

Church Design

Introduction

An Orthodox church as a church building of Eastern Orthodoxy has a distinct, recognizable family of styles among church architectures. It is influenced by the legacy of the Eastern Roman Empire and Byzantine architecture.

The Cathedral of Saint Sava in Belgrade



Church of the Intercession on the Nerl
(1165), one of the most famous
Russian medieval churches.



St Andrew of Patras Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Patras, Greece



What is the church cupola ?

- The cupola is a rounded dome forming a roof or ceiling of the church. (revisit the previous 3 slides).
- The cupola instead of a flat ceiling symbolizes the sky.
- Sometimes crosses have a crescent-like shape at the bottom so that the shape resembles an anchor, which symbolizes hope for salvation.

Orthodox church buildings have the following basic shapes, each with its own symbolism:

- Elongated: rectangle, rounded rectangle (oval), symbolizing the ship as a means of salvation (Noah's Ark)
- Cruciform (cross shaped)
- Star shaped
- Circular

The Church building

The Church building is divided into three main parts: the narthex, the nave (the temple proper) and the sanctuary (also called the altar or *holy place*).

An illustrated layout of the traditional interior of an Orthodox Church

Dome

Christ - Pantocratoros
Ruler of the Universe



Templon

Horos

1. Altar
2. table of Preparation
3. Chalice
4. Discos & Asterisk
5. Fans - Exiptera
6. Processional Cross
7. Candelabra
8. Tabernacle
9. Gospel Book
10. Censer
11. Angel (Deacon's Doors)
12. Beautiful Gates
13. Manoualia
14. Choirs (Psalteria)
15. Bishops Throne (Thronos)
16. Stacidia
17. Royal Doors
18. Icon Stand (Iconostasia)
19. Entrance

