

Architectural Analysis

Design a diagram, or create a model, of an architectural structure from the prehistoric to medieval period, making note of important architectural features and technology used to build the work. Be creative! A diagram doesn't have to be two-dimensional, or on 8 ½" X 11" paper, and a model does not have to be tangible. However, assignment responses that are not submitted on paper (such as a digital video) will require the submission of a link, photos, or other record of your creation that can be viewed outside of class.

You may choose to form small groups of two or three to collaborate on this assignment. Be sure that your submission includes the names of all contributors. Please be a considerate and responsible group member by sharing equally in the research and production of the analysis.

- or -

Although similar in form, the ziggurat and temple architecture of Mesopotamia contrasts a great deal with the mastabas of early dynastic Egypt and the Old Kingdom *Great Pyramids* of Gizeh. What religious purposes did each of these architectural forms (the ziggurat and temple vs. mastabas and pyramids) serve? Requiring exorbitant use of material and labor resources, why were these structures important to the members of their respective societies? What kinds of objects and depictions are found at these architectural sites, and what understandings of the purposes of the structures have we gleaned from their discovery? Given the particular purpose and function of ziggurats and pyramids (including their preceding form, the mastaba) what limitations exist in our understanding of the civilizations that created them? Equally, what ethical considerations must we navigate when these sites are excavated, and their associated objects put on display?

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Although Roman architecture exhibits both Greek and Etruscan influences, Roman builders revolutionized architectural design through the development of concrete, which allowed for unprecedented shaping of space through arches. Discuss the disadvantages and exceptional qualities of concrete as used by Roman architects through a comparison of the Greek *Parthenon* 447 - 438 BCE, with the Roman *Pantheon* 118 - 125 CE. What were the central concerns and focal points for Iktinos and Kallikrates when designing the *Parthenon*. How did the concerns and focal points of the architects of the *Pantheon* differ? What concepts of space does each building demonstrate? How does the handling of space in these buildings reflect the sacred functions and world views of the civilizations that built them?