

Byzantine Art

- Byzantine Empire was born out of the remains of the Roman Empire and continued to have the same elements of the Roman classical tradition, but in a Christian style
- Byzantine paintings specialized in mosaics, icons and manuscript illumination
- Byzantine art had two traditions – one reflecting the classical past and a more formal style of art



Time Periods

- Early Byzantine 500-726
- Iconoclastic Controversy 726-843
- Middle or High Byzantine 843-1204
- Late Byzantine 1204-1453, and beyond

Early Byzantine Art

- Justinian and Empress Theodora
- Drove Ostrogoths out of Italy
- Tons of money spent on over 30 building projects

Justinian as world conqueror- Ivory 500 ce

- Dynamic Twisting
- Kings strength comes from God
- Approval of Justinian's rule



Saint Michael the Archangel – diptych

- Victory becomes a Archangel
- Made in Constantinople?
- Subtle relief folds

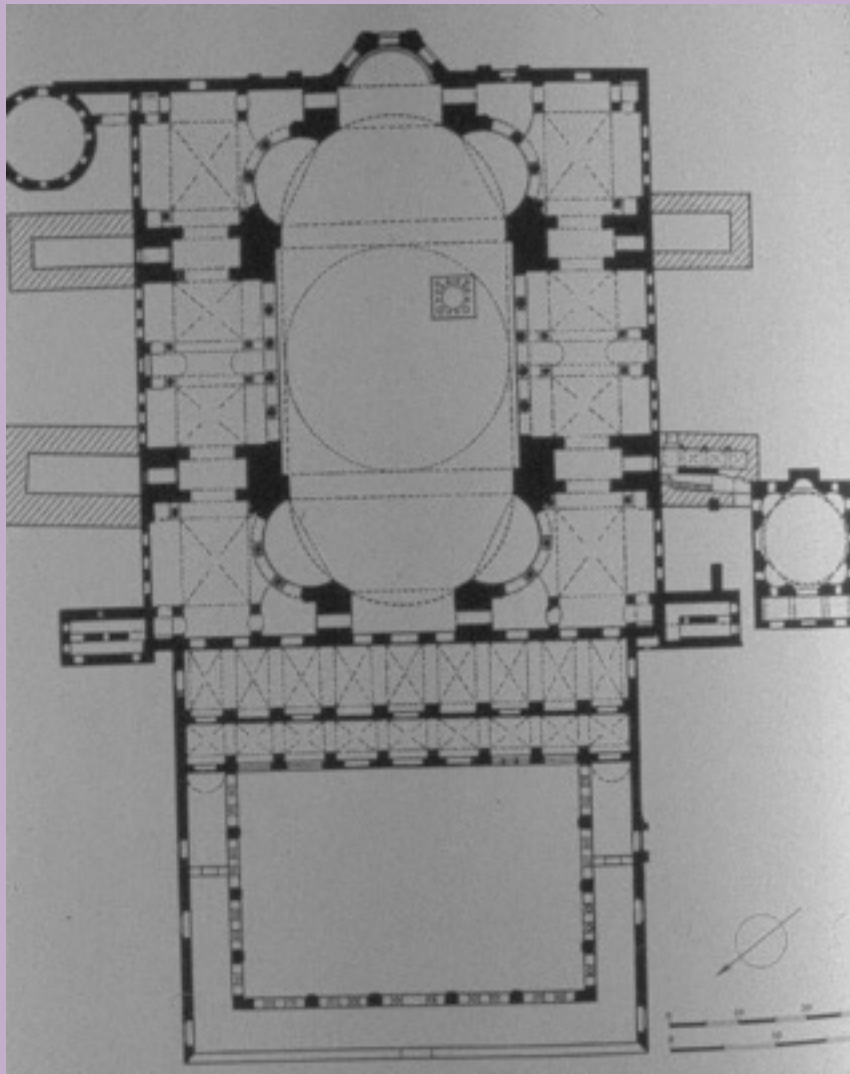


Hagia Sophia 532 Ce Constantinople (Istanbul) Turkey

Anthemius of Tralles and Isidorus of Miletus



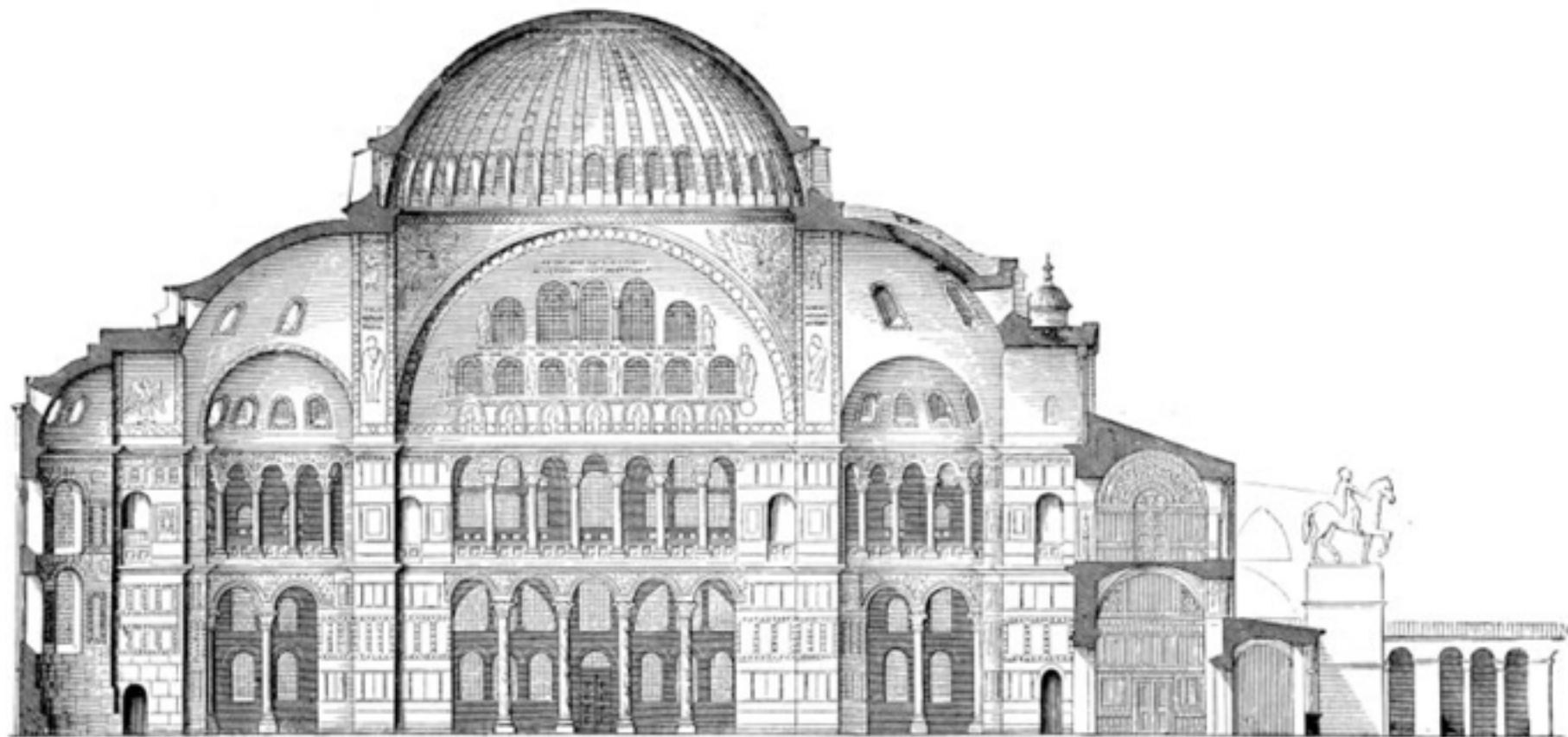
- Most important church in Byzantine art
- Huge Buttresses
- Centrally and axially planned
- Plain and massive little decoration
- Altar at the end of the nave
- Dome supported by pendentives
- Minarets added in Islamic Period 1450s





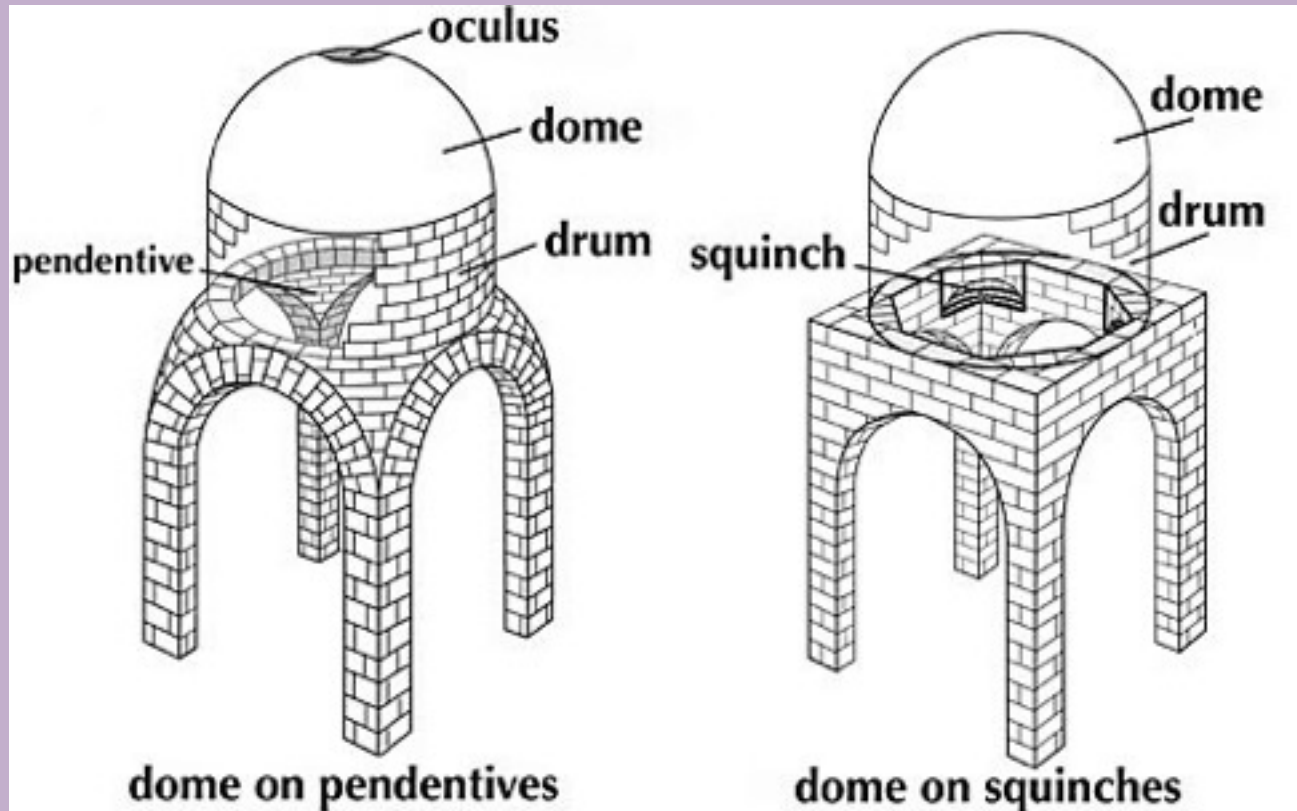


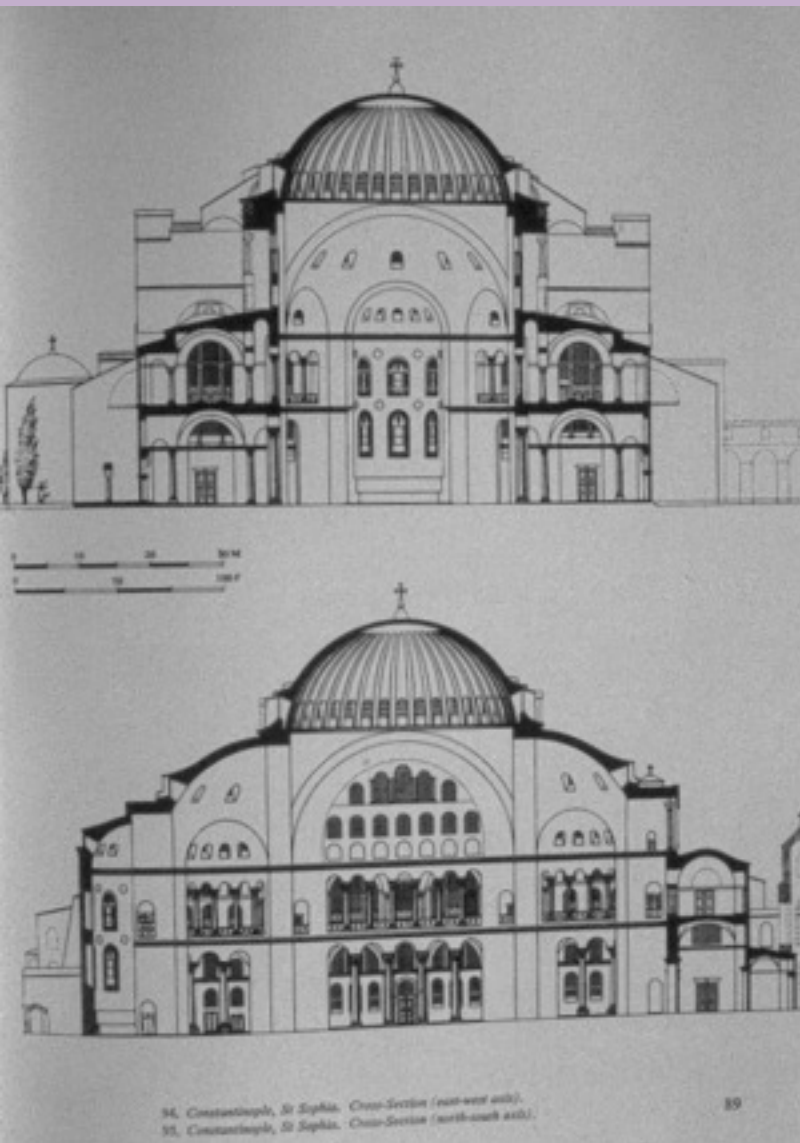




Floating dome of heaven?

Pendentives and Squinches



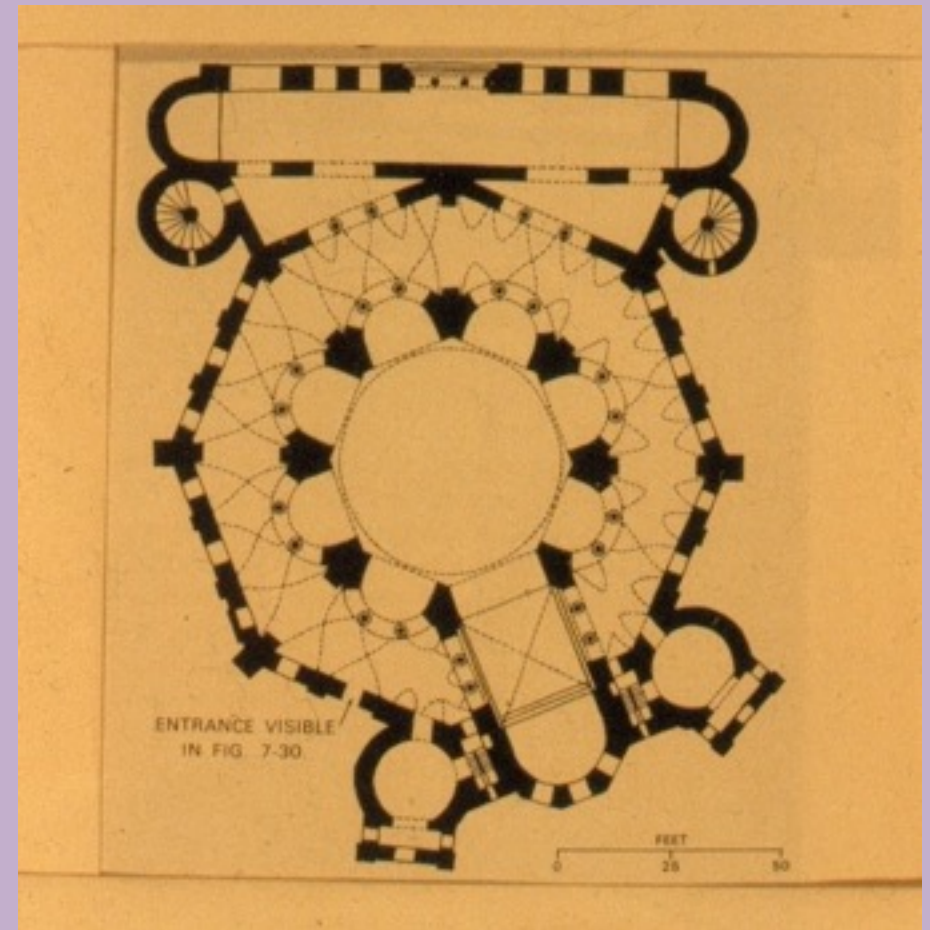


- Central plan church
- Converted into a Mosque
- Was a Basilica first
- Brick exterior, opposed to Roman concrete
- Mosaics

Ravenna – San Vitale

- Theodoric, the Ostrogoth's greatest king made Ravenna the new capital of the Kingdom
- Best reign from an Emperor when Justinian was King
- San Vitale (or Saint Vitalis who was martyred at Ravenna in the second century)
- Polygonal apse, plain exterior
- Eight Sided church
- Interior has thin columns and open arched spaces
- Plain exterior except porch added later in Renaissance
- Clerestory lighting
- Built after Theodoric's death

Complex plan



Choir and apse of San Vitale with mosaic of Christ between two angels 526-547

- Laws of the Eastern Church
- Purple robe and halo
- Christ as Pantocrator
- Jesus holding items



Theodora & Attendants

- Slight displacement of absolute symmetry with Theodora
- Richly robed empress and ladies at court
- Figures are flattened and weightless



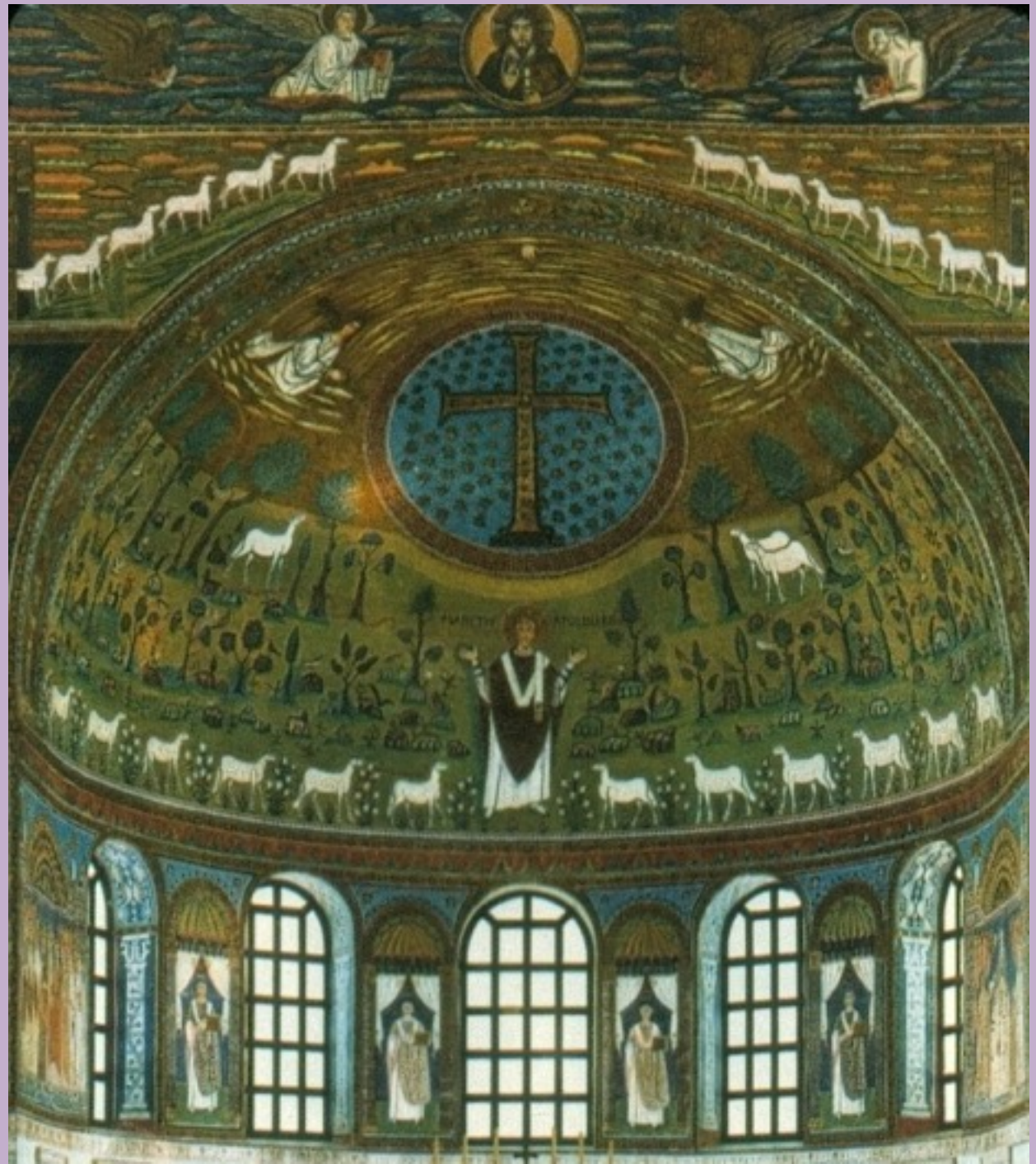
Justinian and Bishop Maximianus

- divided into 3 groups, the emperor, staff, imperial guard and shield
- monogram, no background
- Left the clergy and right the military
- Dressed in royal purple and gold
- Symmetry, Holds a paten for the Eucharist
- Figures float
- Gold background



Saint Apollinaris

- Held the body of Sant' Apollinare - Martyrdom
- Interior – mosaics only in the apse
- Clouds Moses and Isiaiah
- Sheep are disciples



Justinian on Rt. Side. purple. halos



Climatic achievement in Byzantine art



Transfiguration of Christ St. Catherine Mt. Sinai 548 ca



Vienna Dioskorides – Given to the Anicia Juliana
Constantinople, 512
Tempera on Parchment paper



- Greek Physician –
- 498 images of illustrations

Ascension of Christ from a Gospel book – Syria 586CE



Play apart of Monastic Life - Icons – Private devotion wood ptg.



- Christ rose from the dead after three days
- Guardian saints
- Hand seen between angels
- No space

Iconoclasm (726- 843 ce)

- Preservation of Icons began from Mt. Sinai Monastery
- Arabs would rise (Islamic Religion) conquered Byzantium's eastern provinces and Persia.
- Uneasy times, Byzantine territory was lost – ends... Starts the middle age
-Iconoclasts destroyed Icons

- Emperor Leo – thinks God is punishing the Roman Empire for worshiping icons
- 726ce, banned Icon paintings
- No new art
- The cross was used, scrolls, floral, animals and architectural motifs

Middle Byzantine Art (843-1204)

- Images return
- Undoes Iconoclasm



Hagia Sophia

was restored

- Virgin (Theotokos) and Child - Mosaic – Hagia Sophia 867
- Jesus as Theotokos
- Flatter imagery
- Iconophiles had triumphed over the iconoclasts

Monastery Churches @ Hosios Loukas, Greece

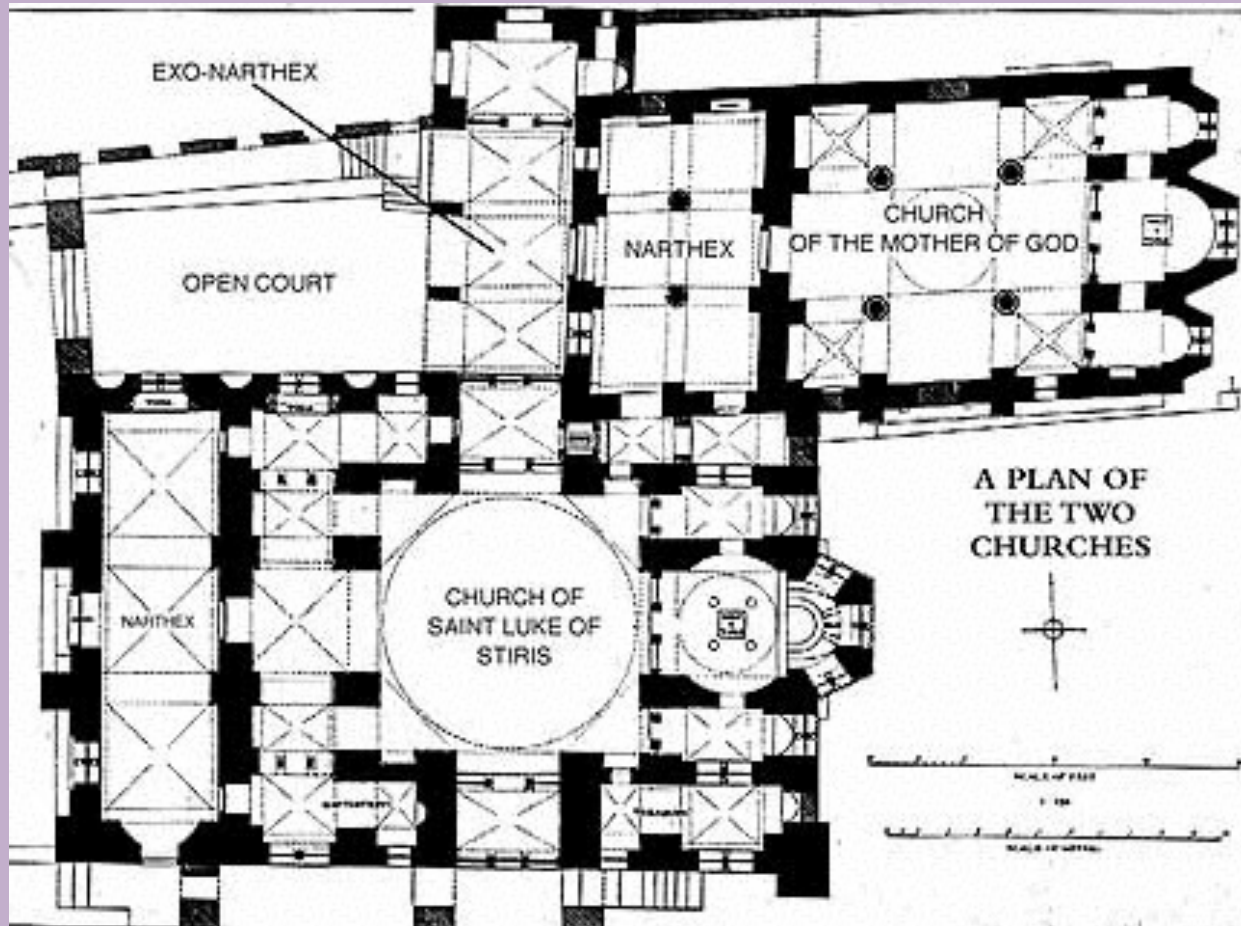
Left – 1st quarter of the 11th Century and church of The Theotokos (10th)



-Monastic Church

- Square , cylinder or drum
- Influence of Islamic arch.
- Small
- The dome rests on pendentives

Plans of Church of the Theotokos and Katholikon , Greece





Katholikon – Hosios Loukas, Greece



- Your eye is drawn upward
- High and narrow
- Groin and barrel vaults
- Triple windows

Christ as Pantokrator –



- Gazing down
- Fearsome image of Christ
- Gigantic Icon floating in space



Crucifixion in the church of
the Dormition, Daphni

- Tilted body
- Defiant to the laws of Gravity, blood spurts at a curve
- Saggy body
- Wound of Longinus
- The Virgin and John point to the figure of Christ

St. Marks – Venice



Venice and Byzantium

Int. of St. Mark's 1063, Venice Italy



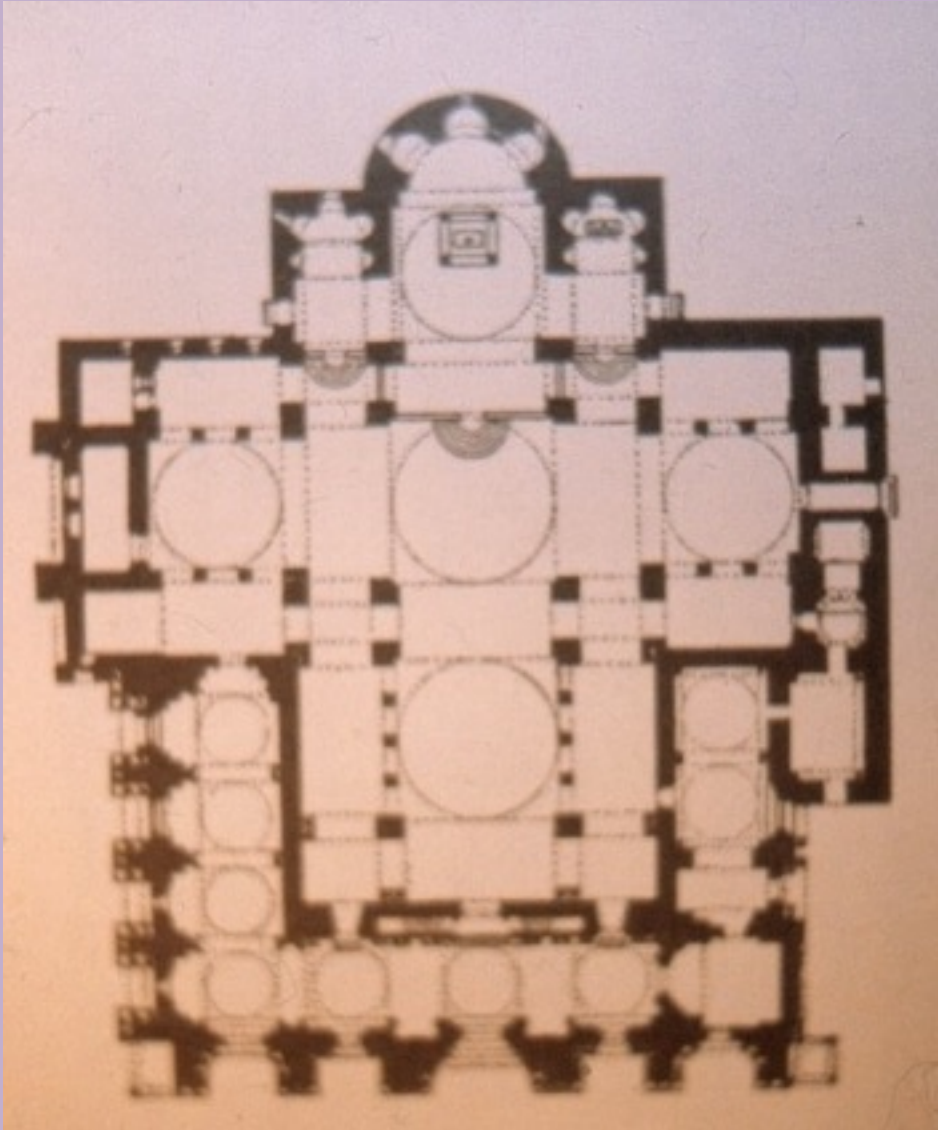
A revival of grand scale church building

Venice was an independent power

Relics obtained relics of St. Marks

William II paid for mosaics,
mosaics display piety and power

Cruciform Plan



Christ as Pantokrator
apse image is at the
end of the church
Opposed to being
located in the central
dome like Hagia
Sophia

Pantokrator, Theotokos and Child, angels and saints apse mosaic 1180-1190ce Monreale, Italy



Norman King William II paid for Mosaics depicting himself in the mosaic like Justinian

Piety and Power

Ruler rules with divine authority

Luxury Arts

- Pala d' Oro
- Empress Irene
- Haloed gold and enamel, wafer thin
- Gift to church
- St. Marks, Venice, with stones 1105ce



Christ Enthroned with Saints

950ce Ivory



Lamentation – 1164ce Macedonia

Saint Pantaleimon Church – Wall painting



- Joseph of Arimathea and the disciple Nicodemus kneel at his feet
- Emotional impact
- Blue Sky

Virgin and Child (Vladimir Virgin) 11th to 12th century



- Flat silhouette, long nose
- Virgin Mary looking out thinking about Christ's future

Apse Fresco Church of Christ in Chora, Constantinople, Turkey 1310ce



- Swift smooth action
- Float in a spiritual atmosphere
- spaceless



- Modeled head
- Greco-Roman heritage
- Bejeweled bible
- Linear folds in Christ's drapery