

# Greek Art/Architecture Definitions

## Architecture

### 1. pediment

a gable like, usually triangular, architectural or decorative element; triangular part of the front of some buildings in the Grecian style of architecture (often a triangular piece over a doorway).

### 2. column

a pillar; a slender upright structure used in a building for support or ornament.

#### A. capital

the top part of a pillar or column.

#### B. shaft

the long, main part of a column.

#### C. plinth

block at the base of a column; can also be the base for a statue.

#### D. fluted

column shaft marked by long, usually rounded grooves incised (cut) in the shaft.

#### E. caryatid

a supporting column sculpted in the form of a woman.

#### F. Doric Order

a classical order marked by heavy fluted columns with plain, saucer-shaped capitals and no base.

#### G. Ionic Order

a classical order, marked by two opposed ornamental scrolls (spiral volutes) in the column capital.

#### H. Corinthian Order

a classical order marked by slender fluted columns with ornate bell shaped capitals decorated with acanthus leaves.

### 3. entablature

area between the roof and the columns; a horizontal superstructure supported by columns and composed of architrave (bottom portion), frieze (middle), and cornice (top portion).

#### A. architrave

the lowest part of an entablature resting directly on the tops (capitals) of columns.

#### B. frieze

a horizontal band, often decorated with sculpture, between the architrave and the cornice of a building.

#### C. cornice

a horizontal molding projecting along the top of a wall, building etc.; the top part of an entablature.

# **Sculpture**

## **1. sculpture**

a three dimensional representation, such as a statue, figure, etc. made by molding clay or wax, chiseling stone, carving wood or casting or welding metal.

## **2. sculptor**

a person who models, carves, or otherwise fashions figures or forms of clay, stone, metal, wood, etc.; artist who creates three-dimensional representations.

## **3. marble**

a metamorphic, often streaked rock formed by alteration of limestone or dolomite, used especially in architecture or sculpture.

## **4. bronze**

any of various alloys consisting chiefly of copper and tin, the color of which is usually shiny yellowish brown.

## **5. bust**

piece of sculpture representing the head, shoulders, and upper chest of a human body.

## **6. relief**

the projection of figures or forms from a flat background, as in sculpture.

### **bas relief (low relief)**

sculptural relief that projects very little from the background.

## **7. stele**

an upright stone slab or pillar engraved with an inscription or design and used as a monument, grave marker, etc. Also a prepared surface, as on a facade of a building having an inscription, carved design, etc.

## **8. kore/kourai**

a Greek sculpture of a clothed, standing young woman dating from the period 650 to 480 BC.

### **peplos**

a large shawl or scarf worn draped about the body by women in ancient Greece.

## **9. kouros/kouros**

a Greek sculpture of a naked, standing young man dating from the period 650 to 480 BC.

## **Pottery**

### **1. pottery**

pots, bowls, dishes, etc. made of clay hardened by heat; earthenware.

### **2. potter**

a person who makes earthenware.

### **3. terra cotta**

a brownish orange hard ceramic clay used in pottery and construction; sometimes used in sculpting.

### **4. amphora**

a two handled jar with a narrow neck used by the ancient Greeks and Romans.

### **5. aryballos**

a flask or bottle that has a short neck, single handle, small opening with a flaring lip, and globular body often elaborately decorated and that is used for holding oils or ointments.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **1. stylize(d)**

To make conform to a given style: specifically, to design or represent according to the rules of a style rather than according to nature.

### **2. Golden Rectangle**

a rectangle whose width is to its length as the length is to the sum of the width and length.

### **3. lyre**

a small stringed instrument of the harp family, used by the ancient Greeks to accompany singers and reciters.