

THE COLISEUM

The Coliseum, originally named the Flavian Amphitheatre or simply the Amphitheatrum, is the largest amphitheater in the world. It is located in the city center of Rome. It can contain a number of spectators estimated between 50,000 and 80,000 units; it is the most important Roman amphitheater, and the most imposing monument of ancient Rome that has come down to us. It is known worldwide as the symbol of the city of Rome and Italy.



The amphitheater was built on a site just east of the Roman Forum. Its construction was begun by Vespasian in 72 AD and it was inaugurated by Titus in 80, with further modifications being made during Domitian's reign. No longer in use after the sixth century, the huge structure was reused in various ways over the centuries, as well as a material quarry. The name "Coliseum", which is derived from the near statue of the Nero's Colossus, became widespread only in the Middle Ages. Soon, the building became a symbol of the imperial city, expression of an ideology in which the celebration will come to define models for the entertainment of the people. Today is one of the best tourist attractions of the city.



It was used for gladiatorial shows and other public events (hunting shows, re-enactments of famous battles, and dramas based on Classical mythology).

Clearly expresses the architectural concepts and construction of the first Roman Imperial Age, based respectively on the line and curve hugging offered by the elliptical and the complexity of building systems. Arches and vaults are linked together in a close structural relationship.



IMPERIAL FORA

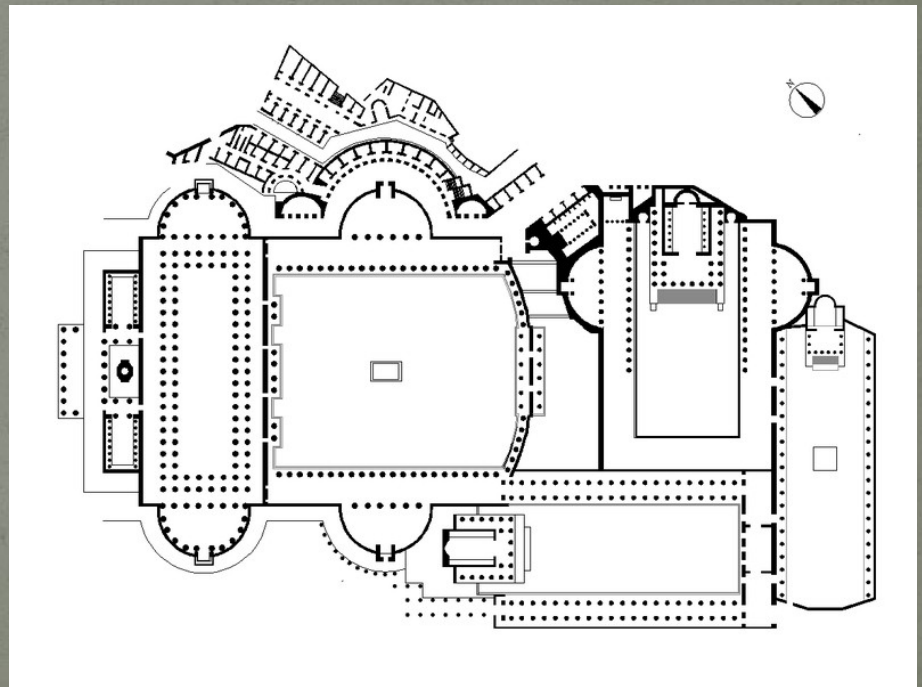
The Imperial Fora consist of a series of monumental squares built over a century and a half (between 46 BC and 113 AD) in the heart of the city of Rome. The old Republican Square had been for centuries the political, religious and economic center of the city.



Under Caesar and Augustus, it was started the construction of the Basilica Julia and the reconstruction of the Basilica Emilia, that marked the long sides of the square.

CAESAR'S FORUM 46 BC,

Julius Caesar decided to build a large square in his name, which was inaugurated in 46 BC, probably still incomplete, and then was finished by Augustus.



AUGUSTUS' FORUM 2 A.C.

Octavian had vowed a temple to Mars Ultor at the battle of Philippi in 42 BC, in which he and Mark Antony had defeated the murderers of Caesar and then avenged his death. The temple was actually opened only after 40 years, in 2 BC, adding a second monumental square: Augustus' Forum.

