

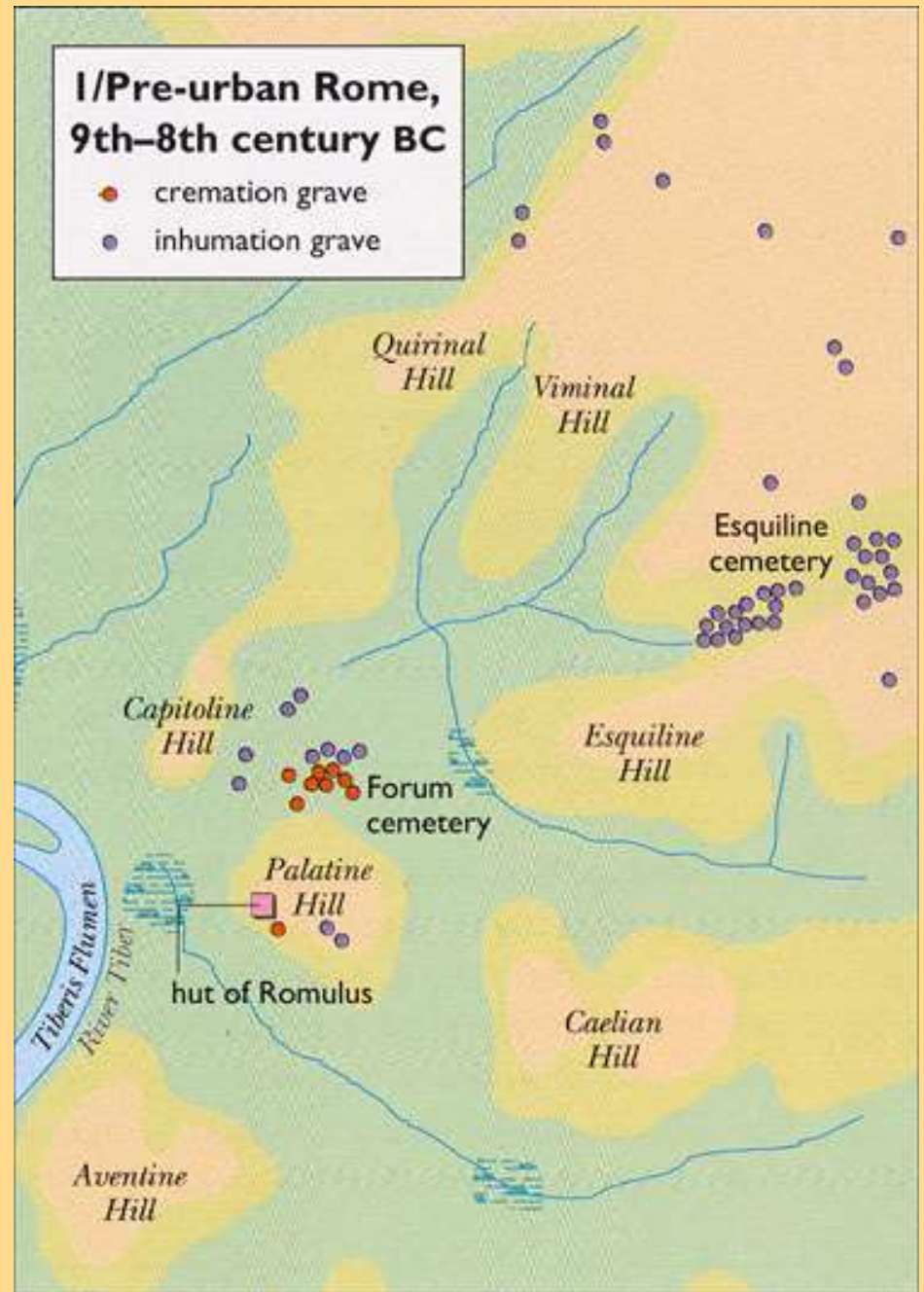
From Seven Hills to Three Continents:  
The Art of Ancient Rome

753 BCE – According to legend, Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus.

According to Virgil, Romulus and Remus were descendants of Aeneas, son of Aphrodite.



**Capitoline Wolf**, from Rome, Italy, ca. 500–480 BCE. Bronze, approx. 2' 7 1/2" high. Palazzo dei Conservatori, Rome.



The Great Empire: The Republic of Rome

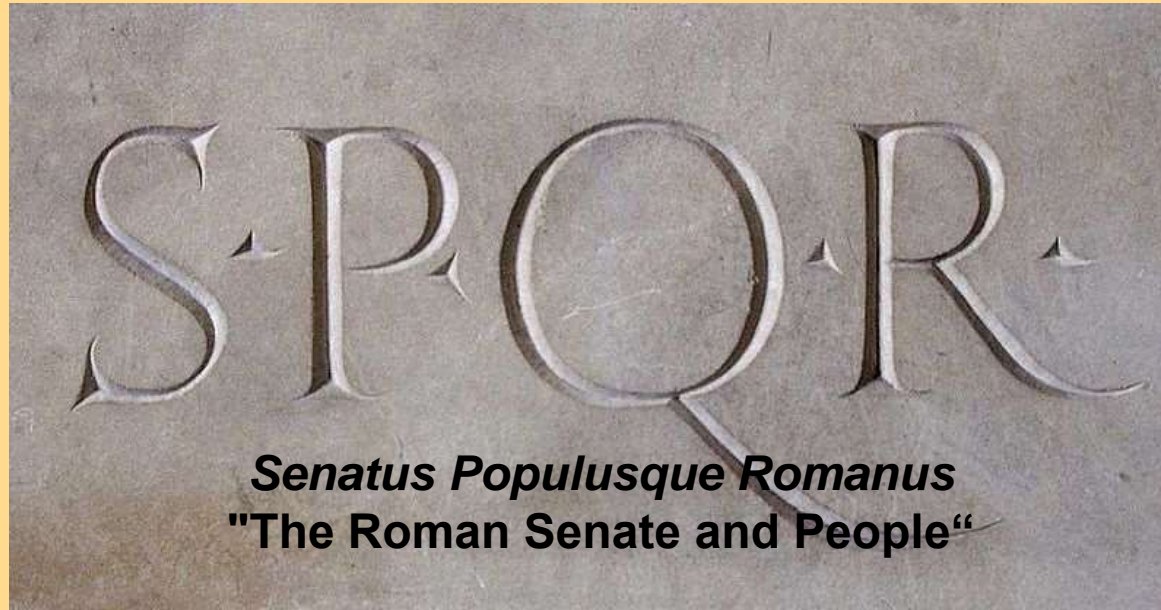
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvsbfoKgG-8>

# The Roman Republic (Late 6<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> c. BCE)

509 BC- Expulsion of the Etruscan Kings and establishment of the Roman Republic

27 BC – End of the Republic - Augustus Becomes the First Emperor of Rome

**This formula is referring to the government of the Roman Republic, and was used as an official signature of the government.**



The Roman constitution was a republic in the modern sense of the word, in that the supreme power rested with the people; and the right to take part in political life was given to all adult male citizens.

Although it was thus nominally a democracy in that all laws had to be approved by an assembly of citizens, the republic was in fact organized as an aristocracy or broad based oligarchy, governed by a fairly small group of about fifty noble families.

Sculpture

## Roman with Busts of Ancestors

1st c. BCE-1st c. CE

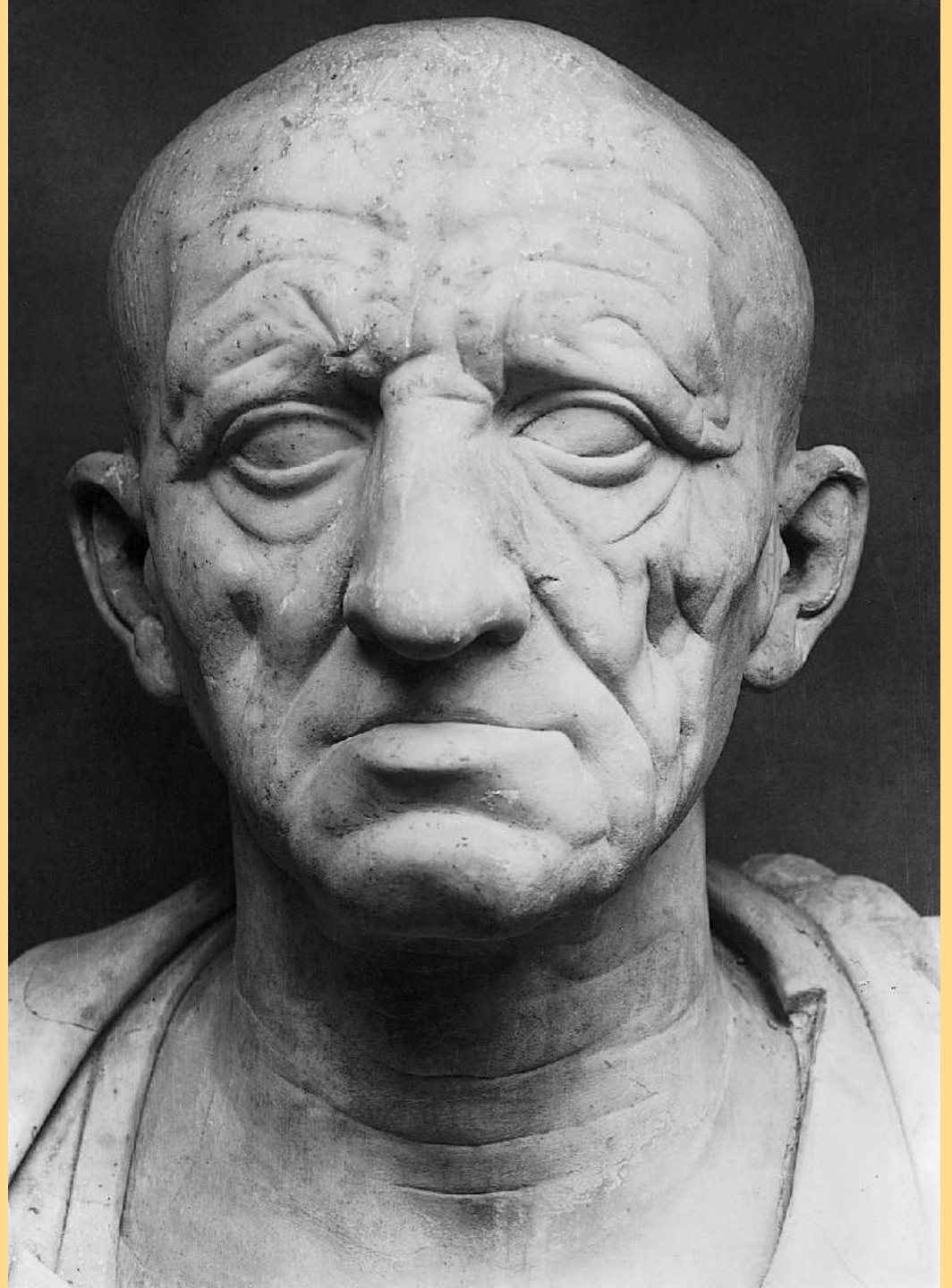
Roman Republican sculpture is noted for its patrician portraits employing a verism (extreme realism) derived from the patrician cult of ancestors and the practice of making likenesses of the deceased from wax death-masks.

**Toga:** A loose one-piece outer garment worn in public by male citizens in ancient Rome. Roman women and non-citizens were not allowed to wear one.



**Patrician:** a member of one of the noble families of the Roman Republic, which before the third century B.C. had exclusive rights to the Senate.

**Head of a Roman patrician,** from Otricoli, Italy, ca. 75–50 BCE. Marble, approx. 1' 2" high. Museo Torlonia, Rome.



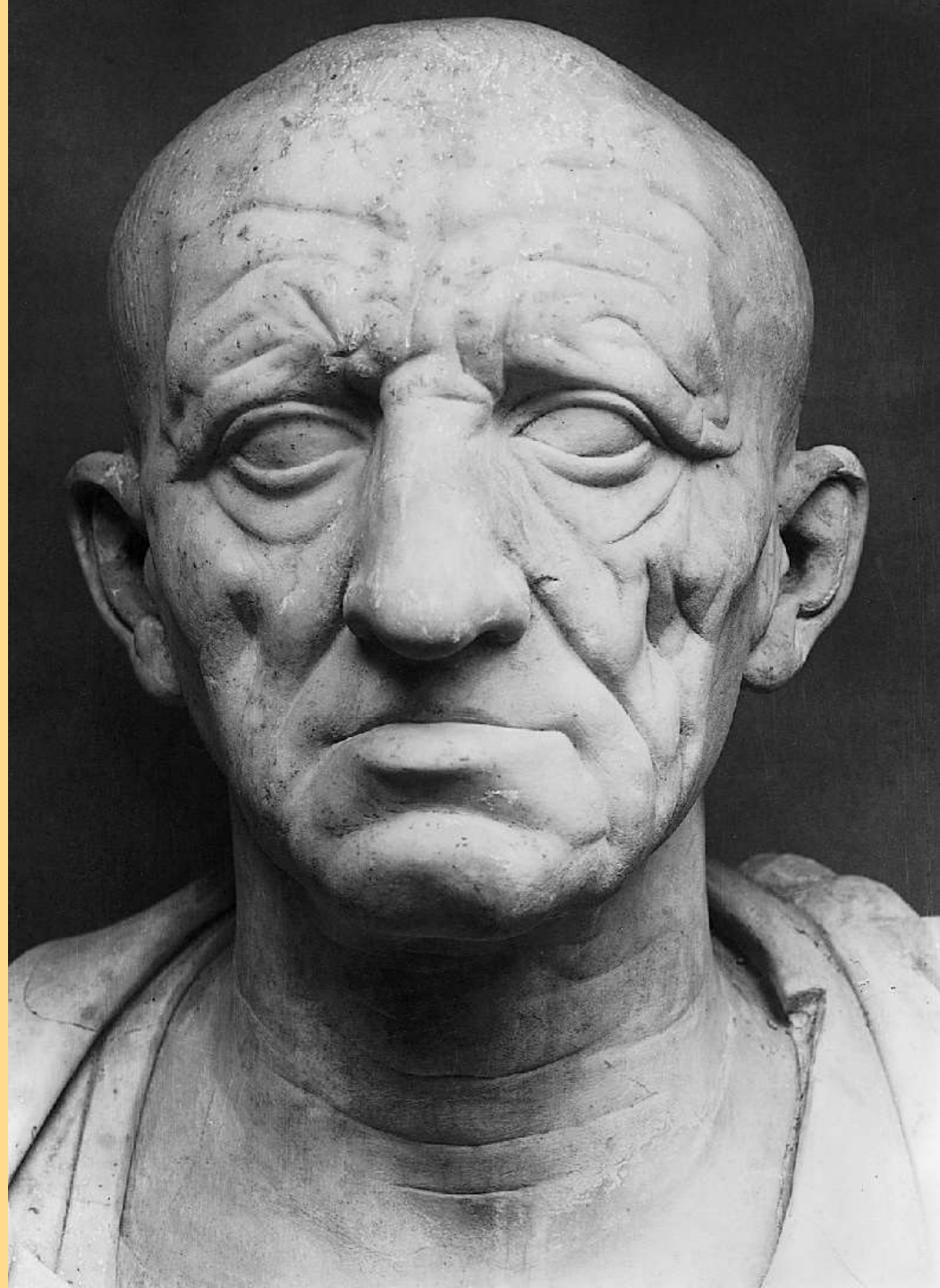


## **Mos maiorum: (Latin) “the custom of the forefathers”**

The Mos maiorum are traditions of ancestors, an unwritten constitution of laws and conduct in Rome. It institutionalized cultural traditions, societal mores, and general policies, as distinct from specific laws.

### **The six cornerstones of Mos Maiorum are:**

- fides - fidelity, loyalty, faith
- pietas - piety, devotion, patriotism, duty
- religio - religious scruple, reverence for higher power(s), strictness of observance, conscientiousness, precision of conduct
- disciplina - discipline, diligence
- constantia - firmness, steadiness
- gravitas - seriousness, dignity, authority



**Eclecticism:**

Art style in which features are borrowed from various styles.

Which two Greek styles are combined in this portrait?

**Portrait of a Roman general**, from the Sanctuary of Hercules, Tivoli, Italy, ca. 75-50 BCE. Marble, 6' 2" high. Museo Nazionale Romano-Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, Rome.

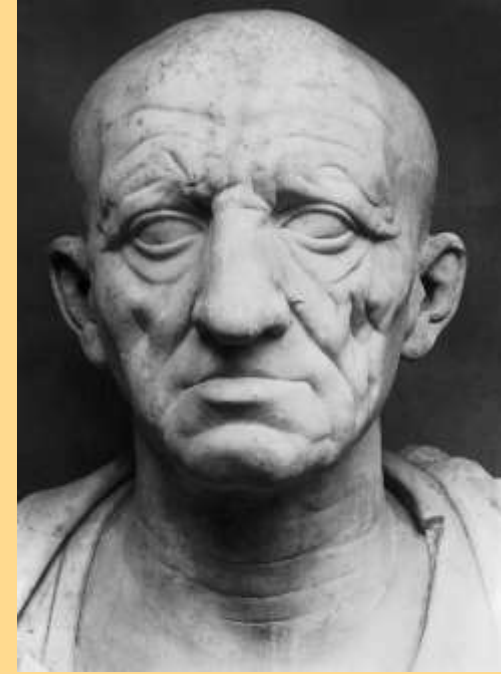




**Comparison (Greek, High Classical):**  
**Pericles. 5<sup>th</sup> c. BCE**



**Comparison (Hellenistic):**  
**Old market woman,**  
ca. 150–100 BCE. Marble



**Head of a Roman patrician, from Otricoli, Italy, ca. 75–50 BCE.**

**Italy at the end of the Republic had some two million slaves, or roughly one slave for every three citizens.**



**Funerary relief with portraits of the Gessii**

Italy, ca. 30 BCE. Marble, approx. 2' 1 1/2" high. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

# Architecture

**Temple of Portunus (god of harbors), Rome, Italy, ca. 75 BCE.**  
Stone (originally overlaid with white stucco in imitation of Greek marble)





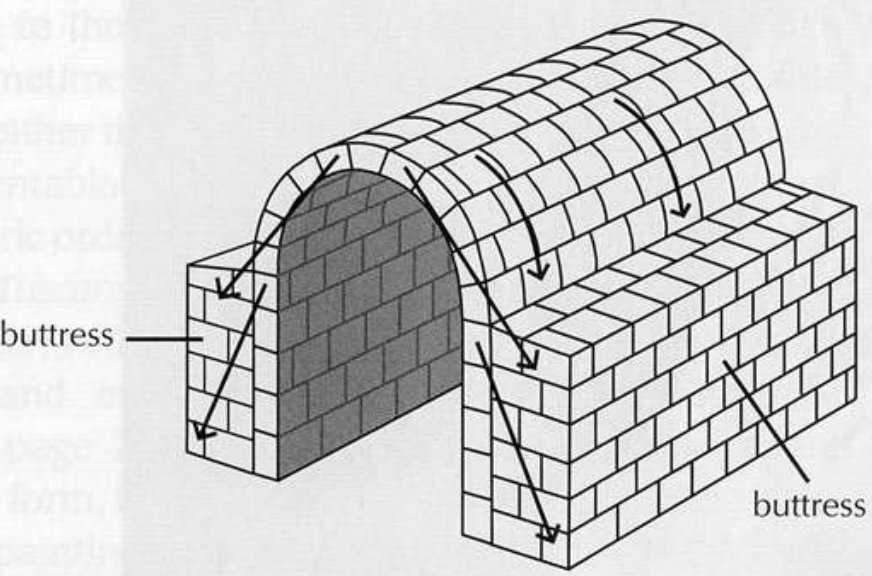
**Comparison:** Model of a typical Etruscan temple of the sixth century BCE



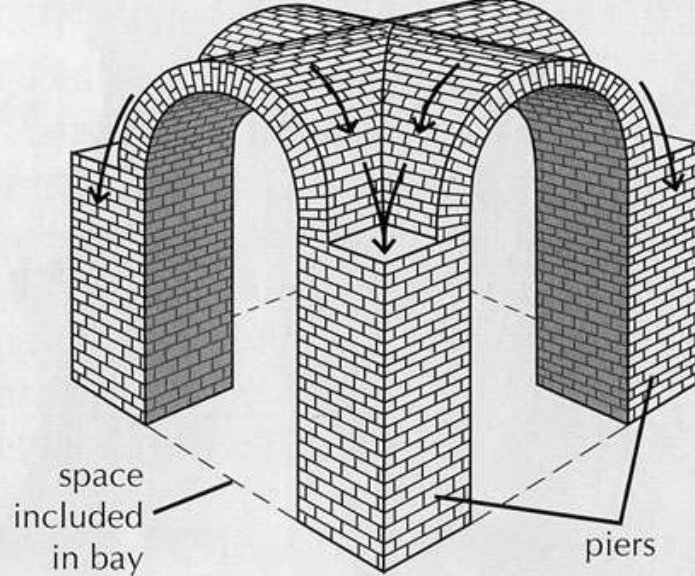
Comparison: IKTINOS and KALLIKRATES, **Parthenon**, the Temple of Athena Parthenos Acropolis, Athens, Greece, 447–438 BCE



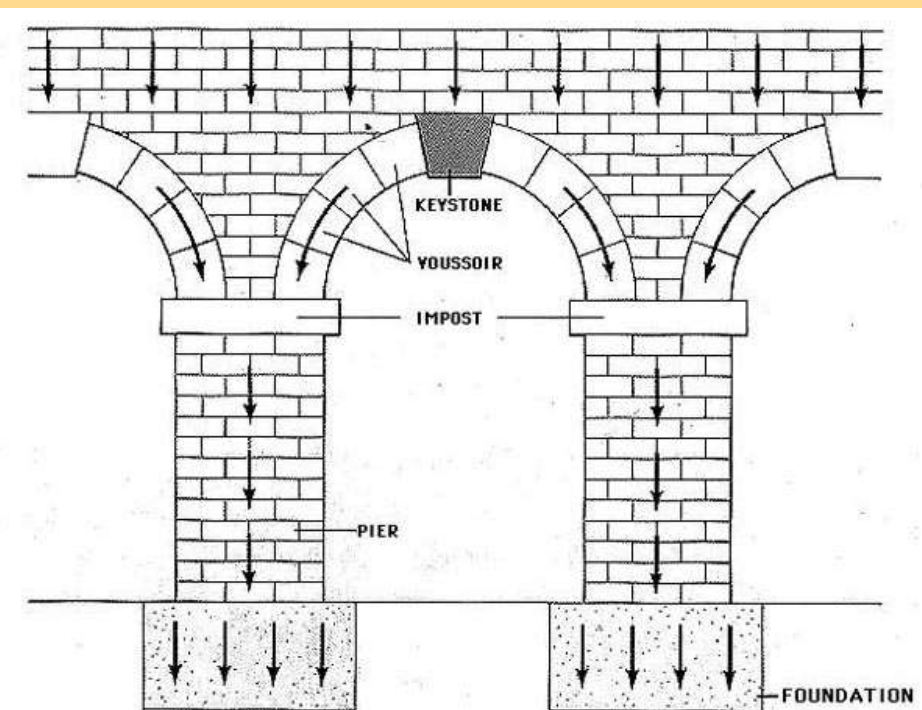
**Temple of Portunus**, Rome, Italy, ca. 75 BCE.  
Stone (originally overlaid with white stucco)



barrel vault



groin vault



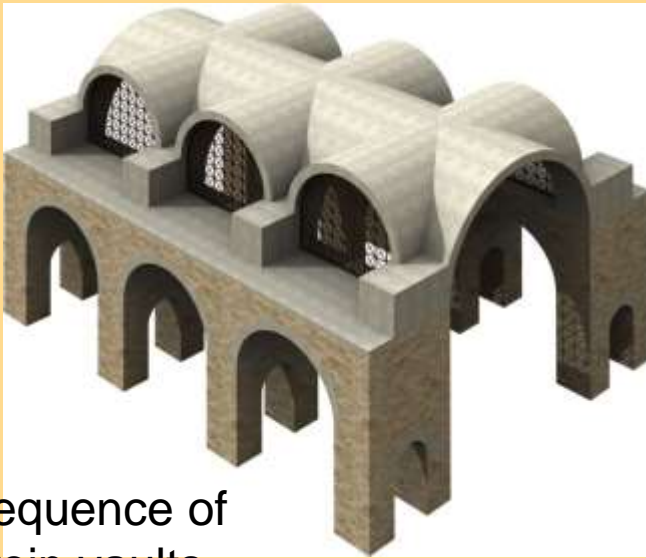
round arch



Barrel vault



Groin vault



Sequence of groin vaults



Hemispherical dome with oculus.

**Roman concrete construction**

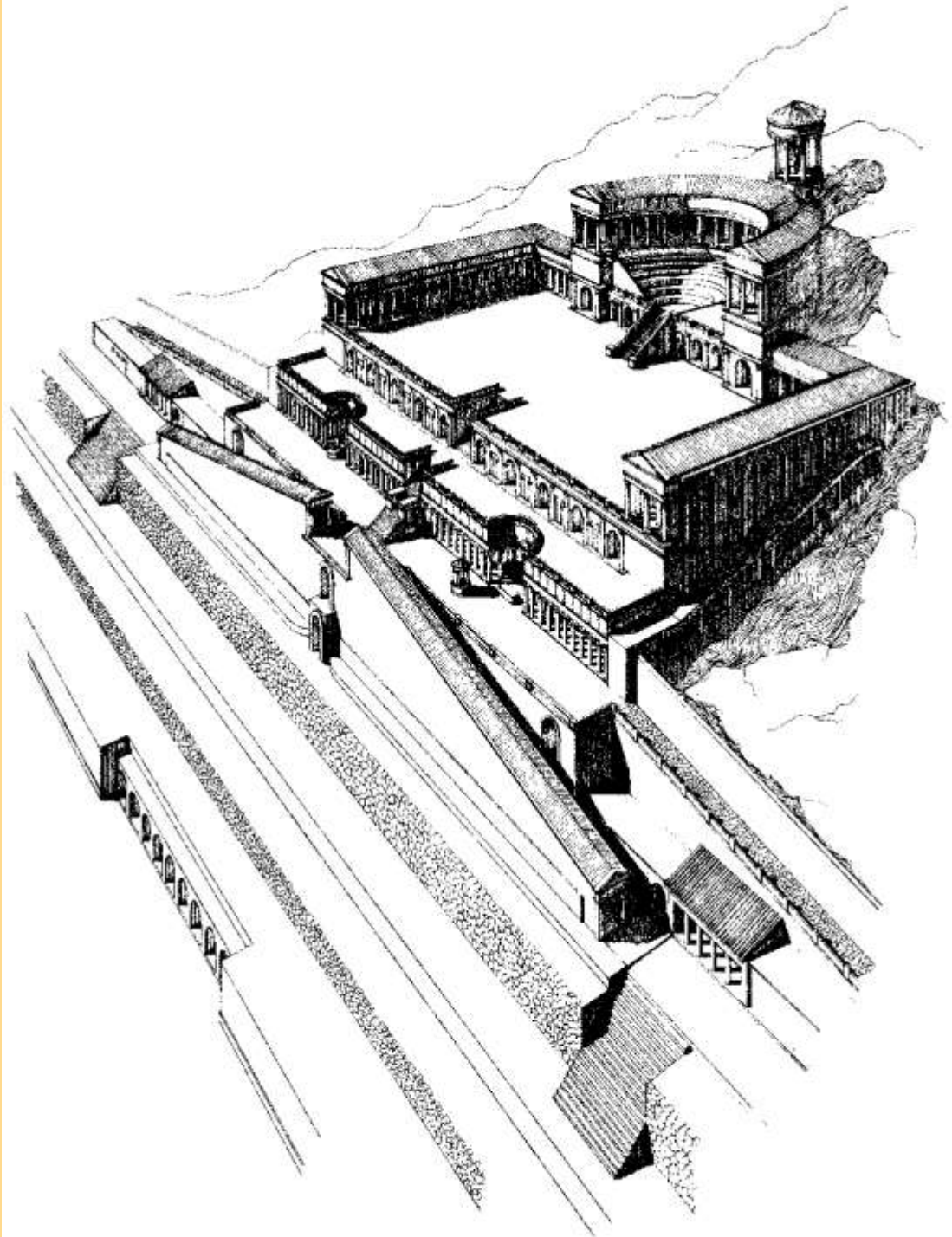


**Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia (goddess of good fortune), Palestrina, Italy, late second century BCE.**

Roman **concrete** was made from a changing recipe of lime mortar, volcanic sand (Pozzolana), water and small stones.

Builders placed the mixture in wooden frames and left it to dry. When the concrete hardened they removed the wooden frames.

Reconstruction drawing of the Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia, Palestrina, Italy, late second century BCE.





Restored view of the Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia, Palestrina, Italy, late second century BCE .

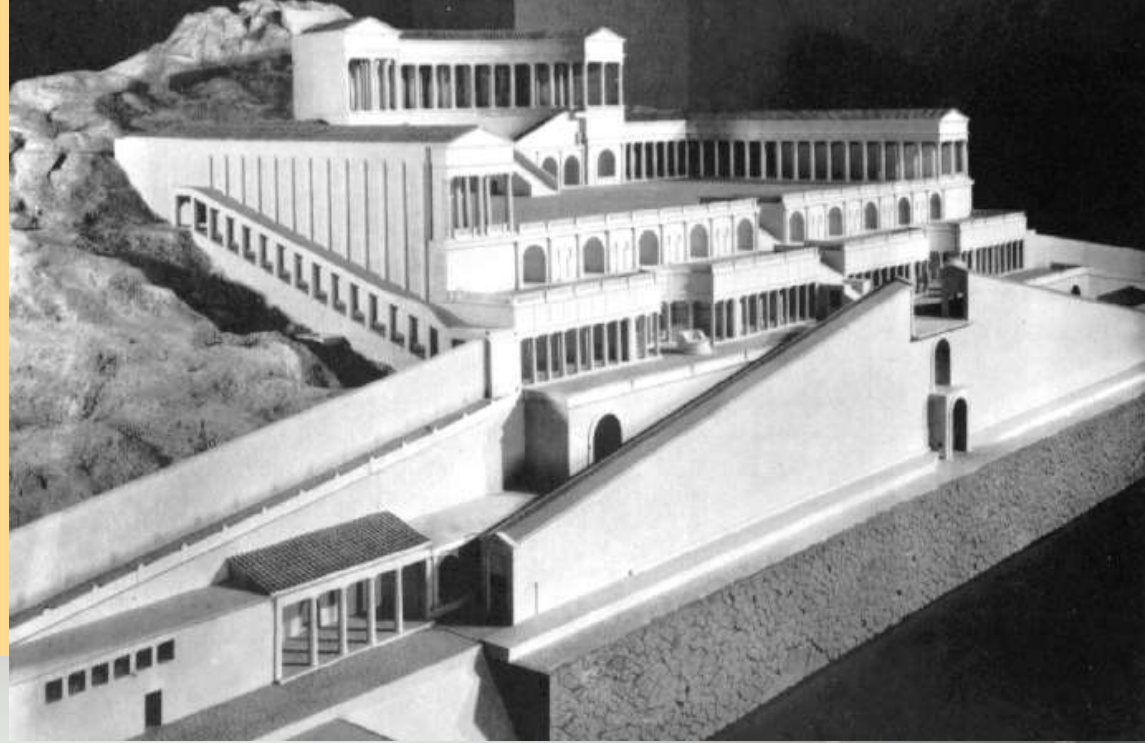


**Fortuna Holding Cornucopia (horn of plenty).** 3<sup>rd</sup> c. CE. Silver. From Chaourse, France  
London, British Museum.



Model of the Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia, Palestrina, Italy, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE.

Model of the Sanctuary of  
Fortuna Primigenia, Palestrina,  
Italy, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE.



**Comparison (Hellenistic period) Reconstructed west front of the Altar of Zeus from Pergamon. Turkey, ca. 175 BCE. Staatliche Museen, Berlin.**





**“Veni, vidi, vici”**

(I came, I saw, I conquered)

Caesar, 47 BCE

With the order that sent his legions across the Rubicon, Caesar began a civil war in 49 BCE from which he emerged as the unrivaled leader of the Roman world.

**Coin with portrait of  
Julius Caesar. 44 BCE.  
Silver. Diameter  $\frac{3}{4}$ ”**

44 BCE – A group of senators,  
led by Marcus Junius Brutus,  
assassinated Caesar



**Bust of Gaius Julius  
Caesar in the  
National  
Archaeological  
Museum of Naples**



# The Early Empire

(1<sup>st</sup> c. BCE – 1<sup>st</sup> c. CE)



**Model of the city of Rome. 4<sup>th</sup> c. CE.** Temple of Fortuna Virilis, 2) Circus Maximus. 3) Palatine Hill, 4) Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, 5) Pantheon, 6) Column of Trajan, 7) Forum of Trajan, 8) Market of Trajan, 9) Forum of Julius Ceasar, 10) Forum of Augustus, 11) Forum Romanum, 12) Basilica Nova, 13) Arch of Titus, 14) Temple of Venus and Roma, 15) Arch of Constantine, 16) Colossus of Nero, 17) Colosseum.



**Model of an insula, (pl. insulae) Ostia, Italy, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. CE. Originally: Brick faced concrete Museo della Civiltà Romana, Rome.**



Model of an insula, Ostia, Italy, second century CE. Museo della Civiltà Romana, Rome.

# Imperial Sculpture

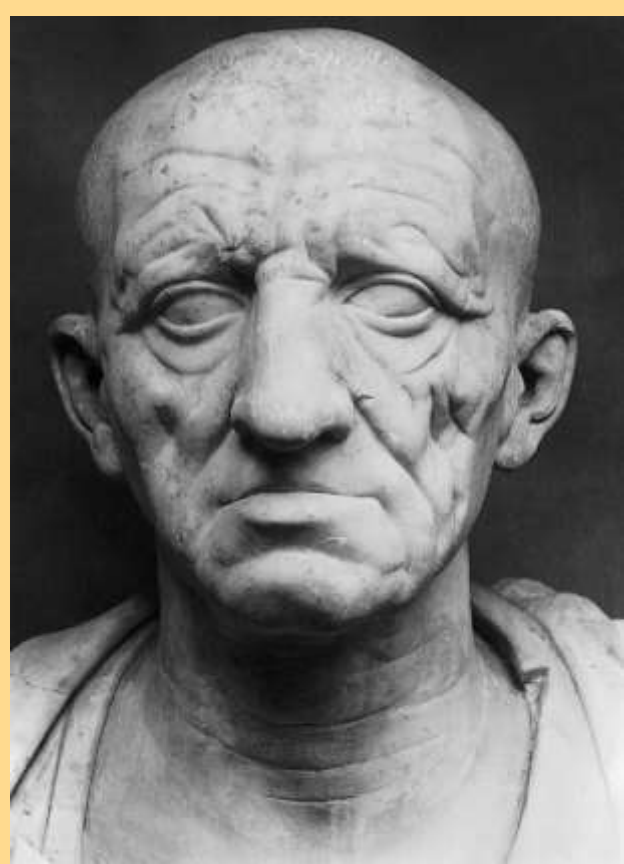
The central group on the breast-plate shows the return by the Parthians of the standards that had been lost in the humiliating defeat of Crassus in 53 B.C.

**“Augustus”**: Latin for "majestic" or "venerable."

Julius Caesar was the first Augustus; in 27 BC, the Senate gave Octavian the titles of Augustus, and subsequently it came to be considered one of the titles of the Roman Emperors.

**Augustus of Prima Porta**, Italy, copy of a bronze original of ca. 20 BCE. Marble, 6' 8" high. Vatican Museums, Rome.





**Head of a Roman patrician,**  
from Otricoli, Italy, ca. 75–50  
BCE. Marble, approx. 1' 2" high.

**Augustus of Prima Porta,** Italy, copy of a  
bronze original of ca. 20 BCE. Marble, 6' 8"  
high. Vatican Museums, Rome.



**POLYKLEITOS,  
Doryphoros (Spear  
Bearer).** Roman  
marble copy after a  
bronze original of ca.  
450–440 BCE, 6' 11"  
high.



**Augustus of Prima Porta,** Italy, copy of a  
bronze original of ca. 20 BCE. Marble, 6' 8"  
high. Vatican Museums, Rome.







**Aulus Metellus (The Orator)**  
bronze. Approx. 5'7" C. 80 BC



## Reproduction of Augustus of Primaporta





**L: Augustus as Jupiter. R: Jupiter (Zeus)**

1<sup>st</sup> c. CE. Marble. Both: St. Petersburg. Hermitage.

- Augustus's own standing had been heightened by the deification of Julius Caesar. He was no longer to be addressed as 'Octavian' but insisted on being called 'Caesar' and he now styled himself as '*divi filius*' - 'son of the divine'. After his death, Augustus was deified as well.

**L: Marcie Furnilla (wife of Titus) as Venus. 1<sup>st</sup> c. CE**

**R: Capitoline Venus, marble, 1st century copy of a Greek original by Praxiteles, Capitoline Museum, Rome**





**Funerary Portrait of a Roman Matron.**  
Late 1<sup>st</sup> c. CE. Marble. Capitoline Museum



**Hellenistic: Venus de Milo**  
Greece, ca. 150–125 BCE.  
Marble



**Ara Pacis Augustae** (Altar of Augustan Peace), Rome, Italy, 13–9 BCE. Marble



**Ara Pacis Augustae. Interior: Garlands and Bucrania** (skulls of oxen)  
Rome, Italy, 13–9 BCE.



**Ara Pacis Augustae. Female Personifications of Earth, Wind and Water**

Rome, Italy, 13–9 BCE. Marble, approx. 5' 3" high.

**Personification:** representation of a thing or abstraction as a person or by the human form



**Ara Pacis Augustae. Female  
Personifications of Earth, Wind and  
Water**

Rome, Italy, 13–9 BCE. Marble,  
approx. 5' 3" high.





**Ara Pacis Augustae , Procession of the imperial family**  
Rome, Italy, 13–9 BCE. Marble, approx. 5' 3" high.

## **Ara Pacis Augustae**

Procession of the imperial family, Rome, Italy, 13–9 BCE.  
Marble, approx. 5' 3" high.



## **Comparison: Panathenaic Festival Procession.**

Parthenon,  
Acropolis, Athens,  
Greece, ca. 447–  
438 BCE. Marble,  
approx. 3' 6" high.

# Imperial Architecture

## Aqueduct

A channel for supplying water; often underground, but treated architecturally on high arches when crossing valleys or low ground.



**Pont-du-Gard**, Nîmes, France, ca. 16 BCE.

Approximately 900' long and 160' high. The aqueduct provided about 100 gallons of water a day per person, from a source some 30 miles away from Nimes.

## **Pont-du-Gard, Detail**

Each large arch spans some 82'  
and is constructed of blocks  
weighing up to two tons each.





**Comparison: POLYKLEITOS THE YOUNGER, Theater, Epidauros, Greece, ca. 350 BCE.**

**Colosseum  
(Flavian Amphitheater)**  
Rome, Italy, ca. 70–80 CE.  
160' high



"Two things only the  
people anxiously desire -  
bread and circuses  
(bread and games)."

Juvenal (Roman writer)



**Colosseum**

**(Flavian Amphitheater)**

Rome, Italy, ca. 70–80 CE.

160' high





Detail, outer wall

## Detail

Curving, outer wall: three  
arcade and attic story





Detail of seating

The inscription on the arch reads: *"The senate and the people of Rome, to the divine Titus, son of the divine Vespasian by Vespasian Augustus."*



**Arch of Titus**, Rome,  
Italy, after 81 CE.



**Comparison: Arc de Triomphe.** Paris. 1806–36. 164 ft (50 m) high, 148 ft (45 m) wide.



**Spoils of Jerusalem**, relief panel from the Arch of Titus,  
Rome, Italy, after 81 CE. Marble, approx. 7' 10" high.