

[NOTE: These review questions are a representative selection created for OCW users.]

SPRING 2012: 4.605

A GLOBAL HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE

Review Questions from Lectures for the Final Exam

Lecture 15: The Americas (9 April)

What were the main differences in agriculture and food production between the Eurasian-African world and the Americas before 1492?

What was the impact of corn technology in the Americas?

Why did grain technology spread more slowly in the Americas than in Eurasia and Africa?

...etc...

Lecture 16: Early Christian Architecture (11 April)

What were the first four states to adopt Christianity as a state religion?

What building type provided the prototype for Christian churches in Ethiopia? What building type provided the prototype for Christian churches in Rome?

What is a martyrium and why were they important? Where were many of the martyria in Rome sited?

...etc...

Lecture 17: Early Islamic Architecture (18 April)

Describe the basic elements of a mosque.

How was the Dome of the Rock similar to or different from other early Islamic building types?

For what reasons was the double arch system used in the Cordoba Mosque? Can you draw one?

...etc...

Lecture 18: Armenia and Beyond (23 April)

What was the geopolitical significance of Armenia after 400CE?

What are the prothesis and diaconicon and what are they for?

Describe the spatial characteristics of an Armenian church.

...etc...

Lecture 19: Early Hindu Architecture (25 April)

How was Hinduism related to previous religious traditions in India? What were the attributes of its principal deities and how were they represented?

What are the conceptual and spatial elements of a Hindu temple?

What does the garbha griha represent, what does it contain, and what actions take place there?

...etc...

Lecture 20: Southeast Asia and Angkor (30 April)

What is a baray and what is its purpose?

Describe the role of rice in the transition of Southeast Asia from a village economy to a state economy in 200–800CE.

Describe the three main elements of Angkor’s spiritual geography.

...etc...

Lecture 21: Medieval Christian Architecture (2 May)

Describe the “popularization” of the church in the 12th century and its architectural consequences.

What are the characteristics of Romanesque buildings and their location?

What is a *cathedra* and how does it relate to church architecture?

What was Abbott Suger’s theory of spiritual architecture and how was it reflected at St. Denis?

...etc...

Lecture 22: Late Medieval Europe (7 May)

What is the significance of the Peace of Constance in 1183?

What was the function of medieval Italian city towers and why were they removed?

What was the significance of the Mongols for Eurasian trade?

...etc...

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