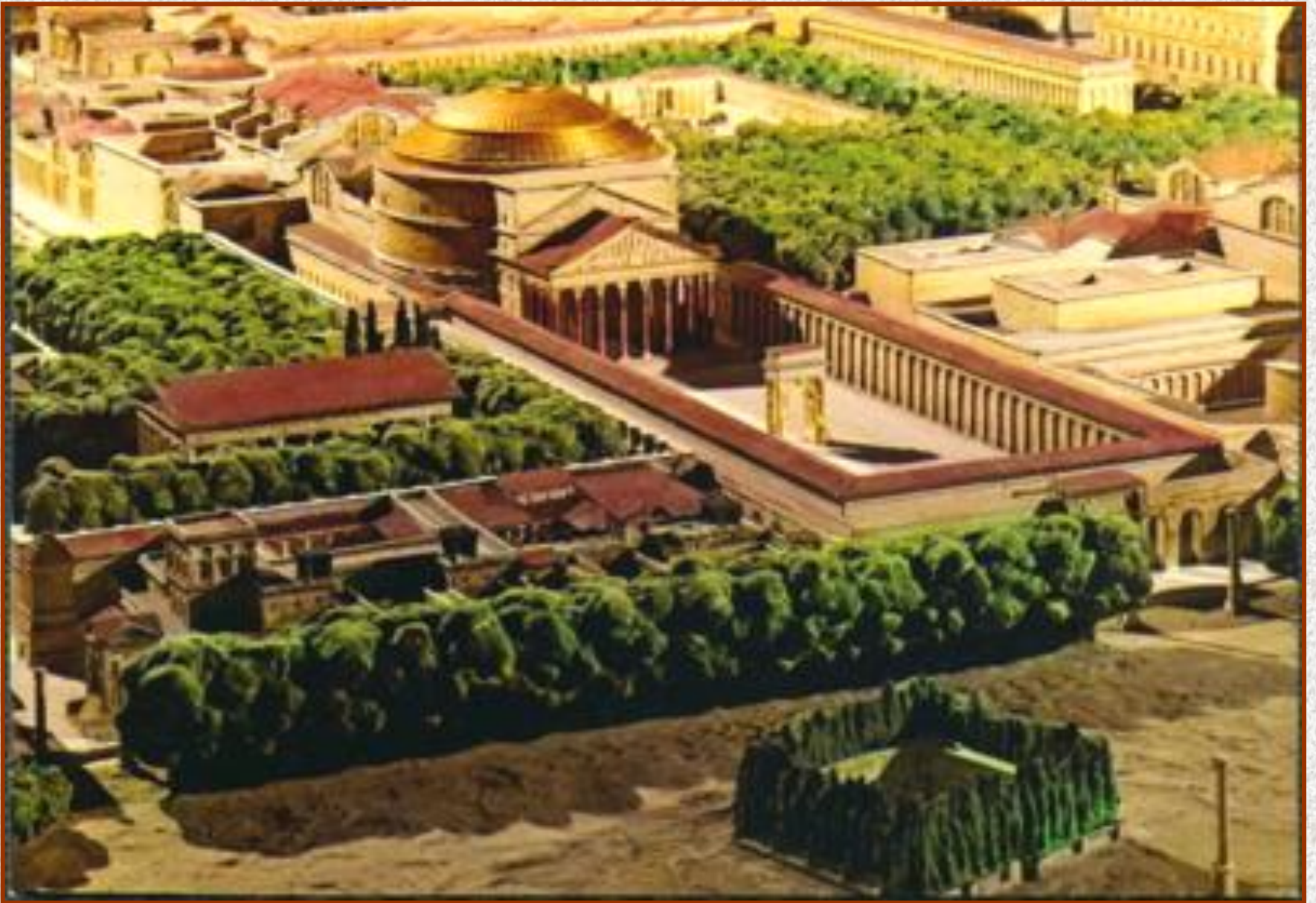


The Pantheon, Rome, c. 118 – 125 A.D.

The PANTHEON was a Roman temple dedicated to all their gods. It's most distinctive feature is the massive domed cylinder that forms the main part of this remarkable structure.



PANTHEON in Roman times





niche

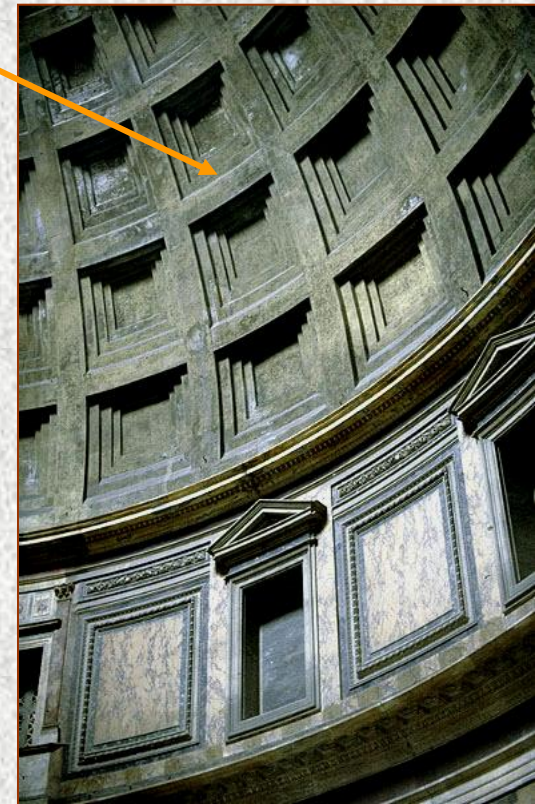
The circular interior of the **PANTHEON** features inlaid marble floor, Corinthian columns and **NICHES**, *recesses in the wall* that contained altars or statues of the gods. **Today the PANTHEON is used as a Catholic Church.**



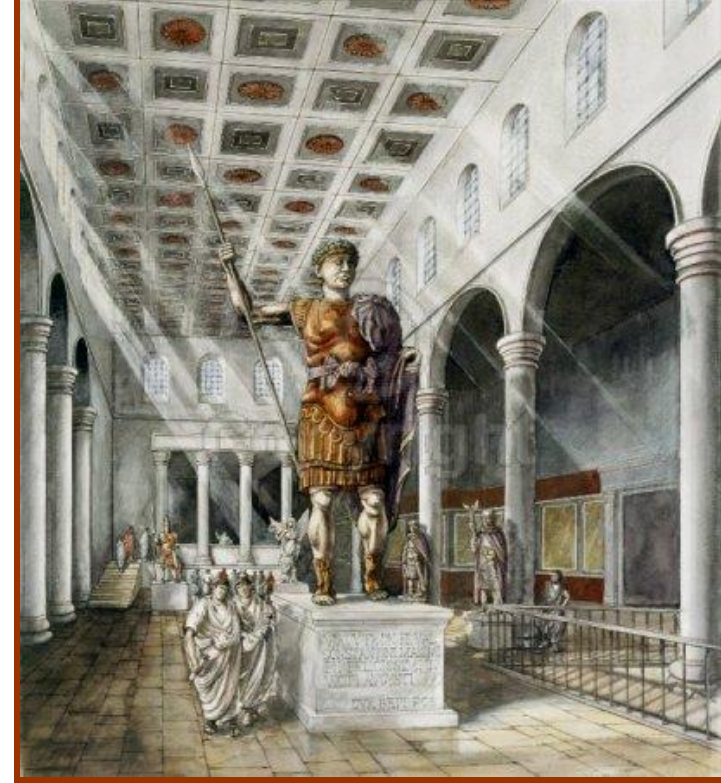
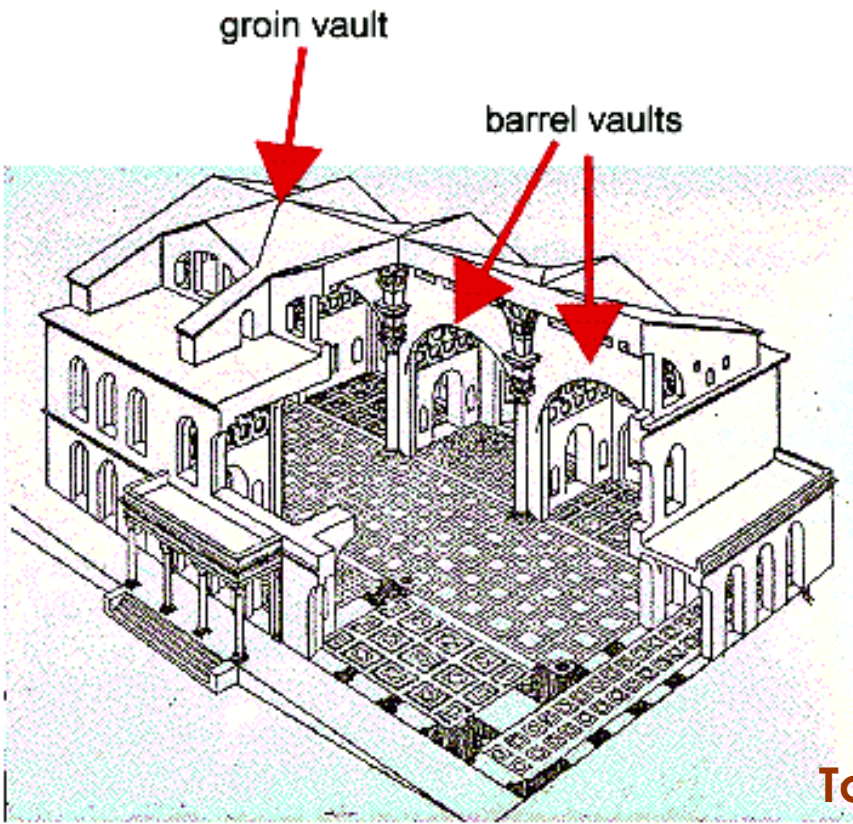


- Oculus is 30 feet in diameter is designed to let in light as the Pantheon had no windows. Rain water that comes in through the open oculus drains away because the Romans designed a drainage system in the floor.

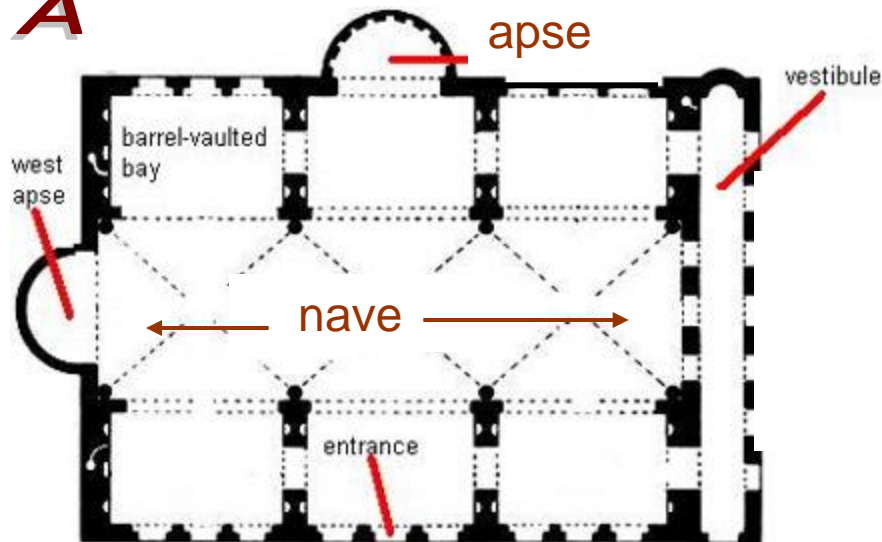
- the ceiling of the dome is coffered (decorative sunken panels) which creates an effective geometric design of squares within a vast circle and reduces the weight of the dome without weakening the strength



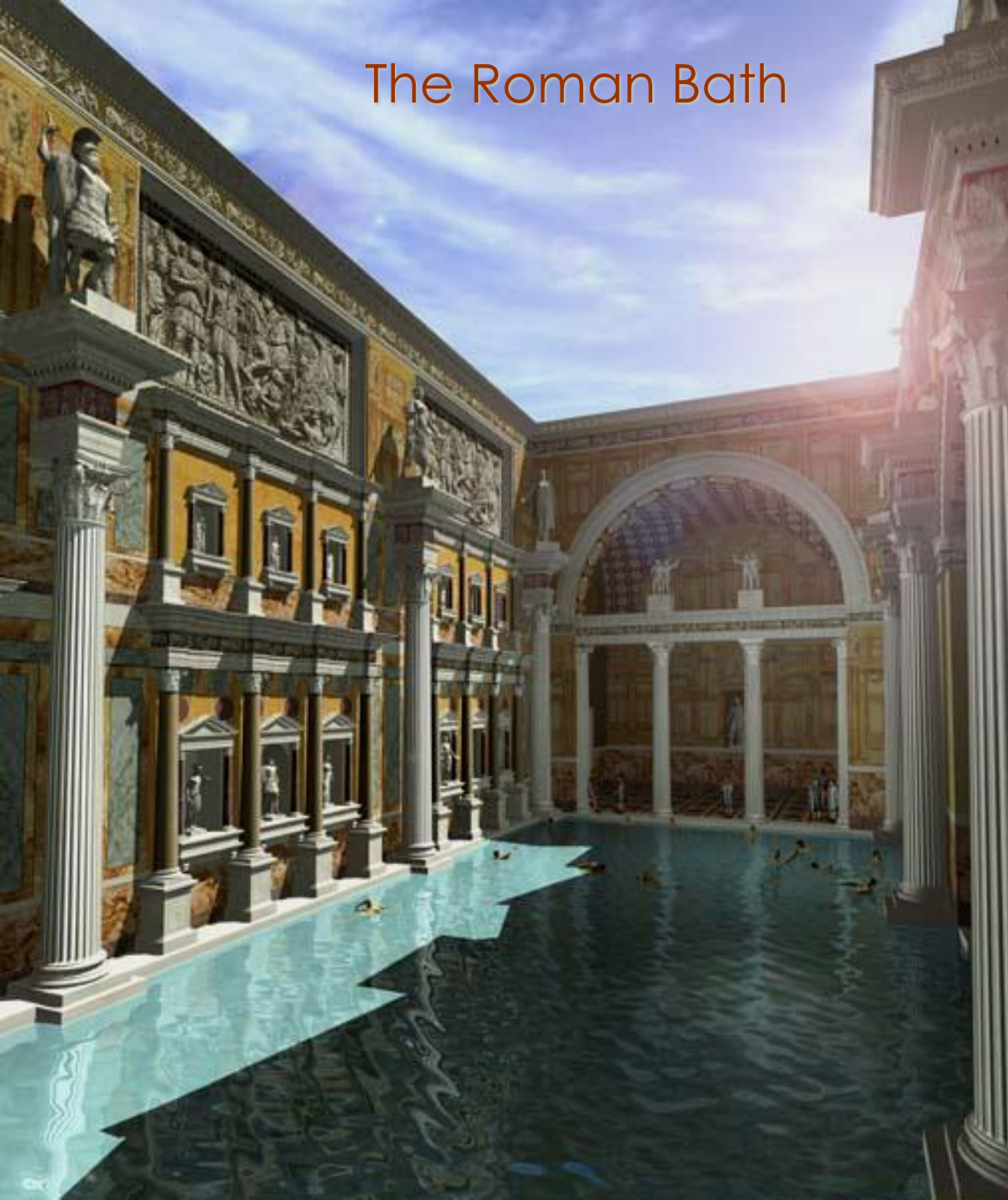
T h e B A S I L I C A



To accommodate the large groups of people that would fill their law courts & meeting halls, the Romans designed the **BASILICA**. These large rectangular buildings featured a long central hall called the NAVE & semi-circular areas known as the APSE at the ends of the nave. Using barrel & groin vaulting, this functional design would become the model for Christian churches.



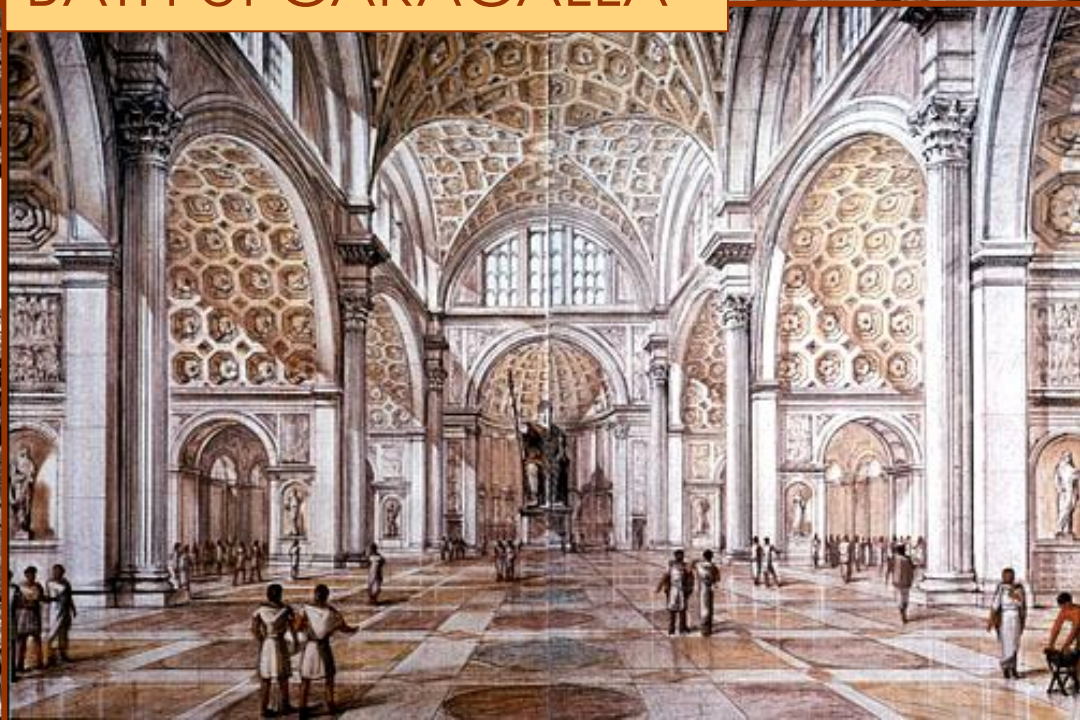
The Roman Bath



In Ancient Roman times, very few people had baths in their homes. However, elaborate bathhouses were constructed by the emperors to provide the public with places for recreation as well as cleansing. The small admission fee allowed men and women to use these bathhouses frequently. Every Roman town had a Bath that was a combination pleasure palace, public health facility & community centre. Some contained gardens, courtyards & gymnasiums. There were also shops, art galleries, restaurants & libraries. People met with friends, strolled the gardens, ate lunch, exercised, relaxed with a book, did business, got a haircut or a massage and of course, took a bath in 3 pools of different temperature, hot to cold. Very stimulating!



BATH of CARACALLA



ROMAN SCULPTURE

In terms of style, the Romans were greatly influenced by the Greeks. They "adopted" and "borrowed" the Greek's artistic concepts but also added their own "Roman" flavor.

Roman civic sculptures were created to glorify those in charge. Equestrian statues of Roman generals astride their horses were placed in public squares. Statues of the Emperors or famous senators adorned public buildings. The Romans were big on civic pride.



**Spear
Bearer, a
famous
Greek
statue**



Classical Greek

SIMILARITIES:

- *Contrapposto pose**
- *Idealized proportions showing strength & beauty**

DIFFERENCES:

- *Augustus depicted as a victorious general making a speech. He is wearing Roman military armor & tunic**

- * personal facial features of Augustus**

- *Augustus' right arm is stretched out in a noble and controlled Roman gesture.**

Roman



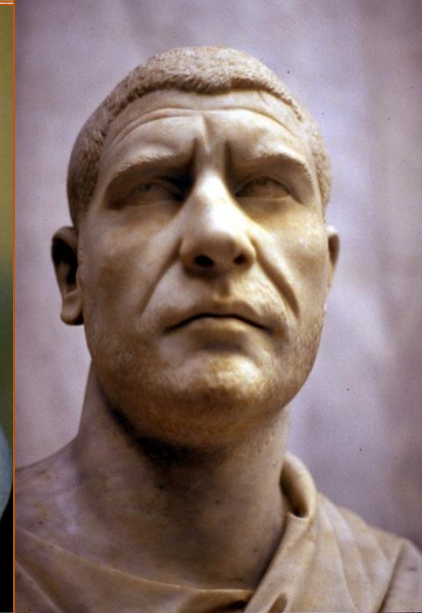
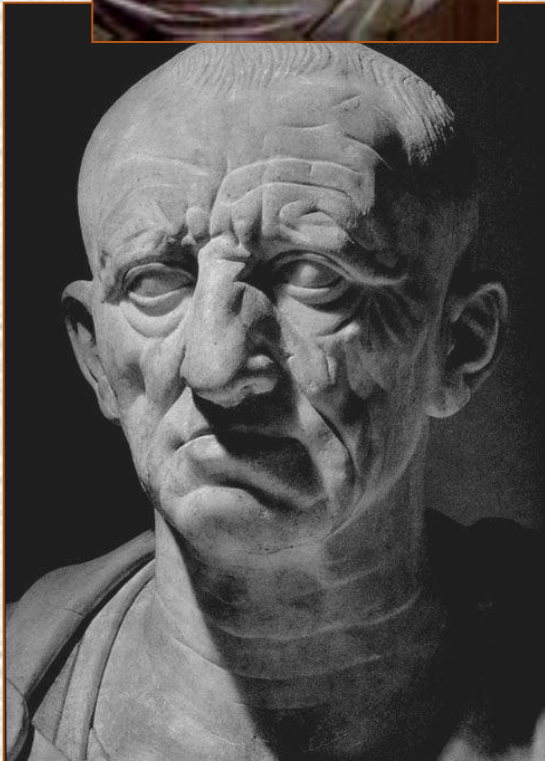
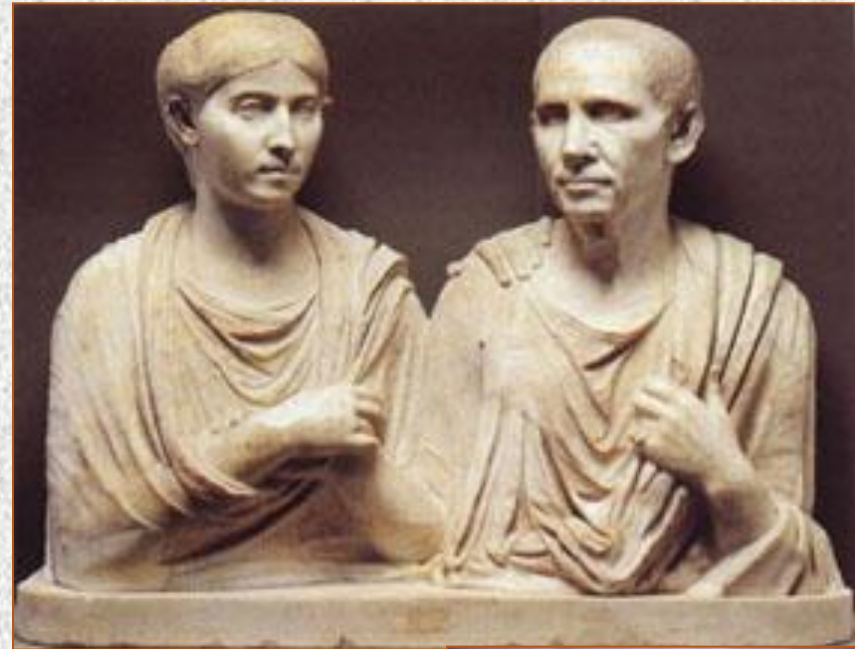
Augustus c.63 BC. – 14 BC.

Marble, Height 7 ft.

ROMAN PORTRAIT BUSTS



The Romans were in the habit of collecting art and placing it in their villas (homes) especially sculptures of their loved ones.. Roman artists carved portrait busts (sculptures of just the head or head & upper torso) natural & life-like rather than idealized. What you saw was what you got!

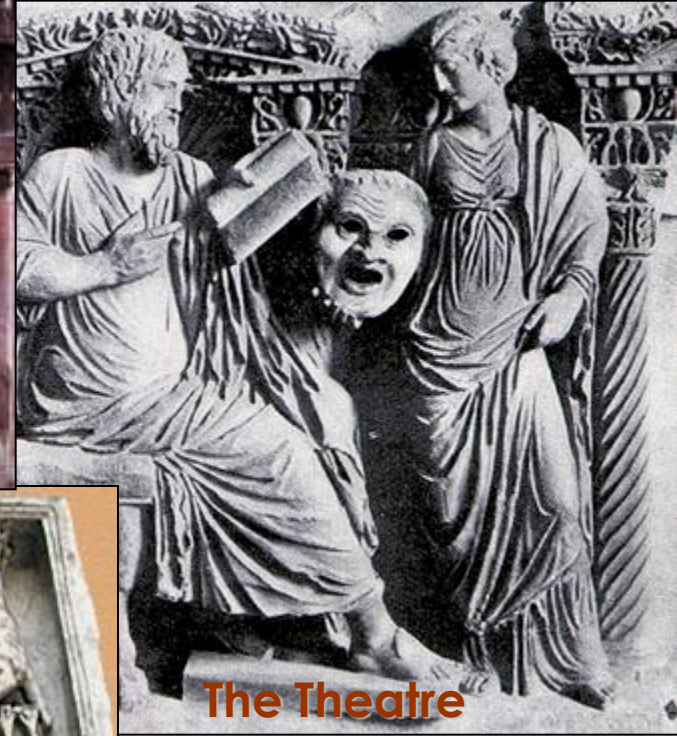


ROMAN RELIEF SCULPTURES



Roman coffin/sarcophagus

Gladiators



The Theatre



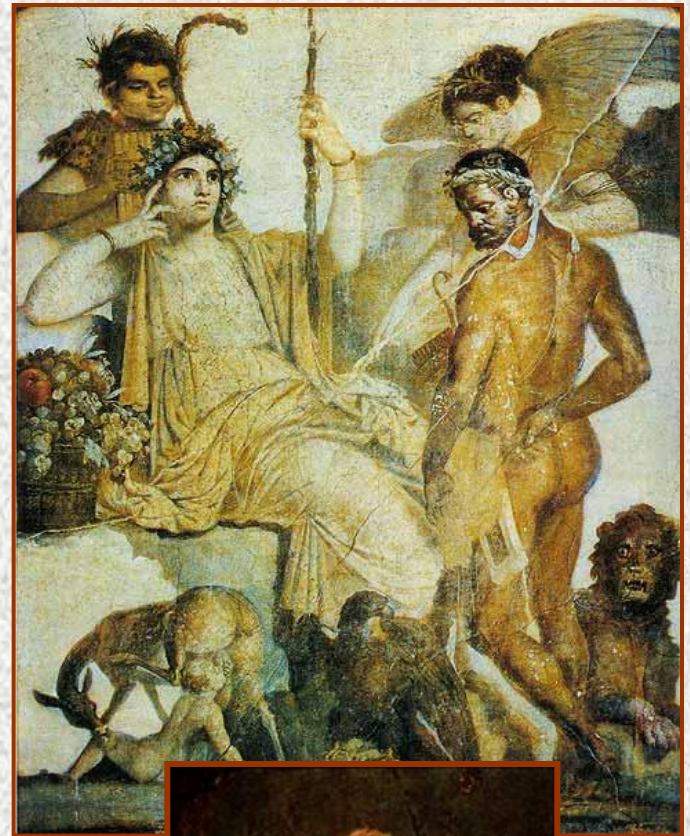
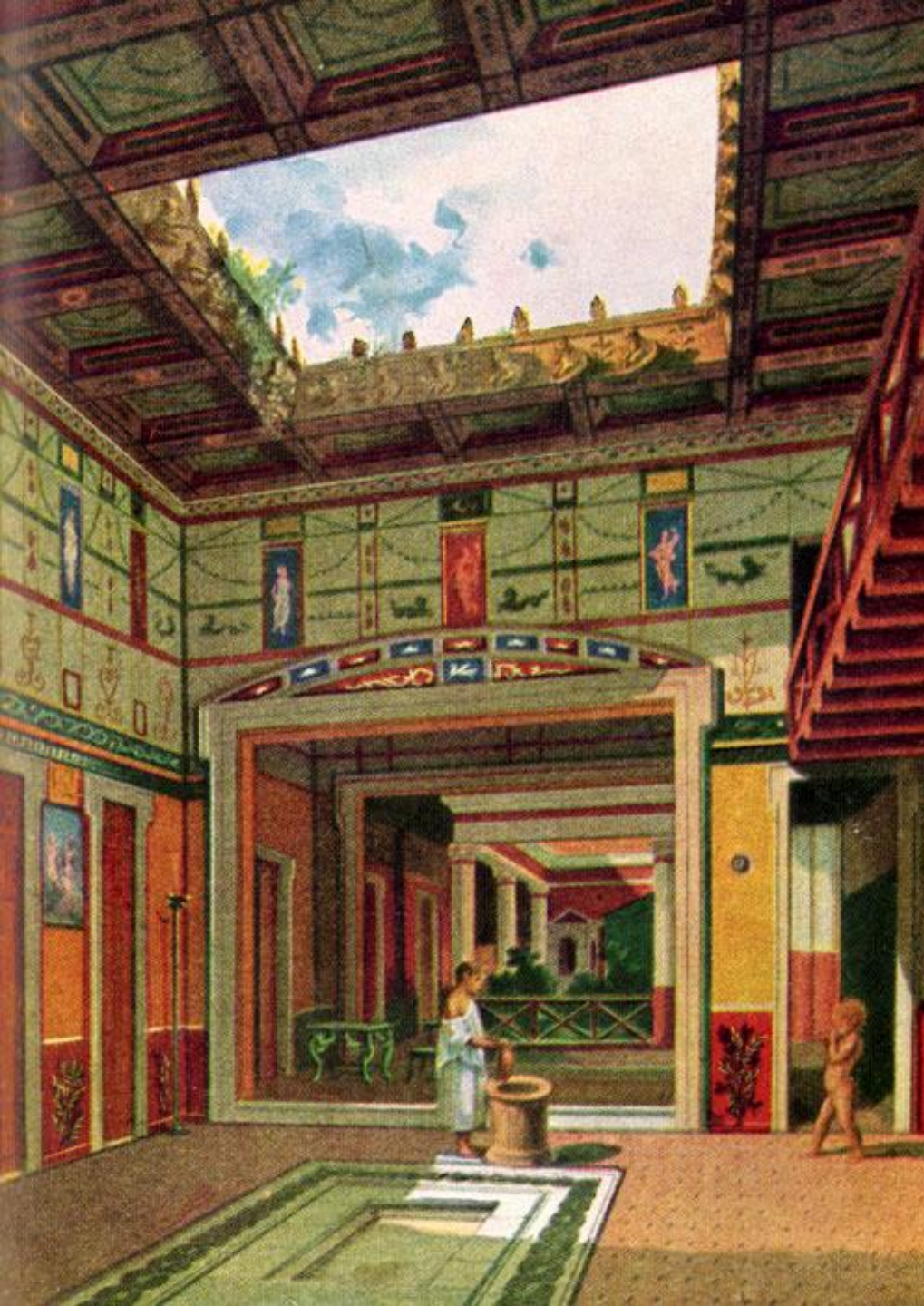
Food Shopping



The subject matter for Roman relief sculptures included battles, mythology & scenes of everyday life.

Roman sarcophagus

ROMAN PAINTING





- the interior of houses glowed with colour
- walls were often decorated with painted and modeled stucco panels imitating marble designs
- columns were painted on the walls creating an architectural illusion

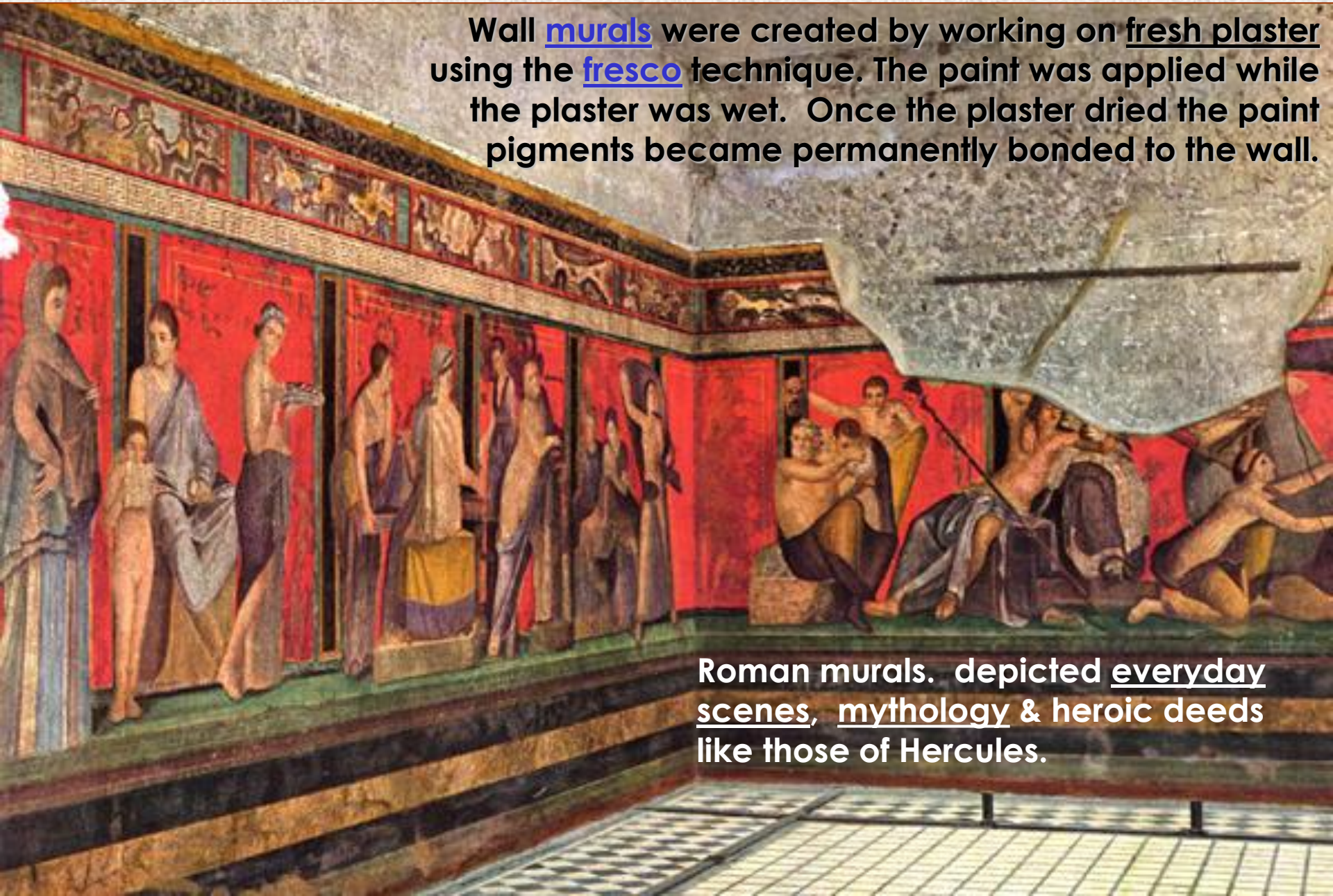
Cubiculum (bedroom) from the Villa of P. Fannius Synistor, ca. 40 – 30 BC

Proper PERSPECTIVE is first used here.



THE FRESCO TECHNIQUE

Wall [murals](#) were created by working on [fresh plaster](#) using the [fresco](#) technique. The paint was applied while the plaster was wet. Once the plaster dried the paint pigments became permanently bonded to the wall.



Roman murals. depicted [everyday scenes](#), [mythology](#) & heroic deeds like those of Hercules.



ROMAN MOSAICS

Besides decorating with frescos, the Romans, favored MOSAICS to beautify the cement they used so extensively in their buildings. Mosaics were pictures or designs created by cementing bits of colored stone, glass, tiles or shell to walls, floors or ceilings.



House entrance mosaic saying "BEWARE THE DOG"