

WORLDS GREATEST CHURCHES (THE GREAT COURSES) PART 1

DVD Lectures by Professor of Medieval History:

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Basic Terms:

Aedicule: A room or structure used as a shrine.

Ambo: A raised stand for reading the Gospel or the Epistle.

Apse: A semicircular area of a church on the east end, where the altar is; usually vaulted.

Baldacchino: A canopy or similar structure erected over a sacred object or space, such as an altar or a tomb.

Baroque: A style of art and architecture from the 17th and 18th centuries; characterized by heavy ornamentation.

Barrel vault: A rounded stone vault over a space, often quite a long one.

Basilica: Essentially, a rectangle with a rounded side on one of the two short sides. Originally, this building form was used for financial, judicial, or business purposes in the Roman Empire. The form was adapted by early Christians for their places of worship.

Buttress: An exterior structure built against a wall to support an arch or a roof.

Capital: The top of a column or pilaster.

Cathedra: The chair or throne of a bishop.

Fresco: Method of painting on plaster, usually done on walls.

Gavit: A pass-through space containing tombs in Armenian church architecture.

Groin vault: A vault produced where two barrel vaults intersect.

Iconostasis: In a Greek church, a barrier between the area that most of the church occupies and the area where the altar is.

Khachkar: Armenian cross stone.

Mihrab: A prayer niche facing Mecca in a mosque.

Misericord: Projection from the bottom of a church seat to provide support while standing during services.

Narthex: A narrow enclosed porch at the entrance of a church.

Nave: The central aisle in a church.

Pilaster: A flat, shallow column that projects slightly out from the wall on which it is built.

Reredos: A screen or wall behind an altar.

Rococo: A light, playful style of art and architecture, popular in the 18th century and characterized by curving lines and ornate decoration.

Sacristy: Room housing sacred vessels and vestments; where priests vest for the mass.

Solomonic column: A column with a spiral or corkscrew-shaped shaft.

Transept: The shorter arms of a cross-shaped church.

Transverse arch: Supporting arch that runs from side to side across the vaulting.

Tympanum: The space between the lintel of a doorway and the arch above; often contains sculpture.

ONLINE RESOURCES: For More Pictures and Information (Listed by Lectures) Part 1

Lecture 1

“Mosaics in in Santa Maria Maggiore”

https://www.wga.hu/html_m/zearly/1/4mosaics/1rome/3maggior/index.html

This website shows many of the Old and New Testament mosaics in Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome from the 5th century.

Witcombe, Christopher L. C. E. *Art History Resources*.

<http://arthistoryresources.net/ARTHearlychristian.html#EarlyChristian>

Includes links to photos and diagrams of many early Christian churches and sites

Lecture 2

Gerusalemme San Salvatore Convento Francescano St. Saviour's Monastery. *Holy Sepulchre*.

<https://churchoftheholyssepulchre.net/>

|*Sacred Destinations*. "Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

<https://www.bibleplaces.com/holysepulcher/>

Useful sites with both text and images.

Lecture 3

Hagia Sophia.

<https://www.hagiasophia.com/hagia-sophia-mosaics/>

Hagia Sophia. Facts. History and Architecture

<https://www.livescience.com/27574-hagia-sophia.html>

Hagia Sophia.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hagia-Sophia>

Enjoy a pictorial tour of this most splendid building, soon to celebrate its 1,500th anniversary.

Lecture 4

Turkish Heritage Travel. *Goreme Open-Air Museum*.

<http://www.goreme.com/goreme-open-air-museum.php>.

This site gives a brief but useful introduction to the churches and other ancient and medieval structures of Cappadocia.

Lecture 5

Moscow.Info, Inc. *Churches of the Kremlin*.

<http://www.moscow.info/kremlin/churches>

Includes descriptions of and information about all the churches in Moscow's Kremlin.

Lecture 6

“Romanian Monasteries”

<http://www.romanianmonasteries.org/>

One can navigate to many of the painted monasteries with exterior pictures of the walls with frescoes.

“Travel Blog: At the Crossroads of Europe and Asia”

<https://www.mircorp.com/beginners-guide-to-romanas-painted-monasteries-of-bucovina/>

This shows many of the painted churches with information about each frescoed church.

“Romania: Natural and Cultural”

<http://romaniatourism.com/press-romania-painted-monasteries.html>

This discusses the history with pictures of many fresco painted churches in Romania.