

Title: Column of Trajan

Location: Rome, Italy

Architect: Apollodorus of Damascus

Medium: Italian White Marble

Date: 113 AD

Measurements: 100 Feet Tall

Sources: http://www.ancient.eu/Trajans_Column/
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/trajan-column/article.html>
http://www.trajans-column.org/?page_id=100

Content: At the top of the column, there is a gilded statue of Trajan seated on a horse. In 1587, his statue was replaced with a St. Peter statue.

Form: The monument takes on a cylinder or column form. It was once vibrantly painted like several other Roman pieces and structures.

Form: A door at the pedestal gives access to a spiral staircase.

Function: The Column of Trajan serves as a commemorative monument illustrating Roman Emperor Trajan's two military campaigns in Dacia.

Form: The column used to be the main focal point of the Trajan Forum, which was later destroyed. Two libraries were built in tandem with the column and helped further the emperor's program of propaganda.



Context: The column emphasizes Rome's vast empire. African cavalymen, Iberians, Levantine archers, and Germans are depicted in the scenes. They all fight the Romans, which suggests that anyone could become a Roman.

Context: The 155 scenes not only show imperial glory, but how the Dacian ancestors might have looked and dressed. They provide information on military tactics, weapons, and equipment.

Content: Friezes cover the entire monument. The band of low reliefs depicts the wars as a series of vignettes. The figures are 2/3 life size. The column takes the form of Trajan's war diary.

Context: The Roman tradition is for Roman Emperors to leave a monument for themselves that commemorates their rule, power, and authority.

Context: Trajan's ashes were buried in a chamber at the base of the column. This symbolizes the deification of emperors.