

End of the Pax Romana

- By the time of Marcus Aurelius (2 centuries after Augustus) Roman Power was beginning to erode
- Increasingly difficult to maintain order on the frontiers
- Authority of Rome being challenged
- Economy was in decline
- Official state religion was losing ground

Equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius

from Rome, Italy

ca. 175 C.E.

bronze

11 ft. 6 in. high



- Hair and beard are consistent with the fashion of the time
- Supreme confidence is undermined by the facial expression which seems tired and sad

Equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius

from Rome, Italy

ca. 175 C.E.

bronze

11 ft. 6 in. high



Portrait Bust of Trajan Decius

Capitolino, Rome

249-251 C.E.

marble

2 ft. 7 in. high



Journal #11: Compare and Contrast



Trajan

- Ruled 249-251 during a time in which generals were declared emperor by his troops
- Unstable times
- Older
- Sadness and anxiety in the expression
- Bags under the eyes
- Reveals “anguished soul of the man”

Constantine

- 305 CE - period of conflict among rival Roman armies
- Victory for Constantine – took control of Rome in 312
- Attributed his victory to God (Christianity)
- Unchallenged ruler - Founded a “new Rome” on the site of Byzantium and named it Constantinople (which later became?)
- Paganism declined

Christian Influence

- Recognition of Christianity marked the beginning of the middle ages
- Constantine was a builder of the first Christian churches.

Portrait of Constantine

from the Basilica Nova, Rome, Italy

ca. 315-330 C.E.

marble

head approximately 8 ft. 6 in. high



Colossus of Constantine

- Brick core, wooden torso covered with bronze
- Revived the Augustan image of a youthful head of state
- Modeled after statues of a seated Jupiter
- Emperor initially held an orb in his left hand that may have had the cross of Christ



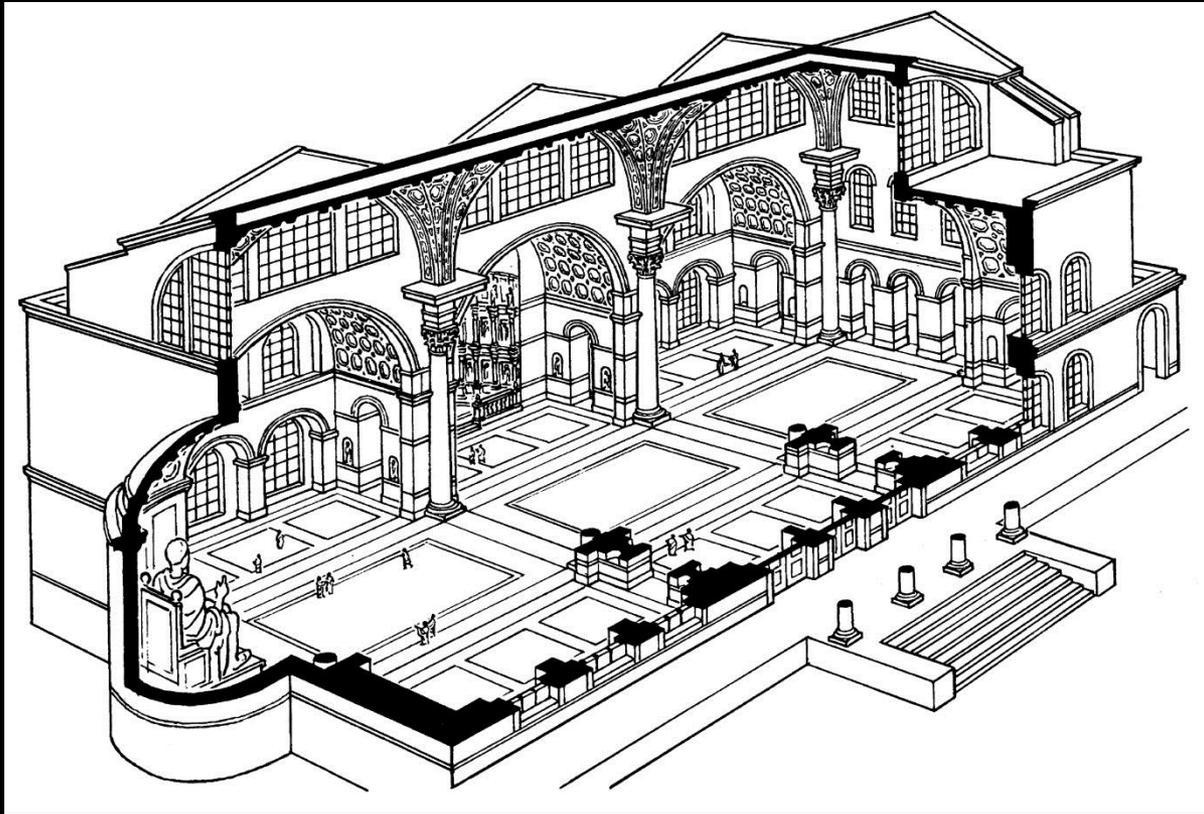
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...ELEMEN...
...S.P. Q.V.

Basilica

- Roman architecture: a public building for assemblies, entrance on long side
- Christian architecture: early church with entrance on one end with an apse at the other creating an axial plan (along a given axis/longitudinally)
- *Apse*: A recess, usually singular and semi-circular, in the wall of a Roman basilica or at the east end of a Christian church.



Basilica Nova reconstruction drawing

Rome, Italy

306-312 C.E.





Aula Palatina (Basilica)

Trier, Germany

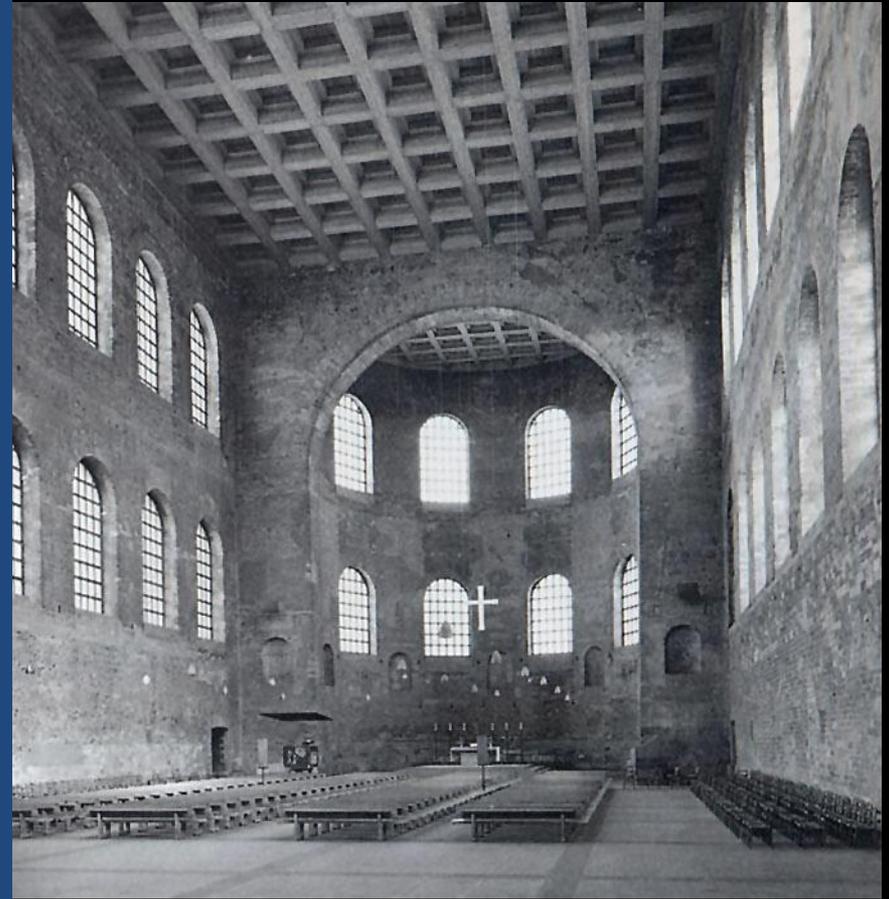
early 4th century C.E.

Aula Palatina (Basilica)

Trier, Germany

early 4th century C.E.





Aula Palatina (Basilica)

Trier, Germany

early 4th century C.E.



Arch of Constantine

Rome, Italy

ca. 312-315 C.E.

Arch of Constantine

- Triple passageway
- Most sculptural decoration came from earlier monuments of Trajan, Hadrian, and Marcus Aurelius (why would they move the decorations to the Arch of Constantine?)
- Sculptures recut heads to make the rulers look like Constantine
- Movement is not naturalistic
- Represents the waning creative power and technical skill of Rome



Arch of Constantine

Rome, Italy

ca. 312-315 C.E.

