



Virtual World Project

Glossary

Abacus	The flat element on top of a capital.
Adyton	Innermost sacred room of a temple; the cella.
Aedicula	Small shrine composed of columns supported by a pediment.
Ambo	Elevated pulpit in the main hall of a church.
Apodyterium	Dressing room in a gymnasium or bath.
Apse	Semicircular area, usually at the east end of a church.
Architrave	Lintel resting on columns
Ashlar	Cut stone used in building construction.
Baldachin	Ceremonial canopy over an altar, throne, or doorway.
<i>Bamah</i>	See High Place.
Bema	Raised platform; a rostrum from which orators addressed the people; the platform from which clergy spoke in early churches.
Betyl/Baetyl	Aniconic representation of a god, in the form of a standing stone.
Bouleuterion	Meeting place for the city council.
Caceres	The stalls behind the starting gates in a hippodrome.
Cairn	A mound of stones usually covering a burial; same as tumulus.
Caldarium	Hot room in a bath complex.
Cardo Maximus	Road running north-south in a Roman city.
Casemate Wall	Defensive wall made from two parallel walls, which are divided by short partitions into rooms.
Castellum	A Roman fortress; or a holding tank of water.
Cavea	Auditorium of a theatre.
Cella	Holiest room of a temple, usually holding the cult image.
Columbarium	A niched area used for raising pigeons or doves.

Crepidoma	Stepped platform that serves as a foundation for a temple.
Decumanus	Main street in Roman city perpendicular to the <i>Cardo</i> .
Diakonikon	The <i>pastophoria</i> , or side chapel, on the south side of a church, which served as the vestry.
Diazoma	Horizontal passage in the <i>cavea</i> of a theatre.
Debir	Cella or holiest room of a temple.
Dolmen	Stone table used for burial or other religious purposes.
Domus	Prayer hall in a church or synagogue.
Entablature	Stonework that rests on a row of columns, including an architrave, frieze, and cornice.
Exedra	Semicircular or rectangular recess or alcove in a building, usually with benches.
Fosse	Dry moat that is dug around the perimeter of a city wall.
Four-room House	Typical Iron Age dwelling consisting of three long rooms, perhaps separated by pillars, with a broad room across the back.
Frigidarium	Cold room in a bath complex.
Hekal	Central hall of a temple, preceding the <i>debir</i> .
High Place	Sacred area distinct from a temple in which ritual or cultic activity takes place.
Hypocaust	Chamber by which heat from a furnace is distributed throughout a building.
Hypostyle	Pillared hall in which the roof rests on the columns.
Laconicum	A dry sweat room in a bath.
Macellum	A market place distinct from the <i>agora</i> .
Massebah	Standing or erect stone that functions as a symbol of a divine being.
Menhir	An upright stone with religious significance; the same as a <i>massebah</i> .
Miqveh	A pool of standing water used for ritual purification.
Narthex	The portico of a church or basilica.
Naos	See <i>Cella</i> .
Nave	Central hall in a basilica, separated off by a row of columns.
Nefesh	Rock-cut memorial, symbolizing the dead.
Odeion	Small Roman theatre or music hall.
Offset/Inset Wall	Wall with projecting and receding sections

Opus Quadratum	Rectangular stones used to face cast concrete walls.
Opus Reticulatum	Square stones set on a 45 degree angle used to face cast concrete walls.
Opus Sectile	Roman style of floors and walls with cut pieces of polychrome stone, usually marble, to make patterns and figures.
Parados	Space between the cavea and the stage of a theatre.
Palaestra	Public area for training athletes.
Parekklesion	Subsidiary chapel attached to the side of a Byzantine church.
Pastophoria	Rooms that flank the apse of a basilica.
Pediment	Triangular upper part of the front of a building, generally surmounting a portico of columns.
Peribolus	Wall or colonnade surrounding a sacred precinct.
Peripteral	Applied to an edifice surrounded by a row of columns.
Peristyle	Row of columns surrounding a court or building.
Pilaster	An upright pier that is like a column and projects from a wall.
Pompeian Frescoes	First Style: Fresco with painted rectangular panels to imitate marble slabs.
Portico	Row of two or three columns standing in the entrance or in front of a building.
Praefurnium	Furnace for a bath.
Pronaos	Porch of a temple.
Propylon	Entrance to a sacred area.
Proteichisma	A wall that surrounds a tower.
Prothesis	The pastophoria, or side chapel, on the north side of a church where the Eucharist was prepared.
Pteroma	Space between the lateral walls of the naos or cella and the peristyle columns of a temple.
Rampart	Earthen mound piled up around a city as a fortification.
Reliquary	Receptacle for sacred relics.
Saqiyah	Water lifting device.
Scaena	Stage building of a Roman theatre.
Scaenae frons	Scene building behind the stage of a Roman theatre.
Schola	Room for leisure or rest.
Solea	Platform on which the lector stands in a church.

Stoa	Building with one or more sides consisting of a colonnade.
Stylobate	Base or foundation on which a colonnade is placed; the top step of a crepidoma.
Sudatorium	Steam room of a bath complex.
Synthronon	Bench on which the priests and bishop sit.
Tell / Tel	Mound constructed from the accumulation of debris from successive human occupations.
<i>Tempietto</i>	Small temple.
Tepidarium	Warm room of a bath complex, with a lukewarm water bath.
Tetrakionion	Four pedestals at the juncture of two cross-streets.
Tetrastyle	Portico of four columns.
Triclinium	Roman style dining room with three couches arranged in a U-shape.
Triglyphs	Blocks with three verticle channels, used to decorate a frieze.
Tumulus	A mound of stones, usually covering a burial.
Vousoir	A stone that forms one of the units of an arch.
Xenon	Hotel.