

CHRISTIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Era	Art Work	Architecture	Selected Edifices
Pre-Edict of Milan (ca. A.D. 29-313)	3rd-cent. frescoes of biblical scenes and characters found in catacombs, relief art of biblical scenes on sides of sarcophagi	Christian churches before the Edict of Milan resembled the Roman basilica, destroyed during Emperor Diocletian's persecution (303-5); no intact, extant church of the first three centuries remains	Christians worshiped in family houses and synagogues; excavated church at Dura-Europa (Syria), a converted house church, ca. 232
Basilica (ca. 320-1000)	Mural frescoes of saints, gold and marble mosaic decorations, mosaic paved naves	Longitudinal plans with flat roofs, two rows of large columns, central nave, two side aisles, apse above altar, small windows, west entrance with narthex	Church of the Nativity (Bethlehem); Santa Maria Maggiore (Rome)
Byzantine (324-1453)	Highly idealized figures of saints, biblical characters, and rulers; brightly illuminated glass and gold mosaics, frescoes, and icons	Some longitudinal and some cruciform plans, domed arches accenting the celestial and theocratic, mosaics in the apse above altar and other domes	Hagia Sophia (Istanbul); St. Sophia (Thessalonica); St. Irene (Istanbul)
Romanesque basilica (1000-1150)	Illuminated manuscripts, mural frescoes on ceilings and walls, mosaic-colored marble, stained-glass windows, embellished altars	Longitudinal plan, large interiors spanned by barrel vaults, thick walls, small windows, Latin cross transepts, biblical sculptural scenes on the tympana	Cathedral in Mainz (Germany); Cathedral of Pisa (Italy); Church of the Apostles (Cologne, Germany)
Gothic (1150-1600)	Sculptured figures, decorated walls, tympana, large stained-glass windows	Tall pointed arches, ribbed vaults, flying buttresses, thin walls, tall spires, Latin cross transepts, slender columns, lancet windows, west entrances	St. Denis Cathedral (France); Cologne Cathedral (Germany); Houses of Parliament (London)
Renaissance (1400-1550)	Richly decorated ceilings in churches, cartouches (ornamental panels in form of scrolls), graffito paintings	Semielliptical domes with eye on top, domes over the church's transepts, columns with Corinthian capitals	St. Peter's Dome (Rome); St. Pietro in Montoris (Rome)
Baroque (1600-1800)	Sculpture and art accent movement, complexity, and highly ornate interior and exterior decorations; frescoes spiritually tense	Oval ground plan, light and shadow effects; illusionary ceilings, interior has theater appearance, giant columns, ornamental windows, side chapels lining the walls	Frauen Kirche (Dresden, Germany); St. Peter's Piazza (Rome)
Neoclassical (1750-1900)	Seeks to instruct the mind, not only please the eye; shows accents on freedom	Imitates ancient Greco-Roman architecture; use of the dome; lack of spatial depth	Cathedral of the Trinity (St. Petersburg); U.S. Capitol building, D.C.
Contemporary (1900-2000)	Much iron and glass, abstract art scenes, some forms of expressionism	Eclectic styles; much steel, glass, and concrete; very tall buildings with numerous windows, functional design	U.S. Air Force Academy Chapel (Colorado Springs)