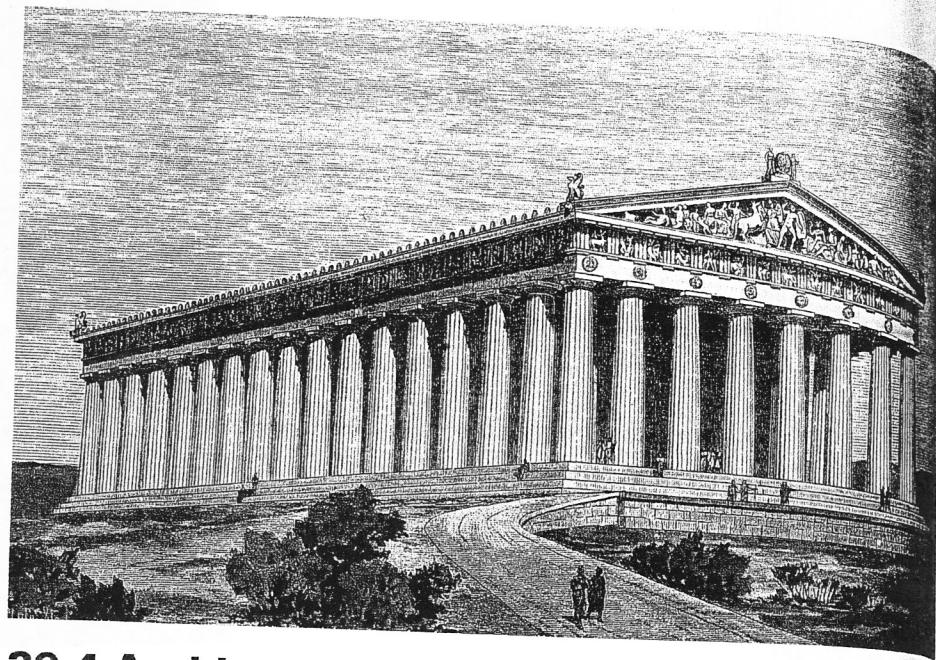
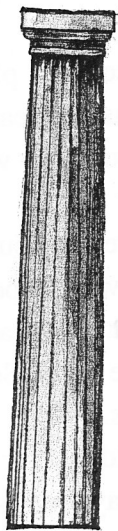


In this painting of the Parthenon, you can see the triangle-shaped pediment and the sculpted figures in the frieze.

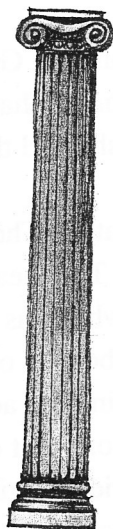


architecture the art of designing buildings

Greek buildings use three different styles of columns. Doric columns, the oldest style, have no base. Ionic columns are more graceful than Doric columns. Corinthian columns are the most decorative.



Doric



Ionic



Corinthian

29.4 Architecture: The Acropolis

Temples are good examples of the Greeks' talent for **architecture**. The Greeks built their temples as beautiful dwelling places for the gods and goddesses rather than as places to worship. Religious ceremonies were conducted outside.

The temples show the importance of balance and order in the Greeks' idea of beauty. Temples were built with rows of tall columns. The Greeks used three kinds of columns. The Doric column was the simplest. It had no base and got slimmer toward the top. The Ionic column was thinner. It sat on a base and had spirals carved into the top. The Corinthian column was the most complex, with carvings that looked like leaves at the top.

Athenians built three temples on the acropolis to honor Athena. One of these was the Parthenon. One of the most beautiful temples in Greece, the Parthenon was built on a long rectangular platform. There were 8 columns across both the front and back and 17 along each side. The roof slanted, creating triangles called *pediments* at the front and back of the building. At the top of the temple was a band of sculptures called a *frieze*. The sculptures themselves are called *metopes*.

Greek temples were many different sizes, but their basic shape was similar. Most had a main room with a statue of the temple's god or goddess. The Parthenon had a magnificent statue of Athena that stood 30 feet high. Made of wood, the statue was covered with ivory to look like flesh. Then it was dressed in clothes and decorated with gold. Like the temple itself, the statue expressed both the Greeks' love of beauty and their awe of the gods.

31.10 Greek Contributions to Modern Architecture

The word *architecture* comes from a Greek word that means “master builder.” You read about Greek architecture in the chapter about ancient Athens. You learned how the Greeks used columns to make their temples balanced and stately. You saw examples of *pediments*, the triangular shapes where roof lines come together. And you studied the decorated bands called *friezes*.

Greek styles are still used in many buildings today. They are especially common in public structures like government buildings, schools, churches, libraries, and museums. But you can also see Greek styles in homes and stores. For example, many houses have covered porches. These porches come from the Greek *stoa*, a covered line of columns.

31.11 Greek Contributions to the Modern Theater

When you toured Athens, you learned about Greek theater. The word *theater* comes from a Greek word that means “a viewing place.” Greek theaters were built as semicircles. The rows of seats rose steeply from the stage so that everyone in the audience could see and hear. These ideas influence the way theaters are built today.

The Greeks even invented special effects. For example, they used hoists to lift actors off the stage and make it seem as if they were flying. They also created scenery that revolved, or turned. Revolving the scenery let them quickly change where the action in a play was taking place.

But perhaps the greatest Greek contributions to the theater are their stories and plays. Writers throughout the ages have been inspired by Greek myths and stories. And Greek dramas are still performed today all over the world.

Greek actors wore masks that showed the characters they were playing.

