

ANCIENT GREEK ARCHITECTURE

A Legacy That Stands the Test of Time

Section 1

An architectural order is a way to describe a building’s style. In classical architecture, each order is known by its shape, size, and decorative details. When it comes to columns, an order is defined by the way an architect designs the top, or the capital. The type of column used tells us the order— Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian. These orders don’t just tell us about old buildings; they also show how Greek architecture developed over time.

Getting to Know Your Columns

- **Doric Columns:** These are the sturdy, unembellished heroes of ancient Greek architecture — simple, solid, and straightforward.
- **Ionic Columns:** Ionic columns are slightly more ornate than Doric columns, with elegant scroll decorations called volutes on the top.
- **Corinthian Columns:** Enter the world of opulence with Corinthian columns. These are the showstoppers, decked out with intricate acanthus leaves and elaborate floral designs.

Section 2

Plain	Ornate	Bell-shaped Capital	Scroll (Volute)	Rectangular Capital
Elaborate	Rounded Capital	Decorative	Acanthus Leaves	Simple

Doric



Ionic



Corinthian



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Section 3

Column Order	Features	Short Description
	This column has a rounded capital...	
	This column...	
	This column...	

Section 4

Look at these famous buildings. They all use examples of Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian order columns. Can you match the image with its order?

