

HISTORY OF INTERIOR DESIGN I

Module 2 PROJECT 2:

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Early Christian and Byzantine Design

Ch. 6

Byzantine designs combined arabesques and geometric patterns, but the motifs in both Early Christian and Byzantine design were religious.



Photos Taken by Lori

Mausoleum of Galla Placidia Tomb
Ravenna, Italy

1



Roman mosaics were used for floors, while Byzantine examples decorated walls, ceilings, domes, vaults, and spandrels. Smalti were tesserae made of thick glass in which air bubbles were trapped, resulting in a rough surface texture. The dark blue night sky of the dome is the gold Signum Crucis which is surrounded by circles of gold stars. You can see Christ the Good Shepherd, the Redeemer, the victorious king. They believed death reigns in Heaven by keeping the glorious cross in his hand.

2

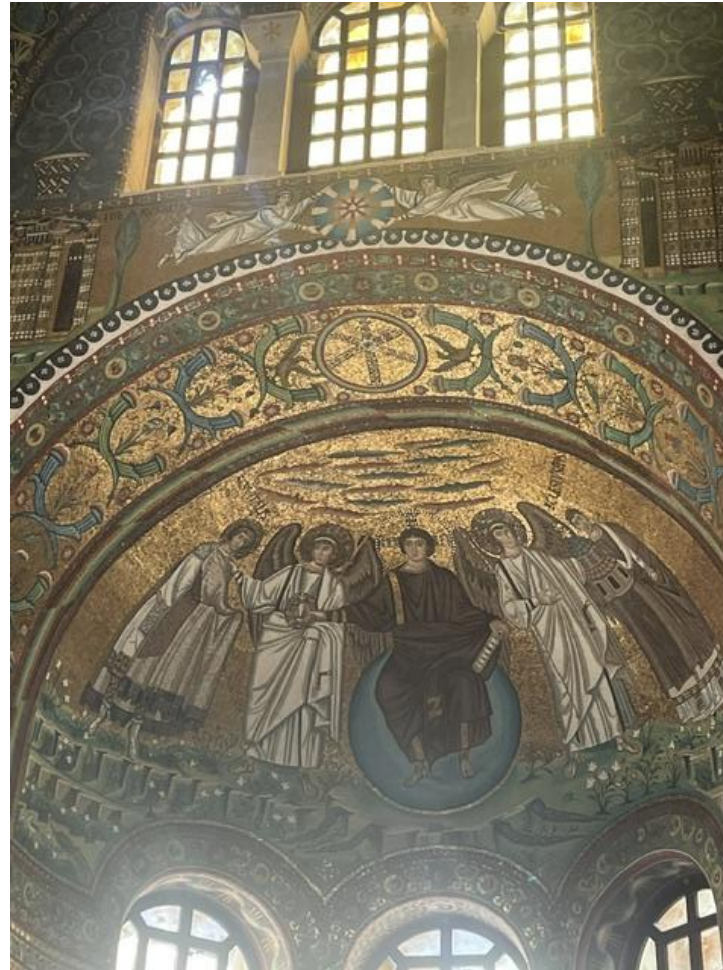
The Church of San Vitale Ch. 6

The church is famous for its Byzantine mosaics, many with gold or lapis lazuli backgrounds. It has important art and was the only church from the period of the Emperor Justinian (c. 482-565), the head of the Orthodox church to survive.

2



The arch is decorated with fifteen mosaic medallions depicting the twelve apostles and Saint Gervasius and Protasius the sons of Saint Vitale.



The apse mosaic showcases a beardless youthful depiction of Jesus Christ, seated on a blue globe, robed in purple, flanked by angels, offering with his right hand the martyr's crown to Saint Vitale, while on his left Bishop Ecclesius offers a model of the church. He was a symbolic donor of the church.

The Columns & Arches in the Church of San Vitale Ch.6

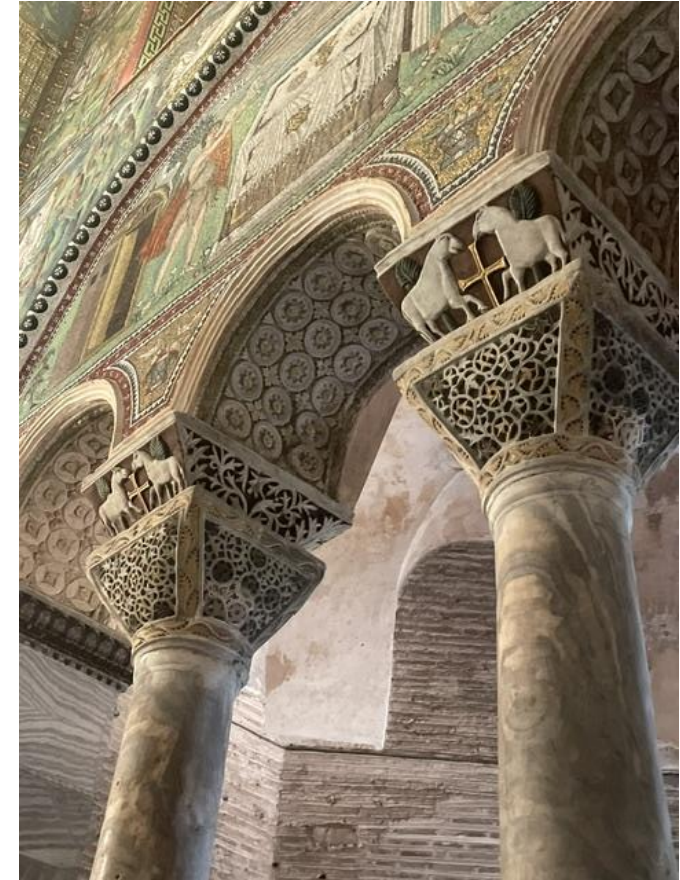


You can see the semicircular arcades rather than entablatures which are supported by columns.



3

Photos Taken by Lori



There are vaulted ceilings with blocks on the columns. They were often column capitals without high-relief carving, often pierced with design. The top of the column told a biblical story or symbolic religious symbol.

Islamic Design Ch. 7

4



Photo Taken by Lori

I find this mosaic area rug from SICIS influenced by Islamic design. Although it is an Islamic design it is merged with mosaics that you would find from Ravenna, Italy. Above you can see the borders of the carpet that are found in Islamic ornaments that are based on foliate and floral forms attached to scrolling vines. These plant forms are arabesques. In the picture to the left, you can see the center star in the middle of the rug has a gul which is a medallion-like design that is based on the octagon in the West. These were called elephant foot motifs.

Islamic Art & Design

Ch.7

The bazaar was an enclosed market that sold goods and was located most often by the city mosque. It started in the 4th century by Muslim conquerors. I bought this small chest at the city bazaar in Tunisia. You can see the ornaments of geometric shapes with stars and borders that you see often in the Islamic art that is similar from centuries ago.

5



Photos Taken by Lori



Islamic Design Ch 7

6

Floors were covered with carpets, mats, or cushions to provide comfort for individuals sitting on the floor or praying. They were woven in homes or tents. This Persian carpet on the right has a bold vibrant design. You can see three elaborate borders that have arches, leaves, flowers and the yellow Arabic crest from the family that made the rug. Modern Persian rugs have a medallion or pattern in the center surrounded by one or more borders.



Photo Taken by Lori

Romanesque Design

Ch 8

Romanesque means: “Roman Like”

7



Photos Taken by Lori

The bridge consists of three segmental arches. The lower arches require fewer piers than the semicircular arch traditionally used by Romans. This helped easy access and navigation for animal-drawn carts.

Ponte Vecchio is one of the earliest bridges crossing the Arno River in Florence, Italy. It was first built in 996 during the Roman times, and the stonework is like the ancient Roman piers made of stone and wood. The Romanesque bridge was rebuilt in 1117 with the same materials stone and wood like the original Roman bridge. It was destroyed from flooding and was rebuilt again in 1345. Later in 1565, Giorgio Vasari contributed the Vasari Corridor, a private walkway connecting the Palace Vecchio with the Ponte Vecchio and the Pitti Palace which was the home of the noble family Medicis. This connection was used for the royals to walk privately between their palace and the shops without being seen in public.



The Vasari Corridor



Walking across the bridge

Romanesque Design

Ch 8

This is Arnolfo Tower and was constructed in 1299 by Arnolfo di Cambio. The building is a mix of Romanesque and Gothic design. The tower is placed asymmetrically. The reason I chose this tower to reflect Romanesque design is because archaeological remains, including the ancient Roman theater of Florentia, have been found beneath the palace. It remains with its rustic stonework, defensive battlements, and the tower. This palace and tower were apart of the residence of the Medici family. In the picture you can see the walkway that the nobles used.



Romanesque Design Ch 8

9

Classical capitals were modified to a cushion capital and were smaller in scale but more ornate. Quadrant Vaults were used on the side aisles to buttress the nave portion of the building. The aisles were used as major traffic patterns to pass by the relics. You can see the aisles behind the columns and various relics on the back of the walls. The man is standing in the nave, or main aisle on the way to the apse or alter.



Photo Taken by Lori

Gothic Design Ch 9

This photo I took is a great example of Gothic design style. The Gothic architecture on the exterior has many pointed arches and foils. The flying buttress were pointy on top, and all the windows have the same pointed arch as well. The Tracery was an ornamental arrangement of intersecting rib work, usually in Gothic windows, forming a pierced pattern. If applied to a solid wall surface, known as blind tracery.

10



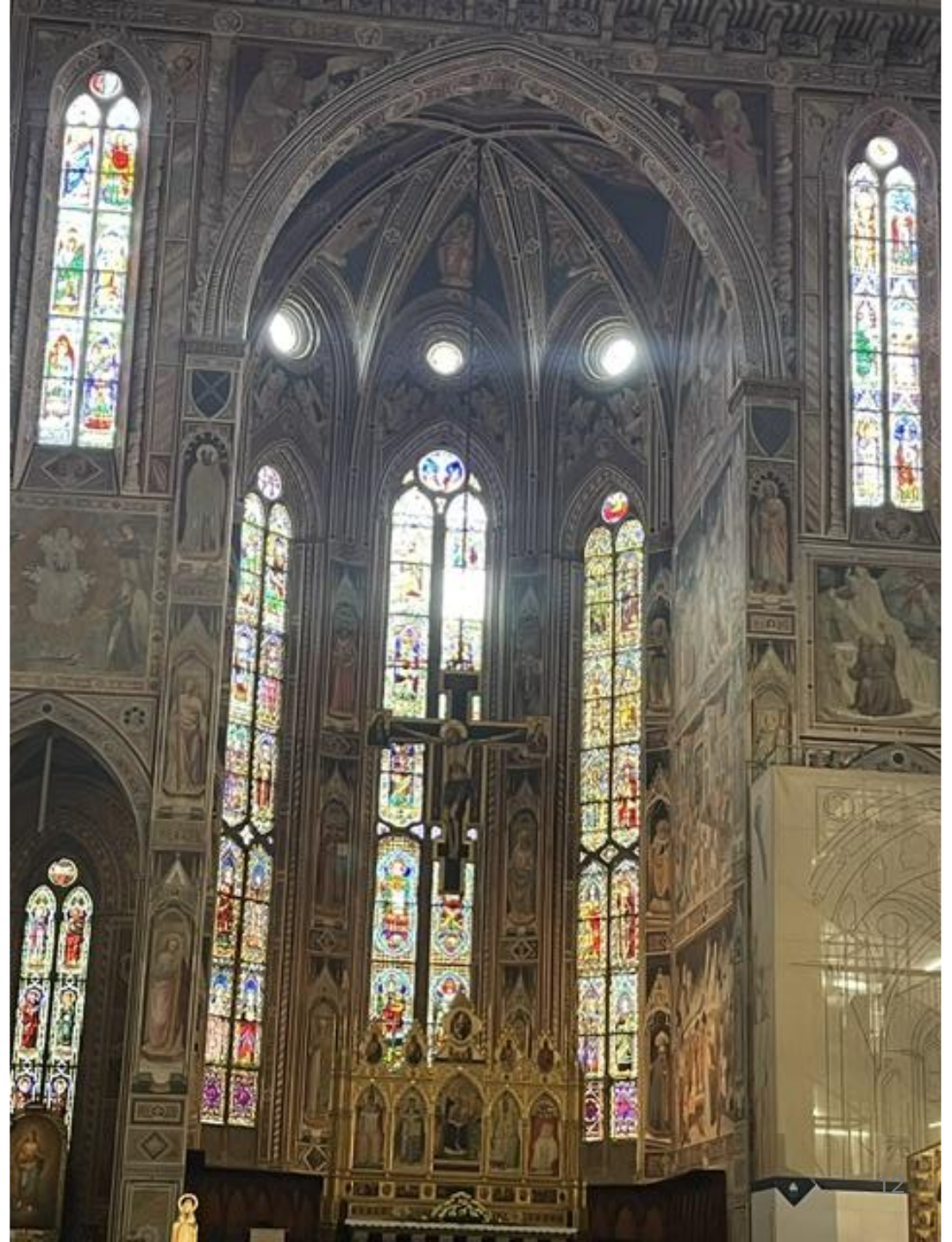
Photo Taken by Lori

Gothic Design Ch 9

During the Gothic era, the stained-glass windows told biblical stories. These panes of glass became known as providing “divine” light. This was the light of God.

Clear glass was slowly replaced by stained glass. This transformation began when the Romanesque wheel window morphed into the Gothic Rose window. Colored glass would be cut by a hot iron and details would be painted on the glass with black enamel paint. The glass would be heated to bake the enamel onto the glass. The pieces would then be put together with a strip of lead to hold the glass pieces together.

Photo Taken by Lori



Gothic Design Ch 9

During the Gothic period, jetties were a new construction invention making the interior of homes larger. Jetties were on farmhouses as well. Each floor would project out over the previous. On the right you can see several floors that extend outward from the bottom to the top of the building.



12



Photos Taken by Lori