



THE TIME OF ARCHITECTURE

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• The history of architecture traces the developments through different traditions, territories, overarching stylistic patterns, and dates in architecture. Civil, sacred, maritime, political, and landscape architecture are branches of architecture.

01


Neolithic

Neolithic architecture is Neolithic era architecture. While several dwellings belonging to both prehistoric periods and even some clay models of dwellings have been discovered allowing faithful reconstructions to be made, elements that may link them to art have hardly been included. The wall decorations and discoveries that relate similarly to Neolithic and Chalcolithic rituals and art include several exceptions.

Neolithic civilizations originated shortly after 10,000 BC in South and Southwest Asia, first in the Levant and from there expanded east and westward. In Southeast Anatolia, Syria and Iraq by 8000 BC, there are early Neolithic civilizations, and food-producing populations emerge first in Southeast Europe by 7000 BC, and Central Europe by c. BC

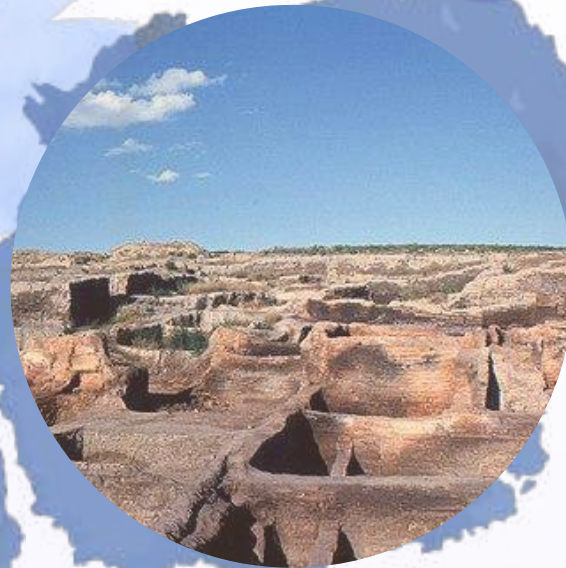
Settlements in the Neolithic and "cities" include:

- Turkey, Göbekli Tepe, ca. BC 9,000
- Jericho in the Levant, derived from the earlier Epipaleolithic Natufian culture, Neolithic from about 8,350 BC
- In Turkey's Nevali Cori, ca. BC 8,000
- Turkey's Çatalhöyük, 7,500 BC
- Pakistan's Mehrgarh, 7,000 BC
- Knap of Howar and Skara Brae, the Orkney Islands, Scotland, from 3,500 BC
- Over 3,000 settlements of the Cucuteni-Trypillian culture, some with populations up to 15,000 residents, flourished in present-day Romania, Moldova and Ukraine from 5,400 to 2,800 BC



The Neolithic people were excellent builders in the Levant, Anatolia, Syria, northern Mesopotamia and Central Asia, using mud-brick to build houses and settlements. Houses were plastered and decorated at Çatalhöyük with elaborate scenes of humans and livestock. Worshipped in megalithic temples by the Mediterranean Neolithic peoples of Malta.

Long houses consisting of wattle and daub were built in Europe. Often constructed were elaborate tombs for the deceased. In Ireland, where there are several thousands still in existence, these tombs are especially numerous. In the British Isles, Neolithic people constructed long barrows and chamber tombs for their dead and causway camps, henge flint mines, and temples of cursus.





02

Antiquity

2.1


*Ancient
Mesopotamia*

For its architecture of mud brick houses and the construction of ziggurats, Ancient Mesopotamia is most noted, occupying a prominent position in each region and consisting of an artificial hill, frequently rising in immense steps, surmounted by a temple. There was no question that the mound was to lift the temple to a place of command in what was otherwise a flat river valley. There were a number of religious districts in the great city of Uruk, containing many temples that were bigger and more ambitious than any historically established structures.

The term ziggurat is an anglicized version of the word ziqqurratum in Akkadian, the name given to the strong stepped mud brick towers. The verb zaqaru is derived from it. The structures are characterized as being like mountains connecting heaven and earth. The Ziggurat of Ur, excavated by Leonard Woolley, is 64 by 46 meters at the base, with three stories originally about 12 meters high. It was constructed under Ur-Nammu (circa 2100 B.C.) and reconstructed under Nabonidus (555-539 B.C.), when it was presumably increased to seven stories in height.

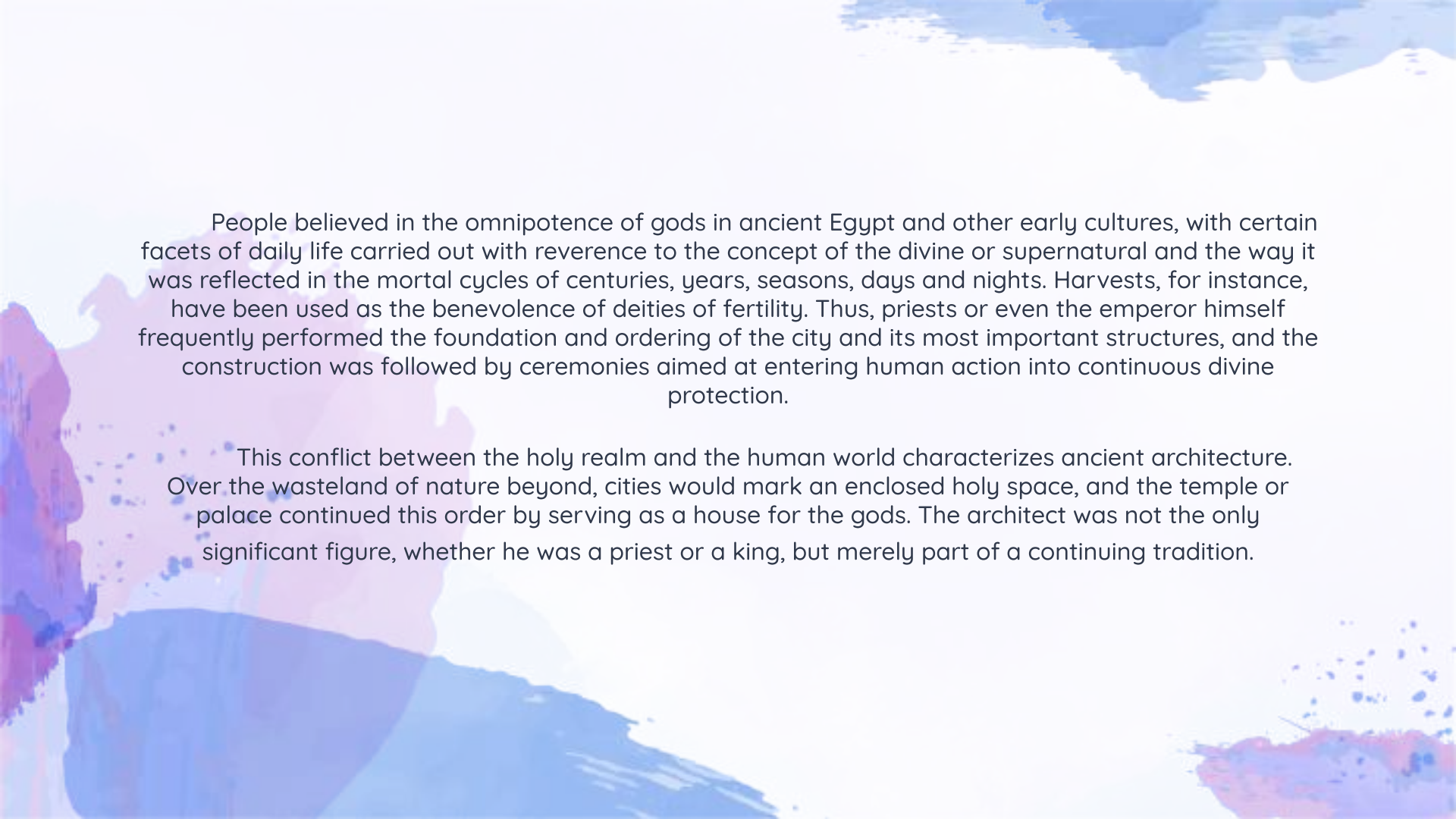
A large public court with a suite of apartments on the east side and a series of large banqueting halls on the south side had Assyrian palaces. This was to become the standard plan of the palaces of Assyria, designed and decorated for the king's glorification. Large quantities of pieces of ivory furniture were found in some palaces.





2.2

Ancient Egyptian



People believed in the omnipotence of gods in ancient Egypt and other early cultures, with certain facets of daily life carried out with reverence to the concept of the divine or supernatural and the way it was reflected in the mortal cycles of centuries, years, seasons, days and nights. Harvests, for instance, have been used as the benevolence of deities of fertility. Thus, priests or even the emperor himself frequently performed the foundation and ordering of the city and its most important structures, and the construction was followed by ceremonies aimed at entering human action into continuous divine protection.

This conflict between the holy realm and the human world characterizes ancient architecture. Over the wasteland of nature beyond, cities would mark an enclosed holy space, and the temple or palace continued this order by serving as a house for the gods. The architect was not the only significant figure, whether he was a priest or a king, but merely part of a continuing tradition.



2.3

Ancient Greek

2.3.1

Pre-Classical

On the island of Crete and other Aegean Islands, the Minoan civilization was a Bronze Age Aegean civilization, thriving from circa 2700 to circa 1450 BC until a late time of decline, eventually ending about 1100 BC. There were always flat, tiled roofs in Minoan buildings; floors of plaster, wood or flagstone, and stood two to three stories high. Usually, the lower walls were composed of stone and rubble and the upper walls were made of mudbrick. Ceiling timbers were bringing the roofs up. Black , white , red, yellow , blue and green were the primary colors used in Minoan frescoes.

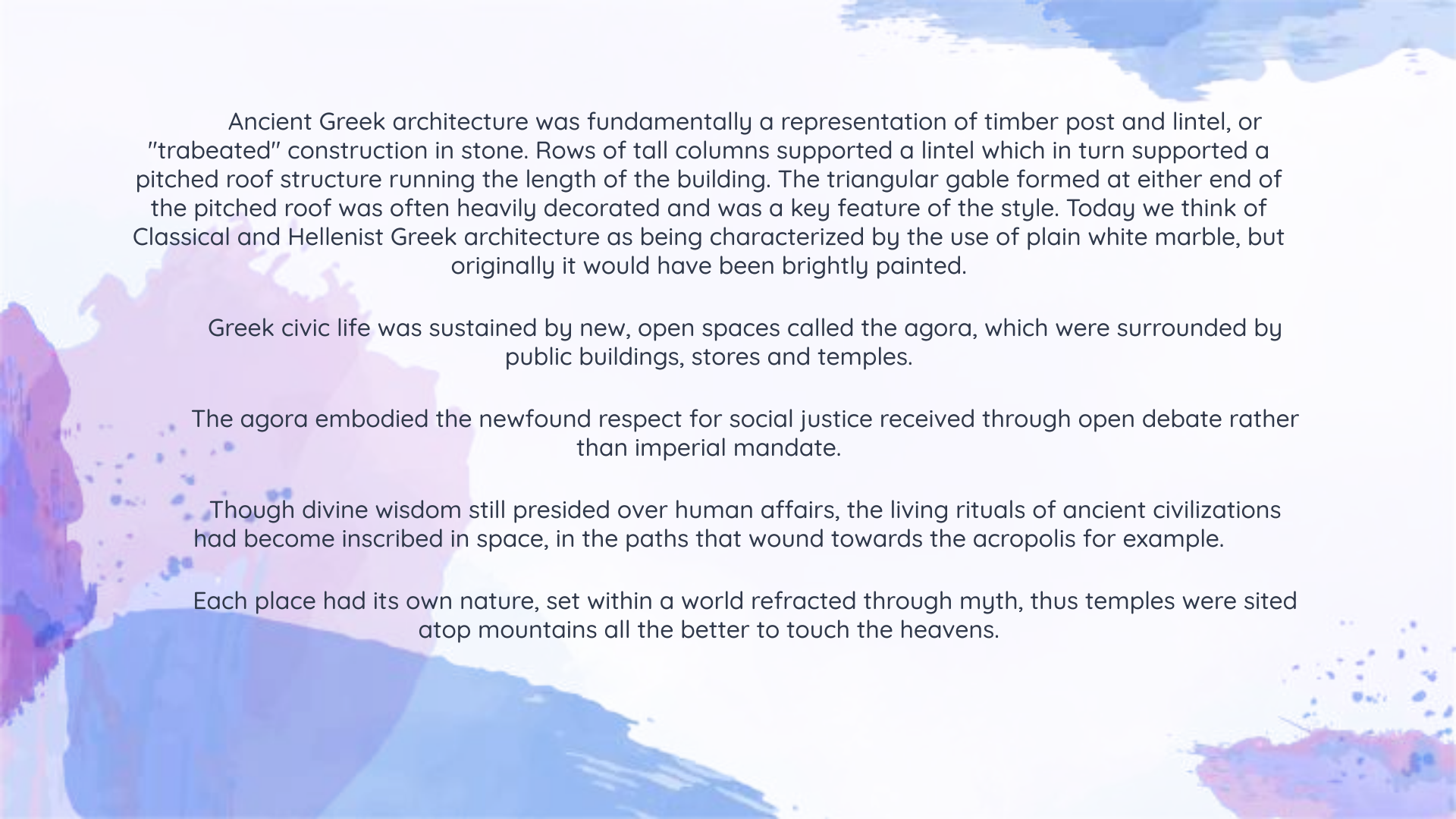
Flat roofs were a common feature in Minoan architecture. There were no street windows in the rooms of the villas, no illumination coming from the courtyards. The villas had one or two floors in the 2nd millennium BC, and the palaces also had three. Their inverted column, broader at the top than the middle, is one of the most important Minoan contributions to architecture. The columns were made of wood and were painted red as a custom. They were mounted on a plain stone base and crowned with an oval, pillow-like capital.

In 1650-1450 BC, Aegean art hit its height and was at first dominated by the Minoans. The Minoan civilization, however, collapsed at the height of its power and its place was soon assumed by the Mycenaeans, a race of warriors who flourished from 1600 to 1200 BC in Greece. While the reworking of Mycenaean citadels may have been worked by Cretan artisans, the two types remained distinct. Mycenaean structures were carefully constructed and based on the megaron (central unit), while the Minoans preferred intricate, labyrinthine forms. Mycenaean columns were slender and sharply tapered downwards, like the Minoan examples.



2.3.2

*Classical and
Hellenistic*



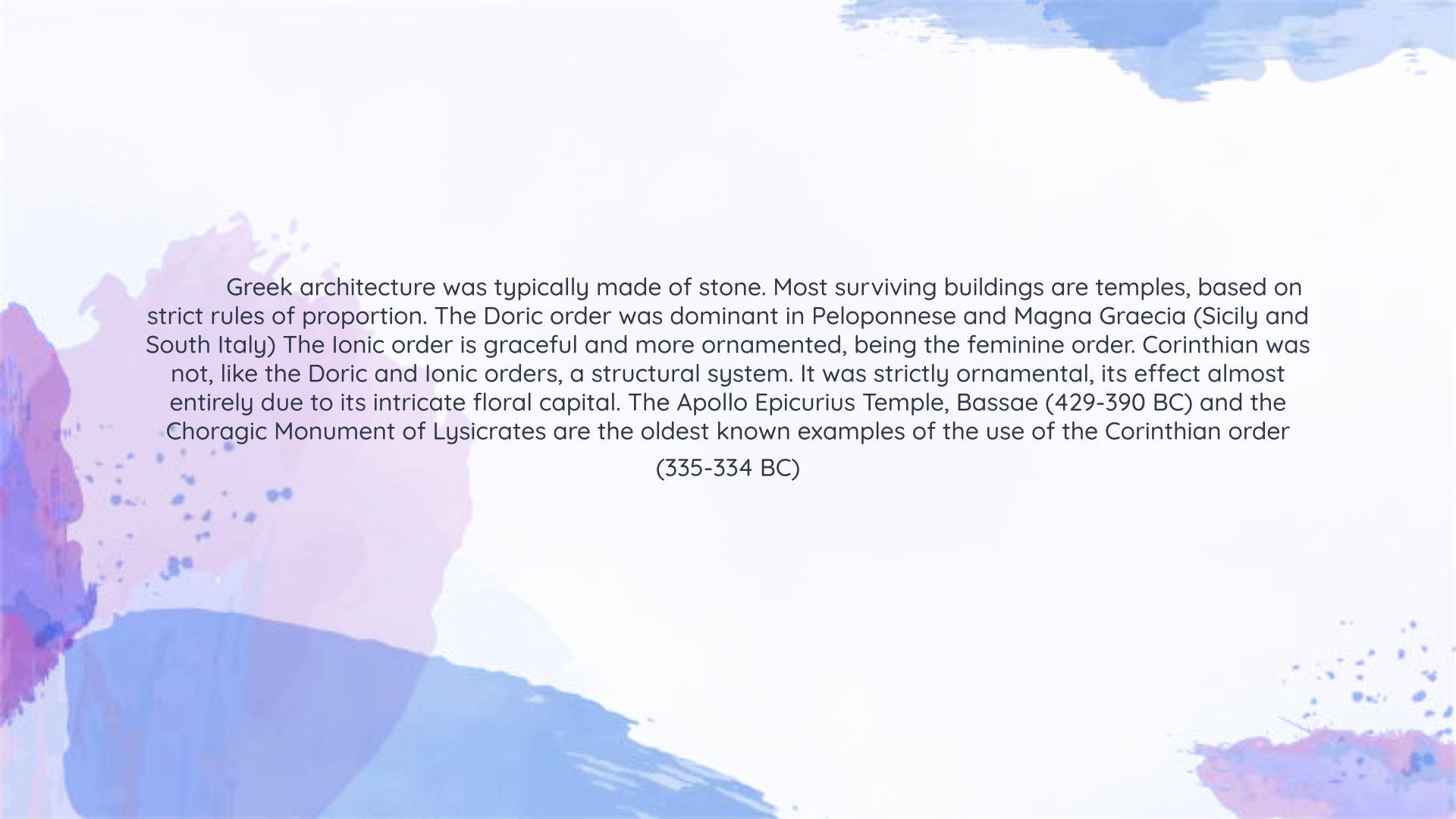
Ancient Greek architecture was fundamentally a representation of timber post and lintel, or "trabeated" construction in stone. Rows of tall columns supported a lintel which in turn supported a pitched roof structure running the length of the building. The triangular gable formed at either end of the pitched roof was often heavily decorated and was a key feature of the style. Today we think of Classical and Hellenist Greek architecture as being characterized by the use of plain white marble, but originally it would have been brightly painted.

Greek civic life was sustained by new, open spaces called the agora, which were surrounded by public buildings, stores and temples.

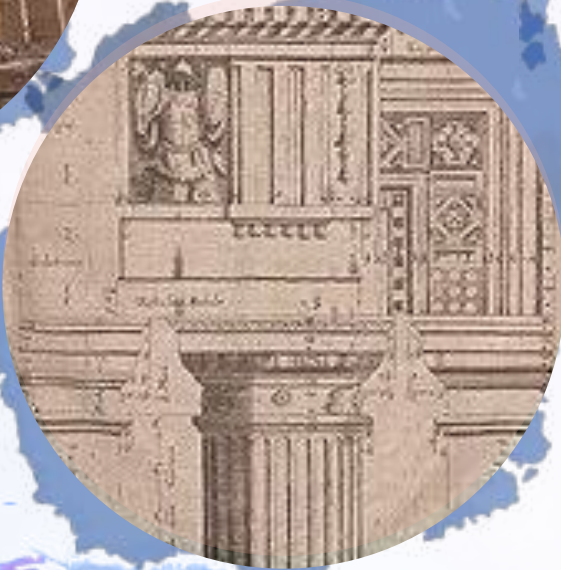
The agora embodied the newfound respect for social justice received through open debate rather than imperial mandate.

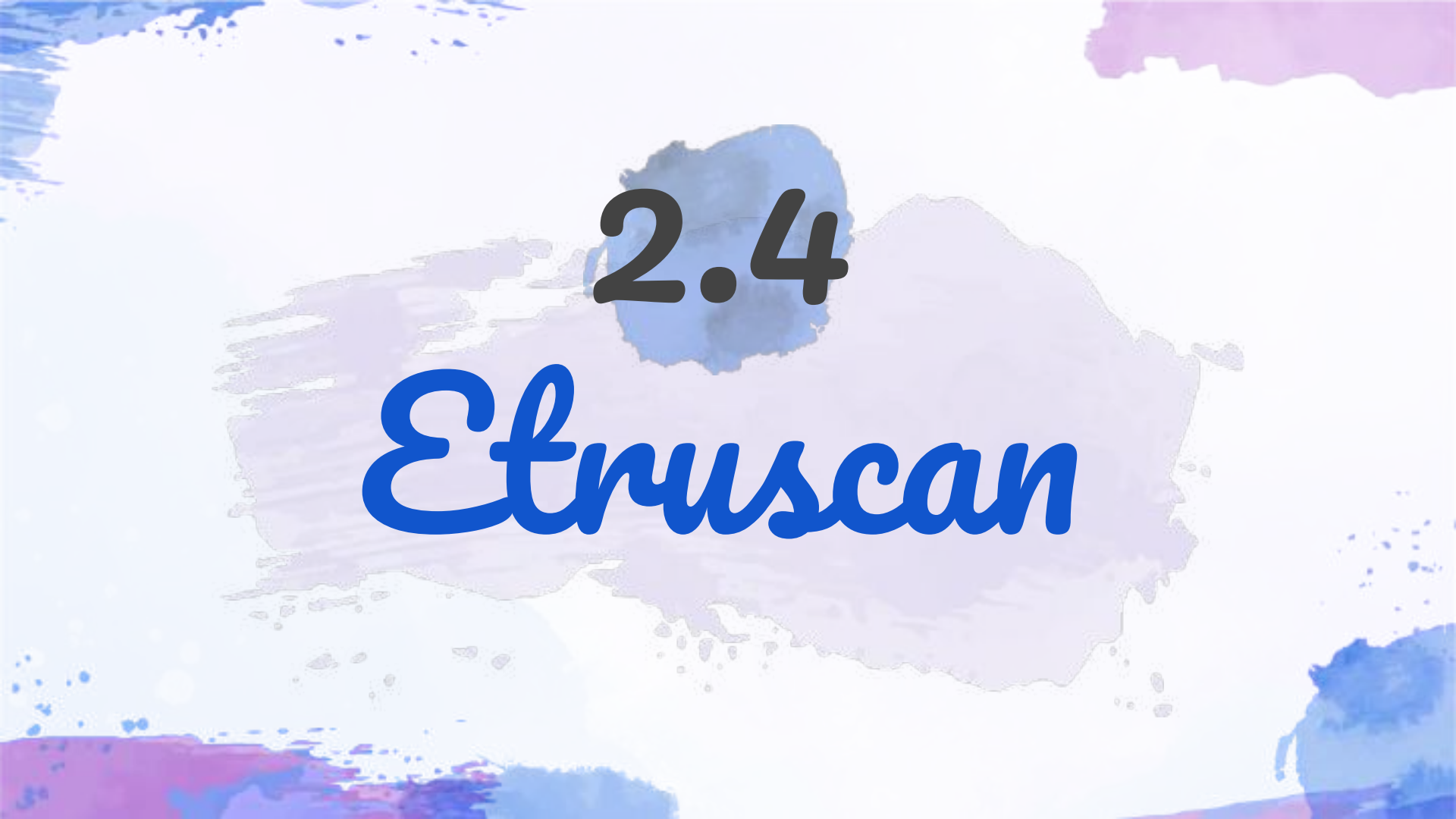
Though divine wisdom still presided over human affairs, the living rituals of ancient civilizations had become inscribed in space, in the paths that wound towards the acropolis for example.

Each place had its own nature, set within a world refracted through myth, thus temples were sited atop mountains all the better to touch the heavens.



Greek architecture was typically made of stone. Most surviving buildings are temples, based on strict rules of proportion. The Doric order was dominant in Peloponnese and Magna Graecia (Sicily and South Italy) The Ionic order is graceful and more ornamented, being the feminine order. Corinthian was not, like the Doric and Ionic orders, a structural system. It was strictly ornamental, its effect almost entirely due to its intricate floral capital. The Apollo Epicurius Temple, Bassae (429-390 BC) and the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates are the oldest known examples of the use of the Corinthian order (335-334 BC)






2.4

Etruscan

Usually, Greek architecture was built of stone. Based on strict laws of proportion, most surviving buildings are temples. A peristyle and three parts in the centre were usually used in these temples, becoming the pronaus (entrance), the main chamber of the cella or naos (where a statue of the god or goddess was installed, and an altar) and the opisthodomos. The Etruscans originally originated in Asia Minor and settled between the rivers Arno and Tiber in west-central Italy (Etruria). Few buildings have survived, but those that do, especially the tombs, which were located mostly in unique necropolis sites, are extremely fine. The temples were typically made of mud-brick and timber, but stone was later used and seems to have been constructed facing south. They were installed in the middle of cities, facing squares where altars were placed. The temples were lavishly adorned with painted terracotta, part of which helped to shield the structure's wooden features.





2.5

Roman