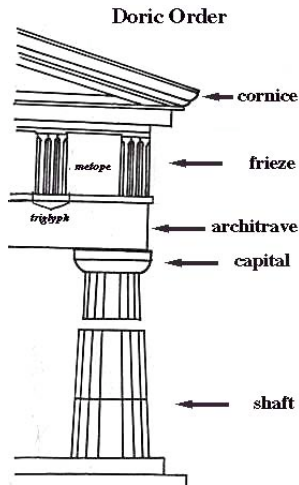
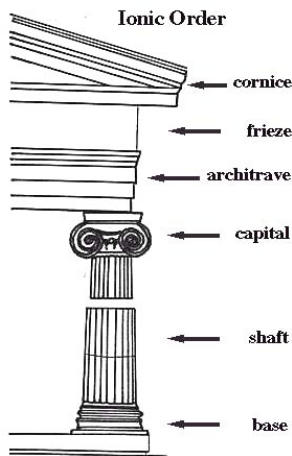


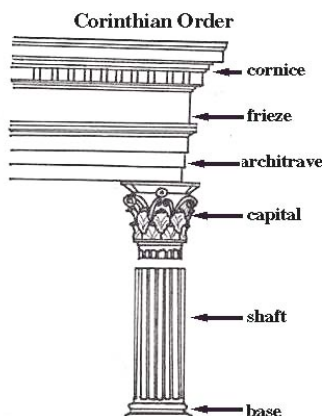
# Orders of Architectural Columns



Of the three standard orders of columns, Doric columns are the simplest. They have a *capital* (the top, or crown) made of a circle topped by a square. The *shaft* (the tall part of the column) is plain and has 20 sides. There is no *base* in the Doric order. The area above the column, called the *frieze* [pronounced "freeze"], had simple patterns. Above the columns are the metopes and triglyphs. The *metope* [pronounced "met-o-pee"] is a plain, smooth stone section between triglyphs. Sometimes the metopes had statues of heroes or gods on them. The *triglyphs* are a pattern of 3 vertical lines between the metopes.



Ionic *shafts* were taller than Doric ones, giving the columns a slender look. The columns have *flutes*, which are lines carved into them from top to bottom, and *entasis*, which is a little bulge in the columns to give the illusion of straightness when viewed at a distance. The *frieze* is plain. The *bases* were large with the look of a set of stacked rings. Ionic *capitals* consist of a scroll above the shaft. The Ionic style is a little more decorative than the Doric.



The Corinthian order is the most decorative and is the most common in modern architecture. Corinthian also uses *entasis* to give the shafts the illusion of straightness. The Corinthian *capitals* have flowers and leaves beneath a small scroll. The *fluted shaft* and base is similar to the Ionic. Unlike Doric and Ionic *cornices*, which are slanted, Corinthian roofs are flat.

There are also two other types of classical orders, the **Tuscan** and the **Composite** or **Aeolian**. The Tuscan order is very plain, with a plain shaft, a simple capital and base, and a plain frieze. The Composite order is a combination of the Ionic and Corinthian orders.