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Quincy Market, Boston, MA. c.1825 by Alexander Parris. A typical Greek-style temple front with four Doric columns supporting a triangular pediment and entablature.PERIOD OF POPULARITY: Roughly 1810 1855.IDENTIFYING FEATURES: Gable or hipped, low-pitched roof; dentil cornice emphasized with wide band of trim cornice represents classical entablature (includes cornice, frieze, architrave); porches or porticos: square or rounded columns (usually Doric). First style to use gable-front floor plan (gable end facing the street, representing a simple Greek temple), temple-front entryway with entry door surrounded by rectangular transom and sidelights (never rounded like federal).BACKGROUND AND INSPIRATION: Considered to be a subset of the larger Neoclassical period, Greek Revival became the dominant style in America between especially 1820-1850. It was consequently referred to as the national style due to its popularity. Further west, simplified versions of the style have been dubbed asthe Territorial style in early Western towns, such as Santa Fe, NM or Tombstone, AZ. The style diffused westward with settlers (especially New Englanders, across upstate New York), and is considered to have been thefirst American architectural style to reach the American West Coast.As for inspirations and beginnings: Thomas Jefferson designed his rural home atMonticello near Charlottesville, VA in 1770. The future President is considered by some to be the last great Palladian architect, to be heavily influenced by the Renaissance-eras Andrea Palladio.Monticello is clearly a simplified version of Palladios Villa Capra (La Rotonda), located outside Vicenza, Italy. Jefferson believed in architecture as a symbol, and he despised Williamsburg due to its English origins. Recall that revolutionaries were attempting todistance themselves fromthe British both politically adn symbolically. In short, colonial Williamsburg represented colonial exploitation.During his five years in France,Jefferson learned of Roman architecture and its symbolic association with Greek democracy.Inspired from Europe,by 1785 he had designed and built the Virginia State Capitol, considered to be thefirst building of the neoclassical movement in either U.S. or Europe. To Jefferson architecture was a form of visual education in support of democratic ideals. The Greek Revival movement became widely accepted throughout the early U.S. as a symbol of the new democracy. Greek place names, street names, and temple-front architecture became dominant throughout the Northeast and into the Midwest. Curiously, Pennsylvanians adopted the Greek Revival style only in minimal ways, preferring instead the tradition of the Georgian row house, right up through the Civil War. In the American South it became popular for urban townhouses as well as the now-famous plantation manors that dot the countryside with their full-length porticos and classical columns.MORE PHOTOSof Greek Revival on TomsFlickr: Click HereAlexandria, VA. Old Dominion Bank Building, c.1851.Santa Fe, NM. A simplified, western version called Territorial Style, typically with square columns, classical trim around doors and windows, and flat brick or wooden roofline and cornice.Stafford Springs, CT. A "temple and wing" configuration, also referred to as an "upright and wing". The temple-front upright is pictured here, with the wing to its right side.City Hall, Branford, CT. Symmetrical facade with projecting portico with four classical columns and triangular pediment. Northeastern CT. A Greek Revival Congregational Church, a very common pre-Civil War church design in New England.Santa Fe, NM. A western version called Territorial Style, with square columns, flat porch line and classical trim around windows and door. Plymouth, MA. Full temple-front facade and classical entry. Still retains the standard five bays of earlier Georgian and Federal houses, but with gable facing the street. Ellington, CT. Greek Revival cottage, with one and one-half stories. Also known as a Classic Cottage, or a New England One-and-a-half due to the one-and-a-half stories or floors. This type of house is easily identified with the New England region. Sturbridge, MA. Another classic cottage, this one with one of the five original ankle windows remaining. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Greek Revival Architecture(1825-1860) is the revival of the Ancient Greek Architectural style. It follows the simplicity and splendor of Ancient Greek structures of the 5th century B.C. In particular, the Greek temples were an inspiration for their symmetry and proportion. Greek Revival architecture that emerged in the late 18th century is an architectural style that is an inspiration from ancient classical Greek Architecture. It became popular in the late 19th century, particularly in the United States and Europe. This style emphasizes elements and motifs from ancient Greek temples and buildings. In the United States and northern Europe, Greek revival was at its peak demand from 1825-1860. One of the primary reasons for its popularity is the development of Greek culture at that time, and also the awareness of Ancient Greek art. Architects and Archeologists studied the ancient Greek style and its orders(Doric and Ionic) since it was considered an expression of local nationalism and civic virtue. Greek Revival may be considered as the last phase in the development of Neoclassical Architecture. 18-19th centuries (1825-1860) One of the significant elements of Greek Revival is the painted white columns that resemble white marble used in Ancient Greek temples such as the Parthenon. Greek Temple-front faade The front facade is mainly with tall columns in wood or stucco Greek order columns Columns particularly Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders are employed to support a pediment, creating a facade that mimics ancient Greek temples. Sometimes columns are painted white to mimic marble. PedimentsPediments or triangular gables are commonly used, especially on the front facade of the buildings. They often feature classical ornamentation or sculptures. Gabled RoofsRoofs are often low-pitched and may have a pedimented gable or a simple triangular pediment. Pilasters Entablatures Structures rendered in stucco/wood/brick/stone Covered Portico EntrancesMany Greek Revival buildings have a prominent front porch or portico supported by columns. This entrance feature is a common element borrowed from classical temple design. Elaborate door surrounds and front faade InteriorsSimple open layouts Proportions Plain plaster walls and ornate plaster ceilings Wide plank floors Sash windows Interior moldings Examples of Greek Revival Architecture Building: The Grange, Northington Function/Use: Country House; Mansion Location: Hampshire, Northington, England Date of construction: 1804 Architect: William Wilkins, Charles Robert Cockerell, Frederick Pepys Cockerell Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Massive Doric Portico Materials Used:Brick, Roman Cement, Portland Stone Image source: pinnedonplaces.com Structure and Facade The Grange is an 18th-century country house mansion located in Northington, England, and is listed on the National Heritage List for England. It is set within beautiful landscaped gardens, and the estate includes a Greek-style temple called the Temple of Concord. While the Grange is a private residence, it has occasionally been open to the public for tours and events. In 1662, the house was an impressive four-story redbrick residence. Later in 1804, it was transformed into an Ancient Greek Classical temple. The Doric portico resembles Theseionin Athens and the side elevations imitate the Choragic Monument of Thrasyllus. There were further additions, including a single-story west wing, an extension of the park and gardens, and an orangery conservatory with a four-columned Ionic portico as its East elevation. Building: Brandenburg Gate Function/Use: City Gate Location: Berlin, Germany Date of construction: 1788-91 Architect: Carl Gotthard Langhans Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Doric columns, quadriga statue. Materials Used:Sandstone Structure and Facade Brandenburg Gate is one of the most famous landmarks in Germany. Its sandstone structure is composed of 12 Doric columns that create five portalsthe middle of which was originally reserved for royal use onlyand stands approximately 66 feet (20 meters) high, 213 feet (65 meters) wide, and 36 feet (11 meters) deep. It is flanked by two small buildings,Haus Liebermann andHaus Sommer. The gate is decorated with reliefs and sculptures designed byGottfried Schadow, the majority of them based on the exploits of Heracles. In 1793 a quadriga statue depicting the goddess of victory bearing a symbol of peace was added.(From Brinannica.com) Building: Fitzwilliam Museum Function/Use: Art and antiques museum Location: University of Cambridge Date of construction: 1842 Architect: George Basevi Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Temple front faade, Grand portico Materials Used:Brick, stone, stucco Image source: fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk Structure and Facade Fitzwilliam Museum comprises one of the best collections of art and antiques in the United Kingdom. It includes five various departments with galleries for holding these collections Antiquities, Applied arts, Coins and Medals, Rare Manuscripts and printed books, as well as paintings. The structure with a majestic patio with Corinthian columns supported by an entablature and a pediment, the symmetry and proportion of these architectural elements create an elegant architectural masterpiece. Building: La Grange Terrace, La Fayette Place Function/Use: Series of Greek Revival townhouses Location: Lafayette Street, New York Date of construction: 1832 Architect: Alexander Jackson Davis, Ithiel Town, James H. Dakin Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Listed on the National Register of Historic Places Materials Used:Marble Image source: flickr.com Structure and Facade The Row was of a series of nine buildings, out of which four remain at present. The buildings each contained 26 rooms with deep front yards. Their faades were made of marble and are linked with a colonnade of Corinthian columns. Building: Madewood Plantation House Function/Use: Sugarcane plantation house Location: Napoleonville, Louisiana Date of construction: 1846 Architect: Henry Howard Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: A National historic landmark Materials Used:Brick, stucco, stone Image source: toptenrealestatedeals.com Structure and Facade Madewood Plantation House is one of the finest Greek Revival Plantation houses in the American South. It is a two-story masonry house built with brick walls and finished with stucco. The faade resembles a Greek revival temple front which comprises six Ionic columns with five bays. Its columns rise to meet the Entablature and a triangular pediment with a semi-circular louver in the center. The upper-level gallery has a carved balustrade. A rectangular wing on the right side and an L-shaped wing on the left edge flank the primary block. Building: Federal Hall Function/Use: National Memorial Location: 26 Wallstreet, Manhattan, New York City Date of construction: 1842 Architect: Town and Davis, John Frazee Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Doric colonnade, Domed Rotunda Materials Used:Tuckahoe marble, Granite Universal value: U.S. National Register of Historic Places, U.S. National Memorial, U.S. Historic District, New York City Landmark. Image source: The original building served as New Yorks first City hall, whereas the current structure was a U.S. Customs House. Its columns (colonnade of Doric columns) and steps replicate the design of the Parthenon. The faade resembles a classical Greek temple with its wide steps and colonnade that dominate Wall Street. In the Interior, a grand Rotunda soars 60 ft to a central oculus, while it is supported by 12 granite Corinthian columns. The George Washington statue was erected in 1883 on a pedestal in front of the front exterior. Building: Brooklyn Borough Hall Function/Use: City Hall Location: Downtown Brooklyn, New York City Date of construction: 1846-51 Architect: Calvin Pollard, Gamaliel King Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Temple front faade Materials Used:Tuckahoe marble, Granite, cast-iron Universal value: U.S. National Register of Historic Places, New York City Landmark Image source: mergili.at Structure and Facade This imposing Greek Revival-style structure is clad in Tuckahoe marble. A monumental staircase leads to an entrance with six fluted Ionic columns supporting a triangular pediment. The cast-iron cupola, designed by Vincent Griffith and Stoughton & Stoughton, is an 1898 replacement for the original, which burned in an 1895 fire that also destroyed part of the interior. The Statue of Justice, part of the original plan, was finally installed on top of the cupola in 1988. (from nyc.gov) Building: Caleb T. Ward Mansion Function/Use: Historic home Location: Ward Hill, Staten Island, New York Date of construction: 1835 Architect: George B.David Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Temple front, rectangular cupola Materials Used:Stucco, Brick Universal Value: U.S. National Register of Historic Places, New York City Landmark Image source: silive.com Structure and Facade It is a three-story building with a two-story portico having four Ionic columns in front. A large rectangular cupola crowns the building. The rear faade has a one-story covered piazza supported by six piers. Building: Bocage Plantation Function/Use: Historic plantation house Location: Darrow, Ascension Parish, Louisiana Date of construction: 1801-1837 Architect: James H. Dakin Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: giant columns, double gallery Materials Used:brick, stone Universal Value: U.S. National Register of Historic Places Image source: en.wikipedia.org Structure and Facade The original house of the Bocage plantation was built in 1801. As it was destroyed by fire in 1837, the plantation was rebuilt again with the features of Greek Revival architecture. The distinctive features of the faade include giant order columns that form a double gallery, entablature with the design of pediment, cornice as well as the front staircase which was added in the 2008 restoration. The upper gallery opens into a sitting room on the floor, where other rooms open into each other. Building: Wunsch Building Function/Use: Former as a church building, At present school administrative offices Location: Brooklyn, New York, United States of America Date of construction: 1844-1847 Architect: Exterior restoration mad-nyc.com Historical Influence: Ancient Greek Architecture KeyFeatures: Temple front faade Materials Used:Masonry Image source: mad-nyc.com Structure and Facade Wunsch building is a Greek Revival temple front faade built in brick with wood columns, entablature with a triangular pediment that crowns, and the entrance stairs along with its symmetry and simplicity in design. The enduring appeal of Greek Revival architecture lies in its ability to transcend temporal and cultural boundaries. By drawing inspiration from the timeless beauty of ancient Greece, this architectural style forged a connection with the classical past while simultaneously shaping the built environment of the present. The legacy of Greek Revival architecture endures in the countless buildings that bear its influence, serving as a testament to the enduring power of classical ideals and the human quest for architectural beauty and harmony. After seeing a church or courthouse with large white columns, are you wondering what kind of architecture is that? What is this architecture style call? This is a famous architectural style, which is globally known as Greek Revival Architecture!This architectural style is basically base on 5th-century-BC Greek temples. During the early 19th century, this style had spread widely throughout Europe and the United States. If you dont know anything about Greek architecture, read our previous blog on famous examples of Greek architecture. Today in this blog, were going to tell you everything about the Greek Revival Architecture Style. These structures feature a symmetrical faade with a low-pitch gable roof and rows of remarkable columns.Not only this, there are many interesting things about this unique architecture style, such as who develop Greek Revival Architecture? Where is Greek Revival Architecture most common? Answers to all your questions are here. From its unique history to its characteristics and materials, weve cover everything. So grab a tea or snack and get ready to know about the most fascinating architecture in history. What is Greek Revival Architecture? Greek Revival architecture style was a building style that appear in the United States and Europe in the late eighteen and early nineteenth centuries. It has various elements of classical Greek architecture, but they are all use in different ways. Later, this style gain massive popularity around 1820 in America. We all know the symmetry, proportion, simplicity, and elegance of the ancient Greek temples, and youll be surprise to know that the Greek Revival architecture style is highly inspire by classic ancient Greek temples of the 5th century B.C. During the Civil war period (1825 to 1860), this architecture gain tremendous popularity in the United States. Later, it spread from the East Coast across the country to the West Coast, and then it became the first dominant national style of architecture in the U.S. History of Greek Revival Architecture (1825-1860) Do you know who had first introduce the Greek Revival to Britain? It was introduce by James Athenian Stuart, who was a British architect. In 1758, he took a trip to Greece, and he was completely amaze by the classical beauty of Greek architecture. He start documenting his discoveries, and later it got publish as Antiquities of Athens in 1762. This was the first reference book detailing Classical Greek architecture in the world! Stuart died in 1788, but before that, this style had already become a full-blown trend in England and Europe in the 1820s and 30s. All the credit goes to him as he first took the initiative and spread the Greek Revival style outside of its country of origin. Later it became the architectural movement, and in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, it spread predominantly in Northern Europe and the United States. It mainly revived the style of ancient Greek architecture (in particular, the Greek temple). Charles Robert Cockerell first used this term in a lecture he gave as Professor of Architecture to the Royal Academy of Arts, London, in 1842. But the most important thing is how did the Greek architectural style, which was thousands of years old, influence the builders so many centuries later? Keep on reading to find the answer. Lets talk about some of the key Greek Revival Architecture characteristics: Tall Columns and Pediments One of the most visible characteristics of a Greek Revival home is the columns. Even all the Greek temples had a row of tall columns topped by a pediment. This is the style that makes it stand out from other architectural styles, even those styles which have some similar characteristics. Painted Plaster Exterior If you look in ancient buildings and ruins in ruins, youll find that they were completely made from stone, but in America, the revival homes were crafted in wood. Later they were covered in plaster. Some people also painted them white to create the illusion of stone. Horizontal Transom Greek Revival style homes have a horizontal transom that sits over the main entrance door. There are also small-paned sidelights. Moldings All the homes have Bold but simple moldings in their exteriors and as well in the interiors. Embellishment Not all homes but luxurious and expensive homes have special details such as framed dormer windows on the second story, with pilasters and pediments. Main Characteristics of Greek Revival Architecture Style Lets talk about the key elemental Greek revival characteristics and other things in detail. As we already told you that houses in this style were usually painted white so that they look similar to the costly buildings. Why? Lets know more about it: Greek Revival Architecture Materials The basic building materials are stucco and wood, but sometimes stones were also use. They all are paint in white so that they resemble stone or marble temples or buildings. Greek Revival is a style of architecture inspired by the symmetry, proportion, simplicity, and elegance of the ancient Greek temples of 5th century B.C. In the United States, Greek Revival reached peak popularity from 1825 to 1860, which was the start of the Civil War. It became the first dominant national style of architecture in the U.S. as it spread from the East Coast across the country to the West Coast. While both styles are derived from classical antiquity, Greek Revival focuses on the simple and democratic design of Greek temples, whereas Roman Classical Revival is inspired by the more elaborate and grandiose elements of Roman architecture. Greek temple-style faade with bold round, square or even octagonal columns in wood or stuccoPainted white columns to mimic the marble used in ancient GreeceBuilding rendered in wood, stucco, brick or brownstoneDoric, Ionic, or Corinthian detailsGently sloping roofs with gable frontsElaborate door surroundsEntablatures trim between roof and columnsPilastersFront porch or covered portico entrancesMoldingsCornices Simple, fairly open layoutsGraceful proportionsTall parlor floor windows and doorsOrnate plasterwork ceilingsPlain plaster wallsWide-plank hardware floorsOrnate ceiling mantels often made from light gray or more expensive black and gold marble Credit: jezdicek / Getty Images British architect James Athenian Stuart introduced Greek Revival to Britain. Taken by the classical beauty of the architecture he discovered on a 1751 trip to Greece, Stuart documented his discoveries in Antiquities of Athens in 1762, the worlds first reference book detailing Classical Greek architecture. While he died before it became a full-blown trend in England and Europe in the 1820s and 30s, Stuart is widely credited with helping to spread the Greek Revival style outside of its country of origin. But it was in America that Greek Revival would fully bloom. As a new democracy, 19th-century Americans were inspired by the birthplace of democracy, the Greek War of Independence (1821-1832), and by Greek culture, art, and philosophy. They began to reject the Federal style with its British influences and sought an American style with bona fide democratic roots. With ancient Greece as its muse, everything ancient became new again as Greek Revival became a dominant national style across the country, leaving everything from state capitol buildings, banks, New England churches, urban row houses, galleried cottages, and southern plantation houses in its wake. Credit: markforce04 / Getty Images One of the reasons the style spread so quickly in an era when most developers and builders acted as their own architects was the existence of architectural pattern books such as "The American Builders Companion" by Asher Benjamin, John Havilands "The Builders Assistant," and "The Beauties of Modern Architecture" by Minard Lafever. Credit: lawcain / Getty Images Federal architecture is an American variation on British-influenced Georgian architecture (named after the King Georges of English history) that is recognizable by its symmetry and geometric elements. Most Federal homes are square or rectangular in shape and two or three stories high, with typically understated exteriors. Greek Revival architecture is inspired by the symmetry, proportion, simplicity, and elegance of the ancient Greek temples of 5th century B.C. It is characterized by elements such as Greek temple-style faades with bold round, square or even octagonal columns in wood or stucco, and painted white columns that mimic the marble used in ancient Greece. Credit: krblokhin / Getty Images One of the signature elements of Greek Revival architecture is its imposing and easily identifiable painted white columns inspired by white marble used in the temples of ancient Greece such as the Parthenon. Ironically, the white marble of these ancient buildings was originally painted in primary colors, and did not resemble the white-washed columns that British architect James Stuart documented on his travels in the mid-18th century and that came to define the style to this day. In the United States, columns are usually made from more accessible materials such as wood or stucco and painted white, sometimes with decorative painting techniques to imitate marble. Greek Revival architecture was preceded by the neoclassical Federal Style of which The White House (built in 1792-1800) is a prime example, featuring details inspired by classical Greek Ionic architecture.Greek Revival was followed by the Italianate style, and many transitional buildings are a mash-up of classical revival that combine elements of these three styles.FAQThe most defining characteristic of a Greek Revival house is its signature use of imposing and easily identifiable painted white columns that are inspired by white marble used in the temples of ancient Greece such as the Parthenon.You can find regional variations of Greek Revival architecture throughout the U.S. and an abundance of examples of the style in places like the Northeast, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans.What is Greek Revival architecture? That is what we will discuss today over the course of this article, as well as examine the history of this form, some of the major characteristics of Greek Revival architecture, the way in which this particular style has spread throughout the world, a number of different architects in the Greek Revival architecture tradition, and some structures that form part of this architectural style. If youre interested in Greek Revival architecture, then look no further, and lets get started!A Look at Greek Revival ArchitectureToday, we are going to ask and answer the question: What is Greek Revival architecture?. This immensely important and influential example of a renewed appreciation and implementation of Classical architecture is a form of architecture that truly flourished during the 18th and 19th centuries.It was mostly found throughout Europe and the United States, but it would go on to influence many other architects throughout the world.This particular style of architecture is an attempt to emulate the architectural traditions of ancient Greece, and as that particular culture is considered to be one of the most important in the history of the Western world, it makes sense that it would become desirable. In this article, we will examine a number of different aspects of Greek Revival architecture and hopefully come to our own appreciation of this ancient but reclaimed form of architecture.Key Characteristics of Greek Revival ArchitectureIn many ways, the characteristics of Greek Revival architecture are also the characteristics of Classical architecture. However, in newer forms of this ancient style, there tends to be an attempt to implement newer methods and techniques while retaining many of the classical elements that have become such important aspects of structures that are, in any way, inspired by Greek and Roman sources. So, lets examine some of those characteristics of Greek Revival architecture. Brandenburg GateinBerlin;Pierre-Selim Huard, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia CommonsDoric, Ionic, and Corinthian Orders: The Pillars of Greek DesignOne of the most common and important elements is the use of columns. In the traditional sense, there are three primary forms of Classical columns, and each of these has been used extensively in Greek Revival architecture. The Doric column, and its more unadorned nature, the Ionic, and its sleeker nature, and the Corinthian, and its use of a more sophisticated capital, have become some of the most common types of columns that can be found in structures that make use of Greek Revival architecture.There are other orders of columns, but these are the three most prominent varieties that have had the largest influence and reach.Pediments and Friezes: Ornamental Sculptures with Mythological StoriesAnother of the important characteristics of Greek Revival architecture is the use of pediments and friezes. Pediments are elements that can be found atop columns and porticos, and they are triangular-shaped structures that are generally decorated with some kind of sculpted design. The most common of these kinds of designs make use of more mythological elements. Neue Wache in Berlin; Ansgar KorengFriezes, on the other hand, are horizontal structures that run along the upper portion of a buildings faade. These band structures, much like pediments, these elements of Greek Revival architecture are also often decorated with a number of sculpted figures and scenes (also often from mythological stories).Symmetry and Proportions: Pursuit of Harmony and BalanceOne of the most important characteristics of Greek Revival architecture is the use of symmetrical design. Structures that emulate Classical architecture generally emulate the way in which these structures incorporate a more balanced faade in which the structure is symmetrical along its y-axis.In addition, the proportions of the different elements are often mathematically determined, such as columns and friezes having similar sizes to create a sense of unification in design.Use of Columns and Porticos: Creating Striking FacadesThe use of different types of columns has already been mentioned, but these are generally used alongside porticos, which are architectural elements that provide a shelter. They are often projected out of a buildings faade and allow them to provide additional depth to the design of a structure.The Emphasis on White Marble: Aesthetic and Symbolic ImplicationsThe most iconic material used in more traditional Classical architecture is white marble. The use of the stark white of this illustrious material is used throughout Classical architecture in structures, statues, and so on. However, it has since become an aesthetically desirable architectural element. It has become symbolic of purity and simplicity in design, and as such, it can be found in many structures that make use of Greek Revival architecture. Leo von KlenzesPropylaeainMunich;Karsten Juhl, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia CommonsGreek Revival Architecture Across the GlobeGreek Revival architecture is one of the most prominent forms of architecture on the planet. The earliest instances of this form originated in ancient Greece, but it would have a profound influence on Roman architects. The Romans constructed some of the most stunning instances of Classical architecture that have ever been designed, and this would go on to influence multiple subsequent architectural eras.Some of the most common of these influences were in the Neoclassical movement, which was an architectural movement that spread throughout Europe and the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries.However, this form of Greek Revival architecture would go on to have a profound influence on architecture into the modern day. While Neoclassicism, in its original form, no longer exists, its influence on larger, especially state buildings, continued well into the 20th and even the 21st century. The elegance, simplistic design, and symmetrical elements are extremely desirable for those who want to produce a certain kind of style in the structures that have been designed. The Yorkshire Museum, York, England designed by architect William Wilkins;Kaly99, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia CommonsIn addition, as Greek Revival architecture inherently evokes the Classical styles of ancient Greece and Rome, they can be seen as fundamentally desirable cultures to emulate in some way or another. And this is why examples of Greek Revival architecture can be found throughout the globe.Iconic Examples of Greek Revival Structures WorldwideThere are many important pieces of Greek Revival architecture, but we will only discuss two of them today. These two structures are considered to be two of the most notable examples of this particular style, and they have gone on to be immensely influential for the later development and implementation of Greek Revival architecture.The United States Capitol (1793 1800) in Washington, D.C.ArchitectWilliam Thornton (1759 1828)Date Constructed1793 1800FunctionLegislative buildingMaterials UsedStone, marble, and ironLocationWashington, D.C., United States The west front of the U.S. Capitol in September 2013;Martin Falbisoner, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia CommonsThe United States Capitol building on Capitol Hill is one of the most iconic structures in the country and one of the most important instances of Greek Revival architecture to have ever been designed. It was constructed as a meeting place for the countrys Congress, and it has been used for this role ever since it was constructed. The structures Neoclassical style has gone on to have considerable influence on the design of state buildings around the world, and particularly in the United States.Its use of tall columns, symmetrical design, and domes has become a staple of the Greek Revival architecture style.The Parthenon (1897 1931) in NashvilleArchitectWilliam Crawford Smith (1837 1899)Date Constructed1897 1931FunctionReplicaMaterials UsedPlaster, wood, brick, and concreteLocationNashville, Tennessee, United States The Parthenon in NashvillesCentennial Parkis a full-scale copy of the originalParthenon in Athens;White.alister.t, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia CommonsThe actual Parthenon is likely the most famous of all ancient Greek structures to have ever been designed, and it sits atop the Athens Acropolis. However, the massive temple has served as an inspiration to a great many other architects over the years, and it even led to a desire to recreate the Parthenon in full. This is where the Nashville full-scale replica of this famous temple comes into play. It is a complete recreation of the original site, and it is constructed from reinforced concrete, stone, and brick.It may not make use of the same materials in its construction, but it has become one of the most notable examples of a direct copy of an example of Classical architecture.Greek Revival in Modern TimesGreek Revival architecture has persisted into the modern day for a number of significant reasons. Some of the most prominent of these reasons are because there is often a desire to produce a callback to immensely famous and influential cultures, and this can be seen in places around the world. The origins of many countries remain an influence in the present day, such as Japanese architects making use of traditional Japanese elements in contemporary structures or the same being true of Islamic designs.Architecture, in the contemporary era, is typically geared towards a more uniform presentation.There is relatively little variation between a number of major structures in the present day, such as skyscrapers often all looking remarkably similar to one another, and so the use of Classical elements, such as those found in Greek Revival architecture, can help to differentiate many modern structures from one another. The mainentrance of the British Museum, London;Ham, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia CommonsThis is why many modern techniques and ideas are often incorporated into the design of contemporary structures that make use of Greek Revival architecture elements in some or another way. This is also why many contemporary architects have still retained an appreciation for Classical architecture and have persisted in its use, in some form or another, into the present day.The Timeless Appeal of Greek Revival ArchitectureOne of the major aspects of Greek Revival architecture in general is the way in which it has remained a rather timeless form of architecture. Classical architecture, and the various styles that have been inspired by it, have remained in the world for many centuries, and a variety of major architectural styles took at least some level of inspiration from Classical sources.For instance, Renaissance architecture took many of its elements from Classical sources.There are many reasons for this, and one of the principal reasons may be the way in which Greek Revival architecture has come to represent democratic systems. While many cultures around the world have made use of Greek Revival architectural designs inspired by Classical sources, some of the most prominent of those forms can be found in democratic countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom. Building of the Academy of Athens (Attica, Greece);A.Savin, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia CommonsAncient Greece was the location from which democracy initially arose, and so it does make sense that those who wish to evoke a democratic spirit may wish to make use of the kinds of ideas that may be evoked through the use of Classically inspired designs. Although, while this is a major factor in why many state buildings have adopted more Greek Revival styles, it is also true that more autocratic and fascist governments have used Classical imagery too, especially Roman imagery. So, its something of a mixed bag there.However, this does show the way in which Classical architecture is often seen as somewhat universal as it is often adopted by both democratic and anti-democratic forces.Furthermore, the simple influence of ancient Greek art, culture, philosophy, and so on has been immense around the globe. This ancient culture is considered to be one of the most important with regard to the development of the Western world, and so the adoption of elements that, in some or another way, align with ancient Greek elements will always be sought after by countries that wish to draw some kind of a link with this ancient culture. The use of architecture inspired by ancient Greek sources is an extension of this desire. Aerial photo of the Vasilievsky Island Spit in Saint Petersburg (Russia);A.Savin, FAL, via Wikimedia CommonsLastly, Greek Revival architecture continues to have an influence to this very day. While many of the most famous state buildings have been around for decades or even centuries at this point, many governmental buildings and Greek-style houses that are currently being constructed make use of this particular revival style.It has a lengthy history, it represents a certain level of prestige, and it simply looks good, and so Greek Revival architecture has managed to stick around far longer than many other types of architecture.Famous Architects and Their Contributions to Greek RevivalThere are a number of important figures throughout the history of the various Greek Revival architecture styles that have developed over the centuries. However, we are only going to examine three of those architects and their incredible contributions to Greek Revival architecture in general.Andrea Palladio: The Father of NeoclassicismArchitectural StylePalladianismYears1508 1580Place of BirthPadua, ItalyKnown ForThe Four Books of Architecture (1570) One of the first works by Palladio,Villa Godi (begun 1537);Dogears at en.wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia CommonsAndrea Palladio is an architect whose influence cannot be understated. He is recognized as one of the most important architects of the Renaissance period, and his work would become so prominent that it came to be known as Palladianism (and a later offshoot known as Neo-Palladianism would also persist far into the future). His work was fundamentally influenced by Classical sources, and especially the work of the Roman architect Vitruvius.In 1570, he published The Four Books of Architecture, which would become one of the most important texts in the development of Greek Revival architecture.That text discussed many of his teachings and ideas that he had gained through his experience designing a number of Greek-style houses, villas, palaces, and churches. The structures that he designed that are still standing have become classified as UNESCO World Heritage Sites because of the immense influence that they would have on subsequent architects who wished to make use of the kind of architectural designs that are most commonly associated with attempts at recreating aspects of Classical architecture.Thomas Jefferson: The Architectural VisionaryArchitectural StylePalladianism and NeoclassicismYears1743 1826Place of BirthShadwell, Virginia, United StatesKnown ForMonticello, Virginia, United States (1772 1826) Monticello in September 2013;Martin Falbisoner, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia CommonsThomas Jefferson may have had an interest in architecture and devoted large chunks of his life to a number of architectural pursuits, but that is hardly the primary area for which he is known. He was one of the first Presidents of the United States and one of the Founding Fathers of the country who had an integral role in the development of documents such as the Declaration of Independence.However, despite this being the primary aspect of his life that is known to this day, he is also known for being a notable Neo-Palladian architect.He was one of the major popularizers of this particular form in the country, and he implemented it in his own home of Monticello as well as locations such as the Virginia State Capital and the University of Virginia buildings. He was not actually officially trained in architecture and instead attained his proficiency through self-study, and the main architectural voice from whom he drew inspiration was the already-mentioned Andrea Palladio.Benjamin Latrobe: Shaping American Neoclassical ArchitectureArchitectural StyleNeoclassicismYears1764 1820Place of BirthYorkshire, United KingdomKnown ForUnited States Capitol, Washington, D.C., United States (1793 1800) Portrait of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, by Filippo Costaggini;Filippo Costaggini, Public domain, via Wikimedia CommonsBenjamin Latrobe, who had been born in England but emigrated to the United States, would go on to become one of the most influential architects in the early years of the United States as a country. He was also one of the first formally trained architects in the country, and he took extensive inspiration for his Neoclassical work from the British and French architects whose work shaped him, as well as his travels throughout Italy.He would attain much of his fame after designing the United States Capitol building which is still in use to this day.As an architect in the Neoclassical tradition, his work was fundamentally an aspect of Greek Revival architecture. His work would influence the way in which the United States looked at and later adopted this particular style in many of its state buildings, and he had a direct hand in the creation of some of those state structures. In addition, his influence would lead to a greater proliferation of Greek-style houses.And so, we have come to the end of our examination of Greek Revival architecture. We have discussed some of the aspects of the history of this form, the way in which it has moved throughout the globe, some of the characteristics of Greek Revival architecture, a few of the architects best known for the form, and a number of structures that made use of this famous architectural style. However, there is always more that could be learned, but, hopefully, you learned a few new things today.Frequently Asked QuestionsWhat Is Greek Revival Architecture?Greek Revival architecture is any architectural style that is, in some way, inspired by ancient Greek sources. However, as Classical architecture incorporated both Greek and Roman elements, there tends to be a conflation of these two types of architectural styles and so that which is technically a form of Greek Revival architecture may also incorporate elements that were more typical of Roman sources.What Defines Greek Revival Architecture?Some of the primary ways in which Greek Revival architecture is defined is through its basic tendency to stick to certain principles. These include a desire for elegance, symmetrical design, proportionality, and simplicity. Structures that make use of Greek Revival architecture do not usually make use of more sophisticated or decorative elements, and instead simply attempt to emulate ancient sources.How Does Greek Revival Differ from Other Architectural Styles?As there are so many different architectural styles, there are many ways in which Greek Revival architecture differs from every other architectural style. However, in the Western tradition, there is often a dedication to certain Classical elements in many styles. For instance, Renaissance architecture was heavily inspired by ancient Greek and Roman sources. This form, and its simple design, are often in stark contrast to architectural styles like Baroque or Rococo architecture, which make use of extensive decorative elements and a fundamental lack of simplicity.What Are the Key Features of a Greek Revival Home?Greek-style houses are those that make use of a number of characteristics of Greek Revival architecture. This means that they will generally make use of symmetrical designs, columns, porticos, friezes, and so on. Essentially, houses that make use of Greek Revival architecture are similar to larger structures that make use of this architectural style, but simply on a far smaller and more manageable scale.What Is the Most Famous Example of Greek Revival Architecture?There are many different and stunning examples of buildings that make use of Greek Revival architecture, but some of the most famous are likely the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and the full-scale replica of the Pantheon in Nashville. In addition, one of the most gorgeous examples of Neoclassical architecture, which can be classed as a form of Greek Revival architecture in general, is the White House. Justin van Huyssteen is a freelance writer, novelist, and academic originally from Cape Town, South Africa. At present, he has a bachelors degree in English and literary theory and an honors degree in literary theory. He is currently working towards his masters degree in literary theory with a focus on animal studies, critical theory, and semiotics within literature. As a novelist and freelancer, he often writes under the pen name L.C. Lupus.Justins preferred literary movements include modern and postmodern literature with literary fiction and genre fiction like sci-fi, post-apocalyptic, and horror being of particular interest. His academia extends to his interest in prose and narratology. He enjoys analyzing a variety of mediums through a literary lens, such as graphic novels, film, and video games.Justin is working for artincontext.org as an author and content writer since 2022. He is responsible for all blog posts about architecture, literature and poetry.Learn more about Justin van Huyssteen and the Art in Context Team.If you have ever come across buildings with tall columns, white exteriors, and sloping roofs and wondered at their beauty, you are not alone. Those are some of the characteristics of Greek Revival architecture that have existed since the 1800s. This neoclassical architecture has been famous in the U.S. and Canada and emerged in Europe. Additionally, the Greek revival movement spread to residential and public structures. We shall look at more characteristics and examples of this architectural style in the section below. First of all, architecture is the art and science of building design, and the Greek Revival movement is an architectural style inspired by elegance, simplicity, and symmetry in ancient Greek art and building designs. Greek Revival is a neoclassical architecture that refers to buildings built to replicate that of the Greeks. It took elements of the classical architecture of the Greek temples. Such elements include symmetry, balance, tall columns, intricate detail, and harmony. Also, it was most popular in the U.S. in the mid-1800s at the beginning of the Civil war and spread from the East Coast to the West Coast. Additionally, it represented Greek democracy which influenced the young nation. Greek Revival and Roman architecture are also among the types of architecture that have shaped our modern era. The Greeks used three types of styles to build their temples and other structures. These styles, also known as orders, were seen in the type of columns used, and they include; These were the thickest and most simple Greek designs. They had a plain capital at the peak and no adornment at the base. Doric columns tapered, making the bottom of each column wider than the top. Image credits: mypagesatUNH.com Ionic colum

Neoclassical, Empire, Russian Empire, and Regency architecture in Great Britain. Greek Revival architecture took a different course in a number of countries, lasting until the 1860s and the American Civil War and later in Scotland.Thomas Hamilton's design for Royal High School in Edinburgh, completed in 1829Modern-day architects are recreating this design by building houses similar to the Greek Revival.[where?] These houses are characterized by their symmetrical and balanced proportions, typically featuring a bold, pedimented portico with arched openings. The symmetrical faade is divided into two equal halves.Much Greek Revival architecture used the Greek Doric order in the earlier version found in buildings leading up to the Parthenon in Athens. This contrasted significantly with later Greek Hellenistic architecture and Roman architecture. Greek Doric columns are typically rather thick, often tapering towards the top, always fluted, and have complicated rules for the entablature above the columns. Additionally, the columns go straight down to the floor (stylobate) with no distinct base - this last aspect was often skipped by architects who followed the other Greek conventions, for example in the Brandenburg Gate.The understanding of actual Greek architecture was based on ruined buildings, and awareness of the full range of ornamentation, and colour, on ancient Greek temples emerged over the period. Architects were aware of the large pedimental sculptures and metope reliefs, and copied these expensive elements when funds allowed, but far less often had the full range of antefixes and akroterions.Greek temples normally had no windows except perhaps in the roof, posing a problem for modern buildings for most purposes, which was generally brushed aside. Many buildings that needed to fulfill modern functions concentrated on having an impressive temple-style front, giving the other faces of the building a more practical design up to the cornice.Leo von Klenze's Walhalla in Regensburg, Bavaria (1842)In Germany, Greek Revival architecture is predominantly found in two centres, Berlin and Munich. In both locales, Doric was the court style rather than a popular movement and was heavily patronised by Frederick William II of Prussia and Ludwig I of Bavaria as the expression of their desires for their respective seats to become the capital of Germany. The earliest Greek building was the Brandenburg Gate (178891) by Carl Gotthard Langhans, who modelled it loosely on the Propylaea in Athens. Ten years after the death of Frederick the Great, the Berlin Akademie initiated a competition for a monument to the King that would promote "morality and patriotism."Friedrich Gilly's unexecuted design for a temple raised above the Leipziger Platz caught the tenor of high idealism that the Germans sought in Greek architecture and was enormously influential on Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Leo von Klenze. Schinkel was in a position to stamp his mark on Berlin after the catastrophe of the French occupation ended in 1813; his work on what is now the Altes Museum, Konzerthaus Berlin, and the Neue Wache transformed that city. Similarly, in Munich von Klenze's Glyptothek and Walhalla memorial were the fulfilment of Gilly's vision of an orderly and moral German world. The purity and seriousness of the style was intended as an assertion of German national values and partly intended as a deliberate riposte to France, where it never really caught on.By comparison, Greek Revival architecture in France was never popular with either the state or the public. What little there is started with Charles de Wailly's crypt in Saint-Leu-Saint-Gilles de Paris (177380), and Claude Nicolas Ledoux's Barriere des Bonshommes (178589). First-hand evidence of Greek architecture was of very little importance to the French, due to the influence of Marc-Antoine Laugier's doctrines that sought to discern the principles of the Greeks instead of their mere practices. It would take until Henri Labrouste's Neo-Grec of the Second Empire for Greek Revival architecture to flower briefly in France.Faade of the British Museum in LondonFollowing the travels to Greece, Nicholas Revett, a Suffolk architect, and the better remembered James "Athenian" Stuart in the early 1750s, intellectual curiosity quickly led to a desire among the elite to emulate the style. Stuart was commissioned after his return from Greece by George Lyttelton to produce the first Greek building in England, the garden temple at Hagley Hall (175859).[2] A number of British architects in the second half of the century took up the expressive challenge of the Doric from their aristocratic patrons, including Benjamin Henry Latrobe (notably at Hammerwood Park and Ashdown House) and Sir John Soane, but it remained the private enthusiasm of connoisseurs up to the first decade of the 19th century.An early example of Greek Doric architecture married with a more Palladian interior, is the faade of the Revett-designed rural church of Ayot St Lawrence in Hertfordshire, commissioned in 1775 by Sir Lyonel Lyde, 1st Baronet of the eponymous manor. The Doric columns of this church, with their "pie-crust crimped" details, are taken from drawings that Revett made of the Temple of Apollo on the Cycladic island of Delos, in the collection of books that he (and Stuart in some cases) produced, largely funded by special subscription by the Society of Dilettanti. See more in Terry Friedman's book The Georgian Parish Church, Spire Books, 2004.Seen in its wider social context, Greek Revival architecture sounded a new note of sobriety and restraint in public buildings in Britain around 1800 as an assertion of nationalism attendant on the Act of Union, the Napoleonic Wars, and the clamour for political reform. William Wilkins's winning design for the public competition for Downing College, Cambridge announced the Greek style was to become a dominant idiom in architecture, especially for public buildings of this sort. Wilkins and Robert Smirke went on to build some of the most important buildings of the era, including the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden (18081809), the General Post Office (18241829) and the British Museum (18231848), the Wilkins Building of University College London (18261830), and the National Gallery (18321838).One of the greatest British proponents of the style was Decimus Burton.In London, twenty three Greek Revival Commissioners' churches were built between 1817 and 1829, the most notable being St.Pancras church by William and Henry William Inwood. In Scotland the style was avidly adopted by William Henry Playfair, Thomas Hamilton and Charles Robert Cockerell, who severally and jointly contributed to the massive expansion of Edinburgh's New Town, including the Calton Hill development and the Moray Estate. Such was the popularity of the Doric in Edinburgh that the city now enjoys a striking visual uniformity, and as such is sometimes whimsically referred to as "the Athens of the North".Within Regency architecture the style already competed with Gothic Revival and the continuation of the less stringent Palladian and Neoclassical styles of Georgian architecture, the other two remaining more common for houses, both in towns and English country houses. If it is tempting to see the Greek Revival as the expression of Regency authoritarianism, then the changing conditions of life in Britain made Doric the loser of the Battle of the Styles, dramatically symbolized by the selection of Charles Barry's Gothic design for the Palace of Westminster in 1836. Nevertheless, Greek continued to be in favour in Scotland well into the 1870s in the singular figure of Alexander Thomson, known as Greek Thomson.The main building of the Academy of Athens, one of Theophil Hansen's trilogy of Greek Revival structures in central AthensFollowing the Greek War of Independence, Romantic Nationalist ideology encouraged the use of historically Greek architectural styles in place of Ottoman or pan-European ones. Classical architecture was used for secular public buildings, while Byzantine architecture was preferred for churches.Examples of Greek Revival architecture in Greece include the Old Royal Palace (now the home of the Parliament of Greece), the Academy and University of Athens, the Zappeion, and the National Library of Greece. The most prominent architects in this style were northern Europeans such as Christian and Theophil Hansen and Ernst Ziller and German-trained Greeks such as Stamatios Kleanthis and Panagis Kalkos.Despite the prestige of ancient Greece among Europe's educated elite, most people had minimal direct knowledge of the ancient Greek civilization before the middle of the 18th century. The monuments of Greek antiquity were known chiefly from Pausanias and other literary sources. Visiting Ottoman Greece was difficult and dangerous business prior to the period of stagnation beginning with the Great Turkish War. Few tourists visited Athens during the first half of the 18th century, and none made any significant study of the architectural ruins.[3]It was not until the expedition to Greece funded by the Society of Dilettanti of 1751 by James "Athenian" Stuart and Nicholas Revett that serious archaeological inquiry began in earnest. Stuart and Revett's findings, published in 1762 (first volume) as The Antiquities of Athens,[4] along with Julien-David Le Roy's Ruines des plus beaux monuments de la Grce (1758) were the first accurate surveys of ancient Greek architecture.[5]The rediscovery of the three relatively easily accessible Greek temples at Paestum in Southern Italy created huge interest throughout Europe, and prints by Giovanni Battista Piranesi and others were widely circulated. The Napoleonic Wars denied access to France and Italy to traditional Grand Tourists, especially from Britain. Aided by close diplomatic relations between Britain and the Porte, British travellers, artists and architects went to Greece and Turkey in ever larger numbers to study ancient Greek monuments and excavate or collect antiquities. The Greek War of Independence ended in 1832; Lord Byron's participation and death during this had brought it additional prominence.Saint Petersburg Bourse, part of the Old Saint Petersburg Stock Exchange and Rostral Columns in Saint Petersburg, RussiaThe style was attractive in Russia because they shared the Eastern Orthodox faith with the Greeks. The historic centre of Saint Petersburg was rebuilt by Alexander I of Russia, with many buildings giving the Greek Revival a Russian debut. The Saint Petersburg Bourse on Vasilievsky Island has a temple front with 44 Doric columns. Giacomo Quarenghi's design for the Saint Petersburg Manege "mimics a 5th-century BC Athenian temple with a portico of eight Doric columns bearing a pediment and bas reliefs".[6]Leo von Klenze's expansion of the palace that is now the Hermitage Museum is another example of the style.The Istanbul Archaeology Museums in Istanbul, TurkeyDuring the late period of the Ottoman Empire, Greek Revival architecture had its examples in the empire. The prominent examples are Istanbul Archaeology Museums (1891)The Austrian Parliament Building in ViennaThe style was generally popular in northern Europe, and not in the south (except for Greece itself), at least during the main period. Examples can be found in Poland, Lithuania, and Finland, where the assembly of Greek buildings in Helsinki city centre is particularly notable. At the cultural edges of Europe, in the Swedish region of western Finland, Greek Revival motifs might be grafted on a purely Baroque design, as in the design for Oravais Church by Jacob Rijf, 1792. A Greek Doric order, rendered in the anomalous form of pilasters, contrasts with the hipped roof and boldly scaled cupola and lantern, of wholly traditional Baroque inspiration.In Austria, one of the best examples of this style is the Parliament Building designed by Theophil Hansen.In Canada, Montreal architect John Ostell designed a number of prominent Greek Revival buildings, including the first building on the McGill University campus and Montreal's original Custom House, now part of the Pointe--Callire Museum. The Toronto Street Post Office, completed in 1853, is another Canadian example.See also: Federal architectureSee also: Greek Revival architecture in North AmericaThe Second Bank of the United States in Philadelphia (1824)This 1852 Michigan farmhouse shows the Upright and Wing floorplan used by many Greek Revival farmhouses of New England and the Midwest.The Philadelphia Museum of Art (1928)Temple Row at Sailors' Snug Harbor in New York City (1833)The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (completed 1922)While some 18th-century Americans had feared Greek democracy, sometimes called mobocracy, the appeal of ancient Greece rose in the 19th century along with the growing acceptance of democracy. This made Greek architecture suddenly more attractive in both the North and the South, for differing ideological purposes: for the North, Greek architecture symbolized the freedom of the Greeks; in the South it symbolized the cultural glories enabled by a slave society.[7] Thomas Jefferson owned a copy of the first volume of The Antiquities of Athens.[8] He never practiced in the style, but he played an important role in introducing Greek Revival architecture to the United States.In 1803, Jefferson appointed Benjamin Henry Latrobe as surveyor of public building, and Latrobe designed a number of important public buildings in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, including work on the United States Capitol and the Bank of Pennsylvania.[9]Latrobe's design for the U.S. Capitol was an imaginative interpretation of the classical orders not constrained by historical precedent, incorporating American motifs such as corncobs and tobacco leaves. This idiosyncratic approach became typical of the American attitude to Greek detailing. His overall plan for the Capitol did not survive, though many of his interiors did. He also did notable work on the Supreme Court chamber interior in the Capitol (18061807), and his masterpiece was the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Baltimore (18051821).Latrobe claimed, "I am a bigoted Greek in the condemnation of the Roman architecture", but he did not rigidly impose Greek forms. "Our religion," he said, "requires a church wholly different from the temple, our legislative assemblies and our courts of justice, buildings of entirely different principles from their basilicas; and our amusements could not possibly be performed in their theatres or amphitheatres."[10] His circle of junior colleagues became an informal school of Greek revivalists, and his influence shaped the next generation of American architects.Greek revival architecture in the United States also included attention to interior decoration. The role of American women was critical for introducing a wholistic style of Greek-inspired design to American interiors. Innovations such as the Greek-inspired "sofa" and the "klismos chair" allowed both American women and men to pose as Greeks in their homes, and also in the numerous portraits of the period that show them lounging in Greek-inspired furniture.[11]The second phase in American Greek Revival saw the pupils of Latrobe create a monumental national style under the patronage of banker and philhellene Nicholas Biddle, including such works as the Second Bank of the United States by William Strickland (1824), Biddle's home "Andalusia" by Thomas U. Walter (18351836), and Girard College, also by Walter (18331847). New York saw the construction (1833) of the row of Greek temples at Sailors' Snug Harbor on Staten Island. These had varied functions within a home for retired sailors.From 1820 to 1850, the Greek Revival style dominated the United States, such as the Benjamin F. Clough House in Waltham, Massachusetts. It could also be found as far west as Springfield, Illinois. Examples of vernacular Greek Revival continued to be built even farther west, such as in Charles City, Iowa.[12]This style was very popular in the south of the US, where the Palladian colonnade was already popular in faades, and many mansions and houses were built for the merchants and rich plantation owners; Millford Plantation is regarded as one of the finest Greek Revival residential examples in the country.[13]Other notable American architects to use Greek Revival designs included Latrobe's student Robert Mills, who designed the Monumental Church and the Washington Monument, as well as George Hadfield and Gabriel Manigault.[9]At the same time, the popular appetite for the Greek was sustained by architectural pattern books, the most important of which was Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (1830). This guide helped create the proliferation of Greek homes seen especially in northern New York State and in Connecticut's former Western Reserve in northeastern Ohio.See also: PolychromeHittorff's reconstruction of Temple B in Selinunte, Greece (1851)The discovery that the Greeks had painted their temples influenced the later development of the style. The archaeological dig at Aegina and Bassae in 18111812 by Cockerell, Otto Magnus von Stackelberg, and Carl Haller von Hallerstein had disinterred painted fragments of masonry daubed with impermanent colours. This revelation was a direct contradiction of Johann Joachim Winckelmann's notion of the Greek temple as timeless, fixed, and pure in its whiteness.In 1823, Samuel Angell discovered the coloured metopes of Temple C at Selinunte, Sicily and published them in 1826. The French architect Jacques Ignace Hittorff witnessed the exhibition of Angell's find and endeavoured to excavate Temple B at Selinus. His imaginative reconstructions of this temple were exhibited in Rome and Paris in 1824 and he went on to publish these as Architecture polychrome chez les Grecs (1830) and later in Restitution du Temple d'Empedocle a Selinote (1851). The controversy was to inspire von Klenze's "Aegina" room at the Munich Glyptothek of 1830, the first of his many speculative reconstructions of Greek colour.Hittorff lectured in Paris in 18291830 that Greek temples had originally been painted ochre yellow, with the moulding and sculptural details in red, blue, green and gold. While this may or may not have been the case with older wooden or plain stone temples, it was definitely not the case with the more luxurious marble temples, where colour was used sparingly to accentuate architectural highlights.Henri Labrouste also proposed a reconstruction of the temples at Paestum to the Acadmie des Beaux-Arts in 1829, decked out in startling colour, inverting the accepted chronology of the three Doric temples, thereby implying that the development of the Greek orders did not increase in formal complexity over time, i.e., the evolution from Doric to Corinthian was not inexorable. Both events were to cause a minor scandal. The emerging understanding that Greek art was subject to changing forces of environment and culture was a direct assault on the architectural rationalism of the day.Architecture portalGot grec^ J. 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