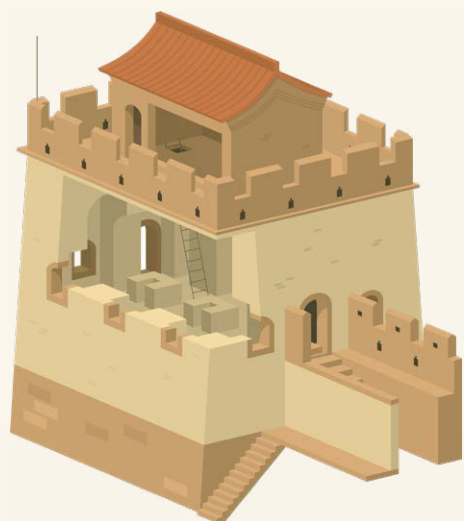
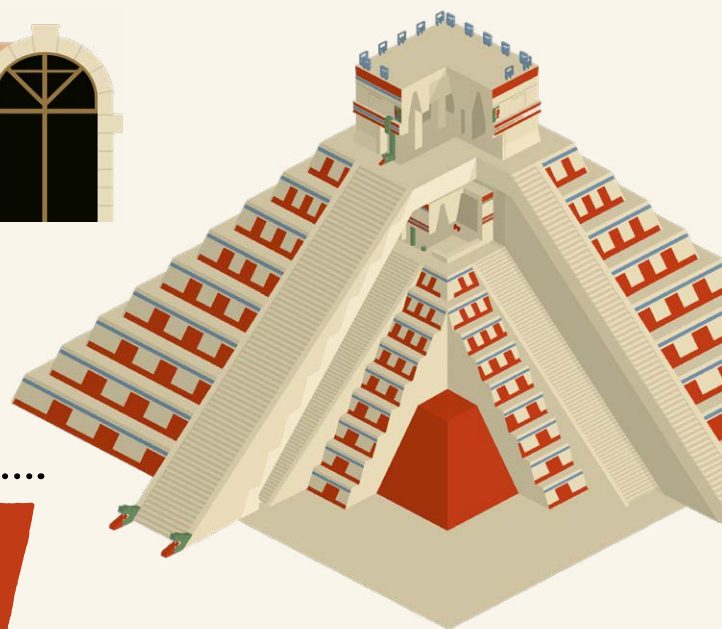
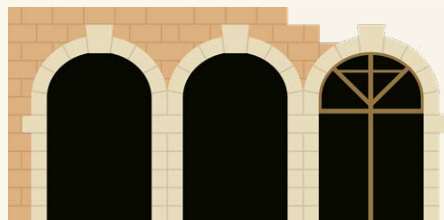
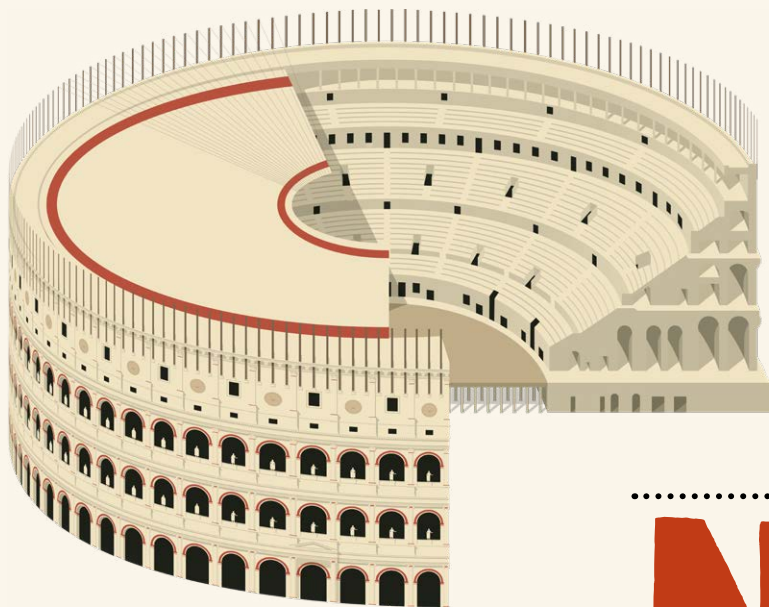


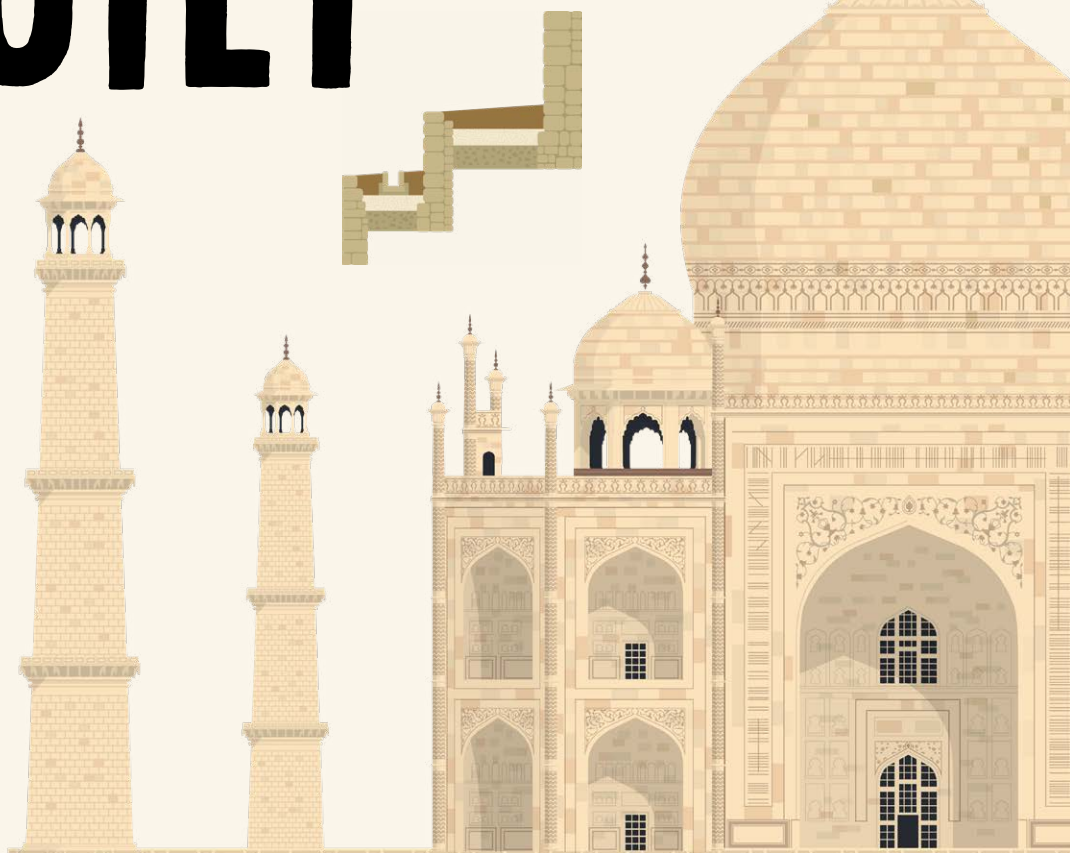
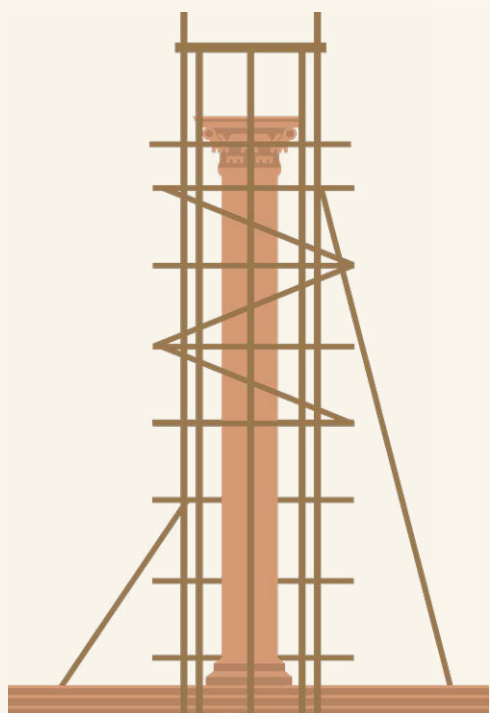
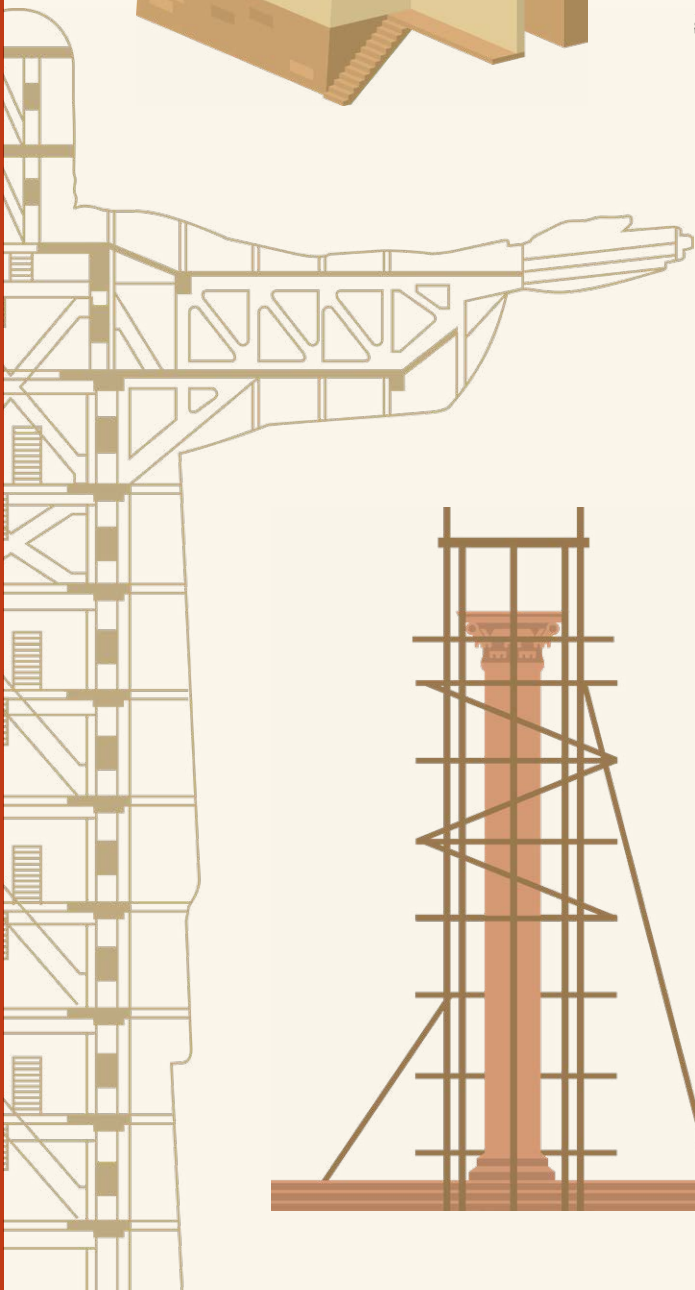


Jiří Bartůněk | Tom Velčovský | Jan Šrámek

HOW THE NEW SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD WERE BUILT



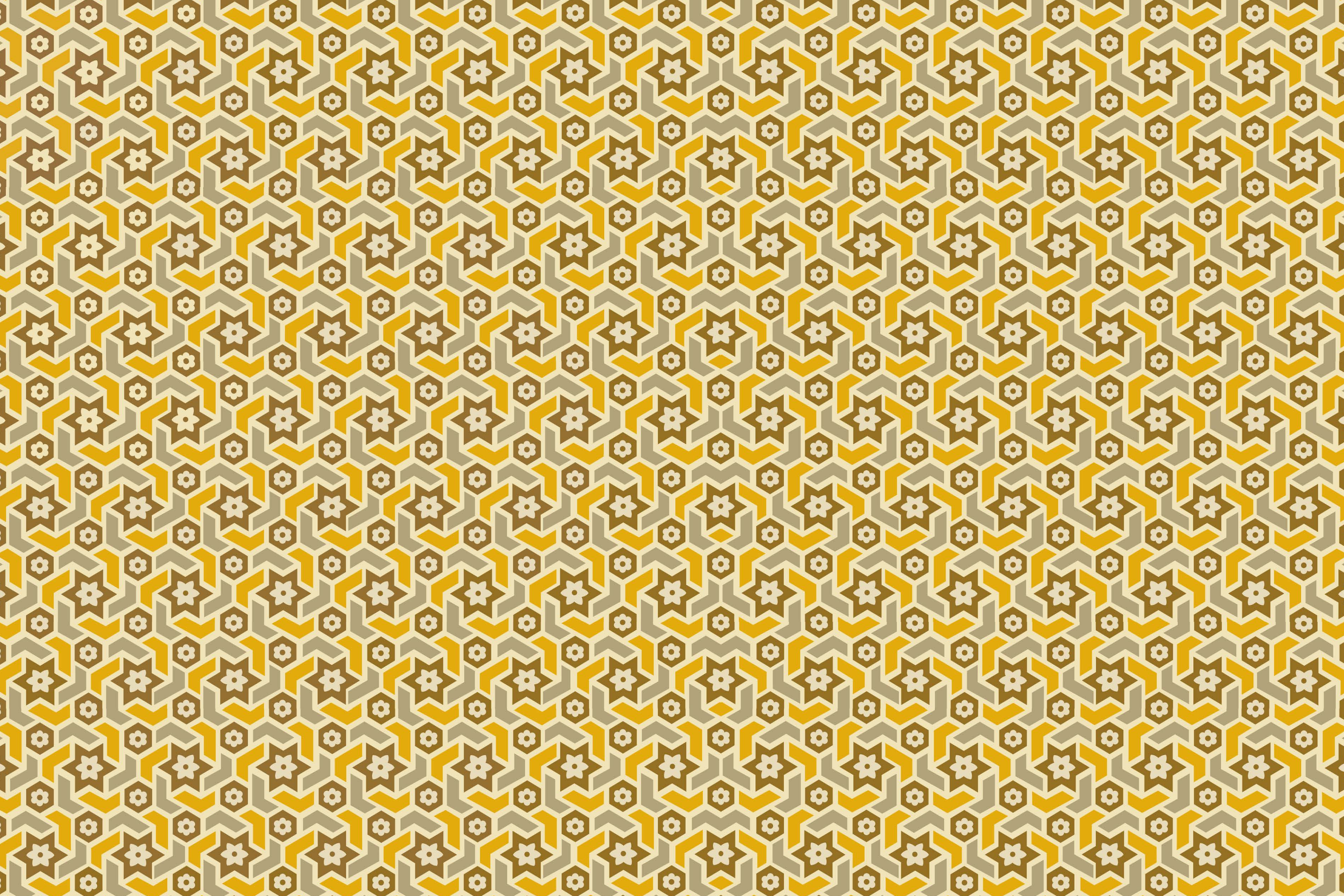
HOW THE
NEW
SEVEN
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Jiří Bartůněk • Tom Velčovský • Jan Šrámek

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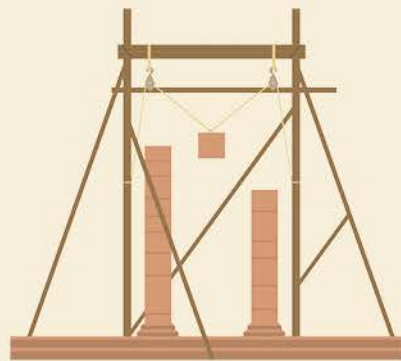
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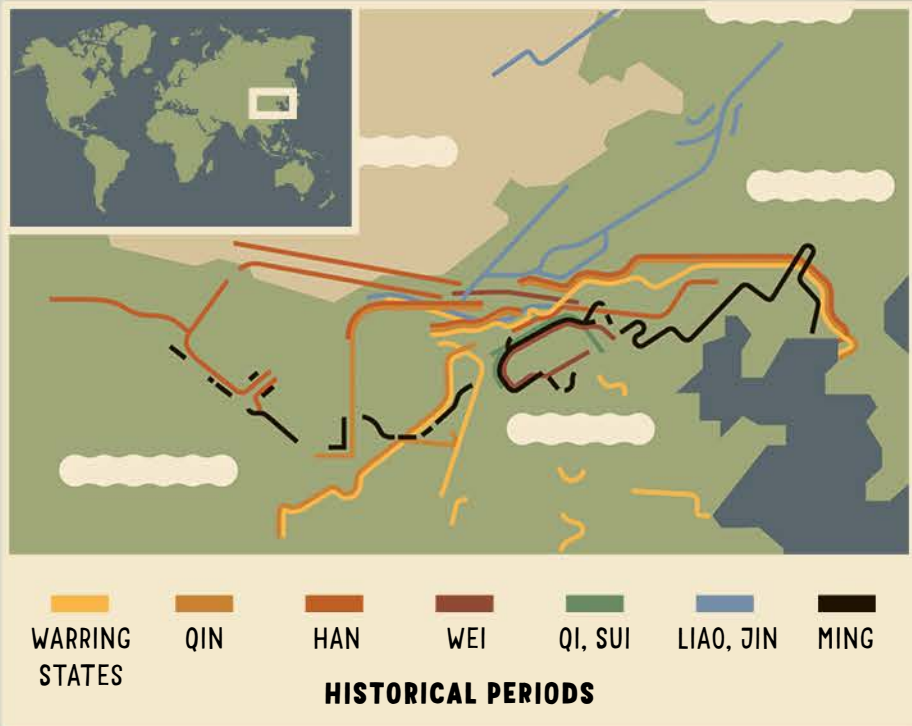
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The Great Wall of China

CHINA 7th CENTURY BCE

It is called the Great Wall of China mainly in America and Europe. In China, it is more precisely called the Long Wall. Measuring the wall is quite difficult, but counting all the bends and breaks, it is a staggering 13,170 miles.



Timeline

Construction on the Great Wall dates back to the 7th century BCE, back during the period of the Warring States. When this period ended, the states joined together to form China. The main building of the wall dates back to the first Qin dynasty, around 210 BCE. During the Han dynasty in the 1st century BCE and during the Jin Empire (1138–1198), construction took place on the fortifications north of today's Great Wall of China, at the boundary of Outer and Inner Mongolia. The last period of construction was during the Ming dynasty (1368–1644).

Emperor

The complex of the original defensive walls from the 3rd century BCE gradually grew to prevent raids from marauding tribes. The first emperor to connect the defensive walls was Qin Shi Huang, founder of the Qin dynasty. However, the wall acquired its current form only during the Ming dynasty in the 14th–17th centuries.



EMPEROR
QIN SHI HUANG

Meng Tian

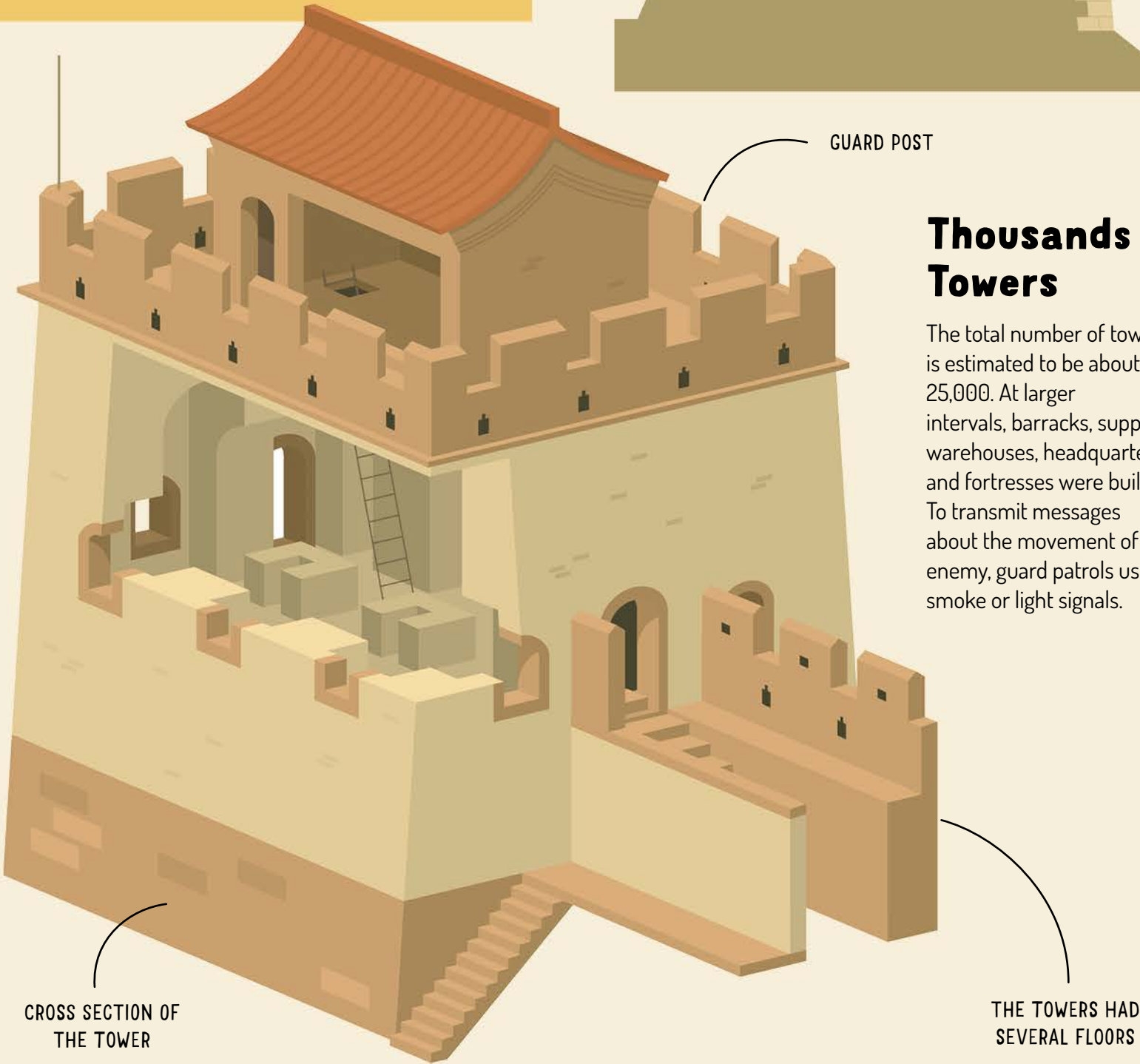
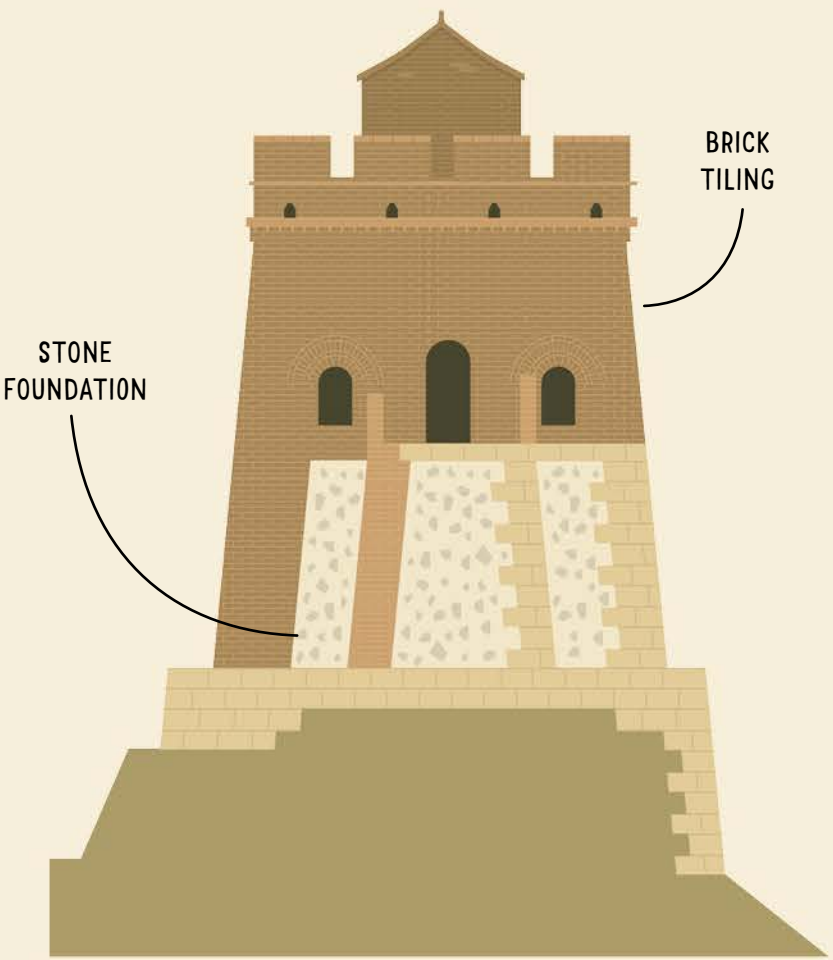
A wide range of builders and architects took part in the construction, but one of the few prominent names to withstand the test of time is Meng Tian, a major Qing dynasty general who personally managed and led the work on the wall.



GENERAL MENG TIAN

Building Method

At first, the earthen structure was probably built using wooden beams. It was gradually replaced by more durable materials of stone and of fired and unfired bricks. The type of stone depended on the local landscape. The foundations were built of large stone blocks or the building was based on a solid rocky subsoil. The building methods differed, but we can generally say that an earthen construction was first built from gradually packed-down layers of soil and stones. It was placed between wooden walls or a reinforced wooden or reed grate. Then the side walls were lined with stones or bricks.



Thousands of Towers

The total number of towers is estimated to be about 25,000. At larger intervals, barracks, supply warehouses, headquarters, and fortresses were built. To transmit messages about the movement of the enemy, guard patrols used smoke or light signals.

Ming Dynasty

The wall acquired today's form during the Ming dynasty, when it was rebuilt on an even larger scale using durable materials. The Ming dynasty was a time of development and prosperity. Irrigation systems were built, cotton was grown, and silk and porcelain were made. This period was the last national Chinese dynasty before the conquest of the Manchurian Qing Empire in 1644. After the fall of the Qing Empire in 1912, the Republic of China was founded.



PORCELAIN



FLAG OF THE MING DYNASTY



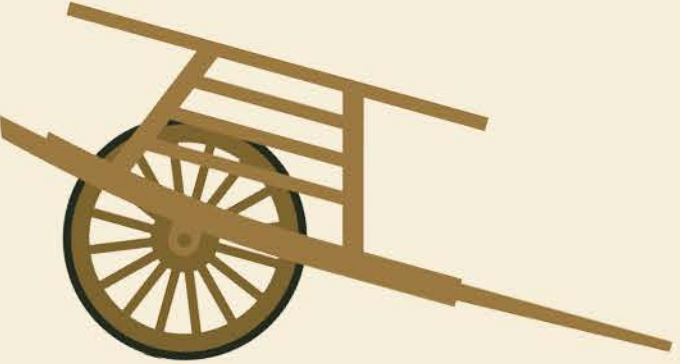
WOMEN'S CLOTHING FROM THE MING DYNASTY

Who Built the Wall?

For such a monumental project, a diverse group of people worked on the construction site. In the first phase, they were mainly peasants. Emperor Qin Shi Huang enslaved and imprisoned several million citizens of the empire, forcing them to work on the wall. Later, during the Ming dynasty, this task was entrusted to soldiers and skilled craftsmen who received payment for their work.



DETAIL OF THE MASONRY



WHEELBARROW



WORKER WITH SPINDLE



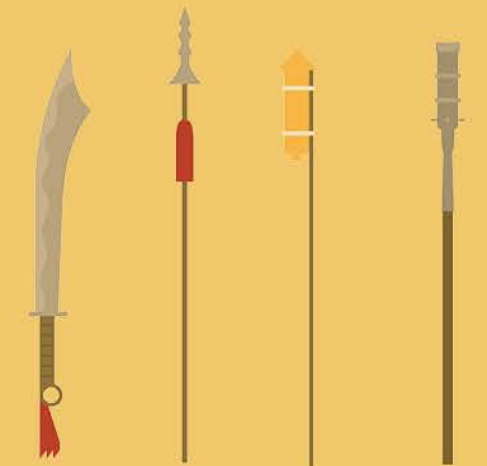
WORKER CARRYING MATERIALS

ROBBER
NOMAD



The Advantages of the Terrain

The Great Wall often uses the landscape to have stronger defenses, which is why it often leads along mountain ridges in remote terrain. The wall was not intended to repel a massive attack by enemy troops, but rather to make it difficult for nomadic tribes to raid the interior of the empire.



DAO
(SWORD)

SPEAR

ROCKET

FIRE
LANCE



CHINESE
SOLDIER

Badaling

This section, the most famous one, is very easy to get to from the metropolis of Beijing. The ascent is not too difficult either. However, it is necessary to prepare for the crowds of tourists and vendors.

Simatai

Although such extensive renovations have not taken place in this section, it has both ruins and parts that are intact. Many fans from China and abroad consider it the best stretch of the entire Great Wall. While the eastern part requires visitors to be more physically fit, the western part is a lot easier to climb. You will rarely come across tourists here.



Mutianyu

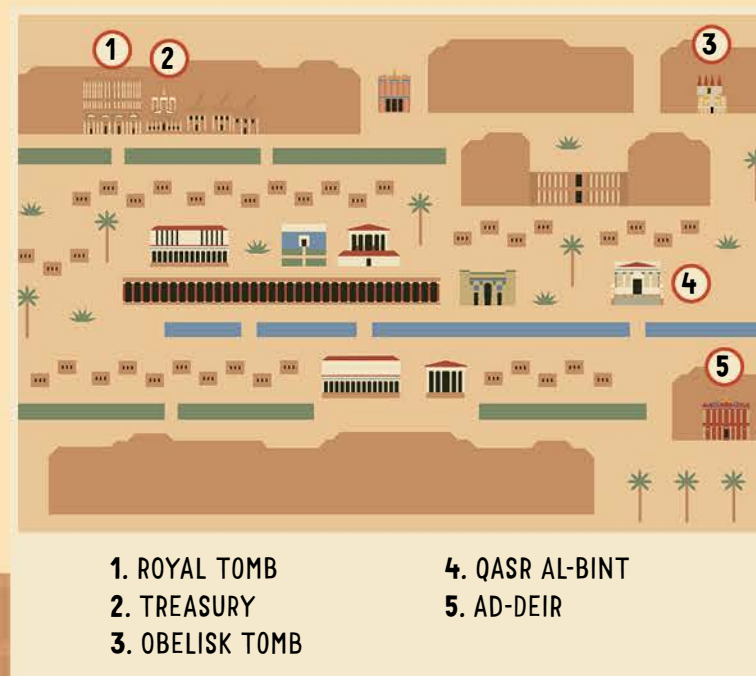
After Badaling, this is the second best-maintained section of the wall. It is surrounded by forest and offers beautiful views of the surrounding countryside in the summer and fall.

Petra

Petra is a Greek word meaning “rock.” It is also the name an ancient rock town and burial ground and a current archeological site of the Nabataean Kingdom in modern-day Jordan.

MA'AN
JORDAN

3rd CENTURY BCE



Rock City

According to legend, Moses led the tribes of the Israelites, who were thirsty from a water shortage in the dry desert. So, he struck a rock with his staff and out of the rock gushed drinking water. Real-world springs like these served as a reservoir water for the city, thanks to an ingenious system of inflow channels, along with cisterns and tanks.

Oasis

Petra was the only place in this inhospitable landscape at the crossroads of routes that could provide caravans with supplies and refuge. Oases, as such places are called, make Petra a green city in the middle of an arid sandy desert, thanks to springs and reservoirs.

The Nabataeans

Originally a nomadic tribe, the Nabataeans settled in the area before the 4th century BCE. Given the strategic location of land lying on several important trade routes connecting Egypt, the Mediterranean, India, and China, the Nabataeans soon became traders.

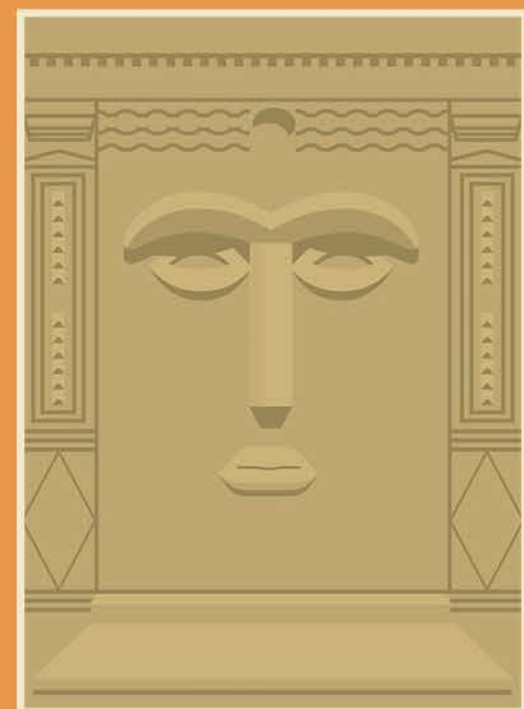
Caravan

A caravan is a group of people, accompanied by animals, who travel for a specific reason like trading or moving. In this case, they were traders traveling on camels accustomed to life in the desert.

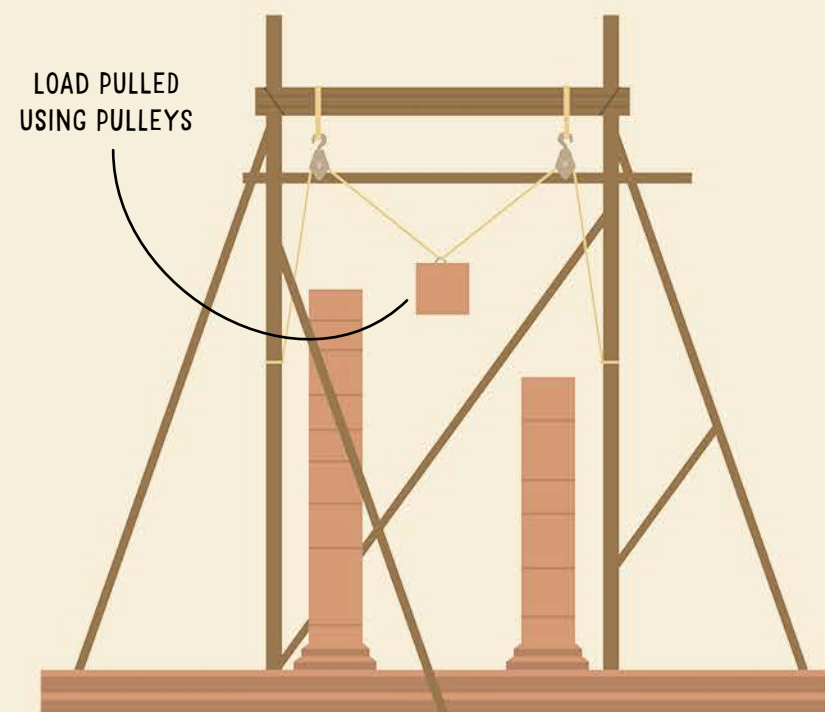
ROYAL
TOMB

TREASURY

SANDSTONE CHANGES
COLOR DEPENDING
ON THE TIME OF DAY.

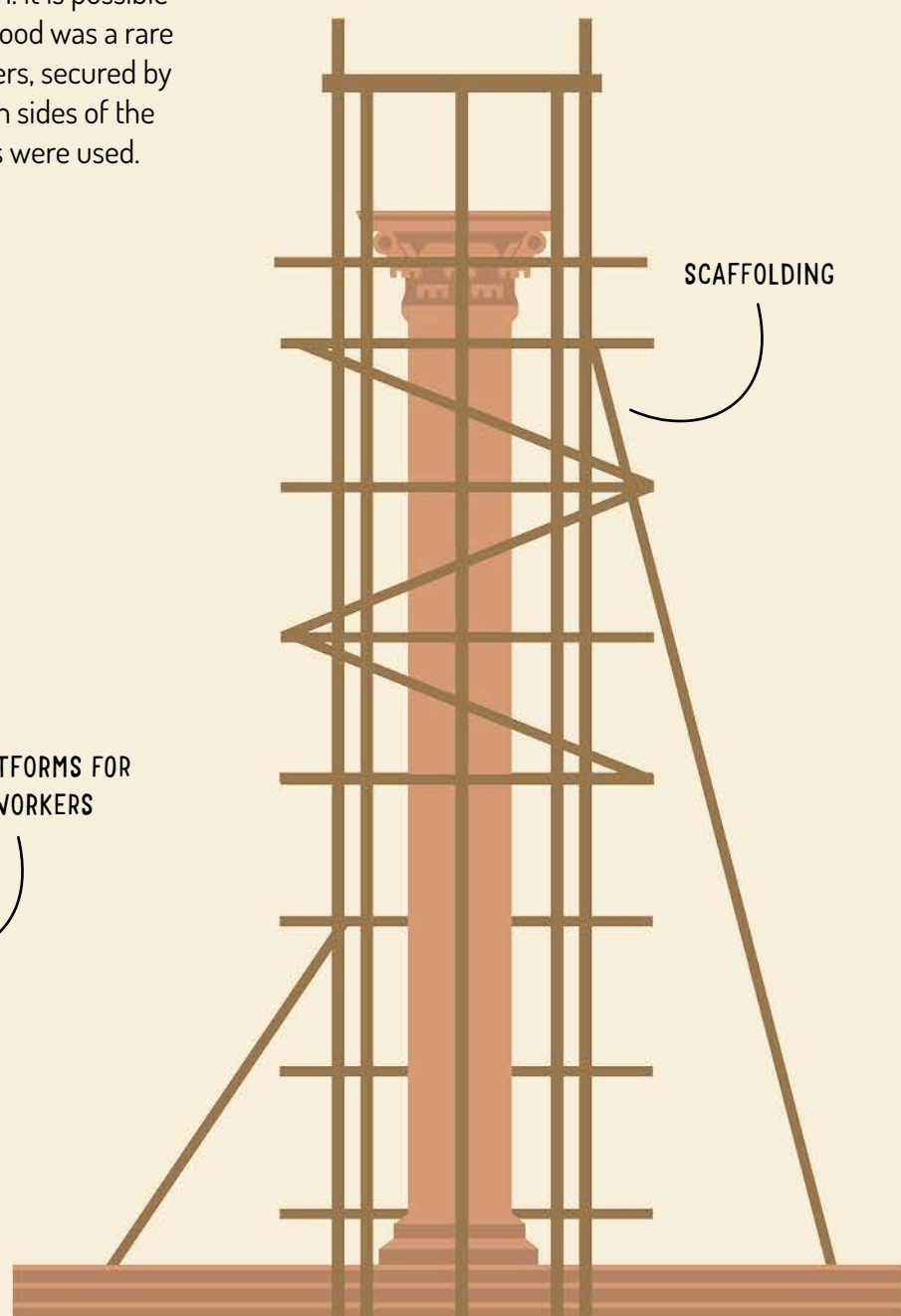
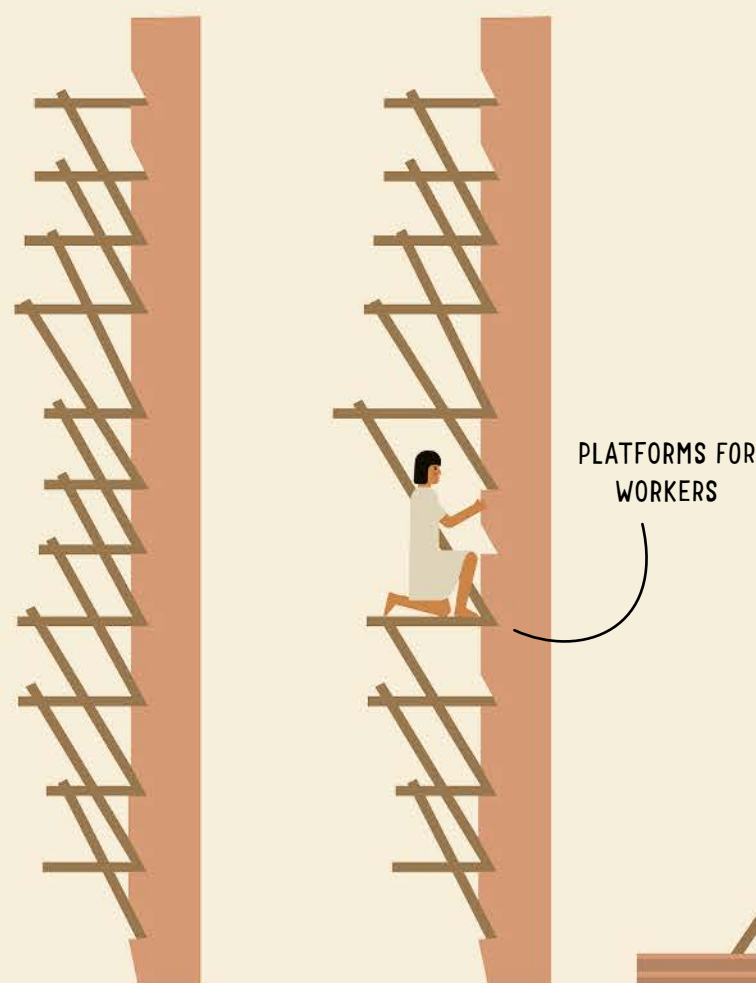


CARVED PORTRAITS OF NABATAEAN DEITIES ARE CALLED BETYLS. THIS ONE IS THE GODDESS OF HAYYAN



Scaffolding or climbing?

The exact construction process for the building is unknown. It is possible that the builders used wooden scaffolding, even though wood was a rare commodity in the area. According to one theory, the workers, secured by a rope, climbed up using holes carved into the rock on both sides of the building. It is also possible that platforms hanging on ropes were used.



COLONNADE
RECONSTRUCTION

THE ORIGINAL APPEARANCE
OF THE ROYAL TOMB



Reconstruction

The first renovation took place in the 1950s. Since then, various renovations have taken place, but since the repairs have not been properly marked, the visitor cannot see what is authentic and what is inauthentic. Unfortunately, most of the buildings have been damaged by earthquakes, time, thieves, and vandals, but also by strong torrential rain, flash floods, and wind bringing in salt from the Dead Sea.

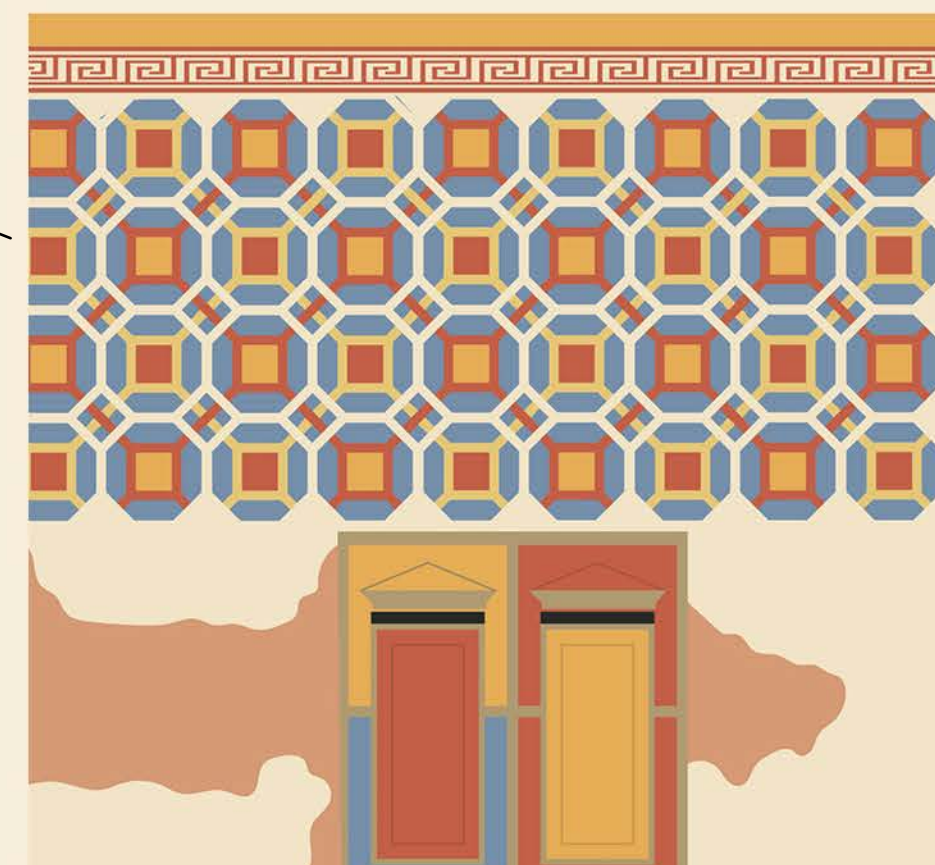
Carved City

Gauging from the materials excavated from Petra, the parts of its architecture that could not be carved were built economically, for example with a method called cantilever construction. If the stone from the carved parts were not enough, there were three major sandstone quarries for construction nearby.

UNIQUE WALL
DECORATION

Wall Decoration

On the parts of the Nabataean Monuments that have been excavated so far, there are traces of murals, especially striking for their geometric shapes, which required precise planning. Murals from this time show no comparable geometric design. Their uniqueness thus helps us decipher the history of the city and its inhabitants.



Tombs

When you follow in the footsteps of ancient caravans and walk through a gorge called Siq, just before the end you will discover the first of two monumental tombs. The first is called Al-Khazneh (Treasury). The second tomb high in the mountains is Ad-Deir (the Monastery). It is similar to the Treasury, but its dimensions still surpass it. Their façades—over 13 stories high!—are carved into sandstone and bear signs of Greek architecture.

Obelisk Tomb

The first Nabataean tomb, which is still standing before you enter the gorge, dates from the 1st century BCE. Because of the two different architectural styles, used at the same time, the tomb looks like two buildings. The designation “obelisk” is inaccurate, though. Although the columns may resemble obelisks (monuments), they are actually so-called “nefeshot” (singular “nefesh”), which are basically tombstones carved into the rock with the name of the deceased carved into the base of the column.

PROBABLE APPEARANCE OF AD-DEIR



PROBABLE APPEARANCE OF THE OBELISK TOMB



Siq Gorge

The only access road to Petra is a natural trail in the rocks that allowed the Nabataeans to protect access to the city. On the side of the gorge are channels through which water was supplied to the city from Moses Valley.



Qasr al-Bint

Many meanings have been ascribed to this tomb, which has been rebuilt many times, making its appearance a unique mixture of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman influences. Unfortunately, numerous earthquakes have had the greatest influence on the building, as well as on other monuments. Qasr al-Bint is Petra's best-preserved building, thanks to the ingenious use of equally large ashlar stone bricks interspersed with wooden slabs, making the building more resistant to earthquakes.

PROBABLE APPEARANCE OF QASR AL-BINT

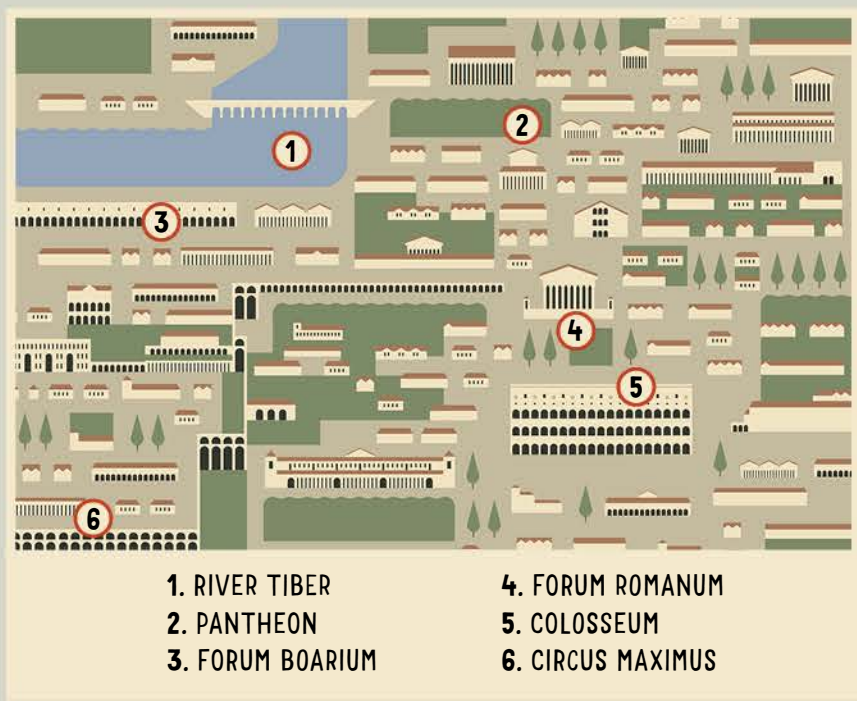


The Colosseum

ROME
ITALY

1st CENTURY CE

The Colosseum in Rome—also called the Flavian Amphitheater, from the original Latin name *Amphitheatrum Flavianum*—is perhaps the most famous building of its type. Its nickname comes from the emperors of the Flavian dynasty, who built it. It is a magnificent arena that once hosted gladiator games and battle reenactments—even sea battles with sailing ships!



Arena

The Colosseum is an open arena shaped like an ellipse enclosed by a protective wall and surrounded by an auditorium (Latin: *cavea*). It was similar to the ancient theaters, divided into wedge-shaped sections (*cunei*). The amphitheater was intended for a wide range of events, especially gladiatorial games (*munera*), the hunting of wild animals (*venatio*), executions, mythological scenes, historical battle reenactments, and even naval battles (*naumachia*).

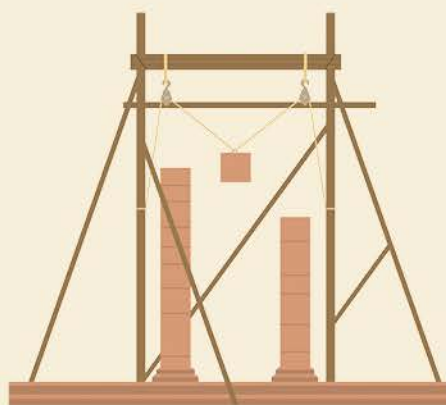
Seating Arrangements

There were 48,000 seats on three levels and 4,500 standing-room-only seats on the fourth level. The leading places just above the arena belonged to the elite. The highest part was reserved for commoners and peasants.



EMPERORS, CONSULS, AND SOLDIERS BELONGED TO THE ELITE OF SOCIETY, UNLIKE WOMEN AND ENSLAVED PEOPLE.





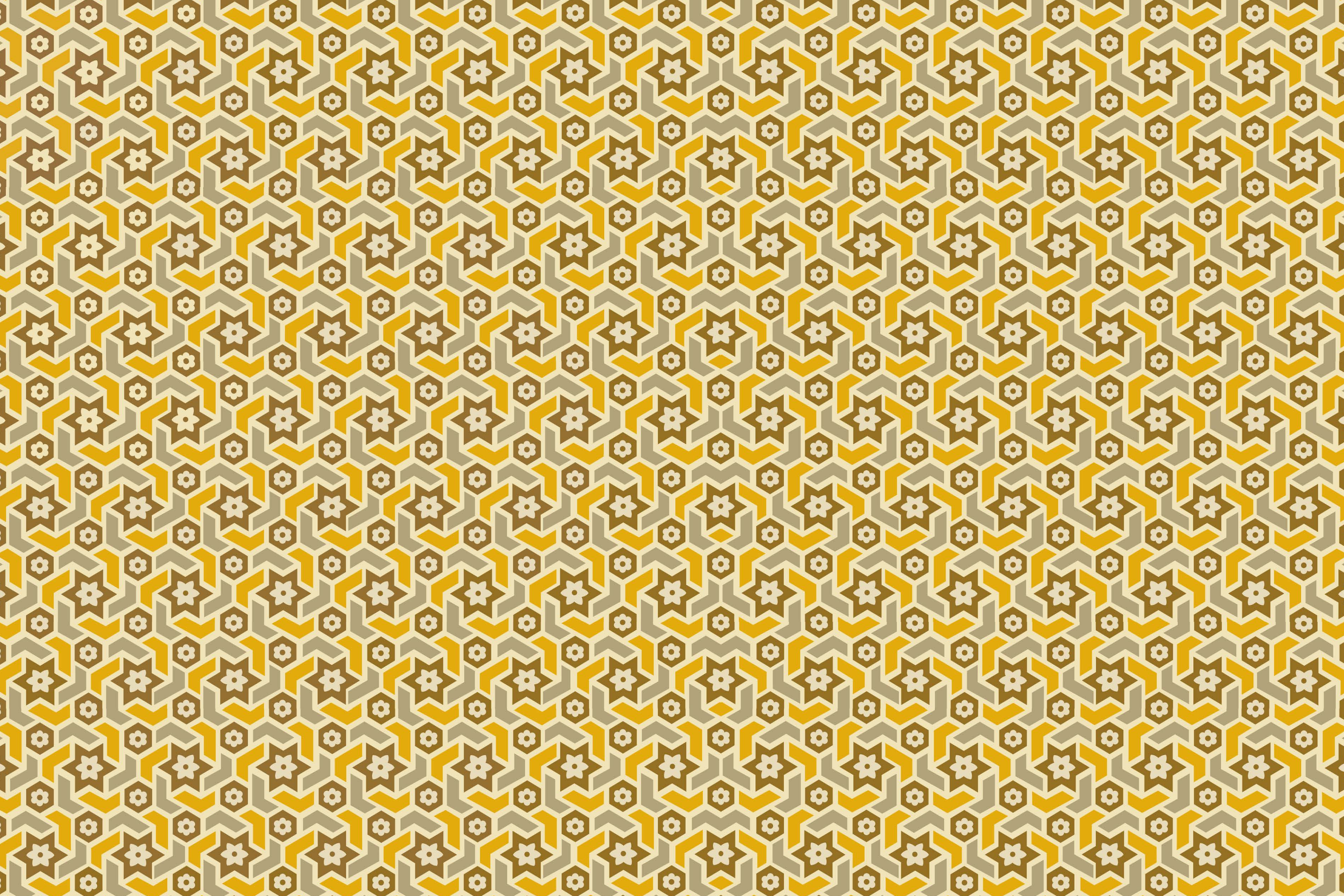
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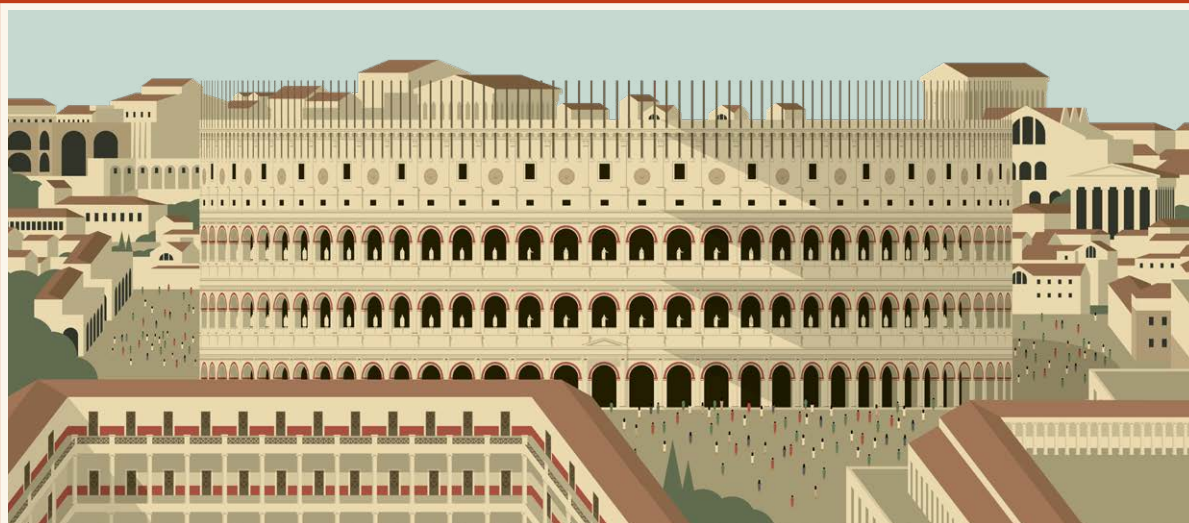
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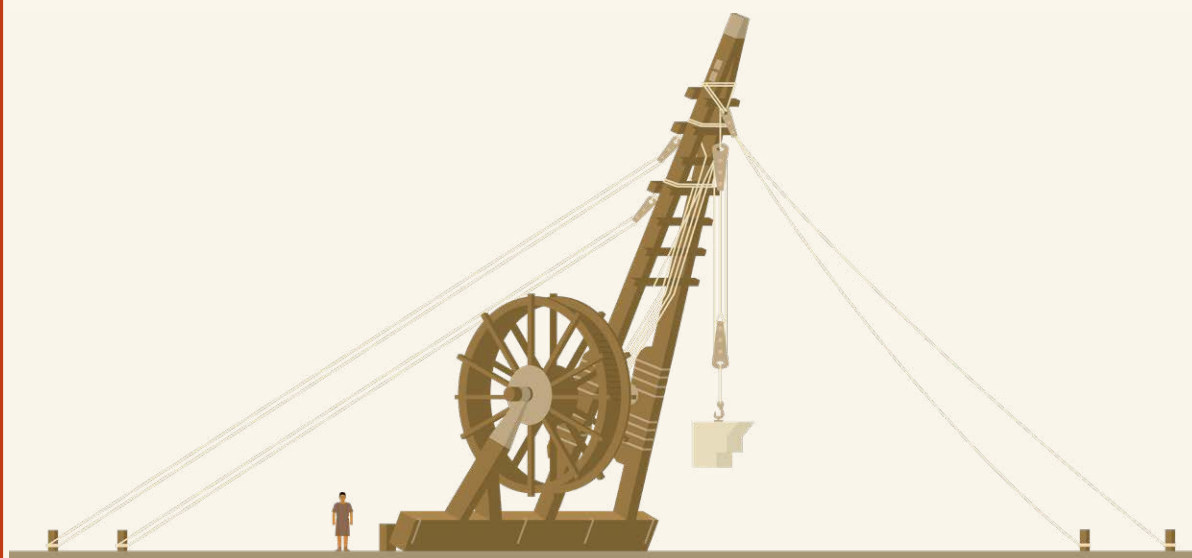






Illustrated by Jan Šrámek
Written by Jiří Bartůňek and Tom Velčovský

The list of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World has existed for many centuries, and the wonders of ancient architecture at that time were chosen by privileged scholars. The *New Seven Wonders of the World*, however, were selected by over 600 million people who voted for the structures from 2000 to 2007. The Great Wall of China, Petra of Jordan, the Roman Colosseum, the Indian Taj Mahal, the Central American Chichén Itzá, and the South American Machu Picchu and Statue of Christ the Redeemer—these structures are a unique cross-section of world architecture. They offer a unique opportunity to compare the approaches, as well as the cultures, of different global historical periods. Come travel with us across the globe and back through history. Let's peek behind the curtains of the architectural monuments that have helped shape the world we live in today.



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