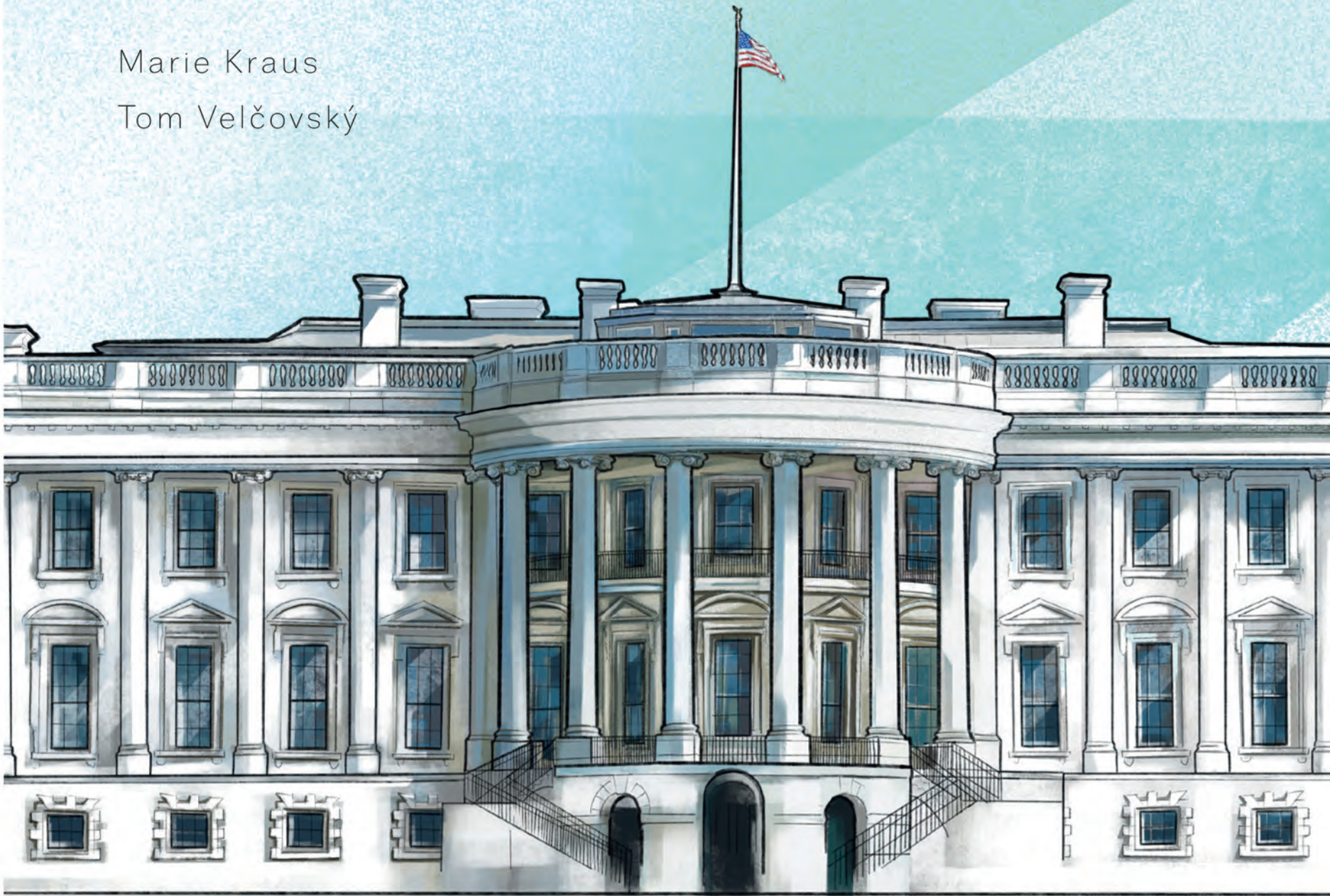


Marie Kraus  
Tom Velčovský

Marie Kraus | Tom Velčovský

From Pyramids to Palaces: Architecture around the World



# From PYRAMIDS to PALACES:

Architecture around the World



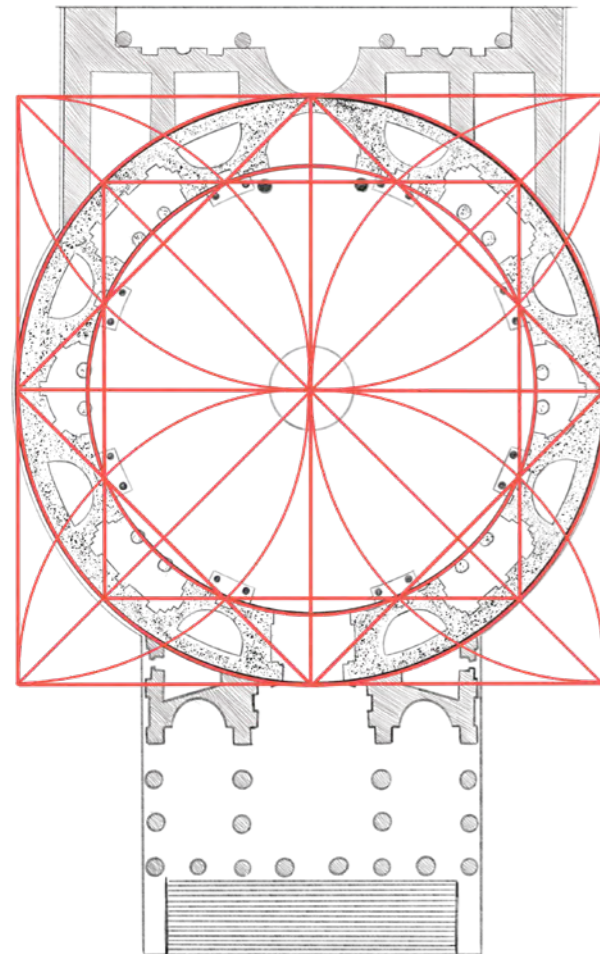
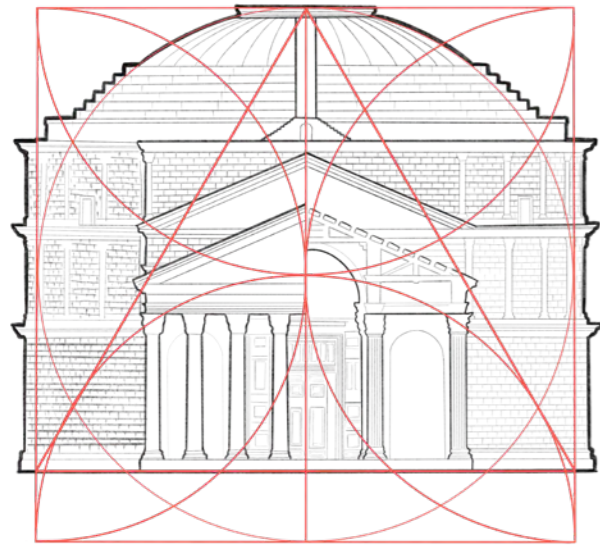
Albatros



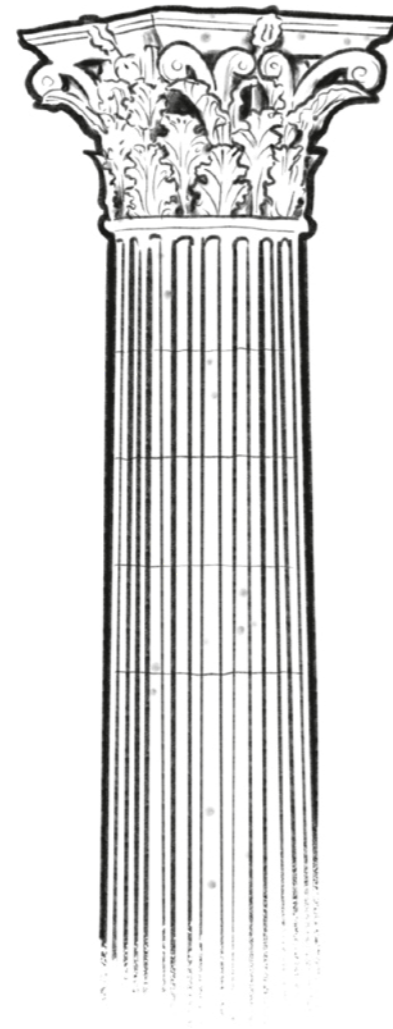
# The Pantheon

The Pantheon in Rome is a prime example of Classical architecture. This landmark of the Italian capital has been replicated around the world. Known as the “Temple of All Gods,” this iconic building has inspired many state buildings around the world. If you travel to Vienna, the former capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, you will see the lasting influence of Classical architecture. Despite being nearly 2,000 years old, this remarkable structure is still in great condition. Though it is now a place of prayer devoted to one Christian god, the Pantheon, in ancient times, was a place of worship for many gods.

↓ Deep in the interior of the Pantheon, columns with Corinthian capitals stand tall. The façade of the building is adorned with columns without fluting but with the same type of capitals.



← Symmetry refers to the use of identically repeated shapes. Except for the façade, the original temple was completely destroyed.



↓ To this day, the dome of the building remains the largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world.

**WHERE:** Rome, Italy  
**WHEN:** 2nd century CE

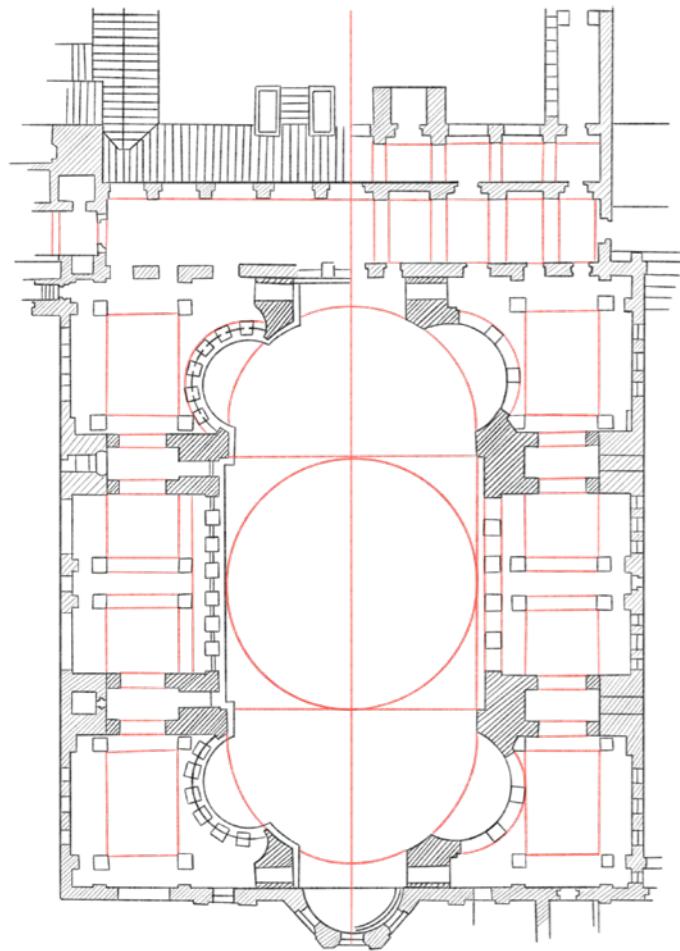


↑ The inscription on the lower edge of the pediment is the signature of Marcus Agrippa, the consul and Roman general who commissioned the construction of the original temple (and paid for it). Of the original building, all that remains is the front part – that is, the façade, the columns, and the entrance. The rest of the Pantheon building is from the 2nd century CE.

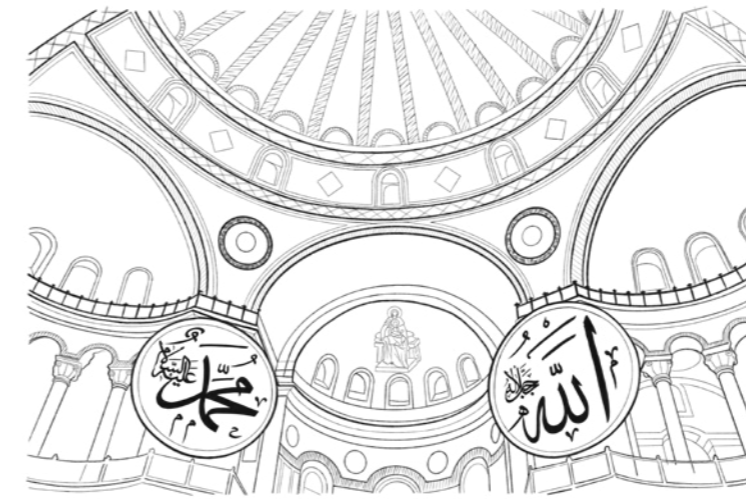
# Hagia Sophia

**WHERE:** Constantinople, Turkey  
(modern-day Istanbul)

**WHEN:** 6th century CE



← The original building had a square floor plan. Later, it was extended.



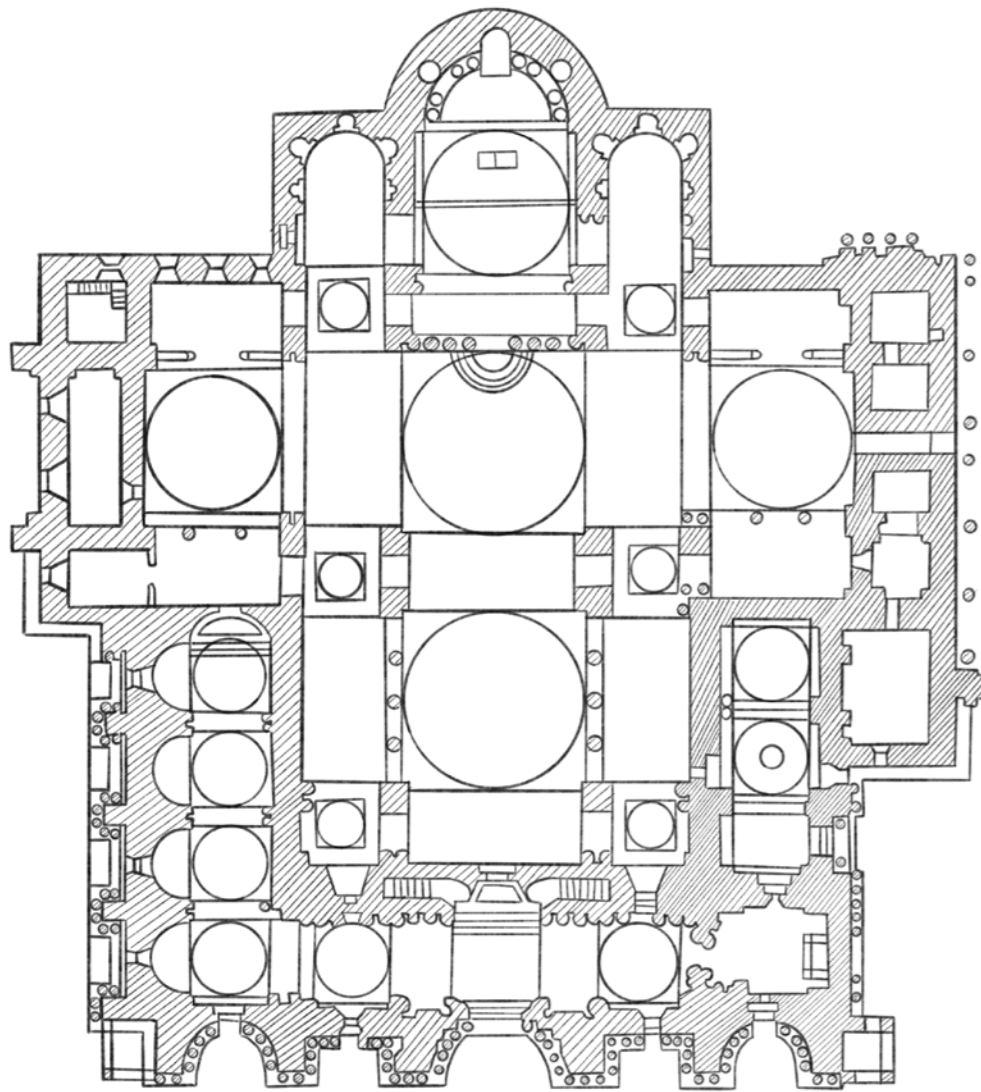
← Unlike Christian art, in which iconic imagery is prominent, Islamic art does not depict holy figures such as saints. Even so, Hagia Sophia is one of the most unique blends of cultural influences in architecture.

← The beautifully decorated dome is not supported by any masonry, just four columns, which give it the impression that it is hanging in the air.

Each building in this book has its own story, and the appearance of each building has changed over time, in the same way that the world around it has changed. However, the story of Hagia Sophia and the transformations it has been through are truly unique. For over a thousand years, this magnificent building was the largest cathedral, and even the largest closed structure, in the world. It was the symbol of the Byzantine Empire and remains the symbol of Istanbul (formerly known as Constantinople), the capital of modern-day Turkey.

It was originally a Christian cathedral built on the site of two churches at the instigation of Emperor Justinian. However, its appearance soon changed because of a devastating earthquake that temporarily deprived it of its dome. To prevent further damage to the dome, the architects had some of the windows walled up, making the interior much darker than it had been before. However, a fundamental change came with the Ottoman conquest of the Byzantine Empire in the 15th century, after which Hagia Sophia was transformed into a mosque, with the addition of minarets. The present-day result is a unique mix of cultures, where Christian wall paintings decorate the same space as Islamic ornamental decoration.





↓ A three-nave basilica with a pair of side pilasters that emphasize the gabled façade.

↑ Floor plan in the shape of an isosceles Greek cross.

## Basilica of Saint Mark

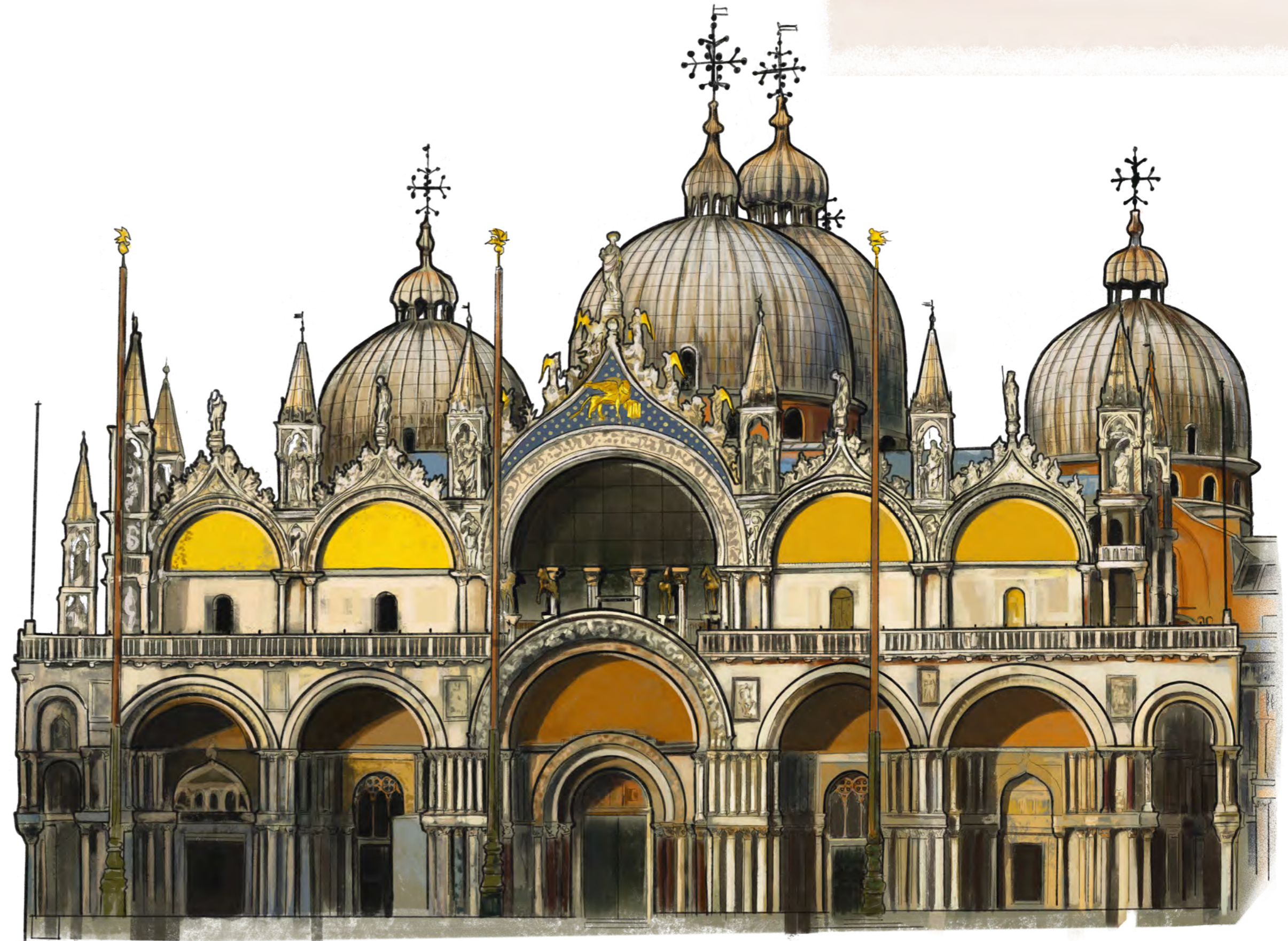
**WHERE:** Venice, Italy

**WHEN:** 9th century CE

This is probably the best-preserved example of Byzantine architecture and one of the most important monuments in Venice.

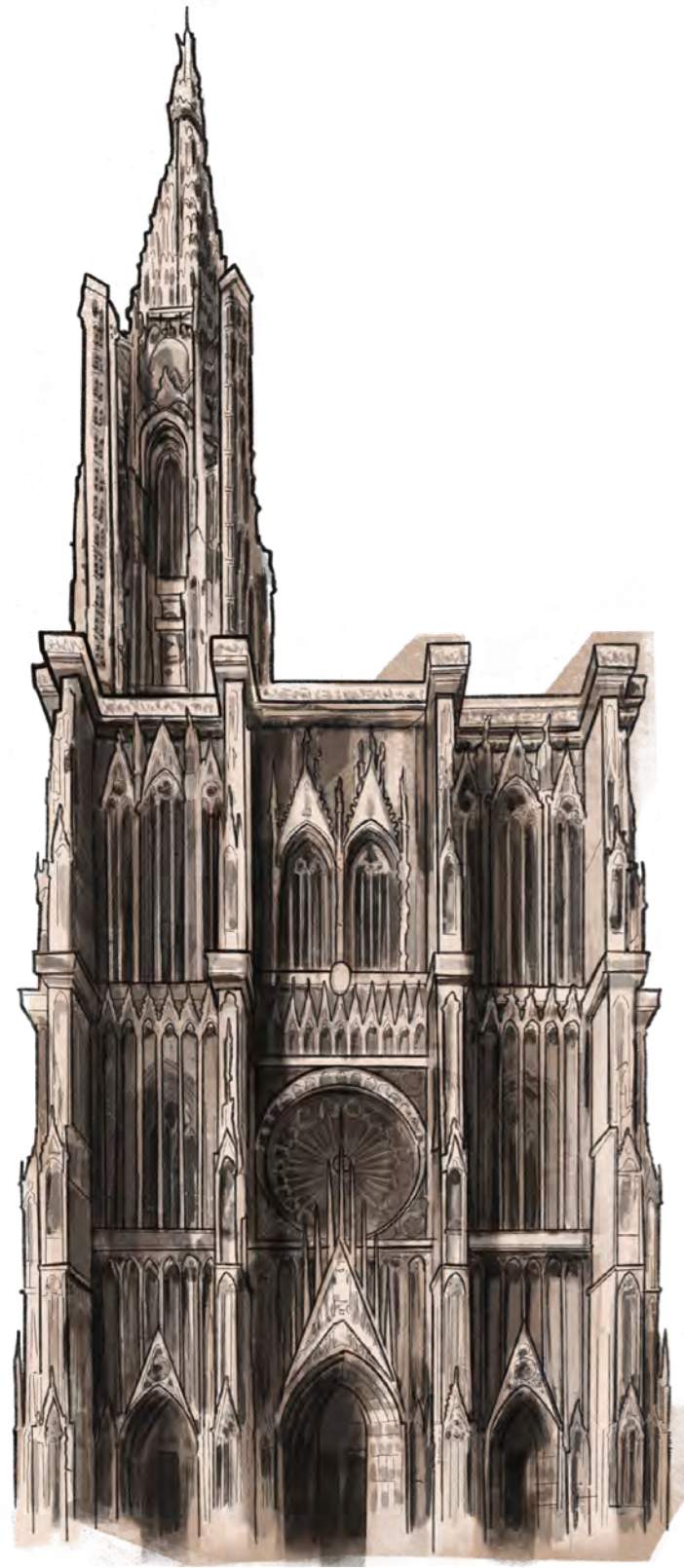
## The Byzantine Empire

The term "Byzantine Empire" is relatively modern – it was coined in the 19th century. After the Roman Empire separated into eastern and western parts in 395, the eastern Byzantine Empire continued to exist until 1453. The traditions of Rome continued uninterrupted, with the construction of basilicas featuring domes or semi-domes.



### Byzantine architecture

Spreading eastward, the tradition of Roman architecture influenced Eastern European and Arab builders. To a certain extent, the Byzantine style – characterized by thick walls, round arches, and sturdy pillars – shaped the later Romanesque style.



### The Cathedral of Our Lady of Strasbourg

**WHERE:** Strasbourg, France

**WHEN:** 11th – 15th century CE

Although the building resembles Romanesque style, it is an example of High Gothic style, especially considering it was not completed until the 15th century CE.

### Stained-glass windows

By the end of the 12th century CE, vibrant stained-glass windows had become a staple of Gothic architecture, and today they are considered one of its primary features. Not only did they bring a mystical glow to cathedrals, but they also served a practical purpose. Craftsmen at the time were unable to fit a single pane of glass into the large window expanses, so instead they used smaller pieces – and made them colorful. However, these windows are not exclusive to the Gothic era, as their roots can be traced back to Ancient Rome. In fact, colorful stained-glass windows were a common feature of Roman baths from the 1st century BCE to the 5th century CE.

### Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**WHERE:** Pondichery, India

**WHEN:** 20th century CE

An Eastern building in Gothic style featuring stained-glass windows with scenes from the life of Jesus and the saints.



### York Minster

**WHERE:** York, United Kingdom

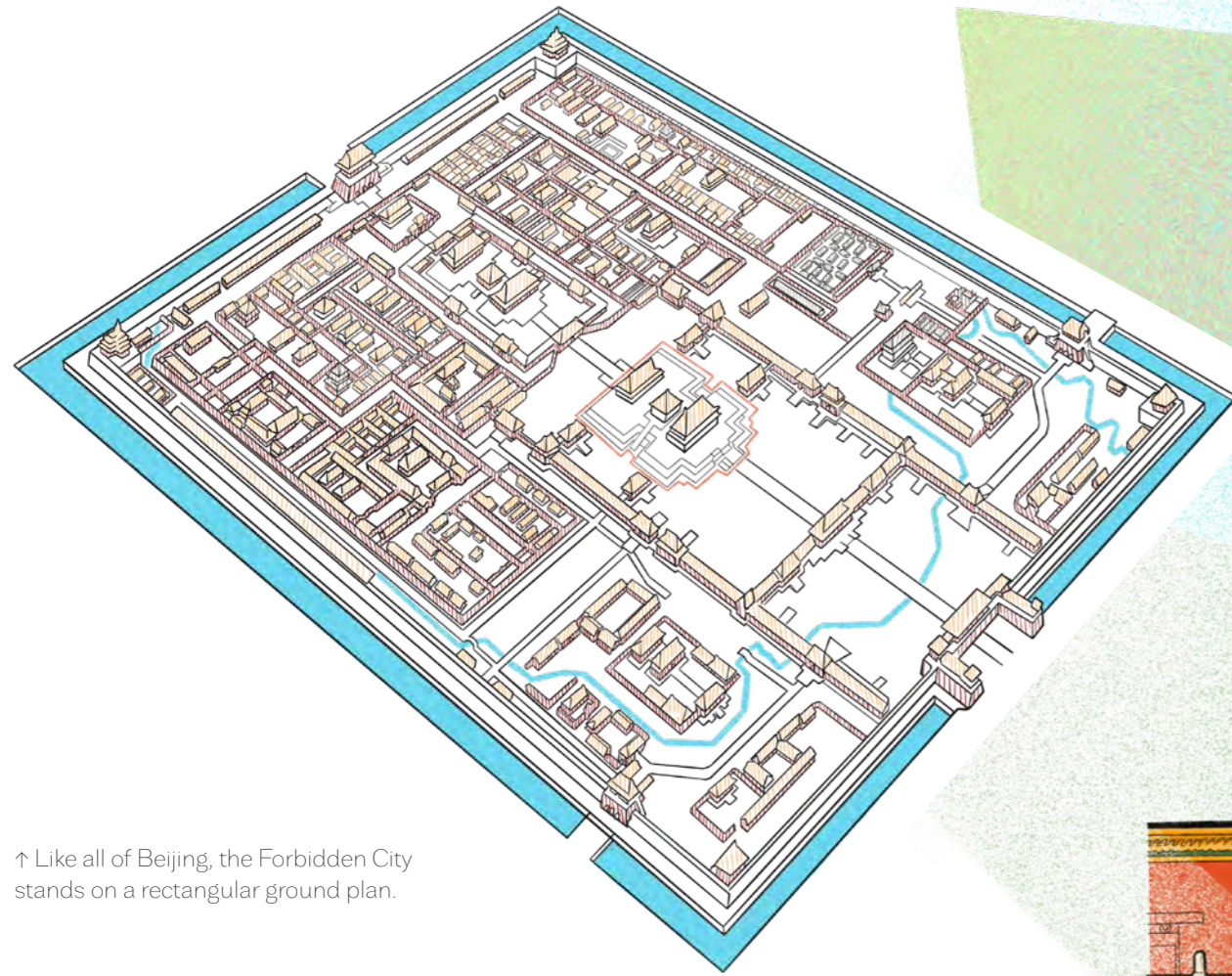
**WHEN:** 13th – 15th century CE

As an example of English Gothic, this cathedral boasts the largest stained-glass window in the world.

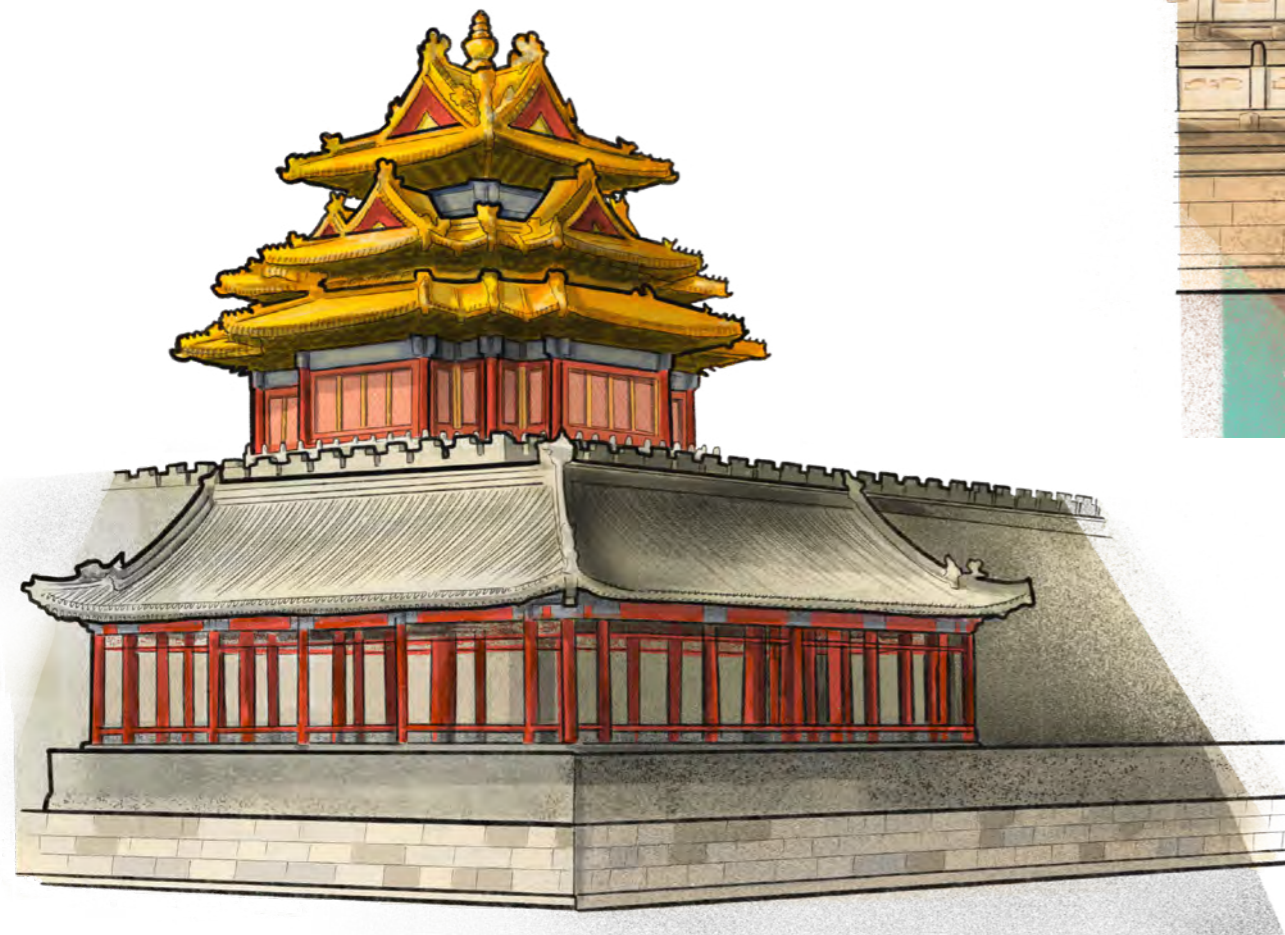
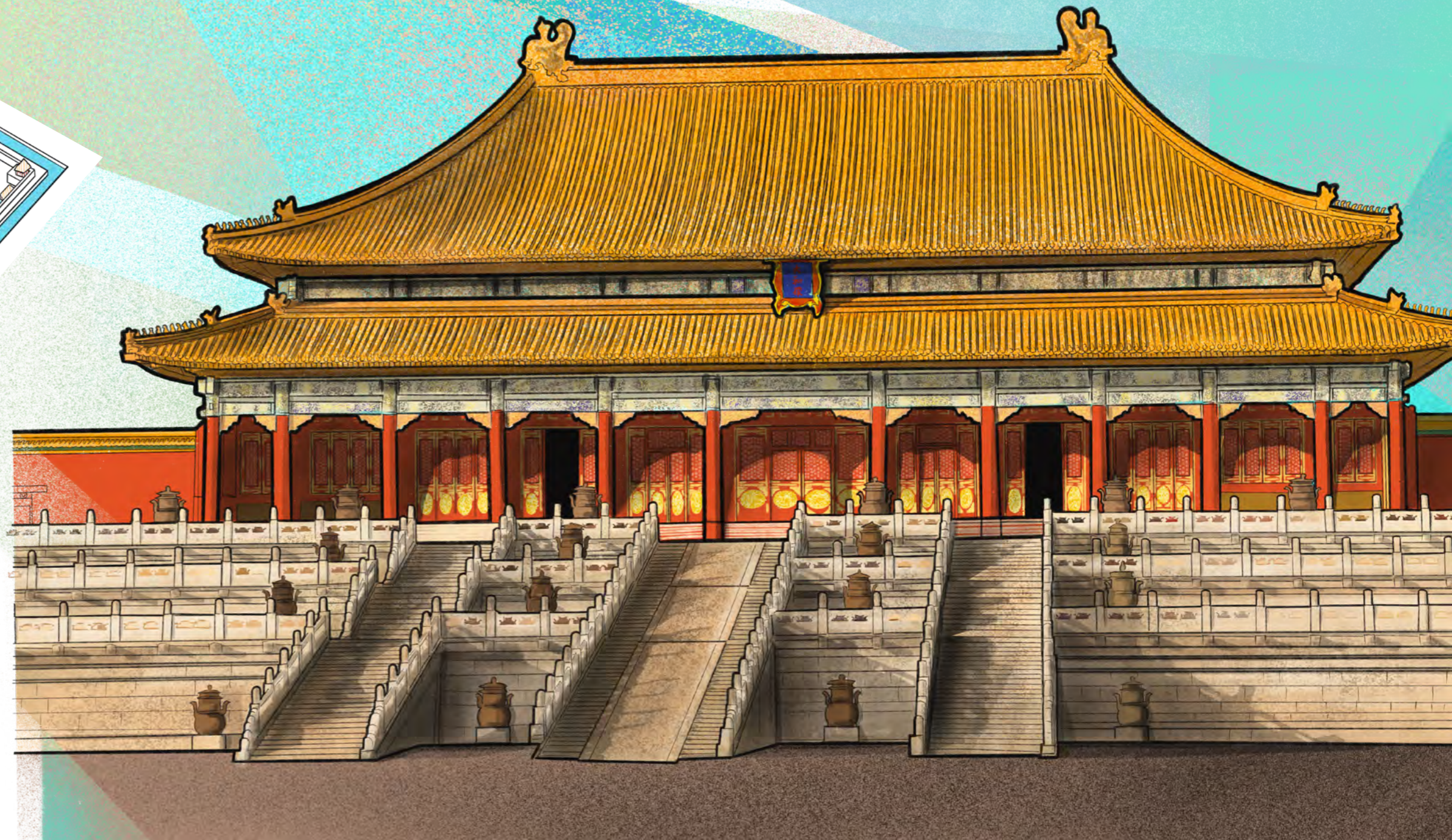


# The Forbidden City

WHERE: Beijing, China  
WHEN: 15th century CE



↑ Like all of Beijing, the Forbidden City stands on a rectangular ground plan.



← The northeast tower of the complex rising above the moat.

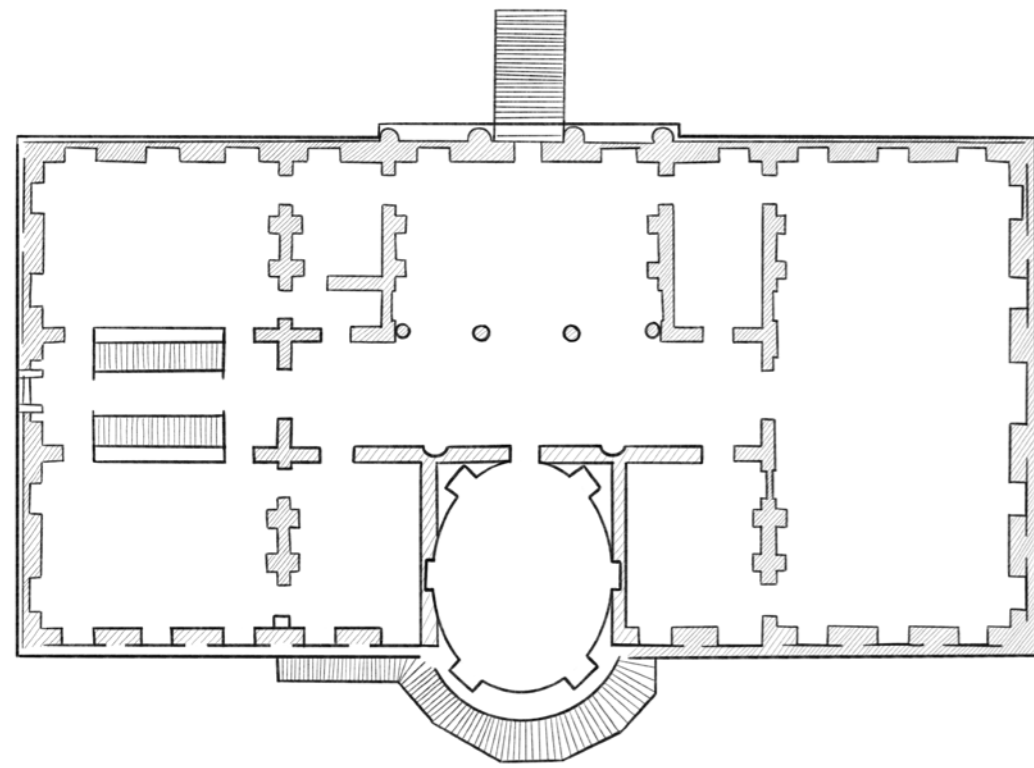
↑ The Hall of Supreme Harmony is one of the three main halls used for ceremonies. Three levels of marble surrounded by bronze incense burners form the base of one of China's largest wooden structures.

This palace complex in the center of Beijing, the capital of China, is top-notch in many ways. It is the biggest complex of wooden buildings in the world and the world's most valuable palace and piece of real estate. Some even claim that it's the biggest palace in China, which is untrue, as there are palaces in China that are eight times larger. However, none can match the importance and grandeur of this building, which served as the imperial palace and winter residence of emperors for 500 years. The complex consists of 980 buildings and 8,886 rooms, covering an area of 180 acres. It is a classic example of Chinese palace architecture, whose influence can be seen throughout East Asia and elsewhere in the world.

# The White House

The White House – in the past known as the Presidential Mansion or President’s Palace – has been the home and headquarters of America’s presidents since the year 1800. George Washington chose the site for the building, but it was his successor John Adams who was the first to take office there. It was built in neoclassical and Palladian styles, which is based on the architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome. The presidential residence is a modern palace and a symbol of the United States, and you’ve no doubt heard news reports about opinions and statements issued by the White House. The Oval Office (the President’s Office) is located on the second floor. The White House has gone through many reconstructions and renovations, beginning with the War of 1812 fought between Britain and America, when it was burned down, and continuing into the 20th century during the Truman administration and also at the behest of former First Lady Jacquelin Kennedy.

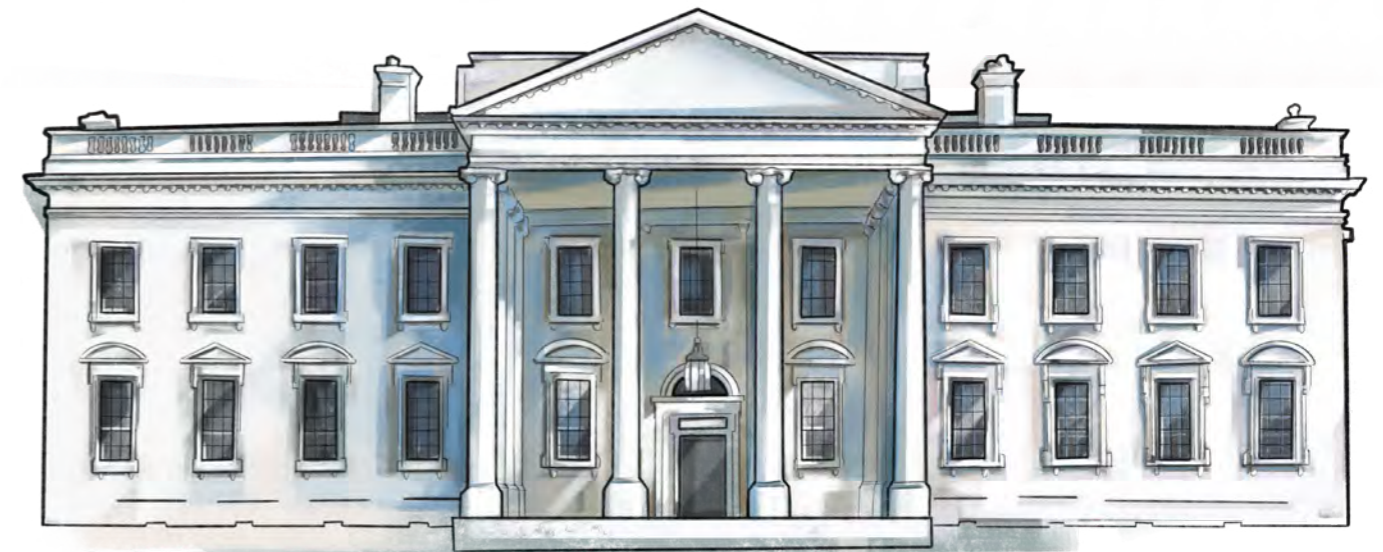
**WHERE:** Washington, D.C., USA  
**WHEN:** 18th century CE



↑ Original floor plan of the first floor by architect James Hoban.

↑ Southern semi-circular façade with portico.

→ Northern façade with portico.

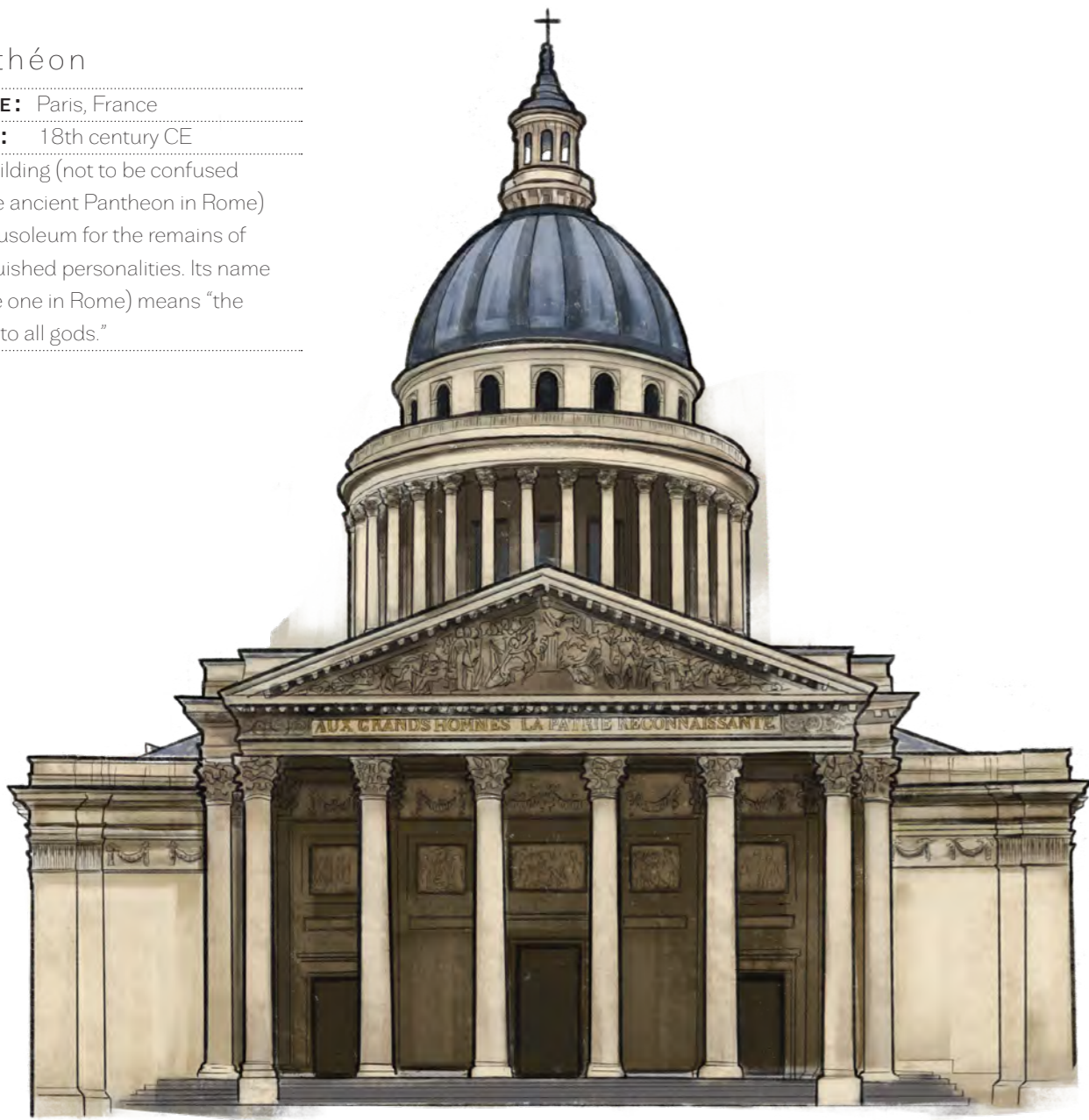


## Panthéon

**WHERE:** Paris, France

**WHEN:** 18th century CE

This building (not to be confused with the ancient Pantheon in Rome) is a mausoleum for the remains of distinguished personalities. Its name (like the one in Rome) means "the temple to all gods."

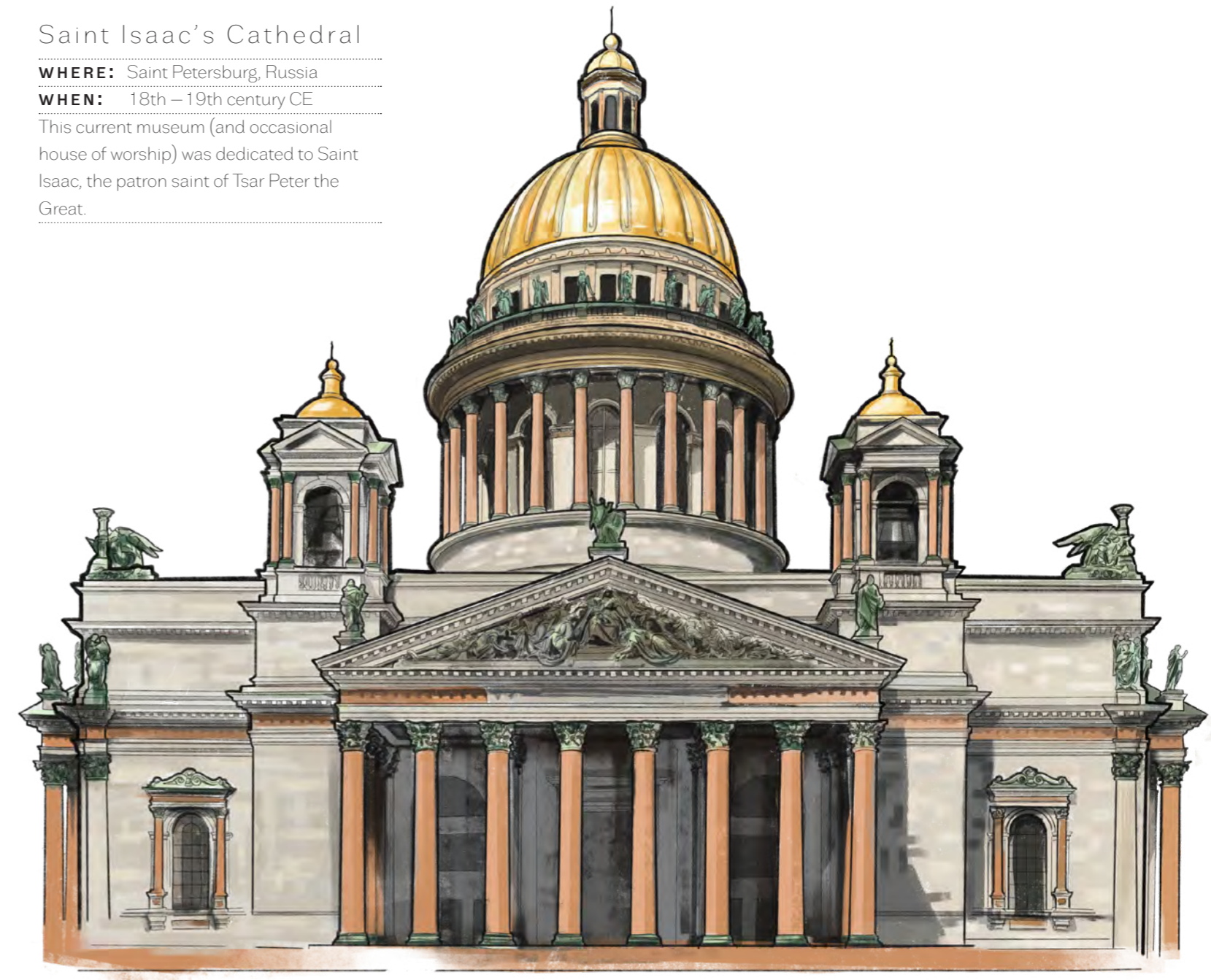


## Saint Isaac's Cathedral

**WHERE:** Saint Petersburg, Russia

**WHEN:** 18th – 19th century CE

This current museum (and occasional house of worship) was dedicated to Saint Isaac, the patron saint of Tsar Peter the Great.

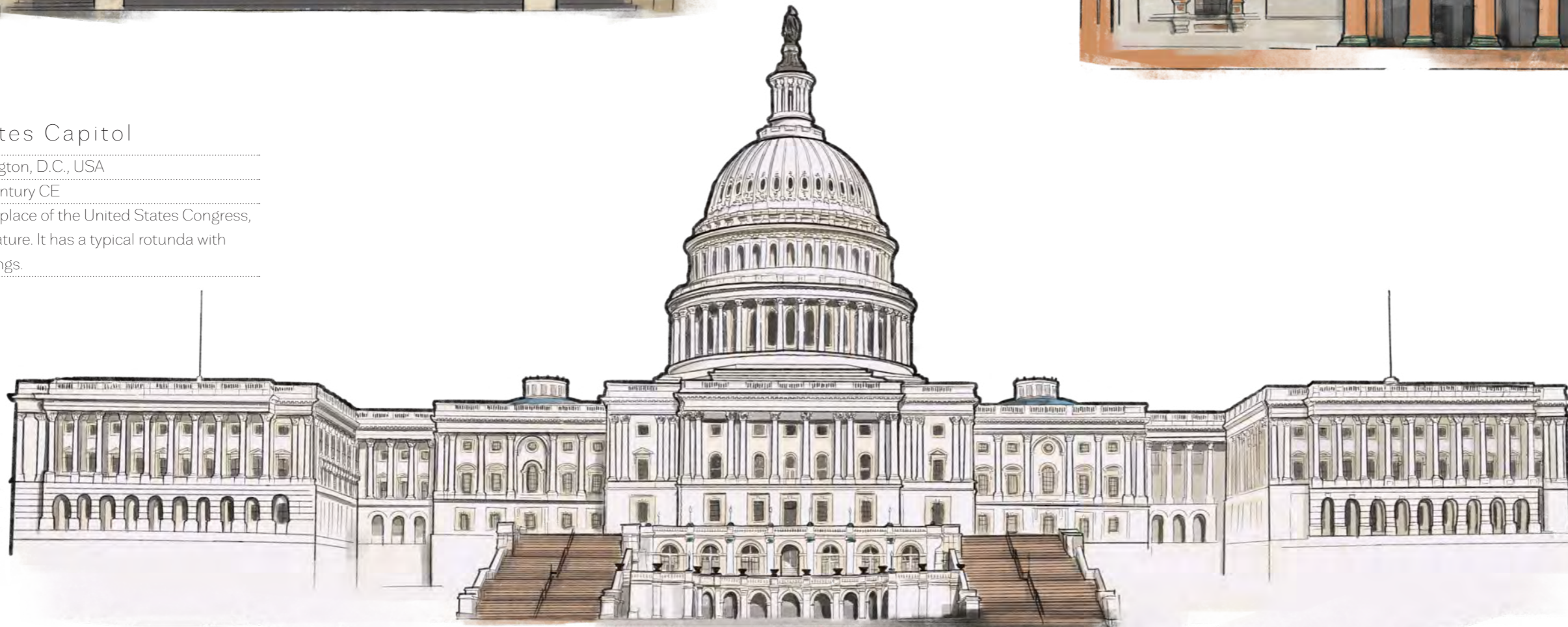


## United States Capitol

**WHERE:** Washington, D.C., USA

**WHEN:** 19th century CE

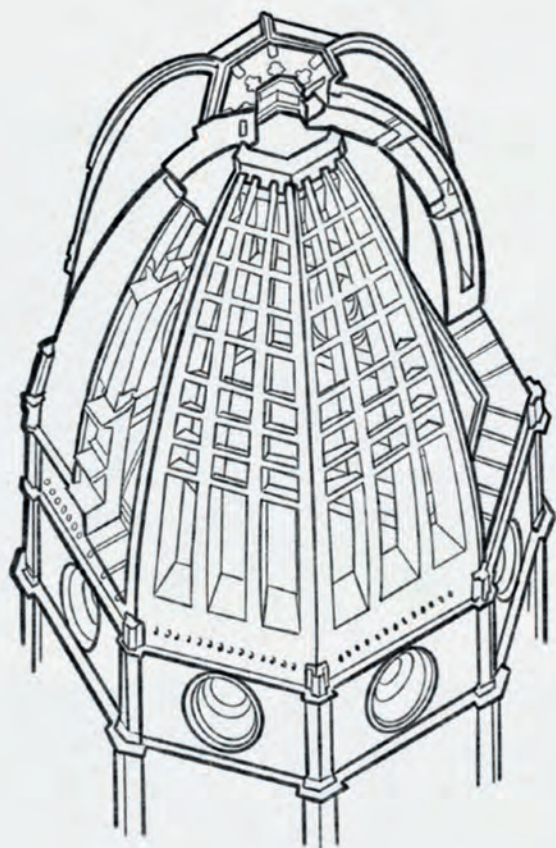
This is the meeting place of the United States Congress, the country's legislature. It has a typical rotunda with a dome and two wings.



### Classicism

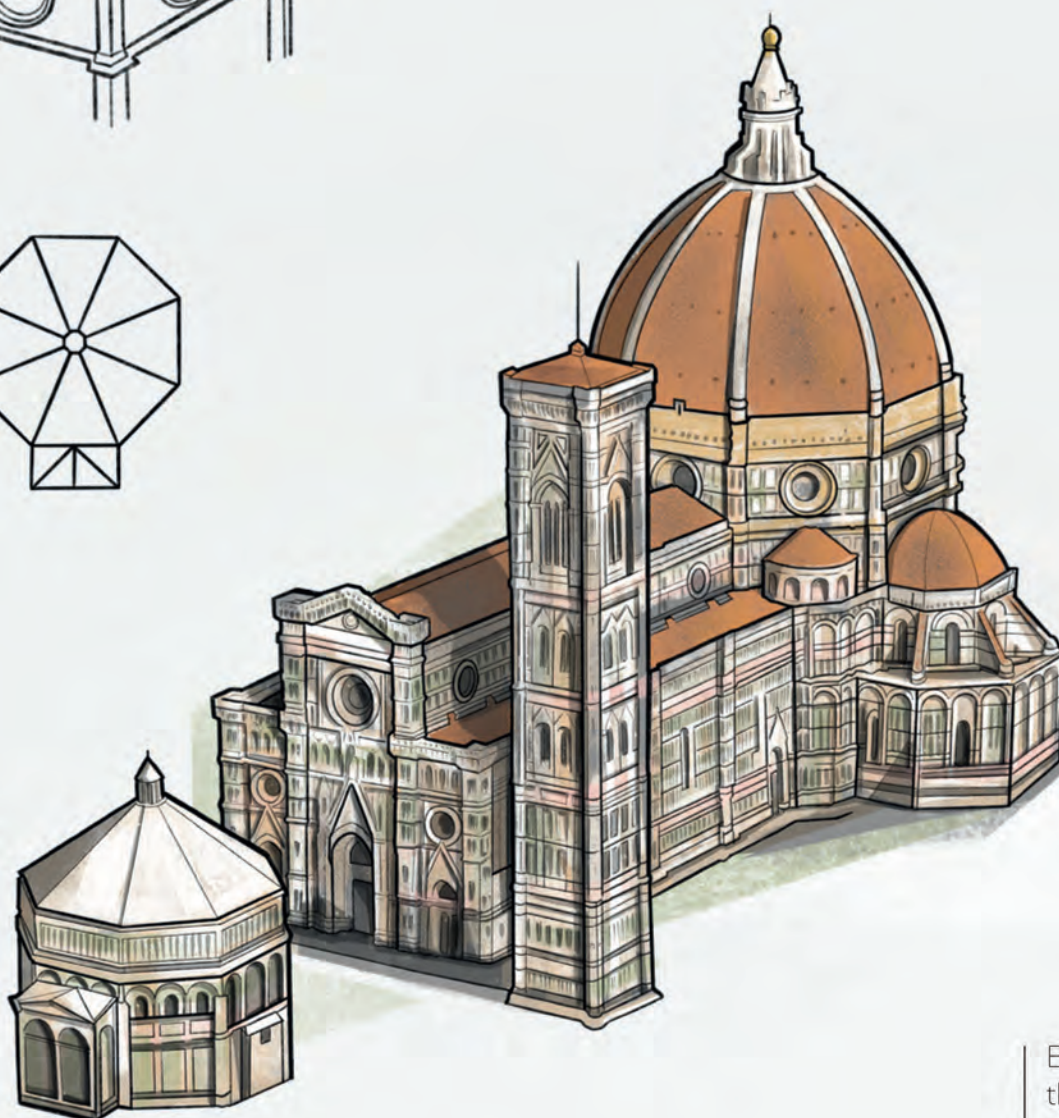
Characterized by balanced and orderly forms, symmetrical façades, and double rectangular windows, Classicism originated in the mid 17th century in France. Just like Renaissance style, with its columns and pilasters, Classicism takes inspiration from antiquity. The most typical buildings in Classicist style are usually banks, theaters, hospitals, and other public buildings. The Neoclassicist movement of the 19th century is an extension of Classicism.





## From the Pyramids to the White House

Have you ever looked closely at the buildings you pass each day? If not, stop and take a closer look around you. Some of these structures have been standing for generations, while others are relatively new. Each one is unique, though, with its own distinct features – its own clues. Using these clues, architects can tell the age of a building and the style of architecture it follows. It's like taking a trip back in time. Would you, too, like to learn how to read the architecture of buildings? If so, you've come to the right place. This book features some of the world's most iconic historical buildings. Here, you'll learn about how architecture has evolved over the centuries and about the magic held in each building.



Buildings from Antiquity,  
the Middle Ages, and  
the Early Modern Period.

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