

History of Architecture

History of Architecture

1. Introduction

- The history of architecture traces how building design evolved with culture, technology and available materials.
- **Purpose:** Helps designers understand precedent, style and the social meaning of built form.

2. Ancient and Classical

- **Egyptian and Mesopotamian:** Monumental temples, pyramids and ziggurats expressed religion and power.
- **Greek:** Refined the orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian) and proportion, as in the Parthenon.
- **Roman:** Introduced the arch, vault, dome and concrete, enabling large public works.

3. Medieval to Renaissance

- **Romanesque and Gothic:** Thick walls gave way to pointed arches, ribbed vaults and flying buttresses for soaring cathedrals.
- **Renaissance:** Revived classical symmetry, proportion and perspective, led by figures such as Brunelleschi and Palladio.

4. Modern Movements

- **Industrial era:** Iron, steel and glass allowed larger spans and skyscrapers.
- **Modernism:** Rejected ornament for function and clean form, championed by Le Corbusier and the Bauhaus.
- **Postmodernism:** Reintroduced ornament, symbolism and historical reference.

5. Contemporary Themes

- Sustainability, parametric design and digital tools shape current practice.
- Regional and vernacular traditions inform context-sensitive design.
- Adaptive reuse balances heritage with modern needs.