

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

The images show a plan and a view of the early Christian mausoleum known as Santa Costanza.

Using specific visual evidence, analyze both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. (10 minutes)

Background

This question asks students to analyze both how a building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. The question asks students to combine skills of both formal and contextual analysis. The intent of this question is to prompt students to analyze the relationship in architectural design between form and function, as well as to analyze the influence of earlier works.

Santa Costanza is generally believed to have been constructed with the intention of serving as a Roman imperial mausoleum, specifically for Emperor Constantine's daughter Constantina (d. 354 C.E.). Constantine's other daughter, Helena (d. 360 C.E.), was also buried there. Constructed adjacent to the basilica of *Sant'Agnese* along the *Via Nomentana*, the mausoleum was sited outside Rome's walls in accordance with Roman burial practices and also in accordance with the Early Christian practice of burial *ad sanctos* (near the tomb of the saint): in this case, the martyr St. Agnes. In 1256 C.E., the structure was converted into a church and dedicated to Santa Costanza (after Constantina's eventual canonization).

In design, Santa Costanza is a centrally planned structure fronted by a narthex. It incorporates a series of concentric spaces, with an ambulatory circumscribing an elevated central space capped by a dome. The vertical (rather than longitudinal) axis concentrates both visual and ritual attention on a central focal point directly beneath the dome. This central domed space is surrounded by an ambulatory that both allows and encourages circumambulation of the central focus, whether tomb or altar. Twelve double columns ring the central area—itsself illuminated by a clerestory of twelve windows—potentially symbolizing Christ's apostles. The lower, darker ambulatory contrasts with the elevated central area, awash in light, further emphasizing the illuminated central space as the fulcrum of the design.

The original location of the imperial sarcophagi is not certain. In accordance with the structure's primary function as a tomb, it seems likely that the sarcophagi were located in the very center, directly below the dome. This would have been in accord with Roman imperial tradition of burial at the nexus of a central plan: a design that encouraged circumambulation and thus memorialization of the dead. This practice was particularly associated with imperial tombs. Ambulatory veneration—the circumambulation of the remains of the deceased—was common Roman practice in the commemoration of the illustrious dead. At Santa Costanza, this arrangement would have emphasized both the funereal and the memorial function of the building. Additionally, the dome rising above the sarcophagi would have emphasized the meeting of the celestial and terrestrial realms, framing the tomb's negotiation between life and afterlife. The dome as signifier of the heavens was most prominently exemplified in Rome by the Pantheon.

The design for Santa Costanza incorporates structural elements from earlier building types, such as columns with Composite capitals, arches, a clerestory, the dome, and the central plan itself. Indeed, the imperial mausolea that influenced Santa Costanza's central-plan design were themselves part of an ongoing practice of central-plan tombs: for example, the ancient Greek *tholos* tomb (such as the Mycenaean beehive tomb), Roman imperial tombs (such as the Mausoleum of Augustus and the Column of Trajan), and Early Christian private chapels, frequently used for burial. In the Christian tradition, the most important central-plan *memoria* was the Anastasis Rotunda containing the empty tomb of Christ at the

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4 (continued)

Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The overarching use of the central plan in both Roman and Early Christian art was within a funerary, baptismal, or other ritualized space that emphasized a focus of veneration or commemoration, as did this early Christian mausoleum dedicated to Santa Costanza.

Two Tasks for Students

1. Using specific visual evidence, analyze how the building's design served its original function.
2. Using specific visual evidence, analyze how the building's design incorporates elements from earlier building types.

Points to Remember

This question asks students to combine skills of both formal and contextual analysis. Since students are given the name of the work and a general time frame for its construction, students should be able to focus their responses on analyzing both how Santa Costanza's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types.

The highest score a response can earn if it does not address both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types is 2 points.

Students are not required to make comparisons to specific earlier buildings, although some students may include such details in their responses.

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4 (continued)

Scoring Criteria

4 points

Response demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of the question.

The response uses specific visual evidence to analyze both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. The response may include minor errors that do not have a meaningful effect on the analysis.

3 points

Response demonstrates sufficient knowledge and understanding of the question.

The response uses visual evidence to analyze both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. However, the response may be somewhat unbalanced, with a stronger analysis of either how the building's design served its original function or how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types, although both are represented. The response may include minor errors that have some effect on the analysis.

2 points

Response demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of the question.

Using visual evidence, the response addresses both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types, but the discussion is less analytical than descriptive. It may be overly general, simplistic, or unbalanced. For example, the discussion of how the building's design served its original function may be mostly accurate, whereas the discussion of how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types includes errors that affect the response.

OR

Using visual evidence, the response accurately analyzes either how the building's design served its original function or how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types, not both.

NOTE: This is the highest score a response can earn that does not address both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types.

1 point

Response demonstrates little knowledge and understanding of the question.

The response demonstrates some general familiarity with the issues raised by the question by addressing how the building's design served its original function and/or how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. However, the response is weak, overly descriptive, and/or contains significant errors.

0 points

Response demonstrates no discernible knowledge and understanding of the question.

The student attempts to respond, but the response makes only incorrect or irrelevant statements. The score of 0 points includes crossed-out words, personal notes, and drawings.

— This is a blank paper only.

4. The images show a plan and a view of the early Christian mausoleum known as Santa Costanza. 4A

Using specific visual evidence, analyze both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. (10 minutes)

As an early Christian mausoleum, the primary function of the building was to commemorate the life of St. Costanza, whom the building was named for. Likely, the tomb rested in the center of the mausoleum. For this, the central plan structure was ideal. The central plan allows the visitor to both pray in front of the deceased or circumsulate the chamber which holds the body of the deceased. The central plan structure is very different from the temple architecture of Greek and Roman times. The early Christians did not want to be associated with the pagans of the past. However, some common design elements can be seen. For example, the central dome and its oculus would not have been possible without the design innovations of the Romans in the Pantheon. The column-supported arches are also clearly derived from Roman architecture and design. The use of second story windows to let light in is another feature seen in Roman architecture, notably the Apollodorus market. Capitals on the columns are reminiscent of Corinthian capitals. Many of the features pioneered in the Santa Costanza, such as the pure central plan and surrounding atrium, can be seen in later Christian architecture.

4. The images show a plan and a view of the early Christian mausoleum known as Santa Costanza.

Using specific visual evidence, analyze both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. (10 minutes)

The central planned or radial structure of Santa Costanza is reminiscent of early Ancient Roman structures such as the Pantheon. The Pantheon and Santa Costanza exhibit ~~central~~ circular or radial layouts in terms of their architecture. Doubled colonades ~~do~~ ~~support~~ support barrel vaulted arches. The use of barrel vaults ~~is~~ incorporates ~~the Roman~~ Ancient Roman technology and strong structurally supportive devices. The columns are unarticulated and show Corinthian capitals that recall the classical past with their scrolled acanthus leaves. The structure of Santa Costanza incorporates the layout of ~~the~~ the classical past in its ~~is~~ structure that ~~is~~ ~~is~~ is comparable to a Greek tholos temple.

~~The~~ The radial plan allowed for viewers to witness religious ceremony and ~~part~~ religious rites performed in the central altar space. The spaces between the arches allow for Christian worshippers to engage actively in

religious ceremony as the plan allows for ^{4B₂}
~~g~~ open spaces that make the center
activity more ~~accessible~~ accessible to all
beholders.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

4. The images show a plan and a view of the early Christian mausoleum known as Santa Costanza.

Using specific visual evidence, analyze both how the building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. (10 minutes)

The Santa Costanza is a mausoleum which is also known as a religious burial site for relics and important figures. The Santa Costanza's design ~~is~~ is a circular shape which puts emphasis of light and space to the center. The circular dome design allows windows ~~to~~ surrounding the walls to allow ~~the~~ natural light to shine brightly through ~~the~~ towards the center. In the center, there is the religious sarcophagus of a saint and all the light from the windows shine onto the golden surface, allowing it to shine brightly. Also, the dual columns surrounded the center and go around the perimeter of the mausoleum which also puts more emphasis to the center. Through the surrounding windows on the dome and the surrounding columns around the circle, light and space can be strongly emphasized to the center, where the holy ~~relic~~ or figure lies.

AP[®] ART HISTORY

2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

This 10-minute question asked students to analyze both how a building's design served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. This question asked students to combine skills of both formal and contextual analysis. The intent of this question was to prompt students to analyze the relationship in architectural design between form and function, as well as to analyze the influence of earlier works.

Sample: 4A

Score: 4

The response uses specific visual evidence to analyze both how the design of Santa Costanza served its original function and how its design incorporates elements from earlier building types. The response analyzes how the central plan was “ideal” for the building’s original function, as “the tomb rested in the center of the mausoleum.” The response addresses how the central plan facilitated varied forms of veneration because it “allows the visitor to both pray in front of the deceased or circumambulate the chamber which holds the body of the deceased.” While the comment that the central plan differs from Greek and Roman temple architecture is not universally accurate, the response continues with a cogent discussion of “common design elements.” The response observes that the central dome “would not have been possible without the innovations of the Romans in the Pantheon.” Additional elements from Roman architecture are discussed, specifically the “column-supported arches” and the “second story windows” (clerestory). A specific precedent for the clerestory windows is observed in the “Apollodorus Market,” also known as the Market of Trajan. Though the assertion of the presence of an “occulus [*sic*]” in the dome at Santa Costanza is incorrect, this does not constitute a significant error, particularly because the dome is not visible in the images provided. The presence of capitals on the columns “reminiscent of Corinthian capitals” in Santa Costanza is also noted. In this way, the response demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of the question.

Sample: 4B

Score: 3

The response uses visual evidence to analyze both how the design of Santa Costanza served its original function and how the building incorporates elements from earlier building types. The response notes that “The radial plan allowed for viewers to witness religious [*sic*] ceremony and religious [*sic*] rites performed in the central altar space.” This “plan allows for open spaces that make the center . . . more accessible.” The response does not further address how the building’s design served its original function as a mausoleum and is therefore unbalanced, with a stronger and more detailed discussion of how the design incorporates elements from earlier building types. The response discusses the presence of “Corinthian capitals that recall the classical past” and “doubled colonades [*sic*]” that “support barrel vaulted arches. The use of barrel vaults incorporates Ancient Roman technology.” The central plan is discussed as “reminiscent of early Ancient Roman structures such as the Pantheon.” Additionally, the response observes that Santa Costanza’s “structure . . . is comparable to a Greek tholos temple.” In this way, the response demonstrates sufficient knowledge and understanding of the question.

Sample: 4C

Score: 2

Using visual evidence, the response accurately analyzes how the design of Santa Costanza served its original function. The response observes that “In the center, there is the religious sarcophagus of a saint and all the light from the windows shine[s] onto the golden surface, allowing it to shine brightly” and

AP[®] ART HISTORY
2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4 (continued)

“through the surrounding windows on the dome and the surrounding columns around the circle, light and space can be strongly emphasized to the center, where the holy relic or figure lies.” The response notes that “the dual columns surrounded the center and go around the perimeter of the mausoleum which also puts more emphasis to the center.” Though the response mentions the dome and the columns, these are discussed purely in terms of how the building’s design served its original function and are not analyzed as elements incorporated from earlier building types. In this way, the response demonstrates only some knowledge and understanding of the question.