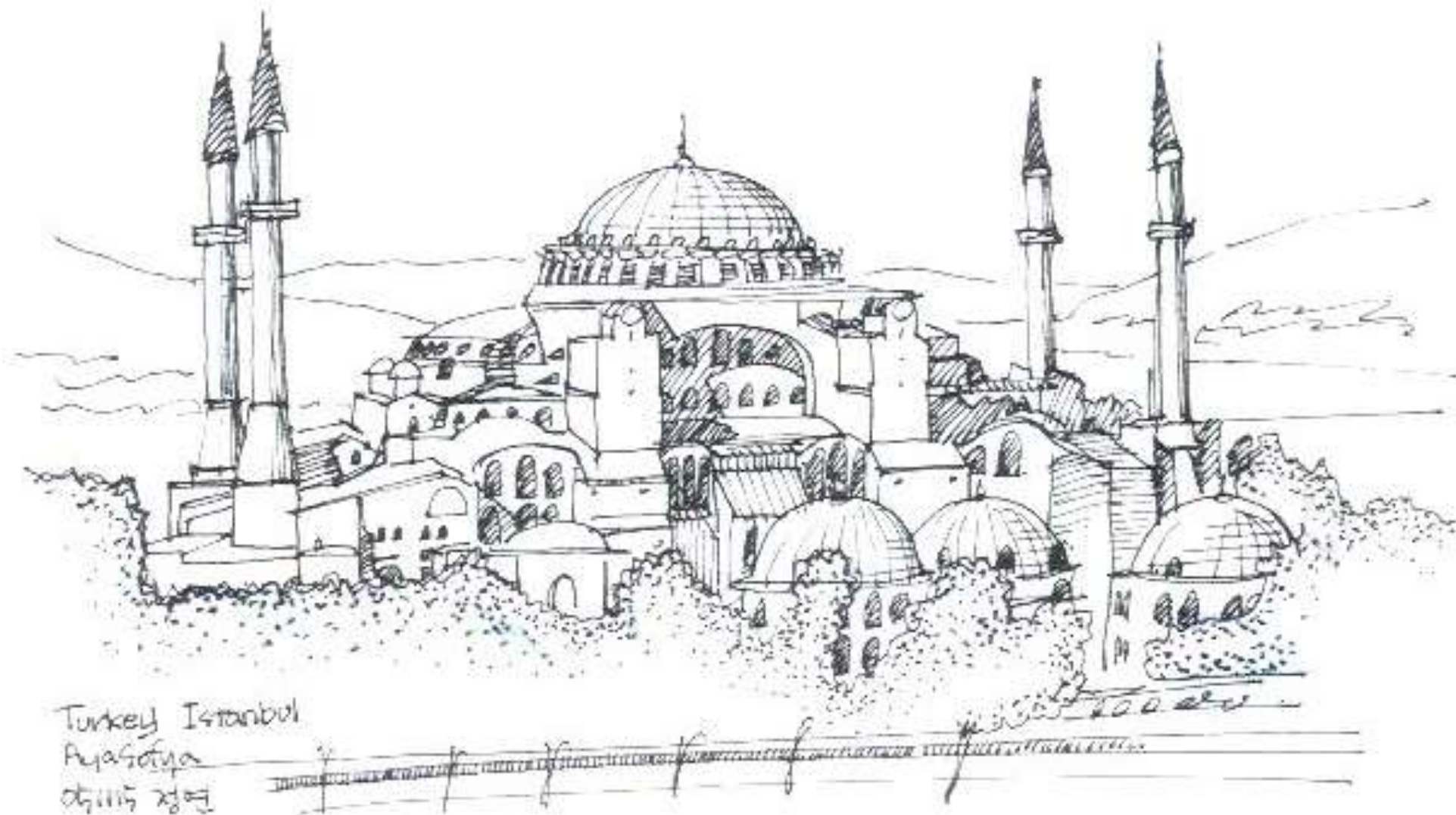


History of Architecture

Byzantine Architecture



Sara Khasib

Geography



History

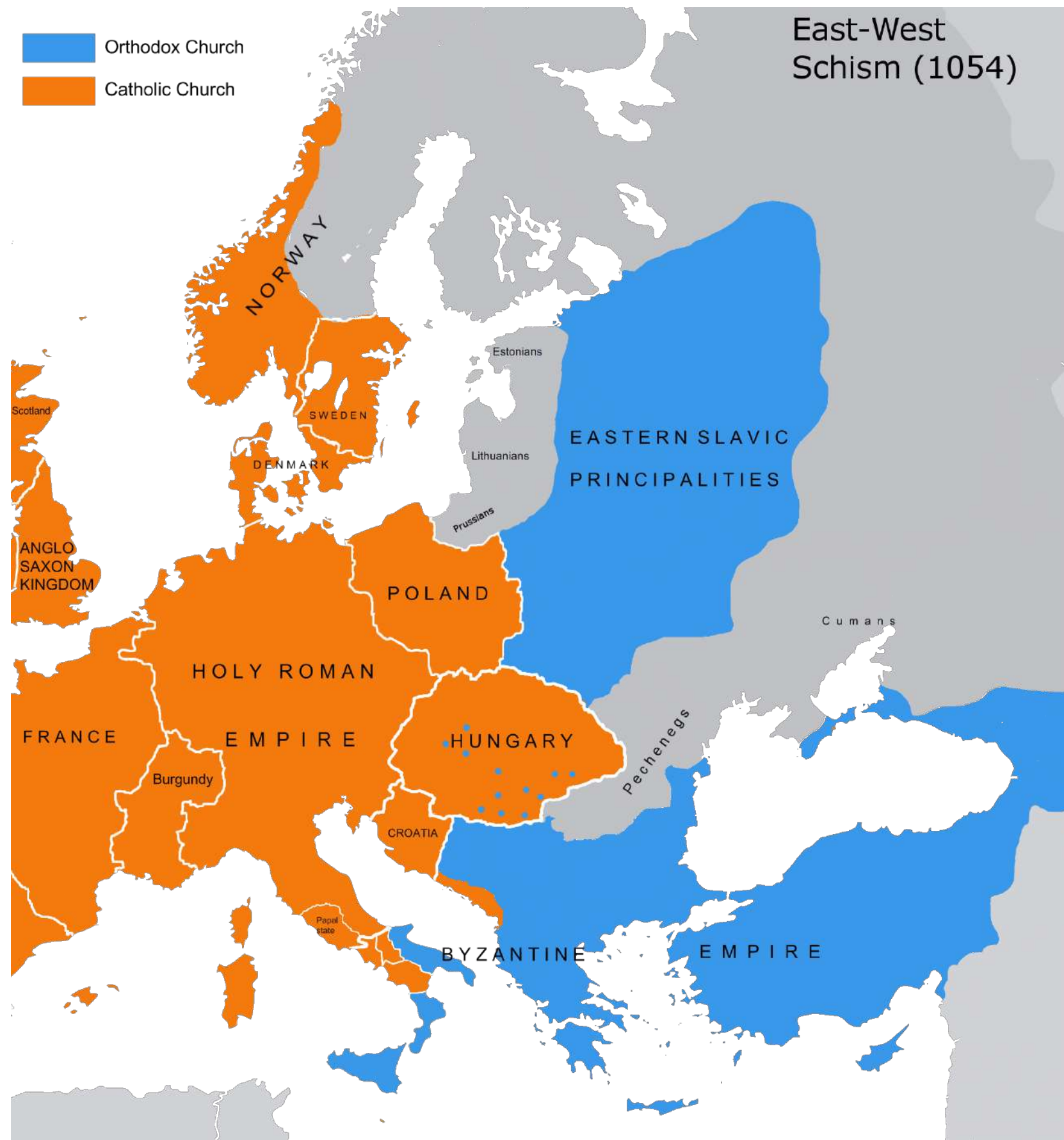
- **Constantinople** was the capital of the Roman empire between **330–395 AD**, then the capital of the **Byzantine empire** between **395–1453**
- **State and church administration merged**
- New form of the Roman Empire in the east emerged during **Justinian era**

Early Byzantium Emperors

Constantine I the Great	324–337 A.D.
Constantios (Constantius) II	337–361 A.D.
Julian	361–363 A.D.
Jovian	363–364 A.D.
Valens	364–378 A.D.
Theodosios (Theodosius) I	379–395 A.D.
Arkadios (Arcadius)	395–408 A.D.
Theodosios (Theodosius) II	408–450 A.D.
Marcian	450–457 A.D.
Leo I	457–474 A.D.
Leo II	474 A.D.
Zeno	474–475 A.D.
Basiliscos (Basiliscus)	475–476 A.D.
Zeno (<i>again</i>)	476–491 A.D.
Anastasios (Anastasius) I	491–518 A.D.
Justin I	518–527
Justinian I the Great	527–565

History

The schism of the Christianity to **Orthodox (east)** and **Catholic (west)** became evident from Justinian era



History



The Byzantine Empire (The eastern Roman Empire) **flourished during the 5th century AD** and continued to exist for an additional thousand years until it fell to the **Ottoman Turks in 1453**.

Religion

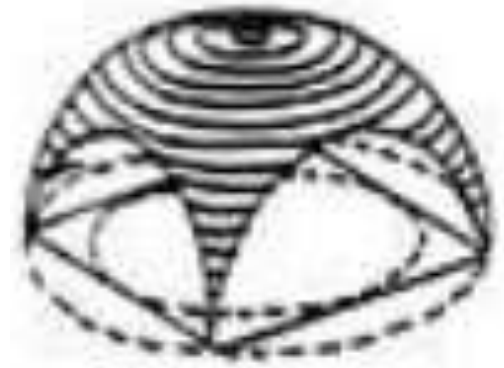
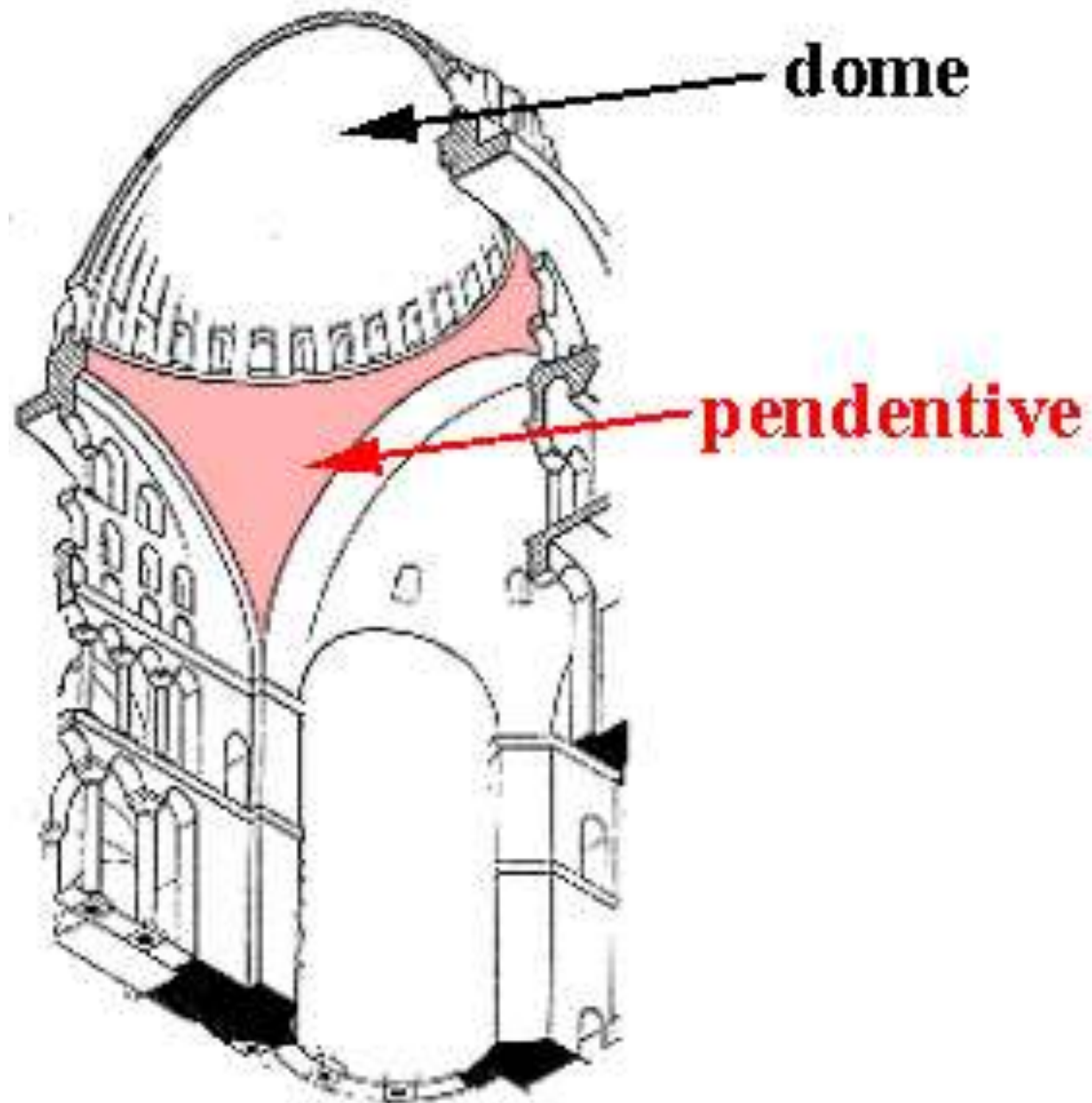
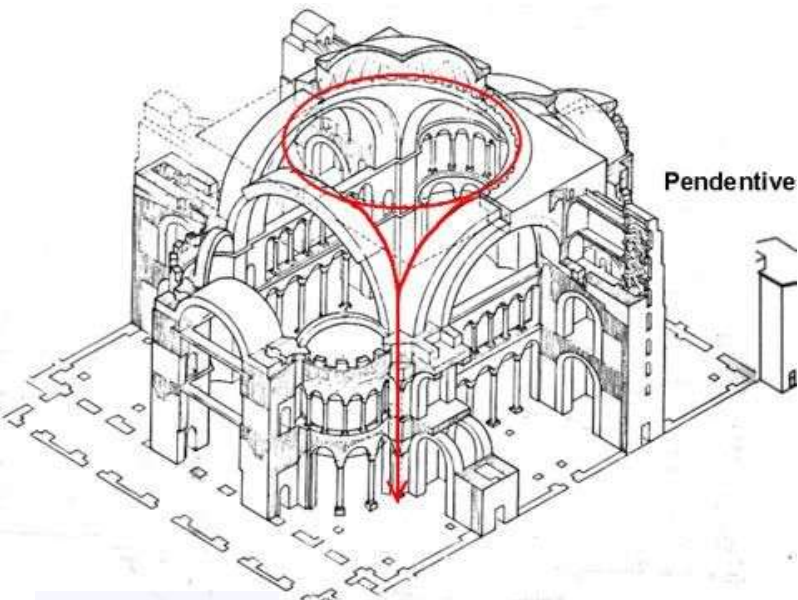
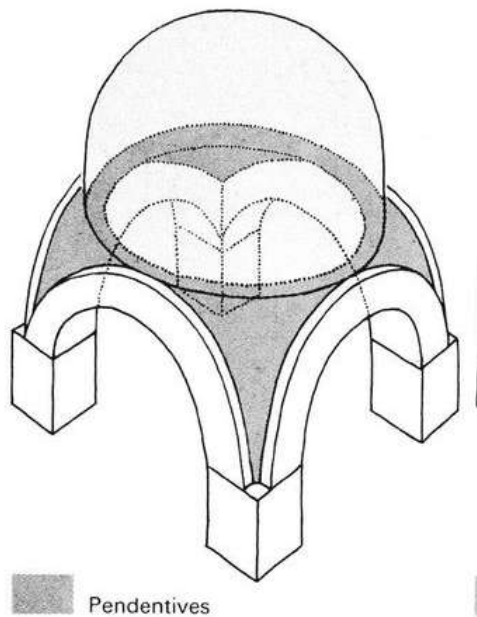
- The Church is viewed as a **house of god** and its design and construction as a reflection of this **symbolism**
- The **scale** of the church was **increased** and its **decoration** became more complex
- Contrast between the emphasis in Early Christian architecture on function and rituals, and in Byzantine architecture on **symbolism**



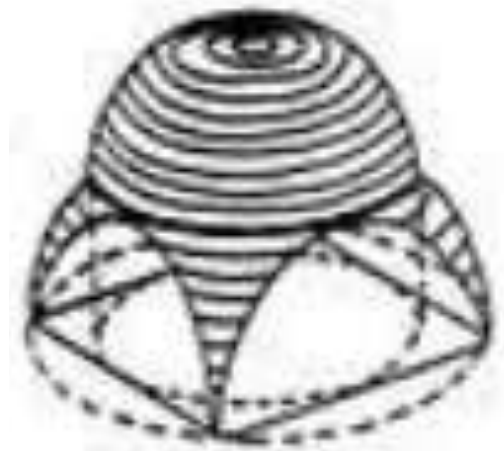
Architecture Character

Byzantine Church characters

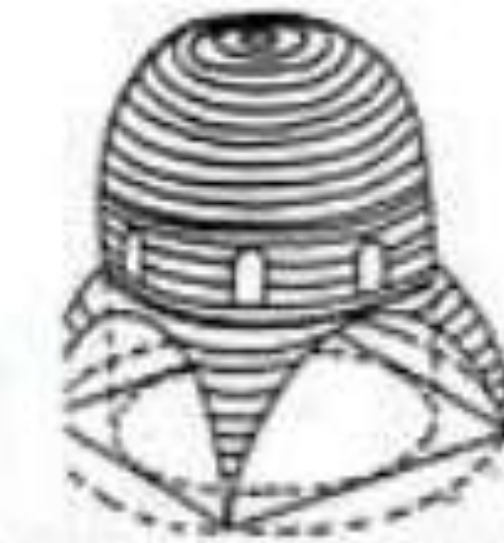
The use of **domed roofs**; usually supported on **pendentives**



Pendentive dome



Dome with pendentive



Dome with drum on pendentive

Byzantine Church characters



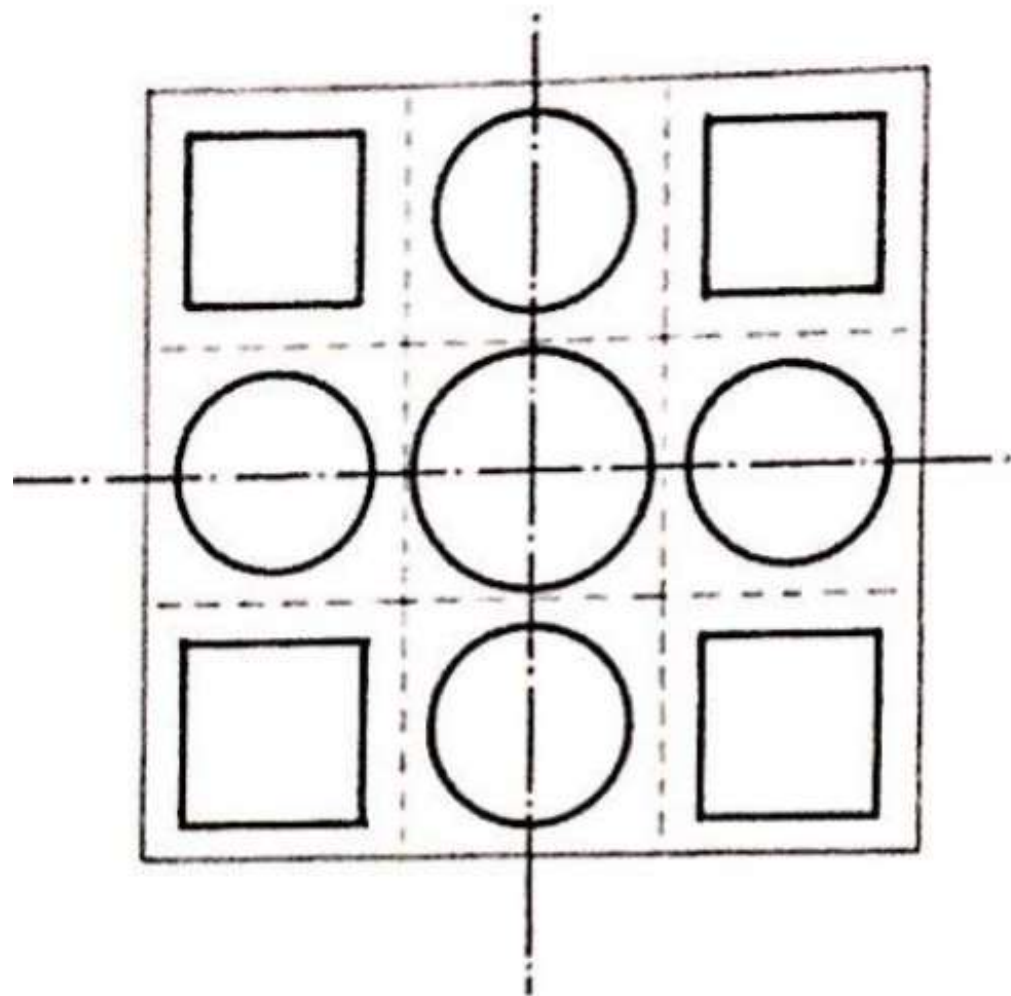
Byzantine Church characters:

The use of **brick** and **plaster** with **stone** in walls, with **minimal** decorations from outside reflecting the interior orientation of Christianity

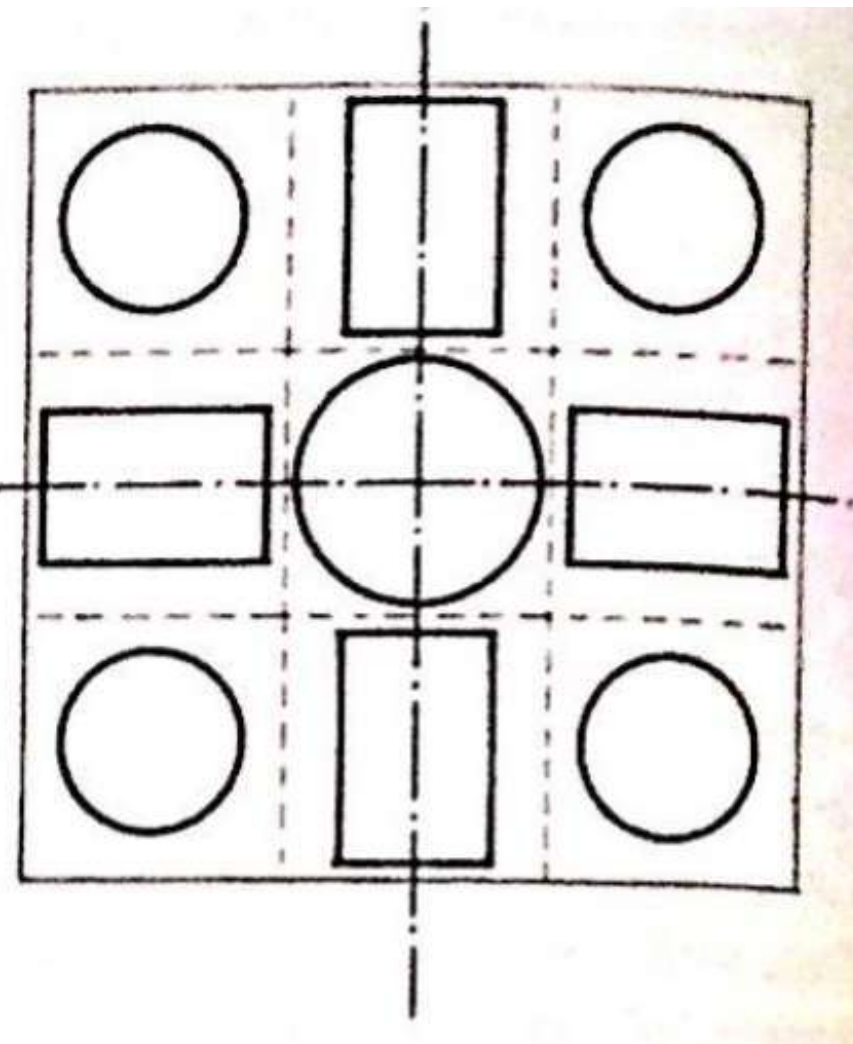


Byzantine Church characters

- The use of **centralized church plan**
- Numerous plan variations in which large **square** were divided into **nine components** squares with **dome at the centre** and the corners or at the centre and on the cross axes

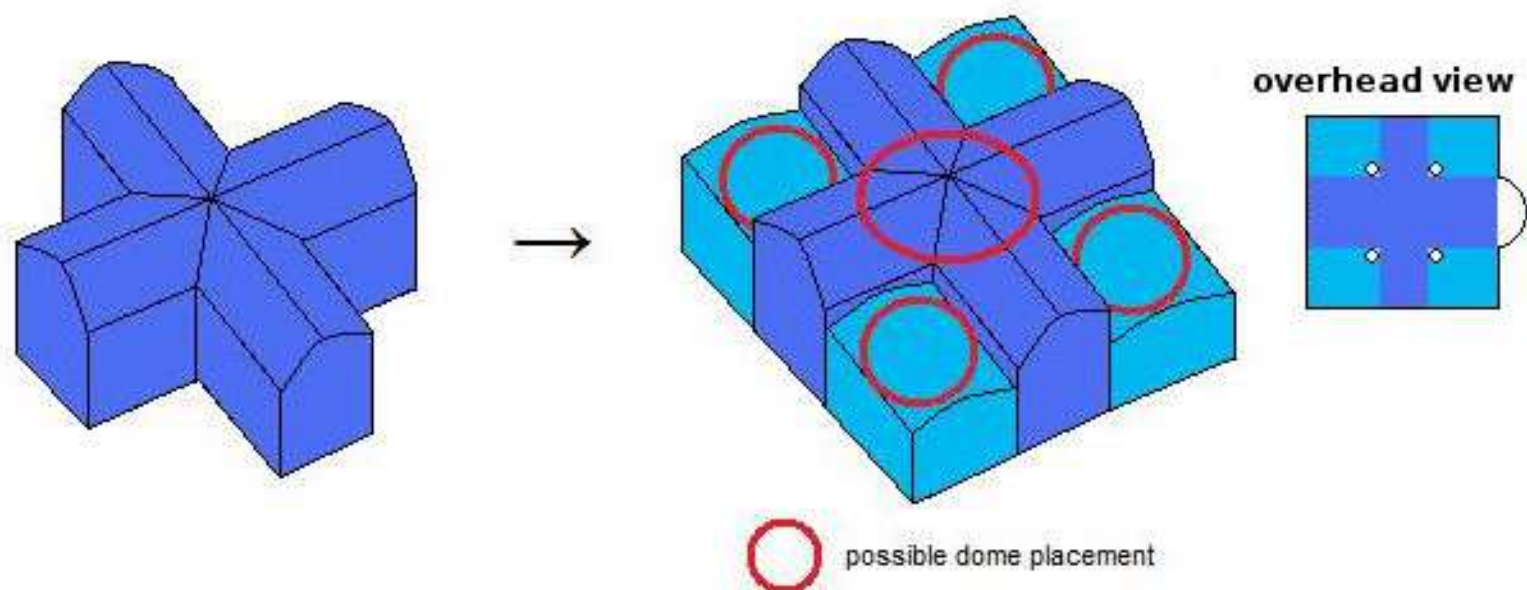
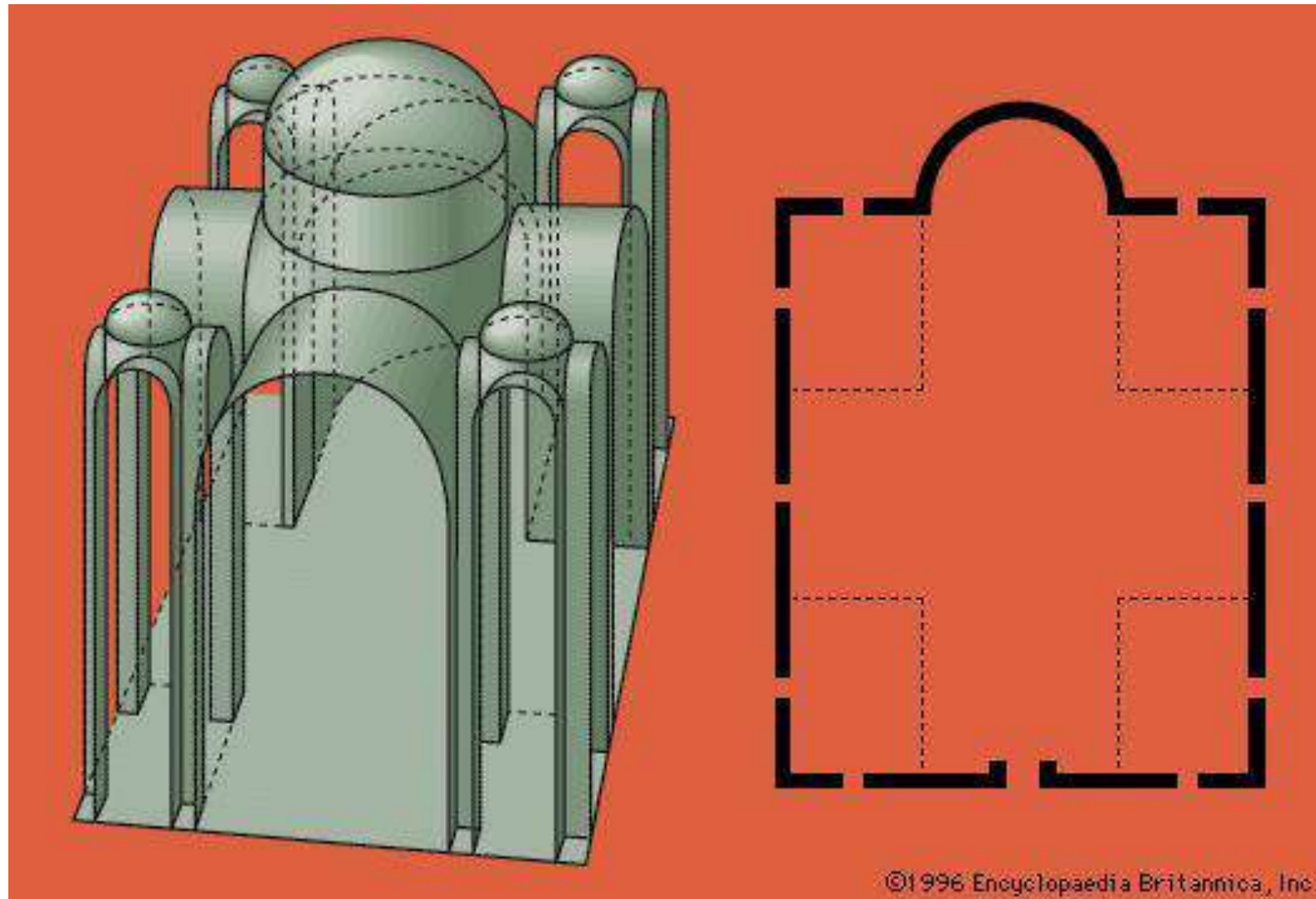


Domed Cross



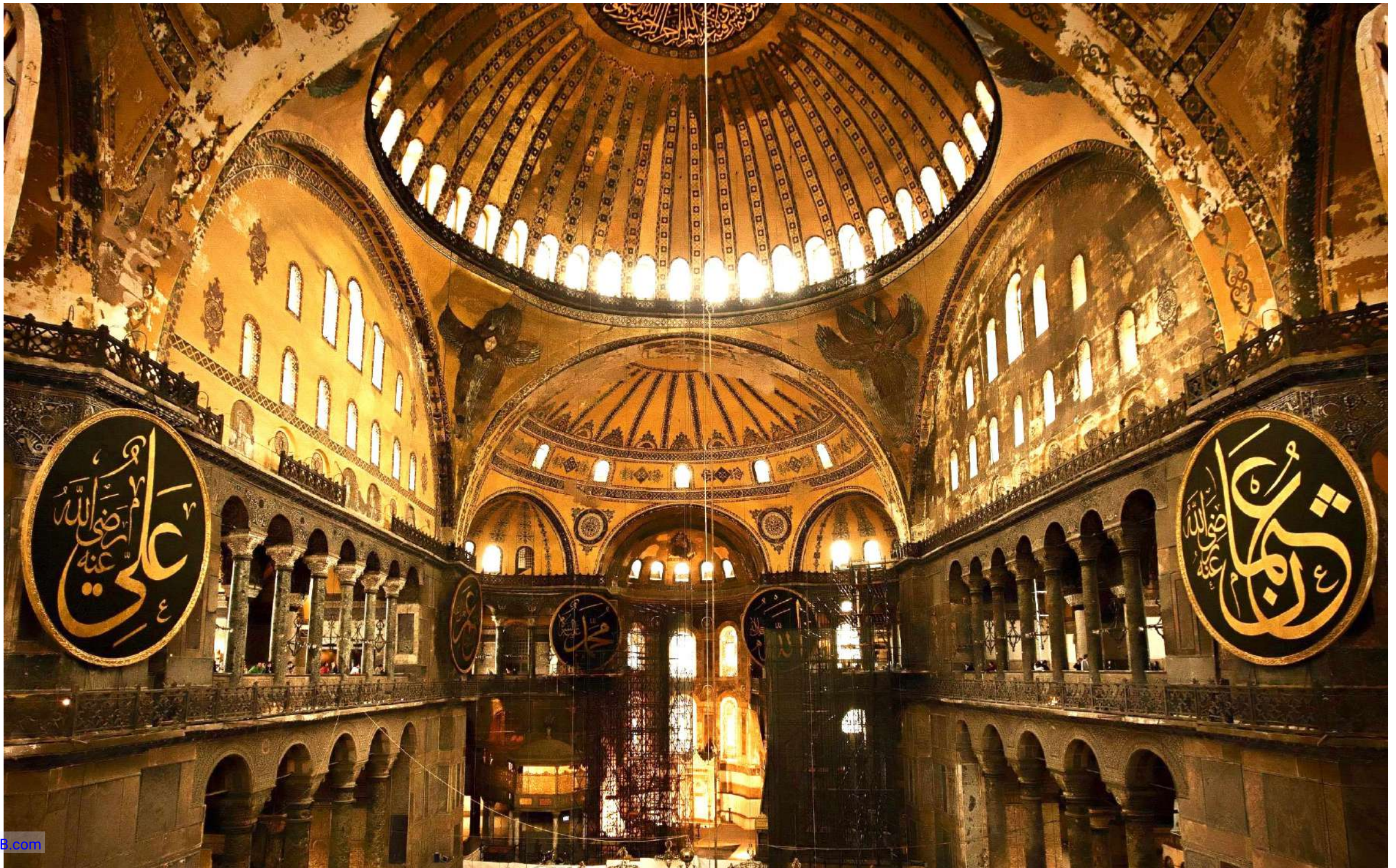
Cross in square

Byzantine Church characters:



Byzantine Church characters:

Complex program of **interior structure**, **lighting** and **decorations** to create **fascinating interiors**



Byzantine Church characters:

The use of **mosaics** in the interior



Byzantine Church characters

The Byzantine style merged between east and west motifs

From the East it borrowed:

- The color and luxury
- The central plan
- Symbolic decoration full of geometric patterns
- An appeal to the emotion

From Roman and Greek it adopted:

- The basilica layout
- Columns
- Vaulting techniques
- Arches

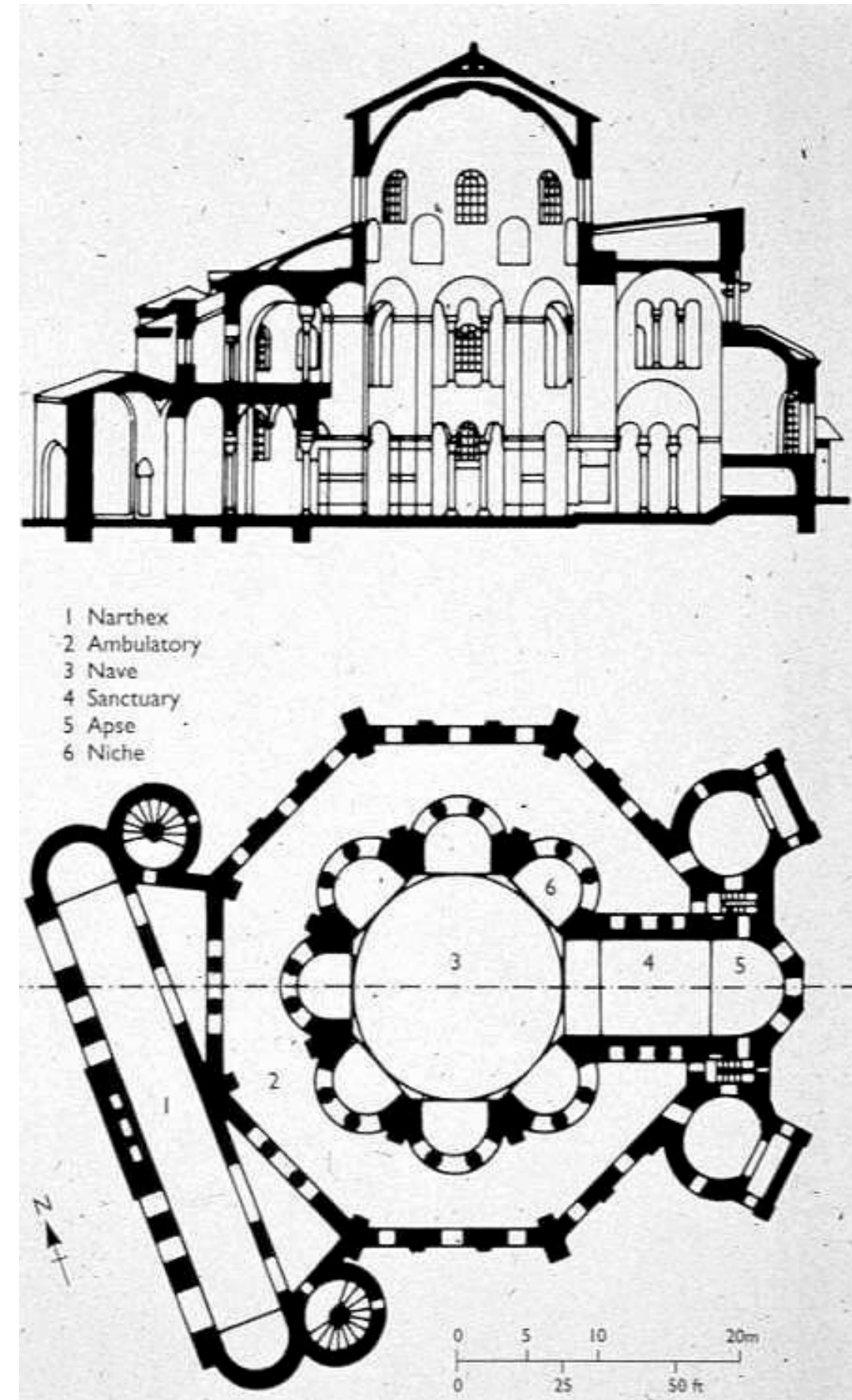
Early Church

San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy (534-548)

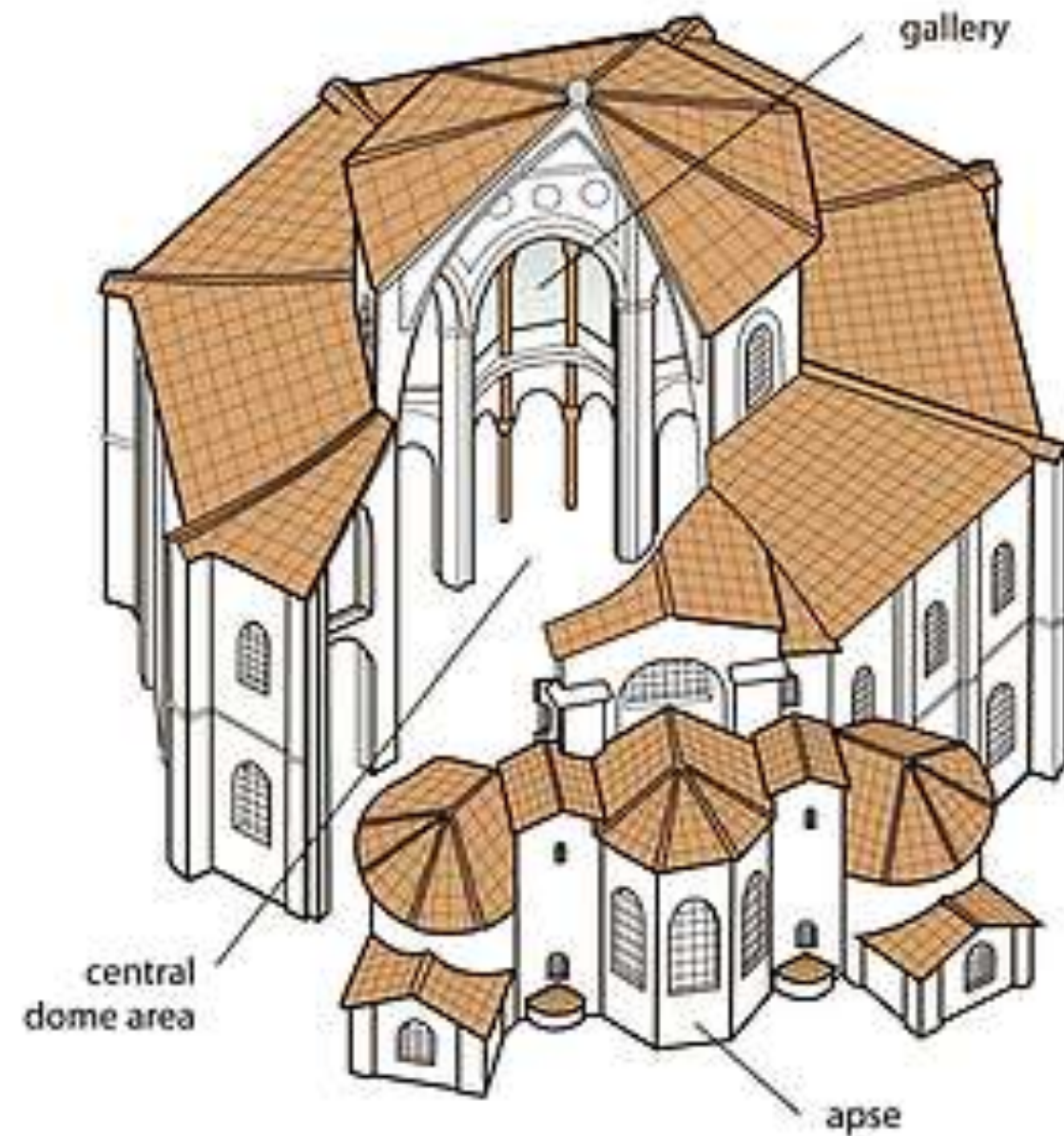
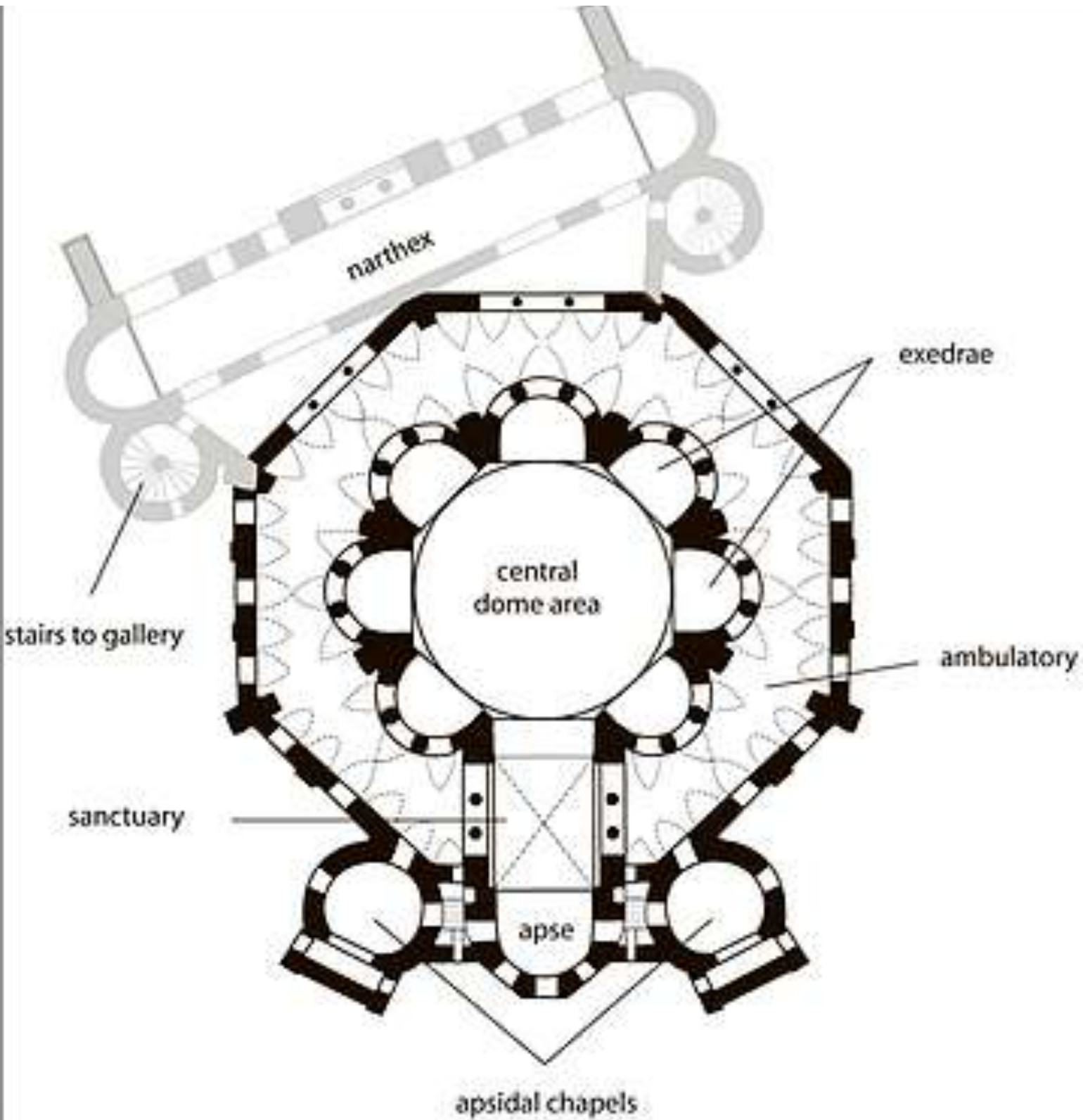


San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy (534–548)

- Built during **Justinian time**
- Has **double shell** of two octagons with an adjacent atrium
- The opening of the inter octagons push out in **arcaded niches**
- Over the centre there is a **dome** with **clerestory windows**
- Material used are **marble**, **stucco** and **mosaic**



San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy (534-548)



San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy (534-548)



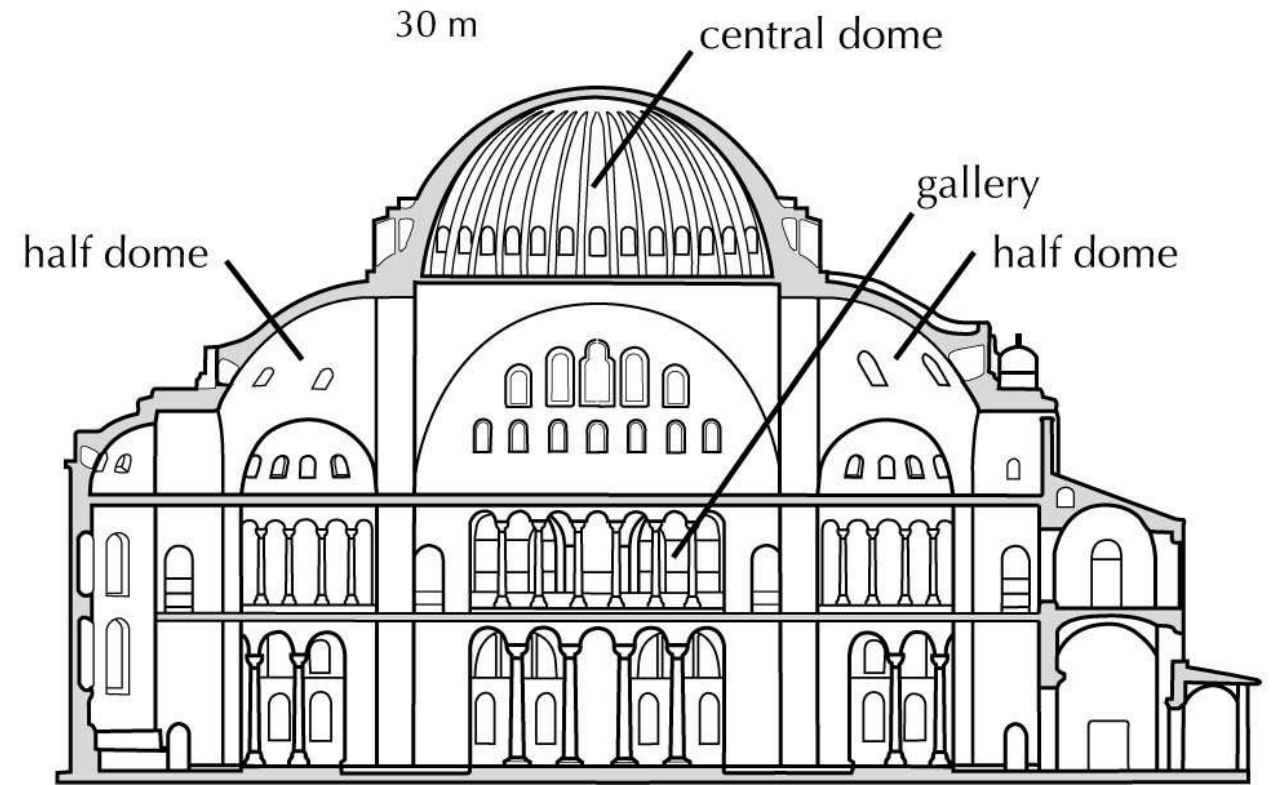
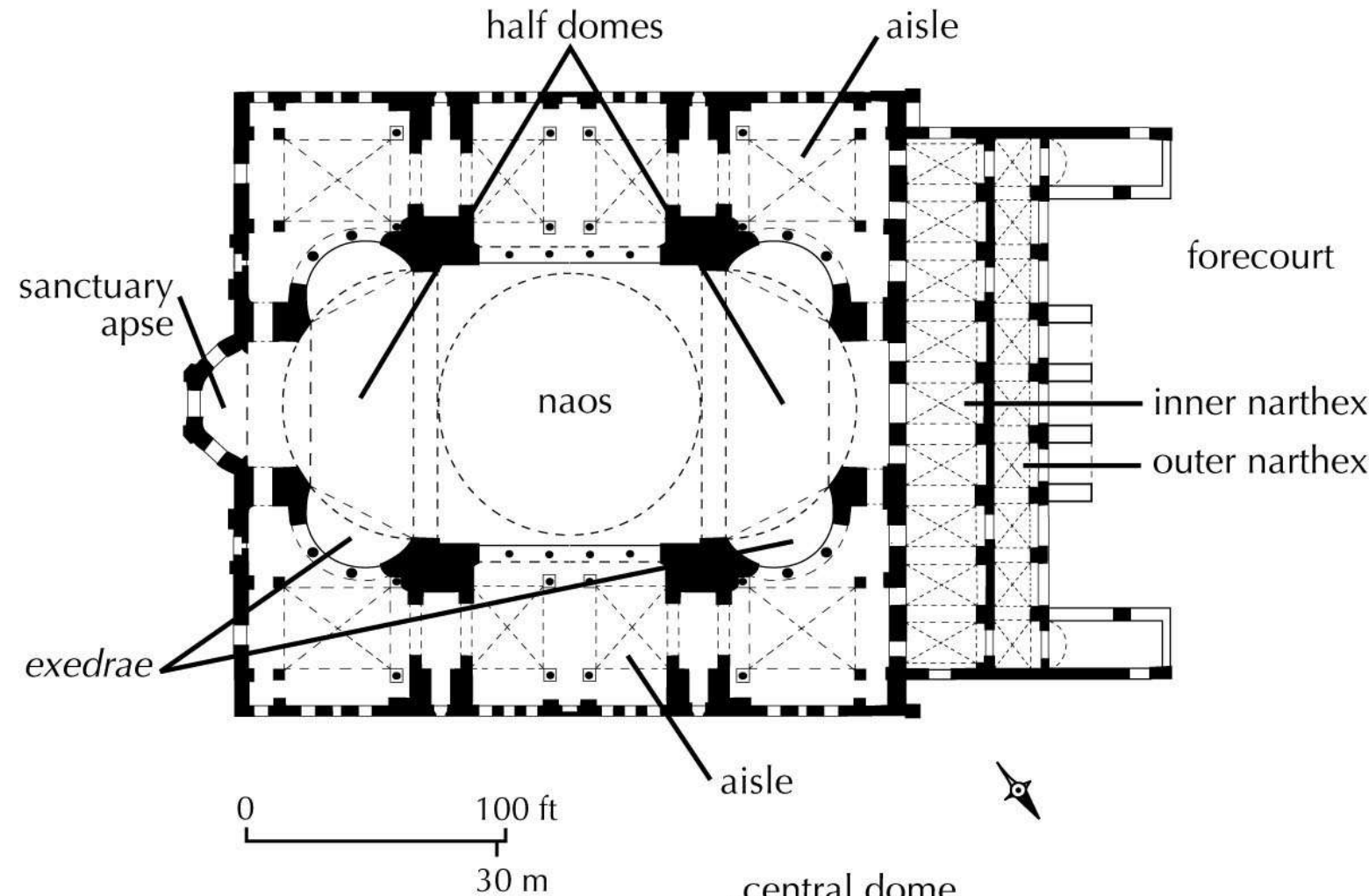
Byzantine Churches

Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)



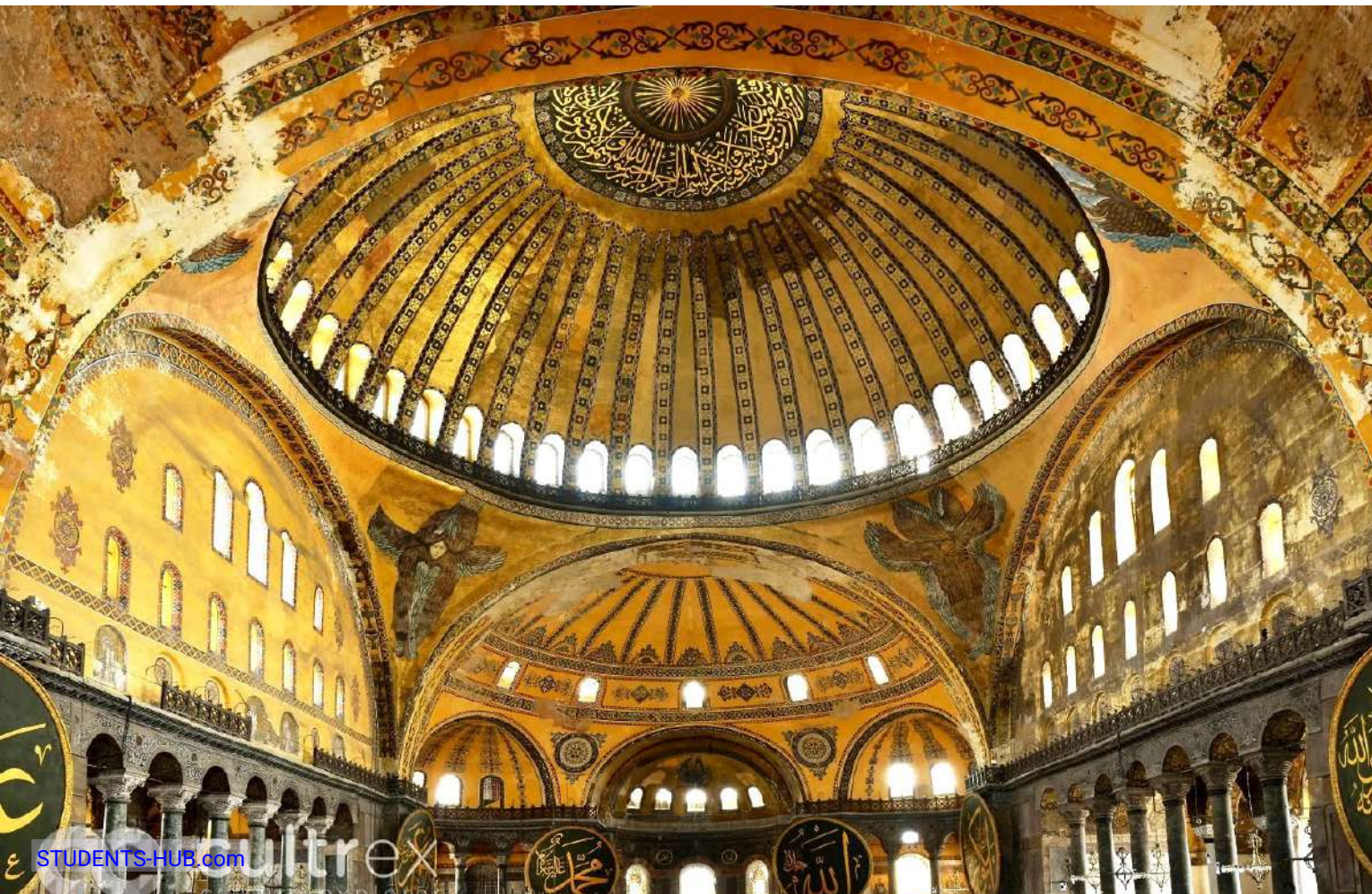
Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)

- Dedicated to the Holy Wisdom (God)
- **Centralized** building combining the centralized and axial plan
- A **square marked by four massive piers** at the centre capped by a **dome** carried on **pendentives**. 33 m in diameter, and 55 m high
- Along the main axis, **half domes** rising below the main dome
- End with an **apse** at the **East**



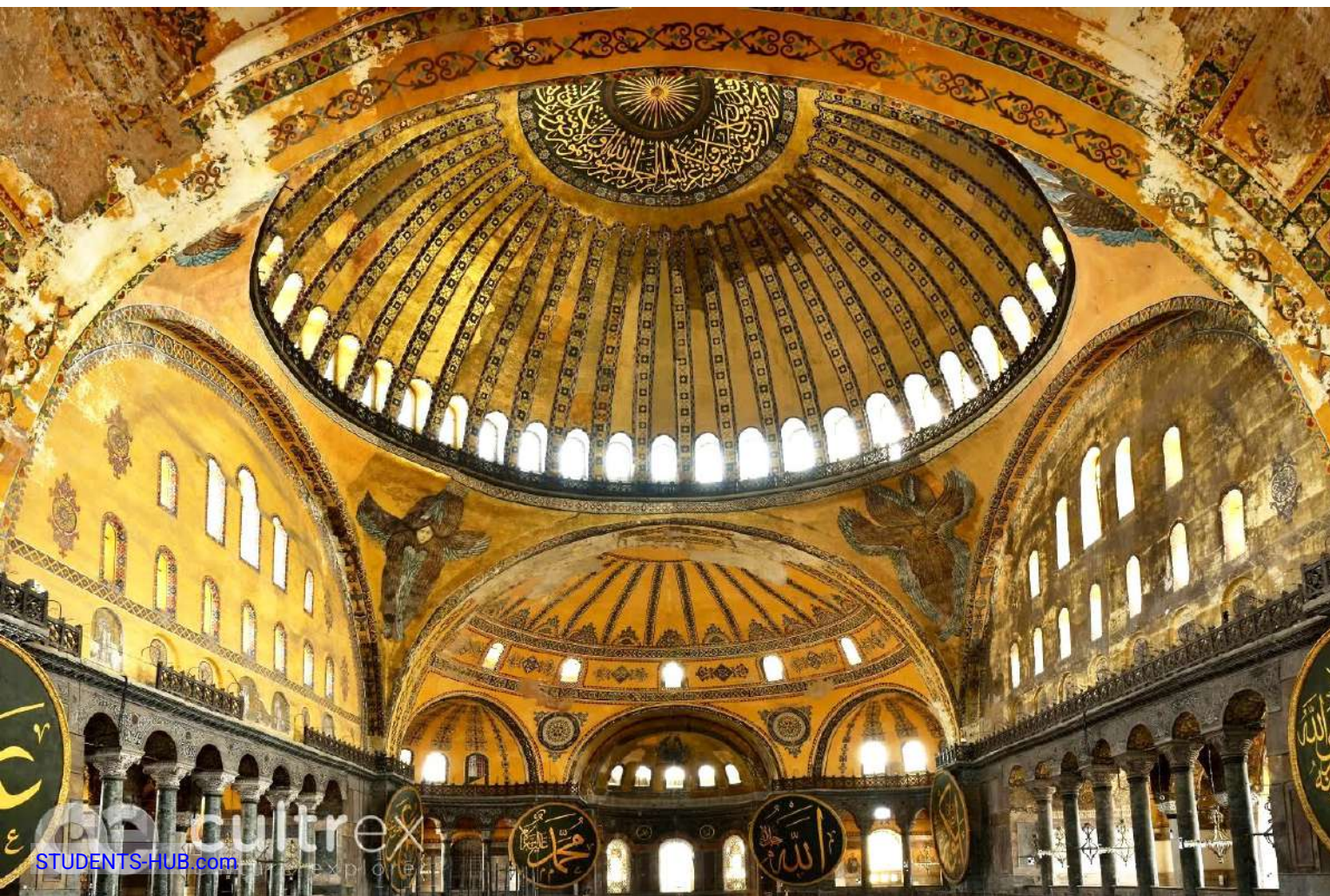
Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)

- The dome, the first to rival that of the Pantheon, was completely of **brick**
- But its structural sophistications were **designed to be invisible to observers**, who marveled at its gilded inner surfaces shimmering in the light



Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)

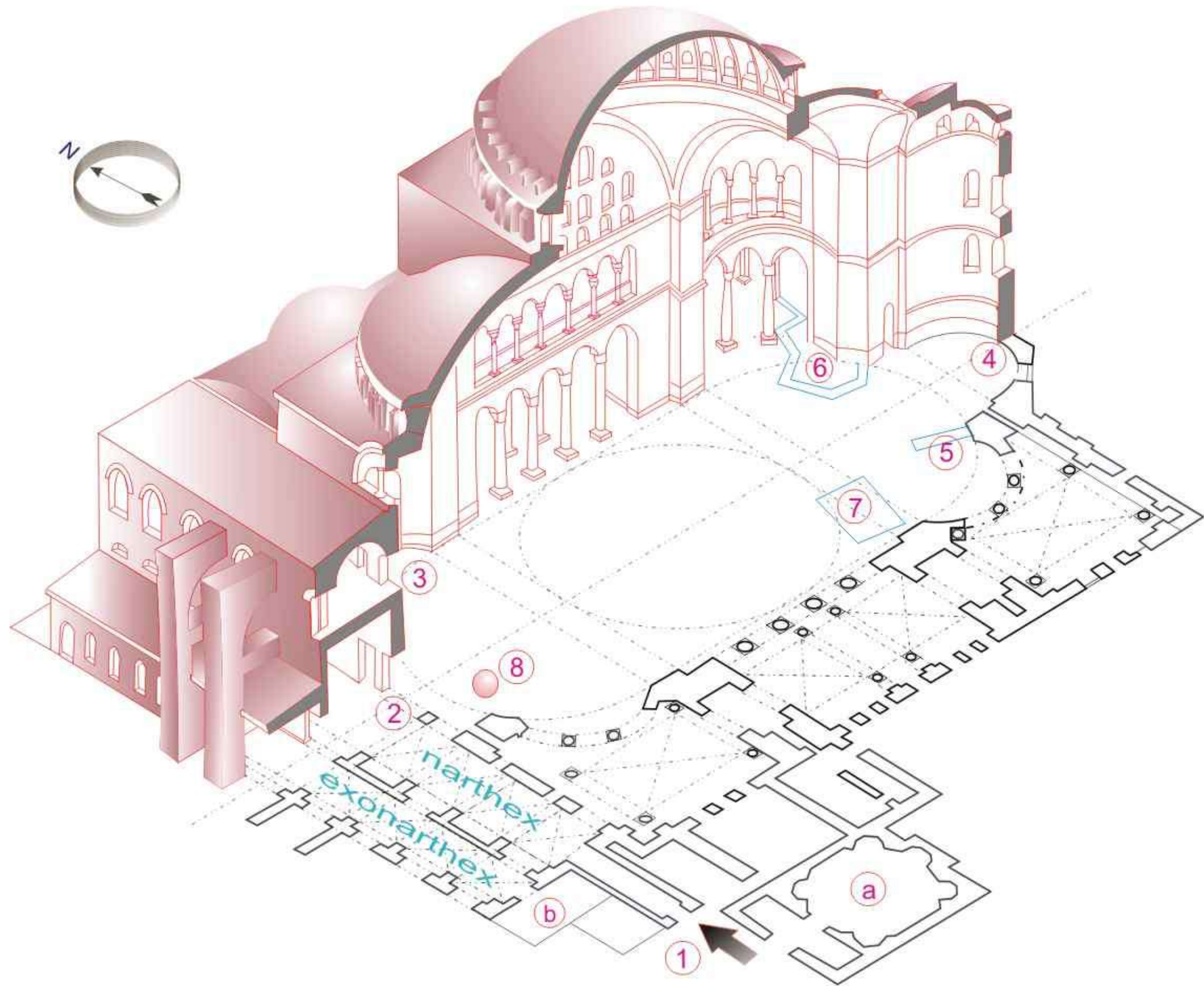
- The base of the dome was pierced with **forty windows**
- The interior was decorated with **mosaics and marble**



Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)



Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)



Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)



Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (532-537)



Unlike the static forms and spaces of classical architecture, here all seems in motion, surfaces **curving** and **intersecting**, **light** from hundreds of windows reflected by **marble** walls and **mosaics**

Byzantine Churches

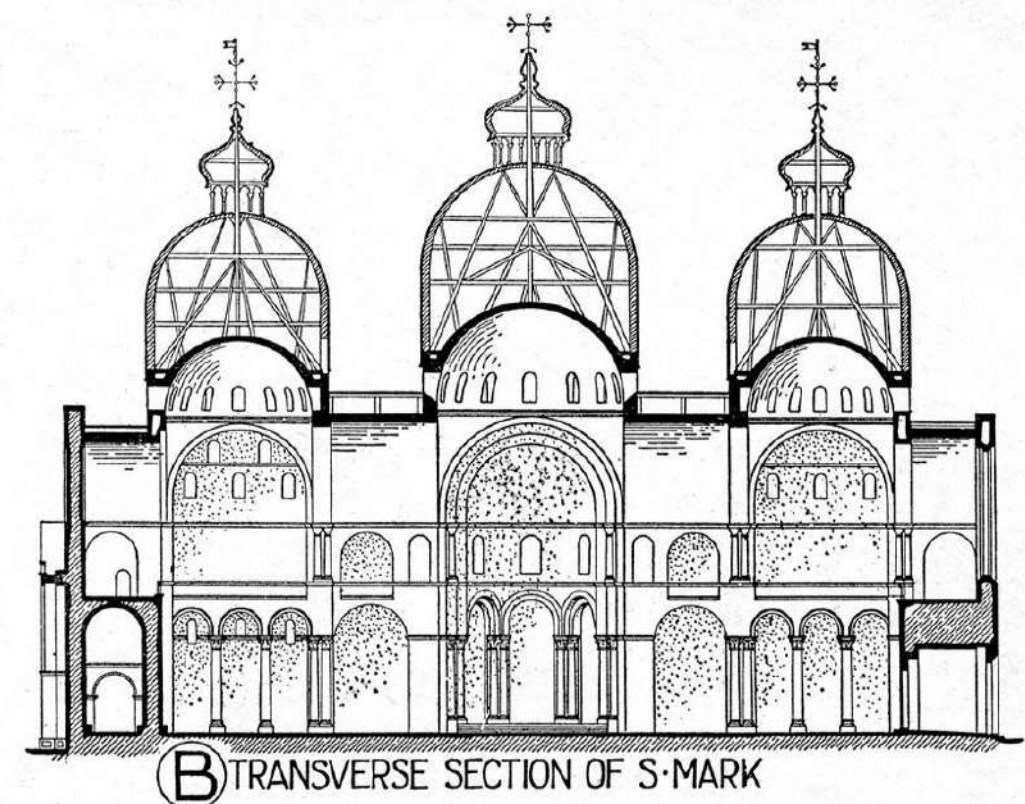
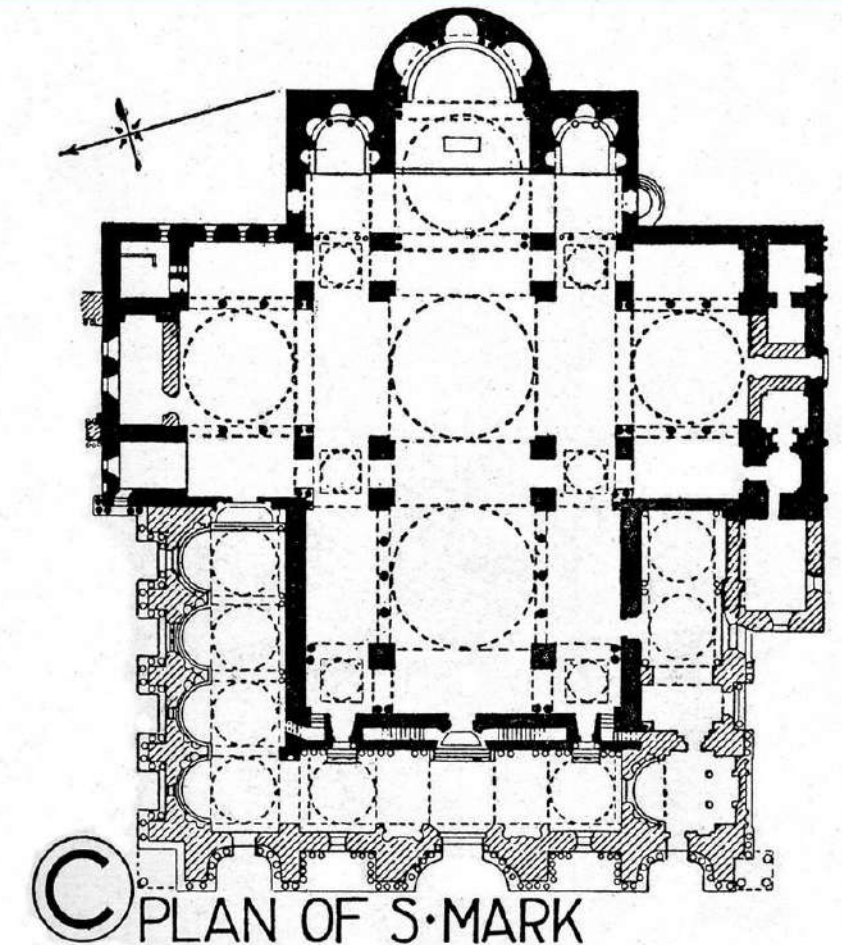
Churches outside of Constantinople

St Mark's Basilica, Venice (1063-1095)



St Mark's Basilica, Venice (1063–1095)

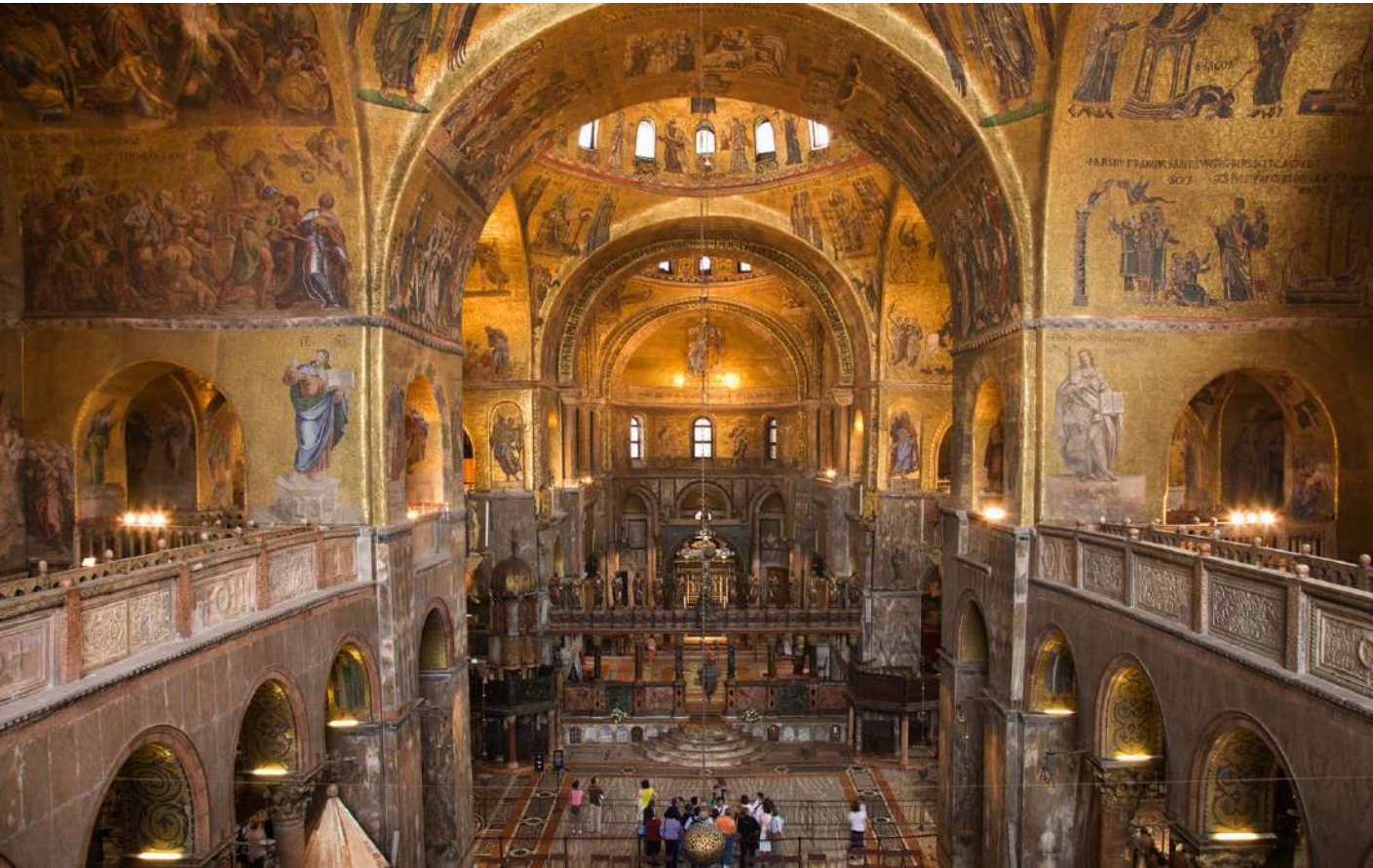
- Based on a **Greek cross** floor plan
- **Five dome church** influenced by Hagia Sophia
- **Four square arms**, project from the centre, each square covered by a dome
- The front façade is Gothic and was added much later



St Mark's Basilica, Venice (1063-1095)



St Mark's Basilica, Venice (1063-1095)



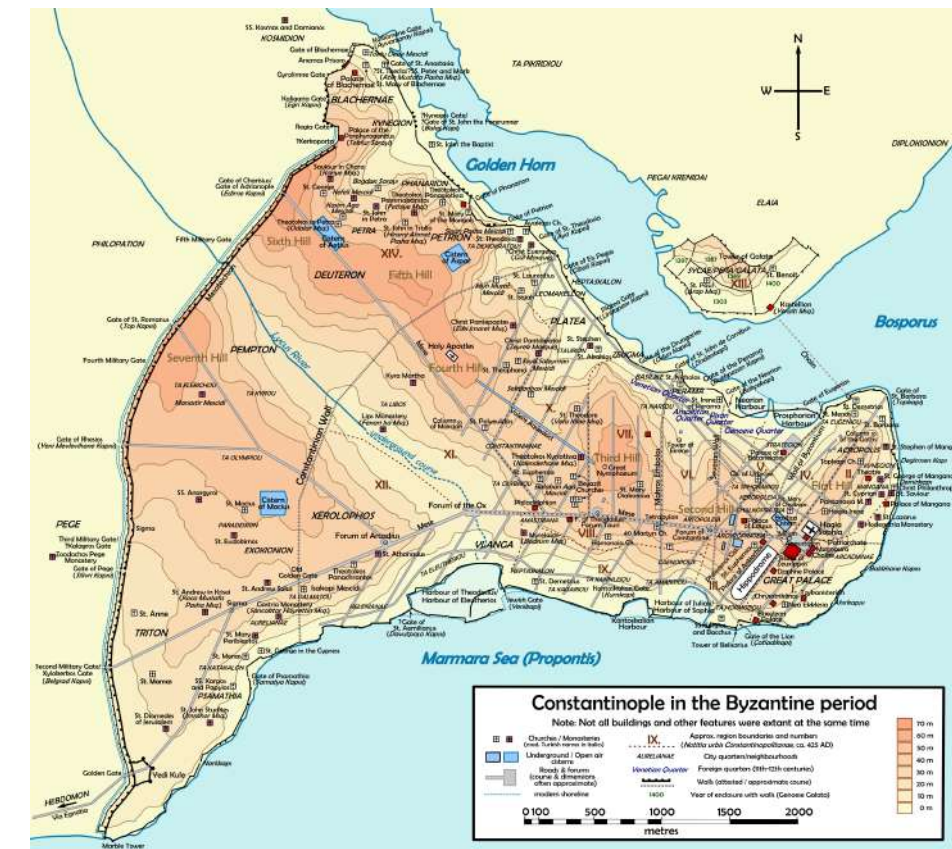
The walls were covered entirely in **gold mosaic** presenting figures of the apostles, saints and angels



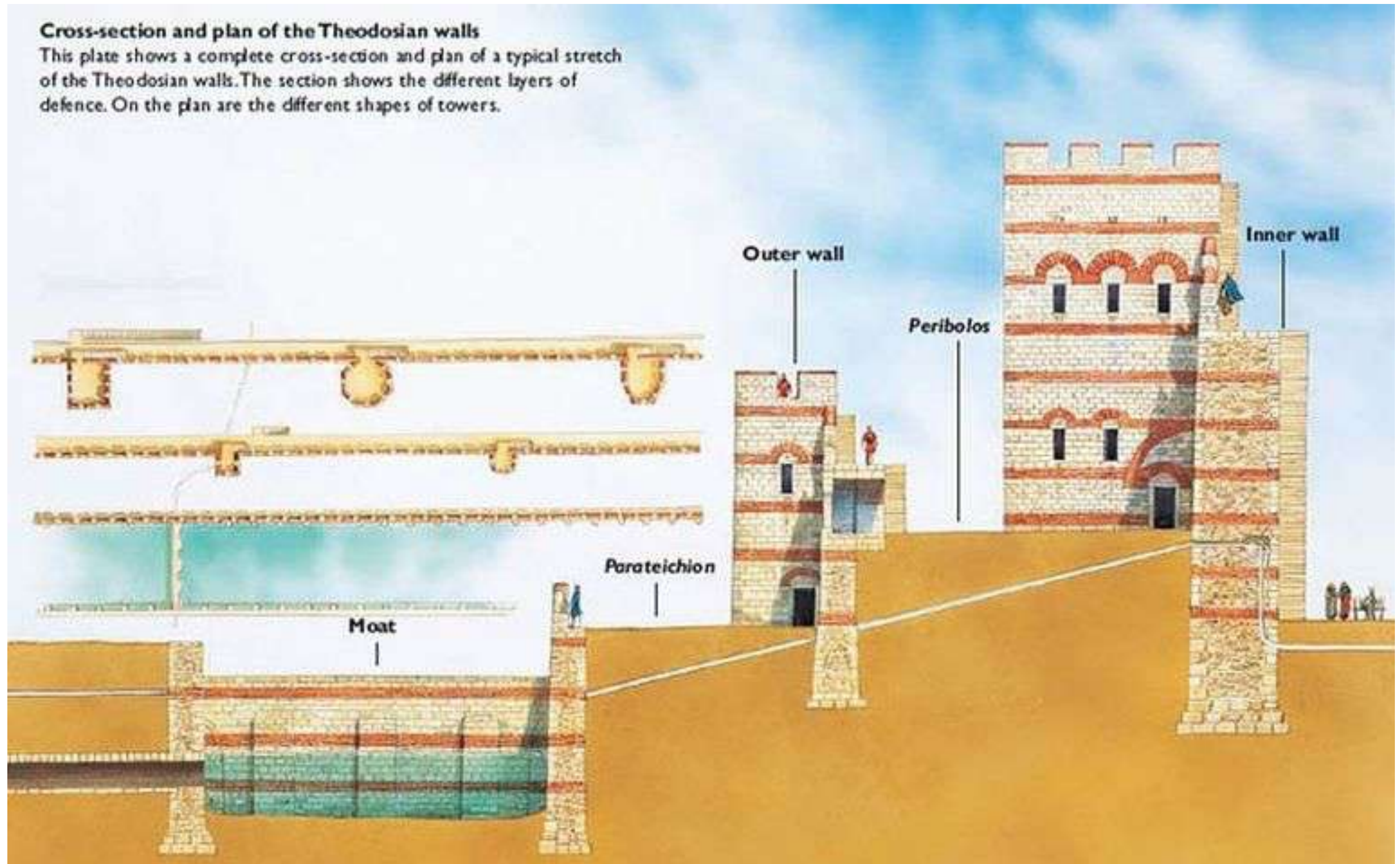
Constantinople City

Constantinople City

- **Peninsula** surrounded by water except to the west
- At the west it is protected by a **triple wall 6km long**
- The city had a **radial** disposition



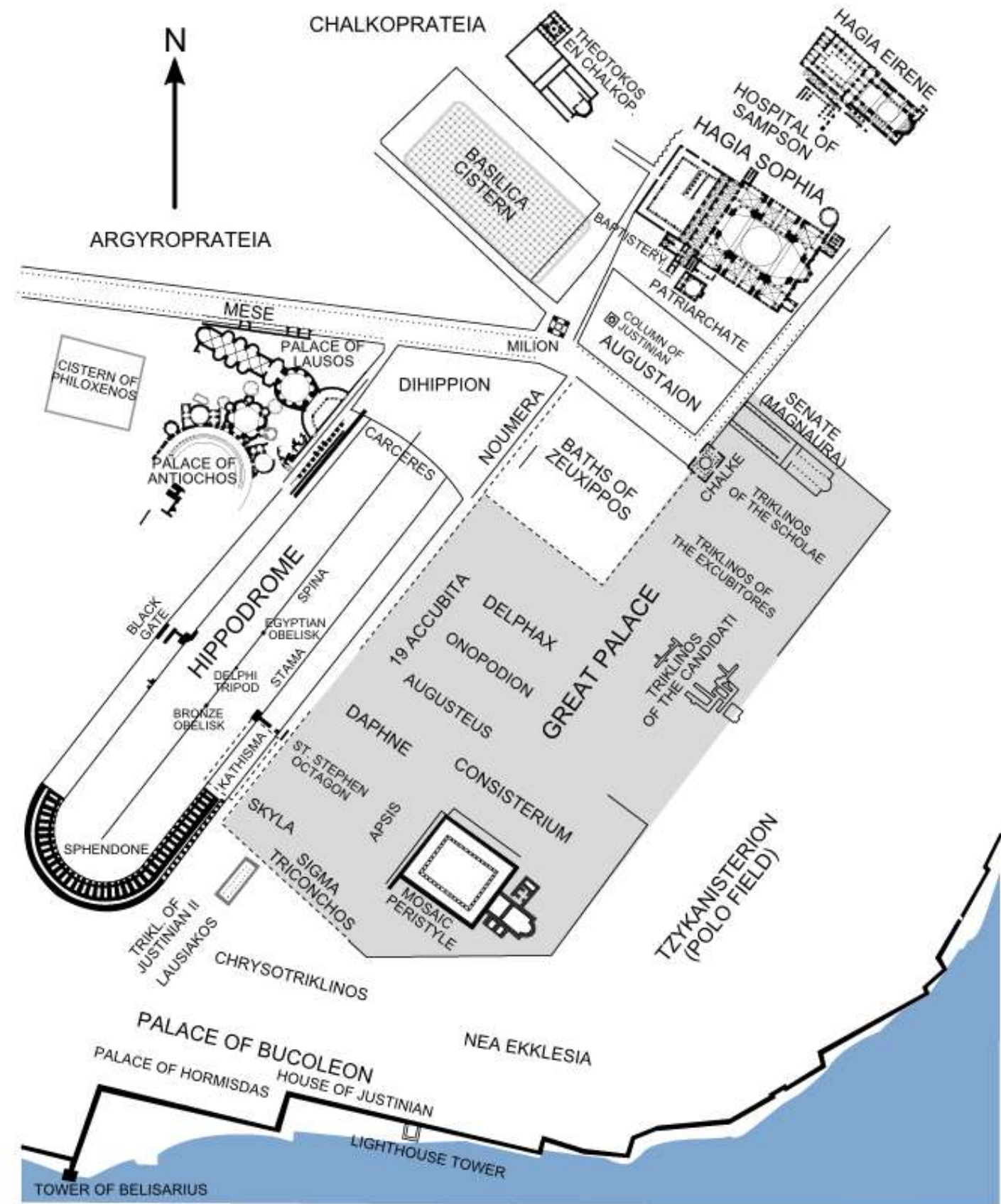
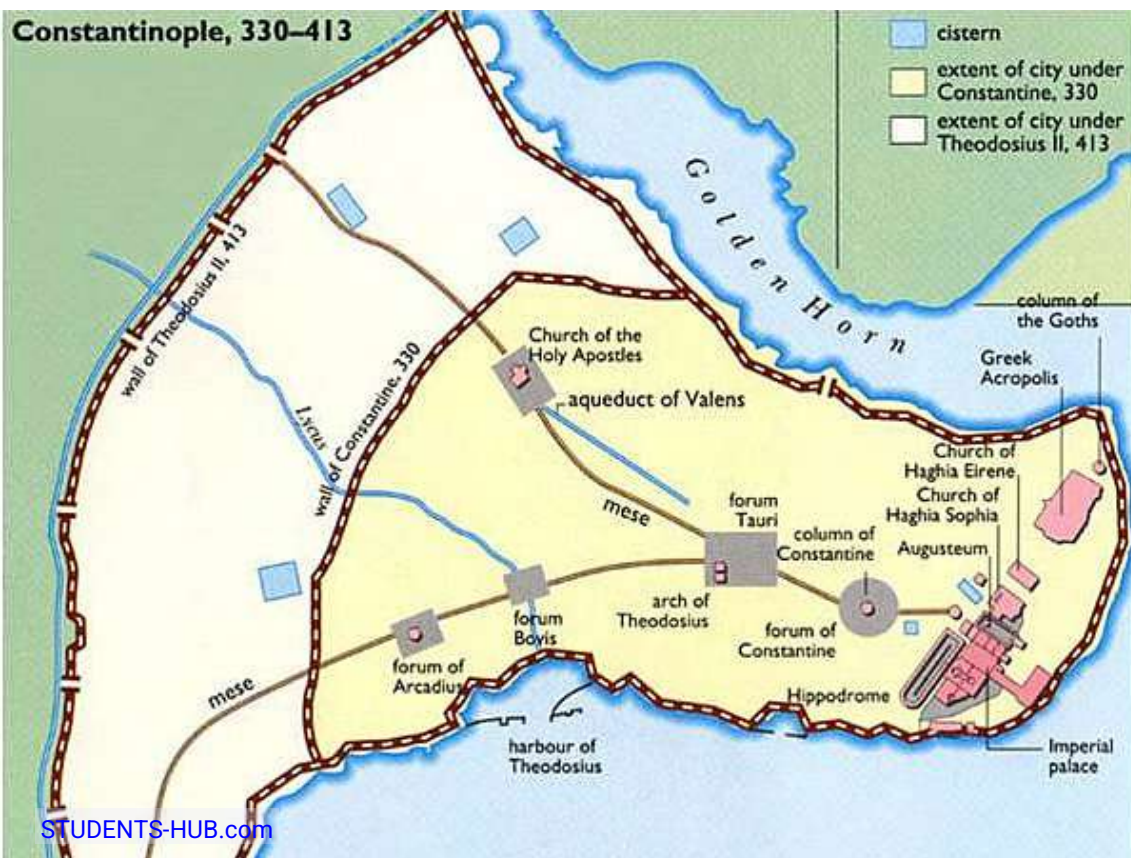
Constantinople City



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNMoi5Af1SY>

Constantinople City

- The city had an **imperial palace** set beside the hippodrome
- The city had a **forum** and **basilica** in which the senate met
- Notice the many cisterns for the collection of water



Constantinople City



Constantinople City



Byzantine Architecture

Influence on Islamic Architecture



The Dome of the Rock, 691

The mosque of Sultan
Salim al Thani,
Turkey, 1569





Taj Mahal, 1643

Links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRPp3jzv1Tw>

Next lecture

Romanesque Architecture