

## ARCH 271: WORLD ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

### ANCIENT ROMAN ARCHITECTURE (510 BCE - 395 CE)

Etruscan, 750 - 100 BCE

Roman, 300 BCE - 365 CE

#### Historical Outline:

Legendary foundation in 753 BCE.

Etruscan domination until c. 500 BCE.

Independent City-Republics.

The Augustan Age: The beginning of the "Emperor," from Caius Octavius, also adopting the title "Augustus," 27 BCE-14 CE.

Reign of Trajan (79-81 CE): the Empire reached its greatest extent, where military extravagances paralleled by vast building enterprises.

Hadrian (117-138), when Roman architecture reached its highest synthesis.

Constantine (306 -337), accepting of Christianity and shifting Roman capital to Byzantium.

#### Premises for Roman architecture:

(1) The rise of Rome as a single power in Italy, political subjugation of the other Italic groups, like Etruscans, Samnites, etc.

(2) A complex intermingling of sources - inheritances from the Etruscans, the Greeks, but finally a clear Roman version.

(3) Rome's major character lay in its military prowess and leadership. The advent of the empire saw a highly organized system of infrastructure and institutions.

(4) An aspect of the empire was also its extravagance and eccentricity, which showed in architectural excesses.

(5) The centrality of the state in every enterprise, including architecture. The monopoly of the state/empire in everything including resources and materials, as well as mobilizing soldiers for construction projects.

#### Roman building types.

*thermae* for bathing and games

*circuses* for races

*amphitheaters* for gladiatorial contests

*theaters* for dramas

*basilicas* for lawsuits

*forum* as center public life and national commerce

*domus* for family life

#### Examples:

The Imperial Forums, Rome, c. 46 BCE-117 CE

Pont du Gard, Nimes, France, c. late 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE

Maison Carree, Nimes, France, c. 20 BCE

Colosseum, Rome, 72-80 CE

Arch of Titus, Rome, 81 CE

The Pantheon, Rome, 125-28 CE

Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli, c. 135 CE

Baths of Caracalla, Rome, c. 211-17 CE

Basilica of Maxentius and Constantine, Rome, c. 312-15 CE