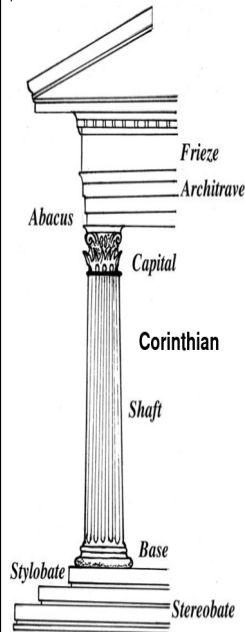


A third order of Greek architecture, known as the **Corinthian**, first developed in the late Classical period, but was more common in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Corinthian capitals have a bell-shaped *echinus* decorated with acanthus leaves, spirals, and palmettes. There is also a pair of small volutes at each corner; thus, the capital provides the same view from all sides.



The Corinthian capital, an elaborate variation of the Ionic capital, is decorated with acanthus leaves (an herbal shrub) and sometimes volutes on both sides. [The story of the Corinthian capital is that an architect saw a basket that had been left unattended while an acanthus plant grew up around it. Pleased by the decorative effect, he copied it for a capital.]

The Corinthian temple came to embody Hellenistic splendor. The Corinthian column first appeared in the Hellenic period, probably as a decorative feature. Taller and more ornamented than either the Doric or Ionic column, the Corinthian order was preferred for the grandiose temples erected for Hellenistic kings, as manifestation of their earthly majesty and the authority of whatever deity with whom they claimed kinship.

Although the ancient Greeks erected buildings of many types, the Greek temple best exemplifies the aims and methods of Greek architecture. Although the ancient Greeks erected buildings of many types, the Greek temple best exemplifies the aims and methods of Greek architecture. The temple typically incorporated an oblong plan, and one or more rows of columns surrounding all four sides. The vertical structure of the temple conformed to an order, a fixed arrangement of forms unified by principles of symmetry and harmony.

There was usually a *pronaos* (front porch) and an *opisthodomos* (back porch). The upper elements of the temple were usually made of mudbrick and timber, and the platform of the building was of cut masonry. Columns were carved of local stone, usually limestone or tufa; in much earlier temples, columns would have been made of wood. Marble was used in many temples, such as the Parthenon in Athens, which is decorated with Pentelic marble and marble from the Cycladic island of Paros. The interior of the Greek temple characteristically consisted of a *cella*, the inner shrine in which stood the cult statue, and sometimes one or two antechambers, in which were stored the treasury with votive offerings.

<http://faculty.etsu.edu/kortumr/08hellenistic/htmdescriptionpages/05olympieum.htm>

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Lesson plan
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/3588/>

http://www.odysseyadventures.ca/articles/greektemple/greek_temple.htm

<http://www.cartage.org.lb/en/themes/arts/architec/MiddleAgesArchitectural/ClassicalArchitecture/ArchitectureGreekTemple/ArchitectureGreekTempleStyle.htm>

http://www.mesogeia.net/trip/korinthos/korinthapollo01_en.html

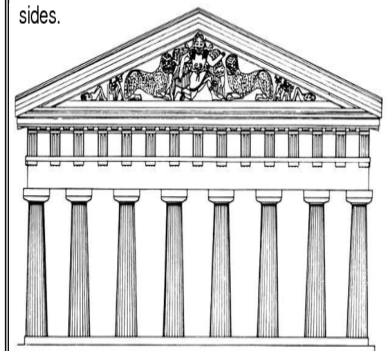
<http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/Arts/GreekTemple.htm>

<http://www.vitruvius.be/boek4h3.htm>



Ancient Greek architects strove for the precision and excellence of workmanship that are the hallmarks of Greek art in general. The formulas they invented as early as the sixth century B.C. have influenced the architecture of the past two millennia. The two principal orders in Archaic and Classical Greek architecture are the Doric and the Ionic. A third being the Corinthian.

Although the ancient Greeks erected buildings of many types, the Greek temple best exemplifies the aims and methods of Greek architecture. The temple typically incorporated an oblong plan, and one or more rows of columns surrounding all four sides.



The vertical structure of the temple conformed to an order, a fixed arrangement of forms unified by principles of symmetry and harmony. (Later, the Romans added the Tuscan, a simplified Doric, and the Composite, combining the Ionic with the Corinthian.)

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/grarc/hd_grarc.htm