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Trajan Market in Rome, 107-110 AD Originally the complex was on three street levels and only part was devoted to commercial purposes. The upper level included an indoor shopping arcade while the lowest level of alcoles installed in the semicircular front were also used as shops. Trajan or Marcus Ulpius Trajan was the Roman emperor from 98 to 117 AD Known as a benevolent ruler, his reign was noted for public projects that benefit the population, such as improving the dilapidated road system, building aqueducts, building public baths and expanding the port of Ostia. Trajan was also a highly successful general and won three major conflicts against the Dakiese and the East, bringing the Roman Empire to its greatest size before that date. Trajan's column, erected in 113 AD, stands in the Romanum Forum in Rome and is a memorial decorated with reliefs illustrating the two military campaigns of the Roman EmperorTrajan in Dacia (modern Romania). The column was the first of many such monuments, as well as an invaluable source of information about the Roman army and a lasting testament to the Roman love of monumental architecture, built in honor of military victories and Roman leaders. Trajan instructed his architect to move the entire hill to make way for this extravagant public space. Apollodor Damascus, Trajan Forum dedicated to 112 AD, Rome Apollondor of Damascus, Markets of Trajan, 112 C.E., Rome Emperor worth celebrating the Marble bust of Trajan, c. 108-117 AD, 68.5 cm tall (British Museum) (photo: Chris Straup, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) Marcus Ulpius Traianus, now commonly referred to as Trajan, reigned as Emperor of Rome from 98 to 117 C.E. Military, Trajan was born of mixed stocks- part and , part hispanic in the Gens Ulpia (Ulpin family) in the Roman province of Spain Baetica (modern Spain) and enjoyed a career that catapulted him to the height of popularity, earning him a solid reputation as a good emperor. Trajan was the first in the line of adoptive emperors who concluded with Marcus Aurelius. These emperors were chosen for work based not on pedigree but on their suitability for rule; most were brought up with this role in mind, from their youth. This period is often seen as the height of prosperity and stability of the Roman Empire. The ancient Romans loved Trajan so much that they officially gave him the epithetic title of optimus-princes or best first citizen. It is safe to say that the Romans thought that Trajan was worth celebrating, and they did celebrate it. A massive architectural complex called the Trajan Forum (Latin: Traiani Forum or, less often, Ulpium) was dedicated to Trajan's career and, in particular, his military successes in his wars against Dacia (now Romania). The Forum of Trajan, unique under the sky, was the final and largest of the Roman complex of the so-called Imperial for a, dubbed by at least one ancient writer as a unique structure under the skies (Amm. Match 16.10.15). Fora is a Latin multitude of forum, that is a public, urban square for civil and ritual business. A number of imperial for, starting with The Caesar, was built next to the previous Roman forum by a number of emperors. The Trajan Forum was opened in 112 AD, although the construction may not have been completed and was designed by the famous architect Apollodor damask. The view from Trajan's markets to the remnants of the eastern exedra and the eastern portico of the main square of the Trajan Forum, looking towards the Basilica of Ulpia (left-top version) (photo, CC BY-SA 3.0) Trajan Forum is elegant - it is replete with signs of architecture and top-level decor. All but two libraries (which were built of brick) were built of stone. There are many exotic, imported marbles and many statues, including gilded examples. The forum consisted of a main square (measuring c. 200 x 120 meters), which was surrounded by porticoes (extended, roof colonnades), as well as exedrae (semicircular, recessed spaces) on the east (above) and west sides. Trajan Forum plan. Note that the traditional place of the temple inhabited Trajan is shown, but replaced by a shrine located on the south side of the main forum square (after R. Menegini) (image: CC BY-SA 3.0, annotated By Smarthistory) Controversial element of the reconstruction of the forum complex is the temple dedicated to the blankets of Trajan (the late emperor was declared by God). Traditional reconstructions put this temple behind a column, although a recent reconstruction favored by Dr. Roberto Meneghini disagreed with this hypothesis, instead preferring to place the shrine to ossify Trajan in the southern part of the forum adjoining the retaining wall of the neighboring August Forum. Scientists continue to argue about the nature and position of this temple. The main structure in the center of the forum complex is the massive basilica of Ulpia, and next to it were two libraries that surrounded the Trajan Column, an honorary monument with a well-thought-out program of sculptural relief. The remains of the Ulpia Basilica (Photo: Stephen Tsucker, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) Paved with white marble: Forum Square (Fori Square) The main area of the forum was once a huge space, shielded by architecture on all sides and paved with white marble. Several rows of trees, and perhaps rows of statues, ran parallel to porticos. The entrance to the forum square was from the south, through the triumphal arch, topped by the statue of Trajan, riding on a triumphal chariot. Although the arch itself no longer exists, it is depicted on a coin issued in 112-115 AD. The gold coin (aurei) struck Rome c. 112-115 c.E. (19 mm, 7.13 g, 7h). Legend has it: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TR P COS VI P P P (Emperor Trajan Auguste Germanique Datsik, Pontiff Maxim, in his sixth consulate, the father of his country. The three figures stand on the left and right, while four statues occupy niches in the arches below. CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) Forum Area (116 x 95 meters) has the main battle theme, reminding viewers and visitors that the forum was built from the proceeds (manubiae) of Trajan's successful military campaigns against the Dakians (101-102 , 105-106 C.E.). The porticos were decorated with sculptural and military standards (official emblems of legions), as described by the ancient author Aulus Gellius: All along the roof of the colonnade of the Forum Trajan gilded statues of horses and representation of military standards placed, and under it written Ex manubiis (from the trophies of war)... (Attic nights 13.25.1). The decorative program also included statues of captured Dakian prisoners (left) and, it appears, statues of famous Roman statesmen and generals that were installed in the intercolonnar spaces of porticos. In the center of the Forum Square stood a bronze equestrian statue of Trajan, Equus Traiani. While the statue itself does not survive, the occasion of the visit to Rome Constance II (in 357 AD) retains the mention of the famous equestrian: So he (Constantine II) gave up any hope of trying something like this, and declared that he would and could imitate just Trajan's horse, which stands in the middle of the court with the emperor on his back. (Ammian Marcellin 16.10.15) We also see a horse statue depicted on a silver denaria struck in Rome c. 112-114/5 c.E. (see below). Silver coin, Denary (19 mm, 3.35 g, 7h), hit 112-114/115 C.E IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P TR P COS VI P P, laureate bust on the right, draping on the far shoulder of S P P R OPTIMO PRINCIPI, equestrian statue of Trajan facing left, holding a spear and sword (or small Victory) (image) Massive Basilica of Ulpia As an architectural type, a uniquely Roman basil and legal purpose. The habit of planners from the first century BC and beyond was to prefer to use the basilica as a framing device in order to communicate with the flanks of the forum area. We see this in many cases, albeit with some variations. In the case of the Trajan Forum, the massive and monumental Ulpia Basilica is built on the northern edge of the open Thus, it serves as a two-section complex, with a portico-lined courtyard lying to the east and a library and column of Trajan to the west. The remains of the Ulpia Basilica in the foreground, and Trajan's column in the middle of the earth (photo: Stephen zucker, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) Basilica is massive - its total length is about 169 meters and the inner nave is 25 meters wide. It is apsidal at both ends, with a raised central floor, and the main hall has a double encirclement of columns (96 in total) that are probably white or yellow marble, in Corinthian order. The basilica was also famous in antiquity for its gilded

bronze tiles on the roof, as commented Pausanias, who noted that the building should be seen not only for its overall beauty, but especially for its roof of bronze (description of Greece 5.12.6). Artist's view of the outer height (J. Gaudet, 1867) Trajan Markets (dedicated c. 110 c.E.) Apollondor Damascus, Trajan Markets, 112 AD Militia Tower is visible in the center, towers over the markets (photo: Vasek Winklet, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) Near the Trajan Forum is a separate architectural complex attributed to Trajan, commonly referred to as the Trayana Market. This multi-level shopping complex was built on the flank of Cyrial Hill, which was to be excavated for this purpose. The complex of markets is taking its planning signal from the Eastern hemicycle Trajan Forum. The ruins of the markets today retain 170 rooms, and the complex covers an area of about 110 by 150 meters; its walls stood at an altitude of 35 meters above the level of the sidewalk of the Trajan Forum. The initial expansion is difficult to establish, partly based on subsequent reuse and construction in the medieval period (and later). Archaeologist Corrado Ricci (1858-1934) cleared the ruins in the twentieth century, but the markets themselves received relatively less attention than the neighboring forum. The Apollondor Of Damascus, Trajan Markets, 112 c.E. (Photo: Steven zucker CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) The function of the markets was mercantile, indeed the markets may have been designed to move the stores (tabernae) and offices that were relocated as a result of the Construction Project. Offices on the ground floor (at the forum level) were most likely occupied by cashiers of the imperial treasury (arcarii caesariani), while upper-level rooms can be rented or used by imperial officials associated with grain dol (anon). The Apollondor Of Damascus, Markets Trajan (Market Hall), 112 N.E. (Photo: Stephen zucker CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) The large, vaulted market hall (above) is an ambitious and brilliant design, like the rest of the complex, reflecting the skills of the designer/architect who completed the project. The medieval tower of the militia (Torre delle Milisi) (12th century) and the now-destroyed monastery of Santa Caterina-A-Magnanapoli used part of the market structure Plan Markets Trajan (in connection with the Trajan Forum) Architect - Apollodor Damascus Portrait is considered, that Apollodorus of Damascus (Munich Glyptothek) (Photo: Gun Powder Ma, CC BY-SA 3.0) CC BY-SA 3.0) Apollodorus Damascus was a military engineer and architect who was active during the first quarter of the second century C.E. He accompanied Emperor Trajan during his campaigns in Dacia and is famous for building a bridge over the Danube River which was described by ancient authors and depicted in art. The relief from Trajan's column depicts a bridge in the background (see below). Built c. 105 AD, the segmental arch bridge was the first across the lower Danube and allowed Roman soldiers to easily cross the river. Apollodor, who is known as the master builder of all work, is credited with the project (Procopius, Buildings, 4.6.11-14; tr. H.B. Dewing). On his return from the Dacian Wars, Apollododor is believed to have been the architect of the project that produced the Trajan Forum and Column, as well as the adjacent markets. The textual tradition is maintained by Cassius dio, which has Apollodorus running contrary to (and performed by) Adrian, Trajan's successor, although it is unclear whether trust should be paid to this story (Cassius Dio, Roman History, 69.4; Trea Carey). Relief from Trajan's column, Carrara Marble, completed 113 AD, showing the bridge in the background and in the foreground of Trajan is shown sacrificing the Danube River Value construction unique under the sky of the Trajan Forum received great praise in antiquity, and it has been at the center of scientific research, possibly since 1536, when Pope Paul III ordered the first cleanup of the area around the base of Trajan. Paul III then defended the column himself in 1546, appointing a watchman to take care of it. Among the most famous of them are Tezio (c. 1569) and Etienne du Prak (1575). In terms of public architecture in Imperial Rome, the Trajan Forum is the crowning glory in its enormous monumentality. The performance of its exquisite and elegant design surpassed all its predecessors in the complex of forum spaces in the city. The importance of the vast public spaces in Rome cannot be underestimated. For the average citizen, accustomed to the narrow, dim, crowded streets of soaring, a brilliant open forum space, limited by thoughtful architecture and sculpture, would have a powerful psychological effect. The fact that the monuments glorified the revered leader also served to create and strengthen important ideological messages among the Romans. The overall role of public architecture in the Roman city, and the Roman consciousness, is an important reminder of how the Romans used space to create and perpetuate messages about identity and ideology. Vestigi delle antichita di roma, Tiuoli, Pozzuolo and altri luochi, 1606 (Egidio Sadeler engravings of abbreviated copies of Du Prarac in Vestigi dell'antichit di Roma) (Getty Research Institute) Enduring ruins, in this case cleared initially by excavations by the authors of the fascist regime of Benito Mussolini, stand as strong, and modern viewers still extract and strengthen the idea of the view of the Even with these ruins, we still leave with an idea of Trajan's greatness and his combat achievements. Thus, we could judge the architectural program as a great success - so successful that many of our own public monuments still operate on the basis of conventions established in antiquity. Additional resources: Trajan Forum, Rome Revival (Dr. Bernard Frischer) Il Museo dei Fori Imperiali I Mercati di Traiano J. C. Anderson, Historic Topography of the Imperial Fora (Brussels: Latomus, 1984). R. 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