

Lesson 2

Architecture

All the words in this lesson may be associated with architecture.

abut V. to border on; to touch along a side or on one end (A huge new hotel will *abut* Lakeside Boulevard.)

amphitheater N. an arena surrounded by rows of seats sloping upward from the center (Roman gladiators once fought in this *amphitheater*.)

bevel N. lines or surfaces joining at any but a ninety-degree angle (The edge of the mirror is cut at a *bevel*.)

boudoir N. a woman's private dressing room, sitting room, or bedroom (Madam allows only old friends to visit her in her *boudoir*.)

caryatid N. a supporting column carved into a female figure (The *caryatid* used in ancient Greek architecture is both functional and decorative.)

cistern N. a tank for collecting and storing rainwater (Now only frogs inhabit the abandoned *cistern* in the old farmyard.)

crypt N. an underground burial vault, especially one under a church (Spiral stairs led down to the musty-smelling *crypt*.)

deterioration N. a process of degeneration or decline in quality (The *deterioration* of the inner city is a common urban problem.)

edifice N. a building, especially an imposing or large structure (This ancient stone *edifice* in Peru was once the center of the Chavin culture.)

foyer N. a lobby or entrance hall (The *foyer* of the Caliph's palace was tiled with intricately patterned mosaics.)

frieze N. a plain or decorative band along the top of a wall (Above the courthouse door is a *frieze* depicting blind justice.)

minaret N. a tall tower on a mosque ringed by balconies from which a caller summons people to prayer (Five times a day the muezzin calls the faithful Muslims to prayer from the mosque's *minaret*.)

nave N. the central part or hall of a church interior, flanked by aisles (The wedding procession slowly walked the entire length of the *nave*.)

ornate ADJ. elaborately decorated (Louis XV style is marked by highly *ornate* furniture and decorative arts.)

parapet N. a protective wall or railing along a roof or balcony (In medieval times archers were posted on the *parapet* to defend the castle from attack.)

pediment N. the triangular space formed by the tip of a pitched roof (Some European castles have a coat of arms carved on the *pediment*.)

peristyle N. the columns surrounding a temple, court, or other structure (The *peristyle* of the temple has been destroyed by vandals.)

raze V. to demolish; to level to the ground (The city will *raze* three square blocks of deteriorated structures to make room for the new development.)

refurbish V. to renovate; to brighten or freshen up (It takes a lot of patience, money, and hard work to *refurbish* old houses.)

rotunda N. a round building or room, usually dome-covered (Award ceremonies frequently take place in the *Rotunda* on Capitol Hill.)