

Vocabulary—Egyptian, Greek, and Roman Architecture

capital (*n.*) the upper part of a column crowning the shaft.

Types of capitals:

1. **corinthian** (*adj.*) the lightest and most ornate of the three ancient Greek architectural orders. Corinthian columns have large capitals decorated with carved acanthus leaves like the one at right, which is part of the Neptune Pool Temple at Hearst Castle.
2. **doric** (*adj.*) the oldest and simplest type of Greek capital.
3. **ionic** (*adj.*) usually a fluted column on a base with capitals shaped like scrolls. You can see ionic capitals at the colonnades at either end of the Neptune Pool at Hearst Castle. (*Photo, above right*)



Corinthian Ionic

caryatid (*n.*) a draped female figure used instead of a column.

colonnade (*n.*) a row of columns generally supporting horizontal moldings (called the entablature). A colonnade can stand on its own as a covered walkway to provide shade on a sunny day, such as the ones at either end of the Hearst Castle Neptune Pool (*right*). Or it can be part of a building as a porch or entrance.



On the right, Colonnade at Roman Pool

On the left is an example of a caryatid from the Hearst Castle movie theater.



column (*n.*) a decorative pillar, most often made of stone. Typically the shaft of a column is round with a capital on top and usually a base at the bottom.

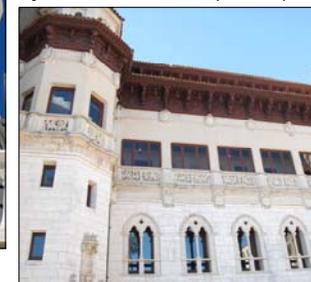
corbel (*n.*) an architectural support that projects from a wall and is usually stepped upward and outward.

cornice (*n.*) a horizontal decoration at the very top of columns or at the top of a wall. At Hearst Castle, there are hand-carved teak cornices outside of the third floor, on the north and south sides of the main house. (*Photo on right*)

cupola (*n.*) a light structure topping a dome or roof, serving as a belfry or lantern.



Cupola on California's State Capitol (left), Cornice on south wall of Hearst Castle supported by carved corbels (below)



dentil (*n.*) a series of small projecting rectangular blocks, like teeth, forming a decorative molding.

egg and dart (*n.*) a molding design that repeats the shape of an egg alternating with the shape of an arrowhead.

pediment (*n.*) triangular gable forming the end of a roof. The main house at Hearst Castle has hand-carved teak gables at the front (*photo at right*) and back. The pediment was the crowning feature of a Greek temple front and you can see a more traditional Greek pediment at the Neptune Pool temple.

pergola (*n.*) From ancient Egyptian architecture, a pergola is a garden walk, roofed with an open framework over which plants grow. Its purpose is to provide shade and a place where climbing plants can be easily seen. There is a pergola at Hearst Castle, where fruit trees were once trained to grow between the columns and grapes dangled from the canopy above. When William Randolph Hearst was at the castle, he liked to walk through the pergola. He could also ride through because it was designed to accommodate a tall man on a tall horse wearing a tall hat. At more than a mile long, architect Julia Morgan joked it was "the longest pergola in captivity."



Gable at front of Hearst Castle (above left), detail of hand-carved teak (above right)



Pergola at Hearst Castle under construction, above. It was not included when the castle was given to the State of California and is still part of the private Hearst Ranch.